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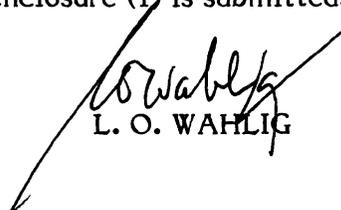
From: Commanding Officer, USS KLAKRING (FFG 42)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5720.1C

Encl: (1) Command History on USS KLAKRING (FFG 42) for 1983

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


L. O. WAHLIG

COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS KLAKRING (FFG 42) FOR 1983

On 10 January 1983, Precommissioning Unit KLAKRING was officially established at Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Virginia. While several officers and administrative personnel had been working in Norfolk since late 1982, it was not until January that the precommissioning training and pipeline events officially began.

Bath Iron Works' Hull 386 was christened KLAKRING in a ceremony on 18 September 1982. As Mrs. Beverly Bohlen, niece of Rear Admiral Thomas Burton KLAKRING, cracked the bottle of champagne on her stem, the ship entered the water of the Kennebec River for the first time. KLAKRING's motto succinctly states the standard of excellence demanded by her namesake, a famous World War II submarine commander: "Freedom Through Vigilance."

KLAKRING put to sea for the first time on 23 May 1983 for Builder's Trials. Although the first crewmembers had arrived in Bath on 08 March 1983 to establish the office of the Prospective Commanding Officer KLAKRING at the FFG-7 Fleet Introduction Team, the ship still belonged to Bath Iron Works. These trials were to establish that all BIW performance criteria had been met.

Throughout the spring, crewmembers reported to Precommissioning Unit KLAKRING in Norfolk at a steady rate. The Combat Systems team underwent an intensive month of Combat Systems Operational Team Training (CSOTT) in San Diego during May. All personnel received necessary training and then moved north to augment the nucleus crew in Bath.

On 27 June, KLAKRING was underway again, this time for Acceptance Trials. The Navy Board of Inspection and Survey took a look at her and recommended acceptance by and delivery to the U. S. Navy.

Training and preparations at both crew sites proceeded at a rapid pace as commissioning day neared. Precommissioning Unit KLAKRING boasted over one hundred crewmembers, as first edition ballcaps and T-shirts sold out overnight.

Finally, the big day arrived: move aboard. On 29 July 1983, the balance crew left Norfolk for the last time, and KLAKRING's 186 sailors and 15 officers became one crew at last.

The pace did not let up. With delivery of the ship to the U. S. Navy on 05 August 1983, CDR L. O. WAHLIG, PCO KLAKRING, accepted the ship from Mr. William Haggett, Chief Executive of Bath Iron Works.

The weekend of 20 August was a memorable one for all of KLAKRING. A break from the heavy workload was welcome, as, on a beautiful sun-drenched New England day, KLAKRING entered commissioned service. Emotions ran high as the band played and speeches were heard from Rear Admiral George W. DAVIS, Jr., Deputy Commander for Surface Ships, Naval Sea Systems Command, Captain E. C. WEBSTER; Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Bath, Maine and Mr. William Haggett, to name a few. The first watch was set, an onboard reception held, and a much-deserved celebration began.

The Brunswick National Guard Armory was the scene of the party as crewmembers and guests danced the night away and revelled in their accomplishments.

The respite was brief, as 08 September saw a successful Light-Off Examination, followed by Initial Crew Certification on 15 September. Finally, KLAKRING and her crew headed down the Kennebec River on 19 September for the first time, Charleston-bound.

A brief stop in Newport, Rhode Island gave the crew its first chance at a sea and anchor detail. An UNREP of opportunity with USS SURIBACHI quickly established KLAKRING as a front-runner. Despite the inexperience of her crew, the entire operation went perfectly.

Finally, 28 September saw the FIGHTING 42 come home. Family and friends cheered as the long separation ended. The pier was lined with well-wishers, and banners hung as KLAKRING maneuvered up the Cooper River for the first time.

The reunion was all too brief, as 06 October brought a Training Readiness Evaluation, and 01 November departure for Shakedown Training. Prior to facing Guantanamo Bay Shakedown, KLAKRING made a port call at St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands from 04 to 07 November. 13 November through 03 December was spent in the high-tempo training environment of Guantanamo Bay. All went well, and KLAKRING departed 3½ days ahead of schedule.

The next test on the agenda was the Weapons Systems Accuract Test (WSAT) accomplished at Port Everglades, Florida, from 05 to 10 December. Successful torpedo firings on the Andros Island range on 13 December completed that evolution, and KLAKRING returned for the holidays.

Arriving in Charleston on 16 December 1983, the officers and crew entered a much-deserved Christmas stand-down period, a welcome end to a busy first year.