



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HARTFORD (SSN 768)

FPO AE 09573- 2424

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W/O dish
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5 Jan 99

From: Commanding Officer, USS HARTFORD (SSN 768)

To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization

(2) Chronological Events of 1998

(3) Narrative

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. J. Diemer".

F. J. DIEMER

Command Composition and Organization

Mission: To locate and destroy surface ships and submarines, conduct strike warfare, reconnaissance, mine planting, and conduct operations with special warfare forces.

Organizational Structure: Officers: 14
Enlisted: 120

Name of Commanding Officer: Ferdinand J. Diemer, Commander, USN

Permanent Duty Station: Groton, Connecticut

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF
USS HARTFORD (SSN 768)
for Calendar Year 1998

16 JAN 98 Upkeep/Combat Systems Readiness Review, Technical
09 MAR 98 Assist, Repair, Groom, Evaluate and Test (TARGET)
visit, and Main Storage Battery Change-out.

09 MAR 98 WESTLANT Operations including Explosive Echo
31 MAR 98 Ranging (ERR) operations with CPW-11 aircraft, and
BSP in Groton, CT on 23-24 March and ORSE 30-31
March. Arrive Pier 2 North, Groton, CT on 31 MAR
98.

06 APR 98 Begin POM Upkeep

08 APR 98 Berth Shift from Pier 2 North to 10 South

09 APR 98 Dry Dock USS OAK RIDGE Pier 17 North

18 APR 98 Berth Shift from Dry Dock to Pier 17 South

11 MAY 98 Host ship for COMSUBGRU TWO Change of Command

13 MAY 98 Depart for Sea Trials/End of POM Upkeep
14 MAY 98 Arrive Groton, CT Pier 8 North

14 MAY 98 Dependents Cruise
14 MAY 98 Arrive Groton, CT Pier 8 North

15 MAY 98 VIP Cruise
15 MAY 98 Return to Groton, CT Pier 8 North

28 MAY 98 Change of Command, Groton, CT Pier 8 North

01 JUN 98 Depart Groton, CT Pier 8 North for TB-23 Towed
Array testing
02 JUN 98 Arrive Groton, CT Pier 8 North

03 JUN 98 Underway for POM Work-up
10 JUN 98 Arrive Groton, CT Pier 33 South

22 JUN 98 Underway for POM Certification
26 JUN 98 Arrive Groton, CT Pier 32 South

07 JUL 98 Departed for North Atlantic deployment

17 JUL 98 Arrived Faslane, Scotland
27 JUL 98 Departed Faslane, Scotland

06 OCT 98 Arrived Tromso, Norway
09 OCT 98 Departed Tromso, Norway

15 OCT 98 Arrived Plymouth, England
29 OCT 98 Departed Plymouth, England

30 OCT 98 Participated in Joint Maritime Course 983
04 NOV 98

07 NOV 98 U. K. Royal Navy Perisher Operations
09 NOV 98

10 NOV 98 Arrived Faslane, Scotland
14 NOV 98 Departed Faslane, Scotland

27 NOV 98 ICE OPS 3-98
04 DEC 98

06 DEC 98 Conducted BSP/MEDEVAC in Tromso, Norway

16 DEC 98 Conducted BSP in Groton, CT to pickup NPEB for
Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination

18 DEC 98 Arrived Groton, CT

Narrative

HARTFORD was underway in early January supporting a Pre-Overseas Movement Certification (POMCERT) for one ship, sound monitoring for another ship in conjunction with Tactical Onboard Monitoring Analysis (TOMA) conducted onboard HARTFORD. Also, HARTFORD conducted a special orientation cruise directed by COMSUBLANT for seven U.S. Naval Academy midshipman. In mid-January, HARTFORD returned to port and commenced a five-week Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMA) Upkeep in Groton, CT. During this upkeep, a Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR), a Technical Assist Repair Groom and Evaluation Test (TARGET) visit, and a main storage battery change-out occurred. Additionally, the ship received a grade of Satisfactory on its 3M Inspection which was also accomplished during the upkeep. In early March, HARTFORD was underway for at-sea sonar testing with USS AUGUSTA, however, a schedule change resulted in cancellation of the exercise. HARTFORD then supported an explosive echo ranging exercise with CPW-11 aircraft in the Western Atlantic. This was followed by an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination at the end of March.

HARTFORD entered a 5-week Pre-overseas Movement (POM) upkeep in Groton, CT beginning 6 April, which included an emergent dry docking from 8 to 18 April. During the upkeep, a Medical Readiness Inspection occurred with Satisfactory results. At the

Enclosure (3)

end of the upkeep, HARTFORD hosted the Commander, Submarine Group TWO Change of Command for RADM Malcom I. Fages and RADM John B. Padgett, III. Following the POM upkeep, the ship conducted a three-day sea trials period, a dependants cruise and a VIP cruise for HARTFORD's Commissioning Committee. HARTFORD completed Pre-deployment training at Submarine School New London, CT during the week of 18 to 25 May.

On May 28, CDR Ferdinand J. Diemer relieved CDR Joel E. Bohlmann as Commanding Officer. Captain Van Mauney, Commander, Submarine Squadron FOUR was the guest speaker for the ceremony which occurred on Pier 8N at Naval Submarine Base, New London.

Following the change of command, HARTFORD completed it's Pre-Overseas Movement Workup with USS ANNAPOLIS and USS BILLFISH from 3 to 10 June. HARTFORD was back underway for POM Certification (POMCERT) on 22 June with USS TREPANG and USS TOLEDO after a short inport period for stores load-out and repairs to the RDF Mast. Following POMCERT, HARTFORD conducted a final 10 day inport period prior to deployment.

On 07 July 1998, HARTFORD was underway for its first 6 month North Atlantic deployment. During the transatlantic crossing, material problems developed. This coupled with the requirement to MEDEVAC two crew members resulted in an early 2 week port

visit and repair period in Faslane, Scotland beginning 17 July 1998. HARTFORD completed repairs and was underway on 27 July 1998. HARTFORD conducted a PASSEX with U.S. and Norwegian Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) from 28 to 31 July in the Eastern Atlantic.

From 01 August to 06 October, HARTFORD conducted a classified mission of great importance to national security. Following this tasking, HARTFORD conducted a four day port visit in Tromso, Norway. HARTFORD then transited to Plymouth, England for it's mid-deployment maintenance period which occurred from 15-29 October. This was the first extended U.S. submarine port visit in Plymouth since 1992. Several major repairs were completed including the Steering and Diving Hydraulic Accumulator, ESGN Channel Two IMU replacement, repairs to the Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant, AN/BQH-9 recorders and the AN/WLR-8 ESM system. Additionally, twenty-five wives traveled to meet the ship in Plymouth and the crew thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Cornish coast, London and the south of England.

Following the maintenance period in Plymouth, HARTFORD participated in the U.K. sponsored exercise Joint Maritime Course (JMC) 983. HARTFORD was one of over 40 vessels, including 8 submarines, which conducted tactical training in several warfare

areas. HARTFORD was credited with sinking 70,000 tons of shipping and one diesel submarine during the exercise. After JMC, HARTFORD participated in Royal Navy Perisher Operations with HMS SPARTAN, which was a two-day sub versus sub interaction intended to train and certify prospective Royal Navy submarine Executive Officers. This marked another U.S. Navy first, as HARTFORD was the first U.S. SSN to ever provide training services during Perisher Operations.

Following Perisher Operations, HARTFORD conducted a five day port visit in Faslane, Scotland from 10 to 14 November for minor repairs and to embark an ice pilot. HARTFORD then conducted a special operation from 18 November through 27 November. Following the special mission, HARTFORD conducted ICE OPS 3-98 in the Greenland Sea from 27 November to 04 December 1998. HARTFORD was forced to conclude ICE OPS 3-98 early due to a crew member developing a case of appendicitis. The MEDEVAC was conducted by small boat transfer at Tromso, Norway on 6 December 98. Following the MEDEVAC, HARTFORD conducted a transatlantic crossing and embarked the Nuclear Propulsion Examination Board at Groton, CT for an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination on 16 December. HARTFORD returned home from it's six month North Atlantic deployment on 18 December. The remainder of the year

was a well deserved holiday and post-deployment stand down.