

THE WHITE TORNADO TIMES

BETTY

SPECIAL FAMILIES EDITION

Number 2

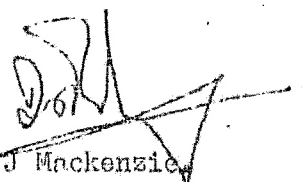
24 OCTOBER 1975

DATELINE - SINGAPORE

A WORD FROM THE CAPTAIN

As winter sets in with you at home, we set off across the Equator for our second summer. The ship is in good heart and the Ship's Company are increasing her draught daily by the number of rabbit's (presents), being bought for you lucky people on April 14th.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very merry Christmas and all good fortune and happy reunions in 1976.


D J Mackenzie
Captain, Royal Navy

THE WHITE TORNADO TIMES - SHIP'S WEEKLY EDITION

Although this is only our second 'Family' edition of T.W.I.T.T., we have had ten editions onboard since leaving U.K. We try to publish weekly at sea, and are always looking for new material. If you come across some witty or amusing article in the newspapers at home, and would like to share it with us, please put it into an envelope and address it to

The Editor (TWITT)
H.M.S. AJAX,
B.F.P.O. Ships

All contributions will be gratefully received.

THE SHIP'S PROGRAMME 75-76

OCTOBER

Mon 27 Singapore

Leave the Naval Base and take a Southeasterly course to 'Down-under'.

NOVEMBER

Mon 3 Freemantle

This will be the nearest we will get to Perth too. I wonder if our first Australian port will be as good as everyone tells me.

Fri 14 Sydney

This will be the first of two visits to Sydney. This visit will be a test for our return.

Wed 19 Sea

We will be taking part in a major international exercise, with ships from many nations.

Fri 28 Wellington

The only visit to New Zealand. This will give the Rugby team an opportunity to test their skills

DECEMBER

Mon 8 Sea

We leave Wellington behind and head west for the first time since leaving Plymouth last July.

Sat 13 Melbourne

After visits to Freemantle (West Coast) and Sydney (East Coast), Melbourne is our first visit to the South Coast.

Mon 22 Adelaide

The fourth Australian port this year. We will spend Christmas and bring in the New Year here.

1976

JANUARY

Mon 5 Sea

Leaving Adelaide we will get over the New Year on our way to our last Australian Port.

Thur 8 Sydney

Being our second visit to Sydney, we start our final Assisted Maintenance Period. Leaving on the 27th, we shall bid farewell to Australia for the last time.

Sat 31 Suva

This Fiji Islands capital city, I wonder if you have found it on the map?

FEBRUARY

Thur 12 Hawaii

This visit to Pearl Harbour will be our first visit to the United States. I guess we will be all suffering from hay fever when we leave.

Mon 23 San Francisco

We'll visit San Francisco without a flower in our hair (as the song puts it). No doubt we will leave under our own power, and not Flower Power.

MARCH

Fri 12 Long Beach

A short four day visit

Thur 25 Panama/Rodman

The Cruise comes to an end

APRIL 14.....PLYMOUTH

THE WORLD 'CRUISE' TO DATE

We sailed out of Plymouth Sound on the morning of July the 22nd to the sound of "When will I see you again" by 'The Three Degrees' playing on the Jimmy Young show. I suppose that the wife who requested that record, for the Eighth Frigate Squadron was not presented with a copy of the 'Longcast'. We all thank you for your kind thought.

We left in company with HMS BERWICK and that afternoon we were hard at work carrying out anti-submarine exercises with the submarine OTTER and a RAF NIMROD. At 0130 the following morning, we rendezvous'd with the remainder of the Deployment Group - HMS's GLAMORGAN (Flying the Flag of Flag Officer Second Flotilla), PLYMOUTH, LLANDAFF, ROTHESAY and RFA's GOLD ROVER, TARBATNESS, and TIDESPRING. Immediately the Group were busy working together fighting off 'attacks' by OTTER.

As we headed South, Admiral Lewin, the Commander-in-Chief Fleet, sent the following message to the Task Group:

1. The progress of your circumnavigation will be watched with envy. You carry the reputation of the Fleet with you. I am confident that it is in good hands and that you will remind the people of many countries of the continuing professionalism and courtesy of the Royal Navy.
2. Work hard, have fun, and enjoy the comradeship of your impressive Group.
3. Bon Voyage.

From the Southwest Approaches we proceeded to Cape Finisterre carrying out inter-ship exercises. Off Cape Finisterre we were joined by a RAF SHACKLETON from Gibraltar. The next day saw us off Cape St. Vincent carrying out Air Attack exercises against BUCCANEERS and SHACKLETON's from Gibraltar. We entered Gibraltar on the 26th for a well deserved 'rest'.

During our visit to Gibraltar, a mini Olympiad was carried out which included such sports as Hockey, Football, and Squash. AJAX did extremely well, coming a very close second. Sailing two days later, we were once again caught up in the 'throes of War' with Gunnery, Communications, Replenishments at Sea, Seaboat Drills, and Air Defence exercises taking their toll. We were joined by HMS HERMIONE on the 29th, and we operated together for a day.

We arrived in Malta on the First of August, and once again most of us were able to get some sport in. Malta provides some of the best sporting facilities in the Mediterranean for Royal Navy Ships, and many of the Ship's Company spent their afternoons playing Football, Hockey, Squash, Badminton, Horse Riding, Cricket and Golf. The visit was highlighted by six brave 'warriors' (part of the Ship's Company) participating in Malta Dog Shoot Training on our Flight Deck. We have nothing to fear from the dreaded Malta Dog now, - our 'protectors' are well trained!

We went to sea on Monday the 4th, and carried out evolutions with RAF Search and Rescue Launches based in Malta. Returning to Port on the afternoon of the 6th, we were all settling down for a few days of sport and recreation, when a Ship's Recall sent us to sea on Friday. Considering that most of the Ship's Company were ashore, having a dart's match and some social 'mixing', we did extremely well to sail with nearly all the Ship's Company at 0200 in the morning. Returning on Saturday after a night and day at sea, we held Divisions on the Upper Deck the following morning in full number 6's. (That is long white trousers and Jacket). Needless to say, the day was very warm and sunny, and it took a lot of effort to remain upright under the scorching sun. But AJAX's Ship's Company are a cut above most, and we were a mass of gleaming white statue's.

We sailed.....

We sailed on Monday and headed for our Suez Canal transit. On arrival at Port Said on the 13th, we embarked a 'Gully-Gully' man - Joe Cairo. This gentleman entertained us on the Flight Deck, displaying fantastic skills on how to produce a 'clutch' of chickens from out of nowhere. His performance went down well, and it is a wonder that he is not making a fortune at home in U.K. Perhaps this can be a warning to David Nixon.

As we entered the Port Said anchorage, the rumour went around the Egyptians that we were an invading force from Israel - but thankfully no-one took it seriously! Leaving Port Said in company with PLYMOUTH and ROTHESAY we set our course through the canal, starting at 0400. We were the first British Warships to sail through the canal since the clearing operations, and the six-day war in 1967. Most of us were excited to see the "War Zone", where many battles were fought over the last eight years. Very surprisingly, we were waved at continuously by soldiers on both banks of the Canal, and we think that they were very happy to see us.

Arriving with ROTHESAY and TIDESPRING on the 18th, at the French Foreign Legion Post of Djibouti (in French Somaliland), in the south of the Red Sea, we berthed astern of the French Frigate D'ESTREES. Djibouti had very little to offer us, and the exchanging of some of us to the D'ESTREES for lunch parties, helped to make the visit more acceptable. A boat trip to the island of Maskali, where swimming and sunbathing were 'exercised', was a brief break for forty of us.

Sailing from Djibouti on the 20th, we exercised with the French ships LE BORDAIS, D'ESTREES and three other small craft. Later that day, we rendezvoused with the remainder of the Task Group, who arrived from their visits to Port Said and Port Sudan. Off we went heading East.

On the 29th we held a 'Sods Opera' on the Flight Deck, with the highlight of the evening being a Miss AJAX Contest. We had entries from each of the messes, competition was high, and although everyone deserved to win on merit, the outright winner was a Leading Seaman, with a Killick Stoker 'coming in' second.

Arriving in Madras the following morning we were all a little concerned about the water situation. While alongside in Madras, we didn't want to take on any water as it would have to be boiled first. So with 250 strong and healthy men, it was going to be difficult to extend the fresh water in our tanks to cover the five day visit. With excellent common sense, consumption of water was kept to well under 25 tons a day, compared with our normal use of 35 to 40 tons.

On our third day we were hosts to a children's party, with many of our sailors dressing up as pirates to give the children the time of their lives. Throughout our stay, there were sightseeing tours within Madras and to Mahabilipuram. Sport played a big part in the visit too, with AJAX taking on local opposition. Games against LLANDAFF and GOLD ROVER were also played.

As we were sailing from Madras on the morning of the 4th of September, we were greeted by the Indian Naval Ship DELHI. DELHI is ex HMS ACHILLES of the 'Battle of the River Plate' fame. We think that it was the first time since that famous incident in 1939, that AJAX and ACHILLES were together. Two days later we were joined by HMS GLAMORGAN and her Group, who were returning from their visit to Bombay, and together we headed into the Sun.

Whilst in.....

Whilst in Madras there was a strong suggestion that perhaps a rat or a shrew was onboard. After several days search, and lots of false alarms, we finally 'caught' the stowaway, as we happily proceeded on our way to Singapore. We arrived in the Naval Base on Wednesday the 10th of September, where we all got our first taste of 'tropical routine'. This meant getting up at 0630, and working from 0730 to 1300 daily (except Sunday's). On this short visit to Singapore, opportunity was taken for the ship's to play sport as a combined team, taking on British Servicemen serving on the Island and local talented opposition.

We sailed from Singapore on Monday morning fully refreshed, and proceeded to Hong Kong with BERWICK, LLANDAFF, ROTHESAY, GOLD ROVER and TARBATNESS, carrying out Damage and Fire exercises. That night we met up with HMS CHICHESTER, the Hong Kong Guardship, and carried out a Night Encounter Exercise. (This is a sort of hide-and-seek).

We entered Hong Kong at 0900 on Friday the 19th, only to sail later in the afternoon. Hong Kong was threatened by Typhoon Alice, and we didn't return until early Saturday morning. We went straight into dry dock to have minor repairs to the ship's bottom. This gave us all an excellent break from routine, as we all moved into Hotels. Only the Duty Watch (25 per cent of the Ship's Company) were required onboard Saturday and Sunday. Although we were living 'ashore', we represented the ship at several sports and enjoyed the hospitality of HMS TAMAR, the Naval Establishment there. The Blood Transfusion Unit came onboard on Monday and AJAX contributed 105 pints to this worthy cause. A letter from them some weeks later informed us that some of this blood had already been used in saving lives.

Coming out of dry dock on Sunday, we were all looking forward to a week alongside the wall at TAMAR. However, Hong Kong was not to be spared the threat of Typhoon Betty. Travelling Northwest from Luzon (in the Phillipines), Betty took a sharp turn to the left, and headed towards us. Off we went to sea again, sailing late Monday night. Fortunately, Betty did another turn, and avoided Hong Kong, allowing us to return on Wednesday morning. It was while we were in Singapore that we read about Typhoon Elsie hitting the Colony, and winds were recorded of up to 128mph. Fortunately no-one lost their lives, but several were injured, so perhaps the Blood Transfusion Unit were going low on stocks again.

We sailed from Hong Kong on Sunday, and headed south to Singapore. Off Singapore we exercised with forces of the Royal Australian Navy, the Republic of Singapore Navy, with the Republic of Singapore Air Force providing lively 'enemy opposition'.

Arriving in Singapore on the 3rd of October, we commenced our Assisted Maintenance Period and the Ship's Company moved into HMS TERROR. Some members of the crew were soon joined by their wives, who flew out from U.K.

One of the highlights of the A.M.P. was the Perth Cup. This Cup was presented by the Royal Australian Navy to be competed for by three or four Commonwealth Navies at one time. This time the Royal Navy (represented by ship's of the Eighth Frigate Squadron - AJAX, PLYMOUTH, ROTHESAY and BERWICK), the Royal Australian Navy, The Republic of Singapore Navy, and the Royal Malaysian Navy took part. They were competing in fourteen sports, and a full report can be found elsewhere in this edition.

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION

WELFARE

As next-of-kin of serving members of AJAX's Ship's Company you should be aware of the organisation from whom up to date information can be obtained while we are away. If you are seeking advice or need help, you should contact your own designated welfare authority.

These are :

PORTSMOUTH - Telephone Number 0705 22351 Extn 23533
DEVONPORT - Telephone Number 0752 53740 Extn 5041/2/3
YEOVILTON - Telephone Number 093584 551 Extn 275

In addition there are Naval Welfare Offices at :

CHATHAM - Telephone Number 0634 44422 Extn 3195
FASLANE - Telephone Number 0436 4321 Extn 541
ROSYTH - Telephone Number 03834 2121 Extn 2161

RADIO TELEPHONE CALLS TO AJAX

To make a Radiotelephone call to HMS AJAX simply contact the G.P.O. and tell them that you want to make a Radiotelephone call to HMS AJAX. Tell them that we are operating outside Home Waters.

What happens next ? Well, they contact Portishead Radio Station (in Somerset) who will contact the Ministry of Defence in London. They will 'Signal' the ship informing us that a radiotelephone call awaits us at Portishead. It then requires us to contact Portishead. Delays can occur because of bad Atmospheric conditions, or our equipment is already in use. Sometimes distance can be a problem.

AJAX OWN BROADCASTING STATION

Have you a 'Love One' onboard AJAX ? If so, why not get a record played for him over the Ship's Radio. We will play it any night you want us to, for his birthday, your anniversary, or for no reason at all. Send your request on a postcard or letter addressed to the Manager and everything will be arranged. Ideal way to send a Christmas and New Year Greeting. Address it as follows:

LREM Sharp (SRE)
3L Mess,
HMS AJAX,
B.F.P.O. Ships.

SOMEONE - SOMEWHERE - WANTS A LETTER FROM YOU

Unlike our civilian counterparts, we do not enjoy a daily postal service, and rely upon our mail greeting us on arrival in port. Usually it is waiting for us, and everyone wants a letter. A letter from YOU will make all the difference, so make sure your husband/son/fiance/brother/boyfriend/nephew/grandad/acquaintance will not be disappointed.

Please remember :

SOMEONE (a sailor) SOMEWHERE (at sea) WANTS (needs) A LETTER FROM YOU -

PLEASE

PERTH CUP 1975

The PERTH CUP was presented by the Royal Australian Navy in 1962 "to be competed for by three or more Commonwealth Navies at any one time". The competition has since been expanded to include the Navies of the signatory nations to the Five Power Agreement.

Since 1968 the Royal Navy have won it five times, the ROYAL Australian Navy (RAN) once, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) twice, and the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) three times.

The present holders, the Republic of Singapore Navy, accepted a challenge by the Royal Navy, and the RAN and RMN agreed to participate.

Each Navy opted out of one sport at no detriment to the overall scoring system. The R.N. decided not to compete in Tennis, RAN in Badminton, the RMN in Water Polo, and the RSN in the Tug of War. Each sport ended as follows:

BADMINTON. Won outright by the RSN, with the RN coming in 3rd. As badminton is a very competitive sport in Singapore, they had no difficulty in winning this event.

BASKETBALL. Again the home side came in first. The RN came in last, but not without giving the teams something to fight for.

CROSS COUNTRY. RSN won this event with the RN coming in a close second. Although the RSN competitors came in 1st, 2nd and 3rd, competitors from AJAX representing the RN came in 5th, 6th, and 19th. The remainder of the team came in 13th, 14th, 16th, and 21 - out of a field of 32!

GOLF. The RN won this event with the RMN coming in 2nd. The RAN beat the RSN into 3rd place.

HOCKEY. The RMN, by beating all three Navies, won this event. The RN were joint 2nd, after beating the RAN and drawing with the RSN.

SAILING. It was just 'plain sailing' for the RSN, as they 'sailed' away with this in Home Waters. They beat the RMN into 2nd place, the RAN third, and the RN brought up the rear.

SOCCER. Beating the RSN and the RMN 2-1, and the RAN 6-1, the RN won this sport without losing a game. A new word for Australian Soccer players was heard echoing around the ground - the Soccer-roo's.

SQUASH. The RMN were the only Navy to give the RN any bother here. The RN beat them 3-2, while they beat the RMN and the RAN 5-0. Another sport without losing to any of the other Navies.

SWIMMING. The RSN took the honours here, putting the RN into 3rd place. The RMN came in last, and the RAN were runners-up.

RUGBY. With massive scores against the RSN and the RMN (54-0, 52-0, and 50-0), the game between the RN and the RAN just had to be the 'event' of the Perth Cup. It was. With hundreds of sailors from both Navies crowding around the pitch, the RAN beat the RN by 24 points to 6. The Australian team certainly gave their Rear Admiral, who was to present the Perth Cup, something to cheer about.

TENNIS. The RN did not compete in this event, which was won by the RAN. The RSN came in 2nd, and the RMN 3rd.

TUG OF WAR.....

TUG OF WAR. In 2 straight pulls against the RAN and the RMN, the RN came through with a clean sheet to walk away with this 'battle' of weight. The RAN came in 2nd, with the RMN last, unfortunately without winning a single tie.

VOLLEYBALL. The home side beat all 3 Navies to come in 1st, with the RMN 2nd. The RAN beat the RN into 3rd place.

WATERPOLO. By beating the RAN and the RN, the home side got the honours here. The RN were beaten into third place.

The overall Perth Cup winners was the Republic of Singapore Navy with 46 points. The Royal Navy come in 2nd with 34 points, the Royal Australian Navy had 30 and the Royal Malaysian Navy ended with 28 points.

The CUP was presented by Rear Admiral D.C. Wells, CBE, R.A.N., who commented on how well organised the whole competition went. He congratulated the winners, who have now won it three times running.

Mementoes were presented to all winning team members, and individual event winners at swimming. The officials at all the sports were given Perth Cup Key Rings.

Although the Royal Navy did not win it, we certainly congratulate the Republic of Singapore Navy, and we on AJAX can honestly say that we enjoyed a good weekend of high class competitive competition. We would like to come back again and perhaps win it.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

The following is a list of interesting facts that have 'happened' since we left U.K.

The number of people who have joined the ship was	29
The number of people that have left the ship was	27
Replenishments-at-Sea - stores, food etc (solids)	7
Total weight of 'RAS Solids' transferred to AJAX	81½ tons
Total number of Replenishments-at-Sea for fuel	17
Money paid to the Ship's Company since leaving home	£170,011
Number of 'signals' received and sent	3,416
The number of torch batteries used	484
Number of people given Vaccinations	413
Number of cans of beer consumed by the Ship's Company	69,750
The number of Baked Beans eaten by us to date	2,147,904
Number of Sausages that we have consumed	11,048
Length of Sausages if we had them end to end	1,227yds-1ft-8ins
Total number of eggs that have been used	24,481
Pounds of potatoes that we have eaten	38,376
Weight of Pinapples that we have consumed	1,040 lbs
Average amount of Mince per man since leaving UK	4lb per man
Percentage of 'Budget' spent on Mince	2½%

ODE'S PAGE

For many people this will be the first time that they have seen The White Tornado Times as people are always being drafted to and from AJAX. Among our many losses was one Petty Officer who was 'affectionatly' known as 'Mini Pom'. The following Ode appeared in a ship's edition of T.W.I.T.T. prior to him going on draft and is reproduced here by kind permission of Sam!

ODE TO MINI POM !

He say's he is a Diddy Man,
And come's from Knotty Ash.
But the Can-man won't take his pennies,
As he get's paid in Toy Town cash.

Some call him a Cornish Pixie,
Other's - a Devon Elf.
His little legs they are so short,
So he live's on the bottom shelf.

He get's his laundry done half price,
He think's old Dhobie's sweet.
We know the only reason is,
He just use's half a sheet.

Very soon he goes outside,
He say's he won't lift a finger,
He's spending his time treking the Moors,
In the saddle of his Jack Russel.

On Tuesday he is flying home,
Not by Concorde or VC 10.
He's booked a special chartered flight,
On the back of a Bantam Hen.

May good luck be with you Little Gremlin,
We think you have served us well.
Give our regard's to all in Guzz,
And our love to your wife - Tinker Bell.

LOVING A SAILOR

Loving a sailor is not always gay,
For with it comes the price you pay.
It's mostly loving with nothing to hold,
It's being young and feeling old.
It's sending a letter with a crooked stamp,
It's faraway love, in a faraway camp.

Being in Love with merely a dream,
Brings thoughts of heaven with lovelights gleam.
You wish it was possible for him to phone,
You wish for the call that says I'm coming home.
And when you are laughing together,
Unconscious of people, time and weather.

THE SHIP'S CHARITY

When AJAX commissioned, we decided to adopt two charities, and support them in our own little way. The Royal National Lifeboat Institute, and Trengweath Children's Home were chosen. You may already know a lot about the R.N.L.I., so we have devoted this article to Trengweath, and how AJAX has found ways of raising 'donations'.

Trengweath Children's Home looks after about 50 handicapped children, with most of them living continuously at the Home. Some of the more fortunate ones are able to attend school daily. These children suffer from Bone Disease's, Muscular Disorders, while some are entirely disabled, others are mentally handicapped.

They keep in contact with the ship and we often receive photographs and paintings of and by the children. In particular, we were delighted to receive several letters and hand painted cards, from the children when we set out on July the 22nd.

Since then members of the Ship's Company have tried various methods of raising funds for the Home. One such method was to guess how far the ship would actually travel in a 24 hour period. At only a few pence a go, almost everybody attempted. The prize was eventually shared by three people who gussed to within one mile! Another popular one was a punch-board, and the guessing the number of peas in a jar. (I wonder who counted them in the first place?) We even had one person who allowed us to cut his beard from his chin, at the price of 10p a snip. With a collection box on the counter in the ship's canteen, and the collection of foreign coins when leaving port, we still try to find new and different methods.

The current one is that of two Petty Officers who hope to cycle from Adelaide to Sydney - a distance of 885 miles. They are selling raffle tickets to buy the bikes, and eventually these bikes will be the prizes. It is hoped that sponsorship will be good nearer the date. No doubt you will be kept informed of their progress from your 'loved one onboard.

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MORE FACTS AND FIGURES

Total amount of Dieso fuel used	2,739.1 Tons
or in Gallons that would be	646,427.6 Gallons
Avcat fuel used was	14.66 Tons
Or again in gallons it would be	3,577.04 Gallons
The amount of fresh water that we have used to date	2,769.2 Tons
Or in gallons	664,608 Gallons
Or how about an average per man since leaving	11.0768 Tons
Or the average per man per day (fresh water only)	28.5852 Gallons

The distance covered since leaving the
United Kingdom on July 22nd is 15,792.6 Miles

A PLEA

If you have found something interesting in T.W.I.T.T. and would like to know more, why not tell us, and we will put it in the next edition which we hope to publish in Sydney. If there is something you don't like, do tell us, our object is to please.