

HMS Caprice – 1968 Diary

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

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July		
June 21 – July 4		Ship's company billeted on HMS Terror for two weeks. Some leave granted
Friday	5	Ship's company return to ship
Monday	8	Depart Singapore
Friday	12	0900 Arrive Hong Kong and take up one months guard ship duties and hurricane patrol. During this is period - new Captain arrived WWF Chatterton Dixon
August		
Wednesday	7	1630 Depart Hong Kong
Monday	12	All day sea inspection
Tuesday	13	Arrive Singapore- all day harbour inspection
Saturday	17	Ships company to HMS Terror - some leave granted
Friday	30	Ships company move back on board
September		
Tuesday	3	Depart Singapore
Thursday	12	RAS and passage rough great barrier reef
Friday	13	Arrive Sydney, Australia
Monday	23	Depart Sydney for Exercise Coral Sands with Far-East fleets off e Solomon islands
Monday	31	RAS – fresh provisions
October		
Tuesday	1	RAS - provisions
	10	Exercise <i>Coral Sands</i> completed – Steam to New Zealand. One prop shaft seizes up
Wednesday	16	Arrive Auckland, New Zealand Self maintenance alongside HMS Triumph
Thursday	24	Depart Auckland
Sunday	27	Arrive Tonga late due to engine problems. Entertained ashore by islanders
Monday	28	Depart Tonga
	29 am	Cross international dateline Monday becomes Tuesday - unfortunately no double tot!
Tuesday	29	Pm Arrive Apia, Samoan Islands - skipper refused to go rough breakwater due to rough seas and exposed coral reef. Motorboat sent ashore to pick up mail and provisions en ship departed
Monday	31	RAS – fresh provisions

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November		
Friday	1	Arrive Fanning Island (atoll in pacific) Swimming party only for two hours en ship departed
Sunday	3	RAS - fresh veg
Tuesday	5	RAS - provisions
Tuesday	5	Arrive Pearl Harbour, Honolulu, Hawaii
Friday	8	Depart Pearl Harbour
Sunday	10	RAS - fuel with US Navy tanker
		Exercise in e Pacific with HMS Puma – nearly capsized in violent storm
Wednesday	13	1800 Arrive San Francisco, USA
Monday	18	Depart San Francisco (minus a few crew members)
Friday	22	Arrive Manzanillo – Mexico for fueling - should have sailed at 1430 but 2 stokers adrift. PO Brian Hobbs and shore patrol find em pissed under a table in some cantina!
Saturday	23	Depart Manzanillo 1600 (a day late)
Thursday	28	Transit Panama Canal
Friday	29	Arrive San Andreas island (Columbian Protectorate) in Caribbean
	30	All day carnival on island = free beer = ships company provided pirates to attack e island in boats in memory of Captain Morgan
December		
Monday	2	Depart San Andreas
Tuesday	3	Arrive Kingston, Jamaica 2 knifings and several beaten up.
Thursday	5	Depart Kingston
Saturday	7	Arrive San Juan island, Puerto Rico
Monday	9	0830 Depart San Juan
Saturday	14	RAS - fuel
Sunday	15	Arrive Ponta del Garda - Azores
Monday	16	Depart Ponta del Garda - rough passage across Atlantic
Thursday	19	1130 Arrive Pompey - tie up alongside HMS Devonshire