

AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS GRASS SNAKE

Item number: 124/1

Title: June-December 1945



AWM78-124/1

[124/1]

GRASS SNAKE L. of P.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

NAVAL HISTORICAL RECORDS

Declassification Authority—Defence Records
This record has been reviewed and has been
declassified by the Department of Defence
(Navy) with effect from: 1 Nov 1990
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)
Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 1 Nov 90

[124/1]



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

LABUAN.

NOIG-MOLUCCAS FILE

M. 1.4.3.5.4

From: N.C.S.O., Labuan.
Date: 11th December, 1945.
To: N.O.I.C. Molluccas.
Subject: "Grass Snake".

In compliance with your 090255Z, I wish to submit the following result of an Enquiry held by me on the passage of the Grass Snake from BALIKPAPAN to LABUAN.

Lieutenant J.P.Gowing, C.O. of the Grass Snake, stated that --:

Before leaving Balikpapan he discussed the proposed route with the Port Director, and suggested that Tawi Tawi should be the first stop, in case any repairs were necessary to the main engines, being under the impression that an American Unit was still established there. He also suggested to the Port Director that, in case of any W/T trouble, a signal could be made from Tawi Tawi, via the American's W/T. Trouble was anticipated, as the C.O. of Grass Snake had informed him that it had been a considerable source of annoyance in the past.

Before leaving Balikpapan, the W/T set was tested by the Leading Telegraphist on H.M.A.S. Cessnock, and was tuned satisfactorily to 8290 Kcs.

The W/T operator aboard the ship is an English S.R.D. Corporal, and knows very little about this type of set.

On departure from Balikpapan, a signal was made to P.D. advising him the E.T.A. Tawi Tawi would be P.M. on the 30th November, 1945. The P.D. Balikpapan was also informed, verbally, on his enquiry, that the time on passage would be approximately 10 days. (Actual time for the trip was 11 days.)

28th November, 1945.

0635 Item: Weighed and proceeded.
1300 Item: ~~(W/T)~~ (W/T LOG). Set W/T watch on 8290 Kcs. Operator reported Receiver not working.
1540 Item: After vain attempts by W/T operator to rectify the fault in Receiver, it was decided to discontinue W/T watch, and report arrival at Tawi Tawi via U.S. channels. W/T operator was instructed to keep a Deck Watch with the seamen, as the Ship's normal compliment was short one Officer, and P/O Engineman.

30th November, 1945.

To date, Ship had maintained speed of advance of 7.4 Knots.
1100 Item: In position $03^{\circ} 50' N.$ $119^{\circ} 33' E.$, encountered extremely heavy tide, and although steaming at full speed, made no headway for 6 hours, when the tide changed.
2100 Item: Stopped engines in position $4^{\circ} 14' N.$ $119^{\circ} 57' E.$ as it was decided inadvisable to make Tawi Tawi at night.

1st December, 1945.

0640 Item: Proceeded to Tawi Tawi.
1400 Item: Anchored in Bangao Harbour.

[Signature]

1st. December(continued) Whilst in Tawi Tawi the W/T operator attempted to rectify the Receiver but without avail and as there was no W/T Station ashore or any authorities, could not signal an arrival or E.T.A Labuan .

3rd. December 1945

1630 Item Departed for TAMBISAN ISLAND .
1900 Item Secured alogside Jetty at TAMBISAN ISLAND.

5th. December 1945

0654 Item Proceeded to LANGAAN ISLAND for a night anchorage as it was considered advisable to make the MALLAWALLE CHANNEL in daylight.
1800 Item Dropped anchor at LANGAAN ISLAND. Whilst at anchor further attempts were made to adjust W/T Receiver and no fault could be located. On replacing it functioned weakly for 10 minutes and then faded out.

6th December 1945

0635 Item Departed for JESSELTON.
1435 Item Owing to heavy squalls and bad visibility was forced to drop anchor off TIGABU ISLAND.

7th. December 1945

Weather still squally and visibility nil so it was decided to wait for better conditions before attempting the last portion of the MALLAWALLE CHANNEL. W/T operator on trying his set once more found that he had fair reception on his receiver, for reasons unknown, as he had done nothing to it since his last attempt. The opportunity was taken to report the position.(062315z)

0940 Item Weather cleared enough to proceed.
1315 Item Secured to Wharf at BANGUEY ISLAND for severall hours in order to time an arrival at JESSELTON in daylight. W/T again cut out as soon as ship was underway.

8th December 1945

1100 Item Secured to wharf at JESSELTON .

9th. December 1945

W/T Receiver once more found to work very poorly but able to pass a signal (082305) and receive your 070040 070100, 070746. Receiver only functioned for approx. one hour.

1725 Item Reported at Labuan.

I have explained to Lieut. Gowing , the trouble and inconvenience caused to all concerned, by the lack of communication and he has expressed his concern but states there was nothing he could do except keep on going.

I have examined the W/T Log which bears out his statements and have questioned Corporal R.Foulkes, who operated the set and who confesses to having limited knowledge of this type of Set and cannot explain, technically, what was actually wrong.

*James Linn RANUA
NCSO. Labuan*

*Sigman.
KIEUT. J. P GOWING ANNY
Sergeant. R. Foulkes. (SRD)
R. Foulkes*

M14-3-5-4

NOIC II (R) NCSO'S HALIMPAPAN TARAKAN

NCSO LABUAN

PRIORITY

ARRIVAL 090830Z 'GRASS SHAKE'

// 091105Z.

SEAFY 30(O)...1210Z.
NCSO 2
LOC M
LOC N

T.P. V LANDOPS P.L. TOR. 1153Z. A.S.J./J.G. 4515/9-12-45..

M1-4-3-5-4

NCSO LABUAN (R) NCSO BALIKPAPAN

NOIC MOLUCCAS

WHEN GRASS SNAKE ARRIVES A FULL INQUIRY IS TO BE MADE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO HER PASSAGE FROM BALIKPAPAN TO LABUAN AND IN PARTICULAR.

- (A) THE REASON FOR NOT CALLING TAWI TAWI AS INSTRUCTED
 - (B) NEGLECT TO INFORM AUTHORITIES OF PROGRESS
 - (C) PRODUCTION OF WE LOG TO CONFIRM WHICH WATCHES WERE KEPT AND ON WHAT FREQUENCIES
- (2) INFORM THE COMMANDING OFFICER THAT HIS NEGLECT CAUSED SOME ANXIETY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE VESSEL AND ALSO CAUSED UNNECESSARY SEA AND AIR SEARCHES TO BE MADE

//090255Z

STAFF
LOG REF
LOG NOIC

VT

Full
PL

TOR0250

JOC

1464/9/12/45

M1-4-354

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM:

NOIC MOLUCCAS

GRASS SNAKE

4,000,000-6000/1/42-15364-St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

ETA LABUAN 090830

// 082305Z

S.O.O.
A/S20.O.
N SEC
LCG REF
LCG NOIC

W/T/

P/L

TOR 2348

W.R.B. J.J.F.,

1440/9/12/45

MI-4-3-5-4

A.C.N.B.

UNCLASSIFIED

NOIG MOLUCCAS

GRASS SNAKE LOCATED AT TIGABU ISLAND SHELTERING

//070745z

SOO ORIG
STAFF
LOG R
LOG N
W.T 3 COPIES PASS

HAND

P.L

TOR 0745z

RR

RR

1219/7/12/45

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM:

NAVY DEPARTMENT

For Sec

A.C.N.S.A.

4,000,000—6000/1/42—15364—St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

A.C.N.S.A.

A.C.N.S.A.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NO 50 LABUAN TARAKAN BALIKPAPAN (R) GASCOYNE LANDOPS NOIC M

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY..UNCLASSIFIED.

GRASS SHAKE LOCATED AT TIGABU ISLAND. POSITION REPORTED BY GRASS SHAKE BY W

W.T.

// 070102 Z.

LANDOPS PASS LANDPS LANUAN TARAKAN GASCOYNE

W.T. PASS BAIK

SO(O)....0

STAFF..LOG H..LOG H..P.W.T.O

W.T. & T.P. P.L.

TOD.....

TOD. T.P. 0126Z.

A.E.J./J.G. 1142/7-12-45..

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 132 n.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM:

4,000,000—6000/1/42—15364—St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

W. J. C. R. C.

HOIC M

CROSS STRAKE

ANCHORED TIGABU ISLAND OWING WEATHER CONDITIONS

// 062315Z.

SO(O)..TEL
STAFF
NO50 2
LOG M
LOG N

W.F.

P.L.

FOR. 0016Z $\frac{1}{2}$

A.E.J./J.G.

1138/7-12-45..

Mind 3-5-4

MADANG

NOIG M

PRIORITY

ADVISE FORTHWITH PERSONNEL BORNE ON BOOKS OF GRASS ENAKE

// 060314Z.

NOIG SEC
SO(O)
A.SO(O)
CAP SEC
COM 'A'
LOG W
LOG W

W.T. 3 TO PASS

W.T.

P.L.

TCD.....

A.E.J.

971/5-12-45..

Personnal borne in "Grass Snake"

Gowing. J.P.	a/Lieut RANVR.	Commanding Officer.
Jenkins. A.A.	L/Sto. 22201.	
Simms. J.W.	A.B. B/3472.	
Sells. J.C.	A.B. FP 57.	
Parnham. L.D.	A.B. FP 33.	
Tibbles. R.S.	A.B. SP 143.	
Bull. R.L.	Sto. W/2631.	

M. S. 3.5.4

NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) NCSO TARAKAN NCSO LABUAN NCSO BALIKAPAN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED YOUR 050547 DUTCH HAVE NO COMMUNICATION WITH SMALL PORTS
UP THE COAST. WILL MEET TUG BEATRICE ON ARRIVAL. TARAKANS 050650
REFERS

//051440 2

REF DUTCH AUTHORITIES IN MINOR BURNES PORT BE CONTACTED
RE TRACKING GRASS SNAKE

ASOO
SOO
NOIC SEC
LOG M
LOG N

T. P

P.L

TOR 0730z

FF

FF

1045/6/12/45

M1-4-3-5-4

NCSO BALIKPAPAN NCSO LABUAN
(R) NCSO TARAKAN BRASCOYNE

NOIC MOLUCCAS

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY UNCLASSIFIED

REQUEST AIR SEARCHES FOR GRASS SNAKE BE CONTINUED IF PRACTICABLE
INCLUDING INVESTIGATION OF SNAKAKAN HARBOUR

//060840

STAFF
NCSO 2
W.T 2 COPIES

HAND

P .L

TOR 0840

RR

104 0/6/12/45

NOIC M (A) NCSSO'S TARAKAN BALIKPAPAN

NCSSO LABUAN

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

GRASS SNAKE AIR SEARCH CARRIED OUT FROM LABUAN COVERING NW AND NE COASTAL
AREA. NEGATIVE RESULT

// 060105I.

STAFF
LOG M
LOG N
SO(O) 0544Z.

T.P. V LANDOPS P.L. TOR. 0527Z. A.E.J./J.G.

998/6-12-45..

0.2/2.7 200/13-72

NO LOSS

4,000,000-6000/1/42-15364-St 4479 A. H. PETER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

To:

FROM:

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 13204.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) NCSO LABUAN NCSO TARAKAN NCSO BALIKPAPAN

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED. GRASS SNAKE INTENDED SAILING DIRECT TO TAWI TAWI ON
STANDARD ROUTE FIRST POSITIONS SIMON RALPH PETER SHE MAY HAVE BALLED
SANDAKAN AND THEN SAILED COASTAL ROUTE PASSING SOUTH OF BANGUEY ISLAND.
Q MESSAGES FOR ROUTE WERE SUPPLIED.

// 052320Z

NOIC SEC

SOO

ASOO

COM A

LOG M

LOG N

TP

PL

TOD 0104Z

ADJ

NR 947

5/12/45

Grass Snake

NC SO BALIKPAPAN (R) NC SO LABUAN NC SO TARAKAN
GASCOYNE

NOIC MOLUCCAS

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY UNCLASSIFIED

REQUEST BRIEF DETAILS SAILING INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO GRASS SNAKE AND
WHETHER ANCHORAGES WERE DISCUSSED

// 050548Z

NOIC SEC
SOO
ASOO
COM A
W.T 3 PASS BALIK AND GASCOYNE

LANDOPS PASS LABUAN AND TARAKAN AT 0603Z

HAND
W.T

PL
PL

TOR 0547Z
TOD.....

ADJ & NL

824.5/12/45

AA

Unclassified Immediate

NCSD LABUAN NCSD BALIKPAPAN NCSD TARAKAN (R)
GASCOYNE NOIC MOROTAI

NOIC MOLUCCAS

REQUEST ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE WITH DUTCH AUTHORITIES IF PRACTICABLE
FOR NICA ESTABLISHED IN MINOR BORNEO PORTS ON THE ROUTE OF GRASS SNAKE
TO BE CONTACTED AND TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER VESSEL PUT IN TO ANY OF THESE
PORTS

11050547Z

A 500
500
N SEC
LOG M
LOG N
W/T 3 PASS GASCOYNE

LANDOPS PASSED TO LABUAN AND TARAKAN

W/T P/L TOR NJD NR 836. 5/12/45

Grass Snake level

NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) NOIC HONG KONG
ACNS FN MALAYA
FO WESTERN AREA
BPF C IN C EI STATION
C INC BPF OPOSSUM
WAVE NCSO LABUAN
NCSO TARAKAN

GASCOYNE

UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

YOUR 040318. NEITHER WAVE NOR OPOSSUM REQUIRE FUEL. DEPARTURE KUDAT
0001 ITEM 5 TH DECEMBER ETA LABUAN 1400 ITEM 5 TH DECEMBER.

(2) NO SIGN YET OF GRASS SNAKE.

(3) HAVE CLOSED DOWN ON FOX FOX BROADCAST

S00
AS00
NOIC SEC REF FUEL FOR WAVE AND OPOSSUM
LOGR
LOGH
LAND OPS PASS NCSO TARAKAN NCSO LABUAN

//041452z

W.T P.L TOR 1844z RR VN304 725/11/12/15

NC SO LABUAN NC SO TARAKAN (R) GASCOYNE

NOIC MOLOCCAS

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY..UNCLASSIFIED.

ARRANGE FOR GRASS SNAKE TO BE CALLED EVERY HALF HOUR ON 8290 KCS SINGLE
OPERATOR PERIODS

// 041218Z.

SO(O)..O

A.SO(O)

NOIC SEC

PWTO

SO(O)..LOG M..LOG N..W.T. 3 TO PASS GASCOYNE

LANDOPS PASS TARAKAN AND LABUAN.. 1230Z.

W.T.

P.L.

TOID.....

A.E.J.

676/4-12-45..

UNCLASSIFIED OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

GASCOYNE

NOIC MOLUCCAS

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM NCSO LABUAN ADDRESSED NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) NCSO
BALIKPAPAN NCSO TARAKAN FROM NCSO LABUAN. YOUR 032315Z. HAVE ARRANGED FOR
8 HURRICANES TO CARRY OUT AIR SEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE. COASTAL AREA TO
BE COVERED FROM LABUAN TO MARCHESA BAY.

//040921Z

S 00 A 000 COM A N SEC LOG M LOG N W/T 3 PASS

W/T

P/L

TOD

NJD NR 650 4/12/45

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM: UNCLASSIFIED OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

WORLD WOLUCAS

BASSOYNE

4,000,000-6000/1/42-15364-St 4479 A. H. PETTIER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM HQS LABUAN ADDRESSED NO 10 WOLUCAS (R) HQS
BALIKRAPAN HQS TARAKAN FROM HQS LABUAN, YOUR ASSISTANCE HAVE ARRANGED FOR
6 HURRICANES TO CARRY OUT AIR SEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE, COASTAL AREA TO
BE COVERED FROM LABUAN TO MAROHESA BAY.

NOTE

3 00 A 200 COM A M SEE LOG R LOG R W/T 3 PASS

W/T 3 PASS 200 COM A M SEE LOG R LOG R W/T 3 PASS

NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) PD LABUAN
PD TARAKAN
HMAS GASCOYNE

NO SO BALIKPAPEN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED BY 031301 COAST TRIP CANCELLED OWING TO WEATHER

NOIC SEC
SOO
ASOO
NVSO 2
W.T 3 COPIES PASS

*Send for Louis
Anable*

//040617 I

T.P

P.L

TOR1221Z

RR

678/4/12/45

UNCLASSIFIED OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

NOIC LABUAN

NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) NCSO BALIKPAPAN NCSO TARA KAN
CORRECTED VERSION

UNCLASSIFIED YOUR 021215Z. HAVE ARRANGED FOR 8 HURRICANES TO CARRY OUT
AIR SEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE. COASTAL AREA TO BE COVERED FROM LABUAN TO
MARCHESA BAY. NOIC MOLUCCAS PASS TO GASCOYNE.

//040615Z

SDD A SQ COM A N SEC LOG M LOG N

PASSED 0 0 5920

P/L

TOR 1810Z

NJD NR 649

4/12/45

NCSO LABUAN (R) GASCOYNE NCSO TARAKAN
NCSO BALIKPAPEN

NOIC MOLUCCAS

UNCLASSIFIED

IF PRACTICABLE REQUEST AIRSEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE BE ARRANGED ALONG
COASTAL ROUTE FROM LABUAN

//032313

NOIC SEC
ASOO
LOG R
LOG N
W.T PASS
GASCOYNE
NCSO BALI KPAPEN
LAND OPS PASS NCSO TARAKAN AND LABUAN

PHONE

P.L

TOR 2313

RE

519/3/12/45

Unclassified Immediate

NCSO BALIKPAPAN (R) NCSO TARAkan
NCSO LABUAN GASCOYNE

NOIC MOLUCCAS

INDICATE AREA OF SEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE

11231407Z

N SEC
SOO
A SOO
SOE-0
LOG M
LOG N

0013 PASS BALIKPAPAN GASCOMNE
LANDOPS PASS TARAkan LABUAN

W/T

P/L

TOD

NJD NR 498

3/12/45

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM:

4,000,000-6000/1/42-15364-St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

No 12 Dec

NOIC M (R) GASCOYNE

BALIDAPAN

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

BY 0304L NEGATIVE RESULTS FROM AIR SEARCH. ONE PLANE BEING DISPATCHED
ALONG COAST A.M. TUESDAY. NO30 TARKAN. LAFUAN DAVE BY ANOTHER CHANNEL

// 031304L

REF: EAST CONDUCTING SEARCH FOR GRASS SWATH..

CC(O)..1400Z.

A. SO(O)..NOIC SEC..SO(E)..COM 'A'..LOG M..LOG N

U.S.

P.L.

TUE. 1306Z.

A.E.F.

499/7-12-45.

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To: NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) PD MAKASSAR

FROM: EDUARDO

4,000,000—6000/1/42—15364—St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

YOUR 011352Z DIRECTING SHIP TO CONTACT GRASS SNAKE AT TAWI TAWI
NOT UNDERSTOOD .PRESUME THIS SENT IN BELIEF EDUARDO IN THAT AREA
BUT SHIP AT PRESENT ON SLIP AT MAKASSAR .SEE PD MAKASSAR'S
010200Z AND MY 270030Z

//030900Z

(REF 011352 DESPATCH MSL 701 TO TAWI TAWI)
(REF 010200 REPAIRS WILL NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE 15TH DEC)
(REF 270030 NO TRACE)

NOIC SEC
SOO
A/SOO
LOG REF
LOG NOIC

T/P

P/L

ADD

TOR 1432Z

906/5/12/45

NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) NCSO BALIK GASCOYNE NCSO LABUAN

NCSO TARA

YOUR 030250. RAAF ADVISE NO AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE

// 030815I

(REQUEST A/C SEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE)

c

S.O.O.
A/S.O.O.
NOIC SEC
LOG REF
LOG NOIC

T/P

P/1

TOR 0946

W.R.H.

473/3/12/55

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM:

4,000,000—6000/1/42—15364—St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

No 1012

GASCOYNE (R) AONB C I I C BPF NCSO LABUAN
F.O. WESTERN AREA S IN S EIS
COMPHILSE FROM P.N. MALAYA NOIC HONG KONG
OPOSSUM CRANE LIBERTY

NOIC MOLUCCAS

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY UNCLASSIFIED

OPOSSUM REPORTS ANCHORED IN KUDAT BAY 2050 HOW SECOND AND IS
EXAMINING DEFECTS . 2 TOUR 030104 TO NOIC MOLUCCAS ONLY. IF AIRCRAFT
SEARCH FOR GRASS SNAKE NEGATIVE BY NIGHTFALL PROCEED ALONG ROUTE
TO KUDAT AND ASSIST OPOSSUM . 3 REPORT ETA KUDAT WHEN KNOWN . 4. REQUEST
OPOSSUM CRANE AND LIBERTY CONFIRM W/T WATCHES BEING KEPT. 1 IF
PRACTICABLE MAINTAIN CIRA IN ADDITION

STAFF PWTO
NCSO 2 LOG R LOG N

//030516z

REF NO SIGN GRASS SNAKE AT TAWI TAWI AND
NO CONTACT ON 8290 KCS

T.P

P.L

TOB

0530z

RR

394/3/12/45

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To:

FROM:

4,000,000—6000/1/42—15364—St 4479 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

M G C Sec

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320h.
(Established 1935.)
(Reprinted 1940.)

To: NOIC MOLUCCAS (R) TARAKAN GASCOYNE FROM: PD BALIKPAPAN

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

4,000,000—6000/1/42—15364—St 4479 A. H. PETTYFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

YOUR ~~030250~~ RAAF CONDUCTING SEARCH WITH THREE BAKER 25 OF ROUTE
BETWEEN HERE AND TAWI TAWI

//~~030444Z~~

(REF. UNKNOWN WHEREABOUTS GRASS SNAKE REQUEST AIRSEARCH)

NOIC SEC
SOO
COM A
A/SOO
SOC
LOG REF
LOG NOIC

P/L

ADC

TOR 0611Z

415/3/12/45

PHONED SOO 0615Z

NOIC doc

*P.O.P. Gours
Snake*

NCSO TARAKAN NCSO BALIKPAPEN
(R) GASCOYNE NCSO LABUAN

NOIC MOLUCCAS

URGENT UNCLASSIFIED

GRASS SNAKE SAILED FROM BALIKPAPEN 0600 ITEM 28 TH FOR TAWI TAWI ETA
1800 30 TH HAS NOT ARRIVED AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER VESSEL OMITTED
THAT PORT AND PROCEED DIRECT. GASCOYNE SEARCH NEGATIVE AND WILL PROCEED
ON COAST ROUTE TO LABUAN AT NIGHTFALL

2. REQUEST IMMEDIATE AIR SEARCH BE ARRANGED AND GASCOYNE INFORMED OF
DETAILS

NOIC SEC
SOO O
COM A
ASOO
SOC
LOG R
LOG N
T.P

//030250

P.L

TOD 0303z

RR

359/3/12/45

NOIC MOLUCCAS

GASCOYNE

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

TAWI
NO SIGN GRASS SNAKE AT TAWI TAWI AND NO CONTACT ON 8290 KCS. (2) AM
CARRYING OUT FURTHER SEARCH TO SOUTHWARD IF NO CONTACT BY DARK PROPOSE
PROCEEDING KUDAT AND SEARCHING ALONG ROUTE

STAFF
NCSO (2)
PORT W/T OFFICER
LOG R
LOG N

SO(O) ACTION.

// 030144Z

W.T. NR 048

P.L.

TOR 0216Z

ADJ 353.3/12/45

RECEIVED
14 JUL AM 45
NAVY REGISTER

Inbrevalation
orig.

DEPT OF NAVY
SECRET

2026 7 1392

TO : Naval Officer in Charge, DARWIN.
FROM : Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Grass Snake"
SUBJECT : Monthly report on activities of H.M.A.S. "GRASS SNAKE" for June, 1945.

H.M.A.S.

1. Left Broome on 4th. June enroute to Darwin, after effecting temporary repairs to rudder, which was carried away in heavy weather south of Broome.
Anchored Cockatoo Island 5th. June to make further repairs to rudder. Signalled position and cause of stoppage.
Proceeded to sea on 6th. June but had to return to anchorage to make further repairs. Unable to make radio contact so failed to get signal out.
Proceeded to sea on the 7th. June but forced to anchor at Breaknock Harbour for further repairs. Certain now that wireless set has definitely broken down (Burned out condenser).
Proceeded to sea on the 8th. through Rogers Straits, enroute to Darwin.
Anchored Parry Harbour on the 9th. to further check rudder before proceeding across Boneparte Gulf to Darwin.
Passed through Darwin Boom 1330/12. Proceeded to L.M.S. and made fast to buoy 1445/12.
13th. June unloaded at R.A.A.F. Jetty, cargo taken on board at Fremantle.

2. From 14th. to 26th. June anchored at L.M.S., cleaned and painted ship, also making necessary repairs to gear.
Lt. Commander Scrivener visited the ship at L.M.S., Darwin on 24th. June and a full report on proceedings was handed to him.

*D.N.I (N.A.R.O) **

3. 26th. June taken on M.L. slips at 0745. Rudder examined by base engineers staff and the damage was found to be :-
(a) Keyway damaged in Rudder head shaft.
(b) Top flange securing Rudder trunk to rudder head cracked also key nearly sheared.
(c) Bolt holes in both flanges badly worn.
(d) Rudder blades damaged when bolts holding flange broken allowing it to swing into propeller.
(e) Slight damage to propeller blade tips when they struck rudder.
Engine Hours:- Auxiliary Engine 376 and three quarter Hrs.
Main Engine 330 Hrs.

4. Main engine run exceedingly well, hours 330.
Auxiliary Engine, gave considerable trouble. Main trouble was circulation water pump and fuel injector. Metal in big end fractured and had to be replaced. Running hours 376 & 3 quarter.
Running hours for both engines were taken from date of commissioning, 22nd. April, 1945.
Bilge pumps:- Trouble was experienced when a blockage occurred in the suction line. As there was no means of pumping bilges because hand auxiliary bilge pump and power pump were working through a common line.

5. Health of Crew:- Very good except on one occasion when A/B. Sims J.W. who was working under water in a D.F.S.A. set repairing rudder damage, was taken ill and had to be taken to hospital.

6. Conduct of Crew:- Very Good.

Brammer
.....
Sub/Lt. R.A.N.V.R.

DISTRIBUTION.
Navy Board.
Secretary Navy Board.
S.N.O., S.R.D.
Ship.
File.

H.M. Barker
Mr. [unclear]
H.S.

DEPT. OF NAVY
ESTABLISHMENT
1922

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE
NAVY ESTABLISHMENT
1922

...

...

AWM 78