



**H.M.S. AJAX FIRST COMMISSION**

**December 1963 to July 1965**

## FORMER SHIPS OF THE NAME

H.M.S. AJAX (1) 1767. 3rd Rate. 1,615 tons. This 74 gun Ship of the Line served under Admiral Rodney (1780-2) and was present at numerous actions, including the Battles off Martinique and the Battle of the Saints. She was sold at Sheerness in 1785.

H.M.S. AJAX (2) 1798. 3rd Rate. 1,953 tons. A `74' like her predecessor, she fought against the French during the Napoleonic Wars, and was present at the Battle of Trafalgar. She caught fire and blew up off Tenedos in 1807.

H.M.S. AJAX (3) 1809. 3rd Rate. Another `74', she too fought against the French in numerous actions. In 1846 she was converted to steam and later took part in the Baltic operations during the Russian War of 1854-5. She was broken up at Chatham in 1865.

H.M.S. AJAX (4) 1835. 2nd Rate. 80 guns. Launched as H.M.S. Vanguard and re-named in 1867. She spent most of her time in reserve, being broken up at Chatham in 1875.

H.M.S. AJAX (5) 1880. Turret Ship. 8,492 tons. Armed with 4-38 ton guns. She was employed on Coast Guard duties, and was broken up in 1904.

H.M.S. AJAX (6) 1912. Battleship. 23,000 tons. A unit of the Grand Fleet during the 1914-18 War, she was present at the Battle of Jutland. She was subsequently scrapped in 1926.

H.M.S. AJAX (7) 1932. Cruiser. 6,985 tons. One of the `Leander' Class 6" cruisers, she is chiefly remembered for the part she played in the destruction of the `Graf Spee' in 1939. For most of the remainder of the war she served in the Mediterranean, and took part in the Battle of Matapan. During one engagement, while covering a convoy, she sank or crippled three Italian destroyers. Heavily damaged by a bomb hit in 1943, she was under refit for a year before returning to finish the war in the Mediterranean. She was broken up in 1949, and her bell was presented to the Government of Uruguay.

This famous name was also adopted, in 1949, by the town of Ajax, Ontario, to commemorate the men who fought in H.M.S. AJAX at the Battle of the River Plate.

# THE EIGHTH H.M.S. AJAX

## THE MOTTO

Nec Quisquam Nisi Ajax - None but Ajax can overcome Ajax

## BATTLE HONOURS

St. Vincent	1780	Baltic	1854-5	Greece	1941
St. Kitts	1782	Jutland	1916	Crete	1941
The Saints	1782	River Plate	1939	Malta Convoys	1941
Egypt	1801	Mediterranean	1940-1	Aegean	1944
Trafalgar	1805	Matapan	1941	Normandy	1944
San Sebastian	1813			South France	1944

### *Builders:*

Messrs. Cammell Laird & Co. (Shipbuilders and Engineers) Ltd., Birkenhead.

### *Laid down*

Originally laid down as H.M.S. Fowey, she was taken in hand for completion as the 'Leander' Class Frigate, H.M.S. Ajax on 14th March, 1960.

### *Launched:*

By Mrs. (now Lady) Dreyer on 16th August, 1962.

### *First Commissioned:*

11th December, 1963.

### *Displacement*

2,750 tons.

### *Dimensions*

Length 372 feet overall. Beam 402 feet. Draught-172 feet.

### *Designed Speed:*

About 30 knots.

### *Complement*

255 officers and men (as an Escort Leader).

### *Armament*

One twin 4.5" Turret.

Two single 40 m/m Bofors mountings.

One triple barrellled A/S Mortar.

One Wasp Helicopter.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### 1963

- Dec. 11th Commissioning Ceremony.  
Dec. 12th Accepted from the Builders.  
Dec. 14th Salvage of S.S. Llusanes off the Casquets and tow to Cherbourg.

### 1964

- Jan., Feb. Testing and Tuning in English Channel.  
Feb. 25th Stood by M.S. Solklint after collision in fog and escorted her to Cherbourg.  
Mar., Apr. Work up at Portland.  
May 23rd Visit Dartmouth for weekend.  
May 26th Sailed for Far East.  
June 2nd Two days at Malta.  
June 11th One day in Aden.  
June 17th Crossing the Line Ceremony.  
June 18th One week in Gan.  
July 2nd Arrived Singapore.  
July 16th Four days off North Borneo with Bulwark.  
July 21st FOTEX 1964 in the East Coast areas.  
Aug. 12th On patrols from Tawau, North Borneo.  
Sept. 19th Meet and escort Victorious after passage through the Lombok Straits.  
Nov. 1st Ten days in Hong Kong.  
Nov. 13th Exercise with the Thai Navy.  
Nov. 15th Four days in Bangkok.

- Dec. 13th      Anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate in 1939, which was celebrated by opening fire on suspicious radar contacts detected while on patrol in the Malacca Straits.
- Dec. 21st      Two days in Port Swettenham.
- Dec. 24th      Captured seven sampans with twenty two infiltrators on board.
- Dec. 30th      Docking period in Singapore.

## **1965**

- Feb. 5th      Operational again. Back on patrol. Hovercraft trials.
- Feb. 16th      Exercises off Subic Bay with Eagle and Victorious.
- Feb. 23rd      Nine days in Hong Kong.
- Mar. 8th      FOTEX 1965 off Butterworth.
- Mar. 16th      Sea Inspection by F02FEF.
- Mar. 31st      First phase of new commission joined.
- Apr. 12th      Five days in Karatsu, Japan.
- Apr. 18th      Five days in Inchon, South Korea.
- Apr. 27th      Five days in Hong Kong, including F02FEF's Harbour Inspection.
- May            Self Maintenance in Singapore.
- June 12th      Exercise WINDY WEATHER with Bulwark and Albion off Trengannu.
- June 22nd      Seven days in Hong Kong.
- July 3rd      Return to Singapore for main party of new commission.
- July 14th      Recommissioning Ceremony.

## **SOME FACTS AND FIGURES**

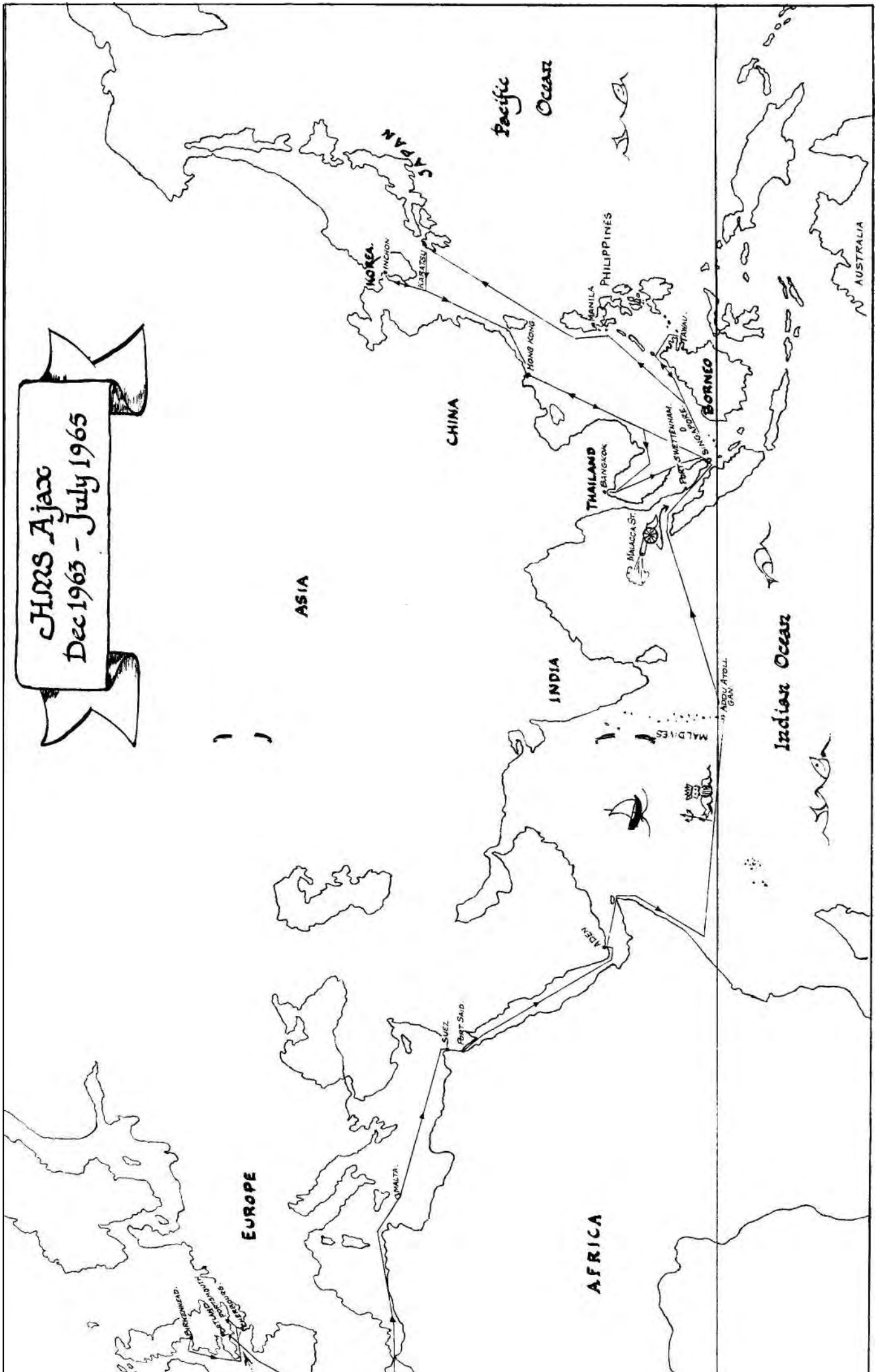
Since commissioning day, AJAX has steamed just under 74,000 miles, some 57,000 of which are since she arrived in Singapore in July 1964. This is 13,000 miles further than the cruiser AJAX steamed on her first commission lasting two years from June 1935.

This mileage has been at an average speed of about 15 knots, by spending 5,025 hours at sea, equal to a total of 209 days out of the 578 of the commission. It includes 43 % of all the weekends and 28 of the 52 in the Far East. Obviously there was plenty of time to wear out the 332 scrubbers that have been issued.

Just over £ 155,500 in pay was distributed and almost a third of that was spent in the NAAFI, who then returned £ 1050 as rebate. At the same time, over 2,000,000 cigarettes, 46,000 cans and 400 barrels of beer, and 14,000 ice creams and ice lollies were supplied. Maybe the latter has something to do with almost 450 hours flying by the Wasp; involving just over 1400 landings!

We ate 100 tons of potatoes and 2 miles of sausages, washed down by 857 pints of rum, enough for about half a barrel per man. The turret was fed with 1,763 shells and the Bofors with 2,222. Of these shells, about thirty were fired in anger, and the boarding party made 58 boardings, almost evenly divided between Tawau and Malaya.

**HMS Ajax**  
Dec 1963 - July 1965



## Sports Results

In early October, 1964, a Squadron Sportex saw Ajax winning the Cock of the Squadron, though Otago, not being present at the time, later attempted to take over the trophy. The flight deck brought Deck Hockey to the Small Ship world and a total of 52 games were played. Our forte, as the following list shows, was Water Polo.

	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
Soccer 1st XI	40	20	17	3
Soccer 2nd XI	10	7	2	1
Hockey	20	9	9	2
Rugby	7	3	4	0
Basket Ball	8	4	4	0
Water Polo	28	20	8	0



### **Members of the First Commission**

Captain the Honorable D.P. Seely

Lieutenant Commander G. St. J. R. Buxton

C.P.O. E. Lee (Coxswain)

### ***Communications***

Lieutenant Commander M.F.P. Arcedeckne -Butler

CCY Baker, A.	CRS Hooper, G.	CY Shearer, I.
RS Franklin, A.	LRO Ingham, J.	LRO Drew, D.
LRO Ford, R.	LRO Leonard, A.	RO Daniels, J.
RO Haighton, P.	RO Byrne, P.	RO Kent, N.
RO Torres, B.	RO Hibbins, H.	RO Pullen, P.
RO McKie, J.	RO Johns, D.	RO Norcliffe, K.
RO Cheshire, M.	RO Everitt, K.	RO Cutting, A.
RO Padgington, M.		RO Scott, R.

### ***Gunnery***

Lieutenant Commander C.C. Harris.

Lieutenant (SD) (g) K. J. Pharoah.

CPO Orr, W.	CPO Downing, D.	PO Biddle, K.
PO Dargan, T.	PO Jepson, E.	PO Chiverton, R.
LS Colls, D.	LS Kidney, J.	LS Martin, W.
LS Mould, K.	AB Baker, J.	AB Bickerton, D.
AB Coyne, D.	AB Dunbavin, B.	AB Knight, T.
AB Lodge, A.	AB Lowe, D.	AB Martindale, R.
AB Morgan, A.	AB Rayson, D.	AB Robson, J.
AB Wakelam, J.	AB Barker, J.	AB Farr, J.
AB Hough, R.	AB Stevenson, T.	OS Herbert, T.
OS Dennis, P.	OS Mullins, E.	OS Outhwaite, M.
OS Stone, A.	OS O'Gara, P.	OS Oliver, W.

*Navigation and Direction*

Lieutenant Commander R.N.J. Wright

Sub-Lieutenant (SD) (PR) J. Hawkins.

PO Clark, J.	LS Brown, A.	LS Garner, A.
LS Howitt, D.	LS Richardson, A.	AB Breakwell, J.
AB Holtby, P.	AB Knights, R.	AB Pegg, C.
AB Cable, H.	AB Danbury, P.	AB Mussell, L.
AB Renicks, M.	AB Walsh, M.	AB Ambrose, D.
AB Marr, P.	AB Hemsley, A.	OS Anderson, D.
OS Bagley, G.	AB Smith, P.	OS Ridley, I.
	AB D'Hondt, C.	

*Torpedo and Anti-Submarine*

Lieutenant Commander J. Grattan.

Sub-Lieutenant (SD) (TAS) J.E. Thompson.

CPO Caddell, M.	PO Cherry, P.	PO Page, R.
PO Wilkinson, A.	LS Gray, J.	LS Strawson, T.
LS Diamond, W.	LS Russell, R.	AB Barrett, A.
AB Cheeseman, J.	AB Barnett, L.	AB Germaine, D.
AB Gibson, A.	AB Duthaler, J.	AB Rigby, T.
AB Rowe, K.	AB Holt, W.	AB Silcock, A.
AB Tovey, J.	AB Tupholme, N.	AB Williams, E.
AB Basnett, G.	AB Cornock, F.	AB Davies, W.
AB Dixon, R.	AB Hault, P.	AB Swan, W.
AB Worrall, C.	AB Dodge, K.	AB Hooker, M.
AB Spain, D.	AB Walter, P.	OS Frost, C.
	AB Lawford, M.	

*Ship's Flight*

Lieutenant (SL) A.T.D. Brewster

AA Bartlett, R.	AM Horton, G.	POAF Broughton, R.
EA Hornsby, A.	LAM Pankhurst, G.	EM Hill, R.

*Marine Engineering*

Commander B.H. Lawson.

Engineer Lieutenant (ME) J.C. Loebell.

CERA	Cordner, K.	ChM(E)	Trotter, T.	ChM (E)	Tarrant, J.
ERA	Dickinson, P.	Shpt.	Jones, S.	Shpt.	Clark, W.
ERA	Cannon, M.	ERA	Swinhoe, S.	ERA	Williams, R.
Mech.	Gould, G.	POM (E)	Brown, P.	POM (E)	Hall, W.
POM(E)	Maddox, M.	POM (E)	Bedford, J.	POM (E)	Morris, D.
POM(E)	McIlhinney, W.	ERA	Jones, A.	ERA	Knight, H.
LM (E)	Neilson, R.	LM(E)	Watling, B.	LM (E)	Dunn, M.
LM (E)	Scullion, J.	LM (E)	Thompson, B.	LM (e)	Smith, R.
LM(E)	Wright, G.	M (E)	Clarke, R.	M (E)	Nicol, G.
M (E)	Smith, T.	M (E)	Watson, M.	M (E)	Blair, T.
M (E)	Clarke, P.	M (E)	Harcombe, B.	M (E)	Sherratt, I.
M (E)	Crimes, A.	M (E)	Lloyd, D.	M (E)	Wild, F.
M (E)	Cavanagh, P.	M (E)	Freeman, C.	M (E)	Herbert, E.
M (E)	Lane, R.	M (E)	Robertson, J.	M (E)	Gardner, S.
M (E)	Mathers, J.	M (E)	Upton, P.	M (E)	Chappell, L.
M (E)	Gardner, R.	M (E)	Nicol, W.	M (E)	Wilson, J.
M (E)	Myers, D.			M (E)	Snelham, L.

*Weapons and Radio*

Commander R. W. Handcock.

Electrical Lieutenant (R) E. M. Laverick.

COA	Dennis, G.	CEA	Dugan, F.	ChRE	Wright, B.
REA	Gale, F.	EA	Dolley, V.	EA	Herbart, M.
EA	Lewis, B.	CREA	Blythe, D.	OA	Stephens, W.
OA	Fleck, J.	OA	Matthews, D.	REA	Hare, D.
REA	Rollason, H.	EA	Dyer, S.	REA	Stork, M.
REA	Perry, D.	PORE	Scottow, R.	POE1	Wheeler, B.
PORE	Harte, M.	POE1	Ray, C.	POE1	Coleman, J.
POE1	Ausden, A.	PORE	Stewart, D.	LEM	Rawson, A.
LREM	Moore, A.	REM	Webster, T.	REM	Bromley, T.
REM	Smith, W.	EM	Dixon, H.	EM	Jordan, M.
EM	Page, N.	EM	Taylor, P.	REM	Baylis, J.

*Weapons and Radio (Contd.)*

REM Beach, G.	EM Henry, G.	EM Ward, R.
REM Ackroyd, A.	REM Ayres, J.	REM Briggs, E.
REM Durrant, P.	REM Gardner, A.	REM Rees, W.
REM Swiggs, D.	REM Waite, A.	REM Ward, D.
EM Haddock, R.		EM Thorne, P.

*Supply and Secretariat*

Lieutenant Commander I. B. Sutherland.

Lieutenant J. D. Dubuis.

SPO Cook, J.	SPO Clark, P.	POCk Sutherland, J.
POWtr Dudley, D.	POWtr Lee, P.	POStwd Leung Cheung.
POStwd Wong Chung Ping.	POCk Lam Fong	SPO Parrot, D.
LSBA Bates, S.	LSA Carpenter, B.	LSA Hall, P.
LCK Robinson, R.	LCK Johns, P.	LStwd Chan Yui Kwan.
LStwd Yuen Hing.	LStwd Kwang Chip.	LCK Leung Kam Chuen.
LCK Stott, W.	LWtr Wade, E.	Wtr Neil, A.
SA Fisher, T.	SA Warren, T.	Ck Body, D.
Ck Boys-Stone, W.	Stwd Chung Kai Chuen.	Stwd Jong Tin Tze.
Ck Chan Chun Kei.	Ck Ellins, R.	Ck Hounslea, G.
Stwd Chow Wing Kee		Stwd Yiu Tzu Tang

*Attached Staff Officers*

Reverend P. Ainsley.

Reverend D. Fuller.

Surgeon Lieutenant J. D. McLaren.

Instructor Lieutenant J. R. Hawketts.

*Canteen Staff*

Mr. R. Firth.

Mr. M. Starkie.