1-16-1

MCAUST

For information
Naval History Directorate
CP3-4-41

HMAS SYDNEY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS SEPTEMBER 1999

1. The proceedings of HMAS SYDNEY under my command for the period 1 - 30 September 1999 are forwarded.

2. SYDNEY commenced the period at anchor near Great Keppel Island awaiting the outcome of repairs to the sonar dome. The ship weighed anchor during the afternoon of Wednesday 1 to commence passage to Sydney, berthing at Fleet Base East during the afternoon of Friday 3.

3. On Monday 6, the ship departed FBE and moored to No. 2 buoy for ammunitioning in preparation for the PWO Weapons Firing Sea Assessment Week, departing Sydney Harbour on completion. Later that day, SYDNEY joined HMAS HOBART and HMNZS CANTERBURY in the East Australian Exercise Area (EAXA) for the start of six days of intensive warfare exercises. The PWO seaweek concluded during the early hours of Saturday 11 and SYDNEY entered harbour in company with HOBART later that forenoon to berth at FBE.

4. During the forenoon of Monday 13 the ship was cold moved to Captain Cook Graving Dock and was docked later that day. SYDNEY remained docked through to the end of the period during which time work progressed on replacement of the sonar dome, changeout of the port and other essential maintenance.

S.T. CULLEN
CMDR. RAN
CO

Oct 99
HMPS SYDNEY
FFG-03

MINUTE

1-16-1

MCAUST

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HMPS SYDNEY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OCTOBER 1999

1. The proceedings of HMPS SYDNEY under my command for the period 1 - 31 October 1999 are forwarded.

2. SYDNEY commenced the period docked in the Captain Cook Graving Dock, Garden Island, conducting the final stages of repairs to the sonar dome. The ship was cold moved out of the dock during the forenoon of Tuesday 5 and berthed at FBE. Formal Management Audits were conducted for all departments, culminating in an inspection of the ship by Chief of Staff CDRE B.D. Robertson, AM RAN on Tuesday 19. On Wednesday 20 SYDNEY was cold moved to Man O War buoys for ammunitioning, returning to FBE by cold move Thursday 21.

3. SYDNEY sailed during the forenoon of Monday 25 for passage to Darwin. A small contingent of Sea Training Group (STG) were embarked to assist ships staff with an internal workup program prior to entering the East Timor area of operations. CAPT F.K. de Laat, RANR, Director General Reserves - Navy also embarked for passage to Darwin. STG were disembarked to Mackay by SYDNEY's S70B Seahawk during the afternoon of Wednesday 27. In the late afternoon of Sunday 31, SYDNEY made rendezvous with HMPS SUCCESS in the Arafura Sea to replenish fuel.

4. The ship remained on passage to Darwin through to the end of the period.

S.T. CULLEN
CMDR, RAN
CO
/ Nov 99
1. The proceedings of HMAS SYDNEY under my command for the period 1 - 30 November 1999 are forwarded.

2. SYDNEY commenced the period arriving in Darwin during the forenoon of Monday 1 to berth at Stokes Hill wharf. FNS PRAIRIAL berthed outboard SYDNEY that forenoon. Later that day I called on COMNORCOM, CORE Bonser.

3. PRAIRIAL cast off during the forenoon of Wednesday 3 and SYDNEY sailed from Darwin once she was clear, commencing passage to Dili, East Timor. During the forenoon of Thursday 4, a replenishment of fuel was conducted from HMCS PROTECTEUR, on completion of which, SYDNEY and PROTECTEUR sailed in company to anchorage off Dili. The ship remained at anchor for several hours whilst key personnel proceeded ashore for briefings by INTERFET staff. SYDNEY weighed anchor that evening for passage to the East Timor Enclave of Oecussi, arriving there during the early hours of Friday 5 to relieve USS PELELIU.

4. On Sunday 7 I proceeded ashore to meet INTERFET staff and receive briefings on the situation in Oecussi. On Tuesday 9, HMAS TARAKAN rafted up alongside to deliver mail and to backload. On Friday 12, Commodore Flotillas CDRE J. Stapleton, RAN, Naval Component Commander for INTERFET, embarked in SYDNEY overnight. During the evening of Saturday 13, SYDNEY conducted replenishment of fuel and stores from PROTECTEUR. In the afternoon of Tuesday 16, HMAS LABUAN, followed by two Army LCM8 landing craft, rafted up alongside to take on fuel and fresh water.

5. On Thursday 18, HMNZS CANTERBURY joined SYDNEY during the early forenoon. Later that morning, Major General Cosgrove, Commander INTERFET and COMFLOT embarked for a short visit. CANTERBURY departed to return to Dili later that evening. During the late forenoon of Friday 19, NRP VASCO DA GAMA joined SYDNEY and I called on the Commanding Officer, CMDR Almeida Goncalves, to discuss operations in Oecussi. VASCO DA GAMA remained in company until the evening of Sunday 21, participating in humanitarian aid ashore and exercises with SYDNEY. PROTECTEUR joined SYDNEY for replenishment of fuel and victuals that evening, and remained in the Enclave overnight, departing during the late forenoon of Monday 22 having conducted a short series of exercises with SYDNEY. During the forenoon of Saturday 27, TARAKAN rafted up alongside to transfer stores and mail. In the early forenoon
of Monday 29, SYDNEY and PROTECTEUR conducted a replenishment of fuel, fresh and frozen
food and consigned cargo, with the latter being transferred by SYDNEY’s S70B Seahawk. The
ship remained in the Oecussi area through to the end of the period.

6. Throughout the period in Oecussi, SYDNEY has provided a ready deck for 11 Blackhawk
helicopters to refuel, conducted four Aeromedical Evacuations (AME) from Oecussi to Dili,
provided hotel services to 279 INTERFET personnel, provided 400 meals and other support to
INTERFET personnel ashore, and expended 2,200 manhours in humanitarian assistance work.
SYDNEY has also assisted other units with the short-term loan of personnel; providing technical
sailors to TARAKAN and LABUAN, a Signalman to TARAKAN, and Seaman Officers to an Army
LCM8, NCC INTERFET staff and as Naval Liaison Officer to INTERFET forces in Oecussi.

S.T. CULLEN
CMDR, RAN
Dec 99
HMAS SYDNEY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS DECEMBER 1999

1. The proceedings of HMAS SYDNEY under my command for the period 1 - 31 December 1999 are forwarded.

2. SYDNEY commenced the period conducting operations in support of INTERFET in the Oecussi Enclave, East Timor. On Wednesday 1 The Right Honourable Kim Beazley, Leader of the Opposition; The Honourable Laurie Brereton, Shadow Minister for Defence; The Honourable Warren Snowdon, Member for the Northern Territory; MAJGEN Cosgrove, Commander INTERFET; CORE Robertson, AM RAN, Naval Component Commander INTERFET; AIRCDRE McLellan, Air Component Commander INTERFET; and support staff paid a brief visit to SYDNEY.

3. SYDNEY conducted replenishment with HMCS PROTECTEUR Sunday 5. On Monday 6 HMNZS CANTERBURY joined for two days operations in the Enclave, departing early Wednesday 8. Later that forenoon, MAJGEN Cosgrove, CDRE Robertson, AIRCDRE McLellan and INTERFET National Component Commanders embarked in SYDNEY for briefings. During the evening of Saturday 10, SYDNEY departed the Oecussi Enclave to rendezvous with PROTECTEUR in the vicinity of Dili and conducted a replenishment of fuel and stores, returning to Oecussi on completion. In the afternoon of Saturday 11, Chief of Defence Force, ADML C.A. Barrie, AO AM RAN and CDRE Robertson embarked in SYDNEY overnight.

4. On Thursday 16 SYDNEY completed tasking in the Oecussi Enclave, departing the Enclave during the evening. A total of 1400 manhours were dedicated to humanitarian assistance during the period. The ship provided hotel services to 255 INTERFET personnel, loaned two Officers and an Able Seaman to INTERFET HQ and a Officer to HTMS SURIN, and SYDNEY's S70B2 Seahawk helicopter conducted four Aeromedical Evacuations and provided 50 hours support to 3 RAR in Oecussi. The ship departed the East Timor AO during the forenoon of Friday 17.

5. In the evening of Friday 17 enroute Darwin, SYDNEY conducted a final replenishment from PROTECTEUR in the Timor Sea. A dual hookup for fuel and stores was conducted, concurrent with a VERTREP to backload contingency stores to PROTECTEUR. SYDNEY berthed outboard HMAS NEWCASTLE at Stokes Hill wharf, Darwin during the early forenoon of Saturday 18. Following quarantine clearance and handover briefings with NEWCASTLE,
SYDNEY and NEWCASTLE departed Darwin in company during the early afternoon that day and SYDNEY commenced passage to Sydney.

6. The ship berthed at Garden Island during the forenoon of Friday 24 and remained alongside for the remainder of the period. SYDNEY was the venue for the Variety Club of Australia Millennium party during the evening of Friday 31.

S. T. CULLEN
CMDR, RAN
CO
21 Dec 99
HMAS SYDNEY
FFG-03

MINUTE

1-16-1

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HMAS SYDNEY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS JANUARY 2000

1. The proceedings of HMAS SYDNEY under my command for the period 1 - 31 January 2000 are forwarded.

2. SYDNEY commenced the period alongside Fleet Base East (FBE) conducting self maintenance and a leave period, and making preparations for Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) 19. The ship remained alongside throughout January.

S.T. CULLEN
CMDR, RAN
CO

31 Jan 00