

DIOMED'S MAIDEN VOYAGE

This record of Diomed's maiden voyage is taken verbatim from Ian Thomson's Midshipmen's Log Book.

Although Ian did not include the photographs shown here in his Log Book, they are part of his collection, and it seems entirely appropriate to use them to enhance this record.

Alfred Holt and Company's policy on the keeping of Log Books is pasted on the first page, and it reads as follows:

Midshipmen's Log Book.

The purpose of the log book is to provide a continuous exercise in the recording and presentation of observations. The book is for educational purposes only and must be returned to the Midshipmen's Department at the end of each voyage.

Entries.

Log entries must be made weekly or more frequently. At least one page is to be completed each week and some comment will be expected on all the following subjects:

- a.) The duties of the midshipmen at sea and in port.
- b.) Some reference to sport, hobbies and recreation at sea, and in port.
- c.) A synopsis of the weather experienced during the week, and the state of the sea.

Each Midshipman has an entirely free hand in the writing up and arrangement of this record subject only to the conditions set out above.

The pages have been left blank so that each Midshipman may demonstrate his own capacity for ingenious, accurate and neat presentation of observations recorded.

The following note was penned by Ian in 2001 on the second page of the log book:

NOTE: (45 YRS LATER)

This Log Book was issued to me near the end of my apprenticeship as a Midshipman. As I was appointed Bosun's Mate of m.v. 'Diomed' for her maiden voyage, my log was used as a daily record of work for the "crowd".

M. J. (Mike) Gusterson was Lamp Trimmer so his name rarely appears other than when we did 2 weeks on watch as ⁵/_o and ⁶/_o. During that time, weeks commencing 9/12/56 and 16/12/56, the Bosun's Mate elect for Voyage 2, Don Topp, wrote this log.

Since leaving the ship, I have seen others as follows:

Pete Elder	at Oxford and AH dinners.
Tony Cooper	at Hull and AH dinners.
Gordon Simpson	Brisbane, Queensland.
Mike Gusterson	Perth and Freemantle. W.A.

It has now occurred to me that we should plan a re-union dinner in Liverpool for the 50th anniversary of Diomed in Oct 2006, possibly in conjunction with a Calchas reunion or at an alternative lunch/dinner, yet to be discussed and arranged.

Watch List Commencing Noon Wed. 22nd August 1956

	12/4	4/8	8/12
	Jones.	Simpson.	Langman.
	Halling.	Bingham.	Eves.
*	Webber.	* Johnston.	* Topp.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Davies. Cooper. Borrowdale. Elder. Keith ⁶ / ₀
Aft ropes.	Clarkson. Carter. McKiernan. Steele. Brough ⁵ / ₀
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.
Mess.	Piper.
Accommodation.	Elder.



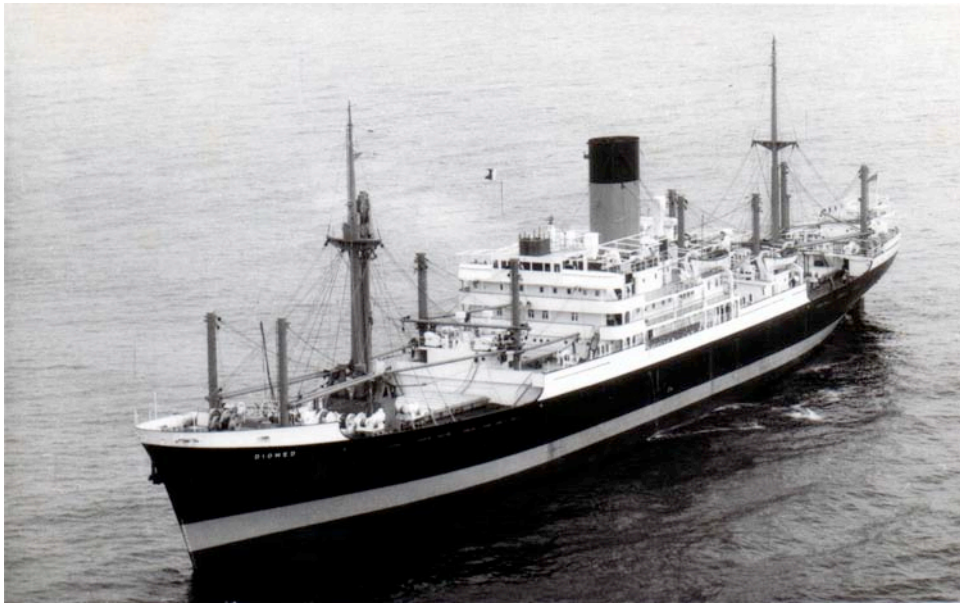
130-ton crane, lifting 77 tons, ready for heavy derrick test



Ship lists as "Jumbo" lifts 77 tons

Thursday 23rd August. "TRIALS"

0500 hr. call. Left "Caledon" boiler shop berth at 0600.



On trials – Thursday 23rd August 1956



Dundee – Glasgow. Stopped for anchor trials

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 26th August 1956

	12/4	4/8	8/12
*	Simpson.	* Clarkson.	* Davies.
	Bingham.	Borrowdale.	Halling.
	Johnston.	McKiernan.	Webber.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Langman. Bingham. Piper. Topp. Carter ⁶ / ₀
Aft ropes.	Jones. Keith. Elder. Eves. Cooper ⁵ / ₀
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.
Mess.	Steele.
Accommodation.	Eves.

Tuesday 28th August.

Engine Room Derrick topping lift sent down, overhauled and rigged on stbd side of funnel.

Triatic stays (fore and aft) lowered and greased.

Locking bars stowed.

Bottom composition sea stock arrived.

Saturday 1st September.

Galvanised fittings on gangways painted silver.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 2nd September 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Clarkson.	Keith.	Brough.
* Borrowdale.	* Elder.	* Bingham.
McKiernan.	Piper.	Johnston.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Cooper. Simpson. Eves. Steele. Jones ⁶ / ₀
Aft ropes.	Davies. Carter. Halling. Webber. Langman ⁵ / ₀
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.
Mess.	Topp.
Accommodation.	Halling.

Sunday 2nd September. Elderslie Drydock Glasgow.



Arriving at Elderslie, Glasgow, 23rd August 1956 for first dry docking.

Galvanised fittings of port gangway painted.

Bulwark rail touched up with black paint.

One coat of anti-fouling applied to the bottom of "Diomed".



Clean lines

Monday 3rd September.

0700 call. 0800 stand by fore and aft for the flooding of the drydock. 0930 leave Elderslie Dry dock and proceed to King George V dock. Applied "Atlas" deck fluid to centrecastle Deck.

Renewed emergency aerial. Washed down prom. Deck. Also bulkheads of Promenade deck and centrecastle deck house.

1830 stand by to leave King George V dock and proceed down river.

Tuesday 4th September.

0630 call. Wash down before breakfast. Six men working on deep tanks with carpenter. Four men stretching guys of all derricks. After lunch, 2 men with carpenter. Hatch No's 4, 5, 6, & 7 derricks topped. Ventilator cowls unshipped, and stowed. Plugs and covers shipped. Stand by fore and aft 2100. Alongside 2300 hrs.

Wednesday 5th September.

0530 call. Before breakfast, No. 1 hatch 2 and 3 derricks topped. Main aerial lowered, also fore and aft jumper stays. Fore stay secured to mast house. No. 2, 4, 5, and 6 hatch tarpaulins stowed. After breakfast, side lights guards

fitted, No. 1 and 3 hatch tarpaulins stowed, forecastle, poop and boat decks washed. One runner renewed at No. 22 winch. After deck cargo runners greased. Funnel stays let go, and Engine Room derrick lifted from port to starboard side. For'd runners greased. Funnel stays set up. Tails spliced on all hatch tents. Light booms rigged on fore and main mast.

Thursday 6th September.

0530 call. Centrecastle washed down. No. 3 for'd deep tank cleaned and dried out. Bridge front washed down, also for'd and aft well decks. Port gangway turned out, rigged and lowered. Gates, small fittings, etc., all greased. Deep tank lid lifted. (Snatch block shackle was found to be too large for eye plate in deck) All brass-work polished. Funnel stays given a coat of white lead and tallow. Bridge bright work washed. Side light guards painted. White paintwork touched up. Deep tank lid lowered. Fidley washed down.

Friday 7th September.

0530 call. Wash down and apply "Atlas" to upper and lower poop. Heavy derrick guy tackles oiled. Twofold blocks oiled. Cargo runners made up and stowed. Lead blocks oiled. Boat falls greased. Twofold wires oiled. All topping lifts oiled. Drain plugs in fore cabins and mast houses greased. Damaged cargo runner replaced by new one. Guy purchase turned end for end. Deep tank lid lowered and locking bars on hatches.

Saturday 8th September.

0530 call. Wash down. All brass polished. Hinges oiled on all outer doors. New awning spars painted. Preventers oiled. Port half-round, alleyway and seamen's house washed. 1100 Boat drill and fire drill. Deep tank lid lowered and hatch tarpaulins secured.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 9th September 1956

	12/4	4/8	8/12
	Keith	Carter	Cooper
	Elder	Eves	Borrowdale
*	Piper	* Steele	* McKiernan

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Jones. Clarkson. Halling. Johnston. Davies ⁶ / _o
Aft ropes.	Langman. Brough. Topp. Bingham. Simpson ⁵ / _o
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.
Mess.	Webber.
Accommodation.	Johnston.

Sunday 9th September.

Glasgow.

0800 call. Damaged runner replaced at No. 4 winch. Deep tank lid lifted. Two women to assist shore gang to let go "Jason" and moor "Clytoneus". Derricks lowered at No. 6 hatch. Deep tank lid lowered and locking bars on hatches.

Monday 10th September.

Glasgow.

0530 call. "Atlas" fluid applied to bridge deck and promenade deck. Wheelhouse and chartroom scrubbed out and brass polished. Derricks lowered at hatches No. 1, 4, 3, 2 and 5. Bridge apron and promenade deck bulkheads washed with fresh water. Runners made up and stowed. One man helping carpenter to batten down. White paintwork and black bulwark rails "touched up".

Tuesday 11th September.

Depart Glasgow.

0330 call. 0400 stand by to leave King George V. 0600 let go tug and finish stand by. 0700 turn to. Centrecastle deck treated with "Atlas". Boat deck, Promenade deck, Forecastle Head, Poop deck and Well decks washed down. Gear in all lockers checked and stowed.

Wednesday 12th September.

Arrive Birkenhead.

0300 call. 0330 full stand by. 0730 alongside.

Thursday 20th September.

Birkenhead.

1700 Reported to m.v. "Diomed" with 16 other Midshipmen.



Glasgow – Birkenhead with guests aboard

Friday 21st September.

Birkenhead.

0730 Breakfast in saloon. Four Midshipmen reported 0800. 0930 four men to India Buildings for medical. 1000 Sign on at Birkenhead shipping office. Leave granted for weekend.

M.V. DIOMED. VOY. 1. CREW. (DECK DEPT).

CAPT.

CH/O

2/O

3/O

4/O

4/O

BOSUN.

CARP.

CARP. MT.

DIGBY JONES.

D.H. STEWART.

B. KILLHAM.

P.J. SHORROCK.

P. ROBERTS. (LEFT IN ADEN)

D. HAMILTON. (JOINED SINGAPORE)

W. McCAUGHEY.

G. OGDEN.

A. GUNN.

MIDSHIPMEN.

I.B. THOMSON.

M.J. GUSTERSON.

D.B. LANGMAN.

J.R. DAVIES.

R.W. BROUGH.

B.A. COOPER.

G.M. JONES.

N.G. SIMPSON.

J.F. CLARKSON.

A.C. KEITH.

J. CARTER.

M. BINGHAM.

I. BORROWDALE.

P.K.B. ELDER.

D.G. EVES.

C.J. HALLING.

I.G. JOHNSTON.

P.J. McKIERNAN.

F.G. PIPER.

B.W. STEELE.

D.W. TOPP.

M.D. WEBBER.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 23rd September 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Clarkson.	Keith.	Brough.
Eves.	Halling.	Elder.
Steele.	Topp.	Piper.

For'd ropes.	Davies. Carter. Webber. McKiernan.	
Aft ropes.	Cooper. Simpson. Johnston. Borrowdale.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁵ / ₀ Jones.
Mess.	Bingham.	⁶ / ₀ Langman.
Accommodation.	McKiernan.	

Monday 24th September.

Birkenhead.

Reported aboard at 0830. All midshipmen aboard and settled in.
Inspection 1430. Derricks squared up, guys stretched, etc.
Stand by: - 2000.

Tuesday 25th September.

B'head – Port Said.

0100 clear of lock. Stow ropes below. 0530 call. Wash down all decks, rigged galley discharge chutes. Lamp room and Bosun's Locker stores stowed. Bridge, fidley and boat deck bulkheads, etc., washed. Owing to the poop deck Bosun's store being flooded, all hands spent until 1700 bailing it out.

Wednesday 26th September.

B'head – Port Said.

0630 call. Wash down all decks and bail out after peak. Promenade and centrecastle deck paintwork washed. Forecastle store cleaned out and paint stowed. All brasswork polished.

Thursday 27th September.

B'head – Port Said.

0630 call. Wash down all decks. After ropes coiled on No. 7 hatch. Petrol pump stowed in steering flat. Forecastle head, well decks and poop paintwork washed. All paintwork touched up with red lead. Deck quoits pitch marked out and painted, and quoits made. Life lines rigged on No. 1 boat davit span.

Friday 28th September.

B'head – Port Said.

0630 call. Upper decks swept. Brasswork polished. Rope stowed in middle peak. Gin and lead blocks overhauled at hatches No. 1, 2 and 3. Topping lifts overhauled at No. 1 aft and No. 2 for'd.

Saturday 29th September.

B'head – Port Said.

0600 call. No. 1 and 2 topping lifts sent up. No. 4, 5 and 6 hatch Gin, duckbill and lead blocks overhauled. Pilot ladder painted.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 30th September 1956

	12/4	4/8	8/12
* Keith.		* Carter.	* Cooper.
Halling.		Johnston.	Eves.
Topp.		Webber.	Steele.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Langman. Brough. Bingham. Elder.	
Aft ropes.	Jones. Clarkson. McKiernan. Piper.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁵ / ₀ Simpson.
Mess.	Borrowdale.	⁶ / ₀ Davies.
Accommodation.	Piper.	

Sunday 30th September.

B'head – Port Said.

0600 call. Wash down all decks and scrub No. 3 and 4 hatch tarpaulins. Outside brass polished.

Monday 1st October.

B'head – Port Said.

0530 call. Overhauled topping lifts on main mast and No. 7 hatch lead and gin blocks. All guy pennants and blocks oiled and overhauled on aft deck. Guys stretched and cut to correct lengths. Centrecastle deck touched up with red lead in parts. Gangway name box painted.

Tuesday 2nd October.

B'head – Port Said.

0530 call. Rigged two derrick head blocks of mast topping lifts and rigged one of No. 6 port aft derrick. Search light shipped. For'd ropes brought up. Locking bars off all hatches. Derricks rigged at No's 1, 2, 5 and 6 hatches and guys stretched. All red lead covered with white. Both gangways turned out, scrubbed and stanchions painted. Pilot ladder painted.

Wednesday 3rd October.

Port Said.

Five men called at 0300 for anchoring. 0530 call. Wash down all decks. Engine room derrick topping lift sent down, overhauled and stowed in box. Stand by at 0700. No. 1 and 2 hatch derricks topped. No. 1, 5 and 6 hatch derricks lowered as cargo finished. (Canal blocked, passage delayed.) No. 4, 5 and 6 topped again. Continual deck watch kept. No. 2 hatch tarpaulins stretched. No. 1 hatch deck cargo covered with tarpaulins and lashed. Also No. 4, 5 and 6 hatches derricks lowered and guest warps rigged. Mooring boats lifted aboard.

Thursday 4th October.

Canal Passage.

0130 call. (Convoy cancelled. No stand by). 0600 call. Wash down. Stand by to enter canal at 0700. No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 column derrick topping lifts sent down, overhauled and rigged. Anchor at 1600. Two men stand by for anchor aweigh at 1900. Day workers stand by at Suez. 2330 clear of canal. Mooring boats lowered, derricks lowered and guest warps heaved inboard.

Friday 5th October.

Suez – Aden.

0530 call. Searchlight stowed below. Forecastle head washed down. Guys stretched at No's 2 and 5 hatches. Column topping lifts at No. 2 rigged. No. 5, 6 and 7 sent down and overhauled. Bridge and boat deck paintwork washed.

Saturday 6th October.

Suez – Aden.

0530 call. "Atlas deck fluid" applied to monkey island, bridge and fidley decks, also boat and promenade decks. Topping lift tackles sent up and stretched at No. 4 derricks (aft).

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 7th October 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Carter.	Langman.	Jones.
Johnston.	Bingham.	Halling.
* Webber.	* McKiernan.	* Topp.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Cooper. Simpson. Borrowdale. Piper.	
Aft ropes.	Davies. Keith. Eves. Steele.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / ₀ Clarkson.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / ₀ Brough.
Mess.	Elder.	
Accommodation.	Steel.	

Sunday 7th October.

Suez – Aden.

0530 call. No. 7 and No. 6 starboard aft topping lifts set up. Bridge awnings stretched and lifeboats made ready for lowering and taking away. 0930 all lifeboats taken away from ship and brought back.

Monday 8th October.

Aden.

0530 call. No. 5 cross derrick topping lifts set up. Oiling tackle rigged. Chains rigged. Also gangway. Stand by to arrive Aden at 0800. Bridge fidley and boat deck scraped and wire brushed in bad spots and given a priming coat of silver. Guy pennants oiled and guy blocks overhauled at hatches No. 1, 2 and 3. Stand by to leave Aden early P.M. (Mr Roberts ⁴/₀ taken ashore to hospital).

Tuesday 9th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. Centrecastle deck scrubbed and washed down with "cleaning fluid" and No. 3 hatch tarpaulin scrubbed. Gangway and extension tackles overhauled. Bad paintwork scrapped off on Boat, Promenade and centrecastle decks and red lead applied.

Wednesday 10th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. Upper and lower decks of seamen's house and poop deck washed down with "cleaning fluid". Gangway bridles overhauled. Bad paintwork scrapped and given red lead. Centrecastle and poop half round washed. Seamen's house, promenade deckheads and bulkheads washed. Fore cabin squared up and bridge boxes sorted out.

Thursday 11th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. Paintwork scraped to bare metal and priming coat of silver or red lead applied. Ladder hand rails scrubbed ready for painting.

Friday 12th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. Pilot ladder painted. Bad parts of steel plate scraped bare and given priming coat. Ladder hand rails painted. Poop fans and trunking painted. Swifter bottle screws scraped, red lead and painted fore and aft. Fairleads and panama leads painted. Centrecastle deck vent stocks painted.

Saturday 13th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. All runners rigged, drum ends and barrels oiled. Overside discharge chutes painted. Gangway blocks and bridle painted. Port for'd swifter bottle screws scraped, red lead and painted black.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 14th October 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Langman.	Davies.	Simpson.
Bingham.	Borrowdale.	Johnston.
* McKiernan.	* Piper.	* Webber.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Jones. Clarkson. Steele. Topp.	
Aft ropes.	Brough. Carter. Elder. Halling.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / _o Keith.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / _o Cooper.
Mess.	Eves.	⁷ / _o Simpson.
Accommodation.	Topp.	

Sunday 14th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. All decks washed down. Salt water put in bottom of lifeboats. All lifeboat covers stretched.

Monday 15th October.

Aden – Penang.

0530 call. 70 ton derrick cover unrigged. Guy pennants oiled. 3 fold guy purchases rove off and rigged. Topping lift and purchase lead block sent aloft and rigged. Centrecastle deck alleyways washed. Paintwork touched up. Ladder hand rails painted. Pilot ladder and manropes painted. Winch barrels and drum ends oiled.

Tuesday 16th October.

Aden – Penang.

Wash down all decks. Bulkheads washed with fresh water. Gantlines and tarpaulins taken off deck cargo at No. 1, 4, 5 and 6 hatch. Plugs and covers shipped at No. 3 and 4 hatch and vent cowls secured on islands. Both gangways turned out scrubbed and rigged. Ropes brought up for'd and coiled on deck. Paintwork touched up. Inside and outside brass polished. Emergency aerial rigged at mainmast head. All derricks topped. Five men out for anchoring in Penang at 2330 hours.

Wednesday 17th October.

Penang.

0530 call. Centrecastle deck alleyways touched up. Funnel washed down. Steps of well deck ladders covered with strands of rope. Upper and lower poop paintwork washed down. Funnel stays sent down, overhauled and replaced. Davit head spans given one coat of white lead and tallow. (Association Football. DIOMED v. PYRRHUS. WON 6-1)

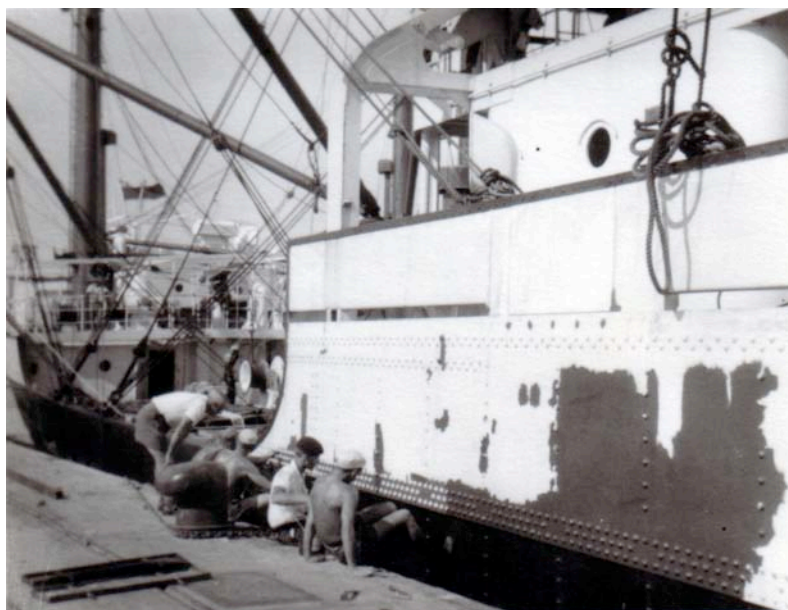
Thursday 18th October.

Penang.

0530 call. Stand by to move alongside at 0600. Derricks lowered to stevedores' requirements. Funnel stays given a coat of white lead and tallow. Fidley paintwork washed. Poop standing derrick overhauled. Starboard fish plates and stanchions painted. Forecastle head ladder steps bound with rope strands. Starboard half-round scraped to bare metal in parts, given one coat of red lead and painted white. Lifeboat fall guards on boat deck wire brushed and red lead applied. (Mr Shorrocks ³/₀ to hospital). (Rugby Football. DIOMED v "A Malay School" WON 19-5).



Half an hour after knocking off. A practice line-out before the game



Touching up the half round in Penang

Friday 19th October.

Penang.

0600 call. Continued scraping and touching up half-round from wharf. Boat deck awnings stretched. Forecastle bulwark scraped and touched up. Derricks squared up at No. 2 and 4 hatch. Starboard gangway painted. Well deck ladder steps covered with rope strands.

Saturday 20th October.

Penang – Pt Swettenham.

0230 call for derrick gang. Crowd called at 0300. Derricks squared up. Stand by at 0345. Clear of wharf 0415. 0600 call. Washed down all decks. Top derricks on aft deck. Stand by to anchor at Port Swettenham 1700.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 21st October 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
✘ Davies.	✘ Brough.	✘ Clarkson.
* Borrowdale.	* Elder.	* Bingham.
Piper.	Steele.	McKiernan.

✘ = Gangwayman (Singapore).

* = Gangwayman (Pt Swettenham).

For'd ropes.	Keith. Cooper. Eves. Johnston.
Aft ropes.	Langman. Simpson. Topp. Webber.
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / _o Carter.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / _o Jones.
Mess.	Halling. ⁷ / _o Clarkson. (Pt Swettenham)
Accommodation.	Webber. ⁷ / _o Langman. (Singapore)

Sunday 21st October.

Port Swettenham.

0645 call. 0715 breakfast. 0800 heave anchor and stand by to move alongside. 1100 rig 3 fold guy purchases to bulwarks and break out 70 ton derrick. Gangway turned out in afternoon and in at low water. Cargo watchmen at No. 1, 2 and 3 hatches throughout the day and night. (Association Football. DIOMED v MALAYS. WON 1-0)

CARGO WORKING HOURS:- 7.30 AM – 11.30 AM, 1 PM – 4.45 PM,
6.30 PM – 10.30 PM, 11.00 PM – 05.30 AM.

Monday 22nd October.

Port Swettenham.

0600 call. Scrape bad paintwork on port half-round and stanchions. Touch up with red lead and cover with white. Port gangway painted. 70 ton derrick topped into clamp and secured with bottle screws and lashings. No. 2 and 3 hatches watched all day and night. Derricks squared up as hatches finish work.

(Association Football. DIOMED v PT SWETTENHAM RAMBLERS.

LOST 1-2)

Tuesday 23rd October

Port Swettenham – Singapore.

Derrick gang called at 3.45. Crowd at 4.15. Squared up derricks. Stand by at 0500. Clear of berth at 0530. All decks washed down, dunnage stacked, shackles checked. Heavy derrick guy purchases let go and sent into the mast and lashed. All red lead covered. Boat and fire drill at 1130. 1730 stand by pilot ladder and turn out starboard gangway. Alongside 1830. Attend to derricks for stevedores. No. 1 and 2 hatches watched until 2300.

Wednesday 24th October.

Singapore.

0600 call. Wash down centrecastle deck. Promenade deck paintwork washed. Silver handrails painted on centrecastle deck. Cargo watchmen down No. 2 and 3 hatch. Port gangway turned in. Six midshipmen to show Malay cadets round ship and return to their ship for lunch. Gun tackle rigged at No. 2 hatch. Promenade deck bulkheads scraped and touched up with silver and builder's cement.

(Association Football. DIOMED v Malay cadet ship "KAJANG". WON 6-3)



"Sew – Sew" women on promenade deck in Singapore

Thursday 25th October.

Singapore.

0600 call. All hands on port alleyway mopping up oil from fuel overflow. Midshipmen watching No. 1 and 3 hatch all day. Port side of centrecastle deck scrubbed with cleaning fluid and sand. Centrecastle deckhouse and alleyways paintwork washed. Promenade deckhead scraped and red lead applied. No. 2 hatch derricks lowered and squared up. Scraping continued on centrecastle deck.

Friday 26th October.

Singapore.

0600 call. Priming coat and builder's cement covered on promenade deck. Overside "touching up" covered with white. Promenade deckhead scraped and wire brushed. Continue washing centrecastle deck paintwork. Hatch No. 1, 2, 5 and 6 derricks lowered and guys stretched. For'd and after well decks swept and washed down.

Saturday 27th October.

Singapore.

0600 call. Lowered No. 3 derricks. Wash down forecastle head, poop and well decks. Watchmen in both deep tanks at No. 4 hatch. Tank lids lowered

at 1030. No. 4 derricks lowered and guys stretched. Centrecastle deck washed down. Stand by to leave at 1130. Clear of wharf by 1200. Ropes sent below fore and aft. Gratings lashed. Gangway turned in. Deckheads scraped and "touched up" with red lead. Boat and fire drill at 1615.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 28th October 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Brough.	Cooper.	Keith.
Elder.	Eves.	Borrowdale.
Steele.	Topp.	Piper.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Davies. Carter. Halling. Webber.	
Aft ropes.	Jones. Clarkson. Bingham. McKiernan.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / _o Langman.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / _o Simpson.
Mess.	Johnston.	
Accommodation.	Bingham.	

Sunday 28th October.

Singapore – Hong Kong.

0600 call. Wash down all decks. Fill lifeboats with salt water to top of keelson. Put covers on port lifeboats. Set up all bottle screws on deck cargo.

Monday 29th October.

Singapore – Hong Kong.

0530 call. Bridge, boat deck and poop awning taken down. White, grey and black paint applied in various parts, and red lead to deckheads. "Black metal" chipped and given one coat of red lead. Brass polished throughout the ship. Eyes spliced in new hauling lines. Eye spliced in old cargo runner to make new preventer.

Tuesday 30th October.

Singapore – Hong Kong.

0600 call. Deckheads continued to be scraped and given one coat of red lead. Ullage pipe guards and steps on hatch coamings stripped of paint and given a coat of red lead. Fish plates "touched up". One man "cutting in" with grey all day.

Wednesday 31st October.

Hong Kong.

0630 call. Ropes brought up fore and aft. Derricks topped at all hatches. Arrive Hong Kong 1000. Midshipmen dismissed. (Association Football. DIOMED v H.M.S. TAMAR. WON 2-0). Sailing dinghy race v H.M.S. TAMAR. UNFINISHED, (but moral victory).

Thursday 1st November.

Hong Kong.

Rugby Union. DIOMED v H.M.A.S. QUEENBOROUGH. LOST 6-9.



Dai Davies and Ian Thomson at Holt's Wharf, Kowloon

Friday 2nd November.

Hong Kong.

1200 lunch for all midshipmen. Commence work at 1300. All guys, runners and preventers stretched. Two swiftnets set up. Slings and hatch legs collected. No. 4 hatch deep tank lids lowered and screwed down. Stand by at 1600. Clear of wharf 1630. For'd ropes stowed below. Assistance given to carpenter in battening down. Locking bars on No. 1 and 2 hatch. Forecastle head, both well decks and poop washed down.

Saturday 3rd November.

Hong Kong – Shanghai.

0530 call. Two British flags rigged on funnel deck. 99 cases of beer thrown overboard. Bridge deck, funnel deck and boat deck scrubbed free of sand. All other decks washed down. After peak bailed dry. All deck lockers and fore cabin squared up.

Author's Note:

The beer bottles were a Guinness promotion, and the plan was that they would be washed ashore with a message for the finder. In those days, Guinness would use the advertising slogan "Guinness is good for you", which, to the Chinese, meant it must be an aphrodisiac, and so they expected that there must be a baby in every bottle!

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 4th November 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Cooper.	Jones.	Carter.
✘ Eves.	✘ Halling.	* Elder.
* Topp.	* Webber.	✘ Steele.

✘ = Gangwayman (Shanghai).

* = Gangwayman (Otaru).

For'd ropes.	Langman. Simpson. Bingham. Piper.
Aft ropes.	Brough. Keith. Johnston. Borrowdale.
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / _o Davies.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / _o Clarkson.
Mess.	McKiernan.
Accommodation.	Borrowdale.

Sunday 4th November.

Hong Kong – Shanghai.

0630 call. Bridge deck and funnel deck scrubbed and washed down. Starboard lifeboat covers stretched. Sounding boom rigged. 0900 commenced sounding with both sounding machines. Each Midshipman to take one sounding on each. Soundings complete at 1030. Two men called to attend pilot gear at 2000.

Monday 5th November.

Shanghai.

Two men called for anchoring and rigging gangway at midnight. Crowd called at 0200 for muster. Called again at 0500. For'd ropes brought up, after derricks topped. Alongside at 0800. Muster at 0815. For'd derricks topped. Breakfast at 1015. 70 ton derrick guys unriggered and stowed away. Bridge deck, boat and promenade deck paintwork washed.

Tuesday 6th November.

Shanghai.

0530 call. Tail blocks, gantlines and chains rigged. Foremast and mainmast stays blacked down. All red lead on deckheads, covered with green. All fan cowls on mast houses wire brushed and red lead applied. Brightwork on bridge washed. Boat deck and promenade deck aprons washed. No. 1 hatch (heavy derrick) winches washed and wire oiled. Sixteen topping lifts oiled, also runners and drum ends.

Wednesday 7th November.

Shanghai – Otaru.

0530 call. Deckheads washed with fresh water. No. 2 derricks lowered. No. 5 "squared up". Six men commence painting deckheads. No. 1 derricks lowered also No. 3's. No. 4 and 6 "squared up". Stand by to sail at 1600. For'd ropes stowed below, and gratings lashed. For'd well deck washed down. Two men called for pilot gear at 2200.

Thursday 8th November.

Shanghai – Otaru.

0600 call. Wash down all decks. Bridge apron and dodger washed and painted. Painting of deckheads continued. Fuel oil stains on centrecastle deck scrubbed out. Centrecastle deck bulwarks washed with soda. No. 3 contactor house winches and ventilator cowls washed. 70 ton derrick winch beds scraped, wire brushed and treated with red lead.

Friday 9th November.

Shanghai – Otaru.

0600 call. Promenade deck bulkheads washed. Centrecastle deckheads washed. Brass polished. Promenade deck side screens unrigged, rails and stanchions washed. Continued painting deckheads. No. 3 columns washed down and painted. Bulkheads and No. 2, 3 and 4 hatches “touched up” with red lead. Bridge apron “cut in” with brown paint. Work on heavy derrick winch beds continued.

Saturday 10th November.

Shanghai – Otaru.

0530 call. Starboard gangway turned out and rigged. Centrecastle deck alleyway deckheads painting finished. No. 4 columns painted. Promenade deck starboard rails and stanchions painted. After peak store “squared up”. Centrecastle deck ships office scrubbed out.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 11th November 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
* Jones.	* Simpson.	* Langman.
✕ Halling.	+ Bingham.	✕ Eves.
+ Webber.	✕ Johnston.	+ Topp.

* = Gangwayman (Otaru).

✕ = Gangwayman (Shimizu).

+ = Gangwayman (Yokohama).

For'd ropes.	Clarkson. Carter. Borrowdale. Elder.
Aft ropes.	Davies. Cooper. Steele. McKiernan.
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / _o Brough.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / _o Keith.
Mess.	Piper.
Accommodation.	Elder.

Sunday 11th November.

Otaru.

0030 Three men called for anchoring. "Brought up" at 0200. 0530 call. Anchor lashed and cable broken, spare links and mooring shackle shackled on. For'd derricks topped. Stand by at 0715. Made fast to buoy by 0830. Motor boat lowered to water. No. 1 derricks topped. Motor boat lifted back onto davits and davit head sheaves filled with oil.

Monday 12th November.

Otaru.

0530 call. Promenade deck paintwork washed with fresh water. No. 3 contactor house deckhead painted, and seamen's house continued. All decks swept. Well deck and poop deckheads painted. Promenade deck rails, port and aft, painted. All lifeboats turned out, and davits scraped and given a coat of red lead in bad places.

Tuesday 13th November.

Otaru – Yokohama.

0530 call. For'd derricks lowered. After derricks squared up. Stand by to sail at 0700. All decks swept and washed down. All loose gear secured. All lockers squared up. Two men with carpenter securing cargo. New preventer made out of old runner. Afternoon allowed for "voyage work" owing to heavy weather.

Wednesday 14th November.

Otaru – Yokohama.

0530 call. Paintwork washed on boat deck and promenade deck bulkheads. Boat and promenade decks side screens scrubbed. No. 5 locker "squared up". Boat deck veranda bulkhead and rails painted. Promenade deck aft and starboard bulkheads painted. Poop deckheads and well deck green completed. Poop docking bridge chains and fidley chains chipped, wire brushed and painted silver.

Thursday 15th November.

Yokohama.

0300. Two men called for anchoring. 0530 call. Promenade deck bulkheads washed. Chains rigged on main mast. For'd derricks topped. Stand by to move alongside South Pier for official reception at 1100. 12 men detailed to meet "Miss Yokohama" and entertain Japanese cadets from Tokyo University. Mainmast painted. 12 Midshipmen to Dinner. All received presents.

Friday 16th November.

Yokohama.

0530 call. Mainmast house painted, and gear rigged for painting foremast. Fore topmast crosstrees and 70 ton derrick painted. Promenade deck bulkhead finished. Derricks squared up at all hatches. Stand by to leave at 1700. Clear of South Pier by 1745.

Saturday 17th November.

Shimizu and Nagoya.

0030. Two men called for anchoring. 0530 call. Derricks squared up. Promenade deck screens rigged. Lashing wire from deck cargo made up and stowed. Promenade deck scrubbed with "Cleaning Fluid" and washed down. Centrecastle deck and well decks washed down. Stand by to arrive in Nagoya at 1630. Made fast to buoy at 1715. 2100 commence squaring up No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 hatch derricks. 2145 clear of buoy.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 18th November 1956

	12/4	4/8	8/12
*	Simpson.	Clarkson.	Davies.
✕	Bingham.	* Borrowdale.	* Halling.
	Johnston.	✕ McKiernan.	✕ Webber.

* = Gangwayman (Kobe).
✕ = Gangwayman (Shanghai).

For'd ropes.	Brough. Keith. Topp. Eves.	
Aft ropes.	Langman. Jones. Elder. Piper.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / ₀ Cooper.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / ₀ Carter..
Mess.	Steele.	
Accommodation.	Eves.	

Sunday 18th November.

Kobe.

0630 call. Centrecastle deck washed down. Two derricks topped at No. 3 hatch. Stand by to arrive outside Kobe breakwater at 1300. Anchor cable broken, and spare links shackled on. Made fast to buoy by 1345.



Dave Eves painting No. 2 Boat in Kobe

Monday 19th November.

Kobe.

0530 call. 0600 stand by to move alongside. 0730 alongside. Gun tackle rigged at No. 2 hatch. Port lifeboats lowered to wharf, washed and outboard sides painted, also davits. Fore, lower mast painted.



Gordon Simpson – Gangwayman – Kobe

Tuesday 20th November.

Kobe – Shanghai.

0530 call. All derricks lowered. Stand by to leave at 0900. Guys stretched, decks cleared and washed down. Four men using mast colour, and three on white. Centrecastle bulkheads washed. Fore cabin and lockers squared up.

Wednesday 21st November.

Kobe – Shanghai.

0530 call. No. 1 and 2 hatch derricks painted, for'd mast house, and three columns. Promenade deck scuppers, vents and “cutting in” completed. Lifeboat davits painted.

Thursday 22nd November.

Shanghai.

0530 call. For'd ropes brought up. Chains rigged. “Union Jack” tarpaulins made up on No. 2 and 5 hatch. Boat deck and promenade deck paintwork washed. Seamen’s house paintwork washed, also winches. Bridge front washed right down. Funnel paintwork washed down. No. 1, 2, 3 and 5

derricks topped. Stand by to arrive alongside at 1745. Alongside 2030. Muster until 2130.

Friday 23rd November.

Shanghai.

0530 call. Complete washing of funnel. Funnel stays painted white. Funnel completely painted. Starboard lifeboats lowered to wharf, washed and outboard sides painted, also the davits. Boat deck paintwork washed. No. 5 and 3 derricks lowered. Muster. Stand by to sail at 1700. Clear of wharf, ropes below, No. 1 and 2 derricks lowered by 1830. Also gangway turned in. Two men called at 2330 to stand by anchor lights.

Saturday 24th November.

Shanghai – Hong Kong.

0230 one man called to help with pilot gear. 0530 call. Guys stretched at No. 2 hatch. All decks washed down. Promenade deck paintwork and bright work washed with fresh water. Fiddle fans washed with soap solution. Dunnage brought on deck from No. 7 hatch deep tanks.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 25th November 1956

	12/4		4/8		8/12
*	Clarkson.	*	Keith.	*	Brough.
	Borrowdale.		Elder.		Bingham.
	McKiernan.		Piper.		Johnston.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Davies. Cooper. Steele. Webber.
Aft ropes.	Simpson. Carter. Eves. Haling.
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / _o Jones.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / _o Langman.
Mess.	Topp.
Accommodation.	Halling.

Sunday 25th November.

Shanghai – Hong Kong.

0600 call. Two men washing bridge paintwork and cleaning windows. Others lifting dunnage and clearing out No. 7 deep tanks.

Monday 26th November.

Hong Kong.

0345 Two men called for anchoring. 0400 call. For'd ropes brought up. All derricks topped. Starboard gangway turned out. Stand by to move alongside at 0700. All midshipmen dismissed after breakfast. Association Football. DIOMED v ASCANIUS. WON 6-0.

Tuesday 27th November.

Hong Kong.

Author's Note:

The Company gave us time off in Hong Kong for recreational activities. During this time, the Midshipmen's work was carried out by the Blue Funnel Hong Kong shore gang.

Wednesday 28th November.

Hong Kong.

Association Football. DIOMED v HOLT'S WHARF. WON 5-1.

Thursday 29th November.

Hong Kong.

Friday 30th November.

Hong Kong.

0530 call. No. 3 derricks lowered. All decks squared up and washed down. Engine trials and "stand by" three times during the morning. Departure postponed. Ten derricks painted, and one column. 70 ton derrick winch bed wire brushed and red lead applied. One man using white and one deck red.

Saturday 1st December.

Hong Kong – Singapore.

0530 call. Promenade deck bulkhead, centre-castle bulkhead, vents and bulwarks paint washed. Nine derricks and two columns painted. Boat deck fish plates painted. Stand by to sail at 1120. Clear of buoy by 1130. One heavy derrick winch bed painted.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 2nd December 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Keith.	Carter.	Cooper.
Elder.	* Eves.	* Borrowdale.
* Piper.	Steele.	McKiernan.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Langman. Jones. Halling. Johnston.
Aft ropes.	Brough. Clarkson. Topp. Bingham.
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / _o Simpson.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / _o Davies.
Mess.	Webber.
Accommodation.	Johnston.

Sunday 2nd December.

Hong Kong – Singapore.

0630 call. Centrecastle deck washed down. Paintwork washed on Seamen's house. All plugs and covers secured. Ventilators relashed and derrick head lashings checked.

Monday 3rd December.

Hong Kong – Singapore.

0530 call. Bridge front aprons washed down to centrecastle deck. Commenced painting wheelhouse front and dodger but rain stopped work. Heavy derrick winch beds painting completed. Painting of No. 7 derricks completed. Paintwork on forecastle head and for'd well deck washed. Bottle screw of fore stay and foretopmast stay scraped to bare metal. Boat deck paintwork washed with fresh water. Poop fans and vents washed.

Tuesday 4th December.

Hong Kong – Singapore.

0530 call. No. 3 contactor house winches and fans, bulkhead, forecastle head, poop, both well decks, seamen's house winches and rails all washed with soda solution and soap.

Wednesday 5th December.

Singapore.

0230 call for two men. Anchored at 0300. No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 derricks topped and port gangway turned out, rigged and lowered. Crowd call at 0530. No. 7 deep tank lids lifted and lowered upside down on deck for cleaning. Stand by to move alongside at 0700. Alongside at 0830. Derricks lowered for stevedores. Bridge front bulkhead aprons painted. Derricks rigged over side for lighters. Fore stay and foretopmast stay bottle screws wire brushed and painted. Cargo doors on after well deck "touched up".

Rugby Football. Merchant Navy XV v Singapore Cricket Club 'A' XV. LOST 11-0.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL. DIOMED v CLYTONEUS. LOST 3-1.

Thursday 6th December.

Singapore.

0430 call. Five deep tank lids unbolted and lifted. Bridge deck awning spars and bulkheads painted. Promenade deck apron painted, also fish plates. After well deck and seamen's house touched up. Derricks swung inboard and stand by to move from wharf to Eastern Roads at 1730. Anchored at 1800. Derricks set for cargo.

Friday 7th December.

Singapore.

0530 call. Paintwork washed with fresh water. 70 ton derrick topping lift and purchase wires oiled. Derrick head cover rigged and lashed. Engine room derrick topped, with steam guys rigged. New liner lifted into engine room. Derricks lowered and unrigged (Guys and pennants only. Purchase hauled to two blocks and lashed to derrick head). Four men scraping paintwork over side and touching up all day. Cargo watchmen in No. 3 and 4 hatches. No. 3 for'd, No. 4 port and No. 7 port and starboard deep tank lids replaced and No. 7's screwed down. Topp and Eves appointed Bosun's mate and Lamptrimmer respectively for Diomed Voyage 2.

Saturday 8th December.

Singapore.

0530 call. Derricks swung inboard and squared up. Stand by to move alongside 0700. Alongside 0820. 0900 All hands bolting down deep tank lids at No. 3 for'd and port aft, No. 4 port and No. 7 port and starboard. Port and Starboard poop awnings rigged over deep tanks. Derrick gang on call afternoon and evening to hoist latex pipe aboard at No. 3 and No. 4. Rugby Union. DIOMED v DEMODOCUS, CHARON and BRECONSHIRE. WON 17-0.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 9th December 1956

	12/4		4/8		8/12
✘	Carter.	✘✘	Langman.	✘	Jones.
	Clarkson.		Brough.		Piper.
*	Steele.		Halling.	*	Elder.

* = Gangwayman (Penang).

✘ = Gangwayman (Colombo).

For'd ropes.	Simpson. Keith. McKiernan. Borrowdale.
Aft ropes.	Davies. Cooper. Johnston. Webber.
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / ₀ Gusterson.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / ₀ Thomson.
Mess.	Bingham.
Accommodation.	McKiernan.

Sunday 9th December.

Singapore.

0530 call. Poop awnings rigged. Men over side touching up hull. Double blocks rigged at No. 2. Winch covers put on at No. 1. Washed down on poop. Derricks moved inboard to move ship at 1100. Tied up again at 1245. No. 5 cross derricks lowered. Heavy lift swung aboard and lashed. No. 2, 3, 4, and 5 derricks topped. Stand by for departure 1930.

Monday 10th December.

Singapore – Penang.

0530 call. Boat deck, promenade and centrecastle decks, poop, fore and after decks washed down. Teakwood rails sand and canvassed. Wheelhouse and port side of promenade deck painted white. Stand by 2000 hours. Heavy lift swung ashore. No. 2 derricks lowered, double blocks stripped and hatch squared up. Wheelhouse brass cleaned and deck scrubbed.

Tuesday 11th December.

Penang – Colombo.

0245 call. No. 4, 5 and 6 derricks lowered and squared up. Stand by 0430. Replaced No. 3 hatch boards, lowered derricks and squared up. Promenade and boat deck brass polished. Centrecastle deck scrubbed with soda solution and sand.

Wednesday 12th December.

Penang – Colombo.

0530 call. Wheelhouse and fish and curtain plates of promenade deck painted white. Funnel deck washed and touched up with white paint. Boat deck wire brushed and touched up with yellow chrome. After peak deck red leaded. Deck cargo on after deck stowed on No. 6 hatch and lashed. Centrecastle accommodation washed with soap solution. Deck golf rings painted.

Thursday 13th December.

Penang – Colombo.

0530 call. Wheelhouse cut in with brown. Boat deck touched up with white paint. Promenade deck washed with fresh water. Sailors' accommodation washed with soap solution. Monkey island, bridge, funnel deck, boat deck, seamen's accommodation decks and poop decks scrubbed with soda solution and sand. Bridge brass polished and bridge varnishwork washed with fresh water.

Friday 14th December.

Colombo.

0530 call. No. 3, 4, 5 derricks topped. Anchored 0645. Turned in starboard gangway. Stand by 0830. No. 7 awnings and spars removed, derricks topped and oil pipe swung aboard. Deep tank ladder rungs coated with wax. Funnel deck ventilator mouths painted blue. Hull touched up. Boat deck davits painted. Oil removed from half round. After peak deck painted. Bow touched up with white paint. Stand by to move to buoys at 1700. No. 7 derrick lowered and awnings stretched.

Saturday 15th December.

Colombo.

0530 call. For'd ropes stowed in middle peak. No. 5 derricks lowered and guys stretched. Lifeboats, davits, rails, spars and apron painted white on boat deck. No. 3 and 4 derricks lowered and guys stretched.



Colombo Harbour

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 16th December 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Langman.	Davies.	Simpson.
Keith.	Johnston.	Cooper.
Halling.	Webber.	Steele.

For'd ropes.	Brough. Clarkson. Bingham. Elder.	
Aft ropes.	Jones. Carter. McKiernan. Piper.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / ₀ Thomson.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / ₀ Gusterson.
Mess.	Borrowdale.	
Accommodation.	Piper.	

Sunday 16th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0300 call. Stand by 0350. Gangway turned in and reels made up and covered. Forecastle, boat deck, promenade deck, centrecastle deck and well decks washed down.

Monday 17th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Bridge awnings rigged. Dunnage moved from No. 1 hatch to No. 6. Boat deck washed with fresh water. Rails, for'd end, port side and boat winch painted white. Bridge "cut in" with brown. Swimming pool rigged at No. 3 hatch.

Tuesday 18th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Hatch No. 3 and 4 scrubbed with soap solution. Centrecastle deck washed down and centrecastle house washed with fresh water. Funnel deck painted with red paint. Starboard side boat deckhouse, awning spars, boat winch and rails painted with white. Emergency steering gear tested at 0930 hours. Wheelhouse brass polished.

Wednesday 19th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Wheelhouse and chartroom scrubbed. Centrecastle deck scrubbed with soda solution and sand. After ropes stowed in after peak. Tank casings lashed on No. 7 deep tanks. Centrecastle touched up with white paint. Boat deck winches painted white. Starboard handrails painted white and starboard side of centrecastle house painted white.

Thursday 20th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Funnel and boat decks "cut in" with grey paint. Centrecastle house and port boat davits painted white and bulwarks touched up with white lead.

Friday 21st December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Starboard side of promenade deck washed with fresh water. Boat deck “cut in” with grey paint. Seamen’s house touched up with white lead and boats, davits and fans painted white after a complete wash down with fresh water. Deck quoits pitch repainted.

Saturday 22nd December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. No. 3 contactor house washed with fresh water. Centrecastle bulwarks touched up with white lead and house rails painted silver. Winches and rails on seamen’s house painted white.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 23rd December 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Davies.	Brough.	Clarkson.
Webber.	* Bingham.	Borrowdale.
* Johnston.	McKiernan.	* Halling.

* = Gangwayman (Cape Town).

For'd ropes.	Langman. Cooper. Topp. Piper.	
Aft ropes.	Simpson. Keith. Eves. Steele.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / ₀ Carter.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / ₀ Jones.
Mess.	Elder.	
Accommodation.	Steele.	





THE SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL.



CHRISTMAS DINNER.



Grapefruit Cocktail ✓
 Consommé Celestine. Cream of Tomato ✓
 Fried Fillets of Sole, Suzet ✓
 Boiled Dee Salmon, Tartare ✓
 Asparagus au Beurre ✓
 Lamb Cutlets, Réforme
 Tournedos of Beef ✓
 Roast Norfolk Turkey, Chipolata ✓
 Baked York Ham, Spinach ✓
 French Beans. ✓ Brussels Sprouts ✓
 Garfield & Natural Potatoes ✓
 COLD: Paysandu Ox Tongue Sirloin of Beef
 Salad in Season
 Plum Pudding - Brandy Sauce ✓
 Macedoine Jelly, ✓ Strawberry Ices ✓
 Yule Log, ✓ Christmas Cake, ✓ Mince Pies ✓
 Assorted Nuts ✓
 Dessert ✓ Coffee ✓



Christmas menu!

Sunday 23rd December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

Monday 24th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. No. 3 contactor house washed with fresh water, also seamen's house. Contactor house touched up. Centrecastle bulkheads "cut in". Seamen's house (upper deck) bulkheads and rails painted, also lower house after bulkhead and fishplates and rails. Bridge awnings taken down and stowed. All gear on deck secured. Locking bars rigged at No. 1, 2 and 5 hatches. Lashings on drums at No. 6 tightened.

Tuesday 25th December.

Christmas Day

Colombo – Cape Town.

Normal watches kept. Quarter masters relieved by officers for Christmas dinner. 70 ton derrick head cover lashings tightened.

Wednesday 26th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. No. 3 contactor house washed with fresh water. Also centrecastle deck alleyway paintwork and seamen's house. Bridge, fidley, boat deck and promenade deck paintwork washed. Centrecastle port alleyway outboard side painted (i.e. bulwark, stanchions, rails and vent cowls). All derrick guys stretched and secured.

Thursday 27th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Paintwork washed. Centrecastle deck bulwarks painted. Heavy spray prevented further painting. Poop paintwork washed. Top poop touched up. Red lead applied to No. 3 and 5 hatch coamings. 1530 all hands for'd while engine was stopped to secure heavy derrick cover. Job finished at 1700.

Friday 28th December.

Colombo – Cape Town.

0530 call. Paintwork washed. Centrecastle deck painting continued. Seamen's house for'd bulkhead completed. Salt spray continued to hinder painting. After ropes brought up.

Saturday 29th December.

Cape Town.

0130. Three men called for anchoring. Crowd called at 0530. For'd ropes brought up. Stand by to move alongside at 0700. After breakfast, engine room derrick rigged, topped and one liner put ashore. Engine room derrick lowered and unrigged. Engine room derrick re-rigged and topped again. Crane lifted liner onto after well deck ready for lashing. Stand by to leave berth and move to anchorage in Table Bay at 1700.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 30th December 1956

12/4	4/8	8/12
Brough.	Cooper.	Keith.
* Bingham.	Borrowdale.	* Johnston.
McKiernan.	* Piper.	Webber.

* = Gangwayman.

For'd ropes.	Davies. Clarkson. Topp. Elder.	
Aft ropes.	Jones. Carter. Eves. Steele.	
For'd wires.	Watch to go on.	⁵ / ₀ Langman.
Aft wires.	Watch previous.	⁶ / ₀ Simpson.
Mess.	Halling.	
Accommodation.	Elder.	

Sunday 30th December.

Cape Town.

0530 call. All decks washed down and bridge windows washed. 70 ton derrick head cover repaired aloft, and cargo net lashed overall. 2200 Stand by to move alongside. Two 5 ton liners picked up from wharf and landed on funnel and boat decks. Both liners lashed.

Monday 31st December.

Cape Town – Dakar.

Finished lashing liners at 0200. Stand by to leave Cape Town at 0200. 0730 call. Ropes sent below for'd and aft. Engine room derrick guys, guy blocks and pennants unriggered and stowed. Topping lift and purchase taken off winches and coiled at heel of derrick. Paintwork washed with fresh water. Starboard centrecastle alleyway painted, including vent cowls. No. 3 contactor house and winches "touched up". Seamen's house upper deck "cut in" with grey.

Tuesday 1st January.

"Field Day."

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. Forecastle head and for'd well deck paintwork washed with soda and soap solution, and "touched up". Watches "turned to" for field day. Starboard centrecastle alleyway cut in with grey. No. 3 contactor house winches, fans and vents painted. Derrick topping lift and purchase blocks painted black at No. 1, 2 and 3 hatches. Port centrecastle deck cowl vents painted blue inside and grills wire brushed and replaced. After well deck and poop paintwork washed.

Wednesday 2nd January.

"Field Day."

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. For'd and after well decks and winches touched up. Forecastle head painted. Seamen's house starboard bulkhead and No. 3 contactor house painted. Three men cutting in with grey all day. For'd well deck "touching up" covered with white. Centrecastle winches painted.

Thursday 3rd January.

“Field Day.”

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. White painting completed on forecastle head and for'd well deck. Two men in black, two cutting in with grey, and one man touching up the after deck and poop all day.

Friday 4th January.

“Field Day.”

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. Winch beds and hatch coamings painted on for'd well deck. Forecastle head “cut in” with grey, and bulwark rails, drum ends, etc. painted black. After well deck painted white. Poop “touching up” covered with white.

Saturday 5th January.

“Field Day.”

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. Forecastle deck and No. 3 contactor house deck wire brushed and swept. Both decks and winch beds painted “deck red”. After well deck “cutting in” winch beds and hatch coamings painted grey. Six winches painted white. Top poop painted white, also lower poop rails.

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 6th January 1957

12/4	4/8	8/12
Cooper.	Jones.	Carter.
Borrowdale.	Elder.	Bingham.
Piper.	Steele.	McKiernan.

For'd ropes. Brough. Simpson. Topp. Webber.
Aft ropes. Langman (Clarkson). Keith. Eves. Halling.
For'd wires. Watch to go on. ⁵/_o Davies.
Aft wires. Watch previous. ⁶/_o Gusterson.
Mess. Johnston.
Accommodation. Webber.

Sunday 6th January.

Cape Town – Dakar.

0630 call. All decks washed down and bridge brass polished.

Monday 7th January.

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. Gantlines and oil prepared for the unserving and oiling of topping lifts. Day workers oiled and re-rigged twenty-three topping lifts. Watches washed promenade deck and centrecastle deck bulkheads, painted centrecastle scuppers and for'd mast house table. Field day for 8-12 watch. Poop rails and bulkheads painted.

Tuesday 8th January.

Cape Town – Dakar.

0530 call. Bridge brass polished. Wheelhouse and chartroom scrubbed. Final three topping lifts unrove, oiled and rigged. For'd well deck (port and starboard) wire brushed. "Deckol" applied. Centrecastle starboard scuppers painted. Stockholm tar applied to all guy pennants. White paintwork on poop completed by 12-4 and 4-8 "field day" men. Midship ladder handrails painted.

Wednesday 9th January.

Dakar.

0600 call. For'd ropes brought up. Stand by to arrive at Dakar at 0800. After well deck wire brushed and "Deckol" applied. Spare bower anchor painted. Guys renewed at No. 1 hatch and guy blocks painted. Port gangway sandpapered, washed and varnished. Stand by to depart at 1900. Ropes stowed below for'd and aft and both gangways turned in. Finished work at 2000.

Thursday 10th January.

"Field Day."

Dakar – Dublin.

0630 call. Two men overhauled head, heel and lead blocks all day at No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 hatches. Watch on deck "cutting in" grey on upper and lower poop. Field day men on washing, sandpapering and varnishing brightwork. All locking bars painted, also galvanised fittings on both gangways. Outboard

guys renewed at No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 hatches. Fore and mainmast house top and table painted "deck red".

Friday 11th January.

Dakar – Dublin.

0700 call. 0800 turn to. No. 7 hatch coamings painted. Poop deck painted red, and boards replaced over tank tops. Three men on varnish all day. All head, heel and lead blocks overhauled at No. 6 and 7 hatches. All flag halyards renewed. Runners and preventers oiled at No. 1 and 2 hatch. For'd promenade deck apron touched up with white. Poop awnings taken down and stowed in after peak.

Saturday 12th January.

Dakar – Dublin.

0700 call. 0800 turn to. All teak rails sand and canvassed. Bridge, boat and promenade decks barbarised. Poop deck waterway painted "deck red".

Watch List Commencing Noon Sun. 13th January 1957

12/4	4/8	8/12
Jones.	Simpson.	Langman.
Elder.	Halling.	Borrowdale.
* Steele.	* Webber.	* Piper.

* = Gangwayman (Dublin).

For'd ropes.	Davies. Carter. Topp. Johnston.
Aft ropes.	Cooper. Clarkson. Eves. Bingham. (& Brough).
For'd wires.	Watch to go on. ⁵ / _o Gusterson.
Aft wires.	Watch previous. ⁶ / _o Keith.
Mess.	McKiernan.
Accommodation.	Bingham.

Sunday 13th January.

Dakar – Dublin.

0730 call. No work for day workers. Normal watches kept.

Monday 14th January.

Dakar – Dublin.

0700 call. 0800 turn to. Centrecastle, seamen's house and poop deck barbarised. All brass work polished. Runners and preventers oiled at No. 4 and 5 hatches. Deckheads touched up. Small parts of fidley repainted, also bridge ladder handrails. Forecastle store deck gratings scrubbed. All loose gear lashed. No. 3 winches canopy frames painted and rigged. Lifeboat falls greased. Trunks brought up from after peak for officers. 2100 day workers to forecastle head while ship stopped to check and secure gear.

Tuesday 15th January.

Dakar – Dublin.

0700 call. 0800 turn to. Life line rigged on after well deck. Poop awning spars, ridge wires and stanchions unrigged and stowed. No. 5 locker cleared out and painted. Heavy weather prevented further work to continue on deck.

Wednesday 16th January.

Dakar – Dublin.

0700 call. 080 turn to. After ropes brought up. Guys stretched on after derricks. Completed painting poop deck scuppers, false decking, bits and mooring wire reels. Engine room entrance boards scrubbed and fitted. After jumper stay let go. For'd ropes brought up. Forestay let go and lashed to foremast. Guys stretched on derricks at No. 1 and 3 hatches. Runner renewed at No. 1 hatch. Stand by to arrive in Dublin at 2130. Alongside and made fast by 2300.

Thursday 17th January.

Dublin.

0530 call. Derricks topped at No. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 hatches. For'd jumper stay let go, also main aerial. Fire hoses rigged at No. 3, 4 and 5 hatches. Cargo

watchmen in each hatch all day. Completed painting fore cabin. Port and starboard half rounds washed and "touched up". Derricks lowered and squared up at all hatches by 2130. For'd jumper stay and main aerial hoisted. Stand by to leave at 2300.

Friday 18th January.

Dublin – Liverpool.

Finished stand by at 0100. 0700 call. Stand by to arrive Liverpool at 0800. Alongside at 1000.

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