



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS DETROIT (AOE-4)  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DETROIT (AOE 4)  
To: Director of Naval History (Op-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B  
(b) CNO ltr Ser 09BH:2138 of 13 Jul 79  
(c) CNO ltr Ser 09BH:2284 of 1 Nov 79

1978

Encl: (1) Summary of Command History  
(2) Chronological History  
(3) Biography of Captain Herbert A. Hope, Jr., USN, Commanding  
Officer  
(4) Ship Specifications

1. In accordance with reference (a), and as requested by references (b) and (c), the command history for USS DETROIT (AOE-4) is submitted for the period 1 January 1978 to 31 December 1978.

(b) (6)

By direction

Copy to:  
COMSERVRON TWO (w/o encls)

December 5, 1979

## JANUARY

The USS DETROIT (AOE-4) began the new year in Norfolk, Virginia just having returned from a Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and a weapons load at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown. The majority of the month was spent in a PRAV, getting the ship's machinery fixed with Ship's Force personnel, SIMA Norfolk and Moon Engineering Company working day and night on the ship's two Main Machinery Rooms. The ship continued training of ALL HANDS in Engineering and Damage Control drills for the up-coming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). The ship got underway on 30 January for a 5 day sea trial to conduct boiler flexes, air tracking exercises and a full power trial.

## FEBRUARY

The first three days of February were spent at sea doing very important training for both the Engineering Department and the Operations Department. The remainder of the month was spent in Norfolk conducting drills and getting ready for the OPPE.

## MARCH

March turned out to be a very busy month with an extended deployment just one short month away. The first two days of March were spent at sea doing drills and conducting sea trials on machinery. The ship went back to sea from 6-11 March with a COMNAVSURFLANT Mobile Training Team (MTT) on board. We arrived back in Norfolk on a Sunday and the Supply Department had to load chill and freeze hull load for the next six months. On Monday, 13 March, the CINCLANTFLT OPPE Team advance party was on board to give written exams to selected personnel. On Tuesday, 14 March, the full OPPE Team came aboard, finished the written examinations, conducted the Inport Material Inspection, certified the ship ready for sea and the ship departed for the Underway OPPE. The ship returned to Norfolk late the next day, having finished the OPPE. DETROIT had successfully passed the OPPE with the exception of the state of training of the BT's. Only 3 of the 5 watch teams had passed the casualty control drill exams and for this reason the OPPE would have to be repeated to certify the 2 watch teams. The ship spent the next three days in port fixing machinery and left again on the 20th for two days with the COMNAVSURFLANT MTT embarked. DETROIT came back to port but this time moored at the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, for an ammo load adjust. Through the valiant efforts of the Supply Officer (LCDR (b) (6)), the First Lieutenant (LCDR (b) (6)) and the Cargo Ordnance Officer (CWO2 (b) (6)), DETROIT completed the 10 day weapons load in 7 days while still observing all safety rules. The ship departed Yorktown on 30 March, stayed at sea for the rest of the day with the MTT embarked, moored at the fuel piers at Craney Island and began pumping fuel as soon as we moored. The next

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morning the OPPE Team returned and conducted the RE-OPPE. The ship passed the OPPE and was certified ready for deployment.

#### APRIL

The first three days of April were spent at Craney Island taking on fuel and getting ready for deployment. On 3 April Captain Hope gave a dependent briefing at the Naval Station Auditorium and HC-6 DET 3 and EOD Group TWO DET ECHO came aboard. The ship departed for an extended deployment at 1000 on 4 April from Craney Island. We had the first of many UNREP's at 1400. The 4th through the 14th was spent transiting to Rota, Spain with the FORRESTAL Group consisting of USS FORRESTAL CV-59, H.E. YARNELL CG-17, ADAMS DDG-2, DEWEY, DDG-45, JONAS INGRAM DD-938, SURIBACHI AE-21, BLAKELY FF-1072, TRIPPE FF-1075, AYLWIN FF-1081 and DETROIT AOE-4. DETROIT completed 27 UNREPS in transit and conducted numerous coordination and communications drills and arrived in Rota, Spain on 14 April. On 15 April, COMSIXTHFLT, Admiral Harry Train II, visited the ship. DETROIT spent four days in Rota conducting turn-over and taking on fuel and other stores. Because so many ships were in Rota, liberty was limited for E-3 and below. Only 500 E-3 were granted liberty by SOPA and DETROIT's allocation of this 500 was 45. On the 19th DETROIT transited the Straits of Gibraltar and entered the Mediterranean. The ten days at sea were busy ones, conducting 23 UNREPs, with a gun shoot, GQ, and abandon ship drill on 26 April. DETROIT arrived Naples, Italy on 30 April completing the month of April with 50 UNREP's.

#### MAY

The first 8 days of May were spent in Naples. This was a working port and flight quarters were held almost daily. On the 9th of May DETROIT went to sea for 4 days, conducting 8 UNREP's. On 11 May the DETROIT and two ships alongside (ADAMS & TRIPPE) had a close call when a Greek merchant vessel suddenly crossed our path during a night UNREP, necessitating the UNREP Group to drop speed at 2 knot intervals to 10 knots until the tanker had safely passed. The ship arrived in Augusta Bay, Sicily on 13 ~~May~~ <sup>August</sup> and loaded fuel, 6,000 gallons of milk and 7,000 lbs of mail for the USS FORRESTAL. It was necessary to load the milk for FORRESTAL because she had flooded her storage spaces containing her milk and had to be resupplied. On the 15th and 16th the ship was in the Central Tyrennian Sea and on 15 May replenished 4 NATO ships from other navies; HMS FALMOUTH from England, ITS INTREPIDO from Italy, TGC ISKENDRUN from Turkey and HS KOUNTOURIOTIS from Greece. On 17 May DETROIT arrived Souda Bay, Crete and delivered the milk to FORRESTAL. Upon completion of the milk/mail lift the ship went skin-to-skin with USNS MISSISSINAWA and conducted a fuel lift. While we were in Souda Bay a Soviet warship came close by but did not receive any fuel. ALL HANDS got a good look at one of the Soviet Navy's first line of defense ships and all were impressed by the heavy array of armament. Not many Soviet personnel were seen topside. Having completed the fuel lift

DETROIT left Souda Bay at 1900 and spent 18 May transiting and 19 May in Augusta Bay. On 20 and 21 May DETROIT got underway for Venice and had a cook-out on the flight deck on 21 May. From 22-26 May DETROIT made a visit to Venice, Italy and most of the crew got a chance to see the famous St. Mark's Square, the canals, art museums, casinos and the twisting narrow streets of the city. Small detractors from the visit was the long boat ride to Fleet Landing which took up to sixty minutes and the cool wind coming in off the Swiss Alps. The 27th and 28th was spent transiting to Augusta and the rest of the month was spent in Augusta Bay. May was not quite as busy as April, conducting only 14 underway replenishments.

## JUNE

The first two days of June were spent in Augusta Bay. The Officers and CPO's played two softball games, the officers winning one and the CPO's winning the second game. The next six days (3-8) were spent at sea with DETROIT replenishing FORRESTAL on the 6th and transiting the Straits of Messina on the 7th. From the 9th to the 19th the crew spent a well deserved rest in Athens, Greece, anchored in Piraeus Harbor. The crew had a chance to visit the Parthenon, the Acropolis and other places of the history books. On the last day a German National tried to come aboard by climbing the jacob's ladder on the starboard boat boom. A crew member spotted him and called away the security force. He was brought to the Quarterdeck and sent ashore in the P-Boat and turned over to the Greek Police. A well done was received by the ship and her security force for her swift action in preventing an intrusion attempt. The next six days (20-27) were busy days at sea conducting 16 UNREP's and transiting the Straits of Messina on 26 June. From 28 to 30 June DETROIT had one of the best liberty port visits in the cruise. The DETROIT was invited to Finale Ligure on the Italian Riviera to help the city celebrate the Festival of Saints Peter and Paul. The city was extremely friendly and had a red carpet rolled out on the beach that was made into a Fleet Landing. There was singing and dancing in the streets and the ship hosted about 2,000 visitors. DETROIT departed on the 30th and headed South. In June, 17 UNREP's were completed.

## JULY

The first of July was spent transiting South and the 2nd through the 4th was spent in port at Taormina, Sicily and the 5th through the 10th was spent at sea doing UNREP's. On 10 July, the USS FORRESTAL was the 100th ship alongside and a commemorative 100 cake was sent over. The 11th was a short stop at Augusta Bay and on the 12th DETROIT transited the Straits of Messina and arrived in Naples. The 13th through the 15th was spent in Naples and our new Executive Officer, CDR Raymond Belanger and the new ship's doctor LT (b) (6) came aboard. The 16th through the 18th was spent at sea doing 8 UNREP's arriving Augusta Bay at 2200 on 18 July. On the 20th and 21st DETROIT was underway doing 7 more

UNREP's and returned to Augusta Bay at 2000 on the 21st. The 22nd was spent in Augusta Bay getting ready for NATIONAL WEEK. From the 23rd through the 27th DETROIT replenished 15 ships during NATIONAL WEEK and returned to Augusta Bay on the 28th where the Executive Officer, CDR Philip Athanas and the ship's Doctor, LT (b) (6), departed. On the 29th DETROIT participated in the WORLD FAMOUS NATIONAL WEEK MOTOR WHALE BOAT RACE AND REGATTA (WFNWMWBR&R) and DETROIT placed sixth in the race out of 18 entrants and second overall in the combined events. On the 30th DETROIT did another first by consoling with the SS SEALIFT ANTARCTIC, a special ship chartered by the Sealift Command to test her capability to replenish AO's, AOR's, and AOE's of the U.S. Navy. On the 31st DETROIT transited the Straits of Messina one more time and arrived Augusta on the 31st. On the 31st a DETROIT RUN FOR FUN MARATHON was conducted with over 50 persons entering in the 10KM race on the hills surrounding Augusta Bay. Midshipman KALOOEY of the Norwegian Navy, on board DETROIT as part of the FOREXTRAMID Program, finished first in the close to 100 degree heat. A cookout and beer-on-the-pier brought the busy month of July to a successful close. Over 50 ships were replenished in July.

#### AUGUST

The first two days of August were spent in Augusta Bay, getting underway on 3 August, replenishing 7 ships on 3 and 4 August. On 5 August a man overboard drill was conducted and a brief stop was made in Naples on 6 August, leaving the same day and arriving Augusta Bay on 7 August. After a one day stop the ship departed Augusta, the gunners mates had a gun shoot, and the ship arrived in Crotone, Italy on the Southern Coast in the Province of Reggio Calabria on 9 August. On the last night in Crotone a sudden storm came up which cancelled boating and required the Captain, XO, and the duty section to get the ship underway to keep from dragging anchor. As all the hotels were filled to capacity the 110 men left ashore were put up at the Italian Navy Base Headquarters Building overnight until boating could resume the next morning. The ship got underway on the 12th and stayed at sea until 21 August. Twenty-eight (28) replenishments were conducted during a 9 day period. The ship spent 23-29 in Naples and departed for Gaeta, Italy on the 30th. The 31st of August was spent getting the ship ready for the SIXTH Fleet Change of Command on 1 September.

#### SEPTEMBER

1 September saw the DETROIT in Gaeta, Italy acting as helo platform for military and civilian dignitaries arriving for the SIXTH Fleet Change of Command Ceremony held on board the USS ALBANY CG-10. The dignitaries were boated to ALBANY and back to DETROIT and then heloed back to Naples. The ship departed Gaeta and spent 2-3

September in Naples and the 5th in Augusta Bay. The last increment of the Midshipmen were debarked and the ship got underway on 6 September. From 6-9 September DETROIT participated in an OPEN OCEAN MISSILE EXERCISE in the Gulf of Sidra, replenished 15 ships and got to fire two NATO SEA SPARROW missiles at a target drone and scored a hit on both shots. DETROIT was the finest shooter out of 8 ships firing missiles. DETROIT later won the Missile "E" for her excellence in missile shooting. After a brief stop in Augusta Bay on 10 September DETROIT departed for Barcelona, Spain, arriving on 13 September. The remainder of the month was spent in Barcelona where the crew got another well earned rest and the Engineers had a chance to get the main feed pumps fixed by the Barcelona Shipyard.

## OCTOBER

The first of October saw the DETROIT at sea. The weather was very rough with seas from 16-20 feet from the 1st to the 4th. Nevertheless, DETROIT unrepped 7 ships during this time and on the 5th of October the USS HARRY E. YARNELL CG-17 was the 200th ship alongside during the cruise and received a commemorative cake. A picture was taken of the cake and sent to SOUNDINGS, the Norfolk Naval Base newspaper and appeared in the 26 October issue, along with our homecoming article. The 11th through the 14th of October was spent in Rota, Spain, taking on fuel for the transit to CONUS and conducting a turn-over with the two ships sent to replace us (USS MILWAUKEE AOR-4 and USS SANTA BARBARA AE-28). On 12 October, while the ship was in port Rota the DETROIT was tasked to get underway to UNREP two ships. During this UNREP evolution, SN (b) (6) from the Deck Department fell overboard at night. As the FORRESTAL had just broken away from the DETROIT and still had a helicopter in the air, the FORRESTAL picked up SN (b) (6) within 5 minutes. SN (b) (6) was retrieved unharmed, taken to sick bay on the FORRESTAL for a physical check, and returned to DETROIT the following day. On 15 October the DETROIT departed Rota for the transit home to Norfolk, Va. To combat "channel fever" the ship remained busy, conducting 22 UNREP's, held daily drills, had two gun shoots, had personnel inspection, field day and a zone inspection that insured the ship looked her best for arrival in Yorktown on 26 October. The ship arrived at Yorktown at 1305 on 26 October. Families had to be bussed from Norfolk or provide their own transportation and had to remain in the Yorktown Weapons Station Gym until the ship was ready to approach the pier. BMC (b) (6) won the anchor pool. On arrival, a team from Human Resources Management Center, Norfolk came aboard to start the DETROIT on another cycle of inspections, assist visits, acceptance trials, etc. The gunners mates and FT's would have to postpone their post-deployment rest period until the ammo was off-loaded during a 10 day ammo off-load.

## NOVEMBER

November saw the DETROIT in Yorktown, continuing to off-load her

ammo until 6 November when the ship arrived at Craney Island to take on fuel. On the morning of 7 November DETROIT departed Craney Island and arrived at her homeport, Norfolk. The remainder of November was spent in port Norfolk, receiving new personnel and getting them indoctrinated and continuing the Human Resources Availability (HRAV). The Supply Department underwent a Supply Management Inspection 28-29 November and received a grade of OUTSTANDING.

#### DECEMBER

December was started inport in Norfolk getting ready for the Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) when the COMSERVRON TWO Staff came aboard. This was the first chance our new Commodore had been able to visit the ship since it had been administratively transferred from COMSERVRON FOUR to COMSERVRON TWO. The ship conducted the CSRR from 4-8 December and returned to Pier 25 and was one of the first ships to be moored to this brand new pier at Naval Base Norfolk. The remainder of December was spent in port at Pier 25, Norfolk. A dependent's Christmas party was held on the ship on 16 December and many of the children were on board to receive gifts, a special dinner, and to see Santa Claus.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORYUSS DETROIT (AOE-4) - HOMEPORT, NORFOLK, VA

1-29 JAN IN PORT NORFOLK, VA FOR PRAV WITH SIMA NORVA  
30JAN-3 FEB SEA TRIALS, VACAPES  
4-28 FEB IN PORT NORFOLK  
1-2 MAR SEA TRIALS - VACAPES  
3-5 MAR IN PORT NORFOLK  
6-11 MAR SEA TRIALS - VACAPES  
12-13 MAR IN PORT NORFOLK - INPORT OPPE  
14-15 MAR UNDERWAY OPPE - VACAPES  
15-20 MAR INPORT NORFOLK  
20-22 MAR SEA TRIALS - VACAPES  
23-29 MAR WEAPONS LOAD, NAVWEPSTA YORKTOWN, VA  
30 MAR RE-OPPE VACAPES  
31 MAR-3 APR FUEL LIFT CRANEY ISLAND/PREPARATION FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT  
4 APR UNDERWAY FOR EXTENDED DEPLOYMENT TO MEDITERRANEAN  
4-14 APR TRANSIT TO ROTA, SPAIN FOR INCHOP SIXTHFLT  
14-18 APR IN PORT, ROTA, SPAIN  
19-29 APR AT SEA, UNREP OPS, WEST MED  
30 APR-8MAY IN PORT, NAPLES, ITALY  
9 MAY-12 MAY AT SEA, UNREP OPS, EAST MED  
13-14 MAY IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY  
15-16 MAY OPS - EAST MED  
17 MAY IN PORT, SOUDA BAY, CRETE  
18 MAY TRANSIT TO AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY  
19 MAY IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY  
20-21 MAY TRANSIT TO VENICE, ITALY  
22-26 MAY INPORT VENICE ITALY  
27-28 MAY TRANSIT TO AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY  
29 MAY-2 JUN IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY  
3-8 JUN OPS - EAST MED  
9-19 JUN IN PORT, ATHENS, GREECE  
20-27 JUN UNREP OPS, EAST MED  
28-30 JUN PORT VISIT - FINALE LIGURE, ITALY  
1 JUL TRANSIT TO TAORMINA, SICILY  
2-4 JUL PORT VISIT - TAORMINA, SICILY  
5-10 JUL AT SEA - UNREP OPS  
10 JUL FINISHED 100 UNREPS-SENT COMMEMORATIVE 100 CAKE TO  
USS FORRESTAL (CV-59)  
11 JUL INPORT AUGUSTA BAY-UNDERWAY FOR NAPLES, ITALY  
12 JUL ARRIVE NAPLES  
13-15 JUL IN PORT NAPLES, ITALY  
16-18 JUL AT SEA - UNREP OPERATIONS  
19 JUL IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY  
20-21 JUL AT SEA - UNREP OPERATIONS  
22 JUL IN PORT AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY - GETTING READY FOR  
NATIONAL WEEK EXERCISES  
23-27 JUL PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL WEEK - UNREP OPERATIONS  
28-29 JUL IN PORT AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY - PARTICIPATED IN  
WORLD FAMOUS NATIONAL WEEK MOTOR WHALE BOAT RACE AND  
REGATTA (WFNWMWBR&R) PLACED SECOND OVERALL AND SIXTH  
OUT OF 18 IN RACE.

Enclosure (2)

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORYUSS DETROIT (AOE-4) HOMEPORT NORFOLK, VA

30 JUL CONSOL WITH SS SEALIFT ANTARCTIC-FIRST TIME  
AOE-MSC CHARTER SHIP

31 JUL TRANSIT STRAITS OF MESSINA-ARRIVAL AUGUSTA BAY  
CONDUCT FIRST DETROIT 10KM MARATHON FOLLOWED BY  
COOK-OUT AND BEER ON THE PIER (BOP)

1-2 AUG IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY - FUEL LIFT

3-5 AUG AT SEA - UNREP OPS

6 AUG BRIEF STOP, NAPLES, ITALY

7 AUG ARRIVE AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY

8 AUG AT SEA - GUN SHOOT

9-11 AUG PORT VISIT, CROTONE, ITALY

12-22 AUG AT SEA - UNREP OPS

23-29 AUG INPORT NAPLES, ITALY

30 AUG TRANSIT TO AND ARRIVE GAETA, ITALY

31 AUG - 1 SEP PARTICIPATE IN SIXTH FLEET CHANGE OF COMMAND  
CEREMONY IN GAETA, ITALY - ADMIRAL WATKINS  
RELIEVES ADMIRAL TRAIN

2-3 SEP IN PORT NAPLES, ITALY

4 SEP TRANSIT TO AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY

5 SEP IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY SICILY

6-9 SEP AT SEA - OPEN OCEAN MISSILE EXERCISE - GULF OF SIDRA  
DETROIT 2 FOR 2 IN MISSILE SHOOTING

10 SEP IN PORT, AUGUSTA BAY

11-12 SEP TRANSIT TO BARCELONA, SPAIN

13-30 SEP PORT VISIT, BARCELONA, SPAIN

1-10 OCT AT SEA - UNREP OPS - ON 3 OCT USS H. E. YARNELL CG-17  
200th SHIP ALONGSIDE AND 200 CAKE SENT OVER

11-14 OCT IN PORT, ROTA, SPAIN TO OUTCHOP

12 OCT WHILE UNREPPING USS FORRESTAL SN (b) (6) FROM DECK  
DEPARTMENT FALLS OVERBOARD AND RESCUED BY  
USS FORRESTAL HELICOPTER

15-25 OCT TRANSIT TO CONUS

26 OCT ARRIVE NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, YORKTOWN

26 OCT-6 NOV WEAPONS OFF-LOAD, NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, YORKTOWN

6 NOV FUEL LIFT, CRANEY ISLAND

7 NOV RETURN TO HOMEPORT, NORFOLK, VA

8 NOV - 3 DEC IN PORT, NORFOLK, VA

4-8 DEC COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW (CSRR)-VACAPES

9-31 DEC IN PORT, NORFOLK, VA