AWM78

Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

HMAS BASS

Item number: 57/7

Title: January-December 1976



AWM78-57/7

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL ACCESS STATUS OPEN aclassification Authority—Defence Records this record this team inviewed and this been (Navy) with effect from: (Navy) with effect from: (Navy) Admin 18-13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

428/3/1357 FILE:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS

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The month of January passed, also.

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ASRP-N (NS55)

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TELEPHONE:

IN REPLY QUOTE 18/2/9

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Naval Staff Office, Box 618 F G.P.O., HOBART 7001.

5 February, 1976.

The Secretary,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29A paragraph 13.

DATE ACTIVITY AREA

6 JAN RANR Training Derwent Estuary

10 JAN RANR Training Derwent Estuary

26 JAN RANR Training Derwent Estuary

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge
Tasmania

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY



TELEPHONE:

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REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HEAS BASS FOR

Reference: RI Appendix 29A paragraph 13.

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DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

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FILE: 428/3/1446

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

MARCH 1976

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263/5/hb

File: 18/2/9

Naval Staff Office, Box 618-F, G.P.O., HOBART. 7001

The Chief of Naval Staff,
Department of Defence (Navy Office)
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding, HM Australian Fleet

The Naval Officer-in-Charge, Victoria.

The Director of Naval Reserves and Cadets, Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS BASS - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1976

Reference: A. R.I. Appendix 29A

B. DEFNAV Canberra NLE 230227Z MAR 76.

- 1. The reports of proceedings from HMAS BASS for the month of March, 1976 are forwarded:
- 2. The emphasis placed on the material state of the ship during the first period stems from a direction given by me to the Commanding Officer. Overall HMAS BASS is now in a considerably better state than she has been for some years.
- With reference to the comment in paragraph 8 of Enclosure B, it was understood that the officer designated as Executive Officer for the relief crew from the Melbourne Port Division would be available to receive these stores, and to muster other stores being transferred on the change-over of A.C.T.'s.
- 4. I believe that the Commanding Officer should not have been put in the position described in paragraph 11 of Enclosure B. Notwithstanding the present travel restrictions I consider he should have been given either a personal briefing, or detailed written instructions; and in sufficient time for him to ensure that his ship could carry out intended commitments in a seamanlike manner.
- The successful completion of these two periods of annual continuous training, in generally unpleasant weather conditions but with few material failures, has given a much needed boost to the confidence of the Hobart Port Division.

(J.St.B. More) Commander RAN

Naval Officer-in-Charge, Tasmania

Enclosures:

1. The Commanding Officer HMAS BASS letter dated 18th March 1976.

2. The Commanding Officer HMAS BASS letter dated 26th March 1976.

Annex A:

A.C.T. Crew Lists.

ANNEX A to NOIC TASMANIA letter 18-2-9 dated 31st March 1976

ACT CREW LISTS

	ACT :	1	ACT 2	
Commanding Officer Executive Officer Technical Officer Supply Officer	LCDR RLEX B.F LEUT RLEX M.R SBLT GLEX G.D LEUT RLEN J.P LEUT RLSO T.L	.R. Peever . Kennedy .J. Boland	LCDR RLEX N.A. LEUT RLEX A.R. SBLT GLEX G.D. SBLT RLSU N.J.	Campbell Kennedy
Coxswain	P/POQMG LSQMG SMNQMG SMNQMG SMNQMG SMNQMG	Carty Harris Hannaford Jones Lowe Wilson	POQMG LSWM ABQMG SMNQMG ORDWTR	Bruce Hepburn Izard Tregear Detmess
Comms.	LSRO	Cruise	POSY LSRO ABRO	Souter Cruise Strike
Technical	POMTP POMTP POETC LSETP ABMTP SMNETC SMNMTP	Jackson Vervaart Okines Johnston Rodway Peebles Ritchie	POMTP POMTL ABMTP ABMTP ABMTP	Jackson Stevens Mead Schott Smith
Cook	ABCK	Harris	POCK	Shanahan
	ACT 1		ACT 2	
SUMMARY	Officers	Sailors	Officers	Sailors
RANR Personnel	3	13	3	8
RANER	1		-	2
RAN	1	2	1	4

HMAS BASS At Hobart

18th March, 1976

The Commanding Officer, HMAS HUON.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BASS under my command for the period 27th February 1976 to 14th March 1976.

- 2. The Ship's Company were mustered at 0800L 27th February to complete the storing of BASS, and when ready in all respects for sea, cast off from HMAS HUON Jetty and proceeded down D'Entrecasteaux Channel where various exercises were carried out in Emergency Stations, Leaving Ship Stations, Emergency Steering and Fire Drill.
- When offSouth East Cape, radio transmission could not be conducted due to a fault in the coupling unit which necessitated its removal from above the Wardroom. As spray could damage the unit, the wind force was 5/6 from the S/W, and Strachan entrance could not be reached before 1000L Saturday 28th., it was decided to anchor in Recherche Bay and effect repairs.
- BASS weighed anchor at 0700L Saturday 28th and steamed into a moderate SW sea and swell which caused the gyro to become unsettled and unreliable. Although the sea and swell moderated as progress was made up the West Coast, the gyro would not completely settle giving errors from 0 15 high and low. The magnetic compass was used for the remainder of the voyage to Sydney.
- BASS arrived off the Entrance to Macquarie Harbour at 0600L Sunday 29th., but as visibility was reduced to approximately 1 mile due to drizzle and the tidal streams were not quite correct for passage up the harbour, BASS laid off the entrance until 0700L. The journey to Strahan was an interesting exercise in pilotage and ship handling and the ship secured Port side to at the main wharf at 0815L.
- 6. The President and Secretary of the Regatta Association were welcomed onboard and they outlined the day's activities to take place that day. The ship was the main attraction for the Regatta and a steady stream of visitors took the opportunity to inspect the vessel.
- As strong SW Winds were forecast for the West Coast and conditions had already began to deteriorate considerably, it was decided to leave Strahan at the predicted safe passage time of 1600L through Hells Gates and make passage for Sydney. During the night as BASS proceeded towards Bass Strait the sea became rough with a heavy SW swell making conditions reasonably unpleasant but during Monday 1st March conditions moderated as Eastern Bass Strait was approached the sea state became slight allowing various ship husbandry tasks to be carried out. The sea remained calm for most of Tuesday but as Gabo Island was approached the effects of Cyclone Colin began to be felt with strong E to SE winds and rough seas. As progress was made up the coast of NSW the winds increased progressively to force 6/7 from the S with heavy rain squalls and very rough seas and high swells. No exercises or ships husbandry tasks could be undertaken due to the ship continually rolling up to 40° to Port and Starboard.
- 8. Port Jackson was reached 2230L Wednesday 3rd March, the ship anchoring off Watsons Bay overnight. At 0900L 4th March BASS proceeded up the harbour arriving at HMAS WATERHEN at 1000L securing Port side to the Patrol Boat Jetty.

..../2

- 9. Ship Husbandry and maintenance tasks were carried out during the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. On Monday 8th BASS proceeded to the Oil Fuel Lighter for refuelling and then back to the Patrol Boat Jetty.
- 10. At 0900K 9th March BASS cast off from the jetty and proceeded down harbour and out to sea to the 100 fathom line to obtain the maximum effect from the East Australia current. Speeds of up to $10\frac{1}{2}$ knots over the ground were achieved during the 9th and 10th but after Gabo Island was reached a strong SW was encountered which reduced the speed to 4-5 knots. During the early hours of 11th the winds and seas abated as quickly as they rose and good progress was made across Bass Strait to Devonport arriving at 2200K. During the night of the 10th communications were very poor and were not satisfactory again until 0700K 11th March when transmission and reception were again satisfactory. Early arrival was made at Devonport due to the failure of certain parts of the communications equipment.
- 11. In Friday 12th March BASS proceeded to approximately 2 miles off
 Devonport to carry out 00W manoeuvres and various evolutions arriving back at
 West No. 2 berth at 1415K for refuelling and restoring. BASS remained alongside
 until the Ship's Company were relieved by ACT 2 crew at 1430K on Sunday 14th March.
- 12. All crew members worked well even in the many adverse weather conditions experienced and both the RAN and RANR components of the crew combined well as one united Ship's Company.

Defects repaired

13. Gyro compass replaced

Aerial coupling tuner replaced

Steaming lights re-connected

Bottle screw slip re-welded

Leaking telemeter system

BASS was in a good state of preparedness for the ACT's and at the end of the first ACT no defects were outstanding.

Stability

14. The ship was slightly drier with a head sea due to ballast being moved aft, but she appeared to roll to a further degree than previously and more consistantly. Overall, I think there has been an improvement.

Steering

The steering was quite satisfactory during the ACT giving better response to wheel movement. The only fault developed was loss of pressure on the telemeter system due to a leaking joint. This was repaired while at sea.

Victualling

16. The victualling was satisfactory and all meals were prepared to a very acceptable standard even during the adverse weather conditions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(B.F. BRASSINGTON)

LCDR RLEX

Commanding Officer.

Annex A - Distance steamed and hours underway.

ANNEX A to the Commanding Officer HMAS BASS letter dated 18th March 1976.

a. DISTANCE STEAMED 987 n.m.

b. HOURS UNDERWAY 161

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073500

26 March 1976

The Naval Officer in Charge, TASMANIA.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BASS under my command for the period 14th - 26th March, 1976.

- 2. Officers and Ship's Company joined in Devonport on 14th March. After a short hand over from LCDR B.F. BRASSINGTON RANR the ship cast off at 1505K and proceeded to Westernport. BASS entered Westernport at 1002K on 15th March and proceeded to anchor off Hanns Inlet, subsequently berthing at HMAS CERBERUS.
- After embarking additional personnel required for Exercise JUC96 BASS sailed at 0800K on 16th March, anchoring at 1814K east of Citadel Island in the Glennie Group of islands. At 0503K the following day BASS sailed for Corner Inlet, passing between South West Point and Wattle Island, and arrived off Port Welshpool at 1110K. One of the channel markers was found to be missing and no attempt was made to enter the channel due to an eight foot swell, and a caution in the Australian Pilot (Vol. 14). The ship then proceeded to the Hogan Group, and then on to the Kent Group arriving at anchor in the west cove of Erith Island at 1705K.
- 4. Next day the ship circumnavigated Deal Island and returned to anchor off Erith Island. The ships company visited Erith Island during the forenoon and at 1800K BASS sailed for Gabo Is., arriving at 1340K on 19th March after an uneventful passage made in fair conditions. The ships company were exercised in fire fighting techniques and equipment during the afternoon and this was followed by S.L.R. practice during which four hundred rounds were expended.
- BASS sailed for Wilson's Promontory at 0890K on 20th March using only the port engine for a fuel consumption trial. The trial was completed at 1157K and passage was continued at 5 knots. The course for Wilson's Promontory was between five and eight miles offshore, and with poor weather conditions South East Point was not reached until 0810K on 22nd March. The weather was very rough during this period with the wind fairly constant from 250° 270° and varying in force between 4 and 8. Bass handled well and was reasonably dry, but would have been unmanageable if only one engine had been available.
- From Wilson's Promontory BASS proceeded to anchor off Flinders Breakwater in Flinders Bight at 1940K on 22nd March. The following day BASS remained at anchor and continued to participate in Exercise JUC96.
- 7. On entering Hans Inlet at 0815K on 24th March BASS was 'sunk' by gunfire from an MCM vessel (HMAS IBIS) berthed at the oil wharf. I agreed with the Commanding Officer of IBIS that BASS had been sunk but pointed out that Hanns Inlet was now blocked, and Patrol Boats would be unable to use the facilities at HMAS CERBERUS for at least two months until salvage operations were completed.
- 8. The ship berthed alongside at HMAS CERBERUS at 0845K on 24th March, and fuelled and provisioned ship. The additional exercise personnel were disembarked and stores were loaded for the Melbourne Port Division ACT. It was unfortunate that no-one was available from the Division to receive these stores.
- 9. BASS sailed for Devonport at 0850K on 25th March after embarking six members of the Melbourne Port Division. Weather was fair and BASS was able to maintain an average of just over 8 knots. The ship arrived at 0805K on 26th March, and the Hobart crew cleaned ship and departed for Hobart by bus at 1000K; command of the ship having been accepted by LCDR M.C.H. HILLS RANR of the Melbourne Port Division.

- Morale was high throughout all stages of the ACT and the COMSEL COMINT team fitted in well with the ships company. This team had to work under poor conditions but their attitude made them a credit to their organisation. Five permanent service personnel were borne, namely SBLT G. Kennedy RAN, POMTP Jackson, ABMT Smith, LSRO Cruse and ABRO Strike. All performed well but special mention should be made of ABRO Strike who worked with particular enthusiasm.
- 11. As Commanding Officer I received no detailed written instructions for BASS's task during the exercise, although a verbal briefing was passed on by the previous Commanding Officer. This briefing committed the ship to operations from Lakes Entrance and/or Port Welshpool, neither of which was suitable navigationally. It appears that detailed planning to cover such things as anchorages and sources of supplies within the ship's capabilities was non existent.
- 12. Throughout the ACT the weather was an important factor with BASS experiencing a wide variety, all of which she handled well. There were no major defects in equipment either electrical, mechanical or affecting communications. A report covering operational aspects of the exercise was given in my message KVW/KBK 240005Z MAR 76.
- 13. The ACT was of tremendous value for all those who participated in HMAS BASS.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

N.A. Macmillan)

Lieutenant-Commander RANR

Commanding Officer

Annex A - Distance steamed and hours underway

B - Letter from COMSEL/COMINT team

ANNEX A to the Commanding Officer HMAS BASS letter dated 16th March 1976.

a. DISTANCE STEAMED 1391 n.m.

b. HOURS UNDERWAY 182

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073500



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

To:

The Captain, Officers and Crew,

We wish to thank you for the warm hospitality and assistance you have shown us whilst on board HMAS BASS.

Although having the Comsec team on board greatly taxed the ressels resources, your cheerful and friendly cooperation was greatly appreciated.

We wish you well and hope you have a better line on your Golden Telephone for your trip back to Tassie.

Holden (Shorty)
Shoe (TEX)

Aldam. (GomEZ)

RKam (Bob)

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Department of Defence

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

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18,5/6/h

HMAS BASS HOBART TAS. 7000

2nd May 1976

Naval Officer-in-Charge, Victoria, Victoria Barracks, MELBOURNE

For Information:

Director of Naval Reserves and Cadets, Department of Defence (Navy), CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

This Copy for

Naval Officer-in-Charge, Tasmania, P.O. Box 618F, HOBART. TAS. 7001

The Commanding Officer, HMAS LONSDALE

The Commanding Officer (Reserves)

HMAS BASS REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

FOR THE PERIOD 20TH APRIL TO 2ND MAY, 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS BASS under my command for the period 20th April, 1976 to 2nd May, 1976. All times are zone Kilo (- 10).
- 2. At 1300 Tuesday 20th April, I assumed command alongside DOCK PIER in HMA NAVAL DOCKYARD, WILLIAMSTOWN.
- At 1406 Tuesday, 20th April, BASS departed from WILLIAMSTOWN to carry out evaluation trials on the ship's HF radio transmitter antenna, used with the AN/URT-24 set. The DOCKYARD recorded the variation in the signal strength in relation to the ship's relative bearing to the DOCKYARD and made up a Polar Diagram. On completion the ship proceeded on passage to PORTLAND.
- 4. The weather conditions on passage were ideal until 2200, when a south westerly wind freshened to make conditions uncomfortable. By the time we had rounded Cape Otway the wind had strengthened to Force 8 and with the sea and swell more on our beam, nearly all the Ship's Company were affected by sea sickness. At 1608 on Wednesday, 21st April the ship was anchored in PORTLAND BAY, to enable much needed ship's husbandry to be carried out, prior to berthing. At 1730 the ship weighed anchor and berthed alongside at 1800. The berthing party was made up of Naval Reserve Cadets from T.S. HENTY.
- 5. On arrival, arrangements were made to discharge ABETP KING sick ashore and to be admitted to PORTLIND HOSPITAL. During the passage from WILLIAMSTOWN he had been violently sea sick which caused the reoccurrence of the stomach pains, for which he had been hospitalized in MELBOURNE for observation for several days prior to the ship sailing. On Thursday 22nd April 2 NAVAL RESERVE CADET OFFICERS and 13 CADETS embarked at 0900 and the ship departed for independent exercises in PORTLAND BAY, berthing back alongside at 1100.

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NOM: HMAS BASS SO JUN 2 08 14 175 DEPT. OF DEFEMCE INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTRE exercians in Positivin Bax; berthing and, abehanide at 1700 . ONLINE ONE IS CONTRACT OF THE ONLY ONCE WIS AND CONTRACT TO THE STREET OF THE STREET days price to the shill mainting. On Thereday 22nd April 2 nath Committee of the parally for which he had been hespitalized in Hitschills for these values for sovered. he had been vidlently set which echoed the Property one of the recently on designate manufactures note and to design the state of the factor of the state o party work mode up of hered named of dedour rech T.S. Right. At 1750 the ship weighed enchor sad her then charged in 1800, the berthing may to combbe much headled endpiny imperiodary to be occurred out, prior to herbidage elaborance. At leas on restronging sink April the make was calculated in Fourthmen andly here on our bear, nearly all, the milets coupely nere affected by coarounded Cape others and and tell bestailthened to Force & and Alth Big sen and westerly wind fremished to mile conditions massainstables. By the time we had 4. The acother condictions on prastice ners inest total 2250, ones & south DESCRIPTION OF REMARKS OF THE SHEET PROGRESS OF PERSONS OF PERSONS OF PERSONS religion to the shipin relative been dis to the recitains and and and a letar migurest not, the excitation redesided the vertablish in the signed strength in out sunkuntilan trutaka en the sidhe id vedio Branchieler extoles, usocratsi tim THE SPORT LABOUR SOOF COLLEGE STREET, HEATT DORONIE LETTER TORE At 1300 Tupottey 20th April) . I contined contains alongstate man page 1717 to He. is I have the honour to reliable the prodestance of thus made my necessarial for the period 20th April; 1976 to and May: 1976. Hally a sond the restriction sould be sent of the sent services THE THE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY The Local Children (Becerves) The Countriding Officer, 100 TAN TANK 7001 SENSE GITLCOT-IN-Charge, Tomortalett - Total seed to a seed . the partment of Breakles (Havy), The state of the s THE TRANSPORT ANDRODE BUT ENGINEERS DEADLY OF THE OFFICE STATES OF THE COLLEGE 5.4 May 164 1976

- Due to the sea conditions a passage was planned to pass close to the ease side of KING ISLAND to obtain a lee shore. Due to the time available the ship anchored in COULOMB BAY, THREE HAMMOCK ISLAND, where I went ashore with the Navigating Officer and renewed acquaintances with the island leasees, Mrs. J.M. ALLISTON, wife of COMMANDER ALLISTON (RN RETIRED) and Mr. & Mrs. WARWICK ALLISTON. They informed me that the island has been declared a National Park and when funds have been allocated COMMANDER and Mrs. ALLISTON will become the Park Rangers. At 2100 the ship weighed anchor and proceeded to DEVONPORT via HOPE CHANNEL and the HUNTER PASSAGE.
- 7. At 0900 Saturday 24th April the ship berthed at No. 2 WEST WHARF, DEVONPORT. At 1000 I made an official call on the WARDEN OF DEVONPORT, COUNCILLOR N.D. LUCK, and he and the TOWN CLERK, Mr. N. ALLISON, returned the call on board BASS at 1130. (See press cutting attached ANNEX C). On Sunday, 25th April 1 Officer and 6 sailors marched in the local Anzac Day and attended the Memorial Service that followed. Several sailors also attended the Dawn Service. In the afternoon I was met by the COMMANDING OFFICER of TS MERSEY and together with the First Lieutenant, were shown over the \$40,000 improvements made to the Units Headquarters. As the weather had deteriorated appreciably during the afternoon, I obtained an up to date weather report from HOBART AIRPORT through DEVONPORT AIRPORT. The forecast was for a cold front to move through during the night with gale force winds. Sailing was therefore delayed, which proved a wise decision.
- At 0815 Monday 26th April, BASS sailed from DEVONPORT for PORT ARTHUR. On leaving harbour we encountered a large north westerly well, which gave us a beam sea. To give a more comfortable passage, the ship kept close inshore and passed through WATERHOUSE PASSAGE and the south of SWAN ISLAND. Next day, Tuesday 27th April, we transited SCHOUTEN PASSAGE into GREAT OYSTER BAY where a small arms shoot was carried out, firing 520 rounds of 7.62 m.m. with the SLR rifles. At 1030 the ship anchored off SWANSEA for two hours for a "mail run". After weighing anchor we proceeded to CYSTER BAY, MARIA ISLAND via MERCURY PASSAGE where two hands were sent ashore by boat to prepare for a banyan, whilst the ship proceeded out to sea for evening star sights. On completion, returned to OYSTER BAY and anchored for the night. A very successful banyan was held ashore, which gave a much needed boost to ship's company morale. Whilst at anchor, I renewed acquaintance with Mr. & Mrs. C. SCHULTZ on board M.V. "JOANNE" from SANDRINGHAM YACHT CLUB, which was sheltering in OYSTER BAY. This vessel has been acting as the radio relay vessel for the MELBOURING to HOBART WEST COASTER YACHT RACE. I had skippered and navigated "JOANNE" on the first occasion it was used for the yacht race in 1973.
- o. At 0500 Wednesday, 28th April the ship weighed anchor and proceeded out to sea for morning star sights. On completion, returned to OYSTER BAY to make final clean up ashore and for breakfast. By 0900 the wind had backed to the north west, making the anchorage unsuitable. On weighing anchor the ship proceeded to PORT ARTHUR via MERCURY PASSAGE. Off EAGLEHAWK NECK we encountered a cold front, including a line squall from the south east, the wind had shifted through and speed made good through the water was down to 4.5 knots. By the time we rounded TASMAN ISLAND, we had 20/25 foot swells, 6 foot seas and a force 9 wind. I was very impressed the way the ship handled in these conditions and also with the ship's company, there was not one reported case of sea sickness on this occasion, although it was appreciated by all when the ship finally anchored in

- Whilst at PORT ARTHUR I made contact with the owner of the 88 foot 10. wooden motor yacht AURORE, Mr. KEVIN HURSEY. We had seen AURORE on the Tuesday whilst passing through SCHOUTEN PASSAGE. The AURORE was built in 1901 as the ENA and much of the teak timber used in the construction was from HMS NELSON. In 1917 the RAN commissioned the HNA as HMAS SLEUTH fitted a 4 pound gun, and used the vessel for patrols off the QUEENSLAND coast. It is also of interest that Mr. HURSEY's brothers own the former HMAS TALLAROOK and HMAS WALRUS and use the vessels for fishing out of STANLEY. By Thursday the weather had further deteriorated with hail and snow, which again delayed sailing. The ship was yawing through 120° at anchor, and I had to veer the second anchor under foot. As the ship's dinghy was considered unseaworthy for the weather conditions I allowed 1 Officer and 10 sailors to go ashore during the forencon, on one of AURORE's outboard boats. With the temperature only about 4°c. and with snow, hail, sleet, heavy rain and strong winds, conditions did not help sight seeing or photography.
- 11. At 0850 Friday, 30th April, the ship weighed anchor and in company with AURORE proceeded to the D'ENTRESCASTEMUX CHANNEL through STORM BAY, which certainly lived up to its name. The wind had moderated to force 6, but a very heavy swell was still running. It was good to see the sun again, and it made a beautiful sight shining on the snow capped MT. WELLINGTON. At 1600 the ship berthed on the end of the small fishing pier at DOVER.
- At 0800 Saturday, 1st May, the ship departed from DOVER and proceeded to HOBART. At 1106 the ship passed a wreath laid in the water at the northern entrance to the D'ENTRECASTEAUX CHANNEL. It was understood that the ashes of the last surviving Tasmanian Aboriginal, TRUGANINI had just been scattered there. At 1115 HMAS IBIS was challenged escorting 2 Army LCM's back to SYDNEY. AT 1300 BASS berthed alongside the Havy Jetty at HMAS HUON. The ship was met on arrival by THE NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, TASMANIA, COMMANDER J. St. B. MORE, RAN and the COMMANDING OFFICER (RESERVES) HOBART DIVISION, LIEUTEMANT COMMANDER B.F. BRASSINGTON RANR and other RAN and RANR Officers. At 1330 a brief press conference was held on board for the Mercury Newspaper (press cuttings Annex C)
- Destoring of attractive naval stores, confidential books, and other items not required was carried out immediately after berthing. At 1500 the Officers were invited to the Wardroom HMAS HUON, which was appreciated as it gave us the opportunity to meet the Officers attached to HUON. That evening I had dinner with COMMANDER and Mrs. MORE in their residence. Next morning destoring was completed and the hands closed up at cleaning stations in final preparation, prior to handing over command. At 1100 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER K.V. CLEMENTS, RAN carried out rounds and at 1130 assumed command.
- The only major defects were the brake on the port cable holder which was unserviceable, the outboard engine for the dinghy which was constantly breaking down and a bad leak around the port on the starboard side of the Wardroom. Otherwise the main engines and auxiliary machinery performed very satisfactorily and I was very impressed with the new DECCA radar.
- 15. With the exception of ABETT KING and the first few days at sea, when there was a lot of sea sickness and the thought of only two nights alongside, the morale and health of the ship's company was of a high order. I was very impressed with the help and co-operation I received from the Officers and Ship's Company from HMAS HUON.

I have the honour to be,

our opedient

(G.R. KENYS)

Lieutenant Commander, RANR Commanding Officer

Appendices:

Steaming Details
 Exercise Details

3. Press Cuttings

ANNEX A TO BASS LETTER OF 2.5.76

STEAMING DETAILS

1.	Distance steamed during the period	923 miles
2.	Distance steamed since commissioning	179,144 miles
3.	Hours underway during the period	121 45/60
4.	Hours underway since commissioning	Not known
5.	Hours port main engine since installation	4,769 30,60
6.	Hours starboard main engine since installation	4,376 15/60

ANNEX B TO BASS LETTER OF 2.5.76

EXERCISE DETAILS

DATE

EXERCISE

20 APR76

3 man overboards, leaving ship stations, fire drill and steering gear breakdown, steering by main engines.

22APR76

Laid dan buoy, 4 man overboards, fire drill

steering gear breakdown.

26APR76

Small arms shoot expending 520 rounds of 7.62

m.m. ball.

30APR76

Steering gear breakdown

01MAY76

Steering gear breakdown, steering by main

engines, and man overboard.

IN HARBOUR

Fire drill in selected areas for Duty Watch

The Advocate, Monday, April 26, 1976 - Page 3



'OUR' NAVY SHIP BACK

The general purpose naval vessel H.M.A.S. Bass made a courtesy call to Devonport at the weekend on her way back to the Tasmanian reserve after being on loan to the Victorian Naval Reserve for three months. Capt. Greg Keays (left) is pictured showing the Warden of Devonport (Cr N. D. Luck, second from left) and the Council Clerk (Mr Norm Allison) over the bridge with the navigation officer, Lieut. Rob Ward.

HAAAS home today

THE Royal Australian Naval Reserve Training Ship HMAS Bees returns to Hobart today after an absence of more than two months.

She sailed from Hobert on February 37 and has done four two-week periods of Naval Reserve training: two with crews from Tasmania, and two with crews from Victoria.

The Bass has steamed almost 5,000 miles, and has sisted three capital cities. Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. She also took part in a joint RAN-RAAF exercise in Bass Strait.

The Naval Officer - in -Charge, Commander More, said that long periods of activity such as this gave the Naval Reserve valuable experience operating with other ships in unfamiliar waters.

He hoped that even long trips would be possible in in future.

in the We need more man in the Washive to make this possible," he said.

side HMAS Huen at the State of the State of the State will be state of the State of

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1073500

TO BASS LETTER OF 2.5.76.

Tough testing period for HMAS Bass has spent the past two months provided to the past two months past two months provided to the past two months provided to t

HMAS Bass has spent the past two months proving she can meet her designer's expectations.

THE MERCURY, MUMUAT, 5-5-19/5-3

Bass is an Explorer Class general purpose vessel based in Hobart.

She has been involved in Naval Reserve training exercises as everthing from an enemy force attacking the Bass Strait oil wells to a light arms firing practice base in the last two months.

The Navai Reserve has used the vessel to help train four different crews. With two Tasmanian and two Victorian crews.

she steamed more than 5,000 sea miles in the past two months.

Bass returned to Hobart on Saturday after visiting South Australia, Victoria and New South

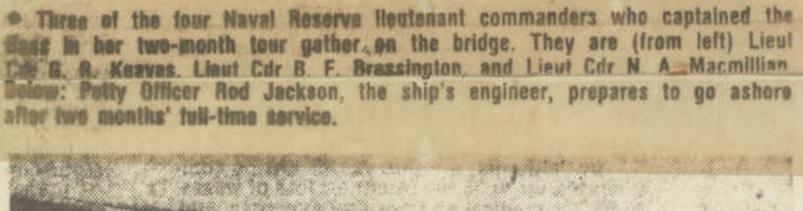
She was under the command of Lieut-Cdra B.

F. Brassington, N. A. MacMillan, M. C. Hills, and
G. R. Keays at various times during the exercises.

The Bass will not rest even now the exercises

She will be used again in training exercises for the next two weekends.







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DETAILS OF INFORMATION
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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25 John



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE: 23 7054

IN REPLY QUOTE 18/2/9

Naval Staff Office, Box 618 F GPO, HOBART 7000.

1st June 1976.

The Secretary,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
CANBERRA A.C.T 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29 A paragraph 13

DATE		ACTIVITY	AREA
7 - 9 May	RANR	Training	Maria Is/Port Arthur
14 - 16 May	RANR	Training	Port Authur/ D'entrecasteux Channel

(K.V. CLEMENTS)

Lieutenant-Commander For: Naval Officer-in-Charge,

Tasmania

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MOM: HWAS Bornship



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE: 23 7054 IN REPLY QUOTE 18/2/9 Maval Staff Office, Box 618 F GPO, HOBART 7000.

lst June 1976.

The Secretary, Department of Defence (Navy Office), CANBERRA A.C.M. 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1976

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Reference: RI Appendix 29 A paragraph 13

DATE

7 - 9 May

RANR Training

14 - 16 May . RANK Training

AREA

Maria Is/Port Arthur

Port Authur/ D'entrecasteux Channel

(K.V. CLEMENTS)
Lieutenant-Commander
For: Waval Officer-in-Charge,

Mary.

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TELEPHONE: 200141

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Naval Staff Office, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART 7002.

2nd July, 1976.

The Chief of Naval Staff,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
Russell Offices,
CANBERRA ACT 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR MONTH OF JUNE 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29AParagraph 13.

Nil Return

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge

Tasmania

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2nd July, 1976.

The Chief of Naval Staff, Department of Defence (Navy Office), Russell Offices, CANBERRA ACT 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR MONTH OF JUNE 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29&Paragraph 13.

Nil Return

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge
Tasmania

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS J WY 76

HMAS BASS.

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE: 200141

IN REPLY QUOTE 18-2-9

Naval Staff Office, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART 7002.

30th July, 1976.

The Chief of Naval Staff,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
Russell Offices,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

For Information

The Director of Naval Reserves and Cadets, Department of Defence (Navy Office), Russell Offices, GANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29 Paragraph 13

Date

Activity

Area

17-18 July

Post Refit Trials and Shakedown cruise

D'Entrecastreaux Channel

CNS

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge
Tasmania

DEPTION DEFENCE



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

IN REPLY QUOTE 18-2-9 TELEPHONE: 200141

HOBART 7002. Anglesea Barracks, Mayal Staff Office,

30th July, 1976.

CAMBERRA A.C.T. 2600. Mussell Offices, Department of Defence (Navy Office), The Chief of Naval Staff,

For Information

GANBERRA A.C.T. 2600. Russell Offices, Department of Defence (Navy Office), The Director of Maval Reserves and Cadets,

MORTH OF JULY 1976 REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HEAS BASS FOR THE

Reference: RI Appendix 29 Paragraph 13

Date

Activity

Area

17-18 July

and Shakedown Post Refit Trials

Channel D'Entrecastreaux

cruise

Commander RAN (J. St. B. More)

Tasmania

DEPT. OF DEFENCE INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTRE Maval Officer-in-Charge

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HOBART 7002.

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For Information

The Director of Naval Reserves & Cadets,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
Russell Offices,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

Report of Movements of HMAS BASS for the month of September, 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29 Paragraph 13

1. Date

Activity

Area

17th-19th September

RANR Training

D'Entrecastreaux

Channel

2. During the week commencing 20th September HMAS BASS was berthed in Prince of Wales Bay, Hobart, in order to conduct the inclining experiment.

Jul 1

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19/10.

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge
Tasmania

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE: 200141
IN REPLY QUOTE 18-2-9

Naval Staff Office, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART, 7002.

15th December, 1976

The Chief of Naval Staff,
Department of Defence (Navy Office),
Russell Offices,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

For Information

The Director of Naval Reserves and Cadets, Dept. of Defence (Navy Office), CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29 Paragraph 13.

1. Date

Activity

Area

29 OCT - 5 NOV

Monitoring Duty USS ENTERPRISE Hobart

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge
Tasmania



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE: 2001#1 IN REPLY QUOTE 18-2-9 Maval Staff Office, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART, 7002.

15th December, 1976

The Chief of Naval Staff, Department of Defence (Navy Office), Russell Offices, CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

For Information

The Director of Maval Reserves and Cadets, Dept. of Defence (Mavy Office), CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND MOVEMBER, 1976

Reference: RI Appendix 29 Paragraph 13.

. Date

29 OCT - 5 NOV

Activity

Monitoring Duty USS EMPERPRISE

Area

Hobart

CENILE Naval Officer-in-Charge
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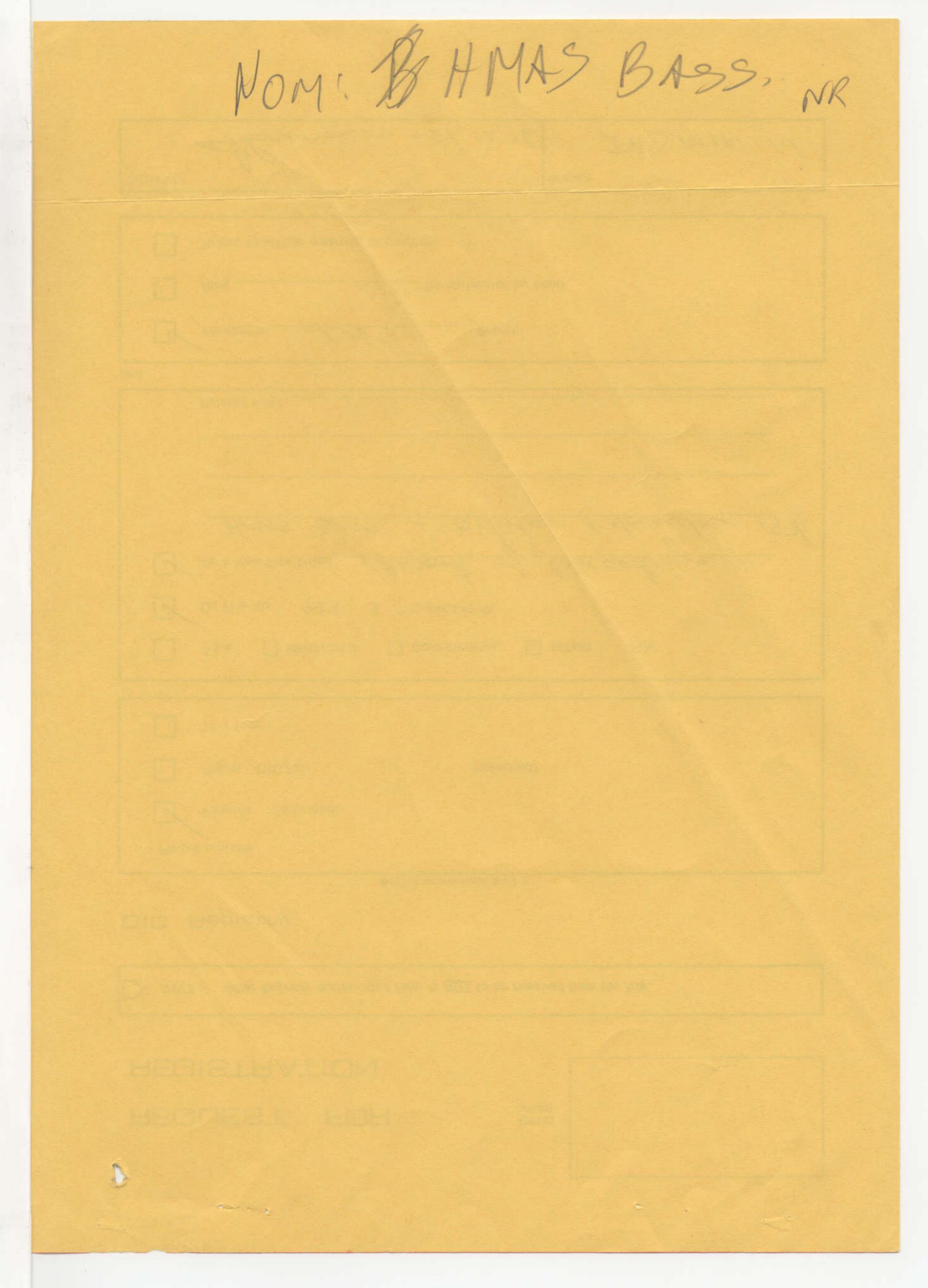
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Tele: 200141 Ref: 18-2-9

> Naval Staff Office, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART 7002.

31st December, 1976

The Chief of Naval Staff,

Department of Defence (Navy Office),

Russell Offices,

CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

For Information

The Director of Naval Reserves and Cadets, Department of Defence (Navy Office), CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

REPORT OF MOVEMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1976

References RI Appendix 29 Paragraph 13

1. <u>Date</u> <u>Activity</u> <u>Area</u>

11-12 DEC RANR Training Storm Bay

(J. St. B. More)
Commander RAN
Naval Officer-in-Charge
Tasmania

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Wele: 200141 Hef: 18-2-9 Mayal Staff Office, Anglesea Barracks, HOBART 7002,

31st December, 1976

The Chief of Haval Staff,
Department of Defence (Havy Office),
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The Director of Maval Reserves and Cadets, Department of Defence (Ravy Office), CANEERRA A.C.T. 2600;

PEPORT OF MOVIMENTS OF HMAS BASS FOR THE MORTH
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