DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40)
FLEET POST OFFICE
MIAMI 34091-1495

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40)

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Encl: (1) Command History of USS HALYBURTON for 1985

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. K. PETERS

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington, DC 20374

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COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1985
USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40)

1 January 1985 saw USS HALYBURTON four months into a six month Post Shakedown Repair Availability at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine. Major work accomplished were upgrades to fire control and weapons systems, installation of fin stabilizers, installation of Helo Recovery Assistance System (RAST), installation of a LAMPS MKIII data link, additional acoustic processors and improvements to installed shipboard firefighting systems. HALYBURTON successfully completed an Engineering Light Off Examination on 12-13 February and sailed away from Bath on 1 March. HALYBURTON's PSA was the largest work package conducted on a FFG (25 weeks, 35,000 mandays). All systems and equipment were fully operational.

On 1 March, HALYBURTON operated with a LAMPS MKIII SH-60B helo to conduct a number of operational trials with the RAST and data link systems. HALYBURTON arrived at the Yorktown Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA for ammunition onload on 4 March. The ship then conducted 3 days of at-sea exercises arriving at Charleston, SC, on 9 March. From the end of March to mid May HALYBURTON conducted a series of 3 to 4 day operations in preparation for Refresher Training in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

During April, LAMPS MKIII Helo Qualifications were completed in the Charleston OPAREAS. On 30 April HALYBURTON sailed to Grenada, mooring at St. George's, Grenada on 2 May. The United States Charge D'Affaires, CO of the U.S. Military Support Element, Commissioner of the Royal Grenada Police Force, President of the Grenada Senate, Head of the Grenada Methodist Church and the President of the Chamber of Commerce were hosted. HALYBURTON's crew assisted in training and material support of the Grenadian Coast Guard Cutter TYRREL BAY and conducted community relations projects. Upon completion of the Grenada port visit, USS HALYBURTON conducted ASW operations off Cherry Point, NC from 6-8 May.

From 24 May to 11 June, HALYBURTON was assigned to the Charleston Midshipmen Training Squadron. The training squadron included USS AYLWIN (FF 1081), USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD 981), USS NICHOLSON (DD 982), USS MACDONOUGH (DDG 39) and USS MONONGAHELA (AO 178). At the beginning of the cruise HALYBURTON made a port visit in Ft. Lauderdale, FL from 28-31 May. Midshipmen training took HALYBURTON back to the Caribbean for exercises and operations. On 2 June, HALYBURTON conducted an emergency MEDEVAC at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, then rejoined the training squadron and participated in a Missile Exercise on 3 June at the Atlantic Fleet Missile Range, Puerto Rico, successfully firing a SM-1 missile. June 4th saw the ship at anchor at St. Martin, Netherland Antilles. On 9 June HALYBURTON refueled at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, then returned to Charleston.

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From 17 June to 20 July HALYBURTON conducted Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During this period the Engineering Department successfully completed OPPE Certification.

HALYBURTON returned to Charleston 22 July, conducting helo operations off the Florida coast. On 21 July, HALYBURTON embarked and operated two LAMPS MKIII helos, a first for any FFG. Detachment 5 of Light Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 42 officially joined the ship.

From 22 July to 23 August, HALYBURTON was in an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV I) in Charleston. During this maintenance period all departments upgraded their equipment and readiness in preparation for the North Atlantic. The LAMPS pack-up kit with helo repair parts was onloaded the first week of August. On 20 August, HALYBURTON onloaded ammunition at Naval Weapons Station Charleston and then got underway for an overnight sea trial.

HALYBURTON deployed on 26 August for NATO Exercise Ocean Safari and BALTOPS '85. HSL-42 Det 5 flew on board embarking two SH-60B LAMPS helos. HALYBURTON set course for a point 200 miles south of Nova Scotia.

On 28 August, HALYBURTON joined USS AMERICA (CV 66), USS IOWA (BB 61) and USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) in NATO Exercise Ocean Safari. Ocean Safari was designed to test NATO capability to form and protect convoys for resupply of Europe. On 30 August, HALYBURTON participated in a missile firing exercise on the Mobile Sea Range. HALYBURTON successfully fired two surface-to-air missiles.

After the missile exercise, HALYBURTON and Battleship IOWA joined and commenced operations as a Battleship Surface Action Group. The Battleship SAG operated north of the convoys and the Carrier Battle Group but within range to make interdiction against hostile forces possible. The SAG entered the Denmark Straits and proceeded north along the coast of Greenland. On 6 September HALYBURTON and IOWA crossed the Arctic Circle.

HALYBURTON rejoined USS AMERICA on 10 September south of Iceland and then proceeded north to the Norwegian Sea for Vestfjord operations.

On 13 September, the ship held emergency flight quarters for a British H3 helicopter that had a hydraulic leak. The helo was recovered safely and was repaired and launched the following day.

On 20 September HALYBURTON recovered a man overboard from USS DETROIT in the Norwegian Vestfjord. HALYBURTON was assigned lifeguard station astern of the DETROIT while she replenished ships in the Battle Group. The man was rescued by shipboard recovery in 6 minutes, treated for hypothermia, and returned to DETROIT.

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Upon completion of Exercise Ocean Safari and upon commencement of BALTOPS '85, HALYBURTON completed a series of port visits: 22-25 September: Kristiansund Norway, 27-30 September: Oslo Norway, 1-7 October: Aalborg Denmark; 8-12 October: Goteborg Sweden.

HALYBURTON conducted BALTOPS Exercise in the Baltic Sea 14-19 October. Ships participating in the exercise included: USS IOWA, USS TICONDEROGA, USS PHARRIS, USS MERRIMACK, HMS LIVERPOOL, HMDS PEDER SKRAM, HMDS NILIS JUEL, FGS MOLDERS, FGS HARZ, FGS SPESSART, FGS RHEINLAN-PFALZ and the FGS AUGSBURG.

HALYBURTON was inport Kiel West Germany for a post BALTOPS port visit 19-26 October. HALYBURTON then transited the Atlantic, returning to Craney Island, Virginia for DEPERMING on 6 November. On 7 November the ship was underway for Charleston, South Carolina, arriving 8 November.

From 18 November to 18 December the ship was assigned IMAV II with USS SIERRA. A Command Inspection was conducted by COMDESRON SIX 3-5 December; all areas were satisfactory.

From 19-20 December, HALYBURTON conducted sea trials in the local Charleston OPAREAS. The ship completed the year inport in a holiday upkeep status.

During 1985 HALYBURTON was assigned to Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Two, and Commander, Destroyer Squadron Six. HALYBURTON's homeport is Charleston, SC. Ship Company Officers assigned at 31 December 1985 are: Commanding Officer, CDR Robert K. Peters, USN; LCDR Sterling R. Spencer, USN, Executive Officer; LT Dan A. Tansey, USN, Combat Systems Officer; LT John W. Mickelson, USN, Engineer Officer; LT Robert T. Pletl Jr., USN, Ship Control Officer; LT Glen A. Kohlhagen, USNR, Support Officer; LT Roy C. Vaughan, USN, Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer; LT Russell J. Vranicar, USN, Combat Information Center Officer; LT Kevin R. Hempel, USNR, Main Propulsion Assistant; LT Stephen T. Mercer, USN, Ordnance Officer, LT David J. Dickinson, USN, Damage Control Assistant; ENS Marc D. Sviland, USN, Electronics Readiness Officer; and ENS Sidney J. Kim, USNR, Disbursing Officer. HALYBURTON's Command Master Chief is BMCM Edward "D" Pinyon, USN.