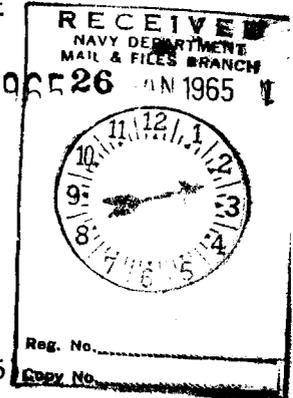


U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)-65)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 09501

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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

1964

Encl: (1) Narrative History of USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)65)
1 January 1964 to 31 December 1964

- (2) Photo of Task Force ONE underway with USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)65) as flagship
- (3) Photo of ENTERPRISE entering port at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- (4) Photo of Secretary of Navy, Paul Nitze receiving honors on board ENTERPRISE
- (5) Photo of Chief of Naval Operations welcoming ENTERPRISE home from Operation Sea Orbit
- (6) Photo of Commanding Officer of ENTERPRISE receiving "E" award

1. This report is submitted in compliance with reference (a).
Enclosure (1) through (6) augment this report.

a. Commanding Officer and period served:

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

b. Principal ships movements and engagements:

(1) 1 January 1964 - 8 February 1964. Routine ship operations with SECOND FLEET. ENTERPRISE given her COMNAVAIRLANT Operational Readiness Inspection by Commander Carrier Division FOUR.

(2) 8 February 1964 - 31 July 1964. Deployed with SIXTH FLEET. Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) conducted on 8 - 10 February.

(3) 31 July 1964 - 3 October 1964. Flagship of Task Force ONE on Operation Sea Orbit.

(4) 3 October 1964 - 2 November 1964. Pre-overhaul availability at NOB Norfolk, Virginia.

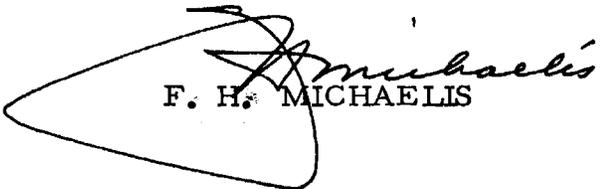
(5) 2 November 1964 - 31 December 1964. In drydock at Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Company, Newport News, Virginia.

d. Any Special Awards or Outstanding Events:

(1) May 13, 1964. ENTERPRISE together with the guided missile cruiser USS LONG BEACH and guided missile frigate USS BAINBRIDGE formed the world's first nuclear powered Task Force.

(2) 31 July 1964 - 3 October 1964. ENTERPRISE, as flagship of Task Force ONE, participated in "Operation Sea Orbit".

(3) 9 October 1964 - ENTERPRISE received her second successive Battle Readiness Pennant and Plaque with additional repeated "E" awards for her Air, Weapons, Engineering and Reactor Departments.


F. H. MICHAELIS

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE USS ENTERPRISE CVA(N)65

1 JAN - 31 DEC 1964

New Years Day 1964 found ENTERPRISE pierside in Norfolk, Va. Her first at sea period of the new year consisted of operations off the Virginia Capes from the 12th to the 23rd of January. During this time, two significant events occurred. First, on the 20th, the ship was visited by the Honorable Paul Nitze, Secretary of the Navy. Second, from the 20th to the 23rd, ENTERPRISE conducted her annual Operational Readiness Inspection, passing it with flying colors.

Returning to Norfolk, the ship made last minute preparations for its third Mediterranean Cruise which commenced on 8 February. After an uneventful Atlantic transit, ENTERPRISE chopped to the SIXTH FLEET on 19 February and relieved the USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA 62) in Golfo de Palma on the 22nd.

Two days later ENTERPRISE engaged in her first major exercise of the year, EARLY BIRD. For her part in the exercise, ENTERPRISE furnished CAP and strike aircraft both to protect and to oppose a NATO convoy transiting the Central Mediterranean Sea.

On the evening of February the 25th, ENTERPRISE received word that a merchant ship in the area was requesting medical help for one of her men who had been injured in a fall. Making a high speed run through the night, ENTERPRISE rendezvoused with the Finnish ship, SS VERNA PAULIN. While it was still dark, an ENTERPRISE doctor was "helomed" to the VERNA PAULIN to render medical assistance and the injured man was declared in satisfactory condition.

ENTERPRISE visited her first foreign port in 1964 when she anchored off Istanbul, Turkey on March 5th for a six day visit.

From 11-14 March, the ship participated in REGEX 1-64, a combined strike, ASW, and Air Defense exercise conducted in Turkey and Italy. Following REGEX 1-64, ENTERPRISE spent the eight days from the 14th through the 21st on station off Cyprus as result of the unsettled political situation that existed on the island at the time.

During this period, ENTERPRISE was joined by Amphibious Task Force 61. This force carried a Battalion Landing Team of U.S. Marines and had been at sea for several weeks with no prospects of hitting a liberty port in the near future. So, on March 17th, ENTERPRISE hove to near Task Force 61 and ship's boats plied back and forth carrying liberty parties to visit the worlds largest warship.

Enclosure (1)

On board, the hangar decks were set up for athletic events and all the ships stores and soda fountains were open. For most of these men, it was their first time aboard a carrier and tours were arranged to show them the "Big E". In the afternoon, ENTERPRISE's Air Wing SIX performed a Fire Power Demonstration to show these men the type of support they could expect if ever the time came that they might need it. The day was a welcomed change of routine for everyone and a good time was had by all.

With the crisis on Cyprus temporarily averted, ENTERPRISE proceeded to the Western Mediterranean to participate in LAFAYETTE V. This was a bilateral exercise with the French in which simulated strikes were conducted against targets in France. LAFAYETTE V. was followed by a ten day visit to Cannes, France.

At sea again on the 6th of April, ENTERPRISE rendezvoused with the USS RIGEL (AF58) to set a SIXTH FLEET replenishment record of 194 tons/hour.

Proceeding to Naples, Italy on the 13th, ENTERPRISE stopped long enough to pick up students from the NATO Defense College for a short orientation cruise before returning to Naples for a week's visit. Underway again on the 20th, ENTERPRISE hosted a group of officers from the Air War College, who also received a one day orientation cruise.

On the 24th of April, while operating east of Sicily, the ship was again honored by a visit by the Secretary of Navy, the Honorable Mr. Nitze who was on an extended tour observing Naval Forces in the European Theater. The Secretary had hardly been piped off the ship on the 25th, when VADM Ramsey, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, arrived for a two day visit.

Commencing on 27 April, ENTERPRISE spent a week at Genoa, Italy, before going to sea to participate in a one day close air support exercise with the Italian Army on 5 May. Then on 9 May, the ship dropped the hook at Cannes for the second time during the cruise. At the time, this appeared to have been a routine operation, but when the ship got underway on the 13th, it was found that the anchor shank had broken and the major part of the anchor remained unrecoverable on the bottom of the bay.

May 13, 1964 proved to be one of the most significant days in the history of Naval Sea Power. On this day ENTERPRISE got underway to form the world's first all nuclear powered task group with the guided missile cruiser LONG BEACH and the guided missile frigate BAINBRIDGE. This task group possessed the unmatched endurance, rapid acceleration, sustained high speed, and virtually unlimited range afforded only by atomic reactors. In addition, the ENTERPRISE and LONG BEACH were the only two ships in the ATLANTIC FLEET equipped with the Navy Tactical Data System (NTDS). They began to conduct the first extensive tests and evaluations to demonstrate the operational capabilities of these systems. A few weeks later, the task group was joined by the nuclear powered submarine SEA WOLF and further explored the newly found dimensions in seapower provided by nuclear power plants. This was the first time that a submarine had ever operated as an integral part of a fast carrier striking force.

The 13th of May also marked the beginning of FAIRGAME II. This exercise lasted for nine days and consisted of strike, ASW, and amphibious operations in France and Corsica. During FAIRGAME II, ENTERPRISE helped set a new SIXTH FLEET fueling record when, on the 16th, it received JP-5 at the rate of 437,000 gallons an hour from the USS MISSISSINEWA (AO-144).

Following FAIRGAME II, ENTERPRISE returned to Cannes for a five day visit which was followed by a one day transit to Genoa, Italy. She remained here until 3 June.

After routine operations in the Western Mediterranean, ENTERPRISE made a series of brief visits to Naples, Italy (13-14 June), Palermo, Sicily (15-17 June) and Taranto, Italy (19-23 June). The ship stopped next at Barcelona, Spain from 3-8 July and Palma de Majorca from 10-15 July.

ENTERPRISE's last Mediterranean port call in 1964 was at Naples on July 23rd. Here she picked up a new anchor to replace the one she had lost. Four days later, the ship got underway for turnover with the USS FORRESTAL (CVA 59) in Polensa Bay, Majorca on the 29th, thus ending her third SIXTH FLEET deployment.

On July 31st, ENTERPRISE, LONG BEACH, and BAINBRIDGE were designated Task Force ONE and steamed by Gibraltar embarking on the 30,565 mile unreplenished cruise around the world-"OPERATION SEA ORBIT". As a practical demonstration of the advantages of nuclear powered surface ships, the task force performed the entire 65-day, globe circling voyage without receiving any fuel, food or other provisions enroute.

It was an unprecedented, history-making feat that obviously could not have been duplicated by a task force using conventional power.

Before the successful completion of SEA ORBIT, ENTERPRISE hosted dignitaries from 15 countries, conducted 19 Fire Power Demonstrations, crossed the equator four times, and visited three continents. Her aircraft flew 1590 sorties for a total of 2332 hours, dropped 240 bombs, launched 2766 rockets, and fired 12,500 rounds of 20 MM ammunition. These figures represented less than 10% of the ordnance on board and, coupled with the substantial amount of stores, parts and aviation fuel that remained, furnished ample proof of ENTERPRISE's capabilities.

OPERATION SEA ORBIT was hardly an hour old when ENTERPRISE conducted her first Fire Power Demonstration for visitors from Morocco. Steaming south along the West Coast of Africa, the ship hosted similar visits on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of August for dignitaries from Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. In addition, on the 5th, a beach fly-over of Abidjan, Ivory Coast was made.

On 6 August, ENTERPRISE crossed the equator for the first time and after appropriate ceremonies, over 4300 men were elevated from the status of Pollywog to that of Shellback.

August 10th, Task Force ONE rendezvoused off the Cape of Good Hope with elements of the South African Navy. Honors were exchanged and an Air Demonstration performed for the crews of the South African ships steaming in company.

Proceeding north in the Indian Ocean, the ship hosted dignitaries from Kenya on the 15th of August. On the 20th, ENTERPRISE conducted an Air Fire Power Demonstration for Pakistan guests before being escorted into Karachi harbor by three destroyers of the Pakistan Navy.

After a two day stay in Karachi, Task Force ONE got underway and proceeded down the West Coast of India. On the 28th of August, while south of Indonesia, the force conducted an air defense exercise with HMS VICTORIOUS and hosted several Royal Navy Officers who viewed an Air Fire Power Demonstration from ENTERPRISE.

The last day of August saw ENTERPRISE west of Australia where a beach flyover was made of Perth and Freemantle with an Air Fire Power Demonstration conducted for dignitaries from these cities. Three days later, this operation was repeated while steaming south of Melbourne.

On the 4th of September, ENTERPRISE was visited by guests from Sydney, Australia who watched another Fire Power Demonstration. Later in the day, the ship anchored at Sydney for a three day visit. During this stay, ENTERPRISE was privileged to have on board the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia.

From Sydney, the ship proceeded to New Zealand waters where, on the 9th of September, a flyover of Wellington and Christ Church was conducted and guests came aboard to witness an Air Fire Power Demonstration. The ranking visitor of this group was the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt. Hon. Keith J. Holyoake.

From 9 through 17 September, the men of Task Force ONE did not see land as they transited the South Pacific to Cape Horn. Crossing the International Dateline on the 10th, ENTERPRISE sighted the Cape on the 17th. In spite of the cold, gusty weather, most of the crew braved the elements to go to the flight deck to see the bleak, treeless mountains that marked the southernmost point of the cruise.

The next underway visit by foreign dignitaries was on September 21st when two Air Fire Power Demonstrations were conducted for groups from Buenos Aires, Argentina and Montevideo, Uruguay. Then on the 23rd, the force did a repeat performance for VIP's from Sao Paulo, Brazil before proceeding to Rio de Janeiro for a two day visit.

Underway from Rio on the 25th, guests came aboard for an Air Fire Power Demonstration. In addition, a beach flyover was conducted over the world famous Copacabana Beach for the benefit of thousands of Rio's citizens. Two days later, while passing Recife, Brazil, the same performance was repeated for the people of that city.

With the departure of the Recife guests, Task Force ONE was on the last leg of its journey. While steaming north through the Caribbean, ENTERPRISE hosted a group of U.S. State Department, Defense Department, and press representatives who flew aboard from Puerto Rico. They witnessed a Fire Power Demonstration and remained over night before flying back to Washington, D.C. on October 2nd.

On the 2nd of October, Air Wing SIX launched all of its aircraft for home. The fact that every aircraft was able to fly off is proof of the level of readiness maintained by ENTERPRISE and her Air Wing during "SEA ORBIT".

October the 3rd was homecoming for the ENTERPRISE and what a homecoming it was. It had been eight months and 74,943 nautical miles of steaming since she had left home. The tumultuous reception by thousands of relatives and friends was most memorable.

Among those who welcomed the ship was the Secretary of the Navy. He was "helod" aboard just before the ship docked to pay his third visit to the "Big E" in less than a year. He congratulated the crew for having participated in "...the most significant naval voyage in modern naval history." With Mr. Nitze was the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral David L. McDonald who paid what was possibly the most appreciated compliment of all when he told the crew, "You look magnificent!"

Less than a week later ENTERPRISE received another accolade which was a fitting reward for a year of history making events and outstanding achievement. On October 9th, Vice Admiral Ramsey, Commander Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, awarded the ship her second successive Battle "E" Pennant with additional repeated "E" awards for her Air, Weapons, Engineering and Reactor Departments. Competing with all the ships in the Atlantic Fleet of her type, ENTERPRISE earned top scores in overall efficiency and readiness during fiscal year 1964 to win the coveted award.

ENTERPRISE got underway one more time in 1964. In late October she operated off the Virginia Capes for a few days to purge her tanks in preparation for entering drydock for overhaul. One day of this period was reserved for a Dependents Day Cruise. Approximately 1220 dependents and relatives were on board to watch their husbands, sons or brothers carry out their jobs. Flight operations, an air fire power demonstration, and an underway refueling were highlights.

On 2 November, ENTERPRISE entered drydock at Newport News, Virginia where she remained for the rest of 1964 undergoing her first overhaul since being commissioned three years earlier. In this time she steamed more than 200,000 unrefueled miles and arrested over 42,000 aircraft.