

HMS RELENTLESS

By Sam185

1950's SHIP'S LOGS

1955 – 1956

Last Updated: 31st July 2013

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INTRODUCTION

The information contained in the following pages has been transcribed directly from the official SHIP'S LOGs of HMS RELENTLESS which can be viewed at the National Archives in Kew.

In the main, these logs were completed by the Officer of the Watch (OOW) when the ship was at sea and by the Quartermaster (QM) when the ship was in harbour.

Each log, representing one calendar month, was completed in PENCIL, with no erasure allowed. Any errors were crossed out and the correct data entered, and each log was signed and dated by the Captain on a weekly basis.

There does not appear to be any strict rule regarding what goes in the logs. Some OOWs were diligent in completing the logs, some were not. The same is true of entries made by the QM.

Quite a few log entries have NOT been transcribed. When at sea, there are numerous entries regarding changes of course eg."a/c to avoid fishing vessels" and in harbour, many references to the Guard Boat or MOD Police patrols, or ships passing.

As is the way of things, many entries are abbreviated, have acronyms or are accepted Naval terms or expressions and these are shown 'as is'.

Ships names are shown in upper case eg. JUPITER or RFA OLMEDA.
Shore Establishments are styled as follows: HMS Mercury

Any data show in *italics* is information added to clarify or question the log entries, and entries shown in quotes are verbatim.

The status of transcribed Ship's Logs is as follows: **Do not exist** - **Done** - **Coming Soon**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pre-1951	Do not exist											
1951	Do not exist					Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Do not exist
1952	Do not exist	Done	Do not exist			Do not exist	Coming Soon	Done	Coming Soon	Done	Done	Coming Soon
1953	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Do not exist	Done	Done	Coming Soon	Done	Done	Coming Soon
1954	Coming Soon	Done	Done	Done	Done	Do not exist	Done	Done	Done	Do not exist	Done	Done
1955	Done											
1956	Do not exist								Done	Do not exist		
1957-1963	Do not exist											
1964	Do not exist					Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done
1965	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done	Done
1966	Done	Done	Done	Done	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Done	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist
1967	Do not exist	Done	Done	Done	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist
1968	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist	Do not exist			Do not exist
Post 1968	Do not exist											

What follows, is a transcription of the complete logs for 1955 and 1956

HMS RELENTLESS – EXTRACT FROM SHIP’S LOG – 1955

1955	Place / Position	Comments
Jan 01-16		On December 29 th 1954, RELENTLESS was in dry dock in Govan undergoing repairs as a result of collision damage. Between that date and the first entry in this January 1955 log, RELENTLESS obviously came out of dry dock and undertook seaworthiness trials before sailing for Londonderry. No data is available until Jan 17 th when the ship was alongside in Londonderry.
Jan 17	Londonderry	1015 Slipped and proceed downstream
Jan 18-25	Londonderry	No data available
Jan 26	Londonderry	0705 LOCH VEYATIE slipped for sea
Jan 27	Londonderry	0955 CARISBROOKE CASTLE entered harbour 1020 TUMULT secured alongside WIZARD 1100 1 rating to RNSQ Sea Eagle and 4 ratings joined from RNB(C) 1557 VOLAGE secured in 19 berth 1835 LOCH VEYATIE secured alongside VOLAGE
Jan 28	Londonderry	0840 URCHIN passed up stream 1025 Clear lower deck hands muster for fortnightly payment 1515 CARISBROOKE CASTLE entered harbour
Jan 29	Londonderry	1130 Sub Lt Oakley joined from WIZARD
Jan 30	Londonderry	No entries. Last page in log
Jan 31	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0820 Slipped and proceed to Lisahally 0905 HM s/m ALDERNEY entered harbour 0915 Secured alongside LISAHALLY 1000 Commenced fuelling 1200 Completed fuelling 1220-1735 Clear lower deck of all Junior Rates for ammunitioning 1500 1 CH REL returned from hospital 1845 HM Trawler TIREE passed down river
Feb 01	Londonderry	0912 Slipped and proceeded to Londonderry 0948 Secured alongside stbd side 19 Berth 1015 Two ratings loan draft to TUMULT returned on board 1145 Clear lower deck of all CPOs and POs 1612 Slipped and proceed to Magilligan 1740 Came to stbd anchor in C3 Berth Magilligan 1955 LOCH VEYATIE came to anchor
Feb 02	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0745 Weigh and proceed 1100-1130 Hands to exercise Action Stations 1120 In station on BRIDLINGTON 160° 3 miles 1712 Commence broad weave 2220 In new station BRIDLINGTON 2300 Echo brg red 20° 2306 Screen a/c 090°. Contact classified nonsub, resumed sweep
Feb 03	Londonderry	No entries
Feb 04	Londonderry	In Londonderry at 17 & 18 Berth 0915 Hands to divisions 0940 Hands mustered on jetty, march to 33 shed for address by Chaplain of Fleet

		1035 Hands returned on board 1145-1220 Captain of TUMULT paid official call on Captain 1220 1 rating rejoined from RNSQ 1450 I rating on draft to LYSANDER 1520-1735 Chaplain of Fleet on board
Feb 05	Londonderry	No entries
Feb 06	Londonderry	0900-1714 Dress ship overall 1300 Lt Cdr ELLYHATT RNVR joined ship for sea training RNVR
Feb 07	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0745 Slipped and proceeded down river Convoy exercise in company with URCHIN, TUMULT, LOCH VEYATIE, WIZARD 0953 Exercised seaboard crew. Time 2 mins 1005-1034 Took TUMULT under our orders to carry out OOW manoeuvres 2323 Came to stbd anchor C1 berth Magailligan
Feb 08	Anchored Magailligan	0810-1815 Captain ashore for washup at HMS Sea Eagle. One seaman proceeded on draft
Feb 09	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0745 Weighed and proceeded in company with URCHIN 0806 White watch cruising watch, closed up look out and seaman gunner closed up 1300 Submarine surfaced bearing 212° 2230 URCHIN assumed tactical command and guide 2230 Mull of Kintyre Lt 159° Altacarry Lt 219°
Feb 10	Londonderry	1105 Secured alongside b berth Lisahally 1115 URCHIN entered harbour 1130 1 rating returned from sick on shore 1438 Slipped and proceeded up river to Londonderry 1515 Secured alongside URCHIN
Feb 11	Londonderry	1000 2 ratings joined from RNB Chatham 1140 Clear lower deck hands muster for fortnightly payment
Feb 12	Londonderry	No entries
Feb 13	Londonderry	1000-1130 Boys Church party landed (CofE) 1720 S/Lt Lawson RNVR joined ship
Feb 14	Londonderry	No entries
Feb 15	Londonderry	1400 1 rating joined ship
Feb 16	Londonderry	0825 1 rating temp draft to RNSQ 1030 Captain's Defaulters and Requestmen mustered 1325 2 ratings on draft to RNB Chatham 1 rating discharged RNB Chatham 1 rating on draft to HMS Drake
Feb 17	Londonderry > Liverpool At 2000 55°19'N 06°26'W	0811 Slipped and stand off under two tugs while WIZARD slips 0845 Secured alongside No. 17/18 berth 1550 Winding ship 1555 Slipped and proceed to Lisahally 1620 Secure stbd side to C berth Lisahally 1737 Slipped and proceeded
Feb 18	Liverpool	0655 Co& Sp for proceeding up channel 0800 Swinging ship in river (MERSEY) 0820 Secured alongside Trafalgar cut 0837 Entered dock 0918 Secured alongside Trafalgar Branch Dock Liverpool 1335 1 rating on draft to RNB Chatham

		1700 1 Petty Officer joined ship from HMS Vernon
Feb 19	Liverpool	0915 Lt Ellyatt left ship on completion of 14 days RNVR training
Feb 20	Liverpool	1925 3 ratings join from RNB Chatham
Feb 21	Liverpool At 2000 53°36'N 03°37'W	Mon 1634 Slipped and proceeded under two tugs 1648 Passing through Trafalgar Cut 1705 Locked in Trafalgar Lock 1724 Slipped and proceeded into river
Feb 22	At 0800 55°18'N 05°51'W At 2000 55°21'N 05°58'W	Liverpool to Londonderry
Feb 23	Londonderry	1530 Secure alongside C Berth Lisahally 1600-1705 Fuelling (180 tons fuel oil) 1738 Slipped and proceeded from Lisahally 1800 Ship turning in to port in River Foyle 1825 Secure alongside URCHIN at 17/18 berth Londonderry
Feb 24	Londonderry	1200 Assumed duty as Emergency Destroyer 1755 Slipped from 17/18 Berth. Held off by 2 tugs 1808 WIZARD berthed alongside URCHIN at 17/18 Berth 1820 Secured alongside WIZARD
Feb 25	Londonderry	1145 Captain ALDERNEY paid official call on Captain
Feb 26	Londonderry	1030 Captain's messdeck rounds
Feb 27	Londonderry	1000 Church parties landed
Feb 28	Londonderry and Exercise Areas At 1200 55°20'N 06°31'W	0755 Slipped and proceeded 1100 Carrying out modified Goose Chase with HM sub SIDON* 1330 Came to single anchor in C3 berth Magilligan 1430 WIZARD came to anchor at C5 berth 1810 WIZARD left harbour <i>*13 crew members were killed and HM Submarine SIDON damaged beyond repair on 16th June 1955 when an experimental torpedo exploded in the tube whilst the ship was alongside MAIDSTONE at Portland.</i>
Mar 01	Londonderry Exercise Areas	At C3 Berth Magilligan 1120-1145 Motor whaler lower for engine trials 1200 Make & mend 1700 Rigged Mediterranean ladder on stbd quarter 1800 Reverted to 4 watch system
Mar 02	Londonderry Exercise Areas	0815 ML496 alongside to transfer passengers 0835 Weighed and proceeded to sea with WIZARD in company 1125 Commenced Donegal weave MLA 025 1600 Dome housed 1823 Anchored in C1 berth Magilligan
Mar 03	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0713-0717 RML496 alongside with passengers 0744 Weighed in company with LOCH VEYATIE 1400 Exercise complete ACR crew fallen out, dome housed 1528 Passing Lisahally and Reserve Fleet 1550 Went alongside WIZARD stbd side to at 17 berth 1650 LOCH VEYATIE secured alongside port side to
Mar 04	Londonderry	1100 One rating joined ship 1325 LSM Winters loan draft to RNAS Eglinton 1430 2 ratings drafted to RNB Chatham
Mar 05	Londonderry	0850 LOCH RUTHVEN laid off 18 Berth 0915 HM s/m TUMULT entered harbour secured at 18 Berth

		1100 Clear lower deck hands to divisions 1130 Captain's upper deck rounds 1215 Major HOBSON Y.A.L joined ship 1220 Wing Cdr DODD RAF joined ship 2125 'MERCURY ALERT' Sentries placed. Hoses rigged
Mar 06	Londonderry	1200-2325 Canteen patrol landed 1 POSM 1 rating 1350-1510 2 ratings additional canteen patrol landed
Mar 07	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0400 Jetty and Ship Sentries closed up 0705 'MERCURY ALERT' stand down 0740 1 rating drafted to RNB Chatham 0750 CREA loan draft HMS Sea Eagle 0755 Winding ship 0805 Slipped and proceeded 1132 Commenced Donegal weave to stbd 1143 A/S contact classified s/m 1147 Initiated Comex, Ops conning carry out AS attacks 1612-1630 Underwater telephone lowered 1755 Anchored in C1 berth
Mar 08	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0833 Weighed and proceeded 1153-1204 UWT lowered 1220-1245 Gun functioning trials with Bofors 1445 Commenced Donegal weave to stbd 1525-1540 UWT deployed 1742 Secured alongside C Berth Lisahally
Mar 09	Londonderry	1128 Slipped and proceeded upstream 1200 Secured alongside WIZARD at 17/18 Berth 1400 1 Rating on draft to RNB
Mar 10	Londonderry	1820 LOCH VEYATIE entered harbour secured at 18 Berth 1840 1840 LOCH RUTHVEN entered harbour secured at 18 Berth 1850
Mar 11	Londonderry	0900 Professional examination for candidates for Leading Seaman & Petty Officer commenced. Both watches of the hands employed cleaning ship and rigging Foyle Club for Ship's Company Dance 1315 Three ratings on draft to RNB Chatham 1640 Duty part required for stores
Mar 12	Londonderry	1030 Captain's Messdeck rounds
Mar 13	Londonderry	1115 1 Rating drafted to HMS Sea Eagle for onward transmission to RNB Chatham
Mar 14	Londonderry and Exercise Areas At 2000 55°47'N 07°50'W	0810 Slip delayed due to fog 0830 Slipped and proceed 1208 Co & Sp as necessary for taking up station No. 4 1235 Commenced broad weave 1240 Base course 300° carried out Donegal weave 1326 Resume station on convoy 1545 In station LOCH VEYATIE, commenced broad weave 1804 Co & Sp as requisite to take station Queen 4
Mar 15	Londonderry Exercise Areas	0106 Anchor slipped 0118 Anchored Charlie 2 berth Magilligan 1220 RML498 alongside 1230 RML498 slipped proceeded up river with Captain 1850-1855 M/L 498 alongside 2230 Weighed anchor. LOCH RUTHVEN and LOCH VEYATIE

		ordered to weigh. Formation One RELENTLESS, LOCH VEYATIE, LOCH RUTHVEN
Mar 16	Londonderry Exercise Areas At 1200 54°33'N 05°04'W	0056 Mull of Kintyre Lt raised brg 089° 0844 LOCH RUTHVEN 1½ ' stbd beam LOCH VEYATIE 1½' port beam 0953 LOCH RUTHVEN in contact with submarine 1131 LOCH RUTHVEN initiated comex 1213 LOCH VEYATIE ordered to close LOCH RUTHVEN to carry out Operation Tomato visibility reduced to 3 miles 1440-1501 Commenced zig zag 1510 Taking station on merchant vessel AVISGLEN 1905 s/m TACITURN surfaced for routine signal 1930 dived 2055 Commenced Asdic search 2120 Commenced narrow weave
Mar 17	Londonderry and Exercise Areas At 0700 54°03'N 05°20'W	0036 Raised St John's Lt brg 237° 0015 Dome housed. Search for possible ship in distress which had been reported by Coastguards. Switched on Navigation lights 0044 White flares sighted 185° a/c to investigate 0230 Completed sweep to the south. Nothing sighted. Entered exercise area and continued patrol 1308 Quigley's Point abeam to port 1336 Reserve Fleet Lisahally abeam to port 1420 Secured alongside at 17 berth
Mar 18	Londonderry	1120 Rum brought aboard No. of pts 458 cask numbers 218 215 218 225 221 222 1720 1 rating returned from RNSQ Eglinton
Mar 19	Londonderry	0945 1 rating rejoined from loan draft to CARISBROOKE CASTLE 1000 One officer joined – Lieut Commander P Houseden RNVR 1100 Lower deck cleared for Divisions
Mar 20	Londonderry	1700 Rating detained in RNSQ Sea Eagle
Mar 21	Londonderry and Exercise Areas	0730 Slipped 0915-1010 OOW evolutions 1030 Take up screening stations, convoy brg 037° 1100 Commenced LIX 21 1115 LOCH RUTHVEN investigating to stbd contact non-sub 1810 Commenced broad weave ahead of convoy
Mar 22	Anchored Magilligan	0010 Came to single anchor at C4 berth Magilligan 1000-1045 Captain visits Captain D 1110 Whaler slipped for evolutions 1145 Lower deck cleared, up whaler
Mar 23	Londonderry Exercise Areas At 2000 55°55'N 08°41'W	0610 BLACK RANGER proceeded to sea 0705 Weighed and proceeded to sea 0903 In station ACR crew commence operating LOCH RUTHVEN 1½ stbd beam 0930 Shackleton in contact with SM 1050 Confirmed s/m 1102 Attacking Limbo 1250 Station D3 1350 Asdic 170 unserviceable 2215 URCHIN to take station 2m stbd beam 2248 carried out attack green grenade 225 1000x 2307 Bow lights and mast head obstruction light switched off.

		Proceeding to rejoin convoy
Mar 24	Londonderry	1137 Secured alongside B berth Lisahally 1225 Two ratings drafted to WIZARD 1445 Completed fuelling 1600 Secured alongside URCHIN at 17/18 Berth 1605 2 ratings drafted to WIZARD
Mar 25	Londonderry	1110 Provisions brought onboard 1200 1 rating on draft to RNB
Mar 26	Londonderry > Cardiff	1035 One rating discharged to LOCH VEYATIE 1800 Slipped and proceed
Mar 27	At 0800 52°22'N 05°36'W Cardiff	1900 Locked in Queen Alexandra Lock 1930 Slipped and proceed to dock 1955 Secured alongside Queen Alexandra Dock
Mar 28	Cardiff	1000-1145 Captain left ship on official visit to Lord Mayor 1250-1555 Captain left ship on official visit
Mar 29	Cardiff	0900 Guard to drill 1100 4" Guns crew to drill 1140-1240 Captain left on official visit to Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan 1320 1 rating left ship on advanced seasonal leave 1400-1800 Ship open to visitors
Mar 30	Cardiff	1220-1430 Lord Mayor of Cardiff arrived on board to return official call 1815 Official Cocktail Party held on board
Mar 31	Cardiff	1345 FS AILILTE berthed 5 berth Queen's Dock 1347 Officer of Guard left ship 1445 1 officer + 10 cadet force ratings joined ship 1430-1520 CO FS AILILTE called on Captain 1525-1545 Captain called on CO FS AILILTE 1530-1730 Children's party on board
Apr 01	Cardiff	1145 Lower deck cleared for issue of tobacco coupons 1400-1800 Ship open to visitors. Number of visitors visited ship 1,015
Apr 02	Cardiff	1400-1800 Ship open to visitors (587 visitors)
Apr 03	Cardiff > Chatham	1703 Slipped and proceed 1708 secure in lock 1716 Slipped and proceed from lock (<i>en route Chatham</i>) Position at 2200 51°01'N 04°42.2'W
Apr 04	At 1100 50°07'N 03°26'W At 1600 50°21'N 01°55'W	0420 Lizard Hd Lt raised brg 012° 2300 Exchanged identities with MV ARCADIA bound from Australia to London
Apr 05	Folly Point, Chatham	0735 Secure at Nos 15 & 16 buoys Folly Point 0745 Ammunition barge secured alongside 0815 Lower deck cleared to de-ammunition ship 1015 C-in-C's barge passed upstream flying Negative 1205 Completed de-ammunitioning 1245 2 ammunition barges slipped stbd side 1250 Ammunition barge slipped port side
Apr 06	Chatham	0915 SSD close up. Guard fallen in on Iron Deck 0950 Slipped form 15-16 buoys Tug 'Emphatic' secured for'd 1005 Secured in South Lock

		1020 Lt Baxter RNR left ship 1050 Slipped from South Lock 1110 Secured alongside WHIRLWIND at No. 3 Basin East 1120 Captain left ship on official visit 1132 Clear lower deck of 1 st Leave Party for payment
Apr 07	Chatham	1155 First Leave Party left ship
Apr 08	Chatham	No entries
Apr 09	Chatham	<i>Easter Saturday</i> 1130 Ship open to visitors (1800) All visitors clear of ship. No. of visitors 2,259
Apr 10	Chatham	<i>Easter Sunday</i> 1030-1845 ship dressed overall 1130 Ship open to visitors (1800) All visitors clear of ship. No. of visitors 3,895
Apr 11	Chatham	<i>Easter Monday</i> 1030-1845 Ship dressed overall 1130 Ship open to visitors 1800 Ship closed to visitors (No. 7,052) (which equals one visitor coming aboard every THREE seconds and on average, every 5 seconds over the 3 days)
Apr 12	Chatham	0720 S/Lt Oakley RN left ship. Lt Mansfield RN left ship
Apr 13	Chatham	No entries
Apr 14	Chatham	0900 CBs & CPs landed for return to C in C Nore Book Office
Apr 15	Chatham	0900 Tugs secured alongside 0910 Slipped from WHIRLWIND 0925 Secured alongside DELIGHT
Apr 16-17	Chatham	No entries
Apr 18	Chatham	0800 CHEVIOT entered 3 Basin from 2 Basin and secured alongside DEFENDER 1400-1500 Colours half masted
Apr 19	Chatham	0945 MARINER slipped 1120 SHACKLETON slipped entered lock
Apr 20	Chatham	1315 Retard Leave Party muster for payment 1445 LOCH LOMOND to Farewell Jetty
Apr 21	Chatham	0820 CHEVIOT comes alongside 0940 DEFENDER move No. 2 Basin 1055 CHEVIOT moved to West Wall No. 3 Basin
Apr 22	Chatham	1145 Retard Leave Party fall in on jetty 1445 Sub Lt Lawson RNR left ship 1530 Lower deck cleared for fortnightly payment
Apr 23-24	Chatham	No entries
Apr 25	Chatham	0925 1 rating to RNH Gillingham 0930 Ratings on draft to RNB Chatham 1300 SBA Williams to WIZARD Derry
Apr 26	Chatham	0927 1 rating of draft to MULL OF GALLOWAY 0930 Captain's Requestmen & Defaulters 2140 1 rating discharged to RNSQ Chatham
Apr 27	Chatham	0930 1 rating drafted to BARKIS (<i>boom defence vessel</i>)
Apr 28	Chatham	No entries
Apr 29	Chatham	1325 One offender close custody to RNB Chatham
Apr 30	Chatham	No entries

May 01	Chatham	Sunday. No entries
May 02	Chatham	1010 1 offender returned on board from RNB 1130 1 rating on draft to MARINER 1145 Clear lower deck for tobacco coupons 1230-1330 captain of DELIGHT on board 1 rating joined ship from RNB
May 03	Chatham	0900 GRENVILLE slipped from No 2 Basin 1030 12 ratings drafted to RNB Chatham 1140-1223 C in C on board 1340 1 rating drafted to VIRAGO
May 04	Chatham	1005 GRENVILLE sailed 1140 MARINEER sailed
May 05	Chatham	0950 1 rating on draft to RNB 1000 Escort left ship for RNB 1015 Escort returned on board with offender 1020 Lower deck cleared. Warrant No. 23 was read to ships company 1050 Escort and offender left ship for RNCE Portsmouth
May 06	Chatham	1140 Lower deck cleared for main payment
May 07-08	Chatham	No entries
May 09	Chatham	0915 1 rating on draft to URSA 1325 VIRAGO left harbour 1410 1 rating left ship for Londonderry 1500 1 PO GI joined ship
May 10	Chatham > Faslane At 2000 50°49'N 01°01E	1030 11 ratings left ship to RNB 1315 Slipped from South Basin 3 west 1340 Entered North lock 1422 Clear of lock Co & Sp as necessary for leaving harbour
May 11	Chatham > Faslane At 0800 50°01'N 04°19'W At 2000 52°17'N 05°56'W	
May 12	Chatham > Faslane At 0800 55°08'N 05°14'W At 1200 59°39'N 04°58'W	0900-1045 commenced ship handling trials 1330 Entered Roseneath Bay Co & Sp as necessary for entering Gareloch 1403 Secured alongside BUCHAN NESS stbd side to 1730 URCHIN entered harbour 1745 URCHIN secured port side
May 13	Faslane - Gareloch	0730 URCHIN slipped and left harbour 2 ratings on draft to RNB Chatham
May 14-16	Faslane	No entries
May 17	Faslane	One rating on draft to VOLAGE
May 18	Faslane	No entries
May 19	Faslane	1245 3 Ratings to HMS Royal Arthur
May 20	Faslane	0630 1 rafting drafted to CERES 0945 1 rating drafted to GLORY 1140 Clear lower deck for main payment 1600 Lower deck cleared 1610 Ship paid off. Draft left ship for RNB Chatham
		...and so ends the 50's commissions
		...Almost

HMS RELENTLESS – EXTRACT FROM SHIP’S LOG – 1956

September ONLY available

We last saw RELENTLESS on May 20th 1955 alongside the Support Ship BUCHAN NESS in Faslane

At some stage between 20th May 1955 and 1st September 1956, RELENTLESS moved, or was moved, up and across the Clyde to Queens Dock, in Glasgow.

Between the 1st & 24th September, RELENTLESS was ‘commissioned’ and was stored and ammunitioned. She undertook Machinery Trials, Full Speed and Measured Mile trials, LIMBO mortar firing trials, Radar Acceptance Trials and Radar calibration. All this took place in the Clyde Exercise Areas.

Subsequently, RELENTLESS went down to Devonport to go through degaussing on the DG Range at Cawsand Bay and calibrated the MF and HF Direction Finding equipment. For some inexplicable reason she then spent two days anchored at Portland before returning to the Clyde.

On arrival back at Queens Dock in Glasgow, the ship was de-stored, the crew were drafted off and the ship ‘de-commissioned’.

I assume that these trials were a part of the ship being in ‘Category One Reserve’ but there are no other Ship’s Logs available of a similar nature.

If there is anyone around who served on this brief ‘commission’ or served on other ships which underwent such exercises, it would be nice to know the background.

For now, here is the detail of this phantom commission.

1956	Place / Position	Comments
Sep 01 Saturday	Glasgow	Log signed by R C Cliff Lieutenant RN Navigating Officer and the Captain is S J McArdle (0800) Ship commissioned? 0900 Exercised Steering Breakdown, Seaboat and Cable Parties 1630-1740 Captain left ship
Sep 02	Glasgow	0710 Lt Thomas RNR joined ship 0820 Lt Paine RNVR joined ship 0800 1 CPO RNVR joined ship 0930 Hands to Divisions: Dress No.2 Negat Medals 0950 Captain’s Prayers 1410 Captain left ship 1440 1 rating lent draft from JUPITER joined ship
Sep 03	From Queens Dock Glasgow to Greenock	0915 Pilot came aboard 0920 Two tugs joined. ‘Chieftain’ secured ahead, one astern 0930 Left from Yorkhill Quay with assistance of two tugs proceeded down river 0940 Left Greenock. Co & Sp 5kts as requisite to steam down the Clyde River 1000 Slipped after tug 1110 Sp 8kts 1205 Slipped for’a’d tug at Greenock 1218 Secured to A1 Buoy Greenock. Swinging compass with aid of tug

		1505 Compass swing completed 1845 Slipped and proceeded to 'The Hole' to commence capstan and anchor trials 2010 Weighed and proceeded to D3 anchorage 2025 Anchored to port in 6 fathoms
Sep 04	A1 Buoy (Tail o' the Bank)	0845 Lower deck cleared for Monthly issue of cigarette coupons 1015-1130 A/C assisting in 282 TRIALS overhead 1300 Type 282 trials recommenced. A/C assisting overhead 1545 Type 282 trials completed A/C returned to base 1710 Secured alongside Princes Pier Greenock port side to
SEP 05	Clyde Areas	0950 Slipped & proceeded to sea. Co & Sp as requisite to clear the Lower Clyde areas 1000 Commenced Preliminary Main Machinery Trials 1607 Secured alongside Customs House jetty Greenock stbd side to
Sep 06	Greenock	0915 1 st Lt Requestmen 1200 1 rating discharged to JUPITER for Pembroke 2000 1 rating discharged to Greenock Infirmary
Sep 07	Clyde Areas	0935 Slipped & proceeded to sea 0912 Full Ahead Both. Commenced Preliminary Full Power Trials 1200 a/c to Port as requisite to circle Ailsa Craig abeam to Port 1208 passed first Ø on Arran Measured Mile at Full Speed 1233 Second crossing of Measured Mile. Speed 28.7 kts 1608 Passed HM s/m TOTEM 1705 Secured alongside 1740 Lower deck cleared for fortnightly payment 2020 HMS CLYDE passed going out to sea
Sep 08	Greenock	1030 Captain's messdeck & Store Room rounds 1135 HMS BLACKBURN passed going to sea 1420-1620 Captain left ship 1932 HMS BLACKBURN passed entering harbour 2025 Captain left ship
Sep 09	Greenock	0930 Hands to Divisions. No 1s with Medals 0945 Captain's address and prayers 1010 Captain's Upper Deck Rounds 1632-1745 Captain left ship 1910 Captain left ship
Sep10	Clyde Areas	0930 Slipped & proceeded to sea for Full Power Trial 1215 Full ahead both engines commenced Full Power Trial 1300 Passed within 1 mile of a fishing vessel (seine netting) 1635 Came to port anchor in 12 fathoms with 6 shackles (<i>at Tail o' the Bank</i>)
Sep 11	Clyde Areas	1010-1220 Captain left ship for JUPITER 1020 Commenced Radar acceptance trials (Type 262) with Balliol a/c 1334 Weighed (foul anchor) 1340 Proceeded to sea 1405 Stopped both (engine failure) hoisted NUC Balls. Commenced Radar Calibration (Type 262) with Balliol a/c 1455 Anchor aweigh 1735 Secured alongside Princes Pier Greenock. Port side to 1800 Embarked 298 tons fuel oil form lighter

Sep 12	Greenock	0933 Slipped & proceeded 1305 974 radar unserviceable 1545 Secured alongside port side to at Deep water jetty Princes Pier
Sep 13	Greenock	1525 Ammunition lighter secured stbd side 1845 Ammunitioning completed. Embarked 12 live, 102 dummy & 18 practice A/S Mortar Mk 10 bombs
Sep 14	Greenock > Devonport	0805 Lt Thompson RNR left ship 0845 15 RNVR ratings discharged to their parent ships 0914 Ratings joined from JUPITER 0930 Slipped & proceeded on AS Mortar Mk10 Trials 1020 Stopped engines commenced trials 1131 Fired 6 inerts 1139 Fired 6 inerts 1156 Fired 6 inerts 1212 Fired 1 live 185° 1000x 1223 Fired 1 live 1229 Fired 1 live 1243 Fired 1 live 1245 Fired 1 live 1246 Fired 1 live 1256 Fired 6 live 190° 400x 1437 Came to stbd anchor in 6 fathoms 1800 Weighed anchor and proceeded to Devonport
Sep 15	Greenock > Devonport	Position at 0800 52° 54'N 05° 29'W At 2000 50° 25'N 05° 45.5'W
Sep 16	Devonport	0040 Lizard 186° 6.7m 0225 Eddystone 332° 4.7m 0404 Came to stbd anchor in 6 fathoms with 3 shackles 0930 Aweigh Co 060° Sp 10 kts 0940 Officer of the Guard came aboard. Both engines slow. Co & Sp as requisite to steam up the Hamoaze 1010 Secured alongside TEAZER in No. 1 Basin bows north 1420 Captain left ship 1435 Lt Edwards RNVR left ship
Sep 17	Devonport	0930 Slipped & proceeded to sea for DG Ranging 1010 Commenced DG Ranging at Cawsand Bay 1115 Came to stbd anchor in 4 fathoms with 3 shackles 1215-1500 Commenced MF/DF Calibration with MFV 1530 Weighed & proceeded 1610 Secured alongside TEAZER 1730 Captain left ship
Sep 18	Devonport > Portland	0745 Slipped & proceeded to sea for HF/DF calibration 0817 Passed Breakwater through Western channel 0904 Came to port anchor in 14 fathoms with 5 shackles 0930 Commenced HF/DF calibration 2159 Portland Bill Lt Brg 054° 10 miles 2331 Came to port anchor in 7 fathoms with 4 shackles in R1 berth
Sep 19	Portland (Weymouth Bay)	No entries
Sep 20	Portland(Weymouth Bay)	1350 Captain went ashore 1400 RFA ROWANOL berthed alongside 1625 RFA ROWANOL from alongside to OCP
Sep 21	Portland > Clyde	1300 Slipped 1730 Passed HMS FLEETWOOD 1855 Lizard bore 000° 3.2 miles
Sep 22	Portland > Clyde	Position at 0800 52° 41.5'N 05° 28.6'W

		<p>At 1200 53° 37'N 05° 11.5'W 1055 X Identity Tug 'Enforcer' towing HMS RATTLER 1100 General Payment 1300 Mismuster for General Payment 2300 Came to stbd anchor in 6 fathoms with 5 shackles in D1 berth Greenock</p>
Sep 23	Greenock – Glasgow	<p>0745 Lt Paine RNVR left ship 0815 Pilot came on board 0830 Weighed & proceeded to Admiralty Jetty, Old Kilpatrick 1005 Secured portside to Admiralty jetty 1500 Slipped & proceeded to No. 18 Berth Queens Dock 1630 Secured alongside HMS CADIZ portside to Bows east to No. 18 Berth, Queens Dock, Glasgow 2045 Captain left ship</p>
Sep 24	Glasgow	<p>0745 Hands employed de-storing ship and preparing for Draft 1030 Draft from HMS JUPITER left ship 1530 Draft for HMS PEMBROKE left ship 1600 HMS RELENTLESS PAID OFF</p>
		NOW it's the end of the 50s commissions, unless...

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