

U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)-65)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 09501

CVA(N)65/5700

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From: Commanding Officer, USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)65)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Historical and Pictorial Data; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7

Encl: (1) Narrative History of USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)65)
1 January 1963 to 31 December 1963
(2) 2 Photographs of USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)65)
(1 Color and 1 Black and White)
(3) Photograph of Captain F.H. MICHAELIS cutting "E" cake
(4) Photograph of Navy Battle Efficiency and Readiness "E"
Presentation
(5) Photograph of Captain V.P. de POIX and
Captain F.H. MICHAELIS

1. This report is submitted in compliance with reference (a).
Enclosures (1) through (5) augment this report:

a. Commanding Officers and periods served:

(1) Captain V.P. de POIX, USN, 24 September 1960 -
20 July 1963

(2) Captain F.H. MICHAELIS, USN, 20 July 1963 to present

b. Principal ship movements and engagements:

(1) 1 January 1963 - 16 February 1963. Routine ship operations
with SECOND Fleet.

(2) 16 February 1963 - 26 August 1963. Deployed with SIXTH
Fleet.

(3) 26 August 1963 - 31 December 1963. Routine ship
operations with SECOND Fleet.

d. Any special awards or outstanding events:

(1) Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund. The Chief of Naval Operations selected ENTERPRISE to receive this award, the purpose of which is to emphasize the readiness and fitness of a ship as an integrated unit. Competition is based on a ship's performance as a whole, rather than between individual departments.

(2) U.S. Atlantic Fleet Battle Efficiency Pennant. Awarded by Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic to the ENTERPRISE as the outstanding CVA class ship. Individual departmental excellence awards went to the Air, Weapons and Engineering Departments.


F.H. MICHAELIS

Narrative History of USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)65)
1 January 1963 to 31 December 1963

ENTERPRISE spent New Years Day 1963 berthed in her home port, Norfolk. Her first at sea period of the New Year began on 28 January when she conducted Air Group Operations off the Virginia Capes. During this cruise, which lasted four days, Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz), Senator Milward L. Simpson (R-Wyo), Governor A.S. Harrision of Virginia, plus a number of other military and civilian governmental representatives were aboard.

On February 6, 1963, she put to sea for her second deployment with the SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean. Embarked were RADM J.T. HAYWARD, Commander Carrier Division TWO, and Carrier Air Group SIX.

Two notable events occurred on the transit to the Mediterranean. The first was on the second day when ENTERPRISE was joined by USS BAINBRIDGE (DLG(N)-25). This constituted the first rendezvous of nuclear powered surface ships. The second notable event occurred on the 13th of February when ENTERPRISE was overflown by a Soviet bomber. The aircraft was a Russian Bear which flew over ENTERPRISE while she was steaming south of the Azores.

On 16 February, Gibraltar was passed and the SIXTH Fleet was officially joined. On 18 February, ENTERPRISE relieved USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) in Pollensa Bay and took her place on the "line".

Following this, operations were conducted in the Western Mediterranean until 25 February when the first port of call, Cannes, France, was entered. Departing Cannes on 4 March, ENTERPRISE conducted normal exercises with other ships of the SIXTH Fleet while enroute to her second port of call, Athens, Greece, arriving there on 11 March 1963. During this visit, many high ranking officials visited the Big "E". Among them were King Paul I and Queen Fredericka of Greece.

At sea again from 18 to 23 March, ENTERPRISE participated in her first large exercise of the cruise, MEDLANDEX II. The ship provided close air support and AAW protection to amphibious landing exercises at Timbakion, Greece.

Enclosure (1)

Following this at sea period, Palermo, Sicily was visited on 23 March. Departing Palermo on 1 April, ENTERPRISE participated in REGEX, a combined strike, ASW, Air Defense Exercise conducted in Southern Greece and Turkey.

On April 8, a visit of one week at Naples, Italy commenced and was followed by routine SIXTH Fleet Operations until arriving at Cannes, France on April 20th. This stay was curtailed on the morning of the 28th when a sortie was ordered in anticipation of a possible Middle East crisis. The crisis never developed and ENTERPRISE stayed at sea to participate in FAIR GAME, a NATO exercise conducted near Southern France.

Following FAIR GAME, ENTERPRISE returned to Cannes, France on 11 May. While there, RADM W. I. MARTIN relieved RADM J. T. HAYWARD as Commander Carrier Division TWO.

Departing Cannes on May 20th, ENTERPRISE and her Air Group, Carrier Air Group SIX, participated in their annual Operational Readiness Inspection. During this period the Big "E" steamed her 100,000th mile. With a successful completion of the ORI, the ship arrived at Taranto, Italy for a four day visit on May 26. This stay was followed by an overnight trip to Corfu, Greece where ENTERPRISE was anchored for three days.

Underway on the 4th of June, ENTERPRISE took part in CHICKS CHARGE, an exercise conducted with USS BAINBRIDGE to investigate sustained high speed tactics for nuclear powered surface ships.

The island of Rhodes was the next port of call. The Big "E" arrived there on 8 June. Taking leave of Rhodes on the 11th, ENTERPRISE took part in MEDLANDEX III. This exercise was similar to MEDLANDEX II in that air support was provided to amphibious landings, this time at Kavalla, Greece.

The next port of call was Beirut, Lebanon where the ship remained from 19 June until the 25th. During this period the annual Administrative Inspection was conducted and a grade of "Outstanding" assigned. Beirut was the last Eastern Mediterranean Port of the cruise and when the Big "E" got underway from there, she headed west. This at sea period consisted of routine operations, but it was highlighted by the 20,000th arrested landing. 1 July found the ENTERPRISE in Genoa, Italy.

Underway from July 8th to 14th, ENTERPRISE paid her fourth visit of the cruise to Cannes. Here Captain F. H. MICHAELIS, USN, relieved Captain V. P. de POIX, USN on July 20th as Commanding Officer.

When ENTERPRISE put out to sea again on the 22nd, she was privileged to host Under Secretary of the Navy, Paul B. Fay, Jr. He spent several hours aboard while the ship demonstrated her capabilities as a mobile striking power. This operating period also saw participation in POOPDECK II, one of the most extensive exercises of the cruise. POOPDECK II, which lasted for four days, simulated both conventional and nuclear strikes against targets in the Western Mediterranean.

Naples was next on the port visit schedule. The Big "E" arrived there on 2 August and left on the 10th to take part in MEDLANDEX IV which was staged in Southern Sardinia.

The last liberty port of the cruise was Barcelona, Spain which was visited from 15 to 22 August. While in Barcelona, the ship was notified that she had been selected for the coveted "MARJORIE STERRETT BATTLESHIP AWARD".

Departing Barcelona, ENTERPRISE proceeded to Pollensa Bay where she "Turned Over" to USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62) on 24 August.

The westward transit home was uneventful and on 4 September, ENTERPRISE pulled alongside Pier 12, Norfolk, after having been gone just 4 days short of seven months. In all respects, it was a successful cruise.

As a fitting climax to many months of hard work, ENTERPRISE was awarded the Navy Battle Efficiency and Readiness "E" on 11 September 1963. She won the Air Department "E" outright and shared the Engineering and Weapons "E" with FORRESTAL. ENTERPRISE was the first carrier to win the "E" during the first year of eligibility.

The remaining weeks of 1963 were relatively slow by ENTERPRISE standards. For the most part, the Big "E" stayed pier side at Norfolk, getting underway in October from the 28th to the 8th of November, and in December from the 2nd to 6th.

During the October cruise, ENTERPRISE hosted the student body of the Armed Forces Staff College, the National War College, and portions of the Naval War College. In addition, ENTERPRISE participated in STRIKEX I. The December cruise consisted of general air group and ship readiness training and was the last at sea period of 1963.

ENTERPRISE spent the remaining days of the year in Norfolk while her crew took advantage of a well earned holiday leave period.