

USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B9)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20390

Submarine Historical Facility
Bldg 584, Naval Submarine Base
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Subj: Command history of USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555) for 1971

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12 series

Encl: (1) Narrative of ships history for 1971
(2) Chronology of outstanding events (1971)
(3) Recent photographs of ship
(4) Muster roll and roster of officers

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

J. R. Seesholtz
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ENCLOSURE (1)

NARRATIVE OF USS DOLPHIN (AGSS555) SHIP'S HISTORY FOR 1971

During January to March 1971 DOLPHIN conducted sea tests of her developmental sonar system and other electronics in conjunction with Naval Underseas Research and Development Center in the San Diego area.

On 12 April she deployed to the Gulf of Alaska on a sonar and oceanographic development expedition in which USS BAYA (AGSS318) and USNS S. P. LEE also participated. On her way north the ship was drydocked at Mare Island Naval Shipyard for voyage repairs to the shaft seals. A visit to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard was also necessary to correct problems which arose on the forward shaft seal. In early May the DOLPHIN visited Prince Rupert, B.C. and arrived at Kodiak, Alaska on 12 May during a late season blizzard.

From mid-May through 15 July DOLPHIN, BAYA and S.P. LEE operated from Kodiak in the Gulf of Alaska conducting research and development operations. During this period the theoretical concept of the oceanic reliable acoustic path was tested under real world conditions and proved to actually exist as predicted in advance by U.S. Navy scientist. It was DOLPHIN's deep diving capability and sonar system which made this achievement possible.

DOLPHIN departed 15 July from Kodiak and arrived in San Diego 6 August after stops at Esquimalt, B.C. and Mare Island NSY, Vallejo, California while enroute home.

On 25 September she sailed for a 11 week restricted availability at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The RAV included a battery replacement. DOLPHIN departed Mare Island 15 December and arrived in San Diego on 18 December where she spent the Christmas holidays in a leave and upkeep status.

ENCLOSURE (2)

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

1971

1 JAN to 11 APR Local operations in San Diego area to work up experimental sonar for deployment.

12 APR Depart San Diego for Alaskan deployment.

15 APR Enter dry dock #2 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard for voyage repairs to shaft seals.

18 APR Undock. Transit to Treasure Island, San Francisco and remain overnight.

19 APR Conduct sea trials and continue transit to Alaska.

26 APR to 27 APR Port visit, Esquimalt, B.C.

27 APR to 30 APR Restricted availability at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash. to correct forward shaft seal problems.

30 APR to 4 MAY Continue sea trials and transit.

4 MAY to 7 MAY Port visit, Prince Rupert, B.C.

12 MAY Arrive Kodiak, Alaska.

15 MAY to 9 JUL Operations from Kodiak, Alaska for periods of about 10 days each to support research and development operations in company with USS BAYA and USNS S.P. LEE under direction of Naval Underseas Research and Development Center, San Diego.

15 JUL Depart Kodiak for San Diego.

22 JUL to 25 JUL Port visit, Esquimalt, B.C.

30 JUL to 3 AUG Emergency stop at Mare Island Naval Shipyard to resolve battery status.

6 AUG Arrive San Diego.

25 SEP Depart San Diego for restricted availability (RAV) at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, Ca.

29 SEP Arrive Mare Island NSY.

1 OCT Commence RAV and battery replacement, Dry dock in ARD 24.

ENCLOSURE (2) (CONT'D)

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

1971

24 NOV Undock.
7 DEC to 8 DEC First sea trial.
12 DEC to 13 DEC Second sea trial.
15 DEC Depart Mare Island NSY for San Diego.
18 DEC Arrive San Diego.