DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CURTS (FFG 38)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CURTS (FFG 38)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY USS CURTS (FFG 38), YEAR 1985 ~~(Q)~~ 1985

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

1. In accordance with reference (a), the 1985 Command History of USS CURTS (FFG 38) is hereby submitted.

2. January: Following Christmas leave and upkeep, CURTS continued workups for the upcoming refresher training, successfully completing her first operations with an embarked LAMPS MK III detachment. A port visit to San Francisco with USS WADDELL followed, the CURTS first visit to the pictureque city. CURTS returned to Long Beach, CA on 27 January and remained inport for the rest of the month.

3. February: The first two weeks of February were spent inport Long Beach, CA. The last two weeks of the month were spent at sea as the test platform for CNO Special Project 142-1, testing the MK 15, Block One, Close in Weapon System (CIWS). During the testing CURTS own CIWS mount was removed and stored in Pomona, CA.

4. March: The first week of March was spent completing the CNO Special Project. During this time the CURTS also exercises her MK 76 gun mount and experienced a misfire when a primer failed to detonate. An EOD team from North Island NAS was requested and the round removed from the barrel. The 12th of March found CURTS inport San Diego, CA for a very successful Training Readiness Evaluation. On that day CURTS received orders to prepare for a short notice Central American Operation. The next five days were spent hastily preparing for the short notice operation and onloading ammunition. CURTS left for Central America on 19 March, conducting numerous battle and damage control drills on the transit south.

5. April: The Central American operation continued until 10 April. During the operation CURTS made her first foreign port visit to Rodman, Panama. On the transit home CURTS made a port visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. CURTS arrived back in home port on 18 April. The transit home was dedicated to honing skills for the upcoming refresher training. Refresher Training began on the 22nd of April and continued for three weeks.

6. May: Refresher Training ended 10 May with a mass conflaguration exercise involving the whole ship. CURTS received a score of outstanding for this difficult exercise and was named an overall star performer by Commander, Fleet Training Group. Immediately following refresher training, CURTS headed north to offload ammunition at Indian Island Naval Weapons Station on 15 May. This transit marked the first time CURTS had navigated the Straits of Juan de Fuqua. CURTS' crew celebrated her successful refresher training in Port Townsend, WA on the night of 15 May, a hearty celebration. Following the ammunition offload CURTS visited Tacoma, WA for Armed Forces Week festivities. Some 1400 persons visited CURTS while in Tacoma. CURTS left Tacoma on 21 May, returning to Long Beach, CA on 24 May, and remaining pierside for the remainder of the month.

7. June: CURTS remained inport during the month of June. On 3 June CURTS began an intermediate availability to install the AN/SQR-19 Towed Array Sonar System. This installation was the first time this sonar had been installed on an FFG-7 class ship. The month of May also saw the departure of the commissioning Executive Officer, CDR James Clark and the commissioning Main Propulsion Assistant, CWO3 G. F. Peck.

8. July: CURTS remained inport Long Beach, CA during this month continuing her intermediate availability.

9. August: CURTS finished her availability on 27 August and two days of sea trials followed, during which time the new SQR-19 sonar installation was tested. This month saw the departure of the commissioning ASW Officer, LT D. M. Stemmler.

10. September: The first week of September was spent inport preparing for CURTS' first change of command. On 8 September CURTS' commissioning Commanding Officer, CDR J. R. Tinsley was relieved by CDR T. A. French. Two weeks of ASW refresher training followed the change of command, during which time CURTS' combat team was introduced to the capabilities of the newly installed sonar. The last day of the month CURTS onloaded ammunition at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA. The commissioning CIC Officer, LT P. D. Huscher also departed this month.

11. October: The first eleven days of October were spent in COMPTUEX 86-1, the beginning of work ups for CURTS upcoming deployment with BATTLE GROUP FOXTROT. While enroute to Long Beach, CA after the completion of COMPTUEX, CURTS received orders effecting her transfer from DESTROYER SQUADRON TWENTY THREE to DESTROYER SQUADRON THIRTY ONE, the Pacific Fleet ASW Squadron. These new orders cancelled CURTS' deployment with BATTLE GROUP FOXTROT. Upon arrival in Long Beach on 11 October, three days of intensive preparation were begun for CURTS' first operation with her new squadron. On 15 October CURTS departed Long Beach for ASWOPS 86-1. During this very successful operation CURTS proved the value of the SQQ-89 system by acheiving multiple CZ contacts and numerous constructive kills with her embarked SH-60 helicopter. ASWOPS 86-1 ended on the last day of October.

12. November: The first three days of the month found CURTS inport Esquimalt, Canada for a port visit following her recent ASW operation. CURTS left Esquimalt on 4 November for Long Beach, CA. Upon arrival in Long Beach on 8 November CURTS began preparations for her second availability. The availability began on 25 November.

13. December: The second availability continued until 15 December and three days of post availability sea trials followed. On 20 December CURTS onloaded ammunition at Seal Beach, CA. The rest of the month was spent in holiday leave and upkeep inport Long Beach, CA.

T. A. FRENCH