

SINGAPORE

We arrived in Singapore just in time to get acclimatised to sticky heat and its Tiger antidote before Christmas. Since then we have spent an impressive number of days alongside and a blissful six weeks living in Terror while the ship went into dry dock and many went on leave to England and Malaysia. 'Singers' has been the setting-off point for exercises at Penang. Mersing and Marang and with its unique blend of good shopping, wild runs ashore and unlimited sport it has become a true home from home.

On the sports field we took the Big Ships Rugby Cup from Eagle and played many a fierce game of soccer under flood lights. The Engineers won a hard-fought athletics contest, the Seamen won the Swimming Gala and the G reenies finished the commission holding the Lady Elworthy Trophy for soccer.

In Johore Bahru a strong team of volunteers has worked long hours and at weekends to refurbish the Cheshire Home for the Disabled, and now that we have raised the money the work can go on and a new kitchen will be built. Of all the marks that Intrepid will leave in Singapore. this must surely be her best memorial,



H O K O N G M





Immediately after the second visit to Hone Kong we travelled north to Tokyo with FO2FEF embarked. There, even the grubbiest in our midst developed a new interest in bathing and gnarled old sailors became sprightly youths. Temple bashing became a new daytime sport and at night we tried, hut failed. to verify that there are 10,000 bars in the city. On the Queen's Birthday the Royal Marines Ceremonial Sunset Parade at the British Embassy brought the house down.

Two buses which had sat incongruously on the flight deck ran trips to Mount Fuji and other beauty spots and when Intrepid sailed through the inland Sea, the buses went overland to meet up again in Maizuru. 'the travellers maintained a discreet silence on their return hut confirmed that the Leyland engine runs well on sake.

Maizuru does not have the glitter of Tokyo hut the welcome was much more personal and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force did everything it could to make us feel at home. 'this time the bar survey was completed and the Padre didn't go to jail.





AUSTRALIA

Coral Sands was the largest amphibious exercise in the Far East since the war and a very fitting way to end a busy commission. Carrying the Brigade Headquarters in overload conditions for longer than ever before, we landed them in Shoalwater Bay. kept them supplied with beer and eventually picked them up and took them to Brisbane.

Brisbane was our last visit %4 the commission and we couldn't have picked a better place. The

Company Ball was a great success and the welcome we found there was echoed in the tremendous number of invitations which poured into the ship. When the jellyfish failed to impede our departure, (he weather rose to the occasion and those who stiff bad dollars and stamina :said a second farewell to a very hospitable city.

Then we were on our way through the Barrier Reef and the short cut back to Singapore to enter with paving off pennant flying and the volunteer band Playing. The craft escorted us in. the Brigade Sioux flew overhead and our thoughts were turned to home.





S E A M E N



