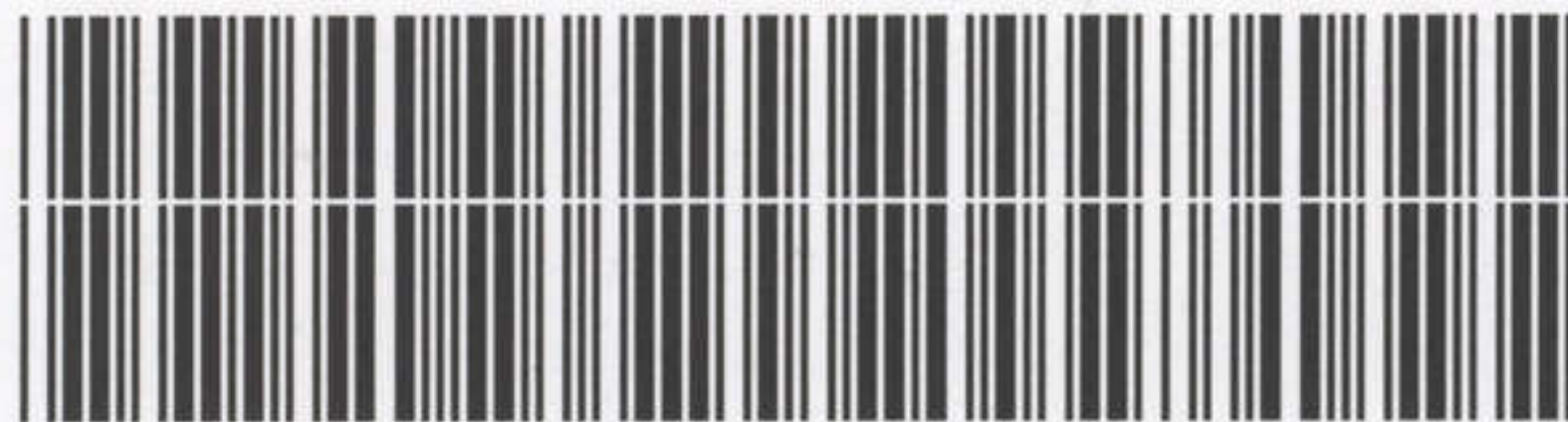


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS AITAPE

Item number: 27/6

Title: January-March 1975



AWM78-27/6

[2716]

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1975

ORIGINAL

Ref P's

Declassification Authority—Defence Records

This record has been reviewed and has been
declassified by the Department of Defence
(Navy) with effect from: 1 Nov 1990

Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: *R. L. Smith* Date: 1 Nov 90

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY — DEFENCE RECORDS
This record has been reviewed and declassified by Dept. of
Defence. It will be available for Public Access from

1 JAN 2006

AUTHORITY: DIG(N) ADMIN 8/3

REVIEWER: *R. Smith* LCDR RAN
(for DSSI (Navy)).

Date: 29 March 90

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FILE: 428/3/815

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
(NAVY OFFICE)

PNGS

Report of Proceedings 3 Jan - 5 Mar 75

ASRP-N

1. Change of Command.
2. Southern Patrol - To Port Moresby.
3. Visiting SALAMAWA with survey.

DNO 13/5

DGNOP

DCNS

for CNS

CNP

ONTS

CNSW

CNM

FAS C of S-N

NPR

DNO.

ASRP-N (NS55)

- NOTES:
- A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
 - B. The report will be given again to Board Members with Director's comments if there is any matter of special interest in those comments.
 - C. Circulation lists numbers 2 and 3 are referred to Directors and Heads of Branches.
 - D. If any matter requires comprehensive treatment or reference to another Branch a new file should be raised, a suitable note being made above.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

HEADQUARTERS,

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE ASSISTANCE GROUP
— PAPUA NEW GUINEA,

P.O. Box 2270

KONEDOBU

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In reply please quote 752/2/6

24 Apr 75

The Chairman
Chiefs of Staff Committee
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Secretary
Department of Defence (Navy Office)

For Information: The Flag Officer Commanding
HM Australian Fleet

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

Hydrographer RAN
IBM Building, Kent St
SYDNEY

PNGS AITAPE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
3-31 JAN 75: 1 FEB-5 MAR 75

go Forwarded.

for P Goldman Capt
(W P BRIDGERICK)
Colonel
Commander

AS(RP)N

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RECEIVED

1 MAY 75 11 29

DEPT. OF DEFENCE
CENTRAL REGISTRY.

for
COMMUNIST
COUNCIL
(H. A. HODGKIN)

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FOR THE DEPT. OF DEFENCE
CENTRAL REGISTRY - RECORD OF RECORDS

MINISTER
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
PARLIAMENTS BUILDING

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

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AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

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PARLIAMENTS BUILDING
KNOX BUILDING
P.O. BOX 3330



— PARLIAMENTS BUILDING
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE ASSISTANCE GROUP
HEADQUARTERS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

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The Commander
PNG PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

PNGS AITAPE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 3RD TO 31ST JANUARY, 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of PNG Ship AITAPE, under my command for the period 3rd January, 1975, to 31st January, 1975. All times are in Zone Kilo (-10).

2. I took over command of the ship from ACTING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SDEX GLG K.A. WINTLE, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, at 0900 on 3rd January, 1975, at LOMBRUM. At 0905 the ship slipped and carried out two hours of engine trials and ship handling manoeuvres. The starboard engine did not perform to specifications and after investigation it was decided that the fuel pumps were out of calibration. There are no known facilities in PAPUA NEW GUINEA for calibrating the pumps. It was decided to keep "AITAPE" running limiting the use of the starboard engine to entering and leaving harbour. Four new fuel pumps were ordered from AUSTRALIA. PNGS LAE has a similar defect.

3. PNG Ships "AITAPE" and "SAMARAI" sailed for patrol at 1000 on Monday 6th January. PNGS SAMARAI detached soon after 1030 for a Northern Patrol while I set course for a Southern Patrol. The ship arrived at SAMARAI town at 1330 on Wednesday 8th January, after an uneventful passage from LOMBRUM. I sailed from SAMARAI at 1000 the next morning and arrived in PORT MORESBY at 0900 on Friday 10th January.

4. The weekend was spent preparing the ship to give assistance to PNGS SALAMAU who was engaged in a survey task between CAPE RODNEY and AMAZON BAY. PNGS AITAPE sailed from PORT MORESBY at 2000 on Sunday 12th January. A rendezvous was made with PNGS SALAMAU at TABLE BAY at 1130 on 13th January. It was possible to run only one line of soundings before the weather became too rough. The next morning I ran another line of soundings before being detached to land a Survey Party at CAPE RODNEY to fix two beacons. I stayed at CAPE RODNEY until 0700 on Thursday 16th January but was unable to land the party because of rough weather. On recovering the anchor I found that the shaft had been twisted through seventy degrees. Soon after leaving the comparative shelter of CAPE RODNEY, the wind and sea increased giving a very unpleasant voyage to PORT MORESBY.

5. The ship arrived at PORT MORESBY at 0100 on Friday 17th January. I decided to anchor in the harbour for the rest of the night and went alongside at 0900. The berth at the LANCROON wharf was very uncomfortable resulting in the ship parting five stern breasts. I eventually used two shackles of anchor cable to secure the ship to the wharf. The ship sailed from PORT MORESBY at 1930 on Monday 20th January - three and a half hours late due to a radar defect. I was unable to parallel the generators because of a defective synchroscope.

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"AITAPE" called at SAMARAI on 21st January to pick up frozen provisions left there by PNGS LADAVA. There are still approximately 5 cubic feet of frozen provisions at SAMARAI. The opportunity was taken to beat the SAMARAI CLUB convincingly at basketball. The ship sailed from SAMARAI at 0745 the next morning for passage to LOMBRUM. Just after clearing CAPE NELSON at 2130 that night, the radar broke down again and remained defective until arrival at LOMBRUM at 1800 on 24th January, 1975. I stayed alongside until the 29th January when I sailed to run lines of soundings inside the harbour for HMAS SUPPLY. I sailed again on Thursday 30th January to lay two pimple buoys requested by HMAS SUPPLY. PNGS AITAPE is now alongside at LOMBRUM. During the last week PNG Ships "LADAVA" "LAE", and "MADANG" have been involved with "AITAPE" in a harbour concentration period involving exercises, lectures and comprehensive evening sports programmes. PNGS SAMARAI berthed at LOMBRUM on 31st January after an intermediate docking at MADANG.

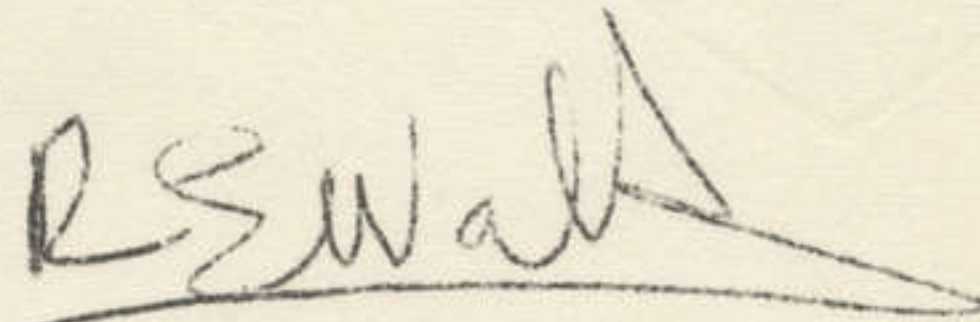
7. PNGS AITAPE arrived in LOMBRUM with a number of significant defects but I believe these can be rectified during the current maintenance period. This was the first time since June, 1974, that the ship had run for a period as long as three weeks without becoming non-operational. There is hope with the new fuel pumps fitted to the starboard engine, being fitted now, PNGS AITAPE may be over her long period of mechanical frustration.

8. The health of the ship's company has been excellent but conduct has been far from satisfactory with four sailors being found guilty of offences - one drunk; two absent over leave; and one assault. Morale is not high due probably to the high frequency of occurrence of defects.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



(R.E. WALTERS)
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SLEX SM
COMMANDING OFFICER

Annexes: A. STEAMING ANNEX
B. MONTHLY RETURN OF SERVICABILITY
C. EXERCISE RETURN

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ANNEX A to PNGS AITAPE
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
3rd to 31st Jan 1975

STEAMING RETURN

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Total distance steamed during period | 2418.8 miles |
| 2. | Total distance steamed since commissioning | 169761.9 " |
| 3. | Total hours underway during period | 201. hrs |
| 4. | Total hours underway since commissioning | 12631 hrs |
| 5. | Number of days on patrol during the period | 18 days |
| 6. | Periods in excess of Economical speed: | |
| | 3 Jan 75 22.5 1 hour Engine Trial. | |

ANNEX C to PNGS AITAPE
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
3rd to 31st Jan 1975

EXERCISE RETURN

Jan 3rd	Action, Emergency and Leaving Ship stations. Man Overboard. Damage Control Exercise Firefighting Medical Exercise Rig Emergency MF Aerial Steering Breakdowns
Jan 7th	Blind Pilotage.
Jan 13th	Small Arms Practice.
Jan 14th	Weigh Anchor by Deck Tackle
Jan 22nd	Action Station.
Jan 27th	Divisions COMEX
Jan 28th	FLASHEX
Jan 29th	XO Ship Handling
Jan 30th	Buoy Laying FLAEX
Jan 31st	FLASHEX Aid to Civil Power

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(MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIPS AVAILABILITY TO
ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS)PNGS AITAPE
PERIOD JANUARY 1975

APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66

AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING 7 YEARS
MILES STEAMED SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING
169761 MILESI.C. ENGINE SHIPS
PROGRESSIVE TOTALNO. 1 PORT 1806NO. 2 STBD 1331

MONTH	AVAILABILITY STATE		OPERATION DUTIES	EXERCISE WEAPON	TRAINING SPECIAL TASKS	POST REFIT TRIALS	PASSAGE TIME	VISIT	PROGRAMMED MAINT	PROGRAMMED REFIT DOCKING	REPAIR HARBOUR	LONG LEAVE	DEFECTS AFFECTING SHIPS DESIGNED PERFORMANCE (DURATION IN HOURS)										REMARKS
	1	2											H	E	L	G	A S	ND	C	EW	DL	LPT	
1	✓													24		24							AMP
2	✓													24		24							
3	✓													24		24							
4	✓													24		24							
5	✓													24		24							
6	✓		✓				14							24		24							
7	✓		✓				24							24		24							
8	✓		✓				14	10						24		24							
9	✓		✓				14	10						24		24							SAMARAI
10	✓		✓				9	15						24		24							POM
11	✓		✓				4	20						24		24							
12	✓		✓				11							24		24							
13	✓		✓		✓		6							24		24							SURVEYING
14	✓		✓		✓									24		24							
15	✓		✓		✓		17							24		24							
16	✓		✓		✓		1	23						24		24							
17	✓		✓					24						24		24							POM
18	✓		✓					24						24		24							
19	✓		✓				5	19						24		24		5					RADAR DEFECTIVE SAMARAI
20	✓		✓				14	10						24		24							
21	✓		✓				16	8						24	20	24		2					RADAR DEFECTIVE
22	✓		✓				24							24	24	24		24					
23	✓		✓				18				6			24	24	24		24					GENERATOR SYNCHROSCOPE DEFECTIVE
24		✓									24	24		24	24	24		14					
25		✓									24	24		24	24	24							
26		✓									24	24		24	24	24							
27		✓									24	24		24	24	24							
28		✓									24	24		24	24	24							
29		✓									24	20		24	24	24							
30		✓			✓		4				24	20		24	24	24							SURVEYING LAYING BUOYS
31		✓			✓		1				24	23		24	24	20							
AL	24	7	19		6		196	157			24	24		24	24	24							

168.169

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PNGS AITAPE
at LOMBRUM

The COMMANDER
PNG PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

PNGS AITAPE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 1ST FEBRUARY TO 5TH
MARCH, 1975

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of PAPUA NEW GUINEA SHIP AITAPE, under my command for the period 1st February to 5th March, 1975. All times are in Zone Kilo (410).

2. On 1st February the whole of the PNG Patrol Boat Squadron was alongside at LOMBRUM. The opportunity was taken to hold a Squadron Cock-tail Party in the evening and the guests were invited both from the Patrol Boat Base and LORENGAU. At 0630 on Sunday 2nd February, PNG Ships AITAPE, LADAVA, LAE, and MADANG were required to move to allow the M.V WYVERN to berth. At 1215 PNG Ship MADANG with PNG Ship LADAVA as escort sailed for a slipping at MADANG town.

3. On 3rd February, PNGS AITAPE remained alongside carrying out self-maintenance and PNGS SAMARAI sailed for an Islands Area Patrol. PNGS LAE sailed for the Southern Area the next day. On Wednesday 5th February, PNGS LADAVA returned to LOMBRUM with a defective radar. She had been carrying out a Patrol south of MANUS ISLAND but the continuing poor visibility at the time made the Patrol ineffective. All four fuel pumps on PNGS AITAPE's starboard main engine were changed during the week and AITAPE sailed for successful engine trials at 1300 on Friday, 7th February, reberthing at 1430.

4. PNGS AITAPE sailed for an Islands Area Patrol at 1000 on Monday 10th February. The only significant defect was a defective synchroscope which precluded the paralleling of generators. The ship was in better material state than at any time since June, 1974. Passage was made to KAVIENG where I was to pick up mail for TENCH ISLAND. There were only two letters at KAVIENG for TENCH ISLAND and these were delivered at 0700 on Wednesday, 12th February. The ship had to lie off as no suitable anchorage was found. PNGS AITAPE sailed from TENCH ISLAND at 0800 and made for SELAPIU ISLAND in the STEFFAN STRAITS arriving there at 1630. A visit was made to the coastwatcher. At 1006 on 14th February, a signal was received to proceed to SIMBERI ISLAND with all despatch to investigate a coastwatcher's report of a RUSSIAN vessel anchored off the island the previous afternoon. AITAPE arrived in the SIMBERI area at 1430 but failed to find any trace of the vessel. A visit was made to MR BIRVE, the coastwatcher who made the report, and it seems definite that the vessel was of SOVIET registration. PNGS AITAPE spent the night at anchor in the TABAR ISLANDS and sailed at 0700 the next morning, arriving at KAVIENG at 1400 on Saturday 15th February. The opportunity was taken that afternoon to beat the local team at basketball. The AN/URC-58 HF transceiver developed a defect during the afternoon. The set was partially repaired during the night but left the ship with the ability to transmit in the eight megahertz band only.

5. PNGS AITAPE was required to vacate the wharf at 1215 on Sunday, 16th February, to allow the MV NEW GUINEA CHIEF to berth. AITAPE remained at

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anchored. The ship's Soccer team was defeated by a strong local team later in the afternoon. The ship sailed for LIHIR ISLAND at 1300 on Monday, 17th February, with two officers from the Public Works Department embarked. The ship anchored off LIHIR ISLAND at 0700 on Tuesday, 18th February, and the two officers went ashore to blast five holes in the coral for a radio mast. The job was completed by 1600 and the ship sailed for KAVIENG arriving there at 0700 on Wednesday, 19th. The ship fuelled and watered and sailed again at 1030 with a Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries Inspector onboard. A fisheries patrol was carried out taking in the East Coast of NEW IRELAND, TABAR, LIHIR, and TANGA ISLANDS before calling on the Coastwatcher at FENI ISLAND at 0730 on Thursday, 20th February. Assistance was given to repair his generator before the ship sailed again at 1030 to resume the fisheries patrol, this time taking in the NISSAN ISLANDS, the West Coast of BUKA, and BOUGANVILLE as far south as CAPE MOLTKE and the East Coast of BOUGANVILLE before arriving at KIETA at 1200 on Friday, 21st February. The ship had to anchor until 1630 when the Government wharf became available. The ship fuelled that evening but had to wait until Monday morning to water as the main wharf had two merchant ships berthed on it until then. A very pleasant weekend was spent in KIETA. On Friday evening a group from the ship entertained at the KIETA CLUB and the following afternoon the basketball team resoundingly defeated the Police team. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly a visit to the Bouganville Copper Limited mine at PANGUNA. Fourteen members of the ship's company went to the mine and all were most impressed.

6. The ship sailed from KIETA at 1000 on Monday, 24th February, and that evening visited the Coastwatcher at BANIU PLANTATION on the North Coast of BOUGANVILLE. The radar went defective at 2100 that evening. The following day a visit was made to the CARTERET GROUP to find a suitable volunteer to act as Coastwatcher. He was found and the ship sailed for a fisheries patrol at 0800 on Wednesday, 26th February. This patrol took in NISSAN ISLANDS, BUKA, SOUTH NEW IRELAND, and the East Coast of NEW BRITAIN. The ship anchored off MIOKO ISLAND in the DUKE OF YORK GROUP at 1700 on Thursday, 27th, and arrived at RABAU at 0900 the next morning for a weekend visit. A good berth was obtained and the ship was fuelled, watered, and stored that day.

7. The ship remained at RABAU until 1400 on Monday, 3rd March, when she sailed for a fisheries patrol off the North Coast of NEW BRITAIN. The radar was still defective in spite of new parts having been sent from LOMBRUM and a considerable amount of work being done by the ship's REM's. Tuesday night was spent off the East Coast of the WILLAUMEZ PENINSULA having spent the day in KIMBE BAY. Wednesday, 5th March, was the last day before devolution of Defence Powers to the Government of PAPUA NEW GUINEA. The ship was anchored before sunset inside the crater of GAROVE ISLAND and a small ceremony was held to mark the hauling down of the AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG for the last time onboard PNGS AITAPE.

8. The material state of the ship is improving. There have been no major mechanical defects during the month and very few minor ones. The starboard engine has done as much running as the port one. It gives off a darker exhaust than the port one but appears to be running satisfactorily. The radar has again been the major problem, it broke down on a number of occasions before finally going defective on 20th February.

9. The morale of the Ship's Company is much improved and they are now working together as a team. A considerable amount of ship's husbandry has been carried out and the Ship's Company can now see some result for their labours. There has also been an improvement in conduct. The

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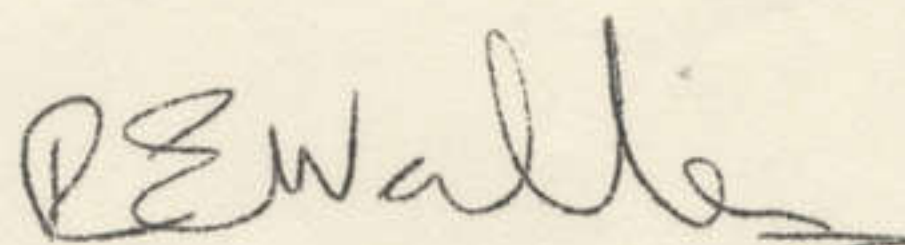
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health of the Ship's Company has remained excellent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



(R.E. WALTERS)
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

11th March, 1975.

Annexes: A. STEAMING RETURN
B. MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP'S AVAILABILITY
C. EXERCISE ANNEX

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ANNEX 'A' TO PNGS AITAPE REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 1ST
FEBRUARY, 1975, TO 5TH MARCH, 1975.

STEAMING RETURN:

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| 1. Total distance steamed during period | 2494 miles | |
| 2. Total distance steamed since commissioning | 172255 miles | |
| 3. Total hours underway during period | 217 hours | |
| 4. Total hours underway since commissioning | 12848 hours | |
| 5. Number of days on patrol during the period | 18 days | |
| 6. Periods in excess of Economical Speed: | | |
| 7FEB75 | 21knots | 1 Hour engine trial |
| 14FEB75 | 21knots | 5½ Hours proceeding with all
despatch |
| 19FEB75 | 21knots | 1 Hour investigating suspicious con-
tact during fisheries patrol |

ANNEX 'B' TO PNGS AITAPE REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 1ST
FEBRUARY, 1975, TO 5TH MARCH, 1975.

AS PER ATTACHED COPY, - MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP'S AVAILABILITY,

ANNEX 'C' TO PNGS AITAPE REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 1ST
FEBRUARY, 1975, TO 5TH MARCH, 1975

EXERCISE ANNEX

FEBRUARY 2nd	COMING TO A BUOY
FEBRUARY 4th	FLASH EX
FEBRUARY 6th	FLASH EX
FEBRUARY 10th	ACTION STATIONS MAN OVERBOARD STEERING BREAKDOWN XO'S ALONGSIDE
FEBRUARY 12th	BOARDING PARTY
FEBRUARY 13th	NBCD EXERCISE
FEBRUARY 18th	SMALL ARMS SHOOT
FEBRUARY 25th	FIRE EXERCISE STEERING BREAKDOWN
FEBRUARY 27th	ACTION STATIONS

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(MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIPS AVAILABILITY TO
ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS)

PNGS AITARE

PERIOD FEBRUARY FTS plus 1st-5th March
1975

APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66

AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING 8 YEARS

MILES STEAMED SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING
172255 MILES

I.C. ENGINE SHIPS
PROGRESSIVE TOTAL

NO. 1

NO. 2

MONTH	AVAILABILITY STATE		OPERATION DUTIES	EXERCISE WEAPON	TRAINING SPECIAL TASKS	POST REFIT TRIALS	PASSAGE TIME	VISIT	PROGRAMMED MAINT	PROGRAMMED REFIT DOCKING	REPAIR HARBOUR	LONG LEAVE	DEFECTS AFFECTING SHIPS DESIGNED PERFORMANCE (DURATION IN HOURS)										REMARKS
	1	2											H	E	L	G	T A S	ND	C	EW	DL	LPT	
1	✓																						
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3	✓																						
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(MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIPS AVAILABILITY TO
ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS)

PNGS AITAPE
PERIOD 1-5 MAR.

APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66

AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING _____ YEARS
MILES STEAMED SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING _____ MILES

I.C. ENGINE SHIPS
PROGRESSIVE TOTAL

NO. 1 _____
NO. 2 _____

MONTH DAY	AVAILABILITY STATE		OPERATION OUTIES	EXERCISE WEAPON	TRAINING SPECIAL TASKS	POST REFIT	TRIALS	PASSAGE TIME	VISIT	PROGRAMMED MAINT	PROGRAMMED REFIT	DOCKING	REPAIR	HARBOUR	LONG LEAVE	DEFECTS AFFECTING SHIPS DESIGNED PERFORMANCE (DURATION IN HOURS)										REMARKS
	1	2														H	E	L	G	T A S	ND	C	EW	DL	LPT	
1	✓		✓						✓									24			24					
2	✓		✓						✓									24			24					
3	✓		✓						✓									24			24					
4	✓		✓															24			24					
5	✓		✓															24			24					
6																		24			24					
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30																										
31																										
TOTAL	5		5															120			120					

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

INTERIM FORM ONLY - JUNE 1974

DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

INFORMATION CLASSIFIER

Douglas.

ORIGINAL/COPY

DUPLICATE COPY MADE

DATE OPENED *1 May 1975*

REGISTRATION

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Restricted.

TITLE *PNAS AIRTAPE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS*
3 JAN - 5 MARCH 1975

REGISTRATION NUMBER *N428/3/815*

MARK TO *ASRP-N*

CANCEL FILE NUMBER *VIDE THIS FILE AND INFORM*

FILE LOCATION SECTION OF CANCELLATION AND NEW FILE NUMBER.

CLOSE FILE NUMBER

CROSS REFERENCE THIS FILE WITH FILE/S

SUBJECT INDEX

POSTING

PRECIS

NAME INDEX

HEADING

PNAS Airtape

PRECIS

afa

ALTER FILE NUMBER ON LOGGING CARD FOR

ADAC - PNG

LETTER DATED *24 April 1975* REFERENCE NUMBER *752.2.6*