



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY
FLEET COMMAND

March

01/16/01
SUC/OUT/2014/ 73

COMAUSSURFOR (Bldg. 90, Garden Island)

For Information:
COMAUSFLT (Level 6, FHQ)
Naval History Directorate (Sea Power Centre – Australia)

HMAS SUCCESS REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS—01-31 MARCH 2014

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11. On 18 March, *Success* received orders to §22 and proceed southwest to assist with the search for missing the Malaysian Airline Flight MH370. *Success* subsequently departed Fremantle on the morning of 19 Mar to proceed in support of OP SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN. §22

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§22 *Success* arrived in the search area allocated by AMSA during the Dogs watch and commenced an expanding square search pattern in support of Operation SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN. *Success* closed up additional lookouts known as Enhanced Watch on Deck (EWOD) who operated around the clock in a one-in-three rotation. Due to the reduction in speed required to conduct an effective search, the SME was shut down at three hours NFS with the shaft brake applied to enable technical sailors to conduct maintenance. The SME was started and running correctly at the start of the First watch.

13. During the handover to the Middle watch on 23 Mar, a metallic object was sighted in the water and *Success* was manoeuvred as required to pass over the same ground multiple times, the object was unable to be regained visually and nothing was found. A DCEX was conducted at midday, but was suspended following the report of radar plots by an aircraft on task. *Success* proceeded south east to investigate. Whilst enroute to the previously reported position, the starboard RHIB was launched in an attempt to recover some rubber tubing sighted by the EWOD. Upon the order "away seaboard" all spare hands were directed to muster on the upper decks to maximise lookouts and the opportunity to sight an object; this became a standard practice for each object reported. Although no objects were recovered, the boat crew was directed to collect water samples from a slick area. The RHIB was then recovered and secured for sea. The PME was shut down at immediate notice for sea (INFS) and the shaft brake applied. During the First watch that evening, a length of white hose was seen in the water and the lookout launched a flare on the port side. The port RHIB was launched and was later recovered with nothing found.

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when an on task aircraft reported possible objects in the water. *Success* proceeded to the positions passed by the aircraft and all spare hands were mustered on the upper decks to keep a good lookout, however nothing was sighted. §22

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15. On 26 Mar, an aircraft on task reported a submerged object in the water, and *Success* closed the position to investigate. Once in the location, *Success* manoeuvred within the area in search of the objects, however no objects were sighted.

16. On 28 Mar, *Success* continued her transit north to a new search area as directed by AMSA.

17. On the morning of 29 Mar s22
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s22 *Success* arrived in the new search area and commenced an expanding square search. That afternoon an object was recovered from the water by the starboard RHIB and collected for analysis/evidence. It was assessed as unlikely to be related to the missing aircraft MH 370.

18. On 30 Mar, numerous objects were seen in the water. The port RHIB was launched and commenced the recovery of multiple objects, later determined to be rubbish and assessed as not associated with the missing aircraft MH 370.

19. In the early hours of 31 Mar, *Success* was allocated a new search area and commenced her independent passage towards this location.

20. All items recovered from the water as part of Op SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN have been identified and catalogued for evidence. However all are assessed as not being related to the missing Malaysian aircraft MH 370. s22
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Conclusion

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Success received her tasking to Op SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN and proceeded to conduct search patterns as directed by AMSA for the remainder of the month. Throughout March *Success* Ship's Company remained focussed on the task assigned them.

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AG Norris
CAPT, RAN
CO HMAS *Success*

16 Apr 14

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