

HMNZS OTAGO 1968

Naval Information messages sent to New Zealand Naval Board during ship's deployment to the Far East between 25 March and 14(?) December 1968, under the command of Captain Richard T Hale, OBE, RNZN.

ROUTINE 260845Z MAR 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO report.

Silent service. OTAGO sailed for Pearl Harbour 251000M. Throughout Monday ship took part in air co-operation and AA shoots with EURYALUS and CAMBRIAN. RN ships proceeded at 1830 and OTAGO set course for explosives anchorage Motuihe. All hands turned to on anchoring and worked to 0130M embarking ammo for Pearl Harbour work up. Ship got underway and berthed alongside Naval Base Devonport at 3am. The Executive Officer Lt Cdr J O'H Tobin of Christchurch was given control of ship to get ship handling experience at night time. Unknown to many people ship sailed having topped up with fuel oil at 4 am and set courser for the north. Very few hands were able to turn in much before 5 am since clearing the lee of Gt Barrier Is the ship has encountered 20 to 40 knot winds and rough seas from the east making conditions on board most uncomfortable and not conducive to conducting internal exercises prior to reaching Pearl Harbour. At 1730 tonight ship hove to and the duty watch under the guidance of CBM D.E. Hawthorne of Hastings now Takapuna and L/S R.S. Golding Tepuna, Tauranga, all in life jackets checked the security of the upper deck and boats before darkness.

2 Custom in reverse. After 2 ½ years Stores PO K.M. Mutch, Northcote, appeared on the bridge clean shaven. He commenced growing his set on joining the ship in Oct 1965. By midday Tuesday up to 25 hands onboard have ceased shaving and even more can be expected.

3 The ship is expected to call at Raoul Island tomorrow Wed but if prevailing weather conditions persist there is little likelihood of being able to work boats from the ship.

ROUTINE 271220Z MAR 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO report.

Despite rough passage to Raoul Is, ship made good 20 knots from Auckland and anchored off Fishing Rock landing at 10am Wednesday. Motor whaler under charge of Ensign C.F. George (Manaia) with L/S R.S. Golding (Tepuna) Coxn, LME J.R. Guthrie (Port Chalmers) AB P.T Cunningham (Waipukurau), AB A.W. Edmonds (Kaikohe) and ORDN G.K. Blanchard (Palmerston North) in crew landed stores and brought off four members of Met station to ship. Weather conditions at Fishing Rock (for details read NZ Pilot page 427 line 30 onwards) was assessed marginal by locals and looked precarious from ship. Ensign George had previous experience once before said "It looked terrifying at first but as the crew reacted exactly as

required it proved to be quite a reasonable task”.

2 Visitors to ship were all urgent dental cases, Mr R. Henry (Dannevirke) Officer in Charge, Mr O. Todd (Taihape) 2 I/c, Mr A. Simmonds (Spring Creek Blenheim) and Mr E. de St Croix (Jersey Channel Isles and Wellington) were attended to by Surg Lt(D) J.M. Scott (Gisborne now Auckland) and assisted by DA K.G. Larsen (Hamilton).

3 Mr O. Todd met ME2 G.W. Hollands (Stratford) his cousin for first time onboard.

4 Mr R.W. Kennedy (Invercargill) worked shore W/T station with ship and apologised for not knowing proper procedure but found ships method to be very interesting. He did a very professional job.

5 Whilst dental treatment was being given ship got under way and proceeded 10 miles to east to cross 1000 fathom line for trials and on returning to anchorage calibrated a bathythermograph. Ship finally cleared the island at 2pm and headed north east for Pago Pago undertaking oceanographic work en route (more detail in another report).

6 With vastly improved weather and sea conditions training for PH [Pearl Harbour] now in full throws and instruction continues until 6pm.

ROUTINE 300801Z MAR 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report.

Unlike leap-year birthdays once in four years ME G.M. Sorenson (Rotorua) had two birthdays in two days as result of ship crossing International Date Line and there being two Thursday 28 March.

2 Yesterday 28th, on passage Raoul to Pago Pago ship spent 8 hours and steamed 140 miles searching for two volcanoes approx 100 and 70 miles west of Niue respectively. These volcanoes first reported December 1967 (check date with 'H'). Neither eyes, radar nor sonar under direction of PO M. Shepard (Devonport) were able to find evidence of any sea mount or bottom mass above 3000 fathoms.

3 Ship spent 5 hours in Pago Pago this am to fuel, sailing at 1300 on second leg of passage to Pearl Harbour. As result of CO calling on Governor American Samoa he, Capt R.T. Hale (Lower Hutt), Lt Cdr J O'H Tobin (Milford) and Cdr C.R. Vennell (Milford) as guests of Hon Owen Aspinall experienced delights of Pago Pago sky ride (cable car trip from Solo Hill (190ft) to peak of Mt Alava (1700 ft) passing over top of ship and across the harbour. Cable distance one mile. At summit TV station was visited. From this station educational TV is broadcast to schools on island, up to six lessons at once can be handled and the closed circuit facilities monitoring of classes as well.

4 The song goes: Mad dogs and Englishmen, etc etc. What of Kiwis? For 30 minutes at noon 35 men landed Pago Pago for run and exercise under watchful eye of PTI G. Pettis (Takapuna). Group consisted primarily of ships rugby enthusiasts but also included MAA G. Cooke (Takapuna) and Wtr G. Ennis (Timaru). The temperature 82 degrees 100% humidity.

ROUTINE 050930Z APR 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report No.4.

Ship arrives Pearl Harbour 1330 4th April. Band of 14th Naval District and officers wives from Ford Island Pearl Harbour welcomed ship with music and traditional dancing. Ship steamed into her berth with large deep red lei around stem, presented by the dancers. Route was taken around Ford Island so that marks of respect could be paid to USS Arizona Memorial. A shrine built over the sunken battleship which is dedicated to the thousands of American servicemen who lost their lives on Dec 7 1941.

2 Much mail received up to and including 4th April. In fact Auckland Star 4th April received on board 1700 (ship now 22 hours behind NZ.)

3 On passage fro NZ ship has undertaken extensive oceanographic program co-ordinated by PO W. Mullins (Rothesay Bay). Total of 50 bathythermograph dips taken or one very 70 miles. Readings acquired give temp of sea against depth and detail processes and fed into international program. Constant sea surface recordings taken by instrument made by NRL Devonport and accuracy never differed more than point two degrees centigrade. Detail will be related to ships track and tie in with bathy readings. Sonar sets used much of time to measure depth of water to check detail on existing charts, see para 2 my 300810Z.

At 2300Z daily 56lb depth charge dropped and set to fire at 800 feet. The explosion monitored onboard and by NRL. Information gained will be used in furtherance of transmission of sound through water. Echo sounder and a sonar set run half hour before and after sunrise and sunset in attempt to gain more knowledge of deep scattering layer. Layer of plankton which varies depth to time of day and can produce effect on devices that indicates false bottom. Depth of approx 35 fathoms recorded not infrequently between Auckland Raoul Island and then again from 24 hrs out of PH. Only one observation of bioluminescncce seen on passage and circumstances prevented getting water sample form area for preservation and subsequent analysis. Four readings taken by seechi disk (20cm white disk) by depth lowered into water and apparent change in colour of disk some biological content of water can be assessed. Water between Raoul Is and PH was very deep blue indicating relatively barren water.

4 Tomorrow Friday and Saturday all officers and senior rates plus some junior rates will do a one day firefighting course at local Navy school where 15 foot diameter mock fuel tank is fired and every man takes turn on hose at face of fire. Also mock destroyer boiler room and bilges fired and everyone takes turn going into fire to fight it at close quarters. Experience helps remove fear of fire and instils confidence in individuals and equipment.

5 In round of calls being undertaken by captain, an old friend to NZ is to be called on tomorrow. Rear Admiral F.E. Bakutis now Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier, who till recently was Commander Deep Freeze.

ROUTINE 230135Z MAY 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 5.

Additional to the ship being involved in refresher training, maintenance and the O.R.E [operational readiness evaluation] of the Third ASW Group consisting on USS ships Bennington, Ramsay, O'Brien, Cunningham, Benner, McKean, and Eversole. A number of personnel have had the opportunity to experience first hand experience in USN units:

- (A) Lt T.M. Morrow (Takapuna)
PO W. Mullins (North Shore)
AB T. Reynolds (Devonport)

spent two and a half days on board the fast conventional submarine Blueback. On the following two and a half days

- Lt S.F. Teagle (Auckland)
L/Sea M. Rowe (Rotorua)
AB T. Putland (Auckland)

had a similar experience on board. On returning to harbour on the Friday Lt Teagle was given the control and responsibility of taking the submarine into harbour and berthing her alongside.

- (B) Lt Cdr G.J Bourke (Auckland)
PO S. Hasthorpe (Takapuna)
L/Sea O. Draper (Hastings)
L/Sea H. Pocklington (Devonport)
L/Sea G. Coster (Devonport)
AB R. Mariner (Westport)

spent a day in the guided missile destroyer Joseph Strauss comparing the USN method of radar plotting and running their ops room.

- (C) CMEA A. Puffett (Belmont Auck)
MEA1 K. Kinnard (Auckland)
MEA1 M. Anderton (Takapuna)

went to sea for a day in the destroyer Sproston to have a closer understanding of USN machinery operation and control.

- (D) Lt Cdr G.J.Bourke (Auckland)
Lt J.G. Peddie (Wellington)
PO M. Shepherd (Devonport)
CPO C. White (Milford)

spent four hours in the air in a P3A Orion which was doing anti-submarine exercises with the submarine Blueback during the time Lt Morrow and his party were on board the s/m. Practical experience in ASW a/c is invaluable experience as ship has responsibility of proper employment of these aircraft from time to time.

- (E) PO F. Hockenhill (Torbay)
PO D. Hawke (Campbells Bay)
LWM J. Armstrong (Lower Hutt)
AB S. Tunnicliffe (Browns Bay)
AB M. King (Motueka)

spent a day in DDG Joseph Strauss on one of her gunnery days to evaluate their shoot as independent observers.

- (F) Ensign C.F. George (Manaia)
PO F. Hockenhill (Torbay)

were taken up in an S2F Tracker aircraft to the island [of] Kauai where they were shown the mid control point of the Pacific Missile Range.

- (G) Lt G.G. Elder (Glenfield)
Ensign C.F. George (Manaia)
PO F. Hockenhill (Torbay)

were taken on a tour of the air co-operation room at Barbers Point where they were shown all targets including surface to air, air to air, towed and radio controlled, also F8, A4, S2F aircraft and helicopters.

(H) The Maori Concert party paid a visit to the Hawaiian State Mental Hospital where they performed before an audience of 200.

2 Photographs of Otago refuelling from USS Bennington during ORE have been posted.

ROUTINE 272231Z MAY 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 6.

25 - 26 May. Ships last weekend in Pearl Harbour brought entertainment and hospitality to a climax.

2 NZ Navy gains strength in Pearl Harbour. Endeavour met by Otago on her arrival 260945 from San Francisco.

3 25 May HMNZS Otago successfully challenged the Pearl Harbour Yacht Club for their International Trophy. Trophy originated in 1965 for competition between Pearl Harbour Yacht Club and visiting warships. Since inauguration of trophy there have been challenges by ships of the Australian, German, French, Japanese and New Zealand navies. Prior to Otago's challenge the Pearl Harbour Yacht Club had not been defeated. Coxswains taking part were Lt Cdr A.M. Patterson (Auckland), Ens L.J. Mitchell (Auckland) and ASG R.B. Kenyon (Raumati South) who were ably supported by L/Sea O.S. Draper (Hastings). Stwd J.G. Suhr (New Lynn), REM F.R. Gay (Dunedin), REM G.R. Thompson (Tawa), SA M.G. Strong (Nelson) and ORD W.R. Pittams (Silverdale). The team was captained by Ens Mitchell who received the trophy on behalf of Otago. Competition extended over four races, Otago victor by four points.

4 25 May. 1st XV played and defeated the Hawaiian Combined XV by 14 to 9. This first occasion of ship playing the all Hawaiian team. First class match with M(E) G.M. Sorenson (Rotorua) being the outstanding player of the day. Try scored by ORD N G.K. Blanchard (Palmerston North), three penalties and conversion by AB L.E.R. Wallace (Taranaki).

5 40 rugby players entertained at Kailua by the Harlequins Rugby Club to an evening of unsurpassed hospitality which was given in the home of Mr and Mrs Richard A Williams, a member of the club.

ROUTINE 290435Z MAY 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 7.

This an Otago concert party of 20 led by PO C.S. Kauta (Opotiki) and L/Sea F.J. Donnelly (Gisborne) presented a 20 minute programme as a prelude to the world-famous Kodak Hula Show at Waikiki before an audience of 3000. The Master of Ceremonies Fritz Herman along with many present complemented the group on a very fine performance. In the course of the hula dancing all members were given leis and an assortment of lipstick was also acquired in the process of receiving the leis. This was the first occasion an RNZN concert party has performed at this show.

2 Photographs to follow.

ROUTINE 310759Z MAY 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 8.

As a result of concert party performing at Kodak hula show an Tuesday brief coverage was shown same evening on TV channel 9.

2 Headline and photo in local paper this am reads 'Pinched cannon returned to Pearl Harbour'. Brass cannon was souvenired last time ship in Pearl Harbour. Brass barrel was sold in Hong Kong as scrap. Offenders ordered to produce trophy which had to be brought back at 100% profit to merchant. Naval Station Pearl Harbour was not aware Otago was guilty party. Return has generated even more good will, etc etc. Full story plus photos of returning ceremony will be forwarded when pictures to hand.

3 Ship sailed Pearl Harbour 1000 today. Maori concert party sang ship out of harbour from top of bridge. Many personnel adorned by their friends with leis prior to brow being hauled inboard. Large number of friends watched ships departure from advantage points the length of the harbour. On clearing channel leis were thrown over the side in traditional manner with hopes of returning one day.

ROUTINE 061001Z JUN 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 9.

The 'Ringside' atmosphere prevailed throughout ship last night. The quarter deck was rigged for boxing during the day. Hour before first contest all ring side positions were taken up. Evenings entertainment consisted of twelve bouts of two two minute rounds each contest.

Bouts:

(A) ORDN C.W. Heath (Gore)	defeated ORD C. Fletcher (Kaitaia)
(B) ORD R.A. Girbin (Whangerei)	defeated ME2 G.S. McLean (Papakura)
(C) J.SEA W.E. Mitchell (Hamilton)	defeated ORD J.P. Hinaki (Gisborne)
(D) L/SEA O.S. Draper (Hastings)	defeated PO R.W. Wood (Glenfield)
(E) J.SEA L.D. Balderston (Ruawai)	drew ORD T.J.C. Gaiger (Lower Hutt)
(F) ME1 W.R. Brown (Otago)	defeated LWM J.J. Mathieson (Waimate)
(G) ASG S.A. Keith (Devonport)	defeated ORD T.M. Proctor (Katikati)
(H) ORD R.T. Broughton (Patea)	defeated ORD W.R. Pittams (Silverdale)
(I) ORD N.C. Beamen (Fielding)	defeated ORD B.R. Moratti (New Plymouth)
(J) ORD B. Ridgeway (Hamilton)	defeated ORD A.M. Cutts (Gisborne)
(K) A/CK G.D. McConville (Gisborne)	defeated ME2 I.L. Williams (Liethfield Beach)
(L) ORD P. LeBas (Penrose)	defeated ME2 S.A. Thomson (Devonport)

2. Best boxer of night ME1 Brown and best sportsman of evening ME2 McClean were selected by judges MAA G.A. Cooke (Takapuna), CRM A.A> Tiriana (Belmont), and CPO D.E. Hawthorne (Takapuna).

3. Masterly performance of refereeing shown by L/SEA G. Pettis (Takapuna) who

contended with ship movement, small ring and very excitable seconds.

4. Side splitting exhibition bout of wrestling put on by AB G.R. Mowat, at 252 lbs (Grey Lynn) and AB R. Kake at 224 lbs (Whangarei). Event was a mixture of the spirit of Aloha and Sumo.

ROUTINE 091400Z JUN 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 10.

Key-note on board is keep fit. Every evening not less than 50 men can be seen running, skipping, jumping etc on the focsle, under watchful eye of PTI L/SEA G. Pettis (Takapuna). All do a serious workout. Other smaller groups take their exercise elsewhere on board.

2. Friday 7th. Steel 7 ft x 5 ft x 5 ft pontoon section found drifting. Many fish sighted in vicinity including shark approx 15 feet long. Opportunity was taken to exercise 40mm guns crews and later rifle practice was also had against same target until it sank.

3. Saturday PM. An interesting skeet shooting competition was commenced. Ten teams of four men in each entered, at end of first round. Most successful team of the afternoon was the Sonar Control ratings with a score of 14 out of possible 20. Team comprising of: L/SEA R.E. Lora (Taita), L/SEA D.W. Rowe (Herne Bay), AB M. Abraham (Te Hapua Nth Auckland), AB A.L. Fisher (Devonport).

4. Sunday commenced in traditional manner with Divisions followed by prayers on Quarterdeck, followed by upper deck rounds. After lunch the Greenacre Golf Course was opened for a feast of that sport (deck style).

5. Inter divisional knock-out golf tournament was held, ten teams of three each, preliminary round over nine holes and finals 18 holes. Wardroom defeated Gunners Mess by 225 to 227.

(A) Wardroom team Lt Cdr J.O'H. Tobin (Takapuna)
Lt D.L. Douglas (Takapuna)
S/Lt R.O. Cottrell (Takapuna)
(B) Gunners team AB W.R. Ffolliett-Powell (Ngaruawahia)
ORD W.E. Mitchell (Hamilton)
ORD A.M. Cutts (Gisborne)

6. After interpart tournament CPOs Mess challenged Gunners Mess at deck golf for Otago Commercial Travellers and Warehousemens Assn Inter Divisional; Cup which has been held continuously by Gunners since ship left Auckland.

CPOs team: MAA G.M. Cooke (Takapuna)
CRM A.A. Tiriana (Belmont)
CEL M.G. Kirk (Wellington)
CMEA A.T. Puffett (Takapuna)

defeated Gunners Mess by 297 to 298 over eighteen holes.

Gunners team: AB W.R. Ffolliett-Powell (Ngaruawahia)
AB S.R. Shuker (Dannevirke)
ORD W.E. Mitchell (Hamilton)
ORD A.M. Cutts (Gisborne)

7. Whole ships company enjoyed evening meal picnic style on upper deck. Gala atmosphere, aloha dress but no birds to pick up crumbs.

8. Weather since Pearl Harbour has been hot and dry with slight breeze and calm seas. Sunbathing in off duty hours is becoming a way of life. Arriving Guam in the morning.

ROUTINE 181515Z JUN 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 11.

On second half of Pearl Harbour to Singapore passage – Guam to Labuam – ship experienced continual good weather and calm seas. Much floating wood and vegetation experienced through Sulu Sea including 30 foot logs with diameters up to 4 and 5 ft.

2. Sunday 16th evening meal served on upper deck for second Sunday running – change in routine equally acceptable and fingers proved to be as efficient as cutlery. After dark two hours hilarious concert performed on quarterdeck to all members of ships company not actually on watch. Turns included:

(A) MA T.M. Gunn (Christchurch)(and ASG S.A. Keith (Devonport) performing silhouette operation on ORD A.M. Cutts (Gisborne).

(B) Can Can dancers including OSG E.R. Cleaver (Gisborne), ORDNs G.K. Blanchard (Palmerston Nth), D.J. McGrath (Westland), W.P. Hanna (Titahi Bay) and ORD R.T. Broughton (Patea).

(C) Fashion show introducing the new khaki uniform modelled by COA P.R. Farrell (Belmont)

(D) Minstrel singer/dancer - You name it he did it – LSA M. MacKereth (Stratford)

(E) A visit from Father Ambrose AB A.P. Brough (Mt Eden)

(F) The 1968 Otago version of Glowing Cane Knife Dancing by MAA G.A. Cooke (Takapuna) and CRE A.A. Tiriana (Belmont)

(G) Paddy and Steve - a turn by L/SEA P.J. O'Rielly (Takapuna) and L/SEA O.S. Draper (Hastings)

(H) A ditty by Lt T.M. Morrow (Takapuna)

(I) Otago's poet laureate's Lt Cdr A. Patterson (Northcote) modern interpretation of Greek poetry

(J) Fred and Daph – a skit by Ords R. Thompson (Wanganui) and W.R. Pittams (Silverdale)

(K) Top of the Ten, Otago's No. 1 pop singer AB M. Abraham (Nth Auckland)

(L) Mid Pacific Baby Contest POSA K.M. Mutch (Northcote) of the stone age style, CPO R.A. Lattimore (Stanley Bay) oif the impossible type, CK G.D. McConville (Gisborne) a trying sort, and AB G.R. Mowat (Grey Lynn) the fat happy and contented sort at 254lbs. Mowat was judged winner by CME G.D.J Drinkwater (Carlisle) and Capt R.T. Hale (Lower Hutt) and presented with a cake. The others were given large toffee apples.

(M) Master of Ceremonies PO F.D.S. Hockenhull (Torbay)

(N) Music was provided by LWM J.C. Armstrong (Naenae) and LWM J.J. Mathieson (Waimate) and LREM E.A. Wade (Devonport) on guitars and ORD C. Fletcher (Kaitaia) on drums.

3. The finals of the mid-ocean skeet shoot was shot off PM 17th. Supply and Secretariat Division defeated Petty Officers Mess by 12 points to 11. S&S team DA K.G. Larsen (Hamilton), CK N.G.W. McIntyre (Ellerslie), L/STWD W.P. Schultz (Invercargill), L/CK S. Ainsworth (Avondale). POs team – PO F.D.S. Hockenhull (Torbay), POM(E) T.J. Whatuira (Takapuna), POM(E) J.C. Wakeman (Northcote), PO W. Lott (Upper Hutt).

4. Six hour fuelling stop made at Labuam today. Temperature in region of 90 degrees. During lunch hour 100 degrees or more. Ratings availed themselves of swim from beach at end of fuelling wharf – off watch hands remained in water till 2pm.

5. Ship now on final leg of 3 week passage arriving Singapore on 20th Thursday. Heavy program for day reads:

0510 prepare for entering harbour

0700 berth at naval armament wharf

1000 secure alongside Singapore Naval Base

1000 changing of ensign ceremony [Ed: this was the day the New Zealand White Ensign was first flown.]

1800 Capt and officers hold reception in honour of ceremony.

6. Confirmation is requested as to whether these types of NIO reports are of any press value as my ships company have received practically no cuttings that would indicate that any information had emanated from the ship.

ROUTINE 011328Z JUL 68

FROM OTAGO

TO NZNB

UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 12.

Wednesday 3rd July COMFEF holding dinner party for Flag and Commanding Officers to which there will be 40 guests. Otago concert party under PO C.S. Kauta (Opotiki) and Leading Sea F.J. Donnelly (Gisborne) invited to give programme at conclusion of dinner. Adml O'Brien impressed by Maori dancing during his recent visit to NZ.

ROUTINE 050715Z JUL 68

FROM OTAGO

TO NZNB

UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 13.

June 24. Basketball. Otago defeated HMAS Parramatta 30-16. Points scored by: PO P.J. O'Leary (Kaikoura), L/S J.F. Donnelly (Gisborne), REA3 D.G.G. Knight (Papakura).

2. June 25. Soccer. HMS Euryalus defeated Otago 12-1 in first round China Shield.

3. June 26. Rugby. Otago defeated HMS Triumph 49-0. Tries by AB A.W. Tingle (Waikato) 3, L/S G.A. Coster (Dunedin) 3, ARD A.C. Dowie (Dunedin) 2, REA3 D.G.G. Knight (Papakura) 2, L/S G.R. Revell (Waiheke) 1, LME G. Sorrenson (Rotorua) 1, conversions AB Tingle 2, L/S Revell 2.

4. June 27. Rugby. 2nd XV defeated HMS Kranji 6-3. Tries by ORD R.T. Broughton (Patea), AB M. Abraham (Te Hapua).

5. June 28. Cricket. HMS Devonshire defeated Otago by 40 runs. POME T.J. Whatuira (Takapuna) bowled well.

6(A). June 29. Rugby. Otago 1st XV defeated 42 Commando 28-3. Tries by L/S Coster (Dunedin) 2, WM N. Mitchell (Rotorua), ARD O.C. Dowie (Dunedin), REA3 D.G.G. Knight (Papakura), L/S M.D. Rowe (Ngonotaha), ARD R.W. McKenzie (Devonport), ORD N. G.K. Blanchard (Palmerston Nth).

(B) Otago 2nd XV drew with HMAS Vendetta 6-6. Tries by Ord R.T. Broughton (Patea), AB G. Mowat (Auckland).

7. July 2. Rugby. Otago defeated HMAS Vendetta for Big Ship Trophy 14-11. Tries by ORD W.F. Palmer (Whangarei) 2, and WM N. Mitchell (Rotorua). Penalty and conversion by AB L.E. Wallace (Taranaki).

8. July 3. Basketball. Otago defeated HMS Forth 55-4. Points scored by L/Sea G. Pettis (Takapuna) and REM P.E. Welsh (Dunedin).

ROUTINE 070355Z JUL 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 14.

Rugby. Saturday 6th ship defended Chungking Shield (Big Ships Cup) against HMAS Parramatta. Victory to Otago 25 to 3. Large group of supporters from both ships. Live broadcast was made to ships from football ground. Commentator L/SEA Revell (Auckland). Players of the day were AB Tingle (Te Aroha) and ORDN Blanchard (Palmerston Nth) but AB Wallace (Taranaki) shone by kicking three penalties and two conversions. Tries were scored by AB Tingle (Te Aroha), AB Wallace (Taranaki), L/SEA Golding (Auckland) and L/SEA Coster (Auckland).

2. Soccer. Ship lost to Devonshire 5-1 on Friday 5th.

3. Squash. Ship beat Parramatta 6-4 on Friday 5th. Team COA Farrell (Belmont), Stores CPO Goldsworthy (Onehunga), PO Robinson (Takapuna) and ORD Mitchell (Hamilton).

4. Ship now completed 14 day maintenance period and goes to sea tomorrow Monday for compass swinging, calibrations, and ASW exercise and gunnery exercises. Most successful Seamans Division Banyan held Thursday leaving predominance of other Departments to contend with ship moving ship and reberthing on Parramatta.

ROUTINE 140300Z JUL 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 15.

Saturday 13 July Otago visited Tumpat, port of Kota Baru the capital of Kelantan in north east Malaysia close to Thai border. Much evidence and thinking orientated towards Siam (and locally called such) as carry over from Siamese control up to 1909.

2. Ship anchored 2 and a half miles off Tumpat as result Captain and party of nine only managed to get ashore. Party consisted of: Lt J.A. Westphall (Devonport), CME G.D.J. Drinkwater (Carlisle Cumberland), REL MECH G. Clough (Takapuna), POSG J.B. Cameron (Palmerston Nth), PO P.J.G. O'Leary (Takapuna), LS G. Pettis (Takapuna), LRM P.J. Young (Belmont), LRD G.S. Bryce (Beach Haven), ME D.J. Herring (Christchurch).

3. Captain called on District Officer at 1015 who then arranged Land Rover excursion for whole party and soccer and volley ball games were arranged for evening. 40 school children visited ship in AM followed by 30 adults in PM including DO and a number of police.

Considerable interest in ship only suppressed by absence of suitable civilian craft and distance ship had to anchor off shore. Last visit by naval vessel 2 years ago. Populace had further disappointment when sports fixtures had to be called off at 1600 due to low water and boats being unable to make landing due to sand banks.

4. CME Drinkwater joined party for sentimental reasons having visited the place 16 years ago in HMS Constance.

5. Guide for party was headmaster of Tumpat Malay secondary school who attended Liverpool Teachers Training College for 2 and a half years. Coincidence - Captain spent 3 years in Liverpool doing nautical training on HMS Conway. Places of interest visited included:

(A) Kelantan art and craft centre (silver) where silver jewellery was seen being made. Complete Siamese influence.

(B) Batik print works (cottage industry), where dress and suit lengths of cotton put through wax screening and dye baths, hand processing. Three colour process taking three days, factory output being 500 pieces per day. The art being Indonesian origin.

(C). Sultans old palace. Now seat of provincial administration/House of Assembly. Throne and two ceremonial boats of Sultan viewed. Since construction of bridge across Sungei Kelantan in 1962 boats no longer used except for display. Bridge approx 1 mile long one of longest in SE Asia.

(D) Weaving factory of Haji Idris Omar (cottage industry) where silk weaving with gold or silver thread patterns are produced. 15 hours work required to make one yard material. After discussion with Haji Idris Omar he produced photos of his son Mohamad Adib Idris in Auckland. Son commenced engineering course Auckland University this year under Colombo Plan.

(E) Visit to Lee Rubber Co. where unprocessed rubber being smoked (dried), graded and baled for export. Trimmings, rain affected latex and inferior material seen being made into unpurified crepe rubber for export.

(F) Visit to Siamese temple on return to Tumpat. Largest one in the area.

6. On arrival Tumpat 1630 learned boats unable to reach landing and sports cancelled. Motor boat grounded on bar trying to get inshore. Local craft along with all hands taking to water and pushing boat from sand bank enabled boat to return to ship.

7. Shore party after being given tea by DO in Gov. rest house were taken 1 and a half to 2 miles down harbour by DO and police rover. Local authorities and Capt selected suitable sheltered beach for ships boat to take off party only to find police driver had landed remainder of party a further mile down coast and was returning towards town. Party uplifted just on sunset. Three-in-one whaler attracted to embarkation beach by rover headlights. Party waded to boat, Captain given pig-a-back. One and half miles from ship whaler broke down. All hands took turn on oars and after an hours hard pulling against tide, party returned on board hot, tired and in time for ship to weigh anchor to r/v with FO2 in Defender at midnight.

8. Sunday 14th. In company with Defender and Puma. Ships are now fuelling under way from RFA Tideflow in readiness to arrive Bangkok 0900 Monday for five day visit.

ROUTINE 060048Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 16.

Otago arrived Hong Kong PM Monday 2nd after altering course many times to pass behind Typhoon Bess. Very few had any sleep Sunday night due uncomfortable sea state. Since arrival ship has been brought to state of being able to proceed to sea at two hours notice four times because of Typhoon Wendy approaching Hong Kong.

2. Otago concert party is to perform before the 1200 delegates to the Pan Pacific Rehabilitation Conference in Hong Kong City Hall this afternoon. The concert party are also to give show AM Sunday to 300 children at Po Leung Kuk, largest Chinese orphanage in Hong Kong.

3. Parliamentary delegation led by Hon Mr David Seath to SE Asia are scheduled to visit ship and have buffet luncheon on board tomorrow Saturday.

4. Hon Mr Muldoon is to be guest of Captain at buffet supper on board Sunday.

ROUTINE 171317Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 16.

[Ed: yes- there were two numbered 16]

Ship arrived Sasebo 0900 Sat 14 and sailed 1030 today Tuesday. Visit considered most outstanding of commission to date by many. USN extended hospitality to whole ships company and many homes thrown open to NZers. USN all part of UNC stationed in Sasebo. Experience to date has been American sailors gravitate to Otago and friendships struck up for all ports to date.

2. Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) showed much interest in ship and not less than 100 officers and ratings were given conducted tour though ship during visit. JMSDF maintenance facility alongside which ship was berthed showed so much curiosity that 40 or more asked to see through ship PM Monday.

3. On arrival Captain called on Commandant Sasebo Naval District and was delighted to meet old friend Admiral Mizutane. Admiral had commanded JMSDF training squadron of 3 destroyers who visited NZ in July 1966.

4. Many officers and ships company accepted opportunity of visit to Nagasaki. Scale model of old town with position of epicentre plus many photographs and relics of the incident such as hardened molten granite all available for viewing in city museum.

5. House of Madame Butterfly, Peace Statue, tortoiseshell factory and many other interesting features visited with aid of local interpreter.

6. Country most beautiful, every available arable patch of land under cultivation and with standing rice starting to change colour in some areas the land appears to be almost unreal.

7. Looking from house of Mdm Butterfly to the Mitsubishi not less than six super tankers of 200,000 tons were there to be seen in varying degrees of construction and fitting out.

8. Otago along with 8 or 9 other naval units shared basin with super tanker of 210,000 tons being fitted out – a fantastic sight.

9. Pearl farm visits by a few personnel who were shown most interesting film as the factory activities are seasonal.

10. Visit was made to mission school where the place is run by 5 Australian and 2 Japanese sisters of Good Samaritan Order. Three Australian sisters were able to visit the ship before we sailed.

11. Sporting activity continued at the normal Otago pressure. Local American services golf

course made available to Otago players at no cost. This even included caddy and other fees.

Results and games:

- (A) Basketball lost to host ship USS Epping Forrest 38-28
 - (B) Soccer lost to foundry works 7-1
 - (C) Rugby 2nd XV won against Sasebo foundry works 8-3
 - (D) Rugby 1st XV won to All Sasebo team 71-15
 - (E) Golf won against Officers Gold Club 4-3
 - (F) JMSDF and full victory yesterday by playing volleyball, basketball and softball. Scores being 2-0, 8-2, and 55-44 respectively.
12. Ship was seen off by large crowd of Japanese and USN personnel this forenoon.
 13. Ship arrives Chinhae 0830 in morning. Visit in detail not yet known.

ROUTINE 191159Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 17

Visit to Chinhae the home port of the ROK navy and centre of majority of its schools.

2. Host ship to Otago on arrival was ROKS Kang Won (DE72) one of the two visiting NZ in November.
 3. Official calls made on:
 - (A) R Adm Chang Chi Su (Commander ROK fleet)
 - (B) R Adm Kim Sang Kil (Commander Naval Base Chinhae)
 - (C) Mayor of Chinhae
 - (D) Commodore Ko Kyong Tong (Superintendent Naval Base Chinhae)
 - (E) R.E. Graham USN (senior advisor ROKN)
- The above all returned my call onboard and were entertained to luncheon of toheroa soup, roast lamb carved at table, followed by biscuits and selected NZ cheeses. Meal much enjoyed and second helping of lamb appreciated by all.
4. During forenoon ship toured by group of 30 ROKN officers and two groups of 35 enlisted men whilst 46 seater bus gave Otago ratings a 75 minute tour of Chinhae.
 5. Prior to lunch ROKN personnel gave a demonstration of taekwondo on the jetty to ships company whilst officers entertained 35 ROKN officers including host ship and USN officers of an advisory group.
 6. In PM USN naval advisory group visit ship for tour.
 7. Ship played Chinhae navy combined team at softball loosing 10-0 and Chinhae high school at volley ball again loosing 2-1.
 8. Small group of ships concert party out on performance at Naval Recruit Training Centre. 400 present. Large banner spread across back stage read 'Welcome HMNZS Otago'. Ships Concert Party was followed by turn given by champion singing group of ROKN. An annual competition is held to select top group.
 9. All officers entertained to cocktails given by Adml Chang, ROK Minister of Defence and Adml Kim, CNO ROKN also present. Full strength Otago concert party performed at this function.
 10. Officers later entertained at dance by host ship.
 11. Ships company experienced nothing but outstanding kindness and hospitality during

all too short visit.

ROUTINE 191325Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 18.

Inchon visit 20th Sep.

- (A) Ship due to anchor Inchon 0930 Friday 20th
 - (B) 37 to tour Gloucester Valley from 1000-1700
 - (C) 44 officers and ratings to tour Seoul from 1100-1700
 - (D) 35 ROKN personnel to tour ship 1030 -1130
 - (E) Captain calling on Capt Yim Yong Woo, ROKN (Commander Naval Station Inchon), Commander 202 Transport Battalion and Mayor of Inchon.
 - (F) Capt and 5 officers being entertained to luncheon Korean style
 - (G) Qt 1340 Capt takes off by helicopter for calls in Seoul on Adm Kim Yong Kwan (CNO ROKN), R Adm S.P. Steele USN (Commander Naval Forces Korea), General C.H. Bonestool (CinC UN Command), I.C. McKenzie Esq (HE the British Ambassador)
 - (H) 35 officers and senior rates attending evening reception given by ROKN HQ officers later attending dinner Korean style given by ROK.
 - (I) Curfew in force from 2359 to 0500 as experienced in Chinhae.
2. Saturday 21st.
- (A) 37 personnel to visit US Advance Camp Panmanjon from 0930 to 1700.
 - (B) Capt, officers, chief and POs total 40 to UN Command briefing in Seoul.
 - (C) It is hoped to present woollens knitted by Otago wives to orphanage. Arrangements being made.
 - (D) Further tour to 1(C)
 - (E) Wardroom to entertain 20 Commonwealth liaison mission/FLO to luncheon
 - (F) Captain receives return calls on board and holds buffet luncheon for 8-9 VIPs
 - (G) British Embassy Seoul holding reception for 40 officers and senior rates 1800-2000
 - (H) Officers then to be given buffet dinner at UN Officers Mess and senior rates at NCO's Mess UN Compound.
3. Sunday 22nd.
- (A) Repetition of 2(A)
 - (B) 20 members of honour guard and Commonwealth mission to tour ship 1600-1700
 - (C) Captain and officers to hold informal At Home on board 1800-2000
4. Monday 23rd ship scheduled to depart Inchon for Seoul in AM.
5. Lt Cdr D.J. Collins NZMLO Korea has done good job in arranging very demanding programme.
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ROUTINE 211300Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 19.

After an eventful passage from Chinhae through fog and fleets of fishing boats Otago anchored off Inchon yesterday morning. The goodwill of the people of the ROK to NZ was very evident with Korean and New Zealand flags fluttering from every mast and lamp post in Inchon and Seoul. Banners proclaiming 'Welcome to HMNZS Otago' were slung across many streets and all receptions for the ships company. A demanding programme for the three day visit makes the hospitality of the Koreans very evident.

2. Shortly after anchoring two parties of 40 each left the ship to bus tour Seoul and the forward area near the Demilitarised Zone, including the famous Gloucester Valley. Members of the ships company on these trips have been impressed with the ruggedness of the people and the countryside. Similar trips have been organised for today and tomorrow to enable the majority of the ships company to see Korea.

3. The Captain paid numerous calls yesterday. These included the Mayor of Inchon Mr Kim Hae Doo, Vice Admiral Kim Yong Kwan, CNO ROK Navy, General Charles H. Bonesteel the CinC UNC, HE I.C. McKenzie Esq CBE, HBM Ambassador and local military forces commanders. These calls were returned today when the Captain entertained these dignitaries to lunch on board.

4. The Mayor of Inchon invited the Captain and 5 officers to lunch yesterday at the Olympus Hotel. 40 officers and senior ratings attended a reception given by the HQ ROK Navy in the evening which was followed by a tea party for the CPOs and a Korean style dinner party for the officers. The evening entertainment was outstanding.

5. Officers and senior ratings attended a briefing on the present Korean situation at the UNC HQ Seoul.

6. In reply to an excellent display of Korean folk dancing at the reception last night the Maori Concert Party gave a short performance which was well received by the Korean and UN officials present.

7. Libertymen have been warmly greeted by local residents ashore and many souvenirs of friendship have been exchanged.

ROUTINE 231359Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 20.

Inchon visit concluded with very little deviation from schedule in report no. 18 with one exception. During calls PM Friday Captain was summonsed to wait upon Prime Minister, His Excellency Chung Il Kwon. Attendance lasted approx 20 minutes during which time HE presented a Korean style chest of drawers to mark the occasion. The Captain later presented PM with New Zealand greenstone ashtray. PM further showed his personal interest in the ships visit by inviting Captain, Cdr C.R. Vennel and Lt Cdr J.F. Hopkins to a 'Kyasang' traditional Korean style dinner with entertainment, immediately following reception given by British Ambassador PM Saturday. Also present at Kyasang were Minister of Defence, Minister of Health, Vice Speaker of the House, CNO, General Commanding ROK Marines, HW Brit and Spanish Ambassadors. PM further more directed that a floor show of national standing be put on Sunday night for ships company of Otago in the Special Services Facility Club. This

show was generally considered to be outstanding in ability and entertainment value.

2. CNO ROK Navy Vice Adml Kim Yong Kwan, was presented with a carved taiaha as an expression of goodwill between the navies of NZ and ROK. CNO subsequently onboard at buffet luncheon presented all officers of Lt Cdr rank and above with a lacquered cigarette box and every officer with one of his engraved cigarette lighters. A gift for CNS Admiral Ross also delivered into hands of Captain.
3. Captains buffet luncheon on board given to CNO, Lt General R.J. Friedmann USAF CoS to UNC, Read Admiral G.P. Steele ((USN) COMNAVFOR KOREA, Brigadier A.D.R.G. Wilson, OBE British Def Attaché, Mr Kim Hae Doo Mayor of Inchon plus 4 others. Meal consisted of tohoroa soup, leg of lamb (carved at table), chicken, salad, curried mutton and selected NZ cheeses. NZ apple and orange juice also proved to be very popular drink with Korean guests.
4. PM Saturday Lt G.G. Elder on behalf of Captain presented 40lbs knitted clothing made by Otago wives since ships departure in March to Delame Orphanage, Inchon. Presentation was made in Special Services Facility hall on famed Walmi Do, the island that had to be taken before Inchon could be re-occupied during the Korean war. There were approximately 40 orphans present out of 80 as others could not be dressed adequately for the occasion. After the woollies were handed over the ships concert party put on a performance.
5. PM Sunday Captain presented blankets made of knitted squares by girls of Burnside High School, Christchurch, to the Cho Do Orphanage, additionally the 70 children ranging in age form 3 to 15 were all given one or more bars of chocolate or bags of sweets by members of the ships concert party who were again in attendance. After their presentation of Maori concert the small children sang in return and two Korean cultural dances were performed by 8-10 year olds, a drum dance and a fan dance. An exceedingly enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone present.
6. At a reception on board Sunday PM practically all members of the NZ community in the area were invited along with Korean civil and service dignitaries and representatives of UNC.
7. Old friends. Captain met up with Capt Kim Kwang Sik, Director General ROK Navy who had been the liaison in Taupo in 1951-52 when Captain was then First Lieutenant. Capt Kim proudly produced three photos taken by Captain Hale at that time to make his point to fellow ROKN officers.
8. Otago has featured daily in local papers throughout visit, three or more TV presentations covering the visit have been screened and 10 minute radio interview with Captain was taped Sunday evening. Other radio interviews have been presented.
9. Otago was welcomed and has been treated in a regal fashion. Flags and banners of both countries have been in abundance everywhere we have been, banners being displayed at every public and civil function attended by officers or ratings and in every case they have read a message of welcome to HMNZS Otago and her crew. Nothing but good will and friendship has been extended to all onboard during this visit – this expression has been demonstrated from the PM right down to the shop and bar keepers and bar girls.
10. The ships departure this AM was a memorable occasion as approximately 5,000 school children lined the Walmi Do breakwater waving flags of both our countries as the ship steamed 2 cables off shore before turning down river. There were also two bands in attendance ashore.
11. A very stimulating and memorable visit has been experience by all on board.

ROUTINE 280007Z SEP 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB

INFO COMAUCK
ACNB

UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 21.

A few hours after arriving at Hong Kong the officers of Otago carried out an unusual task – forming a Naval Guard of Honour at a British Army officer's wedding. The marriage of Roslyn Grant from Queensland Australia to Lieutenant Michael Payne Royal engineers took place on Wednesday 25 September. The unusual circumstances were brought about because Michael was attending a 4 week course in HK and was required to rejoin his Regiment at Terendak Malaysia on completion. The bride bore strong ties with the Navy as her father served in the Navy and her brother is at present a lieutenant in the RAN. Otago met the couple ashore in HK, struck up a firm friendship and attended their engagement party before leaving for Japan and Korea. Then the wedding date was arranged to coincide with the ships return to HK. The officers were delighted to accept an invitation to form the guard of honour in the absence of the couple's service and family friends. It is hoped to renew the friendship next month when sports teams visit the NZ Battalion at Terendak after the ship docks at Singapore.

ROUTINE 160306Z OCT 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 22

1. With the ship docked at Singapore and after many months continuous living on board efforts are being made to get partiers who can be spared away for a break. It is a good chance to engage in expeditionary training which although hardly a holiday does provide a change of air as well as a challenging experience.
2. A party consisting of the Supply Officer Cdr C.R. Vennell (Northcote) and the following men of his department have just spent two days in the jungle.
Leading Cook S. Ainsworth of Avondale
Cook N.G.W. McIntyre of Ellerslie
Cook D.N. Potter of Putaruru
Steward D.K. Neilson of Otaki
LSA M. MacKareth of Stratford
SA C.C.A. O'Donnell of Dunedin
Leading Writer G.A. Ennis of Timaru.
3. The party traversed a section of the Panji Forest Reserve in West Malaysia, very broken country, densely jungled, rising to about 2000 feet. Although the area is inhabited by elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, leopard and many varieties of snake none of these animals was seen. But some awesome sounds around the camp at night might be attributable to one or more of them. Many strange insects were encountered including spiders several inches across and long crawling things which the sailors sis not investigate too closely.
4. In their nocturnal waking moments in the bivouac (a lean-to built of jungle materials) the party was entertained by the continuous symphony of insect noise and the sight of large hovering fireflies, vivid in the pitch dark.

5. As the monsoon season is beginning the party was rain soaked most of the time and in the evenings felt the cold. With this factor and the general hard going – ill defined tracks and much fallen timber to negotiate – it was a taxing trip and all were pleased to reach the road which was their destination.

6. Enjoying creature comforts again, resting tired muscles and examining their many leech bites all members of the party feel renewed admiration for soldiers who have to cope not only with the jungle but also the enemy.

ROUTINE 230830Z OCT 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 23

1. During week 14-19 Oct HMNZS Otago represented RNZN in Inter Commonwealth Challenge for Perth Cup. Final placings:

1. RN 130 points
2. RMN 90 points
3. RNZN 80 points
4. RAN 60 points

2. Total nine sports held. RNZN eliminated first round hockey, soccer, squash.

3. Sailing saw good effort by Lt Cdr A. Patterson RNZN (North Shore) who won two of four races.

4. REM P. Welch (Dunedin) although hampered in cross country by lack of course knowledge made fine effort for second, eight yards behind winner.

5. Golf team third behind strong local teams.

6. RNZN won basketball outright defeating RAN 30-23 and RN by walk-over when leading 48-39 with four mins play remaining. REM Welch and L/S G.R. Pettis (Nth Shore) backbone of a good team.

7. Rugby was highlight for RNZN. First round win against RN 29-0 and final wan against RAN 15-0. Pack played solidly with special mention of front row AB L.E.Wallace (Rahotu, Taranaki) ARD C.K. Blanchard (Palmerston Nth) POME T.J. Whauira (Bay of Plenty). LS J.R. Donnelly (Te Atatu) fed backs with long accurate passes and AB A.W. Tingle (Huntly) and LS G.R. Coster (Takapuna) proved to large crowd that RNZN's display of fast open rugby was second to none.

ROUTINE 271300Z NOV 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 24.

Ship paid 4 hour fuelling stop at Darwin this forenoon. During brief visit 60 libertymen went ashore for two hours to stretch legs, see the place for the first time, or be amazed as I was to

see the rapid growth and development of the town.

2. Lt T.M. Morrow (Belmont) met old friend Lt H.E. Miller who transferred from RNZN to RAN in 196 'query'. Officers both served in Taranaki during her first commission. Miller now second in charge RAN wireless station Darwin.
 3. Ship due Port Moresby for fuelling stop AM Saturday.
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ROUTINE 031058Z DEC 68
FROM OTAGO
TO NZNB
INFO COMAUCK
UNCLASSIFIED

NIO Report no 25.

Ship anchored off Honiara, capital Solomons 021400 for 24 hour visit. Reception held on board 021830 for 80 guests including approx 12 members of Legislative Council, Bishop of Melanesia etc, and Mr JT Hall brother of Inst Cdr D. Hall.

2. Ship moved inshore and berthed on MV Inverbank at 030900 and with aid of ships heavy lift derrick gun from sunken Jap s/m 01 sunk by HMNZ ships Moa and Kiwi off Guadalcanal was lowered on to quarterdeck for transport to NZ. Gun weighs 6 to 7 tons and 20 feet long. No mounting.
3. Sir Douglas and Lady Robb, Mr and Mrs Cyril Ashton (salvager of gun) and Police Inspector and Mrs I Morgan attended luncheon on board today.
4. Ship not very successful in sporting fixtures loosing all games to Honiara:
(A) Basketball 49-54
(B) Rugby 8-14
(C) Shooting 209-312
Additionally golf and sailing facilities also enjoyed by many.
5. Nest stop Suva on Saturday.