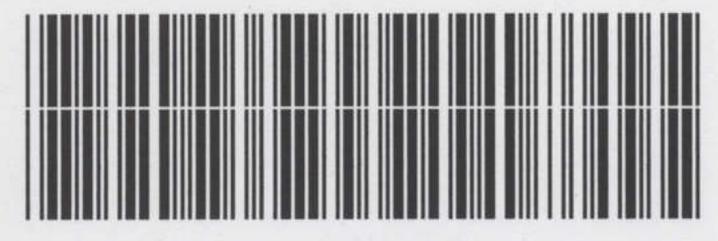
#### AWM78

### Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

#### **HMAS CURLEW**

Item number: 96/9

Title: January-December 1976



AWM78-96/9

AWM 78

[REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS] HMAS CURLEW 1976

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL ACCESS STATUS OPEN

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#### RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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FILE: 428/3/1374

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS GURLEW	Report of	Proceeding	BJANUARY	46
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26025/2/1/2

#### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY





Talephone: 359 9111

Extension 3532

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS.
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

A.F.

1/16/24

11 6 FEB 1976

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JANUARY, 1976

Forwarded.

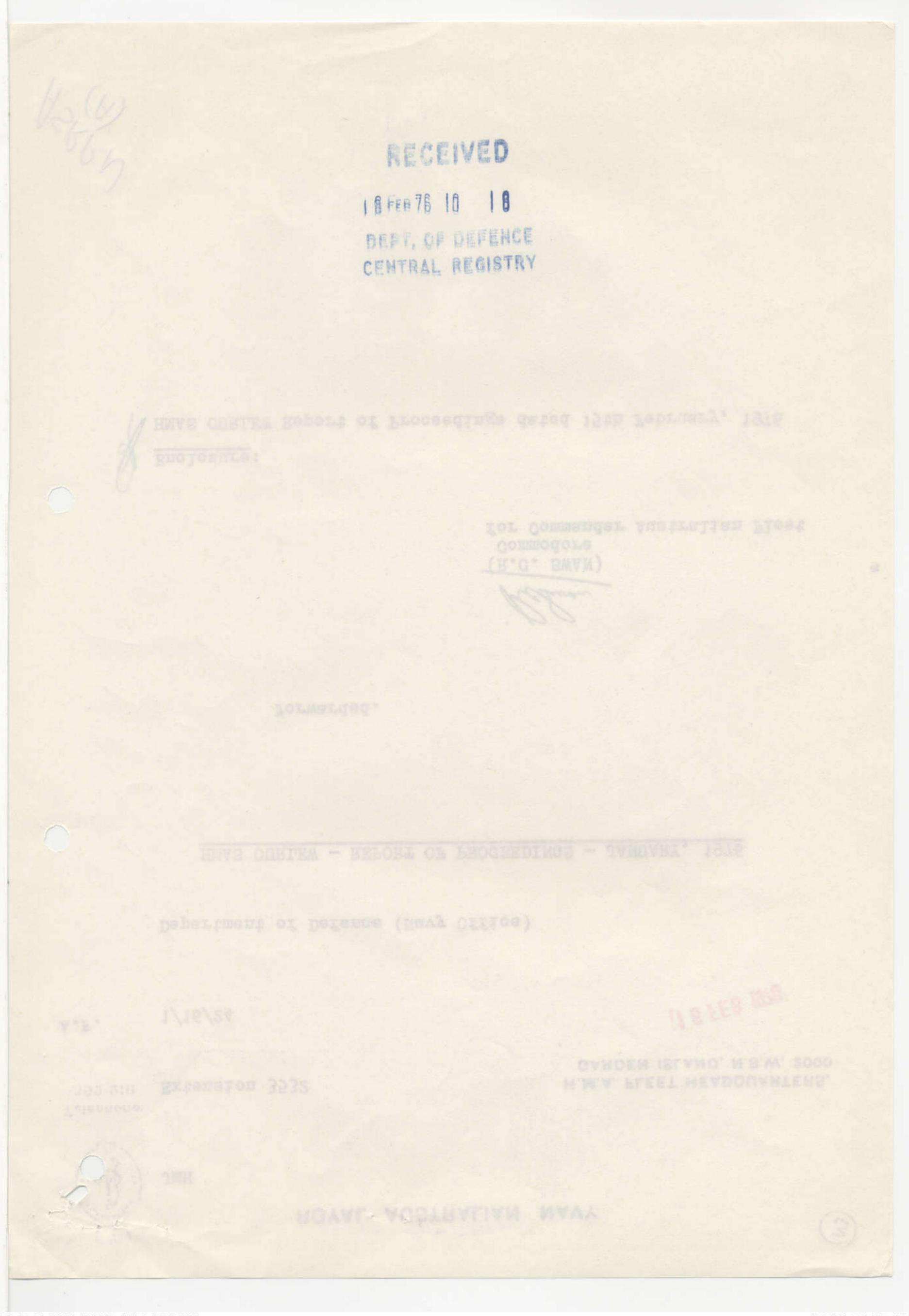
(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings dated 15th February, 1976

1/2. (b)



HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

The Flag Officer Commanding HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

5 FEB 1970

#### For Information:

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and
Patrol oat Forces
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander
First Australian Mine Countermeasures
Squadron
HMAS IBIS

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1ST JANUARY, 1976 - 31ST JANUARY, 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HM/S CURLEW under my command for the period 1st 31st January, 1976. Times are zone Lima (-11).
- 2. On the 1st January 1976 CURLEW was alongside the South East cruiser wharf and remained there during the period reported.
- 3. CURLEW's refit is progressing well and the completion date of 15th April remains unchanged. The ship continues to enjoy excellent dockyard/ship relations and no major refit problems have arisen.
- During the month, CURLEW took the opportunity to finalise outstanding leave prior to commencing pre work-up training in February/March.
- 5. LEUT SDEX MCD P.G. HERMANS, RAN joined from SD Course and sea training with the Royal Navy.
- 6. The general Health, welfare and morale of the ship's company are good.

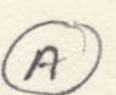
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(E.V. LINTON BEM)
LIEUTEN/NT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER





#### APPENDIX ONE

Miles steamed during the month - NIL

Miles steamed since commissioning - 214909.9

Hours underway during the month - NIL

Hours underway since commissioning - 12256 hrs. 35 mins.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

FEBRUARY 1976

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\text{CNS 27/4} \\
\text{CNS 27/4}

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DGSUP-IN MY 615/76

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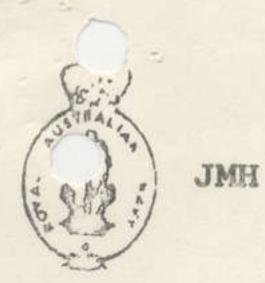
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26029/1/2



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Telephone: 359-9111

Extension 3175

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS.
GARDEN ISLAND. H.S.W. 2000

AF.

1/16/24

2 3 MAR 1976

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - FEBRUARY 1976

Forwarded.

(R.C. SWAN)

Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

#### Enclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 4th March 1976

1/16/1

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

4th March 1976

The Flag Officer Commanding, HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

#### For Information:

The Commander, Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces, HMAS WATERHEN

The Commandor, 1st Australian Lline Countermeasures Squadron

#### HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1st FEBRUARY 1976 - 29th FEBRUARY 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my Command for the period 1st 29th February 1976.
- 2. From 1st February until 10th February, CURLEW lay alongside the SE Cruiser wharf. At 0856 on 10th she was moved to the northern end of the Fitting Out wharf.
- A refit progress meeting was held onboard on 9th February. At this meeting it was generally agreed by the Ship's, Base and Dockyard Staffs, that the refit as progressing well. Two items remain critical path problems, as reported by GMGID's 090635Z Feb 76; these are planned maintenance and modification to the 193 sonar and planned maintenance to the one man recompression chamber.
- 4. During the month pre work up training commenced, details of which are shown in Appendix 2.
- The general health, welfare and morale of the ship's company are good.

I have the honour to be Sir

Your obedient Servant,

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

APPENDIK ONE

Miles steamed during the month

Miles steamed since commissioning

Hours underway during the month

Hours underway since commissioning

NIL

214909.5

NIL

12256 hrs 35 mins

APPENDIX TWO

#### PRE- CORK UP TRAINING

Monday 9th - Wednesday 12th February

Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th February

Wednesday 25th - Thursday 26th February

Diving

Damage Control &

Fire Fighting

Demolitions

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

MARCH 1976

HMAS CURLEW REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

ASRD-NO CURLEN remained in refit hroughout the month.

DOMO CURLEN remained in refit hroughout the month.

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DOMO CURLEN remained in refit hroughout the month.

LIU

CHAT STANDARD

DGSUP-NO CURLEN REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

ASRD-NO CURLEN remained in refit hroughout the month.

LIU

PRIOR CORLEN REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

ASRD-NO CURLEN remained in refit hroughout the month.

LIU

PRIOR CORLEN REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

ASRD-NO CURLEN remained in refit hroughout the month.

LIU

PRIOR CORLEN REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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263/5/1/0



JMH

#### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

# RESTRICTED

Telephone Extension 3175

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS.

1 5 APR 1978

A.F. 1/16/24

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1976

Forwarded.

(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 2nd April 1976

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1/16/1

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

The Flag Officer Commanding, HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

0 2 APR 1976

#### For Information:

The Commander,
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces,
HMAS WATERHEN

GUILLE COMMANDING OF THE COMMA

The Commander, First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron

#### HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1st MARCH 1976 - 31st MARCH 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1st 31st March 1976.
- 2. CURLEW has remained alongside the northern end of the litting Out Wharf during this period continuing her 1975 76 refit programme.
- March concluded satisfactorily with no further foreseeable problems. Subsequently, however, difficulties have been experienced with the port activated rudder which is the subject of COMAUSMINPABFOR message DAW 240130Z Mar 76. It is not envisaged that this new defect will affect the completion date.
- On the 23rd March a meeting attended by RANTAU Staff, Dockyard personnel, WATERHEN Base Staff and CURLEW Officers, was held at HMAS WATERHEN. The purpose of this meeting was twofold:
  - a. To brief all personnel connected with the refit on the current situation as regards

.../2

- 2 -

4a.(cont) completion dates, work already completed and work yet to be completed with particular regard to areas of responsibility.

and b. To formulate a trials programme to be promulgated and run by RANTAU that would be acceptable to all.

- It was generally agreed that a refit completion date of 30th April was a realistic estimate and this has since been promulgated vide GMGID message DUT/DKF/DWT 260655Z Mar 76. This date was selected in the light of the current industrial dispute involving P's and D's and it's affect on nearly all major refit jobs currently in progress, particularly the modification to the 193 sonar. Subject to the industrial situation, post-refit trials will commence on the 10th May 1976.
- 6. Pre-workup training has continued during the month and all requirements will be fulfilled by the 10th April 1976 (See Appendix 2)
- 7. Ship's company involvement in sport and more recently in sponsoring a Miss Australia Quest entrant who is the daughter of one of CURLEW's Leading Hands, has maintained the 'Hunter' team spirit which will be appreciated even more when the ship becomes operational. The general health, welfare and morale of the ship's company are good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Miles steamed during the month

Miles steamed since commissioning

Hours underway during the month

Hours underway since commissioning

APPENDIX ONE

NIL

214909.5

NIL

12256hrs 35mins

APPENDIX TO

#### PRE-WORK UP TRAINING

Tuesday 9th - Wednesday 10th March

Tuesday 9th - Friday 19th March

Friday 12th March

Thursday 11th March

Monday 15th - Wednesday 24th March

Tuesday 16th March

Thursday 25th - Friday 26th March

Damage control and firefighting

40/60 maintenance

First-aid

Recognition

MCMV Gunnery and explosives

Sonar

Standard Naval Rifle Course

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### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

APRIL 1976.

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X83/6/1/0

# CMR

#### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Telephone: 359-9111 Extension 3175

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

2 6 MAY 1976

A.F. 1/16/24

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - 1ST APRIL 1976

TO 30TH APRIL 1976

Forwarded.

(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report 1/16/1 undated

1/16/1

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

The Flag Officer Commanding, HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

#### For Information:

The Commander,
Australian Mine Warfare
and Patrol Forces
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander, First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron, HMAS IBIS

#### HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1st APRIL 1976 - 30th APRIL 1976



Sir,

- I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1st April 30th April 1976.
- 2. CURLEW has been berthed at the Northern end of the Fitting Out Wharf during the period reported, continuing her refit programme.
- A refit progress meeting held onboard, 5th April, showed that the refit is progressing satisfactorily within the restrictions imposed by the P and D dispute. Items affected by the dispute include the Minesweeping Winch, Port Activated Rudder, 40/60 Mounting, Plotting Table, Anchors and Cables and Engine Room lagging. It was generally agreed at the time that a realistic completion date would be 21 days after the return to work of P and D's. This was confirmed by GMID's message 280631Z APR 76, giving a completion date of 25th May, following the return to work on 30th April.
- 4. Twelve members of CURLEW's Ship's company played for the AUSMINRON team in the Mons Cup Rugby competition. Being underdogs, the team shook the Navy Rugby world by defeating HMAS PENGUIN in the first round and worrying HMAS ALBATROSS in what was said to be the hardest game seen by many in a long time.

.../2

- Miss Australia Quest is causing some excitement in many circles. Already the forth-coming Underwater Walkathon has produced promises of sponsorship by two business houses. The News Media is beginning to give coverage through Navy Public Relations. A good example is the front page photograph in the Sydney Morning Herald of 30th April.
- The Feelth, Welfare and Morale of the Ship's Company is very high, despite the set backs in the refit. One contributing factor is CURLEW's involvement in abovementioned Quest.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Annex A: Steaming Annex.

Annex A to HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings dated

#### STEAMING FIGURES

Miles steamed during the month.

NIL

Miles steamed since commissioning.

214909.5

Hours underway during the month

NIL

Hours underway since commissioning

12256 hrs 35 mins.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

may 76

HMAS	burlew	REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS	3
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# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Telephone: 359 9111

A.F. 1/16/24

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

1 JUL 1976

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MAY 1976

Forwarded.

(R. C. SWAN)

Kesswan\_

Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure: HMAS CURLEW Report 1/16/1 dated 3rd June 1976

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1/16/1

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

- 3 JUN 1976

The Flag Officer Commanding HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

#### For Information:

The Commander, Australian Mine Carfare and Patrol Boat Forces HMAS WATERFEN

The Commander, First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron HMAS IBIS

#### HMAS CURLEN - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1ST MAY, 1976 - 31ST MAY, 1976

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLE. under my command for the period 1st May, - 31st May, 1976.

- From the 1st to the 28th May, CURLEW was berthed at the Northern end of the Fitting Out Wharf. At 1330 on the 28th May, she was cold moved to the cruiser wharf outboard of HMAS KIMBLA and remained there for the rest of the period reported.
- Industrial disputes have continued to delay the refit and the 28th June, has been forecast, vide General Manager, Garden Island Dockyard's DUT/DKF 280112Z May, 76, as the refit completion date.
- On the 24th May, LEUT SLEX P.P. KRUTSKY, RAN joined CURLEN and on the 26th May, he assumed the duties of Executive Officer. He relieves LEUT SLEX R. CASON, RAN who left on the 31st May, to take up his new appointment as ADC to the Governor General.

.../2

- 2 -

Officers, the Charge ERA and Chief Boatswain's Mate took the opportunity to observe an MCMV running and were embarked in HMAS IBIS for navigation, garnery and minesweeping evolutions gaining valuable practical experience.

Guarda Curtain Successfully with the amount raised for the N.S.W. Spastic Centre now exceeding \$2,000. One notable event in the month was the Underwater Calkathon which was most successful for the Quest and the Ship's morale. A submission has been made to the Guinness Book of Records for inclusion of the result as a first.

7. The health, welfare and morale of the Ship's Company are good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

ANNEX 'A' - Steaming Annex.

ANNEX 'A' TO
HMAS CURLEN
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
DATED:

#### STEAMING FIGURES

Miles	Steamed During The Month	-	Nil
Miles	Steamed Since Commissioning	-	214909.5
Hours	underway during the month	-	Nil
Hours	underway since commissioning	_	12256 Hrs 35 Mina

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

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# RESTRICTED ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Telephone:

359 9111 Extension 3175

AF

1/16/24

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

1 6 JUL 1976

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JUNE 1976

Forwarded.

(R. C. SWAN)

Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure: HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 1 Jul 1976

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1/16/1

### RESTRICIED

HMAS CURLEW at Garden Island

The Flag Officer Commanding HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

1 Jul 1976

For Information:

The Commander Australian Minewarfare and Patrol Forces

The Commander First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron



#### HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1 JUN 1976 TO 30 JUN 1976

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1 Jun - 30 Jun 1976.

- 2. CURLEW has had various berths throughout the period; from the 1st Jun to 1430 on the 3rd alongside HMAS KIMBLA at the Cruiser Wharf; from 1500 3rd until 1100 on the 10th are the Oil Wharf; from 1130 the 10th until 0800 on the 15th alongside HMAS PARRAMATTA at the Fitting Out Wharf; from 0830 on the 15th until 1000 on the 16th alongside HMAS PERTH at the Cruiser Wharf; from 1030 on the 16th until 1115 on the 28th at the Oil Wharf and finally, from 1200 the 28th until the end of the period reported on, at the East Return Wall of Captain Cook Dock. All moves between berths were cold.
- 3. The majority of work taken on for the refit is now completed with testing and Harbour Acceptance Trials progressing satisfactorily. It is considered that, barring any further industrial problems, the completion date of July 16 will be met comfortably.
- 4. At the request of the OIC AUSCDT ONE, Curlew's Diving Officer and two Clearance Divers were detached to Jervis Bay on June 23rd to assist TSAWRE in Barra Motion Trials. These were completed on June 24th with considerable success, largely due to the Divers' efforts.
- 5. It has been most pleasing to note that the relationship between Dockyard Workers and the Ship's Company has remained very good during a period of industrial turbulence. The efforts of LCDR R Winter RAN, the Project Planner and Mr Frank Miller the Project Supervisor have been largely responsible for CURLEW receiving an excellent refit.

.../2

- 6. CURLEW's involvement with the Miss Australia Quest continues favourably with the Ship's Company looking forward to a proposed Harbour Cruise for all NSW Finalists.
- 7. The health, welfare and morale of the Ship's Company remain very high and all look forward to an early return to sea.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient Servant

( E W LINTON )
Lieutenant RAN
Commanding Officer

ANNEX 'A' : Steaming Annex.

ANNEX 'A' TO
HMAS CURLEW'S
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
DATED 1 JUL 1976

### RESTRICTED

#### STEAMING FIGURES

Miles steamed during the month
Miles steamed since commissioning
Hours underway during the month
Hours underway since commissioning

Nil 214909.5 Nil

12256 hrs 35

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#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS CURLEW REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS JULY 176 DON'S Receiola commenced running again on DON'S Lee 10/4 on completion of her refit

DGSUP-N 2111
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- NOTES: A. This copy is circulated so that Heads of Division may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
  - B. The report will be given again to Heads of Division 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 Section.
  - D. If any matter requires comprehensive treatment or reference to another Branch a new file should be raised, a suitable note being made above.



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HOYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

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Talephona:

Extension 3175

GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000 SEP 1976

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1/16/24

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - JULY 1976

Forwarded.

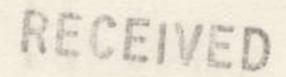
(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure:

1

HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 4th August, 1976



8 SEP 76 10 45 DEPT. OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY 1/16/1

### RESTRICTED

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

- 4 AUG 1976

The Flag Officer Commanding HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

#### For Information:

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare
and Patrol Boat Forces
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron HMAS IBIS

# HMAS CURLEW REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1ST JULY, 1976 - 31ST JULY, 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1st July, 1976 to 31st July, 1976.
- 2. At the beginning of the month CURLEW was alongside the East Retaining Wall at Garden Island with the end of a prolonged refit in sight.
- 3. On the 19th July, CURLEW shifted berth to West Dock Wall and at 0956 on 20th July, proceeded to HMAS WATERHEN under her own power, berthing at No. 1. berth on the minesweeper wharf.
- At 0907 on Thursday 22nd July, CURLEW cast off from the minesweeper wharf, HMAS WATERHEN, and proceeded to No. 2. buoy, to commence ammunitioning. This evolution was completed at 1400 and at 1630 CURLEW slipped from the buoy and proceeded to sea to commence her programmed shakedown.
- Personnel from Garden Island Dockyard and RANTAU were embarked at Watson's Bay on the morning of the 23rd July, 1976. They remained onboard during a day of Sea Acceptance Trials. CURLEW returned to Watson's Bay, anchoring at 1515 to disembark trials personnel and to await delivery of diving equipment from HMAS WATERHEN.



- 2 -

- On receipt of the equipment, at 1710, CURLEW weighed and proceeded to the Jervis Bay area to carry out sweep calibrations. A major NBCDX was successfully carried out en route. This exercise lasted for one hour and involved all members of the ship's company in fire and flood drills.
- 7. Sweep calibration commenced at 0800 on 24th July, and at 1400 attempts discontinued. CURLEW then proceeded into Jervis Bay anchoring at 1436 in E1 anchorage to prepare for minehunting equipment trials.
- 8. Mr. J. LOVEGREEN from Garden Island Dockyard Weapons Section was embarked at the anchorage to carry out trials on the 193 sonar. He remained onboard until Tuesday 27th July, observing whilst minehunting operations were in progress and making adjustments as required. On completion of Sea Acceptance Trials the 193 sonar was operating satisfactorily.
- 9. CURLEW weighed anchor at 0800 on Sunday 25th July, remaining in Jervis Bay for minehunting operations. On completion, a course was set for E1 anchorage at Jervis Bay where the ship anchored at 1700 and remained overnight. Monday 26th was similarly employed. CURL W again anchored in E1 anchorage on completion.
- 10. The forenoon of Tuesday 27th July, was devoted to Engine Room Emergency Drills in area F1. Recurring failures were experienced within the port steering system and a decision was made to proceed to an anchorage in Jervis Bay in the vicinity of the dummy mine dropped on Sunday, recover the mine and use the anchorage time to effect repairs to the steering. Accordingly, CURLEW anchored at 1306 in the centre of the bay. The necessary repairs were found to be more time consuming than had been anticipated, and as a result CURLEW remained in this anchorage overnight.
- 11. The dummy mine was recovered at 0800 Wednesday 28th and CURLEW then proceeded to the jetty at HMLS CRESWELL, coming alongside at 0850, port side to. After taking on fuel and water, CURLEW cast off at 1130 and proceeded to the Bay to carry out ship handling and man overboard exercises. These manoeuvres finished at 1630 and at 1707, CURLEW secured alongside HMLS SNIPE in H1 anchorage.

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- 3 -

12. It 2244 lines were cast off and courses and speeds set to berth at No. 3 berth, HILS WATERHEN at 0828 on Thursday 29th July, 1976. CURLEW has remained in this berth until the end of the period.

13. The general health, welfare and morale of the ship's company is good.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Annex A - Steaming Figures.

B - List of Exercises

INNEX '..' TO
HM\_S CURLEW'S
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
DATED:

- 4 AUG 1976

#### STEAMING FIGURES

Miles steamed during the month: 537.6

Miles steamed since commissioning: 207,306.2

Hours underway during the month: 74 hrs. 38 mins.

Hours underway since commissioning: 19,464 hrs. 58 mins.

ANNEX 'B' TO

HMAS CURLEW'S

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

DATED:

- 4 AUG 1976

#### List of EXERCISES

#### Navigation

28TH July 1976 24,25,26,27TH July 1976 25TH July 1976 23,24,26,28TH July 1976 O.O.W. Shiphandling Anchorages.

Exercised blind pilotage team.

Exercised: Steering gear breakdown

Man Overboard

Emergency Stations

Action Stations

Leaving Ship Stations.

#### Engineering 27TH Jaly \*976

Engineering emergency drills

Exercised: Flooding in generator
Room.

Oil Pressure Failure Main
Engines.

Hydraulic Control Failure
Main Engines.

Funnel Fire.
Lock Propellar Shaft.

#### MCM AND DIVING

25TH and 28TH July 1976

Mine Hunting Exercises

File Number

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1730

# DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

Security Classification

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H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS. GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

SEP 1976

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - AUGUST, 1976

Forwarded.

(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

Penclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/69 dated 1st September, 1976

RECEIVED

DEPT. OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY

TO AS OUTDEW Report of Proceedings 1/19/69 dated lat Department

(B.C. SWAN)
Commodore

HAAS CUREEN - REPORT OF PRODUCTIONS - AUSTON 1976

Department of Defence (Mavy Office)

1/16/24

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1/16/69

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HMAS CURLEW at Sea

The Flag Officer Commanding HM Australian Fleet

1 Sep 1976

For Information:

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Boat Forces
HMAS WATERHER

The Commander
First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron
HMAS IBIS

# HMAS CURLEW-REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1 AUGUST TO 31 AUGUST 197 6

References: A. COMAUSMIN PABFOR Exercise Operation Order 6/76

B. HMAS CURLEW KLG 250019Z Aug 76

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1 August to 31 August 1976.
- 2. At the beginning of the month CUTLEW was alongside HMAS SNIPE in No 3 berth HMAS WATERHEN.

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#### RESTRICTED

- 3. On Monday 2nd August at 072, CURLEW proceeded to the de-gaussing range, Sydney Harbour, to commence de-gaussing. Operations on the North-South and East-West ranges continued until the afternoon of Wednesday 4th August, CURLEW berthing at WATERHEN each night. RANTAU assessed CURLEW's ranging as successful, laying good ground-work for the projected degaussing in November of this year.
- 4. CURLEW proceeded to No 7 buoy on the morning of Monday 9th August and at 0914 commenced a Magnetic Compass swing. This was completed in good time and at 1337 CURLEW slipped from the buoy and proceeded to sea for Sea Acceptance Trials on the 40/60 Mk 7 mounting. However, a generator failure forced the ship to return to WATERHEN for base assistance and spares in order to effect repairs. The ship berthed at No 1 berth at 1649 and remained overnight.
- 5. While proceeding to sea for work-up the following morning, a steering gear failure on the starboard steering system forced CURLEW to return to WATERHED for repair parts. Repairs were completed by mid-afternoon and at 1631 CURLEW cast off and proceeded to Jervis Bay where she anchored on arrival at 0419 Wednesday 11th August 1976.
- 6. Wednesday and Thursday the 11th were devoted to mine-hunting procedures and the ship was anchored in the bay each night. Lieutenant SDEX P L Chapman RAN was embarked on Friday morning to observe CURLEW's gunnery exercises planned for that afternoon, and CURLEW proceeded to area R 487 for firing exercises. A Surface firing and a sleeve firing was successfully carried out and on completion CURLEW returned to WATERHEN berthing at No 1 berth, remaining there over the week-end.

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- 7. Work-up continued during the week commencing 16th August, steaming in company with HMAS SNIPE. Sweep calibrations and various exercises were carried out. A further surface and sleeve firing took place on the afternoon of Monday 16th August in area R 487. CURLEW and SNIPE steamed in company overnight and entered Jervis Bay at 0645 on Tuesday 17th August for minehunting operations. On completion of minehunting, both vessels anchored in Jervis Bay for several hours before weighing and proceeding to Sydney at 2330 Tuesday 17th. CURLEW berthed outboard of HMAS SNIPE in No 3 berth WATERHEN at 0957 Wednesday 18th.
- 8. At 0655 on Thursday 19th August, COMAUSMIN PABFOR, Commander G Halley GLEX RAN and his team of observers were embarked for CURLEW's Operational Readiness Evaluation. Exercises were carried out on Thursday and Friday in accordance with reference A. CURLEW returned to WATERHEN on Thursday and Friday nights, berthing at 1914 on Friday evening \*\*t in No 2 berth for AMP.
- 9. The ship remained in this berth until Thursday 26th August making preparations for the Queensland deployment and at 1500 Thursday sailed in accordance with reference B., HMAS SNIPE in company.
- 10. After an uneventful passage both ships berthed at Gladstone, at 1115 on the 29th August. The stop-over was for fuel and water only and at 1655 lines were cast off and both ships proceeded North for Shoalwater Bay.
- 11. On anchoring in Shoalwater Bay at 0800 on Monday 30th, preparations began for the Pilot Survey. This commenced at 0800 on the 31st and on completion of the first day's surveying, CURLEW anchore at 1715 in the vicinity of Bay Island, remaining there until the end of the month.

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#### RESTRICTED

12. The general health, welfare and morale of the Ship's Company is good.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient Servant

( E W LINTON

Lieutenant RAN

Commanding Officer

Annexes: A. Steaming Annex

B. Exercise Annex

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ANNEX A TO HMAS
CURLEW'S REPORT
OF PROCEEDINGS
DATED 1 SEP 1976

#### STEAMING ANNEX

Distance steamed during August 1670.
 Hours underway during August 190
 Total distance steamed since first commissioning 208,976.4
 Hours underway since first commissioning 19654 hrs 58 mins

#### RESTRICTED

ANNEX B TO HMAS
CURLEW'S REPORT
OF PROCEEDINGS
DATED 1 SEP 1976

#### EXERCISES CONDUCTED

#### DATE

### GUNNERY

Friday 13th August
Monday 16th August
Thursday 19th August

#### NAVIGATION

Monday 9th August
Monday 16th August
Thursday 19th August
Friday Oth August

#### MCM

Thursday 10th August
Monday 16th August
Tuesday 17th August
Friday 20th August

#### NBCD

Thursday 19th August

#### EXERCISE

SUCRFX, AATX, AAFX
AATX, AAFX, SUCRFX
SUCRFX, Small Arms Shoot(AR's)

Magnetic Compass Swing
Blind Pilotage Exercise
Blind Pilotage Exercise
Blind Pilotage Exercise
Blind Pilotage Exercise

Minehunting and Conning Runs
Sweep Calibrations
Minehunting and Conning Runs
Minehunting and Conning Runs

Fire in HMAS SNIPE. Emergency
Party Detached in Gemini.
Flood in Tiller Flat
Fire in Galley
Movement of Injured Personell
Fire in Generator Room

#### RESTRICTED

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DATE

#### SEAMANSHIP AND GENERAL

Thursday 19th August

#### EXERCISE

Passed Tow and Towed HMAS SMIPE
Took Target Tow From HMAS BOMBARD
Steering Gear Breakdown (3)
Action Stations
Emergency Stations
Man Overboard - Swimmer and
Gemini Recovery

#### OOW MANOEVRES

Monday 16th August Tuesday 17th August Friday 20th August



JMH

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

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Telaphone:

359 9111

Extension 3138

1/16/24

GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - SEPTEMBER, 1976

Forwarded.

(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

#### Enclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 7th October, 1976

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

The Flag Officer Commanding MM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

07 OCT 1976

#### For Information:

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare
and Patrol Boat Forces
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander
First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron
HMAS IBIS

The Commanding Officer HMAS SNIPE

# HMAS CURLEW REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1976 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1976

Reference: A. RANRL Letter NS21/2/26 HMCF: mg of 24th August, 1976.

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1st September, 1976 to 31st September, 1976.
- At the beginning of the month, CURLEW was in Shoalwater Bay progressing the Pilot Survey in preparation for Exercise Kangaroo II. CURLEW, with HMAS SNIPE in company, remained in this area until the 2nd September, 1976, anchoring each night in the vicinity of Bay Island.
- On the 2nd September, 1976 preparations were made for the programmed firing of the Mine Disposal Weapon, and at 0910 CURLEW anchored in the vicinity of the firing area. The Ship's gemini placed the weapon in the designated position at 1104 but due to failure of the timing mechanism, the bomb did not detonate. Another timing mechanism was placed on the bomb at 1230 together with a countermining charge of plastic explosive, timed to detonate in the event of a second timing device failure. This in fact was the case and at 1255 the bomb was detonated by the secondary method.

- 4. On completion, CURLEW with SNIPE in company proceeded directly to an anchorage off Mackay in the lee of Flat Top Island. Both ships anchored at 2120 on the 2nd September, 1976 and remained overnight.
- 5. On the morning of 3rd September, 1976 both ships weighed anchor and proceeded to Mackay Outer Harbour, berthing at South Pier at 0830. CURLEW berthed outboard of SNIPE and remained in this berth over the week-end.
- An official cocktail party was held on the forecastle of CURLEW on the evening of 3rd September, 1976 and was attended by The Mayor of Mackay, MR. A. ABBOTT, President of the Pioneer Shire Council, MR. J. YOUNG and various other local dignitaries.
- 7. On Saturday 4th September, 1976 Officers from both ships were guests at a Civic Reception hosted by the City of Mackay and Pioneer Shire Councils. This was held in the reception lounge at the Whitsunday Hotel. It soon became apparent that the people of Mackay are well disposed towards the RAN and hold her Officers and men in high esteem.
- 8. CURLEW and SNIPE cast off and proceeded to sea at 0930 on Monday 6th September, 1976. The destination for both ships was Moreton Bay but at 1241 on Tuesday 7th September, 1976 SNIPE was detached to Gladstone after learning of the death of one of her ship's company in Mackay. CURLEW carried on to Moreton Bay and anchored in the vicinity of the main channel at 0745 Wednesday 8th September, 1976.
- 9. At 0837 Thursday 9th September, 1976 CURLEW weighed and proceeded up the Brisbane River berthing at Eagle St. Wharf at 1038. The ship remained in this berth over the week-end, SNIPE joining from Mackay on Sunday 12th September, 1976 and berthing alongside.
- 10. The Pilot Survey of Moreton Bay commenced on Monday 13th September, 1976 with SNIPE detaching to the North West Channel and CURLEW to the North East Channel in accordance with instructions at reference A. Despite problems encountered with CURLEW's plotting table, the survey was completed on Friday 17th September, 1976 and CURLEW then proceeded up the Brisbane River to berth on SNIPE at HMAS MORETON at 1145. CURLEW remained in this berth over the week-end.
- 11. At 0900 on Monday 20th September, 1976 CURLEW with SNIPE in company transitted the Brisbane River bound for Sydney. SNIPE was detached at 1020 and proceeded ahead. The passage south was affected in the later stages by a cold front which came up very quickly from the south. The storm caused some concern and it was decided to enter Sydney Harbour and berth as soon as possible rather than steam overnight as had been the intention. Accordingly, CURLEW berthed on SNIPE in No. 3. berth HMAS WATERHEN at 2240 on Tuesday 21st September, 1976.

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- 12. The ship has remained in this berth until 30th September, 1976 undergoing preparations for Admiral's Inspection and finally the actual inspection on the 30th September, 1976.
- 13. The general health, welfare and morale of the ship's company are good.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Annex 'A' - Steaming Annex.

'B' - Exercises Conducted.

ANNEX 'A' TO
HMAS CURLEW
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1/16/1
DATED:

#### STEAMING ANNEX

- 1. Distance steamed during September, 1976: 1290.1
- 2. Hours underway during September, 1976: 144 hrs.
- 3. Total distance steamed since first commissioning: 210,266.5
- 4. Hours underway since first Commissioning: 19798 hrs. 58 mins.

ANNEX 'B' TO
HMAS CURLEW
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1/16/1
DATED:

#### EXERCISES CONDUCTED

DATE

EXERCISE

Gunnery

Monday 20 SEP 76

Small arms shoot, 7.62 L1A1, 9mm Pistol.

Navigation

Thursday 09 SEP 76

Monday 13 SEP 76

Friday 17 SEP 76

Monday 20 SEP 76

Friday 17 SEP 76

Monday 20 SEP 76

Blind Pilotage Exercises during Brisbane River Transits.

00W Pilotage in and out of Brisbane River.

MCM

Wednesday 01 SEP 76

Mine hunting and conning runs.

Thursday 02 SEP 76

Detonated Mine Disposal Weapon.

Monday 13 SEP 76

to

Friday 17 SEP 76

Mine hunting and Conning runs. Fast Route Surveys. All carried out in

Moreton Bay.

Monday 06 SEP 76

Minesweeping Exercise

Seamanship and General

Tuesday 07 SEP 76

Emergency Stations, Action Stations,

Steering Gear Breakdowns, Man overboard

exercises.

Wednesday 08 SEP 76

Man overboard Exercises.

00W Manoeuvres

Tuesday 07 SEP 76

# RESIMILIEU ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY



Talashona: 359-0111

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Extension 3139

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

2 2 NOV 1976

1/16/24

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - OCTOBER 1976

Forwarded.

(R.C. SWAN) Commodore

Wichman.

for Commander Australian Fleet

Enclosure:

HMAS CURLEW Report 1/16/1 dated 4th November 1976

1/16/1

### RESTRICTED

HMAS CURLEW at SEA

The Flag Officer Commanding HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

0 4 NOV 1976

#### For Information:

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare and
Patrol Boat Forces
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander
First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron
HMAS IBIS



# HMAS CURLEW REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 1ST OCTOBER, 1976 TO 31ST OCTOBER, 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1st October, 1976 to 31st October, 1976.
- At the beginning of the month CURLEW occupied berth No. 3 at HMAS WATERHEN outboard of HMAS SNIPE. The ship remained in this berth until 4th October when 39 personnel comprising N.S.W. finalists in the Miss Australia Quest and their Chaperones were embarked. CURLEW cast off and proceeded at 1145 remaining inside Sydney Harbour for the most part but with a short trip to Ben Buckler and back for some 'sea time'. The day was most successful and paved the way for several members of the ship's company to escort finalists at the Miss N.S.W. Quest Ball. At 1525 CURLEW returned to WATERHEN, berthing in No. 2 berth.
- The period 5-8 October was scheduled as a minor MCMX in the Jervis Bay area. CURLEW cast off at 0750 on Tuesday 5th October and proceeded to the vicinity of Garden Island where several dockyard personnel were embarked to carry out tests on the minesweeping winch. The remainder of the forenoon and half of the afternoon were spent streaming and recovering sweeps to enable the various tests to be completed. On completion the ship entered Watson's Bay anchoring to await the personnel transfer. All dockyard personnel were disembarked at 1530 and at 1540 CURLEW weighed and proceeded to Jervis Bay.

.../2

- 4. On the 6th October dan buoys were laid in Jervis Bay in preparation for the MCMX. On completion the propulsion system was changed to activated rudders and hunting was carried on until late afternoon. The mini-ranger fixing system was successfully employed during the day giving range readouts from transmitters placed ashore. Dan buoys were recovered on Wednesday evening and at 2330 on the 6th October, CURLEW departed Jervis Bay bound for Sydney to effect repairs to the 193 sonar (HMAS CURLEW DAU 060447Z OCT 76 refers). The ship berthed in No. 1 berth HMAS WATERHEN at 070830K OCT 76.
- The forenoon of Friday October 8th was employed with fueling and ammunitioning. CURLEW sailed from WATERHEN at 0840K berthing starboard side to HMAS SNIPE at Bradley's Head dolphins and commencing fueling at 0825. On completion the ship proceeded to No. 5 buoy to ammunition and from there to WATERHEN No. 1, berthing at 1115 and remaining in this berth until Tuesday 12th October.
- Exercise Kangaroo II commenced for CURLEW at 1730 on the 12th October when hands were called to action stations prior to departure from Sydney. The ship cast off and proceeded with HMAS SNIPE in company at 1800. The Commander, First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron, LCDR GLEX G.V. SLOPER, RAN together with his Staff Officer MCM, LCDR H.R. DEMAREST, USN, were embarked to remain in CURLEW for the duration of the exercise.
- The passage north was conducted during the dark hours where possible and both ships anchored during the day in an effort to avoid detection by 'the enemy'. CURLEW anchored on the 13th October at Crowdy Head and remained undetected but on the 14th October on anchoring at Cape Byron, both CURLEW and SNIPE were detected by enemy P3 Orion aircraft and so continued north eventually anchoring on the western side of Fraser Island at 0730 on the 15th October.
- Passage to Shoalwater Bay resumed at 2000 of that evening as both ships proceeded to a third anchorage to the west of Cape Capricorn in the approaches to Port Alma, anchoring at 0636 on the 16th October and remaining during the day. Then, at 1727 of the same day, anchor was weighed and the final leg to Shoalwater Bay commenced.
- 9. CURLEW rendezvoused with HMAS STALWART in her anchorage position near Collins Island, Shoalwater Bay, coming along-side for fuel, water and stores. At 0540 on the 17th October, after embarking dan buoys, CURLEW cast off from STALWART and proceeded to lay the buoys in accordance with the Exercise Operations Order. This operation lasted until mid-day on the 18th October when CURLEW stopped briefly to change to activated rudders and soft dome in preparation for hunting the channel. It was discovered that the rubber diaphragm of the soft dome was torn and after discussion with COMAUSMINRON ONE it was decided to exchange soft domes with SNIPE who was at anchor with a sonar defect.

RESTRICTED

.../2

- As a result of SNIPE's defect, CURLEW was tasked to hunt 24 hours per day from the 18th October until the 22nd October using SNIPE's navigation and minehunting teams as reliefs on a 12 hour on 12 hour off basis. On the 22nd October, minehunting operations ceased with eight of the nine mines laid, detected. Only two mines were recovered as strong spring tidal streams in the area, precluded the use of divers outside slack water periods. A maximum of four dives per day was achieved in these conditions.
- 11. At 0800K on the 22nd October, CURLEW commenced recovering buoys that had walked from their laying positions into the anchorage area. On completion the ship proceeded to fix all dan buoys for the lead in programmed to commence at 230300K October. Because of the strong currents it became necessary to re-position several of the dans that had walked and to relay dan Ø which had disappeared. This task was completed by evening and CURLEW anchored at 2124 on the 22nd October for a brief rest before the lead in.
- 12. CURLEW was under way again at 230145K October headed for point X-ray to commence the lead-in. This began at 0340, a little later than scheduled, when eight USN ships in two waves were led down the swept channel by CURLEW and SNIPE, the first ship arriving in the anchorage at 0545. Further lead-outs and lead-ins were conducted for both U.S. and Australian ships.
- 13. During the exercise the ship berthed several times on HMAS STALWART for stores and maintenance and for recreational purposes. Her presence was a true comfort to both ships and her services invaluable. Neither MCMV could have completed Kangaroo II without the technical assistance supplied by STALWART.
- On the 25th October, HMAS STALWART hosted a concert which was performed by Eric Juppe's troupe in co-operation with the Defence Department. An informal cocktail party held on the forecastle of CURLEW after the show was attended by the HONOURABLE DENIS JAMES KILLEN, M.P., Minister of State for Defence; the Commanding Officer of STALWART, CAPTAIN M.W. HUDSON, RAN; COLMANDER R. BRANDQUIST, Commanding Officer USS FRESNO; officers from US ships present, STALWART and SNIPE and members of the troupe.
- 15. After casting off from STALWART on the 25th October to commence mine recovery, CURLEW was recalled alongside and at 1755 commenced the task of searching for equipment dropped from a USN helo. This is the subject of COMAUSFLT'S KUL 270200Z OCT 76. The search continued through the 29th October without success and on the 30th, prior to commencing operations, instructions were received to suspend the search, recover dan buoys and proceed to Brisbane to await further instructions. Dan recovery was completed at 1510 and after 30 minutes of hands to bathe, courses and speeds were set to arrive at Brisbane at 010800K NOV 76.

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- At the end of the month CURLEW was on passage to Brisbane.
- 17. The health, welfare and morale of the ship's company remains good.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient Servant

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Annex: A. Steaming Annex

B. Exercises Conducted

ANNEX A TO
HMAS CURLEW'S
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1/16/1
DATED:

#### STEAMING ANNEX

- 1. Distance steamed during October, 1976: 2086.0
- 2. Hours underway during October, 1976: 337 hrs.
- 3. Total distance steamed since first commissioning: 212352.5
- 4. Hours underway since first commissioning:
  20135 hrs. 58 mins.

ANNEX B TO
HMAS CURLEW'S
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1/16/1
DATED:

#### EXERCISES CONDUCTED

DATE EXERCISE

Gunnery

Thursday 14 OCT - AA tracking Surface tracking

Friday 15 OCT - AA tracking

Navigation

Tuesday 12 OCT - OOW Blind pilotage Sydney Harbour

Saturday 23 OCT - Blind pilotage lead in of USN ships

Tuesday 26 OCT )
Wednesday 27 OCT ) - Blind pilotage required to transit
Thursday 28 OCT ) Shoalwater Bay by night.
Firday 29 OCT )

MCM

Tuesday 06 OCT - Minesweeping and winch trials

Wednesday 06 OCT - Lay and recover dan buoys - Minehunting

- Conning runs and diving

Sunday 17 OCT - Dan buoy lay - Shoalwater Bay Exercise area. Fix by HSA

Monday 18 OCT - Dan buoy lay - Shoalwater Bay Exercise area. Fix by HSA

- Minehunting

- Conning runs and diving

.../2

### General

Tuesday 12 Oct

- Action stations

Steaming in defence watches

Wednesday 13 Oct

Steaming in defence watches

Thursday 14 Oct

- Action stations

- Steaming in defence watches

- Steaming in defence watches

Friday 15 Oct until

Sunday 17 Oct

FILE: 428/3/1937

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

	HMAS	CURLEW	REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS NOVEM	BER 76
1	CNTS DGLOG	Curden returned to an AmP until 15 N + assisted in hel 13/1	Signer after krencise Kanjanoo II, end (ov, visited bellowing for Commands o recovery ops on 30 Nov. f. 11/1	

- NOTES: A. This copy is circulated so that Heads of Division may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
  - B. The report will be given again to Heads of Division with Director's comments if there is any matter of special interest in those comments.
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### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

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Telephone: 359-9111 Extension 3139

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000 3 1 DEC 1976

A.F.

1/16/24

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

## HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER, 1976

Forwarded.

The date in paragraph 10 should read 25th November.

(R.C. SWAN)

Commodore

for Commander Australian Fleet

#### Enclosure:

HEAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 1st December, 1976.

# RESTRICTED

1/16/1

HMAS CURLEW at Sea 1st December 1976

The Flag Officer Commanding, HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

#### For Information:

The Commander,
Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces,
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander, First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron, HMAS IBIS

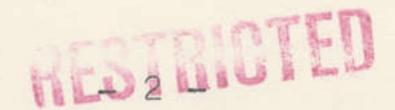
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HMAS CURLEW - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - 1st NOVEMBER 1976 to 30th NOVEMBER 1976

Sir,

- 1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMAS CURLEW under my command for the period 1st November 1976 to 30th November 1976. All times Zone L(-11).
- 2. At the beginning of the period CURLEW was at sea en route to Brisbane from Shoalwater Bay and Exercise Kangaroo II with HMAS SNIPE in company.
- 3. At this time CURLEW's future programme was unsure and it was expected that both CURLEW and SNIPE may be required to return to Shoalwater Bay for further hunting operations.
- At 0900 on 1st November CURLEW berthed bows south on HMAS BETANO at HMAS MORETON. Fuel, water and provisions were embarked and at 1000 permission was received for CURLEW and SNIPE to return to Sydney. At 1600, CURLEW with SNIPE in company cast off and proceeded down the Brisbane River in transit to Sydney.
- Enroute to Sydney and in pursuit of a timely arrival at HMAS WATERHEN, both ships anchored in Broken Bay at 0042 on 3rd November, weighing again at 0551 to proceed to Sydney.
- At 0820 on 3rd November, CURLEW berthed on SNIPE in No. 3 berth HMAS WATERHEN. CURLEW remained in this berth undergoing an assisted maintenance period until Monday 15th November, when, at 0900, the ship cast off and proceeded south to Port Phillip Bay for a scheduled Commandoex. LCDR GLEX E. M. KAVANAGH, RAN, COMAUSMINRON ONE designate, embarked on

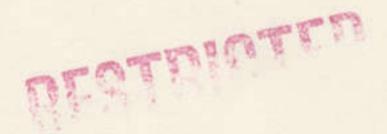
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departure for the transit to Melbourne.

- 7. A 24 hour period had been added to the normal Sydney Melbourne passage time to allow for sweep calibration, a gun functioning trial and internal exercises. Poor visibility and rising winds and seas put paid to these evolutions and at 0900 on 16th December CURLEW battened down for a rough passage to Port Phillip Bay.
- 8. The ship entered Port Phillip Bay at 1130 on 18th November and proceeded to an anchorage at the northern end of West Channel. A pre-arranged rendezvous with the Special Operations Course in the vicinity of Swan Island was set for 1600 and CURLEW weighed and proceeded accordingly. At the rendezvous position CURLEW again anchored to embark personnel and equipment and to await the commencement of the exercise at 1930. The exercise took place in the Williamstown dockyard area and was completed by 0120 on Friday 19th November.
- 9. At 0400 CURLEW again anchored off Swan Island to disembark personnel and equipment and to await a suitable sailing time. At 0604 on 19th November the ship weighed and proceeded across Port Phillip Bay and up the Yarra River to No. 15 North Wharf, berthing at 0900. The ship remained in this berth until 23rd November.
- 10. The return passage to Sydney was without incident and, assisted by a southerly swell, CURLEW made good time, berthing at 0900 on 23rd November in No. 2 berth HMAS WATERHEN to remain over the week-end.
- 11. At 0923 on Monday 29th November, CURLEW with SNIPE in company departed Sydney Harbour to carry out pilot surveys in Botany Bay, Newcastle and Port Kembla for a programmed 10 day period. Embarked in CURLEW were Mr. R.B. Jones and Mr. C. Fielding, Scientific Officers from the RAN Research laboratory.
- 12. At 1445 on 29th November whilst weighing anchor off the entrance to Botany Bay, CURLEW's starboard anchor suffered a defect rendering it unserviceable. The ship anchored in Botany Bay overnight and proceeded to HMAS WATERHEN on 30th November arriving at 0930 for replacement of the damaged anchor.
- 13. At 1245 instructions were received vide COMAUSFLT's KEB/KUA 300142Z NOV 76 to proceed to a position approximately 15 miles to seaward off Port Kembla and assist in the recovery of a sea-king helicopter. CURLEW cast off from WATERHEN at 1316 on 30th November and arrived in the area at 1730. At this time CURLEW was directed by HMAS PERTH to render assistance to and as requested by HMAS SNIPE who was attempting to take the semi-submerged helicopter in tow. Attempts continued until approximately 1930 when SNIPE reported that she had lost the tow.
- 14. CURLEW commenced a sea-bed search at 2008 using 193 sonar and being vectored around the last known position of the aircraft by HMAS PERTH.

RESTRIGTER



- 3 -

The search was terminated at 2308 on 30th November. At this time both ships were detached by PERTH and at the end of the period reported, CURLEW was on passage to Newcastle with HMAS SNIPE in company.

16. The health, welfare and morale of the ship's company are good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER

Annexes: A. Steaming Annex.

B. Exercises Conducted.



Annex A to HMAS CURLEW's Report of Proceedings dated: 1st December 1976

### STEAMING ANNEX

1.	Distance steamed during November.	1995.5
2.	Hours underway during November	172 hrs 32 mins.
3.	Total distance steamed since first commissioning.	214348 miles
4	II	ing 20308 hrs 30 mins

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Annex B to HMAS CURLEW's Report of Proceedings dated 1st December 1976

### EXERCISES CONDUCTED

Gunnery

Monday 15th November

Small arms shoot

7.62 SLR 9 mm Pistol 9 mm F1

MCM

Tuesday 16th November

Streamed starboard sweep

NAVIGATION

Monday 15th November

Wednesday 17th November

Thursday 18th November

Friday 19th November

Steering breakdown.

Steering breakdown

Blind pilotage 00W anchorages

Blind pilotage. 00W anchorages.

GENERAL

Monday 15th November

Man Overboard.

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# DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

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AF 1/16/24

31,12,76

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6,1,76
(Date)

FILE: 428/3/ 1972

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS	CURLEW	REPORT OF	PROCEEDINGS	DECEMBER	76
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## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

## RESTRICTED

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359-9111 Extension 3139

H.M.A. FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W. 2000

A.F.

1/16/24

13 JAN 1977

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

HMAS CURLEW REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - DECEMBER, 1976

Forwarded.

J.D. STEVENS)
Commodore

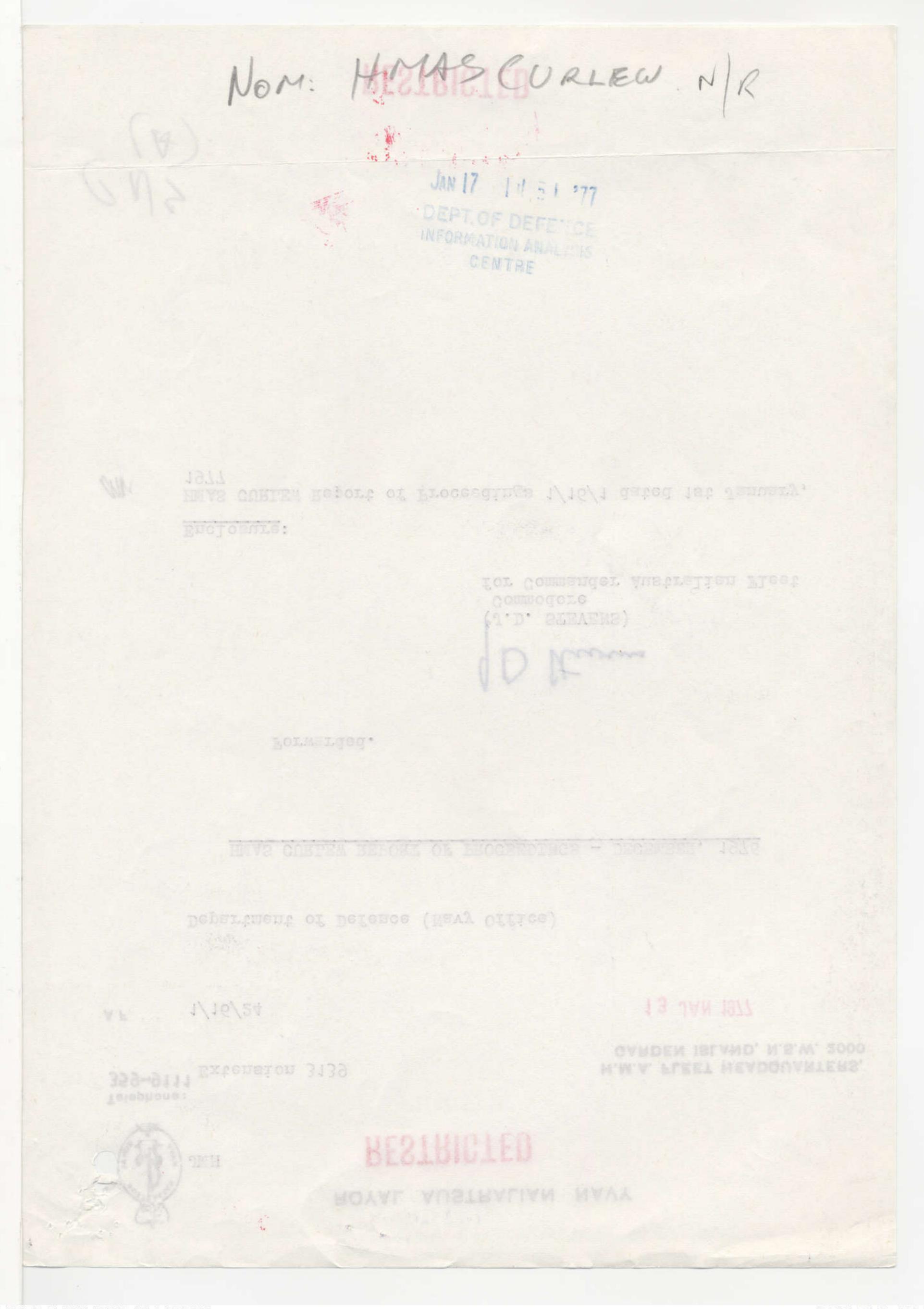
for Commander Australian Fleet

### Enclosure:

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HMAS CURLEW Report of Proceedings 1/16/1 dated 1st January, 1977

CNS (A)



RESTRICTED

HMAS CURLEW at SYDNEY

5/1 JAN 1977

The Flag Officer Commanding HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

### For Information:

The Commander
Australian Mine Warfare
and Patrol Boat Forces
HMAS WATERHEN

The Commander First Australian Mine Countermeasures Squadron HMAS IBIS

HMAS CURLEW
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1ST DECEMBER, 1976 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1976

Sir,

CURLEW under my command for the period 1st December, 1976 to 31st December, 1976. All times Zone L (-11).

- 2. CURLEW was on passage to Newcastle with HMAS SNIPE in company at the commencement of the period of this report. Both ships had recently assisted in the unsuccessful recovery attempt of a sea king helicopter and were transitting northward from the Port Kembla area in calm seas.
- At 0900 on Wednesday 1st December, 1976, CURLEW berthed port side to Merewether St. Wharf, Newcastle. The ship remained in this berth overnight before proceeding outside the breakwater at 0800 on the 2nd December, 1976 to conduct pilot surveys.
- 4. CURLEW carried out the survey moting between selected anchorages within a three mile radius of Nobby's Head: The ship remained at anchor overnight on the 2nd December, 1976 and at 1430 on the 3rd December, 1976 berthed again at Merewether St. Wharf and secured for a week-end visit.
- 5. HMAS SNIPE was detached at 2350 on the 5th December, 1976 and proceeded to Sydney. CURLEW remained at her berth until casting off at 0900 on the 6th December, 1976 when she proceeded to Port Kembla for further surveys.



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- 6. On arrival at Port Kembla at 1700 on the 6th December, 1976 the ship berthed briefly to inform the port authorities that she would be anchored outside the harbour on the night of the 6th and 7th of December, 1976 and would conduct the survey at various anchorages during the day. This was progressed without incident, HMAS SNIPE joining from Sydney at 1100 on Tuesday the 7th December, 1976. The survey was completed on Wednesday 8th December, 1976 and at 1005 CURLEW proceeded North to Sydney with SNIPE in company to berth at 1420 in No. 4. berth HMAS WATERHEN.
- 7. The ship cast off from this berth at 1345 on Friday 10th December, 1976 and proceeded to HMAS PENGUIN berthing at the Eastern end of PENGUIN Wharf at 1430. CURLEW remained in this berth throughout the week-end as a participant in the open day on the 11th December, 1976 as part of the celebration of the Clearance Diving branch's Silver Anniversary.
- 8. CURLEW departed PENGUIN at 0830 on Monday 13th December, 1976 and proceeded to No. 4. buoy, Sydney Harbour to de-ammunition. On completion the ship slipped and proceeded to the East Return Wall at Garden Island for Survey and testing the anchor cable.
- 9. At 0845 on the 16th December, 1976 CURLEW cast off from Garden Island and returned to No. 1. berth, HMAS WATERHEN to prepare for the Christmas leave period.
- 10. At 1300 on the 17th December, 1976 all power and water supplies to the ship were cut off and the crew, with the exception of two senior sailors and three junior sailors, departed on three weeks leave.
- 11. CURLEW along with SNIPE and IBIS reverted to ship-keeper routine on Friday 17th December, 1976 and remained in this routine for the remainder of the period.
- 12. The general health, welfare and morale of the ship's company are good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

ANNEXES: A. Steaming Annex.

B. Exercises Conducted.

(E.W. LINTON)
LIEUTENANT, RAN
COMMANDING OFFICER



ANNEX A TO
HMAS CURLEW'S
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1/16/1
DATED: 1977

### STEAMING ANNEX

Distance Steamed during December: 125.6
 Hours underway during December: 10.80
 Total Distance Steamed since
First Commissioning: 214473.6 mil.
 Hours underway since first Commissioning: 20318 hrs 30 mins.

ANNEX B TO
HMAS CURLEW'S
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
1/16/1
DATED:

### EXERCISES CONDUCTED

### General

Daily fire exercises in harbour.

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Department of Defence

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### **DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS**

Security Classification

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