

HMS Caprice – 1968 Diary

January		
Monday	22nd - 0900	Depart Portsmouth
Tuesday	23rd	Sea trials at Portland
Thursday	25 th - 1200	Depart Portland
Monday	29th - 0900	Arrive Gibraltar
Wednesday	31st - 0800	Depart Gibraltar
February		
Monday	5th	Crossed equator - King Neptune crossing the line ceremony
Tuesday	6th am 6th pm	Arrive Freetown, Sierra Leone - take on fuel Depart Freetown
Sunday	11th	RAS with RFA Wave Ruler
Thursday	15th	Arrive Simonstown, South Africa
Thursday	22nd	Depart Simonstown - commence Beira patrol in Mozambique channel
March		
Friday	30th	Relieved by HMS Eskimo – 2 days late! Steam to Gan
Saturday	31 st am 31 st pm	Arrive Gan- take on fuel – swimming parties allowed ashore Depart Gan
April		
Friday	5th	Arrive Singapore for self maintenance period
May		
Wednesday	1st	Sea trials
Friday	3rd	Sea trials completed. Steam to Subic Bay for exercise with UK, USA & Australian task force. Act as plane guard for carrier force
Saturday	4th	Captain Tim Bevan invalided off with broken collarbone. Command taken by Lt Cdr. Mark Ruddle (1st Lt)
Sunday	12th	Exercise completed. Steam to Hong Kong to relieve HMS Defender as guard ship
Monday	27th	Depart Hong Kong
June		
Saturday	1st	Arrive Kobe – Japan Ship open to visitors
Thursday	6th	Depart Kobe - passage through inland sea
Monday	10th	Arrive Myazu - Japan
Friday	14th	Depart Myazu
Monday	17th	In company with Intrepid pass HMAS Hobart after it was badly damaged off Vietnam by US “friendly fire”
Friday	21st	Arrive Singapore for maintenance period Ships company HMS Terror for two weeks. Some leave granted - rest camp at Kuala Lumpur

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July		
Friday	5th	Ships company return to ship
Monday	8th	Depart Singapore
Friday	12th 0900	Arrive Hong Kong and take up one months guard ship duties and hurricane patrol. During this period - new Captain arrived WWF Chatterton Dixon
August		
Wednesday	7th 1630	Depart Hong Kong
Monday	12th	All day sea inspection
Tuesday	13th	Arrive Singapore- all day harbour inspection
Saturday	17th	Ships company to HMS Terror - some leave granted
Friday	30th	Ships company move back on board
September		
Tuesday	3rd	Depart Singapore
Thursday	12th	RAS and passage through great barrier reef
Friday	13th	Arrive Sydney, Australia
Monday	23rd	Depart Sydney for Exercise Coral Sands with far east fleets off the Solomon islands
Monday	30th	
October		
Tuesday	1st	RAS - provisions
	10th	Exercise <i>Coral Sands</i> completed – steam to New Zealand. One prop shaft seizes up
Wednesday	16th	Arrive Auckland, New Zealand - self maintenance alongside HMS Triumph
Thursday	24th	Depart Auckland
Sunday	27th	Arrive Tonga (late due to engine problems). Entertained ashore by islanders
Monday	28th	Depart Tonga
Monday	29 th - am	Cross international dateline Monday becomes Tuesday - unfortunately no double tot!
Tuesday	29 th - pm	Arrive Apia, Samoan Islands - skipper refused to go through breakwater due to rough seas and exposed coral reef. Motorboat sent ashore to pick up mail and provisions then ship departed
Monday	31st	RAS – fresh provisions

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November

Friday	1st	Arrive Fanning Island (atoll in pacific) Swimming party only for two hours then ship departed
Sunday	3rd	RAS - fresh veg
Tuesday	5th	RAS - provisions
Tuesday	5th	Arrive Pearl Harbour, Honolulu, Hawaii
Friday	8 th	Depart Pearl Harbour
Sunday	10th	RAS - fuel with US tanker
		Exercise in the Pacific with HMS Puma – nearly capsized in violent storm
Wednesday	13 th – 1800	Arrive San Francisco, USA
Monday	18th	Depart San Francisco (minus a few crew members)
Friday	22nd	Arrive Manzanillo – Mexico for fueling - should have sailed at 1430 but 2 stokers adrift. PO Brian Hobbs and shore patrol find them pissed under a table in some cantina
Saturday	23rd	Depart Manzanillo 1600 (a day late)
Thursday	28th	Transit Panama Canal
Friday	29th	Arrive San Andreas island (Columbian Protectorate) in Caribbean
	30th	All day carnival on island - free beer - ships company provided pirates to attack the island in boats in memory of Captain Morgan

December

Monday	2nd	Depart San Andreas
Tuesday	3rd	Arrive Kingston, Jamaica 2 knifings and several beaten up.
Thursday	5th	Depart Kingston
Saturday	7th	Arrive San Juan island, Puerto Rico
Monday	9th 0830	Depart San Juan
Saturday	14th	RAS - fuel
Sunday	15th	Arrive Ponta del Garda - Azores
Monday	16th	Depart Ponta del Garda - rough passage across Atlantic
Thursday	19 th 1130	Arrive Pompey - tie up alongside HMS Devonshire