



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MERRIMACK (AO-179)

FPO NEW YORK 09578

IN REPLY REFER TO

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MERRIMACK (AO-179)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12C

Encl: (1) USS MERRIMACK (AO-179) Command History for Period 1 January 1985 to  
31 December 1985  
(2) List of Ships Alongside - 1985

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

  
M. B. EDWARDS

Copy to:  
CINCLANTFLT (PAO)

**USS MERRIMACK (AO-179) BASIC HISTORIAL NARRATIVE  
1 JANUARY 1985 - 31 DECEMBER 1985**

Narrative - JAN 1985 saw MERRIMACK inport Norfolk, Virginia, at the close of the holiday leave period. On 14 JAN MERRIMACK departed Norfolk enroute to the Bermuda Op Area with three guests of the Navy onboard. MERRIMACK completed five underway replenishments (UNREPS) before guests disembarked via Harbor Tug Gaspee at Newport, R.I. on 21 JAN.

MERRIMACK arrived at pier 20 Norfolk and commenced deicing operations due to heavy ice encrusted on the weather decks from extreme low temperatures and heavy seas. MERRIMACK departed Norfolk on 04 FEB for fueling services to Bermuda Op Area. Six UNREPS were completed before returning to Norfolk on 08 FEB to prepare for OPPE Exam.

On 14 FEB COMSERVRON FOUR and the Propulsion Examining Board embarked and MERRIMACK got underway for OPPE. Exam results were unsatisfactory. On 16 FEB MERRIMACK moored to pier 12 Norfolk and conducted an open house ship visit. MERRIMACK was host to 241 visitors on 16 and 17 FEB. Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) was conducted from 18 FEB to 1 MAR.

On 21 - 22 FEB a 3-M inspection was held with satisfactory results. From 26 FEB to 1 MAR a Command Inspection was conducted by COMSERVRON FOUR with outstanding results. On 4 MAR MERRIMACK personnel were inspected by COMSERVRON FOUR. Results were satisfactory.

MERRIMACK got underway again from 18 - 22 MAR to the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) for USS DETROIT SQT assist. Four UNREPS were completed before returning to pier 20 in Norfolk. An Engineering Material Maintenance Team embarked on 2 APR and MERRIMACK got underway for Senior Officers Ship Material Readiness Course. MERRIMACK returned to Norfolk on 4 APR.

MERRIMACK departed Norfolk on 19 APR to prepare for OPPE Re-Exam. COMSERVRON FOUR arrived by helo on 22 APR to observe exam. The exam results were satisfactory. MERRIMACK returned to Norfolk on 24 APR and began making preparations for Exercise Solid Shield 85.

MERRIMACK departed Norfolk on 3 MAY for Exercise Solid Shield 85. The exercise provided crewmembers with the opportunity to prove why the ship is known as the 'World's Finest Fleet Oiler.' MERRIMACK completed an unprecedented 62 UNREPS before mooring to Craney Island, Portsmouth, Virginia. MERRIMACK left Craney Island and moored to pier 3 in Norfolk on 20 MAY. On 31 May at 0247 hours a class "A" fire occurred in Winch Motor Control (1-45-O-E) resulting in approximately \$9,500 in damages. A Jag Manual Investigation was conducted due to the suspicious nature of the fire's occurrence.

MERRIMACK got underway again on 10 JUN with two midshipmen aboard to participate in a Midshipmen Training Exercise in the North Atlantic. Nine UNREPS were completed before mooring at pier 2 in Newport, R.I. MERRIMACK conducted training for prospective commanding officers while in Newport. Tours of the ship and a simulated UNREP at pierside were conducted as part of the training.

MERRIMACK departed Newport on 28 JUNE. Three Guests of the Navy were embarked for transit back to Norfolk. On 3 JULY MERRIMACK received orders to consort USS MONONGAHELA. The guests and a crewmember requiring medical treatment were transferred at sea to the USS SCOTT (DD-997) via motor whale boat for further transit to Norfolk. MERRIMACK arrived at Craney Island on 5 JUL to re-fuel and moored at pier 20 Norfolk the following day.

MERRIMACK got underway on 9 JUL to provide fueling services to USS AMERICA and USS CORAL SEA. Nine UNREPS were completed before returning to Craney Island for fuel on 14 JULY. MERRIMACK moored to pier 20 on 15 JUL and remained there before departing for the underway Material Inspection by INSURV on 22 JUL. Results of the inspection showed MERRIMACK fit for further service and in good material condition. MERRIMACK returned to Norfolk on 23 JUL.

MERRIMACK got underway again for the Jacksonville Op Area on 10 AUG. The anchor was dropped at 30 degrees 07.6N, 080 degrees 38.9W on 16 AUG while awaiting additional tasking. On 19 AUG MERRIMACK was underway enroute to Norfolk and arrived on 22 AUG after completing 13 UNREPS. MERRIMACK remained at pier 20 Norfolk until 27 AUG 85.

On 27 AUG MERRIMACK got underway for the North Atlantic to participate in Ocean Safari and Baltops 85 exercises. MERRIMACK moored at Hvalfjordur, Iceland to refuel on 9 SEP after completing 15 UNREPS and got underway at 1756 hours that same day. After completing 16 UNREPS MERRIMACK moored at the Nato Fuel Pier in Namsos, Norway to refuel on 15 SEP. Crewmembers who were not on duty were granted liberty in Namsos prior to the ship's departure the following day.

MERRIMACK was detached from Ocean Safari on 20 SEP and moored at Namsos on 21 SEP for refueling prior to departure to Edinburgh, Scotland that same day. MERRIMACK arrived in Edinburgh on 23 SEP for a port visit and remained there until 29 SEP. MERRIMACK departed Edinburgh on 29 SEP enroute to Copenhagen, Denmark, for another port visit.

On 1 OCT MERRIMACK anchored 1.5 miles north of Middleground Fort, Copenhagen, Denmark, in 66 feet of water as a routine port visit was conducted. On 7 OCT at 0405 hours, crewmember BM2 Gillis J. Mancuso fell overboard while attempting to climb aboard the ship from the 40 ft. utility boat using the jacob's ladder. A search using the utility boat was immediately launched. The Danish Naval Base launched a helo and pilot boat to assist in the search. Visibility was limited due to fog. The intense search augmented by other surface and air craft continued until 1211 hours with negative results. BM2 Mancuso was presumed drowned.

At 1211 hours on 7 OCT MERRIMACK got underway enroute to Kiel, Germany for a port visit and arrived the following day. On 12 OCT MERRIMACK got underway for the Bornholm Op Area to participate in Baltops 85. A memorial service for BM2 Mancuso was held on the flight deck on 13 OCT.

On 15 OCT MERRIMACK joined USS IOWA and the ships of the Baltops Group for Replenishment at Sea (RAS). Ten UNREPS were completed before steaming for Oslo, Norway, for a port visit. MERRIMACK arrived at Oslo on 20 OCT and remained there until 24 OCT at which time a course was set for Loch Ewe, Scotland for a final refueling stop. MERRIMACK arrived at Loch Ewe on 26 OCT and all non-duty personnel were granted liberty which expired at midnight. MERRIMACK departed for CONUS the following day.

On 5 NOV MERRIMACK arrived at Pier 3 Norfolk. On 7 NOV the family of BM2 Mancuso arrived onboard for a memorial service and luncheon. On 8 NOV a body was recovered on the Swedish coast near Landskrona, Sweden, which was identified as that of BM2 Mancuso.

On 10 DEC MERRIMACK got underway again for SOSMRC with the remains of BM2 Mancuso onboard. At 1535 hours that same day the remains of BM2 Mancuso were buried at sea. The casket entered the water at 36 degrees 50N longitude, 074 degrees 28.9W latitude in 3,966 feet of water.

MERRIMACK returned to port at pier 20 on 13 DEC and commenced the holiday leave period on 14 DEC. A Supply Management Inspection was conducted onboard MERRIMACK on 16 and 17 DEC with satisfactory results. Total UNREPS completed for the year were 174.

SHIPS ALONGSIDE - 1985

17 JAN USS EL PASO (LKA-117)  
19 JAN USS OLIVER H. PERRY (FFG-7)  
USS CLIFTON SPRAGUE (FFG-16)  
20 JAN USS VALDEZ (FF-1096)  
USS CAPODONNO (FF-1093)  
05 FEB USS BARNEY (DDG-6)  
USS A.W. RADFORD (DD-968)  
06 FEB USS BARNEY (DDG-6)  
USS C.F. ADAMS (DDG-2)  
USS A.W. RADFORD (DD-968)  
USS ANTRIM (FFG-20)  
20 MAR USS DETROIT (AOE-4)  
USS NICKOLSON (DD-982)  
21 MAR USS DETROIT (AOE-4)  
22 MAR USS DETROIT (AOE-4)  
04 MAY USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32) - 2 TIMES  
USS BRUMBRY (FF-1044)  
05 MAY USS HARLON COUNTY (LST-1196)  
USS STARK (FFG-31)  
USS MCCLOY (FF-1038)  
USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12)  
USS GLOVER (FF-1098)  
06 MAY USS MAC DONOUGH (DDG-39)  
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)  
USS CLIFTON SPRAGUE (FFG-16)  
USS BIDDLE (CG-34)  
07 MAY USS MT. WHITNEY (LCC-20)  
USS GUADALCANAL (LPH-7) - 2 TIMES  
USS BRUMBY (FF-1044)  
USS MCCLOY (FF-1038)  
USS GLOVER (FF-1098)  
USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32)  
08 MAY USS BIDDLE (CG-34)  
USS MAC DONOUGH (DDG-39)  
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)  
USS PLATTE (AO-186)  
09 MAY USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG-27)  
USS BRUMBY (FF-1044)  
USCGC BEAR (W.M.E.C. 901)  
USS MCCLOY (FF-1038) - 2 TIMES  
USS GLOVER (FF-1098)  
USCGC TAMPA (W.M.E.C. 902)  
USS STARK (FFG-31)  
10 MAY USS ARIES (P.H.M. 5)  
USS AQUILA (P.H.M. 4)  
USS MAC DONOUGH (DDG-39)  
USS BIDDLE (CG-34)

SHIPS ALONGSIDE - 1985 (CONT)

10 MAY USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)  
USS MT. BAKER (AE-34)  
USS CLIFTON SPRAGUE (FFG-16)

11 MAY USS CLIFTON SPRAGUE (FFG-16)  
USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32)  
USS MCCLOY (FF-1038)  
USS GLOVER (FF-1098)  
USS BRUMBY (FF-1044)  
USS STARK (FFG-31)

13 MAY USS MAC DONOUGH (DDG-39)  
USS MT BAKER (AE-34)  
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)

14 MAY USS AQUILA (P.H.M. 4)  
USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG-27)  
USS MCCLOY (FF-1038)  
USCGC BEAR (W.M.E.C. 901) - 2 TIMES

15 MAY USS GLOVER (FF-1098)  
USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32)  
USS STARK (FFG-31)  
USS BRUMBY (FF-1044)  
USS GUADALCANAL (LPH-7)  
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)  
USS MT. BAKER (AE-34)  
USS MAC DONOUGH (DDG-39)  
USS BIDDLE (CG-34)

16 MAY USS NASSAU (LHA-4)

17 MAY USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)

10 JUN USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)

12 JUN USS HARRY E. YARNELL (CG-17)  
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)  
USS MCCANDLESS (FF-1084)

13 JUN USS HARRY E. YARNELL (CG-17)

15 JUN USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)  
USS MCCANDLESS (FF-1084)

17 JUN USS HARRY E. YARNELL (CG-17)  
USS JOHN KING (DDG-3)

02 JUL USS MONONGAHELA (AO-178)

10 JUL USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
USS PHARRIS (FF-1094)

11 JUL USS FARRAGUT (DDG-37)

13 JUL USS CORAL SEA (CV-43)  
USS CLIFTON SPRAGUE (FFG-16)  
USS CONNOLE (FF-1056)

14 JUL USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
USS COONTZ (DDG-40)  
USS PHARRIS (FF-1094)

12 AUG USS FORRESTAL (CV-59)

### SHIPS ALONGSIDE - 1985 (CONT)

12 AUG USS ESTOCIN (FFG-15)  
16 AUG USS FORRESTAL (CV-59)  
USS ESTOCIAN (FFG-15)  
19 AUG HMCS NIPIGON (DDH-266)  
HNLMS PIETER FLORIS (F-826)  
HMCS BRILLIANT (F-90)  
FGS BREMEN (F-207)  
USS S.W. GROVES (FFG-29)  
20 AUG USS NICHOLAS (FFG-47)  
USS JOHN HANCOCK (DDG-981)  
21 AUG HMCS NIPIGON (DDH-266)  
HMLNS PIETER FLORIS (F-826)  
USS STEVEN W. GROVES (FFG-29)  
HMCS BRILLIANT (F-90)  
28 AUG USS AYLWIN (FF-1081)  
30 AUG USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
USS PETERSON (DD-969)  
USCGC DALLAS (W.H.E.C. 916)  
USNS SIRIUS (AFS-8)  
31 AUG USS DETROIT (AOE-4)  
02 SEP HMS ARGONAUT (F-56)  
USS AYLWIN (FF-1081)  
03 SEP HMS GREY ROVER (A-269)  
04 SEP HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (R-06)  
USS VREELAND (FF-1068)  
05 SEP USS PHARRIS (FF-1094)  
06 SEP HMS SOUTH HAMPTON (D-90) - 2 TIMES  
HMS ARGONAUT (F-56) - 2 TIMES  
10 SEP USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
USS TICONDERGOA (CG-47)  
11 SEP USS STEVEN W. GROVES (FFG-29)  
USS NASSAU (LAH-4)  
USS PETERSON (DD-969)  
USS IOWA (BB-61)  
USS LUCE (DDG-38)  
12 SEP USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)  
HMLMS PIETER FLORIS (F-826) - 2 TIMES  
HMS BRILLIANT (F-90) - 3 TIMES  
USS STEVEN W. GROVES (FFG-29)  
HMCS NIPIGON (DDH-266)  
FGS BREMEN (F-207)  
16 SEP USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)  
17 SEP USS DETROIT (AOE-4) - 2 TIMES  
18 SEP HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (R-06)  
USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
19 SEP HMCS ATHABASCAN (282)

SHIPS ALONGSIDE - 1985 (CONT)

19 SEP USNS SIRIUS (AFS-8)  
20 SEP USS AMERICA (CV-66)  
15 OCT USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47)  
USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)  
HMS LIVERPOOL (D-92)  
USS PHARRIS (FF-1094)  
17 OCT USS IOWA (BB-61)  
18 OCT FGS MOLDERS (D-186)  
FGS AUGSBERG (F-222)  
USS PHARRIS (FF-1094)  
FGS RHINELAND PFALZ (F-209)  
19 OCT HMS LIVERPOOL (D-92)  
28 OCT USS PHARRIS (FF-1094)  
USS AYLWIN (FF-1081)  
USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)  
30 OCT USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47)  
31 OCT USS PHARRIS (FF-1094) - 2 TIMES  
01 NOV USS AYLWIN (FF-1081)  
USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)  
USS IOWA (BB-61)  
03 NOV USS AYLWIN (FF-1081)  
11 DEC USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG-27)  
USS RALIEGH (LPD-1)  
USS AMERICA (CV-66)