Statement in the matter of:
BOARDING PARTY OPERATIONS SIEV 12

Full Name: Damian Denis CASEY Rank: LEUT

Official Number:

Service Address: HS CREW WHITE

- My full name is Damian Denis CASEY; I am 40 years of age. I am a Lieutenant, currently posted to HS White Crew, where I am employed as the Gunnery and Boarding Officer.
   I have been in the Royal Australian Navy for 6 years.
- 2. One of my duties onboard HS White Crew is to act as the leader of the ship's Boarding Party as well as a leader of one of the ship's three Steaming Parties. It was whilst arrying out these functions that I was involved in the activities concerning SIEV 12.
- On 17 December 2001, myself assisted by the members of the ship's boarding team, boarded and took control of SIEV 12. On initially boarding the SIEV, the Unauthorised Arrivals (UA's) were relatively quiet, however once they were fully awoken, several of them became zggravated at our presence and clearly did not welcome our being onboard. While attempting to interview the Indonesian Master of the vessel I noted that the situation onboard became tense, with mainly young males yelling and erreaming and inciting others to resist us. I saw several of the young males destroy the boom that was being used as a support for a tarpaulin on the fore cck of the SIEV. They then proceeded to tear apart the tarpaulin and they attempted to throw part of it over the side. I saw one of the UA's threaten two members of the boarding team with a piece of this boom. At the same time I saw flames coming from the fore part of the vessel. The sim's boarding teams quickly extinguished the fire. I then saw several UA's dropping paper, cardboard and other items into the forward hold and noted they were attempting to ignite these ms. I also saw several UA's freely jumping over the side of the SIEV whilst wearing rejackets. Some of these UA's removed their lifejackets whilst in the water and continued to swim around until they were picked up by HMAS LEEUWIN's boats and returned to the SIEV. also observed that several UA's were encouraging others to same into the sea. On one occasion some of the UA's surged to the side of the SIEV to jump over the side and in doing so
- accasion some of the UA's surged to the side of the SIEV to jump over the side and in doing so they knocked one of the Transport Security Element soldiers over the side. Fortunately she was able to hold on and did not fall into the sea.
- During this initial boarding phase on 17 December 2001 and whilst I was merviewing the Indonesian Master, I started to smell smoke in the wheelhouse. Our boarding and members then informed me that the engine room had been set alight. Some of the women children who were sleeping behind the wheelhouse started to cry and I told them we were to help and that they should stay calm. Our boarding party members quickly extinguished fire. At this time, several of the UA's also smashed some of the glass windows of the members. I also saw a boarding party member climb on to the roof of the wheelhouse to urge a UA to return to the main deck.

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- 5. I asked the English speaking spokesperson for the UA's to tell the groups onboard that they should not jump over the side I also asked him to tell the UA's that if they were not quiet and calm we would not be able to help them. I reiterated that we were only there to help them and that we could not do so if certain of the UA's continued to act in an aggressive manner towards us.
- 6. The Indonesian Master stated through an interpreter that they would rather go to jail in Australia than take the vessel and the UA's back to Indonesia. The Master indicated that he had been threatened by the UA's if they were not taken to Australia.
- On 17 December 2001, I saw several young males holding a crude hand written sign to the effect that they would rather die than go back from where they came.
  - 8. On 20 December 2001, whilst I was on the SIEV as part of the steaming party, at least two of the English speaking UA's said they knew that they were being returned to Indonesia. They said that they did not really care where they went as long as they could get off the boat as their families were becoming very tired from travelling.

D.D. CASEY LEUT, RAN

Gunnery/ Boarding Officer

HS White Crew

## STATEMENT

## ETEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: SIEV 12

LACE: NORTH OF ASHMORE ISLAND GROUP

ITE: 17 DECEMBER 2001 TO 20 DECEMBER 2001

Estard Peter MORTIMER, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

ill name is Richard Peter MORTIMER. I am a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, currently on exchange with the Royal Australian Navy, as the Senior Assistant Surveyor of HS White.

I was one of the officers in charge of the Boarding Party embarked in HMAS LEEUWIN.

account is the best recollection of Lieutenant Richard Peter MORTIMER Royal Navy, Senior stant Surveyor of HS White Crew.

## Jec 2001

- UAs mostly calm at initial boarding, but corps of 15 to 20 young males (25-40 yrs of age) were very vocal.
- Gathering around open hatch to hold below were dropping lighted matches onto a pile of refuse and pillow stuffing in hold attempting to ignite refuse. I had to forcibly removed matches and guilty personnel (women) from hatch area after requests to move ignored.
- Several jumpers overboard, not all with lifejackets on, all swimmers. Recovered by RHIB.
   Reported to me that UAs were physically attacking the rescuers who had to fight them off whilst in RHIB. Protagonists temporarily plasti-cuffed and returned to SEIV.
- · UAs claimed children had died on journey, but no substantiating proof was given.
- Fire lit by Iranian/Iraqi males on foredeck, under the raised forepeak where the Afghani males were sitting and ivo fuel drums. BP extinguished fire.
- · Informed of a concurrent small fire aft, extinguished by BP.
- Family group on foredeck were holding child over the side of the vessel as the QRF RHIB
  approached. Family told to move back from rail by QRF/BP.
- 6 UA jumped overboard from stbd foredeck. Rest of UAs told not to jump into sea by UA translator.
- Awning covering foredeck ripped down, leaving no shade. One male attempted to use the
  wooded boom of awning as a weapon in crowded foredeck area. Several 3-4" nails in end of
  boom. I forcibly dispossessed UA of boom after request to drop it was refused.
- Bridge window smashed by female UA from inside the bridge, all glass was recovered by BP and thrown over side.
- · UA attempted self-harm with knife, disarmed by BP member.
- 3 male UA rushed to jump overboard on port side of firedeck, in doing so pushed one BP member into water and a QRF female overboard. She managed to hold onto side of SIEV and 2 of us pulled her back onto deck. One UA could not swim, but had life jacket on. UA friend or relative jumped in to save him. 3 were recovered and temporarily plasti-cuffed, 4th was allowed to return to the foredeck.
- Elderly female UA doused herself and drank diesel (claimed, never substantiated ie did
  not become ill). Sustained chemical burn injuries, which became apparent later in the
  operation.

## Statement in the matter of: STEAMING PARTY OPERATIONS SIEV 12

		Rank:	CPONPO
Full Name:	Andrew Paul TEMPLETON	Rain.	CI OITI C

Official Number:

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Service Address: HS SHIP CREW WHITE

 My full name is Andrew Paul TEMPLETON; I am 42 years of age. I am a currently posted to HS ship Crew White, where I am employed as the Chief Petty Officer Naval Police Coxswain. I have been in the Royal Australian Navy for 27 years.

- One of my duties onboard HS White Crew is to act as a leader of one of the ships three Steaming Parties. It was whilst carrying out that function that I was involved in the activities concerning SIEV 12.
  - 3. From 17 December 2001 until 21 December 2001, myself assisted by LSHSO C STREETS M8077833 and ABMT C EASTLEY F8110481 acted as the Steaming Party during standing afternoon and middle watches. The hours of these watches were 1200 'til 1600 and 2359 until 0400. At all times the watch was maintained from SIEV 12.
  - 4. During my time onboard I observed the following actions by the UA's under my control. From 1200 17 December the SIEV was quiet. From the commencement of this watch most of the activities concerning the Steaming Party dealt with the control of the flooding within the engine space and running of pump lines. These matters were handled and 1600 were controlling the flooding.
  - At 1415 that same day, one previously evacuated UA was returned to SIEV 12 and all UA's were issued fresh water for drinking. No events of note were recorded.
- 6. The 2359/0400 18 December was quiet all UA's were sleeping on upper decks, some arguments developed between UA groups at about 0200 however these quieted down of their own accord approximately 15 minutes after commencing.
  - 7. During the 1200/1600 watch that same day, a medical clinic was conducted by the ships Medical Officer commencing at 1200 and concluding at about 1300. At 1445, I recalled the Ships Medical Officer to the SIEV to attend to a UA who had allegedly fainted. This person was treated for mild dehydration and placed in an area where his actions could be closer observed. No other incidents occurred during the watch.

8. The 2359/0400 watch on December 19 was quiet with all UA's asleep for duration of watch.