

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

HMAS BARBETTE

Item number: 53/8

Title: January-December 1978



AWM78-53/8

Brisbane
1-27 July.

[53/8]

Barbette

Rat P's

Duplicates 1978

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns
1 February 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM Australia Fleet

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
Second Australian Patrol Boat Squadron

HMAS BARBETTE - Report of Proceedings - January 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of January, 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month alongside at Cairns. At 0700 on 04 January, HMAS BARBETTE cast off and proceeded to Townsville in company with HMAS BARRICADE arriving at 1740 and remaining alongside overnight. The officers and ship's company from both ships participated in a Standard Naval Range Course at Lavarack Barracks Rifle Range on 05 January.

3. The opportunity was taken to embark one officer and one non-commissioned officer from C Company, 2/4 Royal Australian Regiment, for sea familiarisation, prior to sailing from Townsville in company with BARRICADE at 0900 on 06 January.

4. The work up phase of AUSPABRON TWO SQUADEX was conducted in the area between the Whitsunday Passage and Cape Tribulation during the period 06 January to 09 January, and drills and exercises as detailed in Annex B were carried out. HMAS BOMBARD joined BARBETTE and BARRICADE for OOW Manoeuvres at 1100 on 07 January before resuming her passage to Cairns. At 1750 on 08 January, BARBETTE entered Townsville Harbour to disembark army personnel, rejoining BARRICADE outside harbour on completion. BARBETTE and BARRICADE returned to Cairns at 2100 on 09 January for fuel and maintenance prior to sailing for the SQUADEX in company with BOMBARD at 0830 on 11 January.

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5. At 1513 on 11 January, a Piper Aztec aircraft on charter to the Royal Australian Navy for the SQUADDEX, crashed into the sea and sank after colliding with the mainmast and foremast of BOMBARD during a Weapons Direction Exercise (BARBETTEs letter 1/7/1A dated 12 January 1978 and BARRICADES letter 1/7/1A dated 12 January 1978 refer). After the aircraft wreckage was located in 110 ft of water by echo sounder and positively identified and buoyed by diver, all three ships returned to Cairns at 2045.

6. BARBETTE remained alongside in Cairns until the 25 January. During this period, the port gear box (INDEF 17/80 and URDEF 21/80) was replaced and a Department of Transport Inquiry and a Naval Board of Inquiry were held to investigate the circumstances regarding the crash of the Piper Aztec aircraft.

7. On 16 January, I attended the funeral of Mr. G. Daniels, the pilot of the crashed aircraft.

8. BARBETTE sailed from Cairns for gearbox sea trials at 1350 on 26 January, returning at 1450. The trials were unsuccessful and after adjustments were made, BARBETTE sailed again for trials at 0950 on 27 January, returning at 1045. These trials were also unsuccessful and after further adjustments, BARBETTE sailed at 1625, and after having successfully completed sea trials, returned to Cairns at 1725.

9. At 0900 on 28 January, BARBETTE cast off and proceeded from Cairns on a ATS2 patrol.

10. In response to a Mayday call from the trawler MOONRAKER, aground north of Weipa, (HMAS CAIRNS KAO 280915Z JAN 78) BARBETTE commenced fast passage in Force 4 weather to the area (HMAS BARBETTE KAO281115Z JAN 78) at 2030 on 28 January. BARBETTEs participation in the Mayday was terminated at 0030 on 29 January (HMAS CAIRNS RTT 281408Z JAN 78) and the ship was diverted to Thursday Island for fuel.

11. Deteriorating weather conditions and reduced fuel (BARBETTE RTT 290155Z JAN 78, HMAS CAIRNS KNA 290300Z JAN 78) necessitated the cancellation of the Thursday Island diversion, and BARBETTE returned to Cairns at 1630 on 30 January.

12. On completion of replacing a fuel pump on the starboard engine (URDEF 26/80) and resealing the galley range (URDEF 25/80) BARBETTE proceeded north from Cairns at 1800 on 31 January to resume patrol.

13. Overall machinery performance during the month has caused concern. Due to further deterioration of the output shaft seal, port gear box, INDEF 17/80 was upgraded to URDEF 21/80 and the gearbox was replaced during the period 12-25 January.

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14. Defects also occurred in No.1 A/C unit (URDEF 22/80) the galley exhaust fan (URDEF 23/80), No.3 A/C unit (URDEF 24/80), the securing of the galley range (URDEF 25/80), 'B' bank fwd fuel pump, starboard engine (URDEF 26/80), the Rachel HF receiver (INDEF 18/80), the PRC-F2 HF transceiver (INDEF 19/80), No. 2 A/C unit (INDEF 20/80), the wardroom refrigerator (INDEF 21/80) and the fwd accommodation ladder (INDEF 22/80).

15. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company have been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant

for rec
(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming details
B. Exercise details.

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Annex A to IMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
1 February 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Miles steamed during month | 1,833.3 |
| 2. | Miles steamed since commissioning | 206,990.0 |
| 3. | Hours underway during month | 115.2 |
| 4. | Hours underway since commissioning | 14,743.4 |
| 5. | Occasions fast routing speed exceeded | |

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
27 Jan	1350rpm	0.34	Gear Box Trials

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Annex B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
1 February, 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation

00W Manoeuvres

06 January
06 January (flags)
07 January
09 January
11 January

Manoverboard Exercises

07 January

Heaving Line Transfers

06 January (4)
09 January (5)
11 January (5)

General Drills

TOWEX

06 January (3)

Competitive Drills

07 January
11 January

Emergency Stations

07 January

Boarding Stations

09 January (BARRICADE)

Search and Rescue Stations

11 January (Crashed Piper
Aztec Aircraft)

NBCD

Minor NBCDEX

07 January

Gunnery

Standard Naval Range Course

05 January

40/60 AAROFX

09 January
09 January (Night)

40/60 SUTFX

09 January (Splash Target)
11 January (Splash Target)

40/60 AACRFX

11 January (Sleeve Target)

40/60 WDX

11 January (Aircraft Target)

.50 Cal AAROFX

09 January
09 January (Night)

.50 cal SUTFX

09 January (Splash Target)
11 January (Splash Target)

.50 cal AACRFX

11 January (Sleeve Target)

.50 cal WDX

11 January (Aircraft Target)

2" RFL

09 January
09 January (Night)

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Annex B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/78 dated
1 February 1978

Diving

Exercised ships divers

11 January (Crashed Piper
Aztec Aircraft)

Security

Quarterly Security Lecture

25 January (CIO NOCQLD)

Quarterly Alcohol Abuse Lecture

25 January

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Ref: 1/16/7B

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HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns
01 March 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM Australian Fleet

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
Second Australian Patrol Boat Squadron

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of February, 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month on patrol in Areas ATS2. At 0800 on 02 February, BARBETTE berthed at Thursday Island and after refuelling, continued patrol at 1230.

3. The Taiwanese gill netter No.11 CHIEN CHUNG CT5-0436 was apprehended in position 13°03.6S 141°24.5E at 0334 on 03 February (BARBETTE FISHREP KBG 021751Z FEB 78) and escorted to Weipa, arriving at 1620. Custody of the vessel was transferred to Commonwealth Fisheries at 1100 on 04 February.

4. BARBETTE resumed patrol on 0830 on 05 February, fuelling and carrying out maintenance on the following occasions.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|------------------------|
| a) | Weipa | 081200-091200 February |
| | Weipa | 160900-170930 February |
| b) | Thursday Island | 111000-130830 February |
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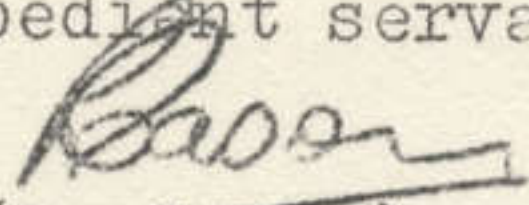
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5. During the patrol, BARBETTE identified 34 Taiwanese fishing vessels in the Gulf of Carpentaria and numerous updating position reports were forwarded (BARBETTE FISHREPS for patrol period refer).
6. At 0825 on 19 February, BARBETTE, whilst on passage to Cairns, was diverted to investigate a red flare sighting on Mid Reef, 14°28S 144°55E (DEFNAV KAO 181715Z FEB 78). A yacht was located aground on the reef and the crew of two was evacuated. Enquiries by Commanding Officer, HMAS CAIRNS revealed that the yacht was the ARGO and had been stolen from Cairns on 17 February. BARBETTE berthed at Cairns at 2240 and local police officers who met the ship, took the survivors into custody.
7. BARBETTE cast off and proceeded from Cairns at 0750 on 21 February and after rendezvousing with HMAS BAYONET at 0830, acted as consort for BAYONET'S mini workup. Drills and exercises as detailed in Annex B were carried out. Both ships returned to Cairns at 1400 on 22 February.
8. A self maintenance period was commenced on 23 February and BARBETTE remained alongside for the remainder of the month.
9. At 1152 on 28 February, the fishing vessel WAIPORI, whilst berthing at No 1 wharf Cairns, lost stern power and collided with BARBETTE (BARBETTE KKE 280340Z FEB 78). Damage was sustained to 8 guardrail staunchions, ensign staff, inflatable liferaft stowage and inflatable liferaft (URDEF 27/80).
10. Overall machinery performance during the month has been excellent. Indef 23/80 was raised after repeated efforts since May 1977 to obtain a wheelhouse radio telephone extension unit were unsuccessful. A unit was subsequently located and the indef has since been rectified.
11. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company have been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant.


(R. CASON)

Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer.

Annexes: A Steaming details
B Exercise details

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Annex A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 March 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Miles steamed during month	4,051.4
2.	Miles steamed since commissioning	211,041.4
3.	Hours underway during month	311.4
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	15,054.8
5.	Occasions fast routing speed exceeded	Nil

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Annex B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 March 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

NAVIGATION

Shiphandling (Third Officer)	09 February
	13 February
OOW Anchorages	18 February
	21 February
	22 February
Pilotage Training (Third Officer)	08 February
	09 February
	11 February
	13 February
	21 February
	22 February
OOW Manoeuvres	21 February
Manoverboard Exercises	07 February
	14 February
Heaving Line Transfers	21 February

GENERAL DRILLS

Boarding Stations	03 February (No 11 CHIEN CHUNG CT5- 0436)
Action Stations	22 February
Defence Stations	22 February
Emergency Stations	22 February
Leaving Ship Stations	22 February
Search and Rescue Stations	19 February (ARGO)
	22 February
TOWEX	21 February (2)

GUNNERY

40/60 SUTFX	17 February
.50 cal SUTFX	17 February
Small Arms Shoot	17 February

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Annex B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/78 dated
01 March 1978

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NBCD

Major NBCDEX

22 February

Exercised fire

12 February

23 February

24 February

26 February

28 February

Exercised flood

20 February

22 February

25 February

Exercised casualty
evacuation

27 February

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns

01 April 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of
HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of March, 1978.
All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month alongside at Cairns,
carrying out self maintenance.

3. At 1000 on 13 March, BARBETTE cast off and proceeded
from Cairns on a ATS2 patrol.

4. Failure of the starboard main engine pegson pump drive
(URDEF 29/80) during the morning of 15 March resulted in an
amended arrival in WEIPA at 1300. BARBETTE remained in WEIPA
effecting repairs until 1230 on 23 March when patrol was
recommenced.

5. BARBETTE returned to WEIPA at 0900 on 25 March, and
after fuelling, returned to sea at 1300.

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6. Failure of the starboard engine room supply fan (URDEF 31/80) necessitated BARBETTE's return to WEIPA at 0900 on 27 March. After replacing the supply fan, BARBETTE commenced passage to THURSDAY ISLAND at 1330, arriving at 0900 on 28 March.

7. Crank case compression problems on the starboard main engine (URDEF 32/80) forced the cancellation of the remainder of the patrol. BARBETTE departed THURSDAY ISLAND at 0915 on 29 March and for the remainder of the month, continued passage to CAIRNS.

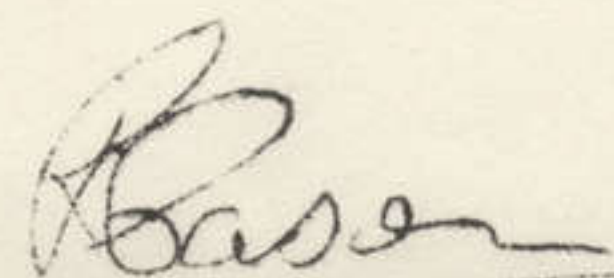
8. Overall machinery performance during the month has once again caused concern. Defects occurred on A6 cylinder head, starboard main engine (URDEF 28/80), pegson pump drive, starboard main engine (URDEF 29/80), starting motors and solenoids, starboard main engine (URDEF 30/80), starboard engine room supply fan (URDEF 31/80), rear crankshaft seal and crank case compression, starboard main engine (URDEF 32/80), 40/60 Bofors scooter control (URDEF 33/80) and steering gear filter (INDEF 24/80).

9. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company have been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer.

Annexes: A. Steaming details.
B. Exercise details.

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 April 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Miles steamed during month	2,319.1
2.	Miles steamed since commissioning	213,360.5
3.	Hours underway during month	184.1
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	15,238.9
5.	Occasions fast routing speed exceeded	Nil

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 April 1978

NAVIGATION

Manoverboard Exercises	14 March
OOW Anchorages	25 March
Shiphandling (Executive Officer)	25 March

GUNNERY

40/60 SUTFX	13 March
.50 Cal SUTFX	13 March
Small arms shoot	13 March
Pyrotechnics demonstration	01 March

NBCD

Exercised fire	02 March
	04 March
	05 March
	06 March
	09 March
	10 March
	11 March
	16 March
	20 March
	21 March
Exercised flood	22 March
	03 March
	07 March
	12 March
	15 March
	19 March
Exercised lighting failure	28 March
	01 March
Exercised casualty evacuation	18 March
	08 March
	17 March

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns
02 May 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE -- REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- APRIL 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of April, 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month on passage to Cairns, arriving at 0800 on 01 April.

3. An Intermediate Docking Period was commenced on 03 April when the ship de-ammunitioned and de-fuelled. BARBETTE was slipped at North Queensland Engineers and Agents on 04 April.

4. On 10 April, I attended the funeral of the late Alderman D.T. DeJarlais, Mayor of Cairns.

5. The starboard main engine, starboard generator and starboard gearbox were replaced on 17 April and a 40/60 series inspection was completed on 21 April.

6. BARBETTE unslipped on 19 April and ~~could~~ moved to NQEA fitting out wharf to continue the ID, and remained there until the end of the month.

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7. The Officers and Ships Company attended the dawn memorial services at Cairns and West Cairns on 25 April.

8. Defects occurred during the period on the rudder bearings (URDEF 35/80), port and starboard main engine lubricating oil priming pumps (URDEF 36/80), A8 cylinder head, port main engine (URDEF 37/80) and the starboard generator which was missing numerous parts on receipt from naval stores (INDEF 34/80 - CAIRNS DAU 252314 Z APR 78 refer).

9. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company have been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Bason

(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming details.
B. Exercise details.

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
02 May 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Miles steamed during month	107.0
2.	Miles steamed since commissioning	213,467.0
3.	Hours underway during month	8.0
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	15,246.9
5.	Occasions fast routing speed exceeded	Nil

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/78 dated
02 May 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

NBCD

Exercised fire

01 April
02 April
04 April
06 April
07 April
10 April
11 April
12 April
15 April
16 April
17 April
20 April
21 April
23 April
24 April
25 April
28 April
29 April
30 April

Exercised flood

03 April
08 April
13 April
18 April
22 April
27 April

Exercised casualty evacuation

05 April
09 April
14 April
19 April
26 April

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Sea

01 June 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of May 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month undergoing an Intermediate Docking Period at North Queensland Engineers and Agents fitting-out wharf, Cairns.

3. Starboard generator trials were carried out on 02 May. These were followed by an unsuccessful basin trial on 05 May. A further basin trial early on 08 May was successful; and at 0950, BARBETTE cast off and proceeded to sea for main engine and steering trials, returning to Cairns at 1150.

4. At 0805 on 10 May BARBETTE proceeded to sea for shake down and further trials on the starboard main engine, returning to Cairns at 1000 on 11 May. After embarking stores and Base Staff personnel, BARBETTE proceeded back to sea at 1050.

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5. A rendezvous was effected with HMAS BAYONET at 1305 on 11 May and officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres were carried out until 1400 when both ships departed for separate anchorages. BARBETTE proceeded to Batt Reef, anchoring at 1427.

6. Following receipt of MARSAR 78/538 (HMAS CAIRNS KAO 110450Z MAY 78), BARBETTE weighed anchor at 1525, and, having despatched BAYONET to search the southern sector, proceeded to the northern sector. Search was suspended at dark and both ships acted independently until first light on 12 May, when the search was resumed. Low fuel, poor visibility and rough seas forced the termination of the search at 0800 and both ships returned to Cairns in company, arriving at 1000.

7. BARBETTE remained alongside in Cairns until 22 May. During this period, self maintenance was progressed and 50HR routines were carried out on the starboard main engine.

8. Following a request for assistance from the Queensland State Police, BARBETTE'S boat and duty watch apprehended two allegedly stolen dinghies and their occupants in Cairns Harbour on the night of 16 May (HMAS BARBETTE LSD 162336Z MAY 78).

9. BARBETTE departed Cairns at 1200 on 22 May to patrol Area A and support Clearance Diving Team 1 ashore. The ship anchored overnight on the following occasions.

- | | | |
|----|-------------|------------------|
| a) | Batt Reef | 22 May |
| b) | Ruby Reef | 23 May |
| c) | Cairns Reef | 24 May
25 May |

The opportunity was taken to embark a Queensland State Policeman and a RAAF Flight Lieutenant from No 11 Squadron for sea familiarisation during the period 22-26 May.

10. A survey of Cooktown Harbour and approaches was carried out on 24 May. BARBETTE returned to Cairns at 1425 on 26 May and remained alongside overnight.

11. With members of CDT1 embarked, BARBETTE sailed from Cairns at 0800 on 27 May to search for World War II mine on Arlington Reef. The search was unsuccessful and BARBETTE returned to Cairns at 1615 and remained alongside for the weekend.

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12. At 1015 on 29 May, BARBETTE departed Cairns and returned to Area A to continue to support CDT1 ashore. This task was continued for the remainder of the month. The ship anchored overnight on the following occasions.

- a) Spitfire Reef 29 May
- b) Mackray Reef 30 May
- c) Cape Tribulation 31 May

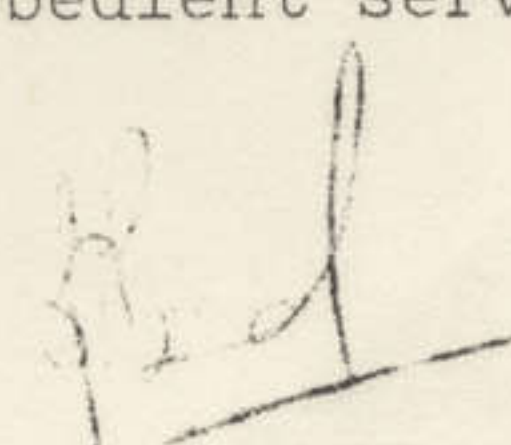
13. Overall machinery performance during the month has been satisfactory. Defects occurred on the 40/60 recoil buffer (URDEF 38/80), devils claw (URDEF 39/80), wheelhouse and bridge tachometers, starboard engine (INDEF 37/80), No 2 A/C unit (INDEF 38/80) and AN/URC 58 microphone (INDEF 39/80). The performance of No 2 A/C unit since refit (May 77) has been totally unsatisfactory.

14. The health and conduct of the ship's company during the month has been good: Morale has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.


(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer.

Annexes: A. Steaming Details
B. Exercise Details

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 June 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Miles steamed during the month 1152.3
2. Miles steamed since commissioning 214619.3
3. Hours underway during month 82.2
4. Hours underway since commissioning 15329.1
5. Occasions fast routing speed exceeded

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEED</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
08 May 78	1350RPM	1.25 Hrs	Sea Acceptance Trials

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 June 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation.

Manoverboard Exercises	10 May
OOW Manoeuvres	11 May (BAYONET)
Shiphandling (Executive Officer)	11 May (2)
OOW Anchorages	22 May
	23 May (3)

General Drills.

Boarding Stations	10 May
Defence Stations	10 May
Action Stations	10 May
Emergency Stations	10 May
Leaving Ship Stations	10 May
Helicopter Transfer Stations	10 May
Search and Rescue Stations	10 May
	11 May (MARSAR 78/538)
	12 May (MARSAR 78/538)
Rig Emergency HF aerial	10 May
	19 May

Diving

Exercised ships divers	27 May
	29 May
	30 May

Gunnery

Small arms shoot	10 May
Pyrotechnics demonstration	10 May

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NBCD

Exercised fire

01 May
03 May
04 May
06 May
07 May
08 May
12 May
13 May
14 May
15 May
19 May
20 May
26 May
28 May

Exercised flood

02 May
05 May
09 May
16 May
17 May

Exercised casualty evacuation

18 May
27 May

Minor NBCDEX

10 May

Security

Quarterly Security Lecture

31 May

Quarterly Drug Abuse Lecture

31 May

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns

03 July 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JUNE 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of
HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of June 1978.
All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month supporting Clearance Diving Team One ashore in the Cape Tribulation area. This task was continued until 2000 on 02nd when passage to Cooktown was commenced, anchoring off Cooktown at 2300.
3. The Endeavour River was entered at 0700 on 03rd on the high tide and BARBETTE berthed at Cooktown at 0730 to commence a two day official visit on the occasion of the 208th Anniversary of the Landing of Captain Cook. During the visit, the officers and ships company marched in the Grand Parade and participated in the numerous sporting and social activities. I was the guest speaker at the Re-enactment of the Landing of Captain Cook on 04th.
4. BARBETTE departed Cooktown at 0830 on 05th and steamed overnight to Townsville, arriving at 1400 on 06th.

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2.

5. The opportunity was taken to embark one non-commissioned officer and two soldiers from C Company, 2/4 Royal Australian Regiment, for sea familiarisation, prior to sailing from Townsville at 0800 on 07th to continue patrolling Area B.
6. At 1630 on 07th BARBETTE anchored in Nara Inlet to effect repairs to the port main engine and remained at anchor overnight before resuming patrol at 1300 on 08th.
7. Failure of the AN URC/58 Transceiver (URDEF 40/80) necessitated an unscheduled overnight visit to Brampton Island on 08th to clear signal traffic.
8. BARBETTE departed Brampton Island at 1200 on 09th and berthed in Mackay at 1430.
9. At 0845 on 12th BARBETTE dast off and proceeded north from Mackay to join HMAS BARRICADE as consort for BARRICADE's workup. Rendezvous was effected off Pelorus Island at 0750 on 13th and exercises as detailed in ANNEX B were carried out. Both ships anchored at Orpheus Island overnight at 1800. The workup resumed at 0800 on 14th and continued throughout the day until 1600 when both ships berthed in Townsville for fuel and remained overnight.
10. BARBETTE and BARRICADE departed Townsville in company at 0800 on 15th and the workup was resumed along a northerly mean line of advance. Both ships passaged overnight to Cairns and berthed at No. 1 Wharf at 1215 after fuelling at No. 10 Berth. BARBETTE remained at Cairns for the remainder of the month for self-maintenance.
12. Unsuccessful ~~part~~^{port}-maintenance sea trials were carried out on 29th and the trials were successfully repeated on 30th.
13. Overall machinery performance during the month has been satisfactory. Defects occurred on the AN/URC 58 transceiver, (URDEF 40/80), the 40/60 rectifier transformer (URDEF 41/80) and a lubricating oil pipe, port main engine (URDEF 42/80).

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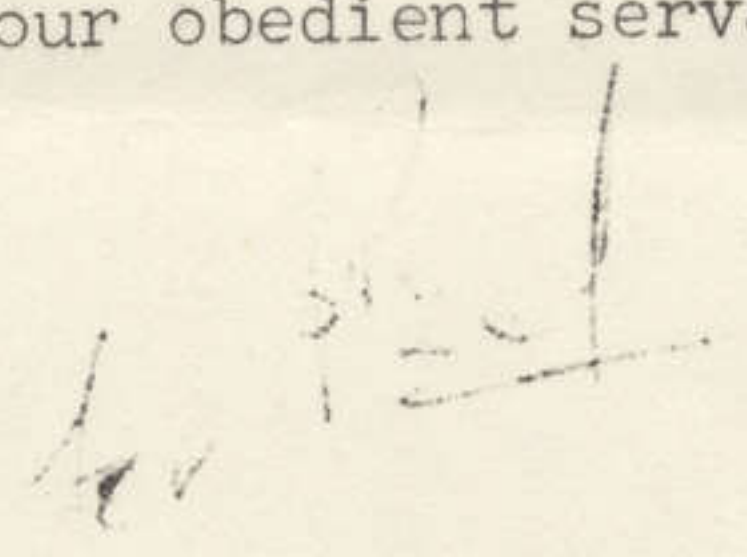
3.

14. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company
has been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant


(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details
B. Exercise Details

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5. The opportunity was taken to embark one non-commissioned officer and two soldiers from C Company, 2/4 Royal Australian Regiment, for sea familiarisation, prior to sailing from Townsville at 0800 on 07th to continue patrolling Area B.

6. At 1630 on 07th BARBETTE anchored in Nara Inlet to effect repairs to the port main engine and remained at anchor overnight before resuming patrol at 1300 on 08th.

7. Failure of the AN URC/58 Transceiver (URDEF 40/80) necessitated an unscheduled overnight visit to Brampton Island on 08th to clear signal traffic.

8. BARBETTE departed Brampton Island at 1200 on 09th and berthed in Mackay at 1430.

9. At 0845 on 12th BARBETTE dast off and proceeded north from Mackay to join HMAS BARRICADE as consort for BARRICADE's workup. Rendezvous was effected off Pelorus Island at 0750 on 13th and exercises as detailed in ANNEX B were carried out. Both ships anchored at Orpheus Island overnight at 1800. The workup resumed at 0800 on 14th and continued throughout the day until 1600 when both ships berthed in Townsville for fuel and remained overnight.

10. BARBETTE and BARRICADE departed Townsville in company at 0800 on 15th. BARBETTE remained in Cairns for the remainder of the month for self maintenance.

11. Sub-Lieutenant M.C. KELLAM RAN joined on 26th as Executive Officer.

12. Unsuccessful ^{post}part-maintenance sea trials were carried out on 29th and the trials were successfully repeated on 30th.

13. Overall machinery performance during the month has been satisfactory. Defects occurred on the AN/URC 58 transceiver, (URDEF 40/80), the 40/60 rectifier transformer (URDEF 41/80) and a lubricating oil pipe, port main engine (URDEF 42/80).

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated

03 July 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Miles steamed during the month	1334.9
2.	Miles steamed since commissioning	215954.2
3.	Hours underway during month	105.8
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	15434.9
5.	Occasions fast routing speed exceeded	Nil

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated

03 July 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation

Man overboard Exercises

13 June

OCW Manoeuvres

13 June (BARRICADE)

14 June (BARRICADE)

15 June (BARRICADE)

Heaving Line Transfers

01 June

13 June

14 June

15 June

16 June

Formation Anchorage

13 June

Shiphandling (Executive Officer)

16 June

19 June

29 June

30 June

General Drills

Boarding Stations

13 June

14 June

15 June

Rig Emergency HF Aerial

08 June

TOWEX

13 June

15 June

Competitive Drills

13 June

NAVCOMEX

13 June

Security

Exercised emergency destruction

13 June

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Exercise Details (Continued)Gunnery

40/60 AAROFX	01 June
.50 cal AAROFX	01 June
2" RFL	01 June
Small arms shoot	01 June

NBCD

Exercised fire	04 June
	10 June
	11 June
	14 June
	16 June
	17 June
	20 June
	21 June
	22 June
	24 June
	25 June
	28 June
Exercised flood	03 June
	07 June
	18 June
	19 June
	23 June
	26 June
	27 June
	29 June
Exercised casualty evacuation	23 June
	30 June

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1/16/7B

RESTRICTED

HMAS BARBETTE
at Sea

01 August 1978

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JULY 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of July 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month alongside in Cairns undergoing self maintenance.

3. At 1600 on 05th, BARBETTE, in company with HMAS BUCCANEER, departed Cairns for passage to Port Moresby via One and a Half Mile Opening and the Coral Sea. After an uneventful passage, both ships arrived in Port Moresby at 1000 on 07th and remained alongside the Papua New Guinea Defence Forces Landing Craft Squadron Base until 11th.

4. I attended the briefing for PNGDF Squadex Ten during the afternoon of 07th.

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5. At 1030 on 11th, BARBETTE departed Port Moresby in company with PNGS BUNA and PNGS LADAVA enroute to Milne Bay Exercise Area for Squadex Ten. Failure of A7 cylinder head, port engine (URDEF 44/80) early that evening, compelled BARBETTE to detach and return to Port Moresby, berthing at PNGDFLANCRON Base at 0800 on 12th.

6. Following the receipt of spares from Sydney on 16th, the port engine defect was rectified and a successful basin trial was completed at 2245.

7. BARBETTE departed Port Moresby at 0800 on 17th for passage to Milne Bay to rejoin Squadex Ten. Rendezvous with BUCCANEER and PNG Ships BUNA, LAE, LADAVA, MADANG, SAMARAI and AITAPE was effected at 0430 on 18th at Samari Island where the ships were anchored overnight.

8. After weighing anchor at 0930 BARBETTE in company with LADAVA and MADANG recommenced passage to Milne Bay, anchoring at Gili Gili anchorage at 2000.

9. Exercises listed in Annex B were carried out during the period 18th - 20th. COMMANDER P.M.S. PAFFARD RAN, Australian Defence Co-operation Group, Port Moresby embarked in BARBETTE as Observer during the period 18th - 19th.

10. BARBETTE, BUCCANEER, AITAPE, LAE and SAMARAI detached at 1945 on 20th, and commenced passage to Lae, arriving at 1500 on 21st and remaining alongside over the weekend.

11. In company with AITAPE, BARBETTE cast off and proceeded from Lae at 0545 on 24th. Rendezvous with BUCCANEER and SAMARAI was effected at 0820. At 0940 BARBETTE and BUCCANEER detached for passage to Salamaua Bay to repair BUCCANEER's main sea suction strainer isolating valve. Both ships anchored at 1025 and, after completing repairs, weighed and proceeded at 1145 to continue passage to Milne Bay. Rendezvous with BUNA, PNGS SALAMAU, AITAPE, MADANG, LAE and SAMARAI was effected at 1930 on 25th in Milne Bay where the ships were anchored at Gili Gili anchorage. After fuelling from BUNA, BARBETTE anchored at 2130.

12. All six patrol boats weighed anchor at 0600 on 26th and proceeded in company to Lebrum Island firing area where a SUTFX against a Larne Splash Target was conducted between 0930 and 1200. On completion of the serial, passage overnight to Port Moresby was commenced. Rendezvous with BUNA and SALAMAU was effected at 0815 and all ships berthed at PNGDFLANCRON Base at 0930 on 27th.

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13. BARBETTE remained alongside at Port Moresby until 30th. Squadex Ten debrief was conducted on 28th. A joint PNGDF/RAN Squadex Ten Cocktail Party was held onboard SALAMAUUA on 29th.

14. At 0600 on 30th BARBETTE and BUCCANEER departed Port Moresby in company. Passage to Cairns was taken via the Great North East Channel and the Inner Great Barrier Reef and was continued for the remainder of the month.

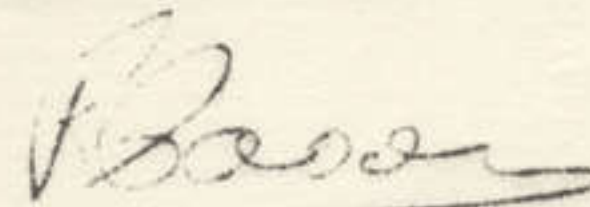
15. Overall machinery performance during the month has been good. Defects occurred on A7 cylinder head, port main engine (URDEF 44/80), main engine bloc tubes (URDEF 45/80), Nos 2 and 3 A/C units (INDEF 42/80) and steering ram (INDEF 43/80).

16. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company has been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant



(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details
B. Exercise Details

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RESTRICTED

Annex B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated

01 August 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation

Formation Anchorage

18th

OOW Manoeuvres

11th (BUNA, LADAVA)
26th (BUCCANEER, LAE,
AITAPE, SAMARI)

Manoverboard Exercises

20th

Heaving Line Transfers

11th
18th
25th

Shiphandling (Executive Officer)

27th
30th

General Drills

V/S NAVCOMEX

11th

NEX

18th

DISTEX

19th

Gunnery

40/60 AAROFX

20th

40/60 SUTFX

26th

.50 cal AAROFX

20th

.50 cal SUTFX

26th

2" RFL

20th

NBCD

Emergency Party Transfer

20th

Exercised Fire

02nd
08th
10th
14th
15th
16th
22nd
27th
28th

Exercised Casualty Evacuations

07th
12th

RESTRICTED

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Annex A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated

01 August 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Miles steamed during month	3,191.7
2.	Miles steamed since commissioning	219,145.9
3.	Hours underway during month	227.4
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	15,662.3
5.	Occasions fast routing speed exceeded	Nil

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Exercised Flood

03rd
04th
09th
13th
21st
29th

Security

Internal Security Exercise

01st
23rd

Diving

Exercised ships divers

24th

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1/16/7B

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HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns

01 September 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - AUGUST 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of August 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month, in company with HMAS BUCCANEER, passing from Port Moresby to Cairns via the Great North East Channel and the Inner Great Barrier Reef. Both ships berthed at No 10 wharf Cairns at 1330 on 01st. After fuelling and Customs clearance, BARBETTE shifted berth to No 1 wharf, and remained there until the 10th, undergoing self maintenance.

3. At 0825 on 10th, BARBETTE proceeded from Cairns on a southerly MLA to commence an A & B patrol. After refuelling at Mackay 1330-1800 on 11th, patrol was resumed to the south. BARBETTE anchored overnight on the following occasions.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------|
| a. | Great Keppel Island | 12th |
| b. | High Peak Island | 14th |
| c. | Scawfell Island | 15th |

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4. A fuelling stop was made at Mackay 0800-1045 on 16th prior to berthing overnight at 1400 at Lindeman Island where the Ships Company were hosts at a cocktail party onboard to celebrate BARBETTE's 10th birthday.

5. The opportunity was taken to embark an officer from 2/4 Royal Australian Regiment for sea familiarisation during the period 10th - 16th.

6. BARBETTE departed Lindeman Island at 0930 on 17th and having investigated Hook and Bait reefs, anchored overnight in Nara Inlet at 1520. Passage to Molle Island was commenced at 0900 on 18th and BARBETTE berthed at South Molle Island Resort wharf at 1000.

7. At 0700 on 19th BARBETTE cast off and proceeded from Molle Island, anchoring in Pioneer Bay at 0800. Discussions pertaining to the Whitsunday Fun Yacht Race were held ashore later that day.

8. The Whitsunday Fun Yacht Race was started by BARBETTE at 1100 on 20th. Due to a windlass electrical defect and lack of facilities ashore for the ships company, BARBETTE weighed anchor by deck tackle at 1640 and returned to Molle Island to effect repairs, and remained overnight.

9. BARBETTE departed Molle Island at 0900 on 21st and steamed overnight to Townsville, berthing at 0900 on 22nd. On completing of fuelling at 1115, BARBETTE proceeded from Townsville on a northerly MLA to resume patrol, anchoring overnight on the following occasions.

a.	Hinchinbrook Island	22nd
b.	Lizard Island	23rd

10. The ship returned to Cairns at 0720 on 25th for fuel and remained overnight. Patrol was resumed at 0800 on 26th, anchoring overnight on the following occasions.

a.	Dunk Island	26th
b.	Lizard Island	28th

11. On completion of patrol on 30th, BARBETTE berthed in Cairns at 1100 and remained alongside until the end of the month, progressing self maintenance.

12. Overall machinery performance during the month has again been good. It appears that the continual breakdown of machinery since refit may have at last been resolved. Defects occurred on the RM915 radar transceiver (URDEF 46/80) and starter motor, stbd main engine (URDEF 47/80)

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13. The material soundness of areas of the upper deck (1 deck) is causing concern. Three holes have appeared during the last month (INDEF's 47/80, 53/80, 54/80) and several other areas of the deck are suspect.

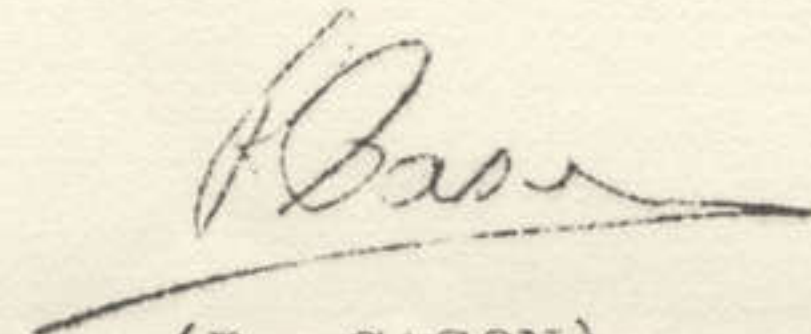
14. The health, conduct and morale of the ships company have been good during the period.

good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Details
B. Exercise Details

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RESTRICTED

Annex A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated

01 September 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Miles steamed during month | 2,397.7 |
| 2. | Miles steamed since commissioning | 221,543.6 |
| 3. | Hours underway during month | 172.1 |
| 4. | Hours underway since commissioning | 15,834.4 |
| 5. | Occasions fast routing speed exceeded | |

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEED</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
16th	1350 RPM	.25	Quarterly full power Workup.

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Annex B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated

01 September 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation

Manoverboard Exercises	27th
Shiphandling (Executive Officer)	10th 27th
OCW Anchorages	12th 15th 22nd
Blind Pilotage	23rd 28th

General Drills

Weighed anchor by deck tackle	20th
-------------------------------	------

Gunnery

40/60 Drill (Break up Shot)	14th
40/60 SUTFX	30th
.50 cal SUTFX	30th

Security

Quarterly Security Lecture	30th
Quarterly Drug Abuse Lecture	30th

NBCD

Exercised fire	02nd 04th 06th 08th 18th 30th
Exercised flood	03rd 05th 09th 16th 25th
Exercised casualty evacuation	07th 31st

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1/16/78

~~HMAS BARBETTE~~
-at sea

1 October 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

For Information

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - SEPTEMBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of September 1978. Time zones are Kilo (-10) until 1430 on 22nd, then India Kilo (-9½) for the remainder of the month.
2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month alongside in Cairns undergoing self maintenance.
3. At 0805 on 11th, BARBETTE, in company with HMA Ships BARRICADE and BAYONET, proceeded from Cairns for AUSPABRON TWO Squadex 3/78 in the Cairns exercise area. Exercises as detailed in Annex "B" were carried out. All ships anchored overnight at Double Island at 2330 on 11th, resuming the Squadex at 0645 on 12th.
4. On completion of the DISTEX at No. 8 wharf, Cairns at 1115 on 12th, BARBETTE berthed at No. 10 wharf for fuel, shifting to No. 1 wharf at 1225 and remaining alongside until 19th.
5. The departmental inspection phase of annual inspection was conducted on 13th and 14th. Ceremonial divisions and harbour inspection took place on 15th.
6. At 1430 on 19th BARBETTE departed Cairns for passage to Darwin to supplement the AUSPABRON THREE Beagle Gulf patrol during the period 25 September to 10 October. A fuelling stop was made at Thursday Island 1000-1300 on 21st.

/7. In response

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- 2 -

7. In response to a request for CASEVAC assistance from the 31,000 tonnes Liberian registered bulk freighter PANAMAX WORLD (HMAS BARBETTE KLI 220642Z SEP 78) BARBETTE proceeded with despatch to assist at 1525 on 22nd. Rendezvous was effected in position 10°10S 136°29E at 2007 and the patient transferred underway by graunch transfer method via the freighter's cargo derricks. Fast passage to Gove was commenced on completion and, after berthing at Gove at 0250 on 23rd, the patient was transferred to Gove Hospital.

8. BARBETTE departed Gove at 1530 on 23rd and resumed passage to Darwin arriving at 0800 on 25th.

9. Beagle Gulf patrol was commenced at 1600 on 26th and the ship anchored overnight on the following occasions:

- a. Bathurst Island - 26th
- b. Charles Point - 27th

10. The ship returned to Darwin at 0550 on 28th and, after embarking an Army PR detachment from Larrakeyah Barracks, commenced passage to Garden Point Mission Station at 0605. Insertion at Garden Point was commenced at 1445 and, on completion at 1500, BARBETTE returned to the Beagle Gulf anchoring at Pt Fourcroy at 1830 and remaining overnight.

11. Anchor was weighed at 0800 on 29th and BARBETTE returned to Darwin for fuel, berthing at 1330. Beagle Gulf patrol was resumed at 0600 on 30th and BARBETTE anchored at Bathurst Island at 1910 and remained there for the remainder of the month.

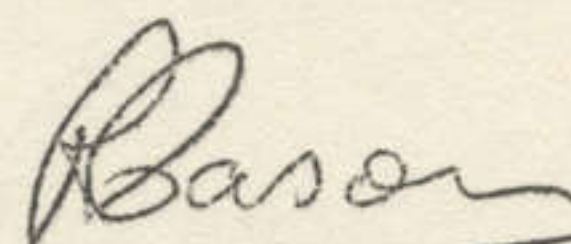
12. Overall machinery performance during the month has been satisfactory. Defects occurred on the main engine starting circuits (URDEF 48/80), port main engine fuel and lubricating oil pipes (URDEF 49/80) and port main engine water cooling line (URDEF 50/80).

13. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company has been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: "A" - Steaming Details
"B" - Exercise Details

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "A" TO
HMAS BARBETTE LETTER 1/16/7B
OF 1 OCTOBER 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Miles steamed during the month	2,407.4
2. Miles steamed since commissioning	223,951.0
3. Hours underway during the month	170.5
4. Hours underway since commissioning	16,004.9
5. Occasions for exceeding fast routeing speed	Nil

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX "B" TO
HMAS BARBETTE LETTER /1
OF 1 OCTOBER 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation

OOW Manoeuvres	11th (BARRICADE, BAYONET)
Heaving Line Transfers	11th
Man Overboard Exercises	11th, 28th
Formation Anchorage	11th (2)
Shiphandling (Third Officer)	19th
Graunch Transfer	22nd (PANAMAX WORLD)

General Drills

ILR and SE Eequipment	6th
Demonstrations	11th, 12th
Competitive Drills	11th
Point Ship	11th (Customs launch)
NEX	26th and 27th (S2E)
Boarding Stations	11th, 22nd, 24th
TOWEX	12th
DISTEX	12th
Helicopter Transfer Stations	11th
CASEVAC	22nd (PANAMAX WORLD)
Emergency Stations	22nd, 24th
Leaving Ship Stations	22nd, 24th
Defence Stations	24th
Action Stations	24th

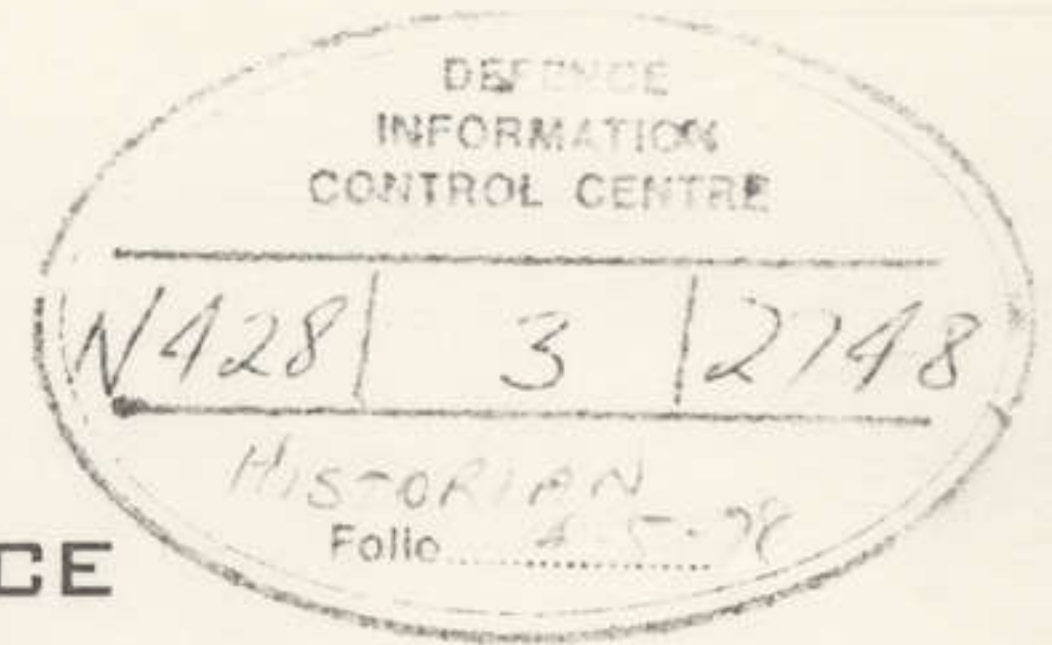
Gunnery

40/60 AATX	11th
40/60 SUTFX	11th (Splash Target)
40/60 AACRFX	11th (Sleeve Target)
40/60 AAROFX	11th
.50 cal AATX	11th
.50 cal SUTFX	11th (Splash Target)
.50 cal AACRFX	11th (Sleeve Target)
.50 cal AAROFX	11th
2" RFL	11th
Small Arms Shoot	24th

NBCD

Major NBCDEX	24th
Exercised fire	1st, 2nd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 16th
Exercised flood	3rd, 7th, 8th, 11th, 17th, 18th
Exercised casualty evacuations	5th, 11th, 15th

RESTRICTED



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Naval Headquarters
Box 1416 GPO
BRISBANE QLD 4001

2262600

B1/16/17(4)

NO DATE

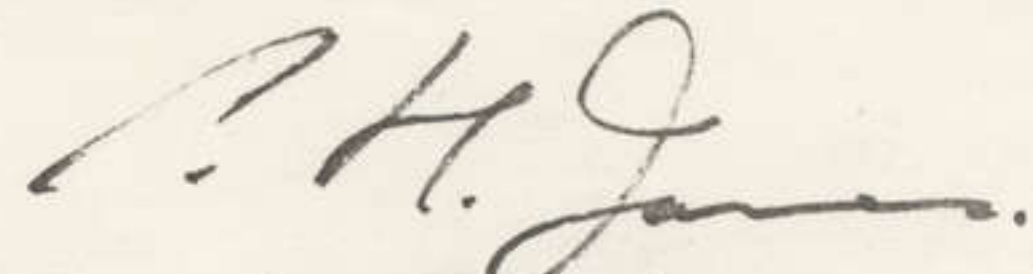
Chief of Naval Staff
Department of Defence (Navy Office)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
OCTOBER 1978

1. The enclosures are forwarded in accordance with RI Appendix 29A.
2. The lack of maritime VHF equipment stated at paragraph 12 will be rectified by the issue of the new WILLIS Seaphone.



(P.H. JAMES)
Captain, RAN
Naval Officer Commanding
Queensland

Enclosures: HMAS BARBETTE letter 1/16/7B of 1 November 1978
(2 copies)



1-ADMIN-N
(A)

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns

01 November 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

The Naval Officer Commanding
NORTH AUSTRALIA

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - OCTOBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of October 1978. All times are zone india kilo (-9½) until 2359 on 14th, then zone kilo (-10) for the remainder of the month.

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month at anchor at Bathurst Island supplementing the AUSPABFON THREE Beagle Gulf patrol.

3. At 0425 on 01st, BARBETTE weighed anchor and proceeded to Garden Point to embark the Army PR detachment from Larrakeyah Barracks. Extraction was commenced at 0810 and completed at 0855. Passage to Darwin was then commenced. The ship berthed in Darwin at 1655 and after disembarking the Army detachment, resumed Beagle Gulf patrol at 1705, anchoring overnight on the following occasions.

a. Bathurst Island 01st
 02nd

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4. Beagle Gulf patrol was suspended at 1330 on 03rd and BARBETTE berthed in Darwin at 1330 and remained overnight.

5. Winners of the Darwin Navy Week Essay Competition were embarked for sea familiarisation prior to the ship sailing at 1015 on 04th. After carrying out manoeuvres in Darwin Harbour, BARBETTE returned alongside at 1210 to disembark the school children.

6. Beagle Gulf patrol was resumed at 1300 on 04th and the ship anchored overnight on the following occasions.

a. Bathurst Island 04th
 05th

7. At 1330 on 06th, BARBETTE returned to Darwin and remained alongside until 11th. Starboard main engine starter motor defects (URDEF 52/80) prevented the ship from resuming Beagle Gulf patrol on 09th.

8. BARBETTE departed Darwin at 0840 on 11th and commenced passage to Cairns via the Beagle Gulf and Cape Van Dieman. A fuelling stop was made at Gove 1300-1540 on 13th.

9. After an uneventful passage across the Gulf of Carpentaria via Cape Keerweer the ship berthed at Thursday Island at 1000 on 16th. After fuelling, passage to Cairns was resumed at 1220, anchoring overnight on the following occasions.

a. Lizard Island 17th
 18th
 Double Island 19th

10. The passage terminated at 0800 on 20th when the ship berthed at No 10 Wharf Cairns for fuel, shifting to NQEA Fitting Out Wharf on completion and remaining until the end of the month, undergoing self maintenance.

11. Overall machinery performance during the month has been satisfactory. Defects occurred on the 2 watt remoting amplifier (URDER 51/80) starboard main engine starter motors (URDEF 52/80) and the RM916 Radar (URDEF 54/80).

12. The ship continues to be operationally disadvantaged by the lack of a VHF facility to communicate with merchant shipping and port authorities.

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13. The health, conduct and morale of the ships company has been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

ANNEXES: A. Steaming Details
B. Exercise Details

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARLETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 November 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Miles steamed during month	2,188.7
2.	Miles steamed since commission	226,139.7
3.	Hours underway during month	162.1
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	16,167.0
5.	Occasions fast routing speed exceeded	Nil

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/78 dated
01 November 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

General Drills

Point Ship 17th

Navigation

Man Overboard Exercises 06th
OOW Anchorages 01st
02nd
17th
18th
19th

Gunnery

40/60 SUTFX 20th
40/60 AAROFX 20th
.50 cal SUTFX 20th
.50 cal AAROFX 20th
2" RFL 20th

NBCD

Minor NBCDEX 17th
Exercise fire 06th
07th
08th
21st
25th
27th
28th
29th

Exercise flood 09th
22nd
23rd
26th

Exercised casualty evacuation 10th
24th
30th
31st

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Naval Headquarters
Box 1416 GPO
BRISBANE QLD 4001

2262600

B1/16/17(4)

21 DEC 1978

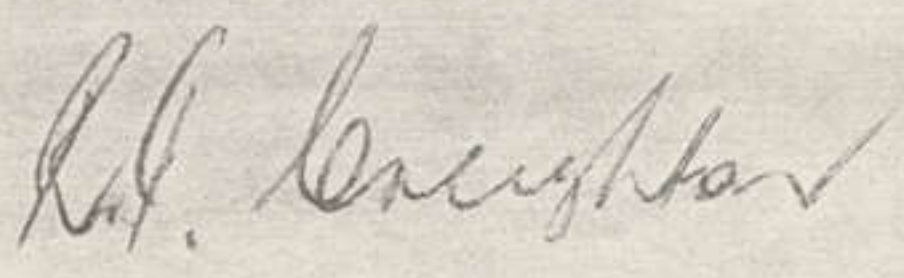
Chief of Naval Staff
Department of Defence (Navy Office)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

For Information:

The Flag Officer
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 1978

1. The enclosures are forwarded in accordance with RI Appendix 29A.
2. A Board of Inquiry (NOC QLD KKE/MSN P050015Z DEC78) was convened to investigate the circumstances leading to the propeller damage reported at paragraph 11. This report will be forwarded to The Fleet Commander in due course.


(R.F. CREIGHTON)
Commander, RAN
for Naval Officer Commanding
Queensland (AOL)

Enclosures: HMAS BARBETTE letter 1/16/7B of 1 December 1978
(2 copies)

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1/16/7B

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HMAS BARBETTE
at Sea

01 December 1978

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command for the month of November 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).
2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the month alongside in Cairns, undergoing self maintenance.
3. At 0900 on 06th I was summoned as a witness at the Coroners Inquest into the deaths of the two Piper Aztec pilots killed when their aircraft collided with HMAS BOMBARD on 11th January 1978.
4. Afterwards, at 1300, BARBETTE departed Cairns to carry out an ABC patrol. A fuelling stop was made at Mackay 071300-080900 before continuing passage to Brisbane where BARBETTE berthed at HMAS MORETON at 1100 on 10th and remained alongside for the weekend.
5. Patrol was resumed northwards at 0935 on 13th and several coastwatchers were visited during the next two weeks. BARBETTE anchored overnight at Lady Musgrave Island on 14th.

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6. BARBETTE berthed at Gladstone at 1500 on 15th, and after fuelling, remained alongside overnight, before continuing northwards at 0800 on 16th. BARBETTE anchored overnight on the following occasions.

- a. Heron Island 16th
- b. North West Island 17th
- c. Great Keppel Island 18th

7. The port of Townsville was entered at 1500 on 20th and BARBETTE berthed at No 3 Wharf at 1505. A Standard Naval Range Course was conducted at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville on 21st. Sea familiarisation for 12 Army personnel was conducted in the vicinity of Magnetic Island 220800 - 221130.

8. The opportunity was taken to embark 2 officers and 3 NCOs from Lavarack Barracks for sea familiarisation during the period 23rd 27th, prior to sailing northwards from Townsville at 0800 on 23rd.

9. BARBETTE anchored overnight on the following occasions.

- a. Orpheus Island 23rd
- b. Cape Richards 24th
- c. Dunk Island 25th
- d. Fitzroy Island 26th

10. At 0800 on 27th, BARBETTE berthed at Cairns, remaining overnight prior to recommencing patrol at 0800 on 28th. Barbette anchored overnight at Lizard Island on 29th before passing south to R792 for a gunnery shoot 300900 - 301100. On completion of the shoot, the ship anchored at Fitzroy Island and remained there until the end of the period.

11. Machinery performance during the month has been good. A routine check of the ships propellers on 30 NOV 78 revealed minor damage to all blades (HMAS BARBETTE KKE 010052Z DEC 78 and HMAS BARBETTE KOD/DAU 010230Z DEC 78 refer).

12. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company have been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(R. J. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Annexes: 'A' Steaming Details
'B' Exercise Details

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 December 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Miles steamed during month 2,398.9
2. Miles steamed since commissioning 228,538.6
3. Hours underway during month 172.3
4. Hours underway since commissioning 16,339.3
5. Occasions fast routing speed exceeded.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEED</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
30 Nov 78	1350 rpm	08 hr	Quarterly full power workup

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
01 December 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Gunnery

Standard Naval Range Course	21st
40/60 SUTFX	30th
.50 cal SUTFX	30th
Small arms shoot	30th

Navigation

Shiphandling (Executive Officer)	22nd
	23rd
Manoverboard Exercises	07th
	22nd
OOW Manoeuvres	09th (JERVIS BAY)

General Drills

Defence Watches	28th
Action Stations	28th
Emergency Stations	28th
Leaving Ship Stations	28th
Boarding Stations	28th
SAR Stations	28th
Helic Transfer Stations	28th

NBCD

Exercised fire	01st
	03rd
	04th
	07th
	10th
	16th
	22nd
Exercised flood	02nd
	05th
	11th
	24th
Exercised casualty evacuation	20th

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Naval Headquarters
Box 1416 GPO
BRISBANE QLD 4001

2262600

B1/16/17(4)

LOC

11 JAN 1979

Chief of Naval Staff
Department of Defence (Navy Office)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 1978

The enclosures are forwarded in accordance with RI Appendix 29A.

(P.H. JAMES)
Captain, RAN
Naval Officer Commanding
Queensland

Enclosures: HMAS BARBETTE letter 1/16/7B of 2 January 1979
(2 copies)

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns

18 December 1978

(NAV)	NE
22 DEC 78	
6	16
1	17

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
01 - 18 DECEMBER 1978

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command during the period 01 to 18 December 1978. All times are zone kilo (-10).

2. HMAS BARBETTE commenced the period at anchor at Fitzroy Island. At 0710 on 01st, the ship weighed anchor and proceeded into Cairns, berthing at No 10 wharf for fuel at 0830 and shifting to No 1 wharf on completion at 0920 to commence a self maintenance period.

3. At 1230 on 04th BARBETTE was moved by tug to the North Queensland Engineers and Agents dry docks to facilitate the inspection of the propellor damage (HMAS BARBETTE's November ROP refers). After the damage was repaired, BARBETTE undocked at 1500 on 6th and returned to No 1 Wharf, remaining there until the end of the period, undergoing self maintenance.

4. On the 18th, I handed over command of HMAS BARBETTE to Lieutenant M.J. STORRS RAN.

5. Machinery performance during the period has been very good.

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6. The health, conduct and morale of the ship's company have been good during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(R. CASON)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

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1/16/7B

HMAS BARBETTE
at Cairns

2nd January, 1979

The Naval Officer Commanding
QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Commander
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL BOAT FORCES

The Commanding Officer
HMAS CAIRNS

The Commander
SECOND AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT SQUADRON

HMAS BARBETTE - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
18 - 31 DECEMBER 1978

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BARBETTE under my command during the period 18 - 31 December 1978. Times throughout are Zone K (-10).

2. I assumed command of BARBETTE on the 18th.
3. At 1000 on the 19th BARBETTE, departed Cairns and proceeded to sea carrying out numerous familiarization evolutions on passage to Snapper Island where the ship anchored at 1600 remaining there overnight.
4. BARBETTE weighed anchor at 1000 on the 21st and proceeded in company with HMAS BAYONET to carry out a number of exercises and evolutions East of Cairns. Officer of the Watch manoeuvres, RAS approaches, boarding and towing exercises were conducted and proved to be invaluable for both ships. On completion, both ships proceeded to Fitzroy Island and anchored to the West of the island at 1730, remaining there overnight.

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5. Both ships proceeded independently to Cairns the following morning, BARBETTE securing alongside BARRICADE at No 1 Wharf at 1000.

6. BARBETTE remained in Cairns over the Christmas period and then proceeded to sea at 0630 on the 28th to investigate reported sightings of two Taiwanese clam boats in the Lark Passage and Ribbon Reef areas. The MV NESSODEN with Commonwealth Police and a Northern Fisheries Unit Officer embarked had departed Cairns the previous evening for the area via the inner Barrier Reef.

7. Passage was made through Trinity Opening and thence to Lark Passage via the outer Barrier Reef. Rendezvous with NESSODEN was made at 1245 but there was no sign of the reported vessel in the Lark Passage area. A message was then received that the MV CORALITA had reported two Foreign Fishing Vessels in the Waterwitch Passage area further to the North.

8. BARBETTE proceeded to the area at 20 knots and at 1803 a radar contact was gained to the North West of Waterwitch Passage. On closing the contact, two vessels were sighted, one being the MV CORALITA and the other a Foreign Fishing Vessel which turned out to be a Taiwanese clam boat YU CHENG LI. The vessel was boarded at 1852 and subsequently apprehended. (HMAS BARBETTE Fishrep Message KGB 281010Z DEC 78 refers). Only three Taiwanese were onboard and the CORALITA reported that two dories from the vessel were last seen at 1300 that day heading away from the reef with fourteen crewmen onboard.

9. With darkness falling it was decided that both ships would remain at sea overnight and commence searching for the dories the following morning.

10. A search for the dories began at first light on the 29th and extended as far as Broken Passage to the North West. The dories were not sighted in this area and, on returning to the Waterwitch Passage area the two dories were found at 1338 with all crewmen safe and well. Custody of the vessel was handed over to the Commonwealth Police at 1500 and BARBETTE then set course for Cairns securing alongside BARRICADE at No 1 Wharf at 0700 on the 30th.

11. BARBETTE remained alongside in Cairns at the end of the period.

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Engineering and Electrical

12. Machinery performance during the period has been satisfactory although problems have been encountered with the starting circuit for the Port engine. Ships staff have been able to rectify this problem and the only outstanding URDEF at the end of the month was 51/80 of 24.9.78 Port Main Engine Fuel and Lube Oil Pipes.


Health, Morale and Conduct

13. The health, morale and conduct of the Ship's Company has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant


(M.J. STORRS)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

ANNEXES: A. Steaming Details
B. Exercise Details

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ANNEX A to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
2nd January, 1978

STEAMING DETAILS

1. Miles steamed during the month 825.2
2. Miles steamed since commissioning 229,363.8
3. Hours underway during month 62.9
4. Hours underway since commissioning 16,402.2
5. Occasions fast routeing speed exceeded

DATE	SPEED	HOURS	REMARKS
28 Dec	1300	.16	Closing FFV contact before sunset.

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ANNEX B to HMAS BARBETTE
letter 1/16/7B dated
2nd January 1978

EXERCISE DETAILS

Navigation

Shiphandling	20th
Man Overboard	20th
OOW Manoeuvres	21st
RAS Approaches	21st
Towing Exercise (BAYONET)	21st

General Drills

Emergency Stations	20th
Leaving Ship Stations	20th
Boarding Exercise	21st

NBCD

Fire Exercise	19th
	21st
	28th

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