

**AWM78**

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

AWM78 Class 428 - Shore Establishment - RAN Patrol  
Boat Facility [HMAS CAIRNS]

**File number:** AWM78/428/1

**Title:** AWM78 428/1 - January-December  
1973



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~~18/6/4185pr~~ [428/1]

~~DNEP~~  
~~ASNS(NSSS)~~  
~~HISTORIAN~~

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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AWM -- 78

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVYHMAS RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITIES - Report of Proceedings 9E MARCH 73AS(NS) *17/7*

CAIRNS

D of O *18/7*DONS *19/7*CNS *23/7*CNP *24/7*CNTS *25/7* Para 12 Work completed.CNSW *26/7*SECRETARY *27/7/73*f C of S *28/7*DPR *28*AS(NS) (NS55) *Ca 7/8*

- NOTES:
- A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
  - B. The report will be given again to Board Members with Director's comments if there is any matter of special interest in those comments.
  - C. Circulation lists numbers 2 and 3 are referred to Directors and Heads of Branches.
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*4/17/73*

N/1-16-369

NAVY—CANBERRA		
18	6	4259

RAN Patrol Boat Facility  
 16 Grafton Street  
 CAIRNS 4870 QLD

2nd April, 1973.

The Naval Officer-in-Charge  
 QUEENSLAND

For Information:

The Commanding Officer  
 HMAS WATERHEN

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS  
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR QUARTER ENDING 31st March, 1973.

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of the RAN Patrol Boat Facility, Cairns under my command for the quarter ending 31st March, 1973.

Organisation and Administration

2. LEUT SLEX G.V. RYAN RAN joined the Facility on 5th February and commenced duties as Operations Officer.

3. A report on a proposed new scheme of peace complement was submitted to COMAUSMINPABFOR. This has been deemed necessary to compete with the extra work load that will be placed on the Facility when the extra eight patrol boats commence their Bi-ennial refits in Cairns. The largest increase in any department has been proposed in the Communications Branch to provide for a Communications watch in the Communications Centre 24 hours per day.

Major Works Items

4. Plans to extend existing stores cages and new offices to be occupied by the Senior Naval Officer and the Squadron have been completed. Work on these offices has commenced and should be completed by mid-April. When these offices are occupied the present Squadron Office will be used solely as an Operations Office.

5. The buildings permissively occupied by the Post Master General's Department have been re-occupied by the Navy. Plans have also been drawn to renovate these premises to provide for layapart stores for Patrol Boats and a survey store for HMAS FLINDERS.



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6. Long awaited approval has been given to instal UHF, VHF and HF communications in the Communications Centre of the Facility. Mr B. Gardner from Garden Island Dockyard arrived in Cairns on 28th March. He was here for two days to inspect the sites for the equipment and to make recommendations for its installation.

Engineering

7. The Planned Maintenance system for the Patrol Boats is working very successfully; all maintenance is up to date due to the new system adopted in August 1972.

8. HMAS BARRICADE commenced her refit in November 1972 and completed it on 19th January, 1973. During the refit there were several modifications completed; namely:

- i Funnel extended in accordance with NOD 249/374.
- ii Junior Sailor's mess sound proofed in accordance with NOL 1234/51/122 and NOD 249/340 Rev. 3.
- iii Life raft and petrol stowages in accordance with Mod No A0308/71 and
- iv Galley in accordance with NOD 249/401 and NOD 249/402.

9. The refit was carried out by North Queensland Engineers and Agents and was completed on time.

10. Evaluation trials were carried out by a team from Navy Office on the modified funnel. At present the report on the trial is not available but it is believed the trial was very successful.

11. On 24th November, 1972, HMAS BARBETTE returned to Cairns with the starboard main engine unserviceable (BARBETTE's messages 230815Z NOV 72 and 240055Z NOV 72 refer). BARBETTE proceeded to sea several times during January for trials on the starboard main engine which proved to be unsuccessful in finding the cause of a water leak into the sump. On 10th January it was requested that a new starboard main engine be despatched and the unserviceable engine be returned to English Electric (SNO CAIRNS message 100115Z JAN 73 refers).

12. The survey motor boat HERALD, ex-HMAS PALUMA, was left in Cairns when PALUMA sailed for Sydney on 8th March. HERALD requires to have a new shaft, propellor, rudder and a skeg to be fitted in order to be operational for when HMAS FLINDERS arrives in Cairns in June or July this year.

13. On 12th March, BARBETTE commenced her Intermediate Docking, (BARBETTE's 150325Z MAR 73 refers). Whilst contractors were checking the clearance on the 'P' Brackets and Stern Tubes (PM schedule E8 -6/7) it was found that the bearings were worn beyond acceptable limits. When the starboard shaft was removed, it was found that heat had cracked the Gunmetal bush of the inner bearing. The bearings were removed and replaced by contractors.

14. HMAS BAYONET arrived in Cairns on 16th March. At the maintenance meeting, base staff were informed that both main engine crankshaft oil seals were leaking and losing about 8 gallons of oil per day which created a fire hazard (SNO CAIRNS 160005Z MAR 73 refers). Both flywheel and seal covers were removed and the seals inspected. As a result, the drive end and journal oil seals were renewed (SNO's 262215Z MAR 73 refers).

15. HMAS BARRICADE experienced contaminated fuel whilst surveying. Water was believed to have entered the fuel tanks through the upper deck fittings (BARRICADE's 262305Z MAR 73 refers).

#### Electrical

16. The Electrical Department experienced a normal quarter with Planned Maintenance progressing well. Assistance was rendered to ships in Cairns when required. On occasions it was necessary to obtain the services of contractors. The ships that required assistance were HMAS BUCCANEER and HMAS PALUMA.

#### Shipwright

17. During the quarter work has been carried out in HMA Ships BARBETTE, BARRICADE and BAYONET and to a lesser extent in HMAS PALUMA. Some small repairs and additions have been completed in the Facility.

18. Repairs to the married quarters in the Cairns area have consumed a considerable amount of time. The condition of these houses in general is of a good standard. The Department of Works have also assisted in the repair of married quarters.

19. When contractors to the Department of Works were delivering top-soil to some married quarters, the trucks cracked footpaths, and in one instance, damaged a fence. As these incidents were not reported at the time, it is now difficult to do much except repair the damages at the department's expense.

#### Motor Transport

20. All vehicles have been maintained in good running order. Difficulty has been experienced in keeping up with maintenance scheduled due to the continual requirements for the vehicles.

This situation is aggravated when patrol boats and other ships are in port.

21. Road and atmospheric conditions have proved that the Ford Mini Bus is insufficiently robust. Extensive repairs to the body of the vehicle are required and quotes are being obtained for these repairs.

22. It has also been found that spare parts are scarce in the Cairns area for the Mini Bus. In the majority of cases spares are obtained from Sydney. A booster for the braking system has now been received and will be fitted within the first week of the next quarter.

23. Vehicle mileage for the quarter was:

ZNB-105 Holden Station Sedan	-	752 Miles
ZNB-093 Toyota 4x4 Land Cruiser	-	1703 Miles
ZNB-074 Ford Mini Bus	-	1338 Miles

#### Operations

24. During the early part of the quarter, the patrol boats had been maintaining fisheries patrols in the northern, central and southern sectors.

25. HMAS BARRICADE completed her refit on 19th January. An eight day workup period followed under the supervision of a team which consisted of:

LEUT D.B. FITZPATRICK RAN  
CY J.G. PAYNE R59931  
CPOQMG A.A. KINDERLAN R50781

The workup was concluded with an Operation Readiness Evaluation carried out by myself and witnessed by COMAUSMINPABFOR, CMDR J. StB. MOORE RAN.

26. HMAS BARBETTE sailed from Cairns on 14th February for a northern and central patrol. Included in this patrol was a combined Police and Customs narcotics patrol for which Detectives S.E. CHURCHILL, W.B. ROOSKOV of Cairns CIB and Mr J.H. FOSTER of HM Customs, Cairns, were embarked. This patrol proved to be most successful. Marihuana was found in the Portland Roads area and several arrests were made; the detainees were transported to Thursday Island in BARBETTE (BARBETTE's 140048Z FEB 73 and 160300Z FEB 73 refers).

27. On completion of the patrol BARBETTE entered a 23 day Base Assisted Maintenance Period on 2nd March and completed an Intermediate Docking during that period.

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28. HMAS BAYONET completed a most successful northern and Torres Strait patrol during February. The object of this patrol was to visit coastwatchers in the Torres Strait Islands. A full report of the patrol was made in BAYONET's unnumbered letter dated 22nd February, 1973 to COMAUSMINPABFOR - "Guide to Patrol Boats on Torres Strait Coastwatching Visits".

29. HMA Ships BARRICADE and BAYONET commenced survey operations with HMAS MORESBY on 26th February. The prevailing south-easterly weather stream in the early stages prevented these patrol boats from contributing to the survey to any large extent. Apart from weather and the occasional mechanical defects, the Patrol Boats have completed all the tasks required of them except as detailed in paragraphs 14 and 15. HMAS BAYONET sailed from Cairns on 31st March to rejoin the survey.

30. HMA Ships MORESBY, BUCCANEER, BAYONET and BARRICADE arrived in Cairns on 16th March for a recreation and maintenance period. This visit was also programmed to coincide with the visit of the Woodward Explanation Team which consisted of CMDR R.F.J. BROWN RAN and CPOWTR F.G. CURBISHLEY. The team delivered the lectures to the Ships' Companies on 17th March.

31. HMAS BARBETTE sailed for the survey grounds on Monday 26th March. Due to poor weather conditions, she was forced to seek shelter on several occasions during the passage and consequently will not join the survey until after the end of the quarter.

#### Visitors

32. Visitors to the Facility during the quarter were CMDR J. StB. MOORE RAN who arrived on 4th February to witness HMAS BARRICADE's Operational Readiness Evaluation and to hold discussions with myself on varied topics relevant to operations in Cairns. CMDR MOORE left on 6th February.

33. I had the pleasure to receive you, Sir, on your arrival in Cairns on 21st February. Discussions were held, introductions made to notable people who are dealt with constantly by the Facility and a general inspection of the Facility and Cairns area was made. Your visit concluded on 22nd February.

34. CAPT D.J. MARTIN RAN, Director of Reserves, arrived in Cairns on 22nd February to inspect the Sea Cadet establishment T.S. ENDEVOUR and the Facility. CAPT MARTIN left Cairns for Mackay on 23rd March to continue his Queensland tour.

35. The remaining visitors to the Facility are listed in Annex A.

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Social Engagements and Sporting Fixtures

36. I had the pleasure of attending a Naturalisation Ceremony at the chambers of the Cairns City Council on 26th January.

37. On ~~Friday~~ 16th March, an official cocktail party was held on board HMAS MORESBY. This was a most successful event that was enjoyed by the many notaries of Cairns who were invited.

38. The Facility has competed in many sporting fixtures between other Naval units and civilian organisations during the quarter. Many of the events were decided in favour of the Facility. The support given to these events by the members of the Facility is particularly encouraging. Details of the fixtures are listed in Annex B.

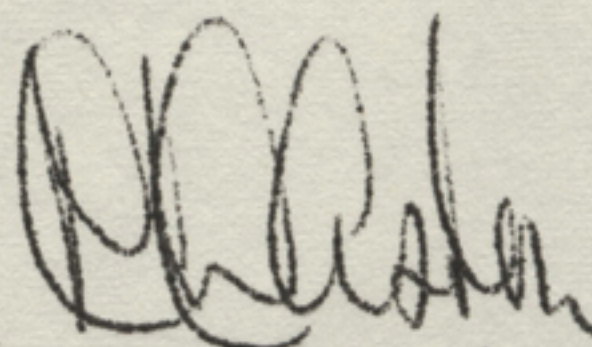
Medical, Dental and Morale

39. The health of the Ship's Company is good and their morale has remained at a high standard during the quarter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,



(M.H. ASTON)  
A/Commander RAN  
Senior Naval Officer  
Cairns

Enclosures: Appendixes A, B and C.

Annex A

VISITORS TO THE COMMAND

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
17 - 19 JAN	LCDR J.I. CONSADINE	BARRICADE's C.B.'s
22 JAN - 5 FEB	LEUT D.B. FITZPATRICK CY J.G. PAYNE CPOQMG A.A. KINDERLAN	BARRICADE's workup
24 JAN	LCDR P.R. LYNEHAM	Compass Checks
4 - 6 FEB	CMDR J. StB. MOORE	BARRICADE's O.R.E.
18 - 22 FEB	Mr B.D. JAFFRAY Mr R.J. COOPER	Sea Trial BARRICADE's Funnel
18 - 21 FEB	LCDR L.W.T. SOMMERVILLE COEL FENNY	BARRICADE and BAYONET Inspection.
19 - 23 FEB	LCDR P.C. WATSON LEUT R.J. LETTS	Inspection Boats and PBF.
21 - 22 FEB	CMDR P.V. BLACKMAN	Inspection PBF
22 - 23 FEB	CAPT D.J. MARTIN LEUT G.W. SCOWN	Inspection PBF and T.S. ENDEVOUR
8 - 13 MAR	Miss E. NUTT	Social Welfare Visit
16 - 19 MAR	Mr B. DEAN	Naval Agent Mackay Social visit via HMAS MORESBY.
27 - 30 MAR	Mr B. GARDNER	Communication Centre Inspection

Annex B.

SPORTING FIXTURES AND RESULTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Vs</u>	<u>Result</u>
10 JAN	Volley Ball Volley Ball	BAYONET BARRICADE	Lost 1 - 2 Won 2 - 1
17 & 24 JAN	Cricket (2 innings)	ARMY	Drawn - Navy 124 & 219 Army 119 & 9/97
31 JAN	Cricket	ANSETT	Won - Navy 4/105 Dec. ANA 53
7 FEB	Volley Ball Badminton	Fire Brigade " "	Cancelled Won 6 - 0
14 FEB	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade	Won 4 - 3
21 FEB	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade	Cancelled
28 FEB	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade and DCA	Lost 2 - 3
7 MAR	Volley Ball	BARBETTE	Not Recorded
21 MAR	Volley Ball Badminton	Fire Brigade " "	Lost 1 - 3 Lost 1 - 3
28 MAR	Volley Ball Badminton	Fire Brigade " "	Won 4 - 1 Won 3 - 1

Annex C.

SHIP ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES

HMAS BARRICADE

Departure

16 JAN  
22  
23  
30  
5 FEB  
8  
19  
24  
20

Arrival

16 JAN  
22  
25  
3 FEB  
5  
14  
19  
16 MAR  
Blank

HMAS BARBETTE

Departure

9 JAN  
26  
30  
15 FEB  
22  
26 MAR

Arrival

10 JAN  
26  
9 FEB  
22  
2 MAR  
Blank

HMAS BAYONET

Departure

3 JAN  
16  
18  
30  
5 FEB  
6  
19  
24  
31

Arrival

10 JAN  
16  
25  
3 FEB  
5  
16  
19  
16 MAR  
Blank

Annex C continued over

Annex C cont.

HMAS BUCCANEER

Departure

Blank  
6  
19

Arrival

2 MAR  
16  
Blank

HMAS MORESBY

Departure

Blank  
19

Arrival

16 MAR  
Blank

HMAS PALUMA

Departure

Blank  
30 JAN  
12 FEB  
26  
8 MAR

Arrival

13 DEC 72  
9 FEB  
23  
4 MAR  
Blank

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

HMAS RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY Report of Proceedings 9E JUNE 1973

AS(NS) *Ch. 17/7. - Cairns*

D of O *18/7*

~~DENS~~ *18/7*

CNS *23/7*

CNP *24/7*

CNTS *27/7*

CNSW *24/7*

SECRETARY *27/7*

*f* C of S *2/8*

DFR *D 2.8*

~~AS(NS)~~ (NS55) *Ca 7/8/73*

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*11/7/73*



TELEPHONE: 359 9111  
~~359 0444~~

IN REPLY QUOTE N1/16/369

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

NAVY—CANBERRA

18 6 4260

OFFICE OF THE  
FLAG OFFICER ~~IN CHARGE~~ Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA,  
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W., 2000

9 JUL 1973

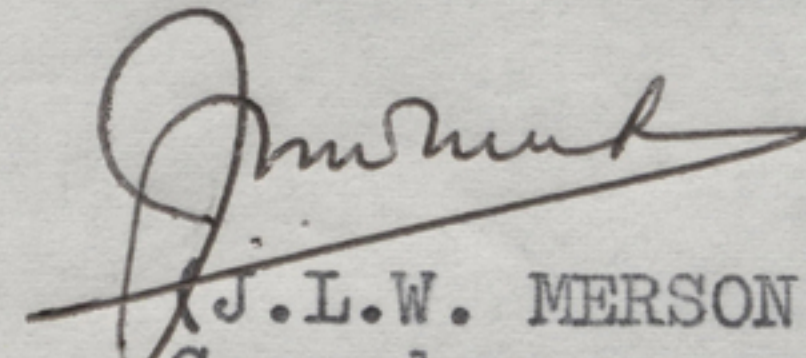
The Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

For Information : (Without Enclosure)

The Commanding Officer,  
HMAS WATERHEN

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY - CAIRNS

The enclosures are forwarded.

  
(J.L.W. MERSON)  
Commodore  
For Flag Officer Commanding.

- Enclosures :
1. Reports of Proceedings - Quarter ended 31st March, 1973 (3 Copies).
  2. Reports of Proceedings - Quarter ended June 1973 (3 copies).

on NO file 18-6-4259.

RAN Patrol Boat Facility  
16 Grafton Street  
CAIRNS 4870 QLD

5th June, 1973.

The Flag Officer Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA

For Information:

The Naval Officer-in-Charge  
QUEENSLAND

The Commanding Officer  
HMAS WATERHEN

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS  
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR PERIOD 1st April to 4th June, 1973

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of the RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY, CAIRNS under my command for the period 1st April, 1973 to 5th June, 1973.

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

2. I was relieved as SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, CAIRNS at 0001K 6th June, 1973 by Commander GLEX J.M. YATES RAN.

3. CMDR YATES arrived in Cairns on Sunday 3rd June. The following Monday and Tuesday were spent in handing over to CMDR YATES and introducing him to the Mayor of Cairns, Alderman K.F. CRATHERN, and the Chairman of the Harbour Board, Mr M. BORZI.

4. The administration of the Facility has considerably improved since the completion of the new office space. However, to achieve maximum efficiency it is necessary that the telephone switchboard be installed as soon as possible.

MAJOR WORKS ITMES

5. The entire exterior of the Facility has been repainted during the period. The new office accommodation has now been

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completed except for a few minor additions such as the installation of electric clocks.

ENGINEERING

6. Planned Maintenance for the Patrol Boats is up to date.
7. HMAS BAYONET commenced her refit in May 1973 and is due to complete it in July 1973. The refit is being carried out by North Queensland Engineers and Agents and is progressing satisfactorily. The port main engine is to be replaced during the refit due to excessive crankshaft deflection - my 110015Z MAY 1973 refers.
8. On completion of fuelling at No 10 Wharf on 20th April, BAYONET attempted to start main engines prior to shifting berth to No 1 Wharf. The main engines failed to start as Nos 1 and 3 battery banks were flat. An investigation revealed that the battery charger was unserviceable.
9. HMAS BARBETTE reported that full power could not be attained on the port main engine. She arrived in Cairns on 11th May and trials were conducted. The investigation showed that the engine was out of alignment due to collapsed forward engine mountings and it was suspected that the fuel pumps were incorrectly calibrated. NQEA renewed the engine mountings and re-aligned the engine. New fuel pumps were fitted and spill timed. The lay rub coupling was found to be defective and was replaced. My following signals all refer: 132317Z MAY 73, 162215Z MAY 73, 180525Z MAY 73 and 202230Z MAY 73. Sea trials were successfully carried out on 23rd May.
10. HMAS BARRICADE has operated in company with HMAS MORESBY for the period with minimal trouble.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

11. Electrical maintenance has progressed satisfactorily during the period. The work load has been lighter than normal owing to the absence of the Patrol Boats for extended periods.
12. Electrical work has been conducted in HMAS BAYONET during her refit. Visiting ships that requested and received PBF/Contractual assistance during the period were HMAS MADANG and HMAS BRUNEI.

SHIPWRIGHT

13. During the period work has been carried out in

.....3/..

HMA Ships BARBETTE, BARRICADE and BAYONET.

14. Repairs to the Survey Motor Boat HERALD were completed on 4th April. The cradle was assembled and modified in the AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LINE shed at No 6 Wharf and the HERALD was taken out of the water and placed on the cradle in the shed on 15th April.

15. The married quarters are being maintained at a good standard by the Shipwright and with assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Works.

16. Maintenance within the Facility has been minimal during the period with the manufacture of blackboards, steps and minor additions to the Operations Room being the major items.

#### WEAPONS

17. Weapon maintenance has been carried out in HMA Ships BARRICADE and BARBETTE by Facility staff. The 40/60 mounting and the 2" Rocket Flare Launcher were removed from HMAS BAYONET at the commencement of her refit. BAYONET's complete small arms outfit with the exception of the 9mm pistols was returned to W.E.S.O. for a bi-ennial inspection. A good standard of maintenance has been attained during this period.

#### MOTOR TRANSPORT

18. Servicing and maintenance has continued satisfactorily however some hindrance to the schedules is still being experienced due to the lack of a replacement vehicle for the one that is being serviced. This has become very obvious with the onset of HMAS BAYONET's refit.

19. Approval has been received to commence repairs on the Ford Mini Bus - NOIC Queensland's 272306Z MAY 73 refers. It has also been authorised to hire a Station Sedan as a replacement vehicle - NOIC Queensland's 290425Z MAY 73 refers. It has been noticed however, that more rust has developed since the quote was received. It is anticipated that further delay to repairs will be experienced due to delivery time from Melbourne of spare parts.

20. Approval for rust proofing this vehicle has not been received. It is considered that this is essential as the vehicle will quickly deteriorate to its present condition after the repairs are completed if this preventative measure is not taken.

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OPERATIONS

21. General. During the period, HMA Ships BARBETTE, BARRICADE and BAYONET have been employed in consort sounding with HMAS MORESBY in the Capricorn Channel. The three Patrol Boats returned to Cairns for the Easter period to undergo Base Assisted Maintenance Periods on completion of which BARBETTE and BARRICADE returned to the survey grounds. BAYONET sailed for a short Northern Patrol on 30th April returning on 6th May.
22. BAYONET conducted pre-refit trials and Noise Evaluation Trials on 9th May. De-storing was completed by 13th May when she officially commenced her bi-ennial refit entering drydock on 14th May where she remained at the end of this period.
23. BARBETTE returned to Cairns on 11th May with an engine defect as detailed in paragraph 9. Work was carried out until 25th May when sea trials were successfully conducted. BARBETTE sailed for Mackay at 0900 on 28th May recommencing consort sounding with MORESBY on 30th May.
24. The A.V. JOHN MONASH entered Cairns on 10th April with an engine defect, main engine lubrication oil pump, which was repaired by NQEA. The ship sailed on the morning of 12th April.
25. HMNZS OTAGO arrived at Cairns at 1100 on 10th April, OTAGO was originally to proceed south to Sydney thence Auckland but due to a faulty Fuel Oil Pump and the unsettled weather she decided to proceed to Auckland from Cairns. OTAGO sailed on Friday, 13th April.
26. HMAS MADANG arrived in Cairns on 7th April from her voyage of misfortunes from Manus Island to Sydney. Initially this was to be a refuelling stop only but due to inclement weather sailing was delayed to 14th April. This time in harbour enabled the ship to make good some defects with the assistance of the Facility.
27. On Tuesday 17th April HMAS BRUNEI berthed at Cairns. Stores and assistance were given for preparations to embark Federal Government representatives who were to visit the Torres Strait Islands. BRUNEI experienced a defect to the blower to the starboard engine. This defect was repaired by contractors in Cairns and Townsville.
28. An extra communicator was required by BRUNEI. This need became apparent when the traffic load due to the requirement of the press personnel bourne was realised. Liasion between

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Canberra and Laverack Barracks, Townsville through the Facility made it possible for the ship to sail on 20th April with an Army communicator onboard.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

29. On 24th April the Facility was requested to assist in refloating a 40 foot ketch aground at Shipwreck Beach (16° 16.2'S 145° 29'E). Due to the hazardous conditions and that no lives were in danger, it was decided that a Patrol Boat would not be deployed to the area - my KOA/LSD 240240Z APR 73 refers in detail.

30. HMAS BARRICADE participated in two SAR Operations during this period. The first was on 13th May when a disabled 18 foot runabout was towed to Heron Island from a position 23° 43'S 151° 47'E. The request for the assistance was received from Gladstone Police.

31. COMAUSFLT's 210700Z MAY 73 reported that the Lighthouse Keeper at Pine Island had seen a beached boat and smoke on the Southern end of Percy Island. BARRICADE was detached to investigate. Two injured men were found and conveyed to Mackay where they were admitted to Mackay Hospital.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

32. Two reports have been made to this office of suspected explosive ordnance on the Barrier Reef. These have been reported in accordance with RANOP Article 2184 in my signals KBT 240555Z MAY 73 and KBT 030620Z JUN 73. It is intended to investigate these at the first available opportunity during the period 16th to 27th July as stated in my KBT 250050Z MAY73.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND EXPEDITION - BARRIER REEF

33. This expedition has requested the assistance of a Patrol Boat for the period 16th August to 28th October - Hydro RAN's FFP 230327Z MAY 73 refers. In order to comply with this request a proposed programme has been forwarded to Fleet Headquarters for approval. If accepted, this ammendment will allow for one Patrol Boat to be available for the period stated above and still maintain a reasonable patrol of the Barrier Reef. The programme has been amended to enable the Squadron Exercise still to take place but now in early August.

COMMUNICATIONS

34. Since the beginning of the Defence Communications Automatic Relay Station, Canberra (DEFCOMMARS) outgoing signals

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have been arriving at their destination more promptly, however, this has been nullified by the amount of services on outgoing signals being either received incomplete or in a garbled state although they leave this station correct in all details.

35. Communications between the Facility and DEFCOMMARS have at times been poor due to incompatibility of equipment: DEFCOMMARS was at first receiving very poor tape copies requiring many re-runs. This now seems to have been overcome.

36. Signals are also being received quicker than by the old method especially considering that all our traffic now comes through DEFCOMMARS whereas before individual skeds were maintained with ACNB, FHQ, etc. Incoming traffic is generally good inasmuch as all the signals are complete, however, very few are received without numerous single letter mistakes.

37. The amount of incoming traffic has been increasing each month: the highest was last month with a total number of 933 signals handled by the Communications Centre. Outgoing traffic has not risen to any extent except during refits when it remains fairly constant at about 45 signals a week.

#### VISITORS

38. On Monday 9th April I called formally on the new Mayor of Cairns, Alderman K.F. CRATHERN.

39. Mr R. Writer, Mr R. Donovan and Mr T. Tracey of GOSIEAA Staff arrived on 8th May for HMAS BAYONET's refit.

40. Brigadier J. Whitelaw, Director of Operations and Plans for the Department of the Army, arrived in Cairns on 25th May. Discussions were held on the activities of the RAN in Cairns and the area covered by the Second Patrol Boat Squadron. He was on a tour of North Queensland Army Establishments and to visit the Army survey detachment which is training in the Cooktown area.

41. On Monday, 28th May, Dr G. Orme of the Queensland University visited the Facility. His visit was to make arrangements for the expedition of the Barrier Reef by the University and the Royal Society from July to October.

42. CMDR P.J. Shevlin RAN, Director of Joint Warfare and Planning, and Mr H. Sforcina, Deputy Director of Naval Works, arrived in Cairns on 3rd June and will stay until 6th June to discuss the master plans for the Facility.

.....7/..

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS AND SPORTING FIXTURES

43. LEUT G.V. Ryan RAN represented the RAN at the Rats of Tobruk Association Annual Memorial Service on Saturday 7th April.

44. On 12th April, HMNZS OTAGO held a cocktail party onboard to which all Officers of the Facility were invited. It was a very pleasant occasion.

45. LCDR G.W. Burrell RAN and I attended the Combined Services Dining-In Night at Laverack Barracks, Townsville on 18th April. The hospitality of the Army made it a most enjoyable evening.

46. ANZAC DAY this year proved to be most gruelling. The Facility was represented at the Dawn Service at the Cairns Cemetary. This simple ceremony at the cenotaph was very moving. A wreath was laid at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the main cenotaph on the Esplanade at 1000 by LEUT G.V. Ryan RAN. LSAV C.J. Buchanan R105023 laid a werath for HMAS AUSTRALIA on behalf of a lady whose brother served in that ship.

47. We were fortunate this year in that all three Patrol Boats were in Cairns for ANZAC DAY. The Parade was lead by the Naval Contingent in excess of sixty strong. I was privileged to be Parade Commander.

48. LEUT K.S. Tuckey RAN , the Commanding Officer of HMAS BAYONET, attended the ANZAC DAY services at the Yarrabah Mission.

49. The Facility has continued an active interest in sport. The major events have continued to take place with the Cairns Fire Brigade with the Facility having a great deal of success during the period. There were Wednesdays when commitments precluded the playing of sport. Details of sporting results are in Annex B.

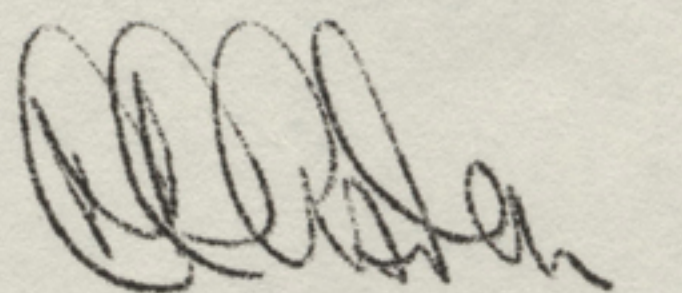
MEDICAL, DENTAL AND MORALE

50. The health of the Ship's Company is good and their morale has remained at a high standard during the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



(M.H. ASTON)  
A/Commander RAN  
Senior Naval Officer  
Cairns.

Enclosures: Annexes A and B.

ANNEX A

SHIP ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

HMAS BARBETTE

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
19 April	30 April
11 May	23 May
23 May	28 May

HMAS BARRICADE

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
20 April	2 May

HMAS BAYONET

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
20 April	30 April
6 May	9 May
9 May	Blank

HMAS MADANG

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
7 April	15 April

HMNZS OTAGO

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
10 April	13 April

A.V. JOHN MONASH

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
10 April	12 April

HMAS BRUNEI

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
17 April	20 April
29 April	30 April

ANNEX B

SPORTING FIXTURES AND RESULTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>VS</u>	<u>Result</u>
4/4/73	Table Tennis	Fire Brigade	Won 11 to 3
11/4/73	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade	Won 2 to 1
2/5/73	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade	Lost 2 to 1
16/5/73	Rugby League	BAYONET/PBF vs BARBETTE	Lost 9 to 0

RESTRICTED

FILE 18/6/4304

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

~~HMAS~~ RAN. P.B.F. CAIRNS

Report of Proceedings 6<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> JUNE '73

AS(NS)

D of O

DCNS

CNS

CNP

CNTS

CNSW

SECRETARY

C of S

DPR

AS(NS)

(NS55)

Change of Command.

NOTES:

- A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
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- C. Circulation lists numbers 2 and 3 are referred to Directors and Heads of Branches.
- D. If any matter requires comprehensive treatment or reference to another Branch a new file should be raised, a suitable note being made above.

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CA.

**RESTRICTED**

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

NAVY—CANBERRA

18 6 4304

TELEPHONE:  
35.0444

IN REPLY QUOTE N1/16/369

OFFICE OF THE  
FLAG OFFICER ~~IN CHARGE~~ Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA,  
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W., 2000

19 JUL 1973

The Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

For Information : (Without Enclosure)

The Flag Officer Commanding  
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Naval Officer-in-Charge  
QUEENSLAND

The Commander  
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE & PATROL FORCES

The Commander  
RAN PATROL BOAT FORCES CAIRNS

RAN PBF CAIRNS - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -  
6-30 JUNE, 1973

Forwarded for the information of the Naval  
Board.

(J.L.W. MERSON)  
Commodore  
for Flag Officer Commanding

Enclosure : RAN PBF CAIRNS letter 1/16/1 dated 2nd July, 1973.  
(3 Copies).

**RESTRICTED**

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AWS

In reply quote: 1/16/1

RAN Patrol Boat Facility  
16 Grafton Street  
CAIRNS 4870 QLD

2nd July, 1973.

The Flag Officer Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIAN AREA

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding  
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Naval Officer-in-Charge  
QUEENSLAND

The Commander  
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE & PATROL FORCES

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS  
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR PERIOD 6th June TO 30th June, 1973

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of the RAN Patrol Boat Facility, Cairns under my command for the period 6th June, 1973 to 30th June, 1973.

Organisation and Administration

2. I assumed the duties of Senior Naval Officer Cairns on Wednesday 6th June, 1973.

Major Works Items

3. No major works items have been carried out during the period.

Engineering

4. Planned Maintenance for this period is up to date.

5. HMAS BAYONET's refit is progressing without any major delays.

.....2/..

RESTRICTED

6. HMAS BARRICADE has continued to operate without any defects during this period. The reclaimed cylinder liners in the port main engine were checked for wear during the Ship's latest maintenance period.

7. HMAS BARBETTE experienced difficulties with her steering gear in my signals 140830Z, 150515Z, 150555Z and 150900Z JUN 73 refer. The gear is now operating satisfactorily.

#### Electrical Engineering

8. The Electrical department has had a full period. This has been due to the PBF's element of HMAS BAYONET's refit. Also HMA Ships BARBETTE and BARRICADE arrived in harbour from the Survey Grounds with several minor defects. Contractors were employed to rectify electronic faults in both BARBETTE and BARRICADE.

#### Shipwright

9. During the period, the Shipwright has been employed in rectifying Squadron defects which have been completed with a few minor exceptions.

10. Work on the married quarters has been minimal. The watermain stopcocks are presently being located and marked at all the married quarters to assist the Commonwealth Department of Works.

#### Weapons

11. The joint SASO/INC inspection team completed the six monthly routines on all 40/60 mountings. The new 40/60 mounting has been installed onboard HMAS BAYONET. Gun functioning trials will be carried out at the first available opportunity.

#### Motor Transport

12. Servicing and maintenance has continued satisfactorily. Difficulty in meeting all transport demands will be further aggravated when Patrol Boats from other areas commence refitting in Cairns.

13. Repairs have not yet commenced on Ford Mini Bus ZNB-074 due to the delay in receipt of spare parts from Melbourne. The

.....3/..

current industrial strife being experienced by this company is expected to aggravate the situation.

14. Repairs will be carried out on the Holden Station Sedan, ZNB-105, in accordance with the quote from Coral Motors of 5th June, 1973.

Operations

15. At the beginning of the period HMA Ships BARBETTE and BARRICADE were on the survey grounds and HMAS BAYONET remained in refit.

16. HMAS BARBETTE arrived in Cairns on Thursday 14th June with a steering defect. Instead of rejoining the survey BARBETTE was reprogrammed for a Northern Patrol - my 150555Z JUN 73 refers. BARBETTE sailed on Monday 18th June but returned unscheduled with an ANURC-58 radio defect on Wednesday 20th June. The defect was made good and the ship sailed on 21st June to complete the patrol returning to Cairns on 26th June.

17. HMAS BARRICADE arrived in Cairns on Friday 22nd June to commence a base assisted maintenance period which coincided with HMAS MORESBY's visit to Brisbane.

18. HMAS YARRA refuelled in Cairns during her three hour visit to Cairns on Monday 25th June, enroute for the Far East Station.

University Of Queensland Expedition - Barrier Reef

19. The Facility provided logistic assistance to LCDR GLEX R.B. Doolan RAN in his task of selecting and fixing the HIFIX sites for the expedition.

Commonwealth Sponsored Film Footage

20. In the Naval Boards signal 010657Z JUN 73 a request was made to provide a Patrol Boat to assist Mr Roland Cantley in filming naval patrol operations within the Barrier Reef including mine disposal.

21. HMAS BARBETTE embarked Mr Cantley and his crew for passage to Lizard Island on 18th June, the commencement of the Northern Patrol. The film crew were landed that evening at Lizard Island and embarked the following day for filming activities.

.....4/..

Explosive Ordnance

22. On the passage to Lizard Island on 18th June, HMAS BARBETTE called at Amos Bay to investigate the report as stated in my KBT 240555Z MAY 73. The assistance of a helicopter from 163 Army Recce Flight was obtained but no suspected ordnance was visible. It is thought that the original report may have been coral nigger heads.

23. A report was received on 7th June that a metallic cylinder 18" x 2" diameter was found on the beach at Green Island. Subsequent inquiries to the RAAF Townsville and the Fleet Clearance Diving Officer confirmed the object was a Marker Location Marine Mk 25 Mod 3 that had been expended. The marker was subsequently buried by the island staff.

Visitors

24. Visitors to the Facility are as detailed in Annex B.

Social Engagements and Sporting Fixtures

25. The Facility held the Navy Ball on Friday 29th June. This was a very successful evening attended by approximately two hundred and fifty guests.

26. The Facility's sporting activities continued well. The Navy now fields a volleyball team in the local Cairns competition. They are doing very well having lost only two games to date. Details of sports results are included in Annex C.

Medical, Dental and Moral

27. The Ship's Company continues to remain in good health and the moral is high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. M. Yates*  
(J.M. YATES)  
Commander RAN

Enclosures: Annexes A, B and C.

ANNEX A

SHIP ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

HMAS BARBETTE

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
14 June	18 June
20 June	21 June
26 June	Blank

HMAS BARRICADE

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
22 June	Blank

HMAS BAYONET

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
----------------	------------------

I N R E F I T

HMAS YARRA

<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
25 June	25 June

ANNEX B

VISITORS

7 June

SDNLDR A.G. Greig RAAF

Job Evaluation Team (Officers). Evaluating Officers positions within the three services to establish intra and inter services relativities.

17 - 20 June

LEUT P.L. Chapman RAN  
Mr J.W. Mc Kenzie  
Mr S.R. Jones  
Mr J.W. Fraser

Explosives safety committee working party to study stowage and inspection of explosive stores at Queerah Magazines.

12 - 23 June

LCDR R.B. Doolan RAN  
LEUT G.J. Bond RAN

Selection and fixing of HIFIX sites.

22 - 30 June

Mr L. Bridge  
Mr B. Mc Culloch  
Mr G.L. Chambers

Inspection of Ordnance and Installation of HMAS BAYONET's 40/60.

ANNEX C

SPORTING RESULTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>vs</u>	<u>Result</u>
June 6	Rifle Shoot	Practice only	
June 13	Volleyball	Fire Brigade	Lost 2 - 1
	Badminton	Fire Brigade	Won 3 - 1
June 20	Volleyball	Fire Brigade	Won 2 - 1

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FILE 18/6/4532

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

HMAS RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY Report of Proceedings SEPTEMBER 1973

AS(NS) *[Signature]* 21/11.

D of O

*A busy month. - para 4 - fuel restrictions.*

DGOP

DCNS *[Signature]* 18/11

CNS *[Signature]* 23/11

CNT *[Signature]* 26/11

CMTS *[Signature]* 3/12

CNSW *[Signature]* 14/12

SECRETARY *[Signature]* 4/12

C of S *[Signature]* 5/12

DER 6.12.73.

~~AS(NS)~~

*[Signature]* 10/12/73

- NOTES:
- A. This copy is circulated so that Board Members may see these reports soon after they reach Navy Office.
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  - C. Circulation lists numbers 2 and 3 are referred to Directors and Heads of Branches.
  - D. If any matter requires comprehensive treatment or reference to another Branch a new file should be raised, a suitable note being made above.

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CA

TELEPHONE: 359 9111  
~~X35 0444~~

IN REPLY QUOTE N1/16/369

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

NAVY—CANBERRA		
18	6	4532

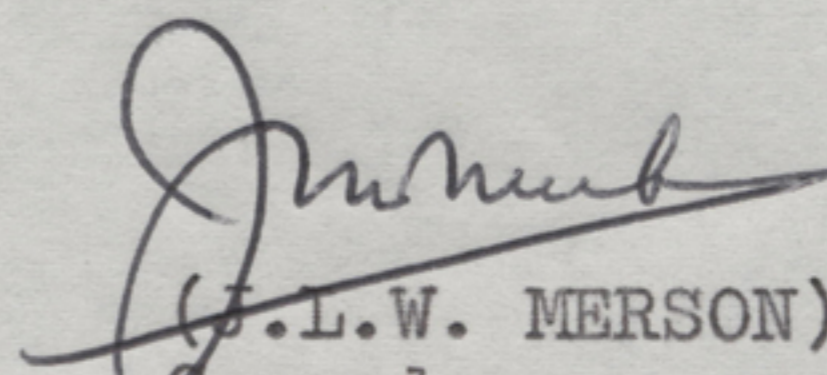
OFFICE OF THE  
FLAG OFFICER ~~IN CHARGE~~ Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA,  
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W., 2000

13 NOV 1973

The Secretary  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS - REPORT  
OF PROCEEDINGS QUARTER ENDED 30th  
SEPTEMBER 1973

The enclosure is forwarded for the information of  
the Naval Board.

  
(J.L.W. MERSON)  
Commodore  
for Flag Officer Commanding

Enclosure : RAN Patrol Boat Facility letter 1/16/1 dated 1st  
October, 1973. (3 copies)

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

1/16/1

RAN Patrol Boat Facility  
16 Grafton Street  
CAIRNS QLD 4870

1st October, 1973

The Flag Officer Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding  
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Naval Officer-in-Charge  
QUEENSLAND

The Commander  
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL FORCES

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS  
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1973

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report the proceedings of the RAN Patrol Boat Facility Cairns under my command for the quarter ending 30th September, 1973.

Operations

2. The Second Australian Patrol Boat Squadron has been employed mainly in survey duties during the quarter. The survey season in the Capricorn Channel ended on 20th July and survey recommenced on 16th August with a detached survey party, lead by LCDR R.B. DOOLAN RAN, in conjunction with the Queensland University Barrier Reef Expedition operating between the Horwick Group and Green Island.

3. Apart from surveying, other tasks conducted by the squadron have been: acting as consort for ships working up, HMAS BARRICADE for HMAS BAYONET and HMAS BARBETTE for HMA Ships MADANG and AITAPE; a squadron exercise between 6th and 10th August; a Gulf of Carpentaria and Torres Strait Patrol by BARRICADE between 14th and 31st August and Fanwise Trials with HMAS BOMBARD and BARBETTE from 16th to 24th August.

4. The recent fuel restrictions imposed on the squadron have caused concern, but it is anticipated that all major commitments will be met.

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- 2 -

5. Communications. Traffic is still increasing with the figures for the quarter being:

Incoming	2618
Outgoing	761

The increase is due to the large number of visiting ships and in particular to the now continual presence of a ship in refit.

6. Telephone communications have been improved with the installation of a switchboard, and the employment of an operator/typist.

7. Explosive Ordnance. BARBETTE conveyed Captain P.J. Stratton of 111 Support Company, Townsville, to Upolu Cay on 28th August to investigate the report from a local fisherman of many old projectiles on the Cay. Captain Stratton considered that the Cay had been an aerial bombing range during World War II. He destroyed all readily accessible and dangerous bombs.

8. On her passage to Port Moresby, HMAS MADANG dumped four boxes of condemned 40/60 ammunition in accordance with ACNB's Signal KBT/OZD 232321ZAUG73.

9. Visiting Ships. The following ships visited Cairns during the quarter:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Dates</u>
HMAS AITAPE	6th July - 30th September (Refit).
HMAS ANZAC	30th July.
HMS ODIN	4th-8th August.
HMAS BOMBARD	10th-27th August.
HMAS ANZAC	1st-4th September.
HMAS MADANG	3rd-19th September.
HMAS ATTACK	10th-30th September (Refit).

10. Mechanical Engineering. Up to six patrol boats have been alongside at once this quarter undergoing self maintenance or eliminating defects - this together with maintaining the S.M.B. HERALD and the survey parties' diesel generators has kept the department fully employed.

11. All planned maintenance schedules for the patrol boats have been completed to date, however defects which required base or contractor assistance were:

- (a) HMAS BAYONET was accepted from her bi-ennial refit on 20th July. Previously several sea trials were unsatisfactorily conducted due to excessive temperatures on the starboard main engine. This ship remained free of defects until 24th August when an URDEF was raised to replace the manifold lagging on the starboard main engine. This task

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- 3 -

was completed on 5th September. A minor electrical fire in a solenoid on the starboard main engine on 6th September caused damage to the solenoid, starter motor and battery terminals. The contractor was called and the defects were completed on 12th September.

- (b) HMAS BARBETTE also experienced overheating but in the port main engine. It was suspected that the port propellor shaft may have been bent. The ship was subsequently slipped at North Queensland Engineers and Agents (NQE) slipway on 24th July. No damage to any external fitting was found but there was excessive wear to the port intermediate shaft in the vicinity of the stern glands which was attributed to the sprayed metal breaking down. The shaft was replaced. Due to this unscheduled slipping it was found expedient to bring forward the Intermediate Docking programmed for October. The ship was unslipped on 6th August and successful sea trials were held on 8th August.
- (c) HMAS BARRICADE completed her Intermediate Docking on 18th September.

12.

Biennial Refits

- (a) HMAS AITAPE refitted under contract to NQE from 16th July to 19th September. The refit progressed well throughout. Contractors post refit trials were held with generally good results on 10th September, however the starboard main engine gear box clutch plates seized during acceptance trials on 15th September. A new gear box was fitted and successful acceptance trials were conducted on 20th September.
- (b) HMAS MADANG was slipped at NQE from 4th to 10th September to sandblast the hull and complete the modification A/0212/71 to the armoury - items remaining from the biennial refit conducted in Sydney. The tiller flat combing was also replaced the previous combing being badly corroded.
- (c) HMAS ATTACK commenced her refit on 17th September and was slipped at NQE on 18th September. The ship was still on the slipway at the end of the month with the refit progressing well.
- (d) HMAS BAYONET - see paragraph 11(a) above.

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- 4 -

13. Electrical Engineering. This department has been fully employed during the quarter rectifying defects to patrol boats and the Facility. The aid of contractors was obtained on occasions to rectify some defects beyond the capabilities of the department. The repairs to electrical equipment fitted in HMAS BAYONET which was damaged by a minor fire in the starboard main engine was the most extensive electrical defect for the quarter. All electrical planned maintenance in the patrol boats is up to date.

14. Shipwright. The requirements of patrol boats in refit, operational patrol boats, the detached survey party and the Facility have created a large work load on the single member of this department. Many tasks such as painting of ceremonial life buoys have had to be sacrificed in order to complete more pressing demands for example; refloating the SMB HERALD and dismantling the cradle and the construction of an echo sounder transducer mast and calibration bar.

15. Weapons. Major weapons maintenance conducted during the period has been to the 40/60 mountings of HMA Ships AITAPE, BARRICADE and BARBETTE. The elevation gear box to the new mounting on AITAPE was found to be defective when fitting near the completion of the refit. Two technicians from the Fleet Maintenance Party replaced the item. During the Intermediate Docking of BARRICADE her mounting was lifted and overhauled at the Facility. A similar overhaul is now being carried out on BARBETTE's and HMAS ATTACK's mountings.

16. Transport. The problem of insufficient service transport in Cairns has been very evident this quarter. The demands of patrol boats in refit and the detached survey party necessitated the hiring of vehicles at a cost since June 1973 of approximately \$430.00. Repairs have been completed in accordance with quotes obtained to vehicles ZNBO74 (Ford Mini-Bus) and ZNB105 (Holden Station Wagon).

## Sport, Social and Civic Activities

17. The following sporting results were achieved during the quarter:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Vs</u>	<u>Result</u>
22.8.73	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade	Lost 0 - 2 Won 2 - 1
19.9.73	Volley Ball	Fire Brigade	Lost 1 - 4

18. The Cairns State School of the Air held the first of an annual camp in Cairns for its pupils during the latter part of July. On 25th the students were shown the two patrol boats then in harbour. Unfortunately both were at NQEA undergoing refit and Intermediate Docking. For many of the students this was the first time they had seen the sea let alone a Naval vessel.

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# RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 5 -

19. The Services Concert Party visited Cairns again on 30th July. This most professional group of artists entertained service personnel, their families and friends.

20. The officers of HMS ODIN hosted a cocktail party on board on Saturday 4th August. Although conditions were rather cramped, the sixty guests enjoyed a most convivial evening.

21. A Civic Reception was held on 22nd August to honour Commissioner H.W. Williams, OBE, FRCS (Edin)., FICS., Commissioner of the Salvation Army for the Eastern Territory. LEUT G.V. RYAN represented the RAN.

22. The officers of HMAS ANZAC invited 100 guests to their cocktail party on 1st September during their visit to Cairns.

23. Each year the Far North Queensland Amateur Turf Club holds a week of festivities and one event is the Shamateurs held in the city on a week day. The main contestants are local businessmen who parade through the town on nonsensical floats and race in the Shamateur Kup, a race on saw bench horses ridden by 'jockeys' in fancy dress. The RAN was represented in the parade by two bathtub 'patrol boats', propelled down the road by the PBF staff.

24. The Naval Reserve Cadets, the Air Training Corps and the Army Cadet Units in the Far North Queensland area compete annually for the R.S.L. prize for rifle shooting and parade ground drill. Last year's competition, the first to be held, was won by the Naval Reserve Cadets of T.S. ENDEAVOUR. The victors this year were Number Four Flight of ATC Cairns. I had the pleasure to witness the salute at the march past taken by His Excellency Air Marshall Sir Colin Hannah KBE., CB., Governor of Queensland.

25. Medical, Dental and Morale

The Ship's Company continued to remain in good health and the morale is high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. M. Yates*

(J.M. YATES)  
Commander RAN

Enclosure: Annex A.

RESTRICTED

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ANNEX A

Visitors to the Facility

CAPT H.E. Bailey RAN	D.G.M.	8th-11th July.
CMDR R.J. Whitten RAN	D.M.P.	Complement Review.
CMDR M.J. Youl RAN	D/DFSD	
Mr F.L. Mann	DORE	
CMDR P.V. Blackman RAN NOIC QLD		19th-22nd July.
LEUT G.W. Scown RAN		20th-22nd July.
		Inspection T.S. ENDEAVOUR
LEUT R. Porteous RN		22nd-26th July.
		HMAS BAYONET WORKUP.
CMDR J. St.B. Moore RAN		29th July-1st August.
		HMAS BAYONET ORE.
Mr D. McMasters		11th July-
Mr J. Barnes		GOSIEAA - Refits.
Mr D. Sullivan		
Mr K. Riley		15th-18th August.
Mr M. Powell		HMAS BAYONET - Noise
		Evaluation Trials.
Dr P.J. Mayo		13th-25th August.
Mr J. Manton		Fanwise Trials.
Mr N. McKillop		
CMDR J.N. Crosthwaite RAN		19th-22nd August.
		Inspection and discussion
		Patrol Boat ordnance.
LCDR K.A. Doolan RAN		9th-11th September.
WOCOX F.R. Powell		Personnel Liaison Team.
CMDR J. StB. Moore RAN		16th-18th September.
		HMAS MADANG ORE.
SRGN CAPT J.F. Ryan RAN		10th-15th September.
		Medical Survey.
LCDR A.D. Vodic RAN		23rd-28th September.
CY J.G. Payne		HMAS AITAPE - Workup.
CPOQMG Grant		

RESTRICTED

**RESTRICTED**

FILE 18/6/4668.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
(NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS RAN. P.B.F. CAIRNS. Report of Proceedings Q.E. December 1977

AS(NS)

D of O

DCNS

CNS

CNP

CNPS

CNSW

SD(NO)

DPR

~~AS(NS)~~

(NS55)

NOTES:

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

**RESTRICTED**

to 18/1/74



CA

TELEPHONE: 359 9111

~~XXXXXX~~

IN REPLY QUOTE N1/16/369

16 JAN 1974

**RESTRICTED**

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

NAVY—CANBERRA

18

6

4668

OFFICE OF THE  
FLAG OFFICER ~~IN CHARGE~~ Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA,  
GARDEN ISLAND, N.S.W., 2000

15 JAN 1974

The Secretary  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1973

The enclosure is forwarded for information.

(J.L.W. MERSON)  
Commodore  
for Flag Officer Commanding

Enclosure : RAN Patrol Boat Facility letter 1/16/1 dated  
4th January, 1974 (3 copies).

**RESTRICTED**

(15)2  
**RESTRICTED**

N1-16-369

R/S 16/1

1/16/1

RAN Patrol Boat Facility  
16 Grafton Street  
CAIRNS QLD 4870

4th January, 1974

The Flag Officer Commanding  
EAST AUSTRALIA AREA

For Information:

The Flag Officer Commanding  
HM AUSTRALIAN FLEET

The Naval Officer-in-Charge  
QUEENSLAND

The Commander  
AUSTRALIAN MINE WARFARE AND PATROL FORCES

RAN PATROL BOAT FACILITY CAIRNS  
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
FOR QUARTER ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1973

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of the RAN Patrol Boat Facility Cairns under my command for the quarter ending 31st December, 1973.

2. Administration and General

The quarter has been very busy for both the Facility and the Second Australian Patrol Boat Squadron (AUSPABRON 2).

3. At 0900 Thursday 4th October the Facility was honoured by the visit of the Honourable Lance Barnard M.P., Minister for Defence. On completion of a short briefing, the Minister was given a conducted tour of the Facility, wharves and North Queensland Engineers and Agents (NQEA) slipway and workshops. The Minister departed Cairns at 1200.

4. The Naval Officer-in-Charge Queensland, Commander P.V. Blackman RAN, conducted his walkaround of the Facility on Friday 16th November.

5. Operations

The Detached Survey Party and the Queensland University Barrier Reef Expedition continued to receive logistic support from AUSPABRON 2 until the survey ended on 28th October.

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6. The Squadron's operational activities were highlighted by their Annual Inspection on 22nd and 23rd November followed by Exercise Snow Dance, 26th November to 3rd December, both being conducted by the Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Forces, Commander J. St. B. More RAN.

7. Exercise Snow Dance, an anti-infiltration exercise, was fully recorded by personnel from the RAN Research Laboratory and was made more realistic by the participation of three American "Asheville" Class Patrol Gunboats, the United States' Ships GALLUP, CANNON and ASHEVILLE. Also the exercise was utilised to conduct the Operational Readiness Evaluation of HMAS ATTACK.

8. Other activities of the Squadron for the quarter have included routine patrols two of which were Coast Watchers Visits by HMAS BAYONET and HMAS BARRICADE of the North East Coast of Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands respectively. On 22nd December HMAS BARRICADE sailed to convey a mechanic from the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service to Bougainville Reef Light (15°30'S 147°07'E) which had been reported to be burning irregularly. Repairs were successfully completed.

9. Since the fuel restrictions were imposed, difficulty has been experienced in operating AUSPABRON 2 within the limits. My signal KDB/OHE 050115Z DEC73 reported this fact and in reply, COMAUSFLT's KAA/ECM 100030Z DEC73, an extra allocation of 180 tons of distillate per year has been made.

## 10. Communications

Traffic figures in this department continue to rise, namely:

	Quarter ended 30 Sept.	Quarter ended 31 Dec.
Incoming	2618	3174
Outgoing	761	756

A total of 38 Safe Hand articles passed through the Communications Centre during the quarter.

11. The new equipment, the ANURC 58, is expected to be installed within the next month. At present two CODAN type 6924 H/F transceivers are being used with good results in comparison to the low output of approximately 20 watts.

## 12. Mechanical Engineering

No major defects occurred during the quarter in ships of AUSPABRON 2. Base assistance was required for a small number of minor defects. All Planned Maintenance is current.

13. A replacement starboard engine for the SMB HERALD was fitted on 21st November. The boat is now stowed in No.6 Wharf Shed.



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14. HMAS BARBETTE experienced an oil spill on 27th December whilst transferring sump oil. My KIP 270620Z DEC73 refers.

15. Biennial Refits

Final Acceptance Trials for HMAS ATTACK were held on 18th November with generally satisfactory results. The type 975 radar and fresh water system still needed attention and were operational on 19th November on which date the ship was accepted from NQEA. The delay in the completion date was due to final main engine adjustments.

16. HMAS SAMARAI arrived in Cairns on 3rd December and commenced her refit on 10th December. The ship slipped at NQEA on 19th December and the progress of the refit is satisfactory.

17. Electrical Engineering

This department experienced a normal quarter with the exception of a number of hours work devoted to assisting the detached survey team and rectifying defects in the SMB HERALD. No major defects were reported.

18. Shipwright

The comments made in the last report are re-iterated. With the Facility expecting to Commission in the near future the extra work will severely tax this understaffed department.

19. Several additional items have been manufactured using locally trained sailors. These have been: aerial support masts, painting pontoon, special fenders to accommodate HMAS FLINDERS and flag poles.

20. Weapons

Major weapon maintenance conducted during this period has been to the 40/60 mounting of HMAS BARBETTE. A new 40/60 and 2" Rocket Flare Launcher mountings were fitted to HMAS ATTACK. The condition of all weapons and equipment in the patrol boats are satisfactory.

21. Transport

Insufficient transport is still a problem. Hire vehicles are used to augment deficiencies as they occur. Although repairs have been completed on the Ford Mini-bus more defects have become apparent since quotes were obtained and repairs completed. An Army survey team acting on behalf of the Department of Supply inspected the vehicle and forwarded a proposal that it be replaced.

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22. Supply and Secretariat

Naval and Victualling Stores have been working at full capacity this quarter. At present a full muster of all stores is underway to enable an accurate and workable inventory to be maintained. The availability of stores in Sydney and the delays experienced in the transportation of stores from Sydney to Cairns is a matter of concern. A trial period using rail services was not successful due to industrial disputes and flooding. Another method is under consideration utilising the regular shipping service to Cairns.

23. The Secretariat section has maintained a high standard during the quarter. This section will soon be taking over pay and accounts for the Facility and AUSPABRON 2 with the arrival of a Supply Officer.

24. Sport, Social and Civic Activities

During his visit to Cairns, The Honourable Lance Barnard M.P. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence was entertained on board HMAS BARBETTE on the evening of 3rd October.

25. On 4th October, I attended the Navy Week Commemorative Dinner conducted by the Seafarer's Association of Townsville. I was honoured to be asked as guest speaker at this function which was most enjoyable.

26. The Honourable M.T.E. Hewitt MM., AFM., MLA., Minister for Conservation, Marine and Island and Aboriginal Affairs officially handed over the Motor Vessel "MELBIDIR III" to the Navy League of Australia on 21st October. The "MELBIDIR III" will be used in the training of Naval Reserve Cadets. I witnessed this Ceremony.

27. I also had the pleasure of witnessing the official opening of the Australian Government Offices in Cairns on 27th October by The Honourable F.M. Daly M.P., Minister for Services and Property.

28. On 28th October the City of Cairns conferred upon the 51st Battalion the Royal Queensland Regiment the right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Cairns. This ceremony which I attended was very impressive.

29. The Commander of the Cruising Training Unit of the Republic of Korea Navy, Commodore Hwang, Ui Song, and his officers hosted a cocktail reception at the Anzac Hall of the R.S.L. Cairns on 8th November. Despite the usual language difficulties all who attended enjoyed themselves. In return the officers of the Facility and AUSPABRON 2 hosted a Bar-B-Q luncheon at the Facility.

30. During the visit of RI SIBARAU the Officers and Ship's Company were very generously entertained to an Indonesian dinner given by Mr and Mrs E. Lammerts van Bueren. I attended the dinner accompanied by my wife and family.

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31. A children's Christmas party was held at the Facility on Saturday 22nd December. This function attended by families of all the boats, HMAS FLINDERS and the Facility was a screaming success.

32. Sport has been rather limited. During the visit of the Minesweeping Squadron early in October, the Facility convincingly defeated HMAS IBIS at cricket. The combined team of the Facility and HMAS ATTACK were defeated by the Cairns Fire Brigade at volley ball.

33. Medical, Dental and Morale

One Leading Sickberth Attendant joined the Facility during the quarter. All medical records for the Facility and AUSPABRON 2 are now kept at the Facility. Adequate medical stowage space has been made available in Naval Stores. It is envisaged that a complete Sickbay will be constructed within the Facility complex in the near future.

34. HMAS ATTACK's Ship's Company were completely immunised before their departure for Darwin. Insecticide spraying has been effected in AUSPABRON 2 ships and first aid and hygiene lectures were delivered to HMA Ships ATTACK and BARRICADE. Statistics for the quarter are:

Medical Appointments	111
Hospitalisation	2
Dental Appointments	18

35. The morale of the Ship's Company continues to be high.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. M. Yates*  
(J.M. YATES)  
Commander RAN

Enclosures: Annexes A and B.

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ANNEX A - VISITING SHIPS

<u>SHIPS</u>	<u>DATES</u>
HMAS CURLEW HMAS IBIS	4-15 October
HMAS SNIPE	4-16 October
USS McMORRIS	13-17 October
HMS HYDRA	16 October at Fairway Buoy
HMAS LABUAN HMAS BRUNEI	22-23 October
ROK JON NAM ROK UOUNG PO	8-10 November
HMAS CURLEW	28 October-5 November
HMAS SNIPE HMAS IBIS	2-5 November
USS CANNON USS GALLUP USS ASHEVILLE	27 November-3 December
HMAS SAMARAI	3 December Commenced refit
HMAS ATTACK	4 December Completed refit
RI SIBARAU	14-18 December

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## ANNEX B - VISITORS TO THE FACILITY

The Minister for Defence The Honourable Lance Barnard M.P.	3 - 4 October Defence visit North Queensland
Dr R.J. Stewart Mr R.J. Mentjox	24 - 25 October Planning Exercise Snow Dance
LCDR D. Tennent RAN	31 October - 2 November INO Inspection HMAS ATTACK
CMDR P.V. Blackman RAN	15 - 17 November Annual Walkaround
LCDR R.J. Letts RAN	18 - 24 November Inspection Facility and AUSPABRON 2
LEUT R.T. Bourke RAN	21 - 23 November Annual Inspection of AUSPABRON 2
LCDR C.J. Bartlett RAN	21 November - 4 December Annual Inspection of AUSPABRON 2 and Exercise Snow Dance
CMDR J.St.B. More RAN	22 November - 4 December Annual Inspection of AUSPABRON 2 and Exercise Snow Dance
LEUT I.P. McConnachie RAN LEUT B. Thompson RAN	27 November - 1 December Exercise Snow Dance
FLT LEUT M. Thompson RAAF	28 - 30 November and 3 December. Exercise Snow Dance
Mr W.J. Watters	3 December HMAS SAMARAI Refit
LCDR R.B. Doolan RAN	5 - 6 December Detached Survey Party
Mr M.W.D. Smithies Assistant Secretary Planning Branch GROUP CAPT R. Frost RAAF	7 - 9 December Defence Visit
LEUT R.F. Williams RAN	9 - 10 December Familiarisation

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RAN P. B. F. CHAIRNS.

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Declassification Authority—Defence Records  
This record has been reviewed and has been  
declassified by the Department of Defence  
(Navy) with effect from: 17 Dec 90  
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13.  
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 14 MAR 91

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