



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GARY (FFG-51)
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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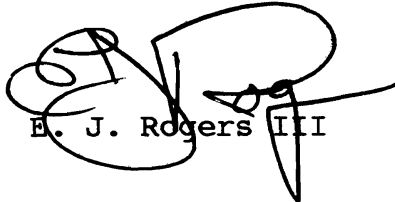
From: Commanding Officer, USS GARY (FFG 51)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH),
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 Series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronological Summary
(3) Historical Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.



E. J. Rogers III

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**USS GARY (FFG 51)
COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION**

USS GARY, the namesake of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient CDR Donald Arthur Gary, is the forty-fifth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7) class of guided missile frigates. The mission of *The Fighting Frigate* is to provide anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine protection for merchant and military convoys, carrier and logistics battle groups, and amphibious task forces, operating either independently or as part of a surface action group. She was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Los Angeles, California. Her keel was laid on 18 December 1982, she was christened on 19 November 1983, and was commissioned 17 November 1984.

The Commanding Officer has the ultimate authority, responsibility and accountability for the performance and welfare of the ship and her crew. Second in command, the Executive Officer implements policies and regulations as applicable to the ship and her mission. Each Department Head reports to the Commanding Officer via the Executive Officer.

USS GARY is under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE THREE, home ported in San Diego, CA.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 1994

COMMANDING: CAPT David W. Weddel (5th Commanding Officer)
Relieved by CDR E.J. Rogers III
(6th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR Stephen H. Huber
Relieved by LCDR Thomas H. Myers

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

OPERATIONS: LT [REDACTED]
Relieved by LT [REDACTED]

ASSISTANT NAVIGATOR / SC-1 Division

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER / SC-2 Division

FIRST LIEUTENANT / SC-3 Division

COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER OFFICER / SC-4 Division

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LT [REDACTED]

ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE OFFICER / CS-2 Division

ORDNANCE OFFICER / CS-3 Division

ELECTRONIC MATERIALS OFFICER / CS-4 Division

ENGINEERING: LT [REDACTED]
 Relieved by LT [REDACTED]

MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT / E-1 Division

DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT / E-2 Division

ELECTRICAL OFFICER / E-3 Division

AUXILIARIES OFFICER / E-4 Division

SUPPORT: LT [REDACTED]

STOREKEEPERS / S-1 Division

FOOD SERVICES / S-2 Division

DISBURSING OFFICER / S-3 Division

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT / X Division

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND:

EMCS (SW) Todd L. Munger
Relieved by BMCS (SW) Michael F. Fulton

**USS GARY (FFG 51)
COMMAND HISTORY 1994
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

1 Jan New Year's Day - Embarked COMDESRON FIFTEEN

2 Jan Port Visit - Doha, Qatar
Commence Operation Eastern Sailor 94-1
VIP Reception on board

3 Jan Damage Control Olympics, Comm checks, Pre Exercise
meetings with QEN.

4 Jan Underway for Operation Eastern Sailor 94-1

5 Jan Port Visit - Doha Qatar
Eastern Sailor Hot Washup and Debrief

6 Jan Underway Northern Arabian Gulf
UNREP/VERTREP with USNS Jon Ericsson

10 Jan UNREP/VERTREP with USNS Mars

11 Jan Port Visit - Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates
Commence TAV with USS Acadia

22 Jan Underway enroute Bahrain

23 Jan Port Visit - Bahrain

24 Jan Bahrain Defense Force Tour

26 Jan Change of Command
CDR E.J. Rogers III relieves CAPT D.W. Weddel

27 Jan Underway enroute Karachi, Pakistan

28 Jan UNREP/VERTREP with USNS Kilauea

30 Jan Port Visit - Karachi, Pakistan
Commence Operation Inspired Siren 94-1
Damage Control demonstrations, Pre-Exercise Briefs

31 Jan Underway for Operation Eastern Sailor 94-1

2 Feb Port Visit - Karachi, Pakistan

4 Feb Ship tour for Karachi International school

5 Feb Underway enroute Arabian Gulf

7 Feb UNREP with USNS Kilauea

Encl (2)

8 Feb Commence TACEVALEX 94-1

10 Feb Completed TACEVALEX 94-1
UNREP with USNS Andrew J. Higgins

11 Feb Port Visit - Bahrain

16 Feb Underway enroute Northern Arabian Gulf

21 Feb UNREP with USNS Jon Ericsson

27 Feb Port Visit - Bahrain

3 Mar Underway enroute Muscat, Oman

4 Mar Port Visit - Muscat, Oman

6 Mar Conduct ship tours for Muscat school

8 Mar Underway enroute Diego Garcia

11 Mar Equator is crossed

12 Mar Brief Stop for Fuel - Diego Garcia
Underway enroute Fremantle, Australia

20 Mar Port Visit - Fremantle, Australia

24 Mar Underway enroute Sydney, Australia

29 Mar Port Visit - Sydney, Australia

2 Apr Underway enroute Suva, Fiji

3 Apr Return and Reunion workshops

5 Apr Burial at Sea

6 Apr Brief Stop for Fuel - Suva, Fiji
Underway enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

7 Apr Conducted Safety Standown

9 Apr Commenced IERA

11 Apr Completed IERA

12 Apr Brief Stop for Fuel - Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Rendered Honors to USS Arizona
Underway enroute San Diego, California
Commenced Tiger Cruise 94

Encl (2)

18 Apr Inport San Diego, California
Complete WESTPAC 1993 - 1994

6 May GARY Golf Tournament

16 May Underway enroute Seal Beach for Ammo Offload

17 May Inport Seal Beach for Ammo Offload
Underway enroute San Diego

18 May Embark Dependents for one day dependents cruise
Inport San Diego

23 May Underway SOCAL - INSURV Preps

24 May Inport San Diego

25 May GARY Pen Pals ship visit

26 May GARY Day at the Ballpark

31 May Commence INSURV

1 June Underway Material Inspection - SOCAL

3 June Complete INSURV

6 June Underway enroute Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Burial at Sea

9 June Inport Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

10 June Begin Community relations project at Casa Hogar
Orphanage

12 June Complete Casa Hogar Community Relations project

13 June Underway enroute San Diego

16 June Inport San Diego

27 June Commence SRA 1994

28 June Underway enroute STEADFAST Floating Dry Dock (AFDM-14)
Dry-docked in STEADFAST

11 July Commence Surface Line Week 1994

15 July Complete Surface Line Week 1994

11 Aug Complete STEADFAST Dry Dock
Underway enroute Continental Maritime Shipyard

Encl (2)

21 Sep Fast Cruise
22 Sep Sea Trials - Underway SOCAL
23 Sep Inport San Diego
26 Sep Underway enroute Port Hueneme
28 Sep Inport Port Hueneme for Combat Systems Groom
06 Oct Underway enroute San Francisco
08 Oct Fleet Week Parade of Ships
Inport San Francisco for Fleet Week 1994
12 Oct Underway enroute Seal Beach
13 Oct Inport Seal Beach for Weapons Onload
Underway enroute Long Beach
Inport Long Beach
14 Oct Underway enroute Avalon
Dependents Cruise
Anchored Avalon
17 Oct Underway enroute San Diego
Dependents Cruise
Inport San Diego
24 Oct Commenced CART IIa - Inport San Diego
28 Oct Completed CART IIa - Inport San Diego
07 Nov Commenced IERA
08 Nov Underway SOCAL
10 Nov Inport San Diego - Completed IERA
14 Nov Commenced TSTA I
17 Nov GARY Celebrates Tenth Birthday
Wreath Laying Ceremony at the grave of CDR Donald A.
Gary, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetary.
18 Nov GARY Birthday Reception on board
21 Nov Underway SOCAL - TSTA I
23 Nov Inport San Diego
28 Nov Commenced LMA

Encl (2)

30 Nov Completed LMA
01 Dec Underway SOCAL - TSTA I
02 Dec Inport San Diego
05 Dec Underway SOCAL - OPPE Preps
09 Dec Inport San Diego
15 Dec Commenced Mock OPPE - CDS 33 Inspectors
20 Dec Commenced OPPE
21 Dec OPPE - Underway SOCAL
22 Dec Completed OPPE - Arrived SDGO
Commenced Holiday Standown

**USS GARY (FFG 51)
COMMAND HISTORY 1994
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Nineteen ninety-four began much as nineteen ninety-three ended for the *Fighting Frigate*. GARY celebrated New Year's Eve underway in the Arabian Gulf, just over two weeks short of the mid-point of her 1993-1994 deployment. On New Year's Day, GARY embarked Commodore C.H. Butt, COMDESRON FIFTEEN in preparation for entering Doha, Qatar and commencing Operation Eastern Sailor 93-4 with the Qatar Emiri Navy. Eastern Sailor proved to be an outstanding exercise for all involved. Exercises inport featured Damage Control Olympics, firing briefs and surface action exercise planning. GARY pride shone bright during a reception held on board for the American Ambassador and honored guests from Qatar and other foreign nations. Underway with Qatari vessels *Rbigah* and *Al Ghariyah*, air-engagement, boarding, gunnery and surface action exercises put all three ships through their paces in a rigorous but rewarding manner. Upon completion of the exercises, GARY was welcomed back into Doha where the crew enjoyed the nuances of the local culture.

After spending the next week on station in the Northern Arabian Gulf, GARY arrived in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates to complete a temporary availability with USS ACADIA. The minds of the crew were not only on repairing the wear and tear brought on by three months of continuous operations, but on the unexpected announcement that command of GARY would be turned-over at the end of the month. After completion of the temporary availability, GARY arrived in Mina Sulman, Bahrain where CDR Edward J. Rogers, III, relieved CAPT David W. Weddel on 26 January. Featured guest, VADM D. J. Katz, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command looked-on as the GARY welcomed her sixth Commanding Officer. CDR Rogers, last Commanding Officer of the recently-decommissioned USS WORDEN, proudly took the reigns of "Freedom's Foremost Guardian" and wished CAPT Weddel luck in his new position on staff of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet.

GARY's robust schedule of operations allowed no time for reflection on the events that packed January's first three weeks. One day after the change of command, GARY was underway enroute to Karachi, Pakistan and Operation Inspired Siren 94-1. Her expertise and professionalism were again keys to a successful exercise which featured damage control demonstrations inport, and gunnery, submarine tracking and air-engagement operations at sea. GARY's visit had a positive effect not only on the Pakistani Navy, but on the city of Karachi as well. Dozens of sailors spent their free time performing various community relations projects in the city, an effort that would be repeated in several other ports to come. After completion of Inspired Siren, GARY rendezvoused with USS JOHN YOUNG and the attack submarine USS HELENA in the Indian Ocean to conduct TACEVALEX 94-1. The three vessels put each other through their paces with the goal of discovering the effectiveness of different anti-submarine tactics in that area of the world.

After a brief return to the Northern Gulf, GARY soon headed east and navigated the Strait of Hormuz for the last time in 1994. Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman awaited as

the last Arabic port her crew would enjoy on this deployment. Muscat offered beautiful scenery and waters for the enjoyment of all, and again GARY welcomed aboard local school children, proud to show-off the finest ship in the Pacific Fleet. The land "down under" awaited as GARY reunited with CALLAGHAN and JOHN YOUNG and set sail on a southern route towards home. On 11 March, King Neptune welcomed over one-hundred new "shellbacks" into the ranks of those who dare cross the equator in the open seas. After a brief stop for fuel in Diego Garcia, the port of Fremantle in Western Australia loomed large in the eyes of GARY's crew, anxious for a bit of "western" culture. Fremantle welcomed the three U.S. ships with open arms, greeting sailors with smiles and ready to treat them to all that their beautiful city had to offer. Several days in Fremantle only primed the crew for Sydney, the next stop in Australia. Again, smiles and handshakes were the norm from the local populous, and the friendliness of the Australians seemed a preview of the homecoming which was a little over two weeks away.

April began with GARY preparing to depart Sydney and make the final run for home. Suva, Fiji was the site of another brief stop for fuel. Pearl Harbor was next, but before entering U.S. waters for the first time in five months, GARY showed her mettle by successfully completing an Engineering Readiness Assessment conducted by COMDESRON THREE THREE. Pearl Harbor offered a brief respite for the crew, a little time for liberty was had before getting underway for San Diego. All three ships solemnly remembered fallen shipmates as honors were rendered to the USS ARIZONA. Thoughts soon turned to happier things, however, as GARY welcomed aboard over twenty "Tigers" who joined relatives on board for the trip back to San Diego. The Tiger Cruise was a tremendous success, featuring helicopter operations, close-formation maneuvering and night gunnery exercises to entertain and fascinate the guests. All eyes were looking forward, towards home, as the continental United States waited less than one week away.

Six months and over thirty-six thousand miles had separated GARY and her crew from friends, relatives, and loved ones. All that was quickly forgotten the morning of 18 April, as Naval Station San Diego welcomed-home the *Fighting Frigate*. Love, laughter and tears awaited all as GARY moored to the same pier from which she had departed six months ago. The rest of April saw the GARY crew enjoying time with their families and friends, taking a much needed rest. The next deployment is only one year away, and soon GARY's schedule would reflect that rapid turn-around time.

The post-deployment stand down period lasted through mid-May, but the crew was kept busy making final preparations for INSURV. Various activities kept GARY busy during May, including a golf tournament and an afternoon at a Padres baseball game. In between off-duty activities, the ship prepared for INSURV and the upcoming repair availability with a trip to Seal Beach for a weapons off-load. The eighteenth of May was a busy and special day, as GARY returned from Seal Beach and anchored at Naval Station San Diego just long enough to embark dependents for a day-long cruise. The dependents cruise was enjoyed by all, as GARY crewmembers showed-off their skills and equipment during a 76mm gunfire, RHIB operations, man-overboard drills and a steel- beach picnic. The ship moored at San Diego again that evening, wishing dependents a fond farewell and hoping to get to treat them to a day at sea again soon. The final underway period of May

was a short excursion to make final INSURV preparations for the inspection which began 31 May.

The INSURV inspection team walked aboard on the first of June to a well-prepared crew presenting an outstanding ship. Two days later the inspection was complete, and the ship stepped-up preparations to travel to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for a port visit. Part of these preparations involved the onload of three-pallets of Project Handclasp material - goods which would be donated to the underprivileged in Mexico. A deserving crew met with nothing but bright sun, beautiful beach and friendly people in Puerto Vallarta. As most enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere, some GARY crew chose to donate their time to help out a local orphanage. The CASA HOGAR orphanage was the beneficiary of GARY's strong backs and kind hearts, as volunteers from the crew put a new roof-coating on the battered orphanage. The material was purchased mainly from six-hundred dollars raised when the hat was passed in GARY prior to arrival in Puerto Vallarta. The Project Handclasp material was well-received by the children and in the end, the orphanage had a roof which would last through the upcoming rainy season, leak-free.

Once back in San Diego, GARY had another major event to tackle - taking the ship into dry-dock in STEADFAST (AFDM-14) to begin the 1994 repair availability. The event was well orchestrated and by noon on 28 June, GARY rested 'on the blocks', ten feet out of the water for the first time since March of 1990. The dry-docking provided a great opportunity for underwater hull inspection and repair, as well as great training for those who had never seen the ship beneath the water.

July saw GARY and her crew completely dedicated to maintenance and repair of a majority of ship's systems and equipment. Everyone strove to ensure the ship would be in peak condition when she completed the availability in September. The fast pace slowed just enough to allow the GARY crew to show their stuff at Surface Line Week 1994. In a variety of athletic and professional events, GARY proved to be a more than worthy opponent to her competitors. At the end of the week, she walked away a strong finisher in the 'Small Ship' category, thanks to first place finishes in Basketball, Volleyball, Bowling, and Pistol Shooting. The GARY reputation remained strong along the waterfront, and most importantly, everyone had fun.

The major event during the month of August was GARY's undocking from STEADFAST on 11 August. Again, a skilled and knowledgeable crew performed an efficient and safe operation, and by mid-morning that day, GARY was docked at Continental Maritime Shipyards where her availability continued.

During the month of September, the pace quickened as GARY was swiftly "brought back to life." The main engines were started without incident on 9 September even though they lay dormant for nearly three months. The crew was dedicated to the man on bringing GARY out of the shipyard by the end of the month. Despite several serious contractor delays, Fast Cruise was conducted on 21 September. On 22 September, GARY put to sea under her own power for the first time since June 27. Her sea trials were an unqualified success, and GARY was back to sea the very next week, this time she would

not return home until mid-October. On September 28, GARY arrived in Port Hueneme, where she was greeted by a team from the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC). The next five days were very intense, as all of GARY's combat systems were extensively inspected, groomed, and tested. Although in outstanding condition when GARY arrived, equipment and personnel alike took well to the extensive attention paid by the technicians of NSWC. Seven days later, GARY sailed for San Francisco a more capable warship.

October 8th was a special day for the ship and her crew. The day marked the first of Fleet Week 1994, of which GARY was to prove a key participant. In the morning, she sailed in the Parade of Ships, her crew relishing the sights and sounds of San Francisco as the city turned out to greet the fleet. By afternoon, she was moored downtown, and GARY sailors set out to enjoy all that San Francisco had to offer. During the course of the week, thousands of enthusiastic visitors marveled at the crew and equipment that makes GARY the "Fleet's Finest Frigate". Many from the ship attended the Navy Ball, and all enjoyed a live radio show broadcast from the flightdeck. Fleet Week was a resounding success, enjoyed by the people who were treated to tours of GARY, and by the ship's crew who were treated equally as well in town. A busy month still lies ahead however, and 12 October saw the end of Fleet Week and GARY underway, headed to onload weapons at Seal Beach.

A complete weapons onload was conducted safely and quickly on 13 October. After completion of that event, GARY made a brief trip to Long Beach Naval Station, where she would moor for the night. The next day the family members of dozens of GARY's crew arrived from San Diego to enjoy a cruise to Avalon on the Island of Santa Catalina. Anchored in Avalon Bay for the weekend, many of the crew and their families enjoyed a relaxing few days on the island. On October seventeenth, GARY sailed for San Diego, again with many family members aboard who were treated to a flight deck picnic and demonstrations of the ship's 76 millimeter gun and Close-In Weapons System. October finished with the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART IIa), the first of the many inspections and evaluations which would fill the schedule until the end of 1994.

The next of these events came on November 7, when the ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment commenced. Several days of intense drill and evaluation of the ship's machinery and engineering personnel followed. Although the ship had only been out of a major shipyard availability for six weeks, the GARY crew delivered the expected result - success in all areas and a satisfactory assessment. November's pace would not slow. The Total Ship Training Availability commenced on November 14th, with advanced training conducted throughout the ship. The hectic pace only paused briefly, as the entire ship recognized a special event.

November 17th marked the tenth anniversary of the ship's commissioning. In honor of the ship and Commander Donald A. Gary, for who she is named, a ceremony was held at Commander Gary's grave located in the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Commander Rogers laid a wreath at the headstone of the ship's namesake while the ship's Honor Guard rendered a twenty-one gun salute. As the sobering sound of "Taps" was

bugled, a moment was taken to honor Commander Gary's memory. The next evening a reception was held on board the ship. GARY's crew and their families were welcomed aboard to pay tribute to "Freedom's Foremost Guardian." Also aboard was Mrs. Judith Weisner, the ship's sponsor and neice of the late Commander Gary.

On 21 November, the celebration was over and GARY was back at sea, continuing her Training Availability. Two major inspections remained before the Christmas Holiday. The first of these was the Logistics Management Assessment (LMA). Although GARY had not seen this five-day assessment in over four years, she completed it in three days and again the result was excellence. The crew could not afford to reflect on this success for more than a moment however, for the final inspection, the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE), lie only three weeks away.

The first weeks of December were dedicated to final preparations in the engineering plant and among engineering watchstanders and fire-fighting teams. In both materiel and personnel, the ship was in excellent shape for the OPPE which commenced on 20 December.

The examination went as expected for GARY- it was a complete success. Both personnel and materiel were inspected under some of the most stringent criteria they would see in the Navy, and both performed admirably. Back inport two days later, GARY began the Holiday standown with three major inspections in her wake, making 1995 truly a year to look forward to.