AWM78

Reports of Proceedings, HMA Ships and Establishments

AWM78 Class 432 - Shore Establishment - HMAS COONAWARRA, Darwin

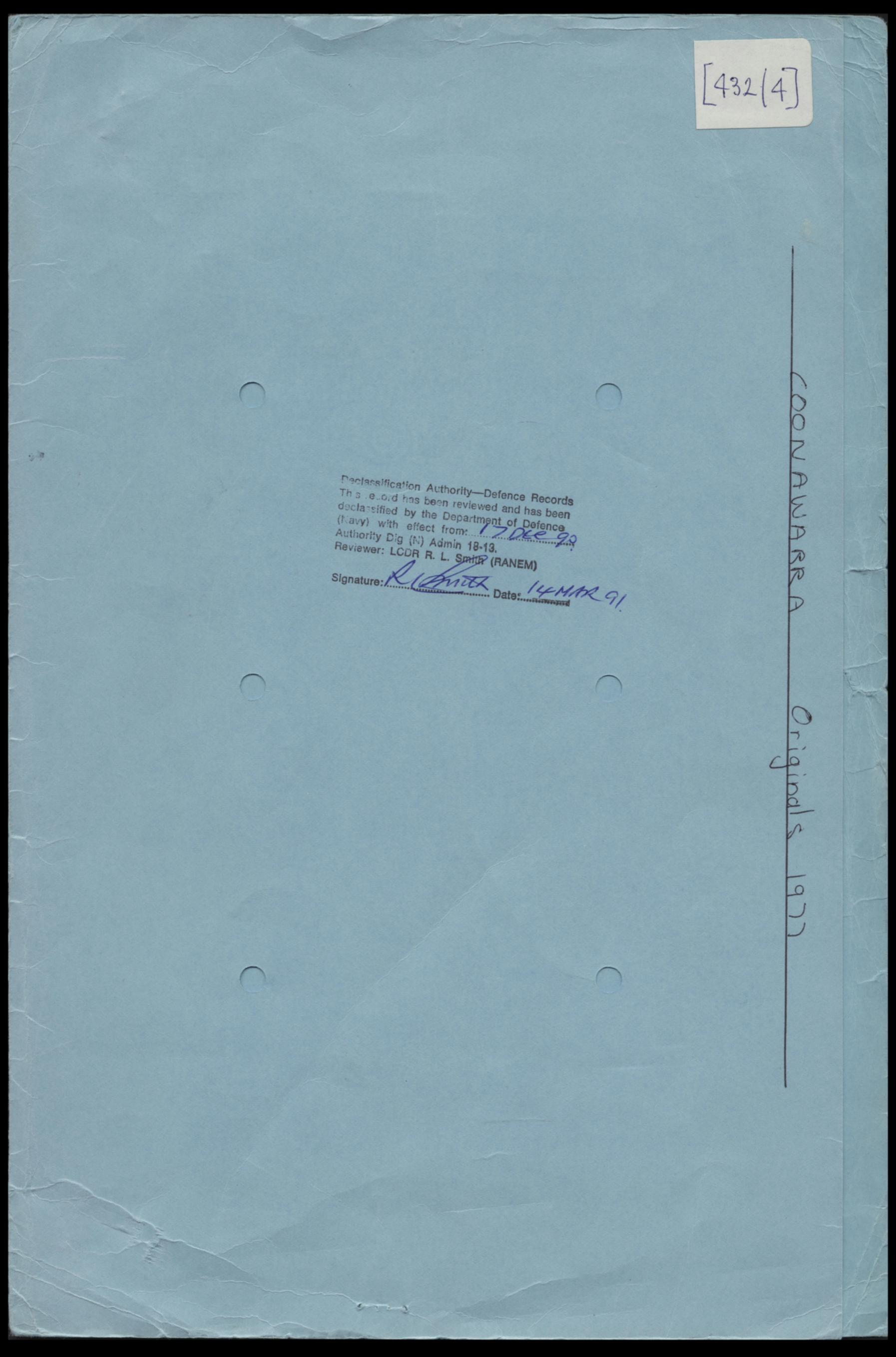
File number: AWM78/432/4

Title: AWM78 432/4 - January-December

1977



RCDIG1074229



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1074229

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PEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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FILE: 428/3/2124

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS QE. MARCH

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

- 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.
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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

TELEPHONE:

890911

IN REPLY QUOTE 1/16/15

Naval Headquarters Larrakeyah Barracks DARWIN. N.T. 5790

APR. 5 1977

Department of Defence (Navy Office)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Chief of Naval Staff

HMAS COON AWARRA REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS QUARTER ENDING 31 MARCH 1977

1. Forwarded.

2. Points raised in this report which invite comment from the administration authority will be covered in Naval Officer Commanding, North Australia Area Report of Proceedings covering the period.

(T.A. DADSWELL)
Captain ADC RAN
Naval Officer Commanding
North Australia Area.

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Enclosure: HMAS COONAWARRA letter 1/16/1 of 1 April, 1977.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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HMAS COONAWARRA
P.M.B. 13,
DARWIN N.T. 5791

1st April 1977

The Naval Officer Commanding, NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the quarter ended 31st March 1977.

General

- After a slow start late in January, the Wet Season developed during February and was well established by March. Record rainfalls have been experienced, and at the end of the period under report over 1 metre of rain had faller in March, making it the wettest month on record.
- Wet Season have no less affected the occupants of naval married quarters, but caravan dwellers in particular have experienced considerable discomfort and inconvenience, and the pervading damp has brought a high incidence of minor illnesses. I continue to be constantly impressed with the spirit of optimism and adaptability with which most of these naval families approach the problems of a makeshift lifestyle under tropical conditions.
- 4. The Darwin mains power supply system has continued to stagger from crisis to crisis during the quarter, with power failures or load-shedding periods of various durations an almost daily event. The COONAWARRA COMMCENTRE emergency diesel generator has, however, operated most efficiently, providing alternative power supplies for essential services on every occasion of mains power failure. Department of Construction has carried out major maintenance on the emergency machine since my last report, and further improvement work is scheduled. Frequent use of emergency generating plant at COONAWARRA, Shoal Bay, and NHQ has led to increased diesel fuel consumption during the period, now approximating 3,000 gallons per month.
- Industrial action connected with proposals to reduce tropical leave and travel entitlements of public servants also led to disruption of mains power supplies in January, the most drastic effect being a total power outage of approximately 17 hours during a 24 hour strike on 4/5 January. On this occasion a switching fault prevented provision of emergency supplies to domestic and administrative areas in COONAWARRA, but continuity of operational activities was maintained.
- On 9th and 10th March I represented you, Sir, on a briefing and liaison visit to Groote Eylandt and Gove. The party, comprising representatives of the Defence Services, Police, Customs and the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr J.A. England, travelled by RAAF Caribou aircraft and stayed overnight in Nhulunbuy. Highlights

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of the programme included tours of the GEMCO manganese mining activities on Groote Hylandt, and bauxite mining and alumina production by NABALCO at Gove, as well as landscape restoration efforts at each location. Social engagements are included in Annex B.

- 7. The brief visit to Darwin of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh on 26th March required only minor effort by COONAVARRA, but was much enjoyed by the 20 Wrans who acted as door-openers and stewards at various stops by the royal party. The officers, wives and other dependents who were privileged to attend the arrival ceremony at the RAAF Base also appreciated the opportunity extended to them.
- 8. Difficulty has been experienced during the past few months in obtaining timely psychological services when required, to support investigation of welfare and administrative functions, because the Army Reserve officer who formerly performed this work for the three services in Darwin is no longer available. The only practicing Psychologist to whom cases can now be referred works at the Community Hospital, and cannot cope with her existing workload. A similarly heavy workload in the hospital secretarial services section imposes lengthy delays on the production of reports, adding to the overall problem. Since all three Defence Services are apparently similarly affected, their combined requirements might well justify the employment of a Joint Services Psychologist in Darwin on a full-time basis.
- I commend to you, Sir, the particularly valuable efforts of the RAAF Base R.O. Chaplain, Father B. Gallachor in providing welfare assistance and pastoral visiting to naval residents of all faiths, as well as regular R.C. services which he conducts in my office each Sunday. His interest, advice and support are widely appreciated.
- I am conscious of a need for improvement in the scope and conduct of CPSO functions in the command, and of an increase in demand for such services as the spread of suburban living by naval families develops. At present these duties are carried out by a number of officers and senior sailors and Wrans as ancillary to their primary employment, and a better service could be provided with the establishment of a proper CPSO organisation. Provision of a suitable encumbent to the billet of CWRWTR(MAB) now allowed in the COONAWARRA complement for CPSO duties, would enable progress to be made.
- 11. The service environment in Darwin is particularly suitable for Joint Service management of activities common to the three services, and the feasibility of setting up a Joint Service management organisation for housing, furniture, removals, social welfare, and other CPSO-type functions would be worthy of serious investigation.

Works, Property and Housing

- The removal of heavy debris at COONAWARRA East has been delayed by the effects of the Wet Season, but is programmed by Department of Construction to take place in April.
- 14. The Humpty Doo Transmitting Station project is progressing satisfactorily. The anticipated handover of the Guard House was postponed due to faults in concrete work, requiring complete demolition of walls and rebuilding. Pouring of concrete in the main walls of the

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Transmitter Building is proceeding as planned. The site is visited frequently by the command WEEO, who has developed a good on-site liaison with the Project Supervisor.

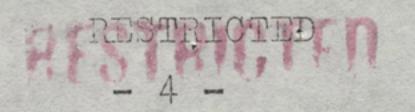
- 14. Rectification of cyclone damage at Shoal Bay Receiving Station is continuing. All main building and generator building roof leaks have been stopped, but re-roofing of tanks remains outstanding.
- The initial allocation of finance was sufficient to refurbish only 14 of the 24 married quarters mentioned in paragraph 19 of the last quarterly report, because of a larger need for repair and replacement of internal walls, doors and cupboards than had been estimated. The completed work was inspected by representatives of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, Department of Construction and the Command Housing Officer, and assessed most satisfactory.
- 16. Work orders are currently being raised to cover a further 30 houses, and Department of Construction has received authority from the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, to programme all naval married quarters, including three currently used as wardroom accommodation, for overall maintenance.
- Obstribution of furniture to married quarters is almost complete, and orders have been placed for furniture to outfit a further 7 COONAWARRA houses to be reconstructed in 1977, and 20 suburban dwellings to be made available by the Department of the Northern Territory. These latter units are among over 500 completed homes, occupation of which are held up by a dispute with the Electrical Trades Union, in support of an entitlement to priority housing for day labour staff.
- The replacement built in furniture in the top floor of the Junior Sailors Accommodation Block is now complete, and with the provision of some better items of occasional furniture, cabins are now close to their pre- 1975 standard.
- 19. The Senior WRANS Block hot water system remains unavailable for use, the current delay being attributed to non-delivery of a header tank. Wet Season transport and procurement problems are apparently compounded by a lack of ability among the works authorities concerned to properly coordinate their efforts. A contract for the work has been let, to proceed immediately on receipt of the tank, and meanwhile a temporary electrical heater unit has been fitted to one shower in the building.
- Road and footpath repairs have been carried out within COONAWARRA, street lighting has been reinstalled at COONAWARRA East, and repairs are now in progress to cyclone-damaged street lighting in Hidden Valley Estate.
- An on-going campaign to keep the Stuart Highway between Hidden Valley Estate and the Winnellie boundary of COONAWARRA clear of drink cans and other roadside rubbish, by daily Duty Watch skirmishing and checks, has received favourable comment in a NT News reader's letter.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



- Work on the COONAWARRA COMMCENTRE reconstruction is progressing satisfactorily. All air-conditioning trunking has been fitted, and machinery installation has been started.
- As planned reconstruction of houses on existing platforms in COONAWARRA and Hidden Valley Estate will require removal of approximately 12 occupied caravans, and an industrial dispute prevents relocation of their occupants in suburban homes, to avoid any delay to the reconstruction programme, planned demolition of six condemned houses in COONAWARRA has been postponed, to enable their use as alternative caravan sites if required.

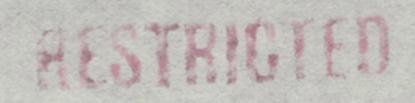
Communications

- The period proved a very busy one for NAVCOMMSTA DARWIN, and included in February opportunity for the first time to operate two mobile-fixed services simultaneously in the Interim Commcentre, with HMA Ships VENDETTA, and TORRENS respectively. No serious problems were encountered.
- A large volume of ship/shore traffic was hardled for HMAS MELBOURNE and her group, and the station was pleased to receive a very appreciative message on her shift of communications en route to the U.S.A. Her voyage is providing valuable experience in assessing the useful range of support communications from Darwin, and practice for Interim Commcentre operators.
- The many interruptions to mains power supplies taxed the resourcefulness of engineers and operators from time to time, but did not seriously affect operational continuity. Availability of transmitters in the RAAF Transmitting Station was also well maintained.
- A visit by the Darwin Communication Project Director, LCDR I.M. Fraser, from 21st February to 2nd March for his initial on-site briefing on current projects was also of value to station staff. Many works, equipment, engineering and operating aspects were discussed at length, and resulted in a better understanding among those concerned. A concurrent visit by D/DAV-N, Mr Kinsman, provided opportunity for detailed discussion on works and construction matters with local authorities.

Supply and Secretariat

- Most cyclone-damaged residential furniture was replaced during the last quarter of 1976, and accordingly furniture charges were reintroduced in the North Australia Area from 7th January 1977.
 Accounting is proceeding well, and the anticipated date for inclusion of furniture charges on members Pay Accounts is 14th April 1977 (PF21/77).
- 29. The tri-service victualling trial under RAAF management proved successful, and the increased range of choices available and other superior aspects of the RAAF system rendered the new arrangement more popular in COONAWARRA than the RAN monetary system. The only significant disadvantage is that with the cessation of a repayment messing system, extra food for Wardroom and Senior Ranks functions must

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now be bought at contract prices instead of fixed issuing prices. Lieutenant RM McNeill (A/DFSP(C)) visited COONAWARRA for one week in January, to review the trial.

- 30. Mr David Ward, a Commonwealth Statistician also visited COONAWARRA for one week in January, in connection with a review of Uniform Maintenance Allowance. He was assisted by ships staff in collecting relevant statistical data.
- Reconstruction of Naval Stores accounts has now been completed, but the majority of APLs have still not been received. With roads cut during the Wet Season, difficulties have again been experienced in getting stores from Sydney in a timely fashion.

WRANS

- Repair and maintenance of the Wrans quarters was completed during the quarter, and both accommodation blocks are now restored to pre-cyclone condition. The available accommodation remains under-utilised with only 45 junior and 3 senior RANS living in.
- 33. All WRAAC soldiers previously accommodated are now living out. Their preference for private accommodation has not been clearly explained but local Army advice indicates they are not accustomed in the WRAAC to sharing rooms with other girls. It appears likely, however, that they are prepared to share rooms in private accommodation ashore.
- 34. Four Wrans acted as door openers for official cars at the official opening of the N.T. Legislative Assembly in Darwin, on 1st March 1977. A further 20 Wrans performed similar duties during the Royal Visit on 26th March. Their smart appearance, cheerfulness and enthusiasm created a very good impression.
- 35. In addition to the participation in sport indicated by the results at Annex C, a good number of Wrans are current members of civilian teams in the squash, hockey, softball and basketball competitions.

Training

- A Command Test for Promotion was convened on 3rd February to test sailor and Wran candidates for Petty Officer and Leading Rank.

 Part 1 qualifications were awarded to 4 sailors and 12 Wrans, and Part 2 qualifications to 3 sailors and 15 Wrans.
- An additional Command Test for Promotion was convened for candidates from HMAS ADROIT for Chief Petty Officer, Petty Officer and Leading Rank. 8 sailors were successful in Part 1, and 2 in Part 2 of the Promotion Board.
- 38. Five communication sailors are now undergoing a pre-test training programme in preparation for the next Promotion Board.

Dental

39. The Dental Department has continued to function very effectively coping with an increased workload since moving into the new Dental Surgery adjacent to the Sick Bay. No problems of any consequence have developed in the new equipment fitted.

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A temporary Dental Laboratory is operating alongside the Dental Surgery in a disused laundry space, and provides a more convenient and efficient service than when previously located in the Darwin Dental Clinic. A new, permanent Dental Laboratory is under consideration, and a considerable amount of laboratory equipment has been procured or ordered.

Medical

- Apart from the usual expected minor ailments, the general physical health of the service personnel and dependants has remained within acceptable limits. A surprising number of cases, both single and married, requiring psychological investigation, counselling, and support, have been seen, and the lack of a service psychologist at times leads to frustrating delays in assessment of cases.
- The patrol boat and radio personnel experience medical problems peculiar to their respective tasks, but no major malfunctions have as yet arisen.

Sport

- 43. Sports competition results are at Annex C.
- The 1977 Interservice Sports programme started with the Table Tennis events on 16th February, and will finish with an Athletics meeting on 28th September. This year the host service is Army.

Conduct and Morale

- The conduct of the Ships Company has been very good, there being no major disciplinary events during the quarter, and few offences ashore.
- 46. There were a number of welfare problems, brought about mainly by the unwillingness or inability of some wives to cope with family difficulties compounded by the boredom and discomfort of the Wet Season climate. For those living in cramped conditions the complication of occupying the time of children at home during the nine weeks school holidays was an added burden. The resumption of school, and prospects of the approaching Dry Season should ease tensions and restore domestic morale.
- 47. The morale of sailors and Wrans has been generally very good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(H.A. JOSEPHE)
Commander, RAN

COMMANDING OFFICER

Enclosures:

1: 2: 3: Visits

Social

Sports Results

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VISITS

ANNEX A

24-28 JAN	LEUT R.M. McNEILL - DFSR staff - Review of RAAF-managed Joint Service victualling system.
24-27 JAN	Mr D. WARD - Statistician - Uniform Maintenance Allowance Survey.
21FEB-2MAR	LCDR I.M. FRASER, DCPD - Briefing visit and discussions concerning communication projects.

LCOL M. LEMON, CO 7 Sig Regt, and LCOL C. CATTENACH, Army Office, discussions on employment of 71 Sig Sqn. 14-17 MAR



ANNEX B

		ANNEX B
1.		SOCIAL
17	JAN	I was invited to lunch by the Captain, HMAS VENDETTA. Other guests were the Administrator and Mrs England, Mr Grant Tambling MLA and Mrs Tambling, NOCNA and Mrs Dadswell.
21	JAN	My wife and I attended a cocktail party in HMAS ADVANCE.
25	JAN	I attended a small lunch-hour function at the Cell Bar (O.F.I.) where the Mayor of Darwin, Dr Ella Stack, presented a city crest to complete the "Navy Help Darwin" display.
1	FEB	My wife and I dined with the Chief Fire Officer and Mrs Holtham: Other guests were Group Captain and Mrs Jackson, Mr Roger Ryan MLA and Mrs Ryan, NOCNA and Mrs Dadswell.
6	FEB	My wife and I were guests of the COONAWARRA Junior Sailors Social Club Committee at an afternoon popular music performance starring Marty Rhone.
11	FEB	My wife and I enjoyed the RAAF Base Officers Mess Summer Ball, as official guests.
21	FEB	My wife and I gave a buffet dinner party at home, to introduce COONAWARRA officers and their wives to LCDR I.M. FRASER, Darwin Communication Project Director.
9	MAR	I was a guest at a luncheon given by the Groote Eylandt Mining Company at Groote Eylandt Recreation Club, Alyangula.
		The same evening I attended a Cocktail Party given by NABALCO Ltd, in Mhulunbuy, at the Arnhem Club.
10	MAR	I enjoyed a luncheon party given by NABALCO Ltd, at the Hideaway Motel, Gove.
15	MAR	My wife and I gave a dinner party at home, to entertain LCOL M. LEMON, CO 7 Sig Regt and LCOL C. CATTENACH, Army Office. Other guests were LCOL M.G. SMITH, CO 7 Mildist and Mrs Smith, NOCNA and Mrs Dadswell.
17	MAR	My wife and I were invited to a baffet dinner given by LCOL and Mrs Smith to entertain BRIG. NORTON and his party of staff officers.
24	MAR	My wife and I were guests at a Ladies Dining-in Night at the RAAF Base Darwin Officers Mess.

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My wife and I attended a Ladies Dining-in Night at COONAWARRA Wardroom.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

25 MAR

30 MAR

21 MAR

My wife and I were invited to an Air Force Anniversary Cocktail Party at the RAAF Base Darwin Officers Mess.

My wife and I attended a performance of the F.A.C.E. Concert Party at the RAAF Base Cinema, and entertainment of the cast afterwards, at the Officers Mess.

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ANIEX C

SPORTS RESULTS

INTER-SERVICE		
16 PDB 77	TABLE TENNIS RAAF DEF ARMY/NAVY	12 - 4
25 FEB 77	SQUASH (MEN) RAAF DEF ARMY/NAVY (WOMEN) WRANS DEF WRAAC/WRAAF	15 - 12 4 - 2
INTERNAL	WATER POLO	
17 JAN 77	VENDETTA DEF COONAWARRA	9 - 1
19 JAN 77	COMIS (2) DEF L & E NAVY DEF GAMBLERS	8 - 0 5 - 3
26 JAN 77	SSM & S DEF COMIS (1)	FORFEIT
09 FEB 77	L & E DEF SSM & S	8 - 6
16 FEB 77	COMMS (2) DEF COMMS (1)	FORFEIT
23 FEB 77	COMMS (2) DEF SSM&S	8 - 5
02 MAR 77	COMMS (1) DEF L & E	7 - 5
16 MAR 77	RAAF DEF COONAWARRA	8 - 7
VOLLEYBALL		
17 JAN 77	VENDETTA DEF COONAVARRA	2 - 1
19 JAN 77	ATTACK DEF COONAWARRA GAMBLERS DEF NAVY	2 - 1 2 - 0
09 MAR 77	FIRE BRIGADE DEF COONAWARRA	4 - 0
16 MAR 77	RAAF DEF COONAWARRA	2 - 0
17 MAR 77	SENIOR SAILORS DEF POLICE	3 - 0
23 MAR 77	FIRE BRIGADE DEF COONAWARRA	3 - 1
GOLF		
17 JAN 77	COONAWARRA DEF VENDETTA	117 - 98
SOCCER 19 JAN 77	NAVY DEF GAMBLERS	1 - 0
BASKETBALL 23 MAR 77	COONAWARRA DEF RAAF	18 - 17

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DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

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Security Classification

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

HMAS COONAWARRA REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS &E JUNE 197

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CNF GAG 3/6

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



RESTRICTED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Telephone: In Reply Quote: 890911 1/16/15

Naval Headquarters Larrakeyah Barracks DARWIN. N.T. 5790

JUL _ 84977

Department of Defence (Navy Office)

Attention: Chief of Naval Staff

HMAS COONAWARRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
QUARTER ENDING 30 JUNE, 1977.

Forwarded.

(T.A. DADSWELL)
Captain ADC RAN

Naval Officer Commanding North Australia Area

Enclosure: HMAS COON AWARRA letter 1/16/1 of 1 July, 1977.

HMAS COONAWARRA
P.M.B. 13,
DARVIN N.T. 5791

1st July 1977

The Naval Officer Commanding, NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the quarter ended 30th June 1977.

General

- I was absent on leave overseas from 4th April to 3rd May, during which period LCDR B.L. WEEKS acted as Commanding Officer.
- During April the Wet Season rains reduced characteristically, and a most delightful Dry Season weather pattern has since developed which is universally appreciated. This has also aided the return to reliability of the Darwin mains power supply system, which has functioned without an unscheduled break for the past two months.
- On Thursday, 7th April you inspected Divisions at COONAWARRA, Sir, and took the salute at March Past.
- In your absence on duty at Alice Springs during the Anzac Day weekend, LCDR B.L. WEEKS represented the RAN at the Anzac Day services and ball which were held in Darwin.
- 6. HMA Ships IBIS and CURLEW visited Darwin from 15th to 28th April. Some of their officers and sailors took part in the Anzac Day services, and a small contingent joined the march to the Cenotaph.
- On Monday, 2nd May ABETC B.D. HAYDON, R109626 while driving his car from Sydney to Darwin to join HMAS COONAWARRA, collided head on with a huge road train travelling in the opposite direction, approximately 100 km from his destination and about 5 km south of Adelaide River. The accident occurred at 0915 and the sailor died in Darwin Hospital 3 hours later. His body was flown to Tasmania for burial.
- 8. HMAS MORESBY visited Darwin for 3 days from Friday 27th May, providing opportunities for enjoyable social and sporting contact between our ships companies. The visiting sailors conducted themselves well.
- On Sunday 22nd May the COONAVARRA Senior Sailors Mess entrant boat for the 1977 Beer Can Regatta was launched into the swimming pool at COONAVARRA and named "KARA KARA" by SWRMED L. WALTON, who was simultaneously launched as "Miss COONAVARRA" to contest the "Miss NT" section of this year's Miss Australia Quest. The event, and the poolside luncheon which followed, were enjoyed by all present and received favourable publicity in the local newspapers.

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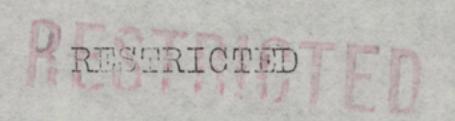
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- On Monday 30th May LCDR H.W. BARRETT arrived and began taking over the duties of Executive Officer from LCDR B.L. WEEKS, who departed on Friday 3rd June 1977.
- DGNHS, Surgeon RADM S.J. LLOYD, arrived on Tuesday 31st May accompanied by three staff officers, and departed on Friday 3rd June. It is expected that the studies carried out during the visit will be beneficial in the provision of both service and family medical services in 1978 and thereafter.
- During your absence on leave, Sir, from 4th to 11th June I acted as NOCNA, while the CO 7 MILDIST, LCCL M.G. SMITH acted as Chairman, Darwin JSLPC.
- 13. Navy was well represented in the 1977 World Cup Beer Can Regatta, held at Vestey's Beach on Sunday, 12th June. The Senior Sailors boat (named KARA KARA, reputedly an aporiginal word meaning "yellow", representing the collour of the 2762 cans used in her construction, and incidentally after the ex-RAN boom vessel sunk in Darwin) entered four events, crewed by Berrimah Primary School Children, Senior Sailors, Senior Sailors wives and under power, winning a first, fourth and fifth place respectively in the first three races and failing to gain a place in the fourth. POWRREG R. KEYSELL won her singles paddling event in a cance-type beer can boat, the refurbished 1976 Navy beer can galleon acquitted itself creditably in the "naval battle", and the world's first beer can submarine created considerable public interest. On Saturday 18th June KARA KARA was taken to Katherine by her promotors and participated in the "Karnival Kapers" in Katherine Gorge, at the invitation of the organising committee. Both events, apart from being greatly enjoyed by those who participated, provided good PR value for the RAN.
- 14. On 22nd and 23rd June I represented you, Sir, on a briefing tour by RAAF Dakota aircraft to Borroloola, Karumba, Normanton, Mornington Island and Roper River. The services representatives and officers of other departments concerned were accompanied by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr J.A. England, and the party stayed overnight at Normanton. As on previous similar occasions I found the experience most enlightening, and appreciated the opportunity to take part.
- The posting of a POWR to the COONAWARRA CPSO billet from 25th July should improve considerably the situation mentioned in paragraph 10 of my last report, and provide a better standard of family support services in the command.

Works, Property and Housing

- The removal of heavy debris from COONAWARRA East has now been completed, rendering the site more orderly and somewhat safer for the residents of married quarters there and their children.
- 17. With contractors making the most of excellent Dry Season conditions very good progress is being made with the Humpty Doo Transmitting Station project, and most other works items currently in train.

- 18. The re-roofing of water supply tanks at Shoal Bay Receiving Station now being completed, all cyclone damage has been rectified.
- Ontracts have now been let for the primary refurbishing of all on-base married quarters with the exception of two at COONAWARRA East which have been declared beyond economical repair, and work is progressing well. The off-base houses previously returned to the Department of the Northern Territory (DNT) will be refurbished by that department. At a later stage a further project will be carried out to upgrade all houses to post-cyclone Darwin building code standards.
- Work is now in progress on the construction of 7 new houses on cyclone cleared sites in Hidden Valley Estate, and a further 8 will be started early in the new financial year.
- 21. The acquisition of 25 DNT houses in the Northern Suburbs has greatly reduced the housing roster and improved the life style of occupants and their families. A further 5 houses were offered in June, but following inspectation by the Joint Housing Vorking Party 3 were declined as being too far below services scales. Subsequently the offer of all 5 houses was withdrawn by DNT, pending a clarification of Defence policy.
- 22. Improvement in the availability of houses has enabled the return to DNT of 8 caravans, leaving 16 government owned caravans occupied as married quarters. Current housing developments indicate that all caravans should be dispensed with before the onset of the next Wet Season.
- Because of administrative delays in the financing, ordering and manufacture/supply of furniture, some occupied houses are either partly furnished only, or furniture with damaged items awaiting disposal. Where furniture rent is applicable, charges have been adjusted accordingly. The ability to occupy future newly constructed or allocated homes will also be governed by the availability of furniture, and steps are being taken to procure as much as possible before the end of this year, and at the same time programme the acquisition of houses to coincide with the estimated delivery of furniture.
- 24. The Senior Wrans Block has now been fitted with a new Solar Hot Water System, restoring the availability of hot water in the building after many months.
- The reconstruction of the upper floor of Building 31 (ex-Wrans accommodation) is now proceeding, and should be completed before the end of the year.
- 26. COONAWARRA Commcentre reconstruction, phase 1, has now been completed, and the second phase (cyclone-proofing encasement and removal of damaged buildings) is expected to start in the near future.



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- The improved housing situation will now enable the removal of condemned houses mentioned in paragraph 23 of my last report, and in fact 7 houses have now been advertised for disposal. It is understood contracts have already been let for the removal of 3 of the 7.
- 28. All fire breaks around naval assets have been graded, and grass is being maintained at a maximum height of 6 inches for the duration of the Dry Season.

Communications

As this subject is fully covered in the Monthly Report of Communications Services it will no longer be routinely included in my Quarterly Report of Proceedings, but visits of significance on communications operational and technical matters will continue to be listed in Annex A.

Supply and Secretariat

- 30. During the period 2nd to 20th May an internal audit team led by Mr T. Henry carried out an audit inspection of records maintained in COOHAWARRA. Mr M. Nagar, of the Auditor-General's office, also visited the establishment during the course of the audit.
- Housing in Darwin was introduced into the Group Rent Scheme from 24th June, resulting in increases in rent charges for occupants of houses in general, and decreases for those accommodated in demountables, core-units and caravans. The change appears to have been quite well received by those involved.
- 32. COOMAWARRA personnel, who have been concerned at the constantly increasing cost of living in Darwin, were cheered by the announcement in May of a 47% increase in the District Allowance payable to the Public Service and the subsequent promulgation of an immediate flow-on to the services.
- 33. The lack of APL's for Shoal Bay Receiving Station is a continuing cause of concern in the Naval Stores area.

Wrans

- Early in June, 2NDO R.A. McVEAN handed over the duties of Unit Officer, WRANS to 2NDO M.A. DOBSON.
- 35. The three Wrans Officers in COONAWARRA are now included in the daily watchbill as Duty Executive Officer, and are enjoying the experience.
- A number of social and other activities in support of SWRMED WALTON's candidature in the Miss Australia Quest have been held or planned. As neither Army nor RAAF in Darwin is fielding a candidate this year, both services have pledged their support for Miss COONAWARRA.

Training

A Command Test for promotion was convened on 21st April to test sailor and Wran candidates for CPO PO and Leading Rank. Part 1 qualifications were awarded to 10 sailors and 5 Wrans, and Part 2 qualifications to 11 sailors and 3 Wrans.

- One SWRROS, one ABROEW, three ABROS and three SWRROT passed 38. Command Test Part 3 for Leading Rank,
- 39. At the request of HMAS MORESBY one ABRO was tested in Part 3 for Leading Rank in May and was successful.
- One ABETC passed a Patrol Boat ETC course conducted in 40. COONAWARRA during the period under report.
- A set of 10 recorded morse tapes at speeds varying from 8 to 25 words per minute are being obtained, as an aide to improving EW operators up to the fleet standard of 25 wpm.
- 42. On 26th, 27th and 28th June Security Training Lectures were given to personnel of all categories at Shoal Bay Receiving Station, by two officers from the Attorney General's Department in Darwin.

Sport

- 43. The Interservice Sports programme has continued throughout the quarter, and this year in the Women's Contests because of comparative numbers borne combined WRAAC/WRAAF teams compete against the Wrans. All events have been well organised by Army, and well supported by participants and spectators.
- Results of Interservice Sports are at Annex C. 44.

Conduct and Morale

- 45. Apart from mild discontent among some personnel concerned, at recent Rations and Quarters and Group Rent Scheme developments, the morale of members and families is very good. Outstanding Dry Season climatic conditions, with dry days and cool nights, enable residents to travel further afield, and promote a better state of general health and well-being.
- The conduct of the Ships Company has been excellent throughout the period.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(H.A. JOSEPHS) Commander, RAN

COMMANDING OFFICER

Annexures

Visits A

B. Social

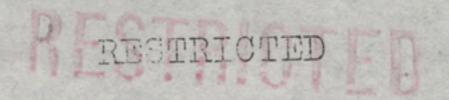
Sports

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ANNEX A

VISIMS

Date	Visitor/s and Purpose
18APR 4 MAY	Mr Brian CURTIS, DNCD - testing and modification of HF DF at Shoal Bay.
11-16 APR	LEUT B. TAYLOR, DNCD - discussion on tape recorders and technical stores problems.
22 APR	Mr John TAYLOR, Fublic Service Roard Commissioner - for familiarisation on employment categories in communications stations.
22-26 APR	Mr John BLARD and Mr John TAYLOR, DSD - for discussions on communications engineering problems.
4 - 12 MAY	Mr H. BATES and Mr V. LASCASAS, DSD - for discussion on communications training matters.
31MAY-3JUN	Surgeon RADM S.J. LLOYD, DGNHS and three staff officers - study of medical and dental care arrangements in Darwin, and future requirements.
2728JUN	SIDR B. BERNASCONI RAAF, DTELS - liaison visit to Shoal Bay Receiving Station.
28JUN	Mr A. BURGE G.O.S.I.E.A.A inspection of communications installations at Shoal Bay.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ANNEX B

SOCIAL

Date	Event
3 APR	My wife and I attended the annual reunion of the Rats of Tobruk Association at Pee Wee Camp.
7 MAY	My wife and I were invited by LCOL M.G. Smith CO 7 MILDIST and Mrs Smith to an "al fresco" dinner in the forecourt of the Officers Mess at Larrakeyah.
19MAY	I was an official guest at a Dining-in Night in the RAAF Base Officers Mess.
27MAY	My wife and I attended a cocktail party in HMAS MORESBY visiting Darwin.
31MAY	My wife and I gave a buffet party at home, to welcome Surgeon RADM Lloyd and his party.
11JUN	My wife and I attended a cocktail party in the patrol boat squadron.
13JUN	My wife and I were guests of the Army at the Queen's Birthday Cocktail Party at Larrakeyah Officer's Mess.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SPORTS

Interservice

Date	Event/Result	Score
6 APR	Australian Rules Football - NAVY/ARMY defeated RAAF	11-12/7-7
20APR	Hockey Men - NAVY/ARMY defeated RAAF Women - WRANS defeated WRAAF/WRAAC	5 - 3 - 0
4 MAY	Softball Men - NAVY/ARMY defeated RAAT Vomen- WRANS defeated WRAAF/WRAAC	Forfeit 29 - 3
18MAY	Lawn Bowls - RAAF defeated NAVY/ARMY	137 - 88
25MAY	Soccer - RAAF defeated NAVY/ARMY	6 - 5
1 JUH	Tennis Men - RAAF defeated NAVY/ARMY Women - WRANS defeated WRAAC/WRAAF	9 - 0 Forfeit
15JUN	Water Polo - RAAF defeated NAVY/ARMY	8 - 2

Interdepartmental

Many interdepartmental and challenge matches were played during the quarter, against teams including Police, Fire Brigade and visiting ships.

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DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

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CHOOK (Signature) 19,7,77

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(NAVY OFFICE)

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TADMIN-NAR 23/1

- 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.
 - 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.

Telephone: 890911 In Reply Quote: 1/16/15

> Naval Headquarters Larrakeyah Barracks DARWIN. N.T. 5790

> > OCT. 1 9 1977

Chief of Naval Staff
Department of Defence (Navy Office)

For Information:

Commanding Officer, HMAS COONAWARRA

HMAS COONAWARRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER, 1977

1. Forwarded.

The problem outlined at paragraph 39 will be kept under review. In the meantime, it is planned to refurbish the officer accommodation in the very near future. Such action was not taken previously because approval to build a new Wardroom was anticipated.

(M.J. TAYLOR) Captain RAN

Naval Officer Commanding North Australia Area

Enclosure: HMAS COONAWARRA letter 1/16/1 of 3 October, 1977.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

3rd October 1977

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The Naval Officer Commanding, NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of MA Ship under my command for the quarter ended 30th September 1977.

General

- Outstanding Dry Season weather conditions have prevail throughout the period under report, with low humidity, no significant rainfall and pleasantly cool evenings. This has been most beneficial to the comfort and well-being of COONAWARRA personnel and families, as well as promoting the impetus of reconstruction and other works activities.
- The visits to Darwin of HMAS STUART (15-18 JUL), RSS ENDURANCE (30AUG-3 SEP) and HMAS MORESBY (30SEP-30CT) provided welcome opportunities for social contact and sporting activities, and were enjoyed by sailors and Wrans of all ranks.
- During the period 18-21JUL the Flag Officer Commanding East Australia Area, RADM J. Davidson, conducted a walk-round of HMAS COONAWARRA and other RAN assets in the Darwin area on behalf of CNS accompanied by CMDR K. Graham. FOCEA inspected divicions at COONAWARRA on 19JUL, and visited the Humpty Doo Transmitting Station sits on 20th July as well as becoming closely acquainted with all other navy interests in the area, present and future. The Pavourable tone of his subsequent report rofflects the progress in reconstruction and rehabilitation projects which are taken place in the past year.
- on 17th and 18th August I accompanied representatives of the other services and government instrumentalities on a briefit tour by RAAF Dakota aircraft to Newry Station, Hall's Creek, Broome (overnight stop), Cape Leveque, Mitchell Plateau and Kalumburu Station.
- On 21st and 22nd September LCDR H.W. Barrett acted as RAN representative on a similar tour to Jabiru, Numbulwar, Groote Eylandt, Gove, Elcho Island, Milingimbi and Maningrida. This was the last briefing tour of the current series until after the forthcoming Wet Season.
- Operation "Dragons Tooth II", the removal and demolitical of items of uncompleded ordnance from a large area to the south of GOONAWARRA WEST by a combined Navy Army team under Army command, proceeded satisfactorily during the quarter, and is now in the second phase. On 20th August a fire broke out in the large tank which housed equipment used in the operation, and although it was rapidly attended by GOONAWARRA duty watch and volunteers the form fabric was totally desiroyed, and much equipment in the sheel lockers therein (mainly safety clothing) suffered damage. A adjacent hirel caravan was also superficially damaged. A Darwing Fire Brigade investigator reported the cause of the fire as

spentaneous combustion resulting from a pile of old rags place on top of an open bag of lime, within a locker adjacent to the canvas wall. No Navy-owned equipment was involved.

- The visit of Captain B.D. MacLeod, DWRANS, from 24th to 26th August proved very beneficial in discussion concerning the employment of Wrans in Darwin and other related matters, and for DWRANS herself to become acquainted with the current situation as an aid to future planning. The opportunity for Wrans of all ranks to meet and talk with the Director was also appreciated by many.
- 9. The visit of RSS ENDURANCE, the first Singapore naval vessel to visit Australia, from 30th August to 3rd September, vess a signal success. An excellent reception onboard was attended by a host of Darwin notables, a busy and varied social and sporting programme was enthusiastically supported by all concerned, and the Chang Wah society in particular contributed to the flood of hospitality extended by the local populace. Many friendships were formed between crew members and Darwin people, and the ship at times found difficulty in meeting all the social invitations extended. The excellent bearing, behaviour and friendly attitude of the ENDURANCE ships company was widely acclaimed.
- A large team led by Captain A.R. Cummins, DNMP and accompanied by officers representing several other Navy Office directorates, visited Darwin during the period 8th to 10th September 1977, In the interest of economy all were accommodated in COONAWARRA, utilising two spare beds in the rather sub standard wardroom cottage, and unoccupied cabins in the Senior Wrans accommodation block. Present and anticipated manpower problems were quite thoroughly investigated, and discussion resulted in Ships Officers gaining a more detailed appreciation of the general manpower difficulties facing the service at this time, as well as providing opportunity for the visitors to update their remote impressions of the function of RAN activities in Darwin by practical experience. Briefings and consultations with members of DGNPS staff were also valuable. and provided a better understanding of "both sides of the coin" in relation to such matters as the Group Rent Scheme and Rations and Quarters system. The advice and assistance of officers representing other interests in Navy Office was also beneficial and it is considered the total visit was particularly worthwille in providing to personnel in a remote establishment a rare opportunity for direct discussion with a wide representation of Navy Office directorates, as well as promoting an insight to personnel aspects to aid planning of future projects.
- There were many official visitors to Darwin during a quarter, including a number of senior officers and public servant. All are included at Annex A, but not necessarily discussed in this report.
- 12. From 10th September until the end of the quarter l represented you, Sir, as NOCNA, during your absence on duty Melbourne. The following paragraphs relate to that duty.
- 13. On 21st September I attended the Official Opening of the First Session of the Second Legislative Assorbly, and heard addresses by The Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr J. L. England, and the Minister of the Northern Territory, Mr L. Adermann.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

On 26th September I proceeded to Croker Island by RAAF Dakota aircraft, thence in HMAS ADROIT to Raffles Bay for a ceremony commemorating the landing there 150 years previously of the 39th Regiment of Foot (The Dorsets) to establish Fort Wellington. A.commemorative Cairn was unveiled by the Senior Judge of the Northern Territory, Mr Justice Forster, and in addition to His Honour the official party comprised myself. O.C. RAAF Darwin, C.O. 7 Mildist and Mrs Smith, Maj. Gen. J. Whitelaw, Brigadier and Mrs Palmer, the President, Secretary and other officials of the N.T. Historical Society. Pipes, drums and bugle were provided by the Caledo ia Highland Band, and a guard of one officer plus six sailors by ADROIT. surprising number of spectators was somehow present, and the event was recorded for Darwin television. Overall organisation including a barbecue luncheon, was in the hands of the N.T. Historical Society; but much preparation was carried out by an Army advance party, and joint service co-operation was pre-requisite to the success of the occasion. Because of a radio failure in HMAS ASSAIL, then in Gove, it had become necessary to sail ADROIT at short notice to meet the RAN commitment, allowing her only 8 hours in harbour after an eventful West Coast patrol period. The spirit and willingness with which her ship's company approached this rather less-than-exciting task was in the best service tradition .

15. On 30th September my wife and I attended a ceremony at the Darwin RSL club, where the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr J.A. England, unveiled a commemorative plaque to the 39th Regt of Foot, presented by the Australian Artillery Association, NT Branch, and set in the wall of honour outside the club. On this occasion a quarter quard was provided by 7 Militar District: A reception in the club followed the official ceremony.

16. For ease of reference operational matters during my period acting as NOCNA have been omitted from this report, but are included in your own report for the quarter.

Works, Property and Housing

The aim, mentioned in paragraph 22 of my last report, of having all married accompanied personnel under a permanent roof prior to the onset of the forthcoming Wet Season, is rapidly coming to fruition. No naval families are now officially accommodated in caravans, and all core-units will be returned to the Department of the Northern Territory by the end of this month. From November 1977 the disposition of naval housing will be as follows:

- a. 56 houses in Hidden Valley Estate and COONAWARRA West, with a further 15 under construction;
- b. 60 Department of the Northern Territory suburnan houses mainly in the Northern suburbs;
- c. 2 Navy houses and 1 demountable unit in Darwin city wea;
- d. 19 demountable units in Hidden Valley Estate and COONAWARRA Dast.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

- Withdrawal of a local contractor has brought work on refurbishing existing navy houses to a standstill. It is understood a new contract is being let, for work to recommence about the middle of October.
 - 19. Slow progress in the provision of new furniture for married quarters continues to give cause for concern. To enable the most recent batch of DNT houses to be occupied it was necessary to borrow 30 sets of second-hand furniture from DNT providing a shabby result; and occasioning double handling and increased transport costs.
 - 20. The refurbishing of Building 31 to accommodate 22 junior sailors is almost completed and the new part of the block should be available for occupation by mid-October.
 - Construction at Humpty Doo has proceeded well during the quarter, and it is expected the April 1978 forecast handover date for the main Transmitting Station building will be met. Arrangements for the physical security of the premises after handover are being developed.
 - 22. Cyclone proofing of the Naval Headquarters building at Larrakeyah has been all but completed, and internal refurbishing is now being arranged.
 - The COONAWARRA Commontre project is also progressing steadily, the main effort at present being the expansion of the existing Power Station to accommodate the additional generator ex-COONAWARRA East.

Communications

- 24. WORS H.E. WATLING represented NAVCOMMSTA DARWIN at the PAN Communications Seminar held at HMAS KUTTABUL on 28th July 19. The seminar report subsequently received indicates that valuable discussion and exchange of ideas concerning communication problems was achieved.
- On 9th September 1977 WORS WATLING attended the initial pre-Wet Season Emergency Services Communications Sub-Committee meeting at NT Police HQ.

Supply and Secretariat

- On 2nd August 1977 the monthly stocktake of the Senior Sailors Canteen revealed a discrepancy of \$432.59 in stock and cash. Naval Police assistance was requested, and an investige tion carried cut by SGT S.J. OLIVER, P62050. His report indicated the loss was due to theft by person or persons unknown, and eighlighted areas of loose control in the "honour system" of management which had been in force. As a result the carried bar is now attended at all open times, as a watchbill commitment involving all full members of the mess.
- 27. CMDR R. Clarke (A/DFSR(M)) visited the establishment 10-12th August 1977 for discussions with the Supply Officer on the operation of canteens and non-public funds. His advice and assistance was appreciated.

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- 28. The rental lease on the building occupied as No 7
 Naval Store in Winnellie having expired, problems are being experienced by the Department of Administrative Services in re-negotiating a new lease. The owner is asking for a rental approximately double current market value, and unless this can be reduced by negotiation it appears likely the Naval Store will have to be re-sited in another building in the same area, within the next six months.
 - On 1st July 1977 a Regional Finance Office was established in Darwin. This has markedly increased the work load of Accounts Office and Naval Stores staff as accounts for local purchase, numbering some 2,000 annually, which were previously prepared by Naval Staff Office, must now be processed by COONAWARRA.

Training

- 2NDO M.A. DOBSON attended a Security Officer Qualifying Course at HMAS PENGUIN 19th 23rd September 1977.
- A Command Test for Promotion was convened on 18th July to test sailor and Wran candidates for promotion to Chief Petty Officer, Petty Officer and Leading Rank. Part 1 qualifications were awarded to 13 sailors and 13 Wrans, and Part 2 qualifications to 10 sailors and 9 Wrans.
- A further Command Test for Promotion was convened at COOMAWARRA for 2 candidates for promotion to Leading Seaman from HMAS ADROIT, and both were successful.
- 33. Two candidates attempted and passed Part 3 of the Command Test for Promotion to LSROEW, during the visit to Darwin of TMAS STOARM in July.

Sports

- 34. COOMAWARRA teams participated in a large number of sporting fixtures during the quarter, playing practically every form of sport locally available. As well as interdepartmental contests, opposing teams came from Army, N.T. Police, Fire Brigade, Customa, RAAF; Commonwealth Police, Air Traffic Controllers, RSS Endurance, YMCA and HMAS STUART.
- The Interservice Sports series ended on 28th September 1977 and was won overall by RAAF, with 9 events to Army/Navy 7. It was a particularly enjoyable series for competitors and spectators. Results of individual events are at Annex C.

Conduct and Morale

- 36. The conduct of the Ships Company has continued to be very good.
- 37. The health of personnel and families has been most satisfactory, aided by good weather conditions.
- 38. Ships Company morale appears high, but there is an increasing incidence of marital failure and family problems which is thought to be mainly due to social conditions and the 'free or leasy" tenor of life in Darwin.

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39. COONAWARRA living-in officers are unhappy with their accommodation in fibro houses, which must be regarded as sub-standard, and visiting members of the Personnel Liaison Team failed to convince those concerned that the payment of full R & C charges is justified in the circumstances. The provision of a new Wardroom has been deleted from the Major New Works programme for yet another year, and the prospect of improved accommodation to come has therefore been removed as an incentive to stoicism.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

(H.A. JOSEPHS) Commander, RAN

COMMANDING OFFICER

Annexules:

1: Annex A - Visits

2: Annex B - Social

3. Annex C - Interservice Sports Results.

VISITS

Date	Visitor/s and Purpose	
12-16JUL	TICTOR P STICOCK)	Fixed Network Reconfiguration Working Group, Technical Working Party. Communications survey.
18-21JUL	RADM J. DAVIDSON) CMDR K. GRAHAM)	FOCEA walk round RAN assets in Darwin on behalf of CNS
26JUL	LT GEN D.B. DUNSTAN	C.G.S Acquaint visits Shoal Bay.
4AUG	CMDR C.K. CALLINS	COMAUSMINPABFOR - Acquaint visit to NAVCOMMSTA DARWIN
9-11AUG	Mr G. BLAKERS	DEPSEC B - briefing on defence facilities in Darwin area
8-11AUG	LCDR P. MOY	Preparation for Motor Transport work study
8-15AUG	LEUT G. McDONALD	Physical security survey of RAN assets in Darwin area
10.6.UG	Mr A. CARMODY	Sec Dept of PM and cabinet - Acquaint visit to Shoal Bay
10-12AUG	CMDR R. ULARKE	Discussions and guidance on canteen business and accounting procedures
:5-18AUG	Mr J. GALANOS	DNCD - Communications equipment trials
24-26AUG	CAPT B.D. MacLEOD	DWRANS annual visit
8-10SEP	CAPT A.R. CUMMINS	DNMP - accompanied by staff officers and other Navy Office personnel - acquaint visit to RAN facilities in Darwin
16SEP	GEN A.L. McDONALD) AM J.A. ROVLAND)	CDFS and CAS - briefing visit to Defence establishments in Darwin area
27SEP	GEN J. WHITELAW	DCGS - visit to 7MD including related naval establishments.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



Date	Event
15JUL	My wife and I attended the annual Darwin Legacy Dinner, where I was invited to give the address to Legacy.
16JUL	The Commanding Officer, HMAS STUART, CMDR W.E. ROTHWELL, invited me to lunch onboard.
17JUL	My wife and I entertained the MLA for Stuart Park and Cabinet Member for Resources and Planning, Mr Marshall Perron and Mrs Perron to lunch.
18JUL	My wife and I were invited to dinner at Admiralty House, to welcome RADM J Davidson and CMDR K. Graham on FOCEA walk round visit to Darwin.
20JUL	My wife and I attended a buffet dinner in the Wardroom to entertain RADM Davidson, CMDR Graham and members of the Parliamentary Committee on Territorial Borders.
26JUL	My wife and I were invited to a reception at Larrakeyah Officers Mess to meet Lacky D.B. DUNSTAN CGS.
10AUG	My wife and I joined the Wardroom in a buffet dinner to entertain Mr G. Blakers, DEPSEC B and CMDR R. Clarke.
24AUG	My wife and I gave a dinner party at home to welcome CAPT B.D. MacLeod, DWRANS to Dinner.
26AUG	My wife and I were official guests at the RAAF Base Officers Mess Annual Ball,
3CATG	My wife and I were invited to a Cocktail Party onboard RSS ENDURANCE.
2SEP	My wife and I attended a reception at Government House, to meet H.E. The Governor-General and Lady Kerr.
9SEP	My wife and I were invited by the Mayor of Darwir to a reception in Her Honour's parlour to farwwell Capt. and Mrs Dadswell
TOSEP	My wife and I attended the annual YWCA International Night at Government House.
14327	My wife and I attended a reception at Government House to meet the Japanese Ambassador and Miss Okawara.
15SEP	I attended a luncheon at the RAAF Base Officers Mess to welcome CDFS and CAS

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

- 2 -

23SEP My wife and I attended the annual COONAWARRA Ships Ball at the Darwin Sailing Club.

25SEP My wife and I were invited to a barbecue at the home of the Commander, 7 MILDIST and Mrs Smith, to meet GEN J. Whitelaw, BRIG Palmer and Mrs Palmer.

27SEP My wife and I attended a reception at Larrakeyah Officers Mess to entertain GEN Whitelaw, BRIG Palmer and Mrs Palmer.

29SEP My wife and I were invited to dinner at Government House by the Administrator, Mr J.A. England and Mrs England.

My wife and I attended a reception at Darwin RSI Club following the ceremonial unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the 39th Reg't of Foot (The Dorsets) in the N.T.

My wife and I were invited to dinner onboard HMAS MORESBY by the Commanding Officer, CMDR J.J. DOYLE.

Annex C

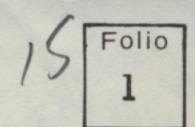
INTERSERVICE SPORTS RESULTS

Date	Event/Result		Score
3AUG	Volleyball	RAAF defeated Army/Navy WRAAF/WRAAC defeated WRANS	3 - 0
24AUG	Shooting	Army/Navy defeated RAAF	3222 - 3035
30AUG	Rugby League	Army/Navy defeated RAAF	21 -10
7SEP	Cricket	Army/Navy defeated RAAF	128 - 75
21SEP	Swimming	Army/Navy defeated RAAF WRANS defeated WRAAF/WRAAG	Forfeit Forfeit
28SEP	Athletics	Army/Navy defeated RAAF	

Overall - RAAF won the 1977 Interservice Sports 9 events to Army/Navy

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



File Number

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PROCEEDINGS - QUARTER ENDED 30 (Name or Designation) (Location) Cancel File No and inform Movements Section. Close File No Cross reference this file with: SUBJECT INDEX Posting Precis Initials NAME INDEX Heading Precis Initials HMAS COONAWARRA LOGGING Originator Originator's Reference Initials NAVAL HEADQUARTERS DARWIN Information Classifier (Signature)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Telephone: 890911 In Reply Quote: 1/16/15

> Naval Headquarters Larrakeyah Barracks DARWIN. N.T. 5790

Chief of Naval Staff
Department of Defence (Navy Office)

For Information:

Commanding Officer, HMAS COONAWARRA

HMAS COONAWARRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 1 OCTOBER - 24 NOVEMBER, 1977.

1. Forwarded.

2. On 29 September, 1977, this office requested when a decision on the complement proposals at paragraph 17 could be expected. To date, no reply has been received.

(M.J. TAYLOR) Captain RAN

Naval Officer Commanding North Australia Area

Enclosure: HMAS COONAWARRA letter 1/16/1 of 24 November, 1977.

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HMAS COONAWARRA
P.M.B. 13.
DARWIN N.T. 5791

24th November 1977

The Naval Officer Commanding, NORTH AUSTRALIA ARTA

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of HMA Ship under my command for the period 1st October 1977 to 24th November 1977.

General

- The spell of dry weather conditions has continued, with little sign of the oncoming Wet Season other than an increase in humidity during the past few weeks and an occasional shower.
- 3. On 25th October COMAUSFLT, RADM N.E. McDonald, walked round the establishment, including Shoal Bay Receiving Station, prior to enbarking in HMAS SUPPLY the following day. COMAUSFLT also visited the Humpty Doo Transmitting Station site on 27th October, to acquaint himself with progress on that project.
- The visits of HMAS SUPPLY (26th to 28th October) and HMAS PERTH (27th and 28th October) aroused considerable interest in the Darwin community, and were particularly enjoyed by COONAWARRA personnel. Calls by major fleet units have a noticeably beneficial effect on the outlook of sailors and Wrans, who are generally eager to participate in the various in-port activities, welcome opportunity to contribute in a small way to fleet support and to associate themselves with the "sharp end" of the service in a practical way.
- On 1st November you, Sir, inspected Divisions and took the salute at March Past in COONAWARRA. On completion the Ships Company attended a Security Lecture, followed by fire fighting demonstrations organised by the Northern Territory Fire Brigade, and briefing and proving the Cyclone Quarters Watchbill. Eight teams then competed in the annual COONAWARRA Cup relay race, which was won on this occasion by the Communications (General Service) team. Afterwards, a smorgasbord luncheon was provided at the Junior Sailors Club, to coincide with the running of the Melbourne Cup.
- 6. Commander M.E.H. Barlam joined on 21st November 1977 and will assume command upon my departure on 25th November 1977.
- 7. On 23rd November I made farewell calls on His Honor the Administrator of the Northbra Territory, Her Honor the Mayor of Darwin and His Honor the Chief Justice of the Northern Territory, accompanied by CMDR M.E.H. Earlam who paid his respects on joining.

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LISTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Works, Property and Housing

- Seven of the fifteen new houses being constructed in COONAVARRA have now been handed over and allocated, and construction of the remainder has been started. The new houses are exceptionally well finished, substantially up to scales and standards, and equipped with previously ordered new furniture which is more attractive and of better quality than in the past. The fortunate initial tenants have expressed great satisfaction.
- Building 3: reconstruction was completed on schedule, and the new upper floor is now occupied by 22 junior sailors. These single cabins are commodious, bright and equipped with new furniture, and a spacious recreation room is provided on the ground floor. A new large car parking area has been set aside between Building 31 and the Wrans accommodation blocks, to consolidate car parking in the area. This significant improvement in their accommodation standards is appreciated by the junior sailors.
- 10. Refurbishing of the older houses has recommenced under a new contract, and proceeding well. The three houses used as wardroom accommedation are included, and work is now in progress on them. Meanwhile, living-in officers are being temporarily accommodated as required in the Senior Wrans Block.
- 11. All except one of the original uninhabitable married quarters have been removed by the buyers, and site clearance restoration work is being carried out. This has resulted in the Wardroom being more exposed to the main highway than previously, and a programme of landscape improvement including better out-door facilities is planned. A combination of block walls and planting of trees and shrubbery should be quite effective, and combined with the cosmetic improvements to buildings now under way, should provide better officer accommodation pending provision of a new Wardroom.
- COONAWARRA Commication of the cyclone-proof outer skin to the COONAWARRA Commication building is proceeding very well, and because the communication equipment will not be fitted it is intended that this building be used as the main COONAWARRA cyclone shelter for the next two cyclone seasons, thus avoiding transferring families by bus to Shoal Bay when a cyclone threatens.

Communications

- 13. The Fleet Communications Officer, LCDR I. Pfennigwerth, visited NAVCOMMSTA DARWIN and was given a conducted tour of all sertions on 27th October. Valuable discussion of fleet support inications problems took place.
- 14. LEUT B.P. Beckwith relieved LCDR D.E. Hiron as D/OIC NAVCOMMSTA DARVIN and Command Communications Officer to NOCNA on 11th November 1977.
- 15. Major A. Cockburn relieved Major W. Hughes as D/OIC Shoal Bay Receiving Station on 2nd November 1977.

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Supply and Secretariat

- 16. Naval Stores. The problem concerning No 7 Naval Store at Winnellie, mentioned in paragraph 28 of my last report, has been resolved by the owner reducing his rent demand to an acceptable level, which should enable the store to remain in the present location until the planned new Naval Stores Complex is constructed in COONAWARRA.
- An on-site issue centre at Shoal Bay, although approved on 12th May 1977 has not yet been established because an increase in Naval Stores complement proposed on 15th February 1977 has not yet been achieved. The present complement cannot cope with an additional commitment, but the issue centre can be established immediately. manpower is available, as space and racking have already been procured.
- 18. <u>Visitors</u>. LEUT P. Glazier of HMAS ALBATROSS visited the establishment from 31st October to 1st November to discuss spares support for the two Tracker aircraft which were recently deployed to Darwin.
- 19. Mr W. Bailey NSO(L), Mr R. Ferrari ANSO(CS) and Mr L. Hampton DNSO(W) were present during the same period for discussion of problems being encountered with stores support.

Training

- A Command Test for Promotion was convened on 31st October to test sailor and Wran candidates for promotion to CPO, PO and Leading Rank. Part 1 qualifications were awarded to 16 sailors and 5 Wrans, and Part 2 qualifications to 13 sailors and 4 Wrans.
- A Command Test Part 3 was conducted at short notice on 2nd November, for ABROs in HMA Ships BARBETTE and BARRICADE. BARBETTE's sailor passed the test, but due to time limitation the other sailor could not complete and arrangements have been made for his paper to be worked onboard, and returned for marking.

Sports

- Wrans have been particularly active in sport during the period under report, having played hockey, softball and water polo against teams from HMA Ships SUPPLY, MORESBY, PERTH and BARBETTE, winning all contests except one.
- In the N.T. Womens' 'B' Basketball competition the "Warriors" Wrans team, despite several injuries, were runners up by only two points in an exciting final game.
- Pourteen Wrans are playing in the Wet Season Womens Soccer Competition, a 10 game season designed basically to keep top women's sides together and fit. Nine of these girls form a new team, coached by two sailors and euphemistically titled "Tom's Angles".
- 25. Mens teams have competed regularly in water polo, cricket, softball, volley ball and Australian rules, against service and civilian teams.

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Welfare

- 26. Community projects which are receiving support from COONAWARRA participation include:
 - a. SWRMED L. Walton's nomination as Miss COONAWARRA in the N.T. Section of the Miss Australia quest which resulted in a contribution of \$2,300 to the Spastic paralysis appeal.
 - b. Six Wrans who acted as badge sellers for the Annual legacy appeal and raised a significant sum, including \$128 from their shipmates.
 - which is developing well, with over \$200 plus a large quantity of foodstuffs already accumulated, and plans formulated to entertain the aged in messes and private homes in various ways during December.
- RAN Central Canteens Fund for the purchase of a demountable house in Hidden Valley Estate for holiday visiting, permissive occupancy approval is now awaited to enable the project to proceed. Meanwhile the Department of The Northern Territory has been asked to nominate firm prices for two units, to enable a choice to be made.

Conduct and Morale

- The conduct of sailors and Wrans remains very good indeed, there having been no offences arising from excessive use of alcoholic liquor, traffic violations or serious behaviour breaches for several months.
- 29. There are no serious health problems.

Conclusion

At the conclusion of my current posting in Darwin it is pleasing to observe that for all practical purposes the recovery of the city in general, and RAN assets in particular is all but complete and that the RAN continues to be held in very high esteem in the Darwin community. Planned improvements in the communication station are exciting, and the prospect of developing RAN involvement in Northern surveillance and patrol boat support indicates that naval personnel can look forward to absorbing and rewarding future service in the area.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

RESTRICTED

(H.A. JØSEPHS) / Commander, RAN COMMANDING OFFICER

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (NAVY OFFICE)

File: 428/3/2665

HMAS NOONAWARRA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS 25 NOV 31 DEC 77

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HISTORIAN

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.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



RESTRICTED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Telephone: 890911 In Reply Quote: 1/16/5

Naval Headquarters Larrakeyah Barracks DARWIN. N.T. 5790

JAN. 1 2 1978

Chief of Naval Staff Department of Defence (Navy Office)

For Information:

Commanding Officer, HWAS COONAWARRA

> HMAS COONAWARRA - REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR PERIOD 25 NOVEMBER- 31 DECEMBER, 1977

Forwarded.

(M.J. TAYLOR)

Captain RAN Naval Officer Commanding

North Australia Area

Enclosure: HMAS COONAWARRA letter 1/16/1 of 9 January, 1977.

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INFORMATION ANALYSIS AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1074229

HMAS COOMAWARRA
P.M.B. 13.
DARWIN N.T. 5791

9th January 1978

Naval Officer Commanding, NORTH AUSTRALIA AREA

Sir,

I have the honour to report the proceedings of H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 25th November 1977 to 31st December 1977.

General

- 2. I assumed command of HMAS COONAWARRA on 25th November 1977 and my predecessor COMMANDER H.A. JOSEPHS, departed from Darwin the same day.
- After the apparent onset of the wet in mid-December the Christmas/New Year holiday period saw a return to the hot and very humid conditions characteristic of the change of seasons. Although unpleasant, this has had the advantage of allowing many outdoor functions not often possible during the festive season.
- The arrival of the third Tracker aircraft and the subsequent increase of fleet air arm activity has given rise to a much greater visible Naval presence in the area, so much so that the locals, in addition to referring to HMAS LARRAKEYAH are now talking about RANAS Darwin. The extra work load on the Naval Stores organisation seems to have been assimilated without any major problems.
- From Wednesday 7th December until Sunday 11th December, I represented you, Sir, as NOCNA during your absence in Sydney. Routine surveylance tasks continued during the period and no events of significance occurred.
- An exercise designed to test the cyclone contingency plans was conducted on Wednesday 14th December. Particular emphasis was laid on Communications and the proving of the watchbill as well as briefing key personnel. Some minor deficiencies in the plans were revealed and these are now being remedied.
- From Wednesday 14th December 1977 to Tuesday 20th December 1977 Chief Officer M.C. CHALMERS was loaned from the staff of the Flag Officer Commanding, EAST AUSTRALIA AREA, to carry out a Commanding Officer's investigation, the results of which have been forwarded seperately.
- B. During her visit Chief Officer Chalmers took the opportunity to see as much of the Establishment and meet as many of the Wrans as possible, her time for this was however, very limited.

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STRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

9. The recent spate of arrivals of refugee craft from Vietnam has eased, however, the workload of the patrol boats and consequently the General Base support, Stores organisation and Engineering Staff has not.

Works and Property

- 10. The apparent start to the wet resulted in the usual slow down of outdoor construction. This has been aggravated by the festive season.
- 11. Some 600 plus assorted trees have been acquired and planting will commence in the first week of the New Year. It is intended to plant a grove of trees separating the Stuart Highway from the Establishment. This should result, in the long term, of a noticeable decrease in the noise and dust thrown up by the traffic and improve the privacy in messes close to the highway.
- 12. Site clearance, and restoration on the sites of the old married quarters is at a standstill. Although the buyers of the houses have stated they will honour their contracts the old cement bases and piles remain a blot on the landscape.

Communication

13. Proposals to reduce the hours of operation of the COONAWARRA MSO are being actively pursued. Subject to a minor modification to the Administration block alarm system this will result in a complement reduction of 2 ABRO.

Supply and Secretariat

14. The complement increase of 1 LSSN to man the Naval Stores issue centre at Shoal Bay, and mentioned in paragraph 17 of my last report has now been approved. The body is eagerly awaited as transport difficulties between 7 Store and Shoal Bay during the wet season exacerbate an already unsatisfactory stores situation.

Training

15. No command tests were held during the period under report.

Technical

- Extensions and cyclone-proofing of the Emergency Diesel generator shed is progressing. Construction work has necessitated isolation of the existing diesel, emergency power being provided by a portable generating set provided by Department of Construction. The emergency diesel from Coonawarra East has been placed in the extended generator shed awaiting connection of services.
- 17. Upgrading of power reticulation in COONAWARRA has commenced with the construction of a new sub-station.

Sport

Most sporting competitions in Darwin go into recess early in December, however, COONAWARRA sailors and Wrans participated in those sports which continued.

Welfare

- 19. COONAWARRA continues its strong support of local welfare organisations. During the period under report the following assistance was provided:
 - a. Two hundred dollars and four cartons of foodstuff were collected for the pensioners appeal. These were presented to MR R SPILLETT (President N.T. Senior Citizens Association) on 15th December 1977 on the occasion of the N.T. Senior Citizens Christmas function. Six members of the Ships Company attended the function, and helped with the festivities.
 - b. Twenty one aged pensioners were entertained to a film afternoon in COONAWARRA Senior Ranks Club on 12th December 1977.
 - c. Twenty pensioners were invited to share Christmas lunch with COONAWARRA residents. Ten being invited to private homes whilst the remainder joined the Senior sailors in their dining hall.
 - d. On 14th December 1977 the Junior Sailors Club presented the "Guide Dogs for the Blind Association" with a cheque for \$1,000. This figure being raised from a number of functions and from the club "Blind Dog", the balance of about \$150 being donated from Club funds.

Childrens Christmas Party

20. Father Christmas attended to the desires of 114 children at the Christmas Party held on Friday 16th December 1977. The RAAF Darwin Childrens Train, a magician and a liberal supply of ice cream, sweets and drinks ensured a good time for all participants. In addition, in COONAWARRA tradition, residents of COONAWARAA West and Hidden Valley Estate were wakened at 0630 by Father Christmas and a team of elves making the Christmas morning delivery by fire engine.

Conduct and Morale

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

There have been two relatively serious offences during the period under report, both were committed by persons with a previous bad disciplinary record. The general behaviour of the Ships Company is good and the morale is high.

The general health of the Ships Company is good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

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(M.E.H. EARLAM)

Commander, RAN

COMMANDING OFFICER

SOCIAL

16th December 1977

My wife and I attended a cocktail party at Larrakeyah Barracks as guests of LCOL M.G. SMITH.

17th December 1977

My wife and I attended a farewell to Group Captain Jackson and Mrs Jackson at RAAF Base Darwin. Group Captain Prior the incoming OC RAAF Darwin was present.

VISITS

13 - 15 DEC	LCDR G. VAGG, RAN) Patrol Boat Base
13 - 16 DEC	LEUT A.G. MITCHELL, R	1 72
14 - 20 DEC	CHFO M.C. CHALMERS, W	RANS Commanding Officer's Investigation

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SPORT

10CT77	Water Polo	11 22 0014 10		BARBETTE	12 - 3 16 - 6
	Softball	Wrans	lef	MORESBY	
50CT77	Softball	Seamen d	lef	SS& M	22-18
120CT77	Volleyball	Seamen d	lef	COMMS	4-2
190CT77	Volleyball	OOONAWARR d	def	SLIPWAY	5-3
260CT77	Water Polo Water Polo	COOMANARRA(1) d CDT(1)	def def	SUPPLY COONWWARRA (2)	7-2
	Water Polo Softball	COONAWARRA(3)d Supply	def	COONAWARRA (2)	5-4 7-3
	Softball	CDT (1)	def	COONAWARRA	5-1
	Softball Volleyball Volleyball	COONAWARRA(1) d COONAWARRA(1) d COONAWARRA(2) d COONAWARRA(3) d	def def	CDT(2) CDT(1) CDT(2) Supply	8-2 2-0 2-1 2-0
270CT77	Oricket	SUPPLY	def	COONAWARRA	62-45
1NOV77	COONAWARRA Cup	1st Communication 2nd Electrication 3rd S& S(1) 4th Wardroom 5th Communication 5th Seamen 7th S& S(2)	al/E	ns (General ngineering ns (S)	Service)
		8th Slipway			
9110V77	Volleyball	Seamen(1)	def	Seaman(2)	2-1 .
16NOV77	Australian Rules	Fire Brigade	def	COONAWARRA	13.8-7.7

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Folio 1

File Number

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DETAILS OF INFORMATION ANALYSIS

Security Classification

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