

At 1000 on 26 May, President Marcos of the Republic of the Philippines opened the exercise at a ceremony in Manila, and at 1054, KYES was underway for the Philippine Sea. KYES steamed in company with HMS CLEOPATRA (F-28) and operated with elements of ASW Group I, Destroyer Squadron 23 and various SEATO units including HMAS MELBOURNE (CVS-21). On 28 May, KYES fired 16 salvos from her 5" 38 caliber mount 52. During other phases of the exercise KYES held Anti-Air Warfare and Anti-Submarine Warfare drills and exercised helo in-flight refueling and vertical replenishment techniques.

Manila Bay provided a one day rest from the exercise on 29 May; however at 0512 on 30 May, KYES was again underway continuing operation "Sea Spirit". Exercise itinerary had the Seato Group headed for Sattahip, Thailand, meaning a stop at Bangkok.

KYES continued screen duties, ASW and AAW alertness for four days.

Routine at 0316 on 3 June 1969. KYES quartermaster's notebook notes:

"HMAS MELBOURNE and USS EVANS have hit." By 0318 KYES had been detailed to pick up survivors. Seven minutes later the Captain had the conn. Two minutes following, at 0327 Exercise Sea Spirit ceased and with all the skill and effort she could muster, KYES joined the ships of Operation Sea Spirit in trying to mitigate the tragedy.

"999 for maneuvering!" "Away the motor whale boat!" The motor whaleboat carried 100 feet of hose to the USS LARSON (DD830) salvage crew aboard the stern section of EVANS. She brought three life rafts in tow to KYES. Empty. "0517 observed sunrise."

KYES departed the collision area with ASW I enroute Subic Bay, and on 6 June KYES tied up to Riviera Pier for an upkeep period and pre-gun line replenishment. By 17 June preparation was completed and KYES departed Subic Bay enroute to the gun line, off the coast of III Corp, Republic of Vietnam.

On 19 June KYES anchored off Saigon River in the Republic of Vietnam for Naval Gunfire Support. KYES lent her firepower in support of Australian forces 16 miles from Vung Tau. KYES fired on four VC base camps and was credited with one bunker destroyed. Her missions on subsequent days were even more successful. On 20 June she moved from Vung Ganh Rai, RVN, to Song Nga Bay. There KYES destroyed 5 bunkers and 3 military structures 16 kms from Vung Tau - VC base camp destroyed. She returned to Vung Ganh Rai on the 21st of June, where an Army Public Affairs Officer boarded KYES for a first hand look at Naval Gunfire Support. On the 22nd KYES began a slow coastal patrol at Pt. Joey and continued station keeping at Pt. Joey until 24 June when she proceeded to Pt. Kim. On 22 June KYES hit enemy positions 13 miles north of Qui Nhon. Six military structures destroyed, nine damaged.

Next day enemy losses totaled one structure destroyed, two damaged in an enemy complex 15 miles north of Qui Nhon. On 24 June KYES shelled VC positions 6 miles from Tuy Hoa supporting ARVN forces. Five bunkers and one weapons position destroyed. 25 June KYES was on station at Pt. Kim continuing her Naval Gunfire Support mission. KYES shelled a VC position 7 miles from Tuy Hoa, three bunkers were destroyed. KYES aided 47th ARVN Regiment during a Viet Cong attack near Tuy Hoa on 26 June. KYES fired illumination and destroyed 10 VC bunkers in two supporting fire missions.