#### **AWM78**

# Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

AWM78 Class 197 - HMAS LADAVA

File number: AWM78 197/3

Title: AWM78 197/3 - January-December

1973



RCDIG1073286

Declassification Authority-Defence Records This record has been reviewed and has been declassified by the Department of Defence (Navy) with effect from: // / 90
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM) Signature: Kant Date: Nov 90

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
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Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

22 March 1973

File: 766-D1-8 766-D1-6

The Chairman CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

The Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding, HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET
The Commander, AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL FORCES

REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS

HMAS ATTAPE - JAN 73

HMAS LADAVA - DEC 72 AND JAN 73

1. Forwarded.

2. HMAS LADAVA's report for Dec 72 has been corrected. HQ PNGDF 766-D1-8 of 13 Feb 73 refers. In connection with paragraph 4 of this report, the Captain of HMAS LADAVA will be advised that rather than 'post haste' it would be preferable to use one of the classifications of speed and power from RI 4256.

(J. W. NORRIE)
Brigadier

Commander



HMAS LADAVA at Sea.

31 January 1973.

The Commanding Officer HMAS TARANGAU.

#### HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JANUARY 1973

Sir,

Ship under my command for the month of January 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- 2. For the first three days of the month LADAVA remained alongside at Lombrum undergoing routine maintenance. Then at 1800 on Thursday 4th January the patrol boat sailed for St. Matthias Island some 150 miles to the northeast of Lombrum. At 0724 the following morning Friday 5th January, LADAVA anchored and sent a party ashore to repair the partially inoperable radio of the Coastwatcher. It was discovered too late unfortunately that the replacement brought from HMAS TARANGAU was also unserviceable, so the original set was reinstalled. LADAVA weighed anchor at 1310 and returned to LOMBRUM, berthing outboard of HMAS LAE at 2130.
- LADAVA remained alongside for the weekend and on Monday 8th January carried out routine engineering maintenance adjustment of fuel pump timing and replacement of two fuel injectors. Then for three of the four remaining days of the week LADAVA worked—up with HMA Ships AITAPE, SAMARAI and LAE, sailing at 0830 approximately and returning late afternoon each day. At 1304 on Friday 12th January the squadron sailed once more, this time for the Training Battle Problem; returning to Lombrum at 1615 all ships secured alongside for the weekend. On the afternoon of Saturday 13th January between 1400 and 1600 LADAVA held a Families Day, and for two hours steamed around Seeadler Harbour.
- Monday 15th January saw the PNG Squadron sail at 0910 for "Squadex One", Apart from the usual seamanship evolutions 00W manoeuvres, towexes, etc., this exercise was designed to assess the capabilities of the patrol boats in anti-infiltration and fishery and remote areas surveillance patrols, in boarding and searching suspicious vessels, and in maintenance of a ready capability for civil disaster relief and for search and rescue at sea. The exercise was divided into four phases Phase 1 from 0900 Monday 15th to 1300 Wednesday 17th January, the passage from Lombrum to Samarai, during which time the squadron practiced the following exercises: 00W manoeuvres, Shadowing, Patrolling (Dampier Strait), Damage Control, Towing and Blind pilotage.

.../5. At 1315

- At 1315 Wednesday 17th January the squadron arrived at Samarai to refuel. By 1700, AITAPE, SAMARAI and LAE had finished fuelling and sailed for a formation anchorage in'Pitt Bay. LADAVA in the meantime remained alongside fuelling, and finally Crash-sailed at 1900 for a fisher surveillance exercise Phase 2 of "Squadex One".
- On transitting the exercise area LADAVA was disguised as a fishing vessel, and speed was reduced to 8 knots. The exercise lasted from 2200 to 0600 the following morning Thursday 18th January, during which time LADAVA was not detected; after an uneventful night the 'fishing Vessel' rejoined the squadron at 0900 for further 00W manoeuvres and a boarding exercise. On completion of this the squadron blind-piloted into Wanatonoli Bay and anchored at 1610 for the night.
- The following morning at 0630 Friday 19th January LADAVA and SAMARAI weighed anchor and proceeded first to Samarai for fuel then to Alotau for water. Then at 1255 both ships departed from Alotau and proceeded to Wari Island to carry out a Disaster Relief exercise, anchoring there at 1640. The Disaster Relief Party was landed immediately and the exercise was completed by 1800, whereupon LADAVA Ship's Company repaired ashore for a banyan, returning on board later that evening at 2200.
- At 1240 the next day, Saturday 20th January, both LADAVA and SAMARAI weighed anchor and proceeded to Punawan Island, holding an emergency fire exercise en route. This entailed for exercise SAMARAI Ship's Company abandoning ship, LADAVA going alongside, boarding and extinguishing the 'fire'. This lasted for 30 minutes whereupon at 1430 both ships again got underway for Punawan Island. Arriving there at 1630 parties were landed and proceeded to scour the island for 'evidence of its use as an illegal fishing base'. LADAVA at this point was temporarily detached on a non-exercise duty to investigate two contacts some seven miles away; these turned out to be a small schooner and a lakatoi, both perfectly innocuous. At 1800 both patrol boats got underway for Phase 3 of "Squadex One", the Operational Readiness Evaluation.
- 9. The ORE in turn was split up into two-phases, the first from 2000 to 2359, and the second from 0200 to 0600 on Sunday 21st January. During the first phase SAMARAI (OTC) and LADAVA, Orange Forces, patrolled an area north of, and each side of, Lunn Island while AITAPE (OTC) and LAE Blue Forces attempted infiltration from the north. The second phase was similar but with the roles reversed; LADAVA (OTC) and SAMARAI, Blue Forces, attempted infiltration of the same area now guarded by LAE (OTC) and AITAPE, Orange Forces. At 0330 LADAVA detached and proceeded independently to investigate an unnamed Sand Cay. By 0800 LADAVA had rejoined the squadron for Phase 4 of "Squadex One" the passage to Port Moresby.

.../10. The squadron.

- The squadron arrived in Port Moresby at 0630 Monday 22nd January, remaining there for a week. Most of the junior sailors from all four patrol boats took part in the Redesignation Parade of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force at Murray Barracks. In attendance at the parade were the Minister for Defence Mr. L. BARNARD, Commander of the PNG Forces Brigadier J.W. NORRIE, OBE, the PNG Administrator Mr. L.W. JOHNSON, the Chief Minister Mr. MICHAEL SOMARE and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Sir VICTOR ALFRED SMITH, KBE, CB, DSC. Official calls were paid on Brigadier J.W. NORRIE, OBE and Captain J. LANCASTER RAN.
- 11. LADAVA sailed from Port Moresby at 1200 Monday 29th January for a patrol off Bougainville, making a stop at Samarai for fuel at 0530 on Tuesday 30th January and getting underway again at 0910. The patrol boat berthed at Kieta 1600 on Wednesday 31st January.
- The material condition of the ship is good, and although the planned maintenance is not quite up to date it is hoped that this will be rectified during the forthcoming SMP at the end of February. The health, morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is excellent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(D.P. RICHARDS)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

Appendices:

A. Steaming Appendix.

B. Monthly Return of Ship Availability

C. Exercise Appendix D. Sporting Appendix



#### STEAMING APPENDIX:

| (a) | Distance steamed during the month      | 2909.5  | Miles  |
|-----|--|---------|--------|
| (b) | Distance steamed since commissioning   | 97820.5 | Miles  |
| (c) | Hours underway during the month        | 216     | Hours  |
| (d) | Hours underway since commissioning     | 7297    | Hours  |
| (e) | Nights away from base during the month | 18      | Nights |

#### APPENDIX B.

MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP'AVAILABILITY: Attached

#### APPENDIX C.

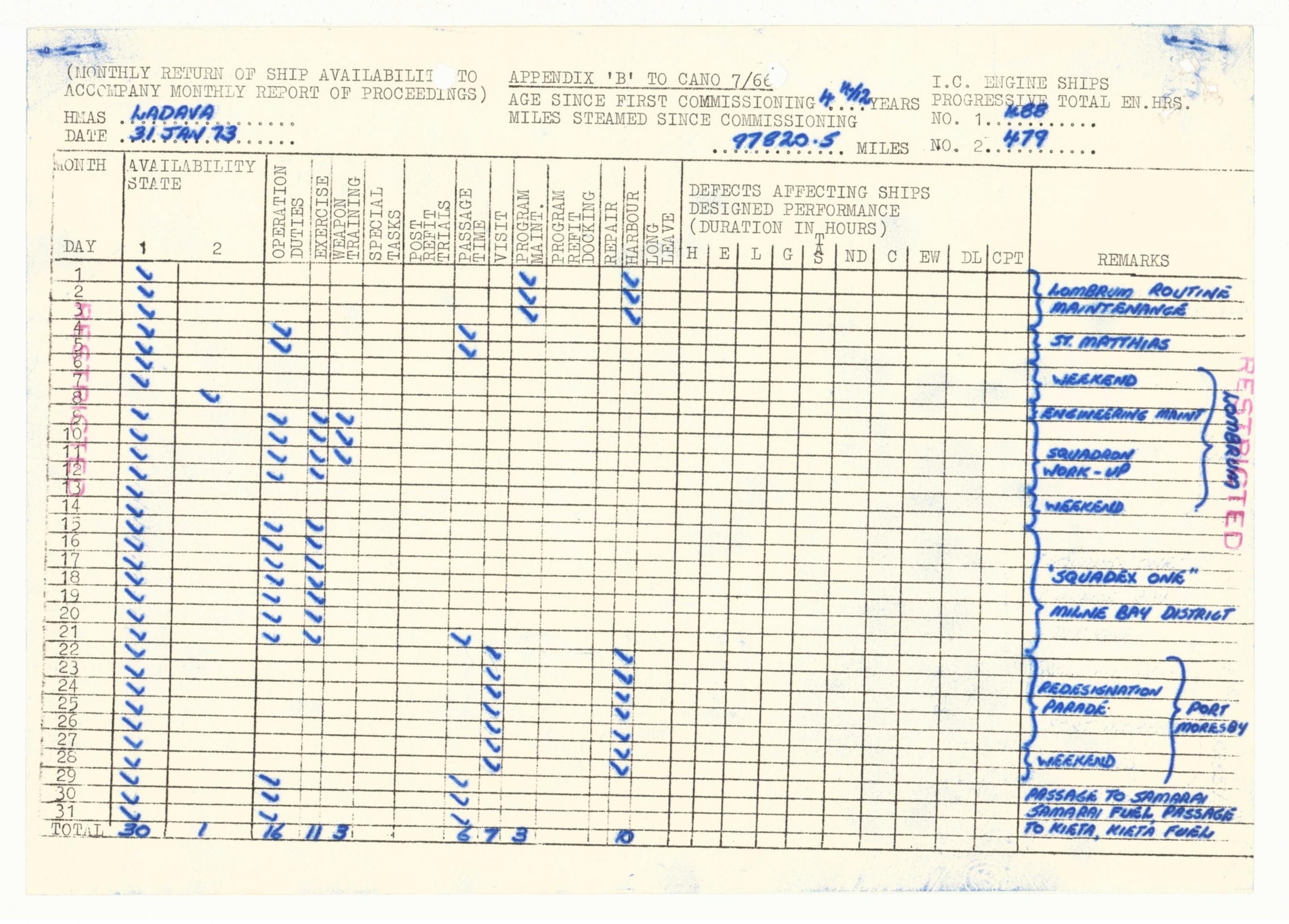
#### EXERCISE APPENDIX:

| 1.   | Action Stations.         |   | 1. | Man overboard exercise.       |
|------|--------------------------|---|----|-------------------------------|
| 2:   | Leaving ship stations.   |   |    | SULIX 40/60. :                |
| . 3. | Emergency stations.      |   |    | SULA. 50 cal.                 |
|      | Damage control exercise. |   |    | AATIX 40/60.                  |
| 5.   | 00W manoeuvres.          |   |    | ing exercise.                 |
| 6.   | Blind pilotage.          |   |    | . zerol exercise.             |
| 7.   | Formation anchorage.     | 1 |    | Disaster Relief exercise.     |
| 8.   | Boarding exercise.       |   |    | Crash sail.                   |
| 9.   | Towing exercise.         |   |    | Fishery surveillance exercise |
| 10.  | Heaving line transfer.   |   |    | Night infiltration exercise/  |
|      |                          |   |    | Or mational Readiness Eval-   |
|      |                          |   |    | v. i.on.                      |

#### APPENDIX D.

#### SPORTING APPENDIX:

Nil.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286

18/6/4199 FILE

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Report of Proceedings FEBRUARY MARCH 73 HMAS ADAVA AS(NS -Ca 6.7.73

- 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.

CONFIDENTIAL

Telephone 56166

Quote in Reply

766-D1-8

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

30 May 73

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (1)

The Secretary
Department of the Navy (4)

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM Australian Fleet (2)

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces (1)

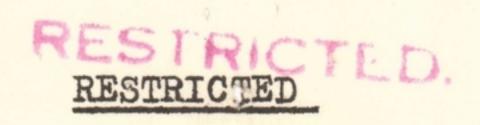
## REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS HMAS LADAVA - FEBRUARY, MARCH 1973

1. Forwarded.

- In regard to the March report, paragraphs 2 and 3 relate to unfavourable weather conditions experienced as a result of Tropical Cyclone MADGE. The cyclone formed as a tropical low in the vicinity of the Trobriand Islands on Friday 2 March. The weather experienced by LADAVA and MADANG during their passage between Rabaul and Samarai, as described in paragraph 4, accords with the ships passing near MADGE during its formative stages.
- At no time did the Bureau of Meteorology, Jacksons Airport, Port Moresby appreciate the likely deepening of MADGE and its movement across the Coral Sea. The weather forecast from this source for the Coral Sea on Saturday 3 March was favourable and forecasts of adverse weather were confined to the Normanby-Trobriand Islands area.
- LADAVA and MADANG were returned to Samarai in response to COMAUSFLTs message DTG 030312Z Mar 73. Adverse forecasts for the Coral Sea were not received from the Bureau of Meteorology, Port Moresby until much later that day.
- On return to TARANGAU on 24 Mar 73 LADAVA advised (Signal DTG 222328 Mar 73) that a total of 19 defects/routine maintenance items were outstanding. Some of these items could only be dealt with by Base Staff, however it is felt that a large number should have been attended to by the ship's staff during the ship's seven day visit to Port Moresby.

(J.W. NORRIE)
Brigadier
CONFIDENTAL Commander

CONFIDENTIAL



HMAS LADAVA, at Rabaul.

28th February, 1973.

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

#### HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY, 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of February, 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- After the late arrival of fuel LADAVA departed from Kieta, Bougainville, at 1240 Thursday 1st February. The next stop, Inus Point, some 40 miles further up the coast, was reached at 1545, where LADAVA anchored for the night. Some CW equipment and relevant paraphernalia belonging to the late Mr Paul Mason were recovered, and the following morning at 0545 on Friday 2nd February the Patrol Boat sailed for Gogehi.
- This was not originally a scheduled stop but the parents of one of LADAVA's marine engineers, MED KOUT, were reported to have been seriously ill. On arrival offshore Gogehi at 0825, the Executive Officer, SBLT G.F. SMITH RAN, went ashore with Kout to ascertain the nature and seriousness of the reported illness. Investigation revealed that Kout's parents were 'on the mend' but had had a severe bout of influenza.
- Passage. This was reached some two hours later at 0956, where the Patrol Boat remained alongside until late afternoon; a call was made on the A.D.C. at Hutjena about six miles away by road. At 1630 that afternoon the patrol boat sailed from Sohano and proceeded to Gogehi where, at 1725 Kout was recovered.
- The overnight steam to Tanga Islands was uneventful and LADAVA anchored the following morning Saturday 3rd February at 0707. Here the Diving Team disembarked and LADAVA remained at anchor for the rest of the day. The following morning at 0856 Sunday 4th February, LADAVA weighed anchor and proceeded to Feni Islands, anchoring there three hours later at 1215. After calling at the Coastwatcher's residence (he was absent in Rabaul) LADAVA remained there overnight, weighing anchor the following morning Monday 5th February at 1105 and proceeding to Nuguria Islands. These islands were reached at 1710 that evening, and the patrol boat remained at anchor overnight.
  - The next day, Tuesday 6th February at 0900 anchor was weighed and the patrol boat got underway for Tanga Islands once more. LADAVA anchored at these islands from 1640 to 1755 while the Diving Team was recovered, then proceeded to Rabaul. After an uneventful overnight steam the patrol boat berthed outboard of a small oil tanker secured at the fuelling wharf at 0721 Wednesday 7th February.

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.... /- At.

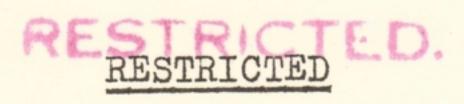


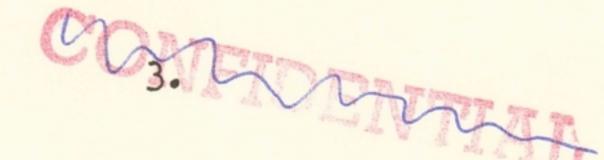
- At 1130 the same day on completion of fuelling LADAVA shifted berth to the main wharf where she remained overnight.

  Next morning at 0900 Thursday 8th February LADAVA departed from Rabaul for Lombrum arriving there midday Friday 9th February.

  Here the patrol boat remained for the next four days.
- Tuesday 13th February at 1100 LADAVA sailed for a patrol to the north coast of New Guinea, the 975 radar becoming unserviceable a few minutes after leaving Lombrum wharf. In the early hours of Wednesday 14th February at about 0300 the lights of a Japanese fishing vessel were sighted some 10 miles away. On initial investigation this vessel appeared (1) not to be licensed, and (2) to be fishing (by LADAVA's dead reckoning navigation) just inside the Declared Fishing Zone. boarding of the fisherman to check his position by his own radar was made impracticable by force 5 winds, therefore LADAVA proceeded towards the nearest land, Bam Island, an estimated 10 miles away in order to fix visually. An 'immediate' signal was sent to the Commander, PNGDF reporting the matter. Aftern var steaming for 9 miles Bam Island was raised approximately 5 miles ahead but, because of the inclement weather (persistent drizzle) an accurate fix was not achieved until 0600, where after reconstruction of LADAVA's track it was determined that the fishing vessel was just outside the DFZ. Therefore LADAVA proceeded with her patrol, amending the 'intentions' section of the fishrep signal accordingly.
- trader off Bam Island for questioning on Japanese fishing vessel movements, was directed by signal by COMPNGFOR to ascertain whether or not the fishing vessel was inside the DFZ. LADAVA then returned to the scene some 15 miles away and searched the suspected area (about 40 square miles) without success. Then at 1400 the search was abandoned and LADAVA proceeded to Wewak, anchoring in the harbour at 1853.
- was paid on the District Commissioner, and then at 0956 LADAVA weighed anchor and proceeded to Aitape with two 2PIR soldiers on board as passengers. On arrival off Aitape at 1600 it was apparent that the NW'ly swell was too large to allow a patrol boat to remain comfortably at anchor there overnight, therefore a more sheltered anchorage was sought in the lee of Ali Island offshore from Aitape. That evening a banyan was held ashore.
- 11. At 0800 the following morning Friday 16th February LADAVA weighed anchor and returned to Aitape to determine whether a dinghy could be safely launched and beached in order to visit the A.D.C. It was decided that the swell was too great for safety, therefore LADAVA proceeded directly to Vanimo, securing there at 1430 the same day, and disembarked the two 2PIR soldiers.







- 12. LADAVA remained at Vanimo for the rest of that day and all of Saturday 17th February; a call was paid on the District Commissioner. At 0801 the patrol boat sailed for Wuvulu, arriving there at 1535. While I visited the coastwatcher ashore the Executive Officer steamed the patrol boat out of the bay for a few manoverboard exercises, returning to pick me up at 1755. LADAVA remained at sea overnight in the vicinity of Wuvulu Island, then at daybreak proceeded to the Ninigo Islands.
- 13. At 1725 on Monday 19th February the patrol boat anchored in the Ninigo Islands lagoon, and remained there overnight. The following morning at 0800 Tuesday 20th February anchor was weighed and LADAVA proceeded to the Hermit Islands, arriving there at 1306 the same day. A banyan was held ashore here, and after an uneventful night at anchor LADAVA proceeded at 0800 Wednesday 21st February for Bipi Island at the western end of Manus. After a few minutes in the vicinity of Bipi Island it was obvious that the heavy northerly swell would not permit a comfortable anchorage, therefore LADAVA proceeded to the more sheltered waters of Nares Harbour, anchoring there at 1800.
- IADAVA remained at anchor the next day Thursday 22nd February, generally smartening up the vessel's appearance. At 0600 on Friday 23rd February LADAVA weighed anchor and proceeded out of Nares Harbour to join HMAS AITAPE for a formation entry and berthing. Both ships berthed at Lombrum at 0920, and remained alongside until 0600 on Sunday 25th February when LADAVA sailed in search of a missing lakatoi. The lakatoi was later found safe and sound at Pak Island some 10 miles away, so LADAVA returned to Lombrum berthing at 1055.
- The following day Monday 26th February LADAVA remained alongside endeavouring to repair the still unserviceable radar—this was achieved by Base Staff at about midday, and an URDEF completed signal was sent accordingly. At 1159 on Tuesday 27th February, a minute before LADAVA was due to sail for Rabaul with spare parts for HMAS MADANG (temporarily disabled by an engine room fire) an 'immediate' signal was received requesting additional spare parts. This caused a slight delay and at 1235 LADAVA sailed for Rabaul, arriving there at 1500 on Wednesday 28th February.

..../- The

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The material condition of the ship is good but unfortunately the planned maintenance is still not up to date. The health, morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is excellent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(D.P. RICHARDS) LIEUTENANT RAN

COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures: Appendices

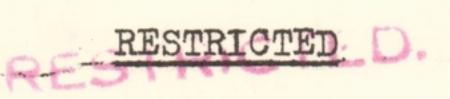
A. Steaming Appendix.

B. Monthly return of ship availability.

C. Exercise Appendix.

D. Sporting Appendix.





### APPENDIX A.

#### Steaming Appendix:

(a) Distance steamed during the month

(b) Total distance steamed since commissioning 100,375.8 mmiles

(c) Hours underway during the month

(d) Total hours underway since commissioning

(e) Nights away from base during the month

2,555.3 miles

206 hours

107,503 hours

108 hours

109 hours

100 hours

100 hours

100 hours

100 hours

100 hours

#### APPENDIX B.

Monthly Return of Ship Availability: Attached.

#### APPENDIX C.

#### Exercise Appendix:

1. Action Stations.

2. Leaving Ship Stations.

3. Emergency Stations.

4. Blind Pilotage.

5. Man Overboard Exercise.

#### APPENDIX D.

#### Sporting Appendix:

1. Basketball:- LADAVA v. MADANG + SAMARAI. Score: 30-28

LADAVA v. Vanimo 2PIR Score: 28-34



(MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP AVAILABILITY TO ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS) APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66

AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING # 5/2 YEARS

NO.1 PORT 6144

NO.2 5780 5944 PROGRESSIVE TOTAL EN.HRS. HMAS LADAVA

DATE 28 FEB 73 MILES STEAMED SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING NO. 2 5780 594. TASKS
PROGRAM
MAINT.
PROGRAM
HARBOUR
LONG
LEAVE (DURATION IN HOURS) REMARKS KIETAS INUS POINT TANGA IS. TANGA 15. RABAUL TO LOMBRUM 10 LOMBRUM LOMBRUM TO SCHOUTENIS WENAK 16 VANIMO VANIMO 18 VANIMO TO WUNGULU 19 NINIGO 13. 20 HERMIT IS NARES HARBOUR NARES HARBOUR 22 24 LOMBRUM SEARCH 25 FOR MISSING LAKATOL 26 LOMBRUM TO RABAUL 28 RABAUL 29 30 28 22 TOTAL

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

| HMAS       | LADAVA                 | Report of | Proceedings | JAH. | 1973 |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|------|------|
| AS(NS)     | THE Squaron Ene        | ruses &   | patrol      |      |      |
| Dens G     | Cs6/4                  |           |             |      |      |
| J CMS Malu |                        |           |             |      |      |
| CNESIU     | 14                     |           |             |      |      |
| CNSV       |                        |           |             |      |      |
| C of 8     | #16/4                  |           |             |      |      |
| DPR        | 26/4<br>(NS55) 27/4/73 |           |             |      |      |

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1 2 K/4/23

P3 1/16/3

#### RESTRICTED

HMAS LADAVA, at Lombrum.

31st March, 1973

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

#### HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of March, 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- At 1500 on Thursday 1st March LADAVA sailed from Rabaul for Samarai and Cairns, in company with HMAS MADANG, which had been delayed earlier by an engine room fire. (HMAS MADANG Report of Proceedings for February 1973, refers). After some minor discomfort caused by inclement weather, both ships berthed in Samarai at 0325 on Saturday 3rd March.
- Later that morning MADANG and LADAVA, having refuelled, departed for Cairns at 1206, immediately running into cyclonic weather once having cleared the lee of the New Guinea mainland. At 1540 a signal received from COMPNGFOR ordered the patrol boats to return to Samarai for the night, then proceed to Port Moresby the following day. Therefore at 1905 the patrol boats berthed in Samarai and remained there over night.
- 4. The following day, Sunday 4th March, at 1401 MADANG and LADAVA sailed for Port Moresby arriving there some 19 hours later at 0902 on Monday 5th March. Here both ships refuelled, and at 1428 proceeded to sea once more for passage through the Torres Strait to Cairns. However, this was not to be, and at 0414 on the morning of Tuesday 6th March MADANG grounded on East Cay, a reef about 200 miles west of Port Moresby. LADAVA immediately stopped and remained in the vicinity to render assistance at first light. At 0615 MADANG refloated on the rising tide, and after manoeuvring away from the reef MADANG was able to accept LADAVA's towing hawser. The tow was commenced at 0800 with a speed through the water of 9 knots.
- 5. 211 miles and 20 hours later MADANG and LADAVA were off the entrance to Port Moresby harbour at 0400 on Wednesday 7th March, having averaged 10.5 knots for the trip. It was considered prudent, however, to remain outside the harbour until daylight. At 0700, after having negotiated the harbour under tow, MADANG started her port main engine and cast off the tow; both ships then berthed independently at 0740.
- 6. LADAVA remained alongside Port Moresby for the next week, attempting as much routine maintenance as time permitted with the limited facilities available. Then at 1605 on Tuesday 13th March the patrol boat sailed for Samarai to refuel prior to proceeding on patrol in the Milne Bay District.



- 7. At 1031 on Wednesday 14th March LADAVA arrived at Samarai, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours later at 1300 proceeded for Kosmann Island. Here the patrol boat anchored at 1750 and remained over night. The following morning, Thursday 15th March, at 0806 LADAVA weighed anchor and proceeded to Tagula Island (sometimes known as Sud-Est). After having anchored here at 1650, calls were made at Nimoa Mission Station and Tagula Patrol Post.
- 8. The following day it was decided to remain at anchor off Tagula to complete some outstanding engineering maintenance. The main engine lub-oil filters and fuel filters were changed; oil changes on the governor and turbo-blowers were also completed; electricians carried out planned maintenance on main engine control panels and starter motors. At 1725 the same day, after all the visiting children from the Mission Station had returned ashore, LADAVA weighed anchor and sailed from Tagula Island on fishery surveillance duties between Misima and Rossel Islands.
- 9. After an uneventful night at sea LADAVA anchored in the bay off Abileti Plantation on Rossel Island at 0816 on Saturday 17th March. Rossel Island is the farthest point southeast in the Territory. A call was paid on the local coastwatcher, and a fruitless attempt was made to repair his CW equipment; this was taken on board and subsequently landed at HMAS TARANGAU on arrival. That afternoon a brief survey was made of the harbour and a sketch plan produced.
- Departing from Rossel Island at 0700 on Sunday 18th March, LADAVA proceeded to Laughlan Islands some 120 miles to the north. Unfortunately the anchorage in these islands was somewhat exposed to the North Westerly wind, therefore it was decided to spend a second night at sea on Fishery Surveillance between the Laughlan Islands, Alcester Island, Egum Atoll and the Marshall Bennet Islands. After a further uneventful night, the patrol boat anchored at 0928 on Monday 19th March in the vicinity of the Sand Cay off East Island, and held a fishing competition. About an hour and a half later anchor was weighed and LADAVA proceeded to Bwagoia on Misima Island, berthing there at 1545.
- 11. LADAVA remained at Bwagoia all next day in order to paint the ship's side and boot-topping, since this had necessarily been neglected the previous few weeks. Then at 0841 on Wednesday 21st March LADAVA sailed for Samarai, arriving there at 1645 the same day. Immediately fuelling was started, LADAVA intending to leave first thing in the morning.
- Departing at 0730 the following morning Thursday 22nd March LADAVA sailed for Lombrum, arriving there, after an uneventful two days, at 0800 on Saturday 24th March. The remaining seven days of the month were spent alongside undergoing a long overdue S.M.P.





REST

13. The material condition of the ship is good and planned maintenance is now up to date. The health; morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is excellent.

W.S.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(D.P. RICHARDS)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

#### Enclosures: Appendices

A. Steaming Appendix

B. Monthly Return of Ship Availability

C. Exercise Appendix D. Sporting Appendix





#### APPENDIX A.

#### Steaming Appendix:

| (a) | Distance steamed during the month        | 2968.2   | miles  |
|-----|--|----------|--------|
| (b) | Distance steamed since commissioning     | 103344.0 | miles  |
| (c) | Hours underway during the month          | 229      | hours  |
| (d) | Total hours underway since commissioning | 7732     | hours  |
| (e) | Nights away from base during the month   | 23       | nights |

#### APPENDIX B.

Monthly Return of Ship Availability: Attached

#### APPENDIX C.

#### Exercise Appendix:

- Action Stations
- Leaving Ship Stations Emergency Stations Blind Pilotage

- 9mm shoot
- SLR shoot

#### APPENDIX D.

#### Sporting Appendix:

Basketball: LADAVA v SAMARAI. Score: 38 -44.



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## COMMINATIAL

FILE 18/6/4236

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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The proceedings APRIL 1973

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- NOTES: A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
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CONFIDENTIAL

1026/c/13



PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEFENCE FORCE

Telephone 56166 Quote in Reply

X

766-D1-8

Headquarters Papua New Guinea Defence Force Murray Barracks Free Bag Jun 73 BOROKO PNG

The Chairman (1) Chiefs of Staff Committee

The Secretary (4) Department of the Navy

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding (2) HM Australian Fleet

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

CO HMAS TARANGAU

CO HMAS LADAVA

#### REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS HMAS LADAVA - APRIL 1973

- Forwarded.
- The Commanding Officer HMAS LADAVA has been instructed to observe the normal service practice of including the Commanding Officer's name in brackets when the name of a ship first appears in the text of the letter of proceedings.
  - The continued use of the superlative "excellent" in describing the conduct of the Ships Company is not always supported by the Ships Punishment Returns.

Brigadier

Commander

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

HMAS LADAVA, at Madang.

1st May 1973.

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

## HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - APRIL

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of April, 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- At 0800 on Sunday 1st LADAVA sailed in company with HMAS SAMARAI for 'SQUADEX TWO' in Rabaul. Two legal Japanese fishing boats (Fishreps 11/73 and 12/73 refer) were intercepted en route. Both ships arrived in Rabaul at 0800 on Monday 2nd, joining the remainder of the Patrol Boat Squadron, namely HMA Ships AITAPE and LAE. At 1200 the same day the Squadron sailed from Rabaul for Exercise SQUADEX TWO.
- For the remainder of the week LADAVA operated both singly and in company with the Squadron in the vicinity of St. George's Channel and Buka Island. (AITAPE R.O.P. April refers). On completion of the exercise the Squadron returned to Rabaul, berthing there at 0737 on Friday 6th.
- LADAVA remained alongside in Rabaul for the weekend, sailing on Tuesday 10th at 0828 with an Army survey team on board for commencement of Operation Plastic Bird. This was the start to a programme to aerial survey New Britain.

  LADAVA's task was merely to check the existance of the trig. points placed by U.S. Engineers in 1949, some 116 positions along the south coast.
- Working a leap-frog system with the two inflatable zenith craft and the ship's dinghy. LADAVA operated from about 0600 to 1800 every day anchoring overnight at various bays and inlets along the coast. By the end of the fortnight, having returned to Rabaul for the weekend 14th / 15th for replenishment, 98 positions had been checked leaving the remaining for AITAPE. Unfortunately, squally weather, poor visibility, and a heavy south easterly swell hampered operations somewhat towards the end of the second week.

····/- LADAVA

- 6. LADAVA berthed outboard of AITAPE at 1700 on Friday 20th in Rabaul. Remaining here until midday Sunday 22nd LADAVA and AITAPE paid calls on HMS HYDRA, a visiting British hydrographic survey ship. Then at 1200 that day LADAVA sailed for Lombrum, arriving there at 1200 the following day Monday 23rd.
- 7. The remainder of the week was spent alongside at Lombrum, de-ammunitioning and carrying out routine maintenance. At 1400 on Sunday 29th LADAVA sailed for Madang arriving there at 0800, and slipping at 0930 on Monday 30th.
- 8. The material condition is particularly good and all planned maintenance is up to date. The health, morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is excellent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(D.P. RICHARDS)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures: Appendices.

A. Steaming Appendix.

B. Monthly Return of Ship Availability.

C. Exercise Appendix.

#### APPENDIX A.

#### Steaming Appendix:

| a. | Distance steamed during month            | 3250.5   | miles  |
|----|--|----------|--------|
| Ъ. | Distance steamed since commissioning     | 106594.5 | miles  |
| C. | Hours underway during month              | 242      | hours  |
| d. | Total hours underway since commissioning | 7974     | hours  |
| e. | Nights away from base during month       | 24       | nights |

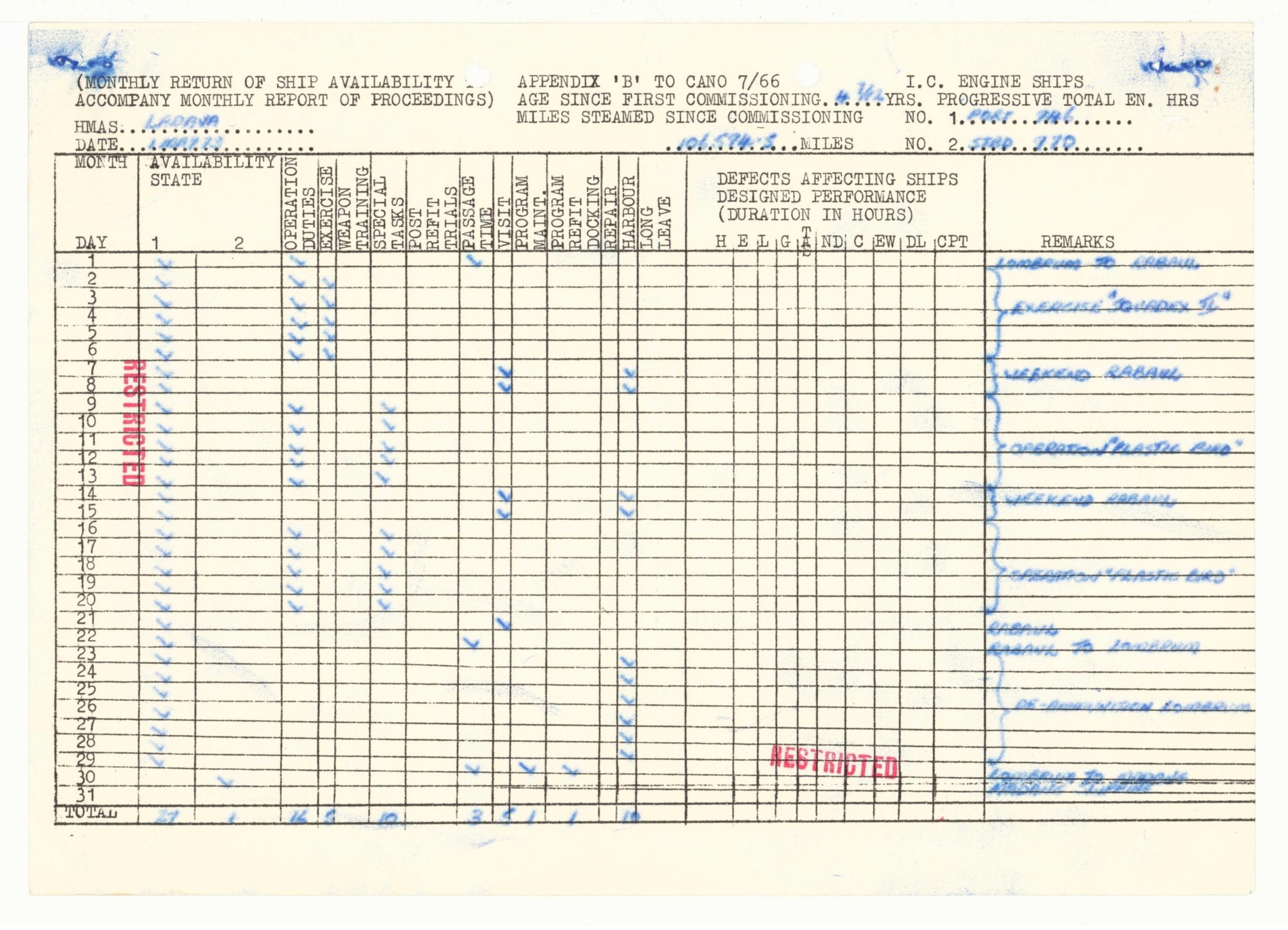
#### APPENDIX B.

Monthly Return of Ship Availability: Attached.

#### APPENDIX C.

#### Exercise Appendix:

| 1. | Action Stations.         | 8.  | Heaving Line Transfer.      |
|----|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 2. | Leaving Ship Stations.   | 9.  | Man overboard Exercise.     |
| 3. | Emergency Stations.      | 10. | SUFX 40/60.                 |
| 4. | Damage Control Exercise. | 11. | SUFX .50 cal.               |
| 5. | 00W Manoeuvres.          | 12. | Shadowing Exercise.         |
| 6. | Blind Pilotage.          | 13. | Patrol Exercise.            |
| 7. | Formation Anchorage.     | 14. | Night infiltration Exercise |



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286

FILE 18/6/43/8

Report of Proceedings may 1973

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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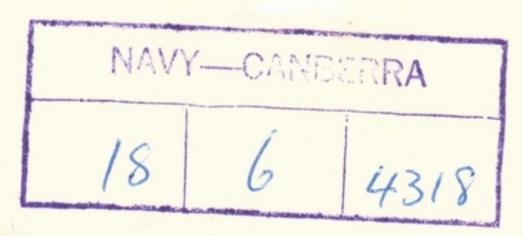
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Was you







Papua New Guinea Defence Force

Murray Barracks Free Bag

Headquarters

BOROKO PNG

20 Jul 73

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEFENCE FORCE

30 JUL P.M.

Telephone 56166 STRY

Quote in Repty

766-D1-8

The Chairman

Chiefs of Staff Committee

(1)

The Secretary

Department of the Navy

(4)

For Information

The Flag Officer Commanding HM Australian Fleet

(2)

The Commander

Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

(1)

CO. HMAS TARANGAU

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
HMAS LADAVA - MAY 73

#### 1. Forwarded.

In regard to paragraph 8 of the report HMAS LADAVA was ordered to RABAUL on Thursday 31 May to provide a patrol boat presence in case a civil emergency arose as a result of increased volcanic activity in the area. The volcano eventually became quiescent.

(J. W. NORRIE)
Brigadier
Commander

RESURICRED

HMAS LADAVA, at Rabaul.

1st June 1973

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

## HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1973

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of May 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- The first six days of the month were spent on Madang Slipway having the Ship's bottom scraped and repainted; then at 0850 Monday 7th LADAVA unslipped and proceeded to fuel prior to departure for Lombrum. At 1215 the same day LADAVA sailed from Madang, arriving in Lombrum at 0800 the following morning Tuesday 8th.
- 3. For the remaining four days of the week the patrol boat remained alongside in Lombrum ammunitioning and undergoing an SMP. At 0848 on Monday 14th, having been delayed 48 minutes repairing a defective radar, LADAVA sailed for Massau Island in the St Matthias Group. However, at 1215 that afternoon a signal ordered LADAVA to 'proceed with despatch' to Boliu Mission, also in the St Matthias Group, where a woman suffering from tetanus was to be medivac'd to Kavieng Hospital. The patrol boat arrived at 1730, and after sending the dinghy ashore to collect the patient, discovered that she had died 3½ hours earlier. LADAVA then remained at sea overnight on fishery surveillance berthing the following morning at 0800 Tuesday 15th at Ekaleu Plantation to visit the coastwatcher.
- Sailing from Ekaleu at 0934 the same day LADAVA sailed for Taskul, arriving there some eight hours later at 1738. A call was paid on the ADC. At 0900 Wednesday 16th LADAVA sailed for Kavieng, arriving there at 1113 the same day. A call was paid on the DC who thanked the patrol boat for the prompt service on the tetanus case at Boliu Mission. While LADAVA remained alongside in Kavieng, the coastwatcher from Dyaul Tsland called onboard to return his CW equipment. At 1100 the following day Thursday 17th, the patrol boat sailed for Selapiu Plantation, an hour's steam away. At 1212 LADAVA anchored in Selapiu Bay and a call was paid on the coastwatcher.

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- The patrol boat remained at anchor here for 27 hours; routine maintenance was brought up to date and the ship's side was touched up where paintwork had peeled off. Then at 1500 on Friday 18th LADAVA sailed for Lombrum, with an overnight fishery surveillance in the Tingwon Island. LADAVA berthed alongside at Lombrum at 0800 on Saturday 19th, and remained alongside for the weekend.
- On Monday 21st at 1132 LADAVA sailed in company with HMAS AITAPE for Lau Island in the Ninigoes, practicing OOW manoeuvres for an hour after having left Seeadler Harbour. At 0709 on Tuesday 22nd AITAPE and LADAVA anchored off Lau Island. Remaining there for some ten hours, anchor was weighed at 1700 and both ships sailed for overnight fishery surveillance north of Wuvulu Island. LADAVA was detached at 2323 and proceeded independently to Vanimo, berthing there at 0725 on Wednesday 23rd. A call was paid on the DC.
- LADAVA sailed from Vanimo at 0900 the following morning Thursday 24th, and proceeded to rendezvous with AITAPE in Aitape Bay. However, because AITAPE remained at sea and did not anchor, LADAVA anchored independently at 1402 and paid a call at the office of the ADC (who was ill in hospital) and the coastwatcher. At 1537 anchor was weighed and LADAVA rendezvoused with AITAPE, and both ships then proceeded in company to Lombrum. En-route 00W manoeuvres were practiced from 1630-1800 that evening, and from 0800-0900 the next morning, Friday 25th. At 0930 LADAVA was temporarily detached to investigate a Taiwanese fishing vessel just outside the 12 mile DFZ. Using a 44 gallon drum as a target both patrol boats fired 40/60 and .50 cal. during a SUFX ten miles north of Seeadler Harbour entrance from 1300-1400. Both ships berthed in Lombrum at 1600 that afternoon and remained alongside for the weekend.
- At 0902 on Monday 28th LADAVA once more sailed in company with AITAPE, this time for Madang; en-route LADAVA made a soverighty visit to the Purdy Islands just south of Manus Island, then rejoined AITAPE at 1900 for the overnight passage. Both patrol boats berthed in Madang at 0706 on Tuesday 29th and remained there overnight. The following morning Wednesday 30th AITAPE sailed for Samarai, but LADAVA, whose ETA at Vitu Islands was not until 0800 the next day, planned to stay alongside a further five hours. However, a signal received at 0945 ordered LADAVA to Rabaul, to arrive the following morning at 0900 Thursday 31st. LADAVA arrived on time in Rabaul and remained there overnight.

..../- The

9. The material condition of the ship is good, and planned maintenance is being brought up to date. The health, morale and welfare of the Ship's Company is good, although their conduct this month has not been the best.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(D.P. RICHARDS) LIEUTENANT RAN COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures: Appendices.

A. Steaming Appendix.

B. Monthly Return of Ship Availability.

C. Exercise Appendix.

#### APPENDIX A.

#### Steaming Appendix

| a.  | Distance steamed during month            | 2441.8   | miles  |
|-----|--|----------|--------|
| b.  | Distance steamed since commissioning     | 109036.3 |        |
| C.  | Hours underway during month              | 175      | hours  |
| CL. | Total hours underway since commissioning | 8149     | hours  |
| 9.  | Nights away from base during month       | 20       | nights |

#### APPENDIX B.

Monthly Return of Ship Availability: Attached

#### APPENDIX C.

#### Exercise Appendix:

- Action stations.
- Leaving ship stations. Emergency stations.
- 00W manoeuvres.
- Blind pilotage.
- Formation anchorage.
- Heaving line transfer. SUFX 40/60.
- SUFX .50 cal.
- 9. 9mm shoot.
- 11. SLR shoot.

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# CONFIDENTIAL

FILE 18/6/4460

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

HMAS Report of Proceedings JUNE KADAVA

(NS55)

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fra 15/10/73

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NAVY-CAMBERRA

Telephone 56166 Quote in Reply

Headquarters Papua New Guinea Defence Force Murray Barracks Free Bag BOROKO PNG

766-D1-8

5 Oct 73

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee

(1)

The Secretary Department of the Navy

(4)

For Informations

(2) The Flag Officer Commanding HM Australian Fleet

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

CO HMAS TARANGAU

CO HMAS LADAVA

#### REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS - HMAS LADAVA JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 1973

Forwarded. 1.

The delay in submission of these Reports is regretted. 2. The Report for the period 1 - 22 June was not received until 18 Sep 73. HMAS TARANGAU has been instructed to expedite the handling of Reports of Proceedings in future.

Honorie (J. W. NORRIE)

Brigadier Commander

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HMAS LADAVA, at Lombrum.

22nd June 1973.

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FOR THE PERIOD 1st JUNE TO 22nd JUNE 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the period 1st - 22nd June 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- On Friday 1st June at 1100 LADAVA slipped from the main wharf at Rabaul and commenced the passage to Lombrum. At 1745 the Stbd generator failed, due to water starvation, resulting in a complete power failure. Power was restored at 1750. As a result of this failure and the subsequent toppling of the gyro, the remainder of the passage was completed, without incident, using the ship's magnetic compass. LADAVA berthed at Lombrum at 1000 on Saturday 2nd June for the remainder of the weekend.
- At 1530 on Monday 4th June, LADAVA sailed for a remote area and fishery surveillance patrol in the Bismarck Sea area. The first visit was to Karkar Island, arriving there at 0710 Tuesday 5th June. Unfortunately the coastwatcher was in Port Moresby so at 0835 LADAVA sailed for Madang to fuel. At 1155 the same day LADAVA berthed at the small ships wharf later shifting berth to the Shell Oil Fuel Installation wharf in Binnen Harbour. Fuelling completed LADAVA sailed for Saidor at 1520 arriving there at 1810 for the night.
- The next morning, Wednesday 6th June, LADAVA sailed at 0815 for Finschhafen arriving there at 1534. The ADC called onboard at 1600 along with several other local dignitaries. At 1700 some 200 children from the local school commenced quick tours of LADAVA. After a very successful visit LADAVA sailed at 0900 Thursday 7th June for fishery surveillance and sovereignty visits to the Vitu Islands, Kreis, Whirlwind and Ottilien Reefs. On completion of these visits LADAVA returned to Lombrum arriving there at 2030 on Friday 8th June.
- For the next fifteen days LADAVA remained alongside undergoing a Base Assisted Maintenance Period during which time the ship was fully prepared and painted and all engineering defects and planned maintenance rectified and bought up to date. During the week commencing 18th June five of the Ship's Company attended and passed an NBCD course held by HMAS TARANGAU.

RESTRICTED ....... I

2.

I handed over command to Lieutenant G.F SMITH RAN at 0900 on Friday 22nd June 1973.

7. The material condition is good and all planned maintenance is up to date. The health, morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient servant,

(D.P. RICHARDS)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

## Enclosures: Appendices.

A. Steaming Appendix.

B. Monthly Return of Ship Availability.

C. Exercise Appendix.

## APPENDIX A.

## Steaming Appendix:

| a. | Distance steamed during the period       | 1174.7   |        |
|----|--|----------|--------|
| b. | Distance steamed since commissioning     | 110211.0 | miles  |
| C. | Hours underway during the period         | 79       | hours  |
| d. | Total hours underway since commissioning | 8228     | hours  |
| e. | Nights away from Base during the period  | 8        | nights |

#### APPENDIX B.

Attached. Monthly Return of Ship Availability:

## APPENDIX C.

## Exercise Appendix:

1. Action Stations. 2. Leaving Ship Stations. 3. Emergency Stations.
4. Blind Pilotage.

5. Major NBCDX.

6. Heaving Line Transfers. 7. Man Overboard Practises.

8. Steering Gear Breakdown.

DATE. 23. 1606 .. 730 . ..... MONTH AVAILABILITY OLD HEAVEN THE TANK STATE

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DEFECTS AFFECTING SHIPS

DESIGNED PERFORMANCE

(DURATION IN HOURS)

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THINE SHIPS

DESIGNED PERFORMANCE

(DURATION IN HOURS) REMARKS DAY 25

HMAS LADAVA, at Madang.

1st July 1973

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

# HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FOR THE PERIOD 22nd JUNE TO 30th JUNE 1973

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the period 22nd - 30 June 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- 2. At 0900 on Friday 22nd June I assumed command of LADAVA from Lieutenant D.P. RICHARDS RAN.
- 3. On Sunday 24th June at 1000 LADAVA sailed for Wewak to rendezvous with LCM's No AB1050 and AB1053 and onward passage to Bogia. At 1750 the port main engine and generator failed due to fuel starvation as a result of the watchkeeper incorrectly closing a valve. Action has been taken to ensure this does not happen again. Once again the passage was completed using the ship's magnetic compass. Another effect of the power failure was the loss of HF communications. Upon investigation it was found that a 120v AC crystal had blown, rendering the set unserviceable. Upon arrival in Wewak at 0630 on Monday 25th June the necessary defect and stores signals were sent via LCM AB3001. At 0810 LADAVA sailed in company with LCM's AB1050 and AB1053 arriving at Bogia at 1930 the same day.
- LADAVA remained at anchor for the next day sailing in company with LCM's AB3001, AB1050, AB1051, AB1053 at 0930 for Wewak. After an uneventful passage LADAVA anchored in Wewak Harbour at 1800.
- The next day Thursday 28th June was spent at anchor rectifying ship's defects. A replacement HF set was received and at 1130 full communications were restored. At 1830 LADAVA weighed and proceeded with the LCM's of the PNG TN Squadron for the passage to Port Moresby via Madang.
- 6. At 0115 on Saturday 30th June LADAVA berthed at the small ships wharf in Madang remaining there for the remainder of the day.

..../- The

2.

7. The material condition is good and all planned maintenance is up to date. The health, morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is good.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(G.F. SMITH)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures: Appendices.

A. Steaming Appendix.

B. Monthly Return of Ship Availability.

C. Exercise Appendix.

## APPENDIX A.

## Steaming Appendix:

| b.<br>c.<br>d. | Distance steamed during the period Distance steamed since commissioning Hours underway during the period Total hours underway since commissioning Nights away from Base during the period | 0 | miles<br>miles<br>hours<br>hours<br>nights |
|----------------|---|---|--|
|----------------|---|---|--|

## APPENDIX B.

Monthly Return of Ship Availability: Attached

## APPENDIX C.

## Exercise Appendix:

1. Action Stations.

Leaving Ship Stations.
Emergency Stations.
Blind Pilotage.
Steering Gear Failure.

2.3.4.5.

10.1 " (MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP AVAILABILITY APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66 I.C. ENGINE SHIPS ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS) AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING. ... YRS PROGRESSIVE TOTAL EN. HRS. ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS) MILES STEAMED SINCE COMMISSIONING NO. 1....... DEFECTS AFFECTING SHIPS MONTH AVAILABILITY DESIGNED PERFORMANCE STATE (DURATION IN HOURS) DAY 23 1.12-10-4 10 th 10 10 ROEM

# COAFINE OF THE NAVY

FILE 18/6/4458

AS(NS) 1/8/10. Para 2. Actempt to passage Victag Stair

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CONS 1/2/10.

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NOTES:

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  - D. If any matter requires comprehensive treatment or reference to another Branch a new file should be raised, a suitable note being made above.

De 5/10/13

GONFIDENTIAL



18 6 4460

Telephone 56166

Quote in Reply

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks, Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

766-D1-8

5 Oct 73

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (1)

(4)

The Secretary Department of the Navy

For Informations

The Flag Officer Commanding (2)
HM Australian Fleet

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces (1

CO HMAS TARANGAU

CO HMAS LADAVA

## JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 1973

1. Forwarded.

The Report for the period 1 - 22 June was not received until 18 Sep 73.

HMAS TARANGAU has been instructed to expedite the handling of Reports of Proceedings in future.

(J. W. NORRIE)

Brigadier



CONFIDENTIAL

NAVY-CANBERRA

18 6 4458

HMAS LADAVA at Lombrum

1st August 1973.

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.

## HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1973.

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of July 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- At 0710 on Sinday 1st July LADAVA sailed from Madang in company with LCM's AB3001, AB1050, AB1051 and AB1053 comprising the PNG TN Squadron, on passage to Port Moresby. Once into the area exposed to the South East, the sea became very rough and the wind strengthened to force 5/6. The effect on the convoy was marked and the resultant Speed of Advance (SOA) was only 3 knots. Upon entering the Vitiaz Strait, the combined effect of wind, current and sea was tomuch for the barges generally and AB3001 the command LCM in particular. After it was found that the convoy was in fact losing ground the decision was made to seek shelter and so at 1645 on Monday 2nd July LADAVA anchored in Sio Bay.
- 3. The next morning Tuesday 3rd July, at 0815 LADAVA weighed and proceeded. Upon rejoining the convoy it was noted that AB3001 was being towed by AB1053. Although the weather had not abated, the extra power of the LCM 8 even while towing, enabled the SOA to be increased to 6 knots.
- As a result of the original slow SOA and associated long passage time it became necessary for the convoy to refuel and so at 0600 on the morning of Wednesday 4th July LADAVA berthed at LAE (town). Having fully fuelled and watered LADAVA remained alongside overnight, sailing again at 1100 on Thursday 5th July.
- At this stage the weather had abated, and AB3001 under her own power was able to sustain an SOA of 6knots. This improved situation continued, enabling the remainder of the passage to be completed without further incident. At 2000 on Sunday 8th July LADAVA secured portside to the PNG TN Squadron wharf in Port Moresby.

2.

- 6. It is considered, that although this escort duty wad completed successfully, that a Patrol Boat by virtue of its design limitations is not suited to this operation.
- 7. The next three days were spent alongside in Port Moresby to enable some self maintenance to be done.
- 8. I called on the Commander, PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEFENCE FORCE, B rigadier J.W. NORRIE OBE and The Chief of Operations, PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEFENCE FORCE, Captain J LANCASTER RAN on Tuesday 10th July.
- 9. At 0815 on Thursday 12th July LADAVA sailed from Port Moresby on a routine fishery surveillance patrol in the Louisiade Archipelago. The passage was without incident and LADAVA anchored at 0730 on Friday 13th July at Wari Island. The remainder of the day was spent at anchor and routine ship's maintenance was carried out. That evening a banyan was held ashore for the Ship's Company.
- The following day at 0830 LADAVA weighed and commenced her patrol along the length of the Archipelago. That afternoon the weather became particularly bad and visibility poor. In view of the prevailing conditions I decided to anchor overnight my ammended programme (DTG 140603Z JUL 73) refers. Consiquently at 1600 on Saturday 14th July LADAVA anchored at Moturina Island in the Calvados Chain.
- 11. On Sunday 15th July at 1100 LADAVA sailed for Bwagaoia on Misima Island arriving there at 1430. A visit was paid to the ADC during the forenoon of Monday 16th July and a basketball fixture organised against the local High School at the same time. At 1200 LADAVA sailed from Bwagaoia for an overnight steam/fishery surveillance passage to Samarai for fuel.
- At 0900 on Tuesday 17th July LADAVA berthed at Samarai remaining there overnight and sailing for Lombrum the next morning at 0800. While on passage to Lombrum a signal was received from the Commander, PNG Defence Force (COMPNGFOR DTG 180520Z JUL 73 refers) diverting LADAVA to Madang. At 2000 on Thursday 19th July LADAVA berthed portside to Madang Main Wharf.
- 13. The next morning our cargo was delivered onboard at 0800 and at 0900 LADAVA sailed for Lombrum. The passage was without incident and at 0300 on Saturday 21st July LADAVA berthed at Lombrum.
- The remainder of the month was spent alongside in Lombrum undergoing a Base Assisted Maintenance Period.

3.

15. The material condition of the ship is very good and all planned maintenance is up to data. The health, morale, welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is satisfactory.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(G.F. SMITH)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures: A. Steaming Annex.

B. Monthly Return of Ships Availability.

C. Exercise Annex.

#### ANNEX A

## Steaming Annex

| a. | Distance steamed during month            | 2966.1   | Mls  |
|----|--|----------|------|
| b. | Distance steamed since commissioning     | 114064.2 | Mls  |
| C. | Hours underway during month              | 242      | Hrs  |
| d. | Total hours underway since commissioning | 8542     | Hrs  |
| е. | Nights away from Base during month       | 21 ni    | ghts |

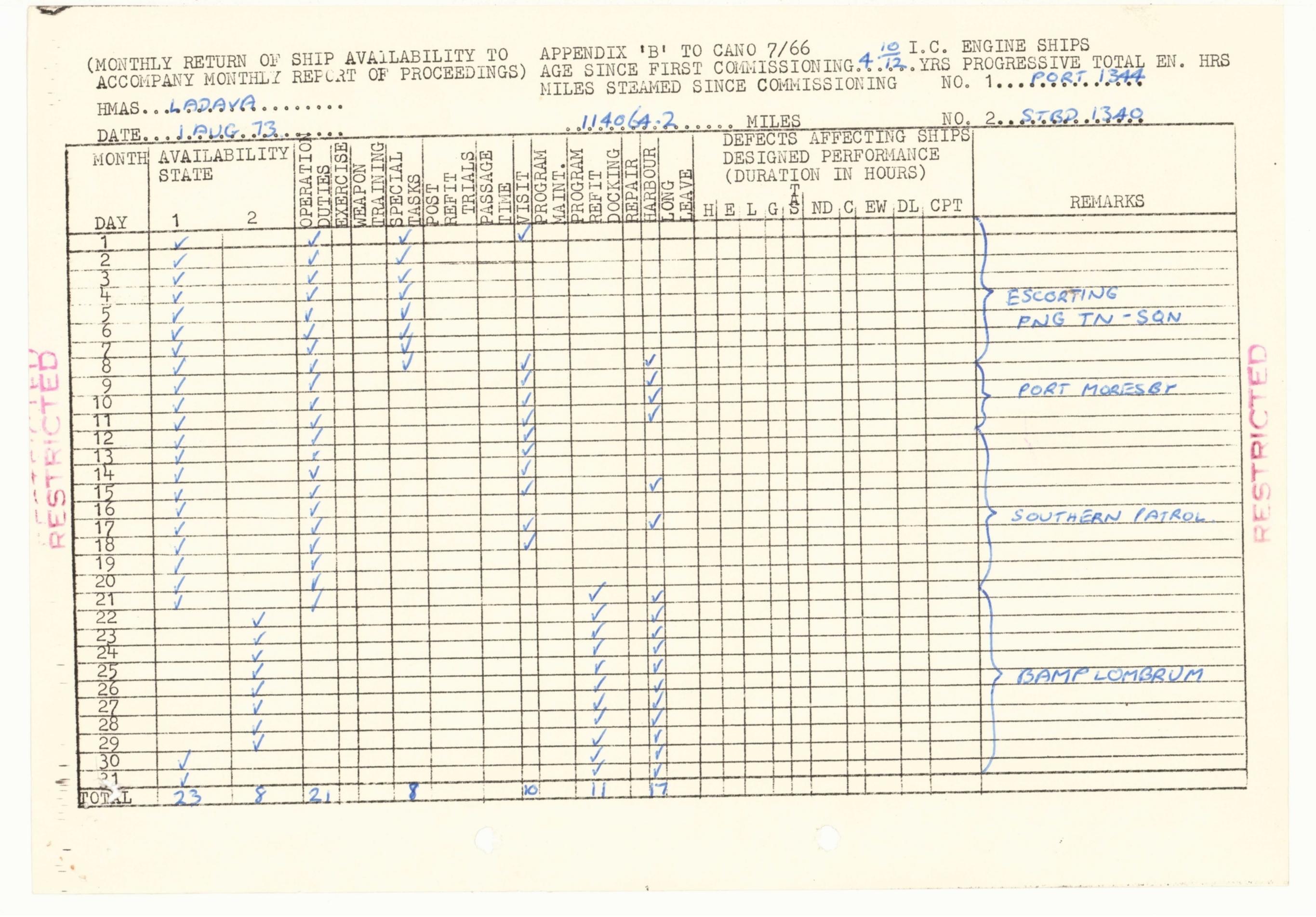
#### ANNEX 'B'

Monthly Return or Ships Availability: Attached.

#### ANNEX 'C'

#### Exersice Annex:

| 1. 2. 3. | Action Stations. Leaving Ships Stations. Emergency Stations. Blind Pilotage. | 5.6.7. | OOW Manoeuvres. Heaving Line Transfer. Minor NBCDX. |
|----------|--|--------|---|
|----------|--|--------|---|





FILE 18/6/4459

Report of Proceedings AUGUST 1973

(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.

Lol 15/10/73

CONFIDENTIAL



18 6 4460

Telephone 56166 Quote in Reply Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

766-D1-8

5 Oct 73

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (1)

The Secretary
Department of the Navy (4)

For Informations

The Flag Officer Commanding (2)
HM Australian Fleet

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces (1)

CO HMAS TARANGAU

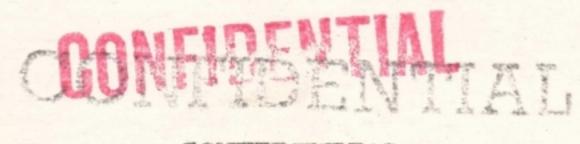
CO HMAS LADAVA

# JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 1973

- 1. Forwarded.
- The delay in submission of these Reports is regretted. The Report for the period 1 22 June was not received until 18 Sep 73. HMAS TARAMGAU has been instructed to expedite the handling of Reports of Proceedings in future.

Honorie

(J. W. NORRIE)
Brigadier
Commander



CONFIDENTIAL

18 6 4459

HMAS LADAVA at Lombrum

= 1 SEP 1973

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU

11

# HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1973.

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of August 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).
- Wednesday 1st August at 0900 found LADAVA leaving Lombrum on a routine fishery surveillance patrol of the Northern Districts. The weather was particularly good, but as LADAVA moved further south conditions began to deteriorate. By 0600 on Thursday 2nd the wind had increased to force 6 as LADAVA entered the Vitiaz Strait. In order to gain some shelter course was set to pass close to the mainland and some relief was obtained. Once clear of the Vitiaz Strait the weather began to improve and by the time LADAVA berthed at Morobe at 1600 on Thursday 2nd, the storm had passed.
- LADAVA remained alongside the small wharf at Morobe for that night sailing for Lae at 0800 on Friday 3rd August. Once clear of the harbour at Morobe the ships radar began to make unusual noises upon investigation it was found that the Axial Fan was unserviceable (URDEF 14/73 030118Z AUG 73 refers). Whilst on passage to Lae, LADAVA exchanged identities with HMAS BRUNEI (LIEUTENANT D.N. SANDO RAN) outward bound from Lae. Course was altered to pass close to BRUNEI so that the ships company could have their first view of the new LCH. After a very smooth passage LADAVA berthed at Lae at 1430 on Friday 3rd August. On completion of fuelling and washing down, weekend leave was granted to the Ship's Company. On Sunday 5th August a replacement axial fan was received and the radar was again serviceable.
- Monday the 6th August at 0950 LADAVA sailed from Lae for Finschhaffen. During the passage the Quarterly Full Power Trial was conducted with all machinery functioning perfectly. At 1430 LADAVA berthed at Finschhaffen. An official call was made on the MDC Mr Frank Havilland who in turn offered to the ship the hospitallity of their Golf Club.
- The next day Tuesday 7th LADAVA sailed for an overnight fishery patrol calling in particular at the Hook Reef Area (COMPNGFOR DTG 052330Z AUG 73 refers) thence to Madang. No fishing boats were encountered during this patrol and LADAVA berthed subsequently at Madang at 1000 on Wednesday 8th August. Whilst alongside in Madang one of the ships company MED F. MUEPE, was landed to attend the funeral of his father.

- 6. LADAVA's next port of call was Bogia arriving there after an eight hour passage at 1600 on Thursday 9th August. Calls were made on the local administration authorities on completion of which LADAVA sailed for Lombrum, arriving there at 1200 on Friday 10th August.
- The remainder of the weekend was spent alongside Lombrum. Monday 13th August and Tuesday 14th August found LADAVA day running out of Lombrum carrying out Midshipman and Navigation Training. The weather and conditions were good and great benefit derived by the Midshipman.
- 8. Wednesday 15th August LADAVA sailed for a Western Island Patrol. Embarked we had Mr Peter McKinnon the Director of Adult Education for the Island Area, whose job was to visit the schools in the Western Islands.
- 9. Our first call was at the Ninigo Group anchoring there at 1315 on Thursday 16th August. While Mr McKinnon visited the local schools routine upper deck maintenance was carried out on board.
- 10. After remaining at anchor overnight LADAVA sailed at 0830 on Friday 17th August for Wewak via Aua Island and Wuvulu Island as the schools there had also to be visited. Finally LADAVA berthed at 0700 on Saturday 18th August at the new coastal wharf at Wewak for the weekend.
- Monday 20th August and LADAVA sailed at 0830 for Aitape arriving there at 1500. Calls were made on the ADC and CW who both pointed out that the new Coastal wharf was completed if we care to move alongside. However, with the large swell buffetting the wharf, their offer was declined and at 1730 LADAVA weighed and proceeded to the lee shore of nearby Seleo Island anchoring there at 1835 for the night.
- The next morning Tuesday 21st August at 0830 LADAVA sailed for Vanimo arriving there at 1435. With the demolition of the old coastal wharf LADAVA berthed outboard of a local coaster the M.V. HENRY LEITH at the new wharf. Sporting and social fixtures were arranged for the ship during our stay.
- 13. At 0815 on Wednesday 22nd LADAVA sailed from Vanimo for Lombrum via the Western Islands. After an uneventful passage the ship anchored in Nares harbour at 1600 on Thursday 23rd August. LADAVA remained at anchor for the next day undergoing routine maintenance sailing again at 0400 on Saturday 25th August. At 0800 LADAVA berthed at Lombrum.
- 14. The remainder of the month was spent alongside in Lombrum undergoing a self maintenance period.
- The material condition of the ship is excellent and all planned maintenance is now up to date. The health, welfare, morale and conduct of the ships company is very good.

RESTRICTED

..../I

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

(G.F. SMITH) COMMANDING OFFICER.

Enclosures: A. Steaming Annex.
B. Monthly return of ship availability:

C. Exercise Annex.

4.

## ANNEX A

## Steaming Annex.

| a. | Distance steamed during month            | 2529   | miles  |
|----|--|--------|--------|
| b. | Distance steamed since commissioning     | 116593 | miles  |
| С. | Hours underway during month              | 207    | hours  |
| d. | Total hours underway since commissioning | 8749   | hours  |
| е. | Nights away from base during month.      | 19     | nights |

#### ANNEX B

Monthly return of ship availability: Attached

#### ANNEX C

## Exercise Annex

- 1. Action stations
- 2. Leaving ship stations
- 3. Emergency stations
- 4. Blind pilotage
- 5. Stearing gear breakdown
- 6. Man overboard drills
- 7. Minor NBCDX
- 8. SUFX
- 9. Small arms shoot



# RESTRICTED HMAS. . L. ADAYA ..... TRAINING SPECIAL TRING SPECIAL DESIGNED PERFORMANCE (DURATION IN HOURS) REMARKS MOROBE - MADANG WESTERN I SUDNOS 20 RESTRICTED

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286

FILE 18/6/4566

Report of Proceedings

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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AS(NS)

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La 2 1 1 1 1 3

26 NOV P.M.

Telephone 56166 RECONTENT

Quote in Reply

766-D1-8

RESTRICTED

(1)

NAVY-CANBERRA

Headquarters Papua New Guinea Defence Force Murray Barracks Free Bag BOROKO PNG

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee

The Secretary (4) Department of the Navy

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding (2) HM Australian Fleet

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

CO HMAS TARANGAU CO HMAS LADAVA

#### REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - HMAS LADAVA SEPTEMBER 1973

1. Forwarded.

The gyro compass failure noted in paragraph 5, was the result of it being switched 'off' in error.

(J. W. NORRIE)

Brigadier Commander



## RESTRICTED HMAS LADAVA

HMAS LADAVA
at Lombrum
1st October 1973

The Commanding Officer, HMAS TARANGAU.



## HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - SEPTEMBER 1973

- I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of September 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).
- The first two days of the month were spent alongside Lombrum completing a self maintenance period. With all defects rectified and planned maintenance up to date, LADAVA sailed for an Island Patrol at 1600 on Monday 3rd September 1973.
- In accordance with instructions from Headquarters PNG Defence Force, LADAVA proceeded to the Lou Island/Horno Group area. At 1800 the ship was darkened and for the remainder of the night the area was thoroughly patrolled with no contacts or sightings of any description being made. At 0430 course was set for Kavieng the first port of call on patrol. The weather was excellent and general ships husbandry progressed until arrival in Kavieng at 1650 on Tuesday 4th September.
- LADAVA remained alongside overnight sailing the next morning Wednesday 5th at 0945. The next leg of the patrol was to Tabar Island on the North Coast of New Ireland. At 1540 LADAVA entered the Saraware Passage, the division between Tabar and Tatau Island, and proceeded to the excellent all season anchorage off the Sigarri Gari plantation. The ship anchored at 1555 remaining there overnight. The next day Thursday 6th at 0830 LADAVA weighed anchor and transited the Saraware Passage. At 0930 LADAVA hove to in Koko Bay and the boat was sent ashore to see the coastwatcher. A replacement battery charger was delivered and on completion the boat recovered. At 0950 course was set for Namatanai arriving there at 1410.
- official calls were made on the local administration authorities and sporting fixtures were arranged. After a very successful visit LADAVA sailed the next Friday 7th at 1015. On clearing the outer reef the gyro compass toppled resulting in the first section of the passage to Kieta, our next port of call being done by Magnetic Compass. The overnight patrol to Kieta produced no intruders, however a great deal of merchant shipping was encountered. At 0630 on Saturday 8th LADAVA berthed portside to the administration wharf in Kieta. While official calls were made on the local authorities, the ship refuelled and was squared away, on completion weekend leave was granted to the ships company.

..../whilst

Whilst alongside ABOMG M TUTELE G80323 ex HMAS SAMARAI (LEUT J.E. PARSONS RAN) presented himself onboard having missed the ship in Honiara. (My 092150Z SEP 73 refers). During the weekend sporting fixtures and tours of the Bougainville Copper Mine were organised for the ships Company. After a very interesting weekend LADAVA sailed from Kieta at 0815 on Monday 10th for Numa Numa Plantation on the north coast of Bougainville. LADAVA berthed at the excellent plantation wharf at 1300. A tour of this very modern plantation was organised and all who attended were impressed. The coastwatcher Mr S. Sandford was flying to Australia the next day and not returning so all his coastwatching equipment was recovered.

- At 0900 on Tuesday 11th LADAVA sailed for Sohano in the Buka Passage. After a somewhat uncomfortable passage LADAVA berthed portside to at Sohano. As usual official calls were made on the Assistant District Commissioner, who very kindly provided the ship with a vehicle for the duration fo our stay. After remaining alongside overnight LADAVA sailed once more at 0900 on Wednesday 12th for Green Island arriving there at 1500 and anchoring overnight.
- LADAVA remained at anchor until 1500 on Thursday carrying out routine maintenance on completion sailing for Rabaul. After an uneventful overnight steam LADAVA berthed Starboard side to the Shell Wharf in Rabaul at 0805 later shifting berth to the East End of No3 wharf on completion of fuelling. During the afternoon the Starboard rudder post gland was repacked (My 060150Z SEP 73, My 162315Z SEP 73 refers) in an attempt to stop the leaking experienced while underway. In accordance with the Commander PNG Defence Force directive (COMPNGFOR 070058Z SEP 73 refers) arrangements were checked for the forthcoming visit of HMS RHYL (CMDR J. HALL RN) and RFA TIDEREACH ( CAPT C.A. PURCHER-WYDE N3RUCK). All arrangements for the visit had been organised by the Royal Navy Liaison Officer (LEUT W. KIMPTON RAN) and there was little for LADAVA to do. On arrival of the visitors a good liaison was set up and tours of the visitors were organised for the benefit of the Ships Company. After a very enjoyable and informative period alongside LADAVA sailed for Pomio at 0700 on Wednesday 19th berthing portside to at 1745 the same day. Unfortunately the Assistant District Commissioner could not be located and so no official calls were made.
- 8. At 0750 on Thursday 20th LADAVA sailed from Pomio for Ablingi Island. Upon arrival at 1645 the plantation manager met the ship and extended the hospitality of the plantation to the Ships Company.
- 9. The next day Friday 21st at 0900 LADAVA sailed for Kandrian arriving there at 1205 for the weekend. Official calls were made and numerous social and sporting fixtures organised. At 0805 on Monday 24th LADAVA sailed for an overnight steam to Kimbe via the Vitiaz and Dampier Straits. After an uneventful passage LADAVA berthed at Kimbe at 0830 on Tuesday 25th, for an overnight visit.

..../LADAVA

- LADAVA sailed the next morning at 0830 Wednesday 26th for the Vitu Island. The programme was for LADAVA to anchor overnight at the Vitu Islands thence returning Lombrum. However one of the Ships Company ABQMG G.E. KORONOS G110314 who to date had been suffering from seasickness appeared to take a severe turn for the worst. After complaining of severe pains in the upper abdomen advice was requested from Surgeon Lieutenant Commander TAYLOR RAN of HMAS TARANGAU. Upon his advice LADAVA returned immediately to Lombrum berthing at 0300 on Thursday 27th. (My 260512Z SEP 73 refers).
- During the passage the Starboard rudder post gland was again leaking very badly and after consultation with base staff my INDEF 1/73 was sent (My 302228Z SEF 73 refers) as the situation is very unsatisfactory.
- 12. The remainder of the month was spent alongside Lombrum undergoing a self maintenance period.
- 13. The material condition of the ship is very good and all planned maintenance is being bought up to date. The health, welfare morale and conduct of the Ships Company is good.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servent

(G.F. SMITH)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosure: Annex

Annex A. Steaming Annex.

B. Monthly return of ship vailability.

C. Exercise Annex.

#### ANNEX: A

## Steaming Annex

| a) | Distance steamed during the month           | 2,008Mls   |
|----|---|------------|
| b) | Distance steamed since commissioning        | 118,601Mls |
| c) | Hours underway during month                 | 158Hrs     |
| d) | Total hours underway since commissioning    | 8,907Hrs   |
| e) | Total number of days on patrol during month | 18Days     |

#### ANNEX B

Monthly return of ships availability: Attached

#### ANNEX C

#### Exercise Annex

- 1. Action stations
- 2. Emergency stations
- 3. Leaving ship stations
- 4. Blind pilotage
- 5. Major NBCDX
- 6. Stearing gear breakdowns.

(MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP AVAILABILITY TO APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66 I.C. ENGINE SHIPS
ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS) AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING...S..YRS PROGRESSIVE TOTAL EN. HRS
MILES STEAMED SINCE COMMISSIONING NO. 1.......

|   | HMAS. | 600              | Despo  |              | •            |                          |  |  |  |              |                             |                  |              |             |                |                |               |                  |                  |                         |                              | 777.0  | -   |  |
|---|-------|------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----|--|
|   | DATE  |                  | 5.73   | 0-000        | 9            |                          |  | -  | Delico de arrango arra   | 0000         | 660                         | 0 0              | 0601         | 0 0 0       | . M            | ILI            | ES            | A TOTA           | TIOT             | TTN                     | 7 0                          | NO.<br>SHIPS   | 2.  |  |
|   | MONTH | AVAILAI<br>STATE | BILITY   | ATIO<br>ES   | CISE         | TAL                      | TALS   | AGE  | RAM  | RAM          | ING                         | SOUR             | 田            |             | DES.           | IGN            | IED           | 444 4            | RF               | ORM                     | ANC                          | E  |     |  |
|   | DAY   | 1                | 2  | OPER<br>DUTI | EXER<br>WEAP | SPEC                     | POST<br>REFI<br>TRI  | PASS   | VISI   | PROG<br>REFI | DOCK                        | HARE             | LEAT         |             |                |                | T             |                  |                  |                         |                              | CPT  |     | REMARKS  |
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FILE 18/6/4580

## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

| HMAS LADAVA                                | Report of Proceedings October 1973 |
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NOTES:

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Lee 10/12/13

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

November, 1973

766.D1.8

NAVY—CANBERRA

18 6 4580

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (1)

The Secretary
Department of the Navy (4)

#### For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM Australian Fleet (2)

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces (1)

CO HMAS TARANGAU

CO HMAS LADAVA

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS- HMAS LADAVA OCTOBER 1973

1. Forwarded.

(J.W. NORRIE) Brigadier Commander



HMAS LADAVA at Lombrum

5th November, 1973.

The Commanding Officer HMAS TARANGAU

## HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - OCTOBER 1973

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of October 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).
- LADAVA remained alongside Lombrum for the first five days of this month, undergoing a self maintenance period. On Saturday 6th at 1200 LADAVA sailed for Madang with MWL 256 in company. The weather was particularly good and a steady speed of advance (SOA) was maintained enabling both vessels to be secured at the Small Ships Wharf at Madang by 1400 on Sunday 7th.
- 3. The programme was such that LADAVA remained in Madang for Monday, sailing at 1000 on Tuesday 9th for a Southern Patrol. Whilst leaving harbour the radar went unserviceable. The decision was made to press on while ships staff investigated the defect. At 1200 the defect was apparently located and my URDEF 15/73 was raised and LADAVA returned to Madang arriving there at 1700. Whilst alongside HMAS MADANG and HMAS SAMARAI berthed outboard. A replacement rectifier (the defective component) was received and installed but with no success. After further investigation Ships staff were unable to locate the fault and the decision to return to Lombrum for Base Staff assistance was made. (My 102235Z OCT 73 refers). At 1050 LADAVA in company with HMAS MADANG and HMAS SAMARAI sailed from Madang. For the next four hours numerous evolutions were conducted with LADAVA detaching at 1600 for the onward passage to Lombrum. At 0930 on Friday 12th LADAVA secured portside to Lombrum. With the help of Base Staff, a series of defects were located and rectified and by 1530 the radar was again serviceable.
- At 0815 on Saturday 13th, LADAVA sailed for a Southern Patrol in accordance with the revised programme (My 120600Z OCT 73 refers). Whilst on passage to Alotau our first port of call, the wreck of a small coastal vessel MATOKA was fixed and its position signalled to COMPNGFOR as requested. On completion the passage was continued with LADAVA arriving at Alotau at 1215 on Monday 15th. Official calls were made on the District Commissioner and other local Administration Authorities.
- From Alotau, LADAVA sailed for an overnight fishery surveillance patrol in the Egum Atoll area, at 0815 on Tuesday 16th. The patrol was without incident with no sightings being made at all. On completion LADAVA proceeded to Samarai berthing there at 1000 on Wednesday 17th.

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Having fuelled LADAVA slipped and proceeded on passage to Port Moresby berthing there at 1000 on Thursday the 18th.

- 6. For the next nine days LADAVA remained alongside while temporary repairs were made to the Starboard rudder post bearings. As no parts were available from Australia only temporary repairs were made. The item is included in the main defect list for the forthcoming Intermediate Docking in December.
- 7. At 0900 on Thursday 25th LADAVA sailed from Port Moresby for a Fishery Surveillance Patrol in the Milne Bay Area. After a somewhat uncomfortable passage LADAVA arrived at our first port of call the Anglican Mission at Dogura at 1200 on Friday 26th. The hospitality extended to the ship was to say the least, overwhelming, and a most enjoyable visit was had. The next day Saturday 27th LADAVA sailed for Samarai arriving there at 1500. After fuelling leave was granted and the ship remained alongside for the weekend.
- 8. On Monday 29th LADAVA sailed at 0900 for the Catholic Mission at Ladava arriving there at 1110. Unfortunately the missionary in charge was absent, however after consultation with some of the teachers the ships boat began ferrying the children out to LADAVA. Some 150 children in all inspected the ship and appeared to enjoy themselves. As the afternoon progressed the wind began to freshen and the swell increased making our anchorage most uncomfortable. At 1530 I decided to weigh and proceed as the weather got even worse. (My 290537Z OCT 73 refers). Having got underway LADAVA proceeded on an overnight surveillance patrol in the Milne Bay Area anchoring at Fergusson Island at 0800 the next day, Tuesday 30th. LADAVA remained at anchor that day undergoing maintenance in preparation for our forthcoming annual inspection.
- 9. At 1000 on Wednesday 31st LADAVA sailed for Wewak and the rendezvous with MWL 256.
- 10. The material condition of the ship is excellent and all planned maintenance is up to date. The health, welfare and morale and conduct of the Ships Company is satisfactory.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(G.F. SMITH)
LEUT GLEX RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures: ANNEX A. Steaming Annex.

3. Monthly return of ships availability

C. Exercise Annex.

## ANNEX 'A'

## Steaming Annex

| a) | Distance steamed during the month          | 2,595    | Miles |
|----|--|----------|-------|
| b) | Distance steamed since commissioning       | 121, 196 | Miles |
| c) | Hours underway during month                | 209      | Hours |
| d) | Total hours underway since commissioning   | 9,116    | Hours |
|    | Total number of days on patrol during mont |          |       |

## ANNEX B:

Monthly return of ships availability Attached.

## ANNEX 'C'

## Exercise Annex

- 1. Action stations
- 2. Emergency stations
- 3. Leaving ship stations
- 4. Boarding stations
- 5. TOWEX
- 6. SUFX
- 7. Small arms shoot
- 8. Major NBCDX
- 9. Minor NBCDX
- 10. Blind pilotage
- 11. Stearing gear breakdown



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286

18/6/4662. FILE

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

Report of Proceedings November 1973 ADAUA HMAS 8. A somewhar Harry Tate

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NAVY—CANBERRA
18 6 4662

Quote in Reply 766.D1.8

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

/ January, 1974

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (1)

-> Department of Defence (Navy Office)(4)

#### For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding
HM Australian Fleet (2)

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces (1)

CO HMAS TARANGAU

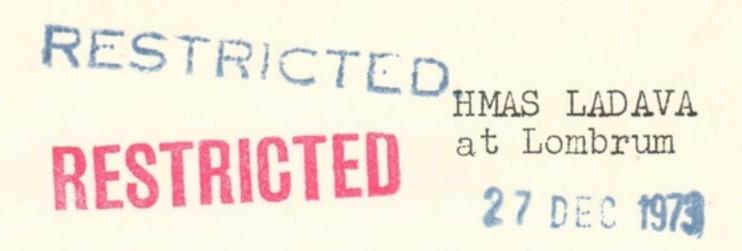
CO HMAS LADAVA

### REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - HMAS LADAVA NOVEMBER 1973

1. Forwarded.

2. The matters raised in Paragraphs 5 and 8 of this report will be commented on separately.

(W.H. WANSLEY)
Colonel
Acting Commander



Commanding Officer HMAS TARANGAU

### HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceeding of HNA Ship under my command for the month of November, 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- Thursday 1st November found LADAVA on passage to Wewak and a rendezvous with MWL 256. The weather was fine and all equipment onboard was functioning well. Routine ships maintenance was carried out throughout the day. At 1600 LADAVA hove to and "Hands to Swimming Stations" was piped. A shark lookout with loaded SLR was posted on the flying bridge. At 1630 LADAVA got underway for the remainder of the passage, berthing at the Coastal wharf in Wewak at 0700 on Friday 2nd.
- Jupon LADAVA's arrival in Wewak, the MWL 256 sailed for Lombrum. Fuel and water had been arranged by Military Area Wewak and having fully fuelled and watered LADAVA sailed at 1100 for Lombrum. By 1700 LADAVA had rejoined the MWL and for the remainder of the night stayed within six miles. At 0500 on Saturday 3rd, a landfall was made on the Western end of Manus Island and a position passed to the MWL. One hour later at 0600 having ascertained that the MWL was fixing happily LADAVA detached and proceeded direct to Lombrum berthing at 1030 the same day.
- LADAVA then commenced a Self Maintenance Period and general preparation for the forthcoming Annual Inspection. However, this was interrupted when at 1520 on Tuesday 6th, LADAVA was ordered to come to immediate notice for sea (COMPNGFOR OPS 017407 of 060457Z NOV 73 refers). This state was achieved by 1630 as all four starter motors had to be reinstalled. At 2000 a decision was finally made not to send LADAVA to sea that evening (COMPNGFOR OPS 017420 of 060949Z NOV 73 refers). On receipt of this, restricted leave was granted to the Ship's company. At 0945 on Wednesday 7th, LADAVA was reverted to 30 minutes notice for sea (COMPNGFOR OPS 017430 of 062318Z NOV 73 refers). At 1145 instructions were received from Headquarters, Papua New Guinea Defence Force (HQPNGDF) for LADAVA to sail for a rendezvous with the missing vessel M.V. WONAM and to carry out a fuel transfer (COMPNGFOR OPS 017441 of 070049Z NOV 73 refers).
- At 1200 LADAVA sailed from Lombrum and proceeded with despatch to the rendezvous arriving alonside the M.V. WONAM at 1515. Upon completion of the fuel transfer and as no reply had been received from HQPNGDF to my priority DTG 070245Z NOV 73, LADAVA returned to Lombrum berthing at 1915.

.../6. The

- The next four days were spent in preparing the ship for the inspection. At 0730 on Friday 9th, the Ship's Company was inspected by the Commander, Papua New Guinea Defence Force Brigadier J.W. Norrie, OBE. On Monday 12th at 0815 LADAVA's harbour inspection was commenced by Base Staff, HMAS TARANGAU. The various inspections continued throughout the day finishing at 1530.
- Tuesday 13th at 0810, LADAVA sailed for the sea inspection. Throughout the day various evolutions and incidents were created by you, Sir, and your staff. Having completed all that was required LADAVA returned alongside berthing at 1320.
- 8. At 1800 on Wednesday 14th, LADAVA sailed from Lombrum for Wewak and the final stages of the Joint Land and Maritime Element Exercise Marine Apparatus. The passage to Wewak Was via the Hermit Islands where LADAVA anchored at 0845 on Thursday 15th. LADAVA remained anchored until 1700 then weighed and proceeded to Wewak anchoring there at 0815 on Friday 16th, and later shifting to a berth alongside the main wharf to fuel at 1000. Owing to the very pronounced surge in Wewak Harbour, LADAVA upon fuelling again moved out to anchor. At 1800, Capt. R.J. Shillabeer, of 2PIR, our Liasion Officer contacted LADAVA and informed me that I was required to sail the next morning to search for an overdue motor vessel. Although no signal to LADAVA authorising this was received he assured me the directive had originated from HQPNGDF. Consequently, at 0800 on Saturday 17th, LADAVA sailed for Koil Island arriving there at 1030. The missing boat was located, however, he was in no difficulties and had asked for no assistance in fact, the owner derived a great deal of mirth out of the fact that we had gone looking for him. LADAVA then returned to Wewak anchoring there at 1400. During the return passage the radar went unserviceable. Upon investigation it was discovered that a capacitor from the power supply circuit required replacement and as no spares were held the necessary URDEF and stores demand signal were raised (My 172200Z NOV 73 and 172210Z NOV 73 refers).
- LADAVA assumed control of the Maritime Element involved in the exercise from HMAS MADANG (Lieutenant D.A. Caton, RAN) at 0900 on Sunday 18th. To enable the exercise to continue without delay, HMAS MADANG transferred a replacement part for the radar to LADAVA and at 0300 on Monday 19th, LADAVA sailed with LCM's 1050 and 1053 in company for the beachead at Dagua. At 0600 LADAVA arrived off the beach and immediately sent the LCM's ashore to collect the members of A, B & C companies of 2PIR. Having completed this evolution, the convoy returned to Wewak arriving there at 0850. The troops having been disembarked the convoy sailed again (at 1030) to collect D Company 2PIR and to transport the same to Vanimo. At 1300 with all troops onboard, the convoy commenced passage to Vanimo. At 0600 on Tuesday 20th, the troops were disembarked at Vanimo and the convoy again turned for Wewak. At 2200 LADAVA plus consorts anchored in Wewak Harbour.
- LADAVA remained at anchor for Wednesday and Thursday 10. 21st and 22nd, sailing at 0001 on Friday 23rd for Lombrum with LCM's 1050, 1051 and 1053 in company. At 0600 LCM's 1050 and 1053 were detached at the mouth of the Sepik River, whilst LADAVA and LCM 1051 turned northwards to Manus Island. The KLOIKIUILURESTRICTED.

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passage was without incident and at 0630 on Saturday 24th, LADAVA and LCM 1051 secured alongside Lombrum.

- The remainder of the weekend was spent alongside Lombrum as was Monday 26th. On Tuesday 27th at 0800, in company with the remainder of the squadron, LADAVA sailed for SQUADEX THREE (HMAS AITAPE, LCDR M. deB. Bennett, RAN, ROP November refers). However, as all lines were let go all power was lost. Upon investigation, it was found that due to salt water starvation, both generators had tripped and if not for quick action by the third ERA in changing to high sea suction, both main engines also would have tripped. Further investigation showed some type of fibrous material almost completely blocking the salt water strainer. Power was quickly restored and LADAVA sailed with the remainder of the squadron minus gyro and radar.
- At 1110, LADAVA was detached in accordance with instructions from you, Sir, (COMPNGFOR OPS 018644 of 262340Z NOV 73 and AITAPE 270046Z NOV 73 refers), and returned to Lombrum berthing at 1200. In accordance with COMPNGFOR directive, my radar was stripped and the replacement part for HMAS SAMARAI (Lieutenant J.E. Parsons, RAN) removed, thereby rendering my own radar unserviceable. At this stage the new part ordered from Australia was located in Naval Stores and immediately installed. ADAVA's radar was reassembled on completion and rendered serviceable.
- 13. LADAVA remained alongside that evening and at 0800 Wednesday 28th, prepared to sail with the remainder of the squadron. However, both main engines went to "fail to start" and the sailing was delayed while Base Staff investigated. After removal of both pyropress switches and replacement, LADAVA slipped and proceeded at 1010 rejoining the equadron at 1030.
- 14. On Friday 30th at 0845, LADAVA sailed with the Seamanship Training Class onboard for the practical gunnery examination. This having been completed LADAVA returned to Lombrum berthing at 1200.
- The material condition of the ship is very good and all planned maintenance is up to date. The health, welfare, morale and conduct of the Ship's Company is very good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(G.F. SMITH)
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer.

Enclosures: 1. Steaming Annex.

2. Monthly Return of Ship Availability.

RESTRICTED. RESTRICTED

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ANNEX A to .
Report of Proceedings
HMAS LADAVA dated

### STEAMING ANNEX

| 1. | Distance steamed during November 2513           | miles     |
|----|---|-----------|
| 2. | Hours underway during November 205              | hours     |
| 3. | Total distance steamed since commissioning 123, | 709 miles |
| 4. | Total hours underway since commissioning 9321   | hours     |
| 5. | Number of days on patrol during November 13     | days      |
| 6. | Occasions of exceeding fast routeing speed      |           |

| DATE         | SPEED   | DURATION | REMARKS        |
|--------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| 07 NOV 73    | 19K     | 7 HRS    | SAR M.V. WONAM |
| 27-29 NOV 73 | VARIOUS | VARIOUS  | SQUADEX THREE  |

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ANNEX C to Report of Proceedings HMAS LADAVA - dated

### EXERCISE ANNEX

- 1. Action Stations
- 2. Leaving Ship Stations
- 3. Emergency Stations
- 4. SUFX 40/60 and .50 CAL
- 5. Small Arms firing
- 6. NBCDX
- 7. Steering gear breakdown
- 8. Floodex
- 9. Blind pilotage
- 10. Boardex
- 11. Towex.

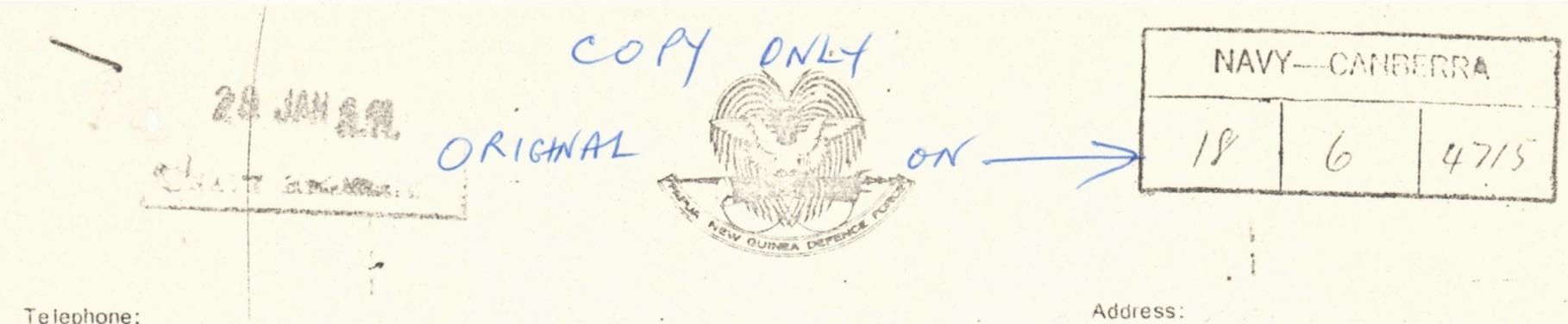


HMAS. LAGALAN TERRITON TERRITON TARKS

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286



Telephone:

Quote in Reply

766-D1-8

Headquarters Papua New Guinea Defence Force Murray Barracks Free Bag

BOROKO PNG

23 Jan 74

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee

The Secretary Department of Defence (Navy Office)

#### For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding HM Australian Fleet

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

The Commanding Officer HMAS TARANGAU

The Commanding Officer HMAS LADAVA

### REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - HMAS LADAVA NOVEMBER 1973

References:

- A. HMAS LADAVA's Report of Proceedings for November 1973.
- B. My 766.D1.8 dated January 1974.
- Comments on the matters raised in Paragraphs 5 and 8 of reference A. are forwarded in accordance with reference B.
- HMAS LADAVA's signal DTG 070245Z NOV 73 referred to in paragraph 5 of reference A. was received in this Headquarters at 070331Z NOV. However, this signal was not passed to the Force Operations Centre, from which the SAR for the MV Wonam was being directed. However, HMAS LADAVA's signal 070622Z NOV 73 was received at 070700Z NOV and it advised of the ships intended movements to Lombrum and required no further action.
- An internal problem of signal distribution and correct identification of the action officer in this Headquarters resulted in HMAS LADAVA's priority signal not being answered. The system in force at that time has been revised.
- 4. Operational control of HMAS LADAVA had been transferred to 2 PIR ... /for the period

for the period of deployment in support of Exercise Marine Apparatus (2 PIR battalion exercise conducted in the Wewak/Aitape area). When a call for assistance was received from Civil Defence and the District Commissioner in Wewak, 2 PIR were directed to assist using either HMAS MADANG or LADAVA provided it did not interfere with the tasks involved in the exercise. The missing vessel had been reported as overdue by its owner's representative in Wewak.

Assistance was rendered due to the importance that Civil Defence in Port Moresby and the District Commissioner in Wewak had placed on the overdue vessel. Two air searches had been flown by civil aircraft at the expense of the PNG Government. Once the missing vessel was located by the searching aircraft no other vessels were available in the area to make contact.

(W. H. WANSLEY) Colonel

Acting Commander

18/6/4726 FILE

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

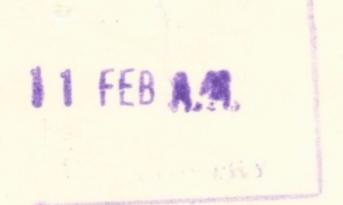
(NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS

Report of Proceedings DECEMBER 173

Tow of disabled Indonesian ships.

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| NAVY—CANBERRA |   |      |  |  |  |
|---------------|---|------|--|--|--|
| 18            | 6 | 4726 |  |  |  |

Telephone:

Quote in Reply



Address:

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

7 Feb 74

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee

(1)

The Secretary
Department of Defence (Navy Office)(4)

### For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding HM Australian Fleet

(2)

The Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces

The Commanding Officer
HMAS TARANGAU

The Commanding Officer HMAS LADAVA

HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 1973

Forwarded.

CEO COS).

(J. W. NORRIE)
Brigadier
Commander



HMAS LADAVA at Port Moresby

2 3 JAN 1974

The Commanding Officer HMAS TARANGAU

### HMAS LADAVA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - DECEMBER 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the month of December 1973. All times are Zone Kilo (-10).

- 2. The first three days of this month were spent alongside in Lombrum undergoing a self maintenance period. At 1740 on Monday 3rd, instructions were received from Headquarters Papua New Guinea Defence Force ordering Ladava to sea. (COMPNGFOR OPS 019074 of 040721Z DEC 73 refers). At 1900 LADAVA slipped and proceeded for Sissano where the Indonesian Vessel in distress was anchored.
- After an uneventful passage LADAVA anchored alongside the Indonesian Motor Vessel MANOKWARI at 1608 on Wednesday 5th. Technical staff from LADAVA were transferred in an attempt to rectify the engine fault. However upon investigation it was found that the clutch plate had sheered and was beyond repair. At 1715 the decision was made to take the vessel in tow (My 050720Z DEC 73 refers) and at 1825 with the M.V. MANOKWARI in tow LADAVA sailed for Vanimo. The weather was worsening however the tow was able to continue without any difficulty. A Speed of Advance of 6.6 knots was maintained enabling LADAVA plus M.V. MANDOKWARI to anchor in Vanimo harbour at 0215 on Thursday 6th.
- 4. At 0840 as no further instructions had been received from HQPNGDF LADAVA sailed for Madang. However at 1050 LADAVA was ordered to return to Vanimo berthing there at 1330. (COMPNGFOR OPS 019194 of 060033Z DEC 73 refers). Further advice was then received from HQPNGDF instructing LADAVA to tow the M.V. MANOKWARI to Jayapura the capital of Irian Jaya. A separate report has been forwarded on the visit, LADAVA'S letter dated 20 December 1973 refers. The tow having been successfully completed LADAVA returned to PNG territorial waters berthing at VANIMO at 1550 on Saturday 8th.
- 5. LADAVA remained alongside for that evening sailing at 0900 on Sunday 9th for Madang. Whilst on passage at 0216 on Monday 10th LADAVA struck a log or object (My SIG KKE of 091715Z DEC 73 refers). Upon investigation no apparent damage had been sustained and the passage to Madang was continued. LADAVA berthed at the coastal wharf at Madang at 1030 on Monday 10th.

..../At



- At 0715 on Tuesday 11th LADAVA slipped and proceeded to the Madang Slipway, where at 0810 LADAVA was slipped for her Intermediate Docking. For the next seven days LADAVA remained on the slip undergoing maintenance on the hull and underwater fittings. At 0830 on Tuesday 18th LADAVA was unslipped and proceeded to the Shell Wharf to fuel. Fuelling having been completed LADAVA shifted berth to the Main Wharf for fresh water finally sailing for Lombrum at 1200.
- Once clear of Madang the Quarterly Full Power trial was conducted with all machinery performing satisfactorily. After another uneventful passage LADAVA berthed at Lombrum at 0700 on Wednesday 19th. LADAVA remained alongside Lombrum until 0540 on Friday 21st when ordered to sail with a search party onboard for the Western End of Manus Island where a helicopter had crashed. However whilst only two hours out LADAVA was ordered to return berthing once again at Lombrum at 0830.
- 8. IMDAVA remained alongside for the next six days for the christmas holiday break, sailing in accordance with the PNGPATRON programme on Thursday 27th at 1200 for Port Moresby. The Only incident whilst on passage was when it was noticed that the lower lead light on Cape Nelson was not burning (my 281805Z DEC 73 refers). At 1000 on Sunday 30th IADAVA berthed at Port Moresby remaining there for the remainder of the month.
- 9. The material condition of the ship is very good and planned maintenance is up to date. The health, morale and welfare and conduct of the Ship's Company is excellent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obediant servant.

(G.F. SMITH)
LIEUTENANT RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

#### Enclosures:

ANNEX

A. Steaming Annex.

B. Monthly return of ships availability.

Exercise Annex.

#### ANNEX 'A'

### Steaming Annex

| 1.     | Distance  | steamed during D  | ecember         |      | 2,034              | Mls  |
|--------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 2.     | Hours und | derway during Dec | ember           |      | 167                | Hrs  |
| 3.     | Total dis | stance steamed si | nce commission  | ning | 125,743            | Mls  |
| 4.     | Total hou | ars underway sinc | e commissioni   | ng   | 9,488              | Hrs  |
| 5.     | Number of | f days on patrol  | during December | er   | 13                 | Days |
| 6.     | Occasion  | of exceeding fas  | t routeing spe  | eed: |                    |      |
| DATE   |           | SPEED             | DURATION        |      | REMARKS            |      |
| 4-5 DE | EC 73     | 16 knots          | 21 Hours        | SAR  |                    |      |
| 18 DEC | 73        | 22.5 knots        | 1 Hour          |      | erly ful<br>trial. | Ll   |
| 21 DEC | 73n       | 18 knots          | 2½ Hours        | SAR  |                    |      |

### ANNEX 'B'

Monthly return of ship availability.
Attached.

#### ANNEX 'C'

#### Exercise Annex

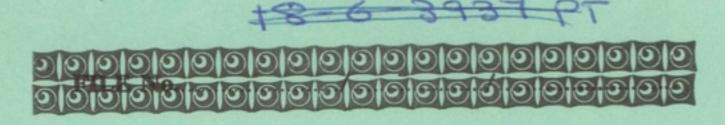
- 1. Action stations
- 2. Leaving ship stations
- 3. Emergency stations
- 4. Blind pilotage
- 5. Steering gear breakdown.



(MONTHLY RETURN OF SHIP AVAILABILITY TO APPENDIX 'B' TO CANO 7/66 I.C. ENGINE SHIPS ACCOMPANY MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS) AGE SINCE FIRST COMMISSIONING....YRS PROGRESSIVE TOTAL EN. HRS MILES STEAMED SINCE COMMISSIONING NO. 1...... HMAS....... NO. 2..... MONTH AVAILABILITY STATE REMARKS DAY INTERMEDIATE DOCH SAR MERASHED HELD 23 24 CHRISTMAS GREAK PASSAGE PORT MORESS 29 30 31

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073286



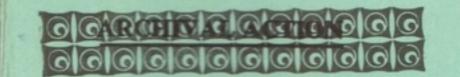


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