



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32) ✓  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH) Washington

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Basic Narrative  
(2) SMI report  
(3) 3-M report  
(4) Copies of significant messages and letters of interest

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

2. The Commanding Officer for USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32) for the year of 1986 was Commander Bob R. Patton, USN. USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32) is assigned to Destroyer Squadron EIGHT and homeported in Mayport, Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. R. Patton", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

B. R. PATTON

The first day of 1985 found the Mayport based Guided Missile Frigate JOHN L. HALL conducting surveillance operations in the vicinity of the harbor of Havana. Early on the morning of 2 January, JOHN L. HALL departed her surveillance station and conducted refueling-at-sea with USNS WACCAMAW T-AO-108. Upon the completion of the underway replenishment, JOHN L. HALL returned to her station off the North coast of Cuba and continued the surveillance operations.

On 5 January, USS AQUILA (PHM-4) joined with JOHN L. HALL on station. One crew member was transferred by motor whale boat to USS AQUILA for emergency evacuation to Key West Naval Base, and further transfer to Mayport, Florida. Mid-morning on 6 January USS AQUILA relieved JOHN L. HALL on station. Proceeding to Key West the evening of 6 and 7 January, JOHN L. HALL navigated into Key West and moored at the Naval Base. After refueling, JOHN L. HALL departed Key West Naval Base and returned to surveillance station, relieving USS AQUILA (PHM-4).

January 8 through 15, JOHN L. HALL continued surveillance and monitoring of shipping. On 16 January USS ARIES (PHM-5) transferred mail, parts, and a technical representative to repair teletype, and remained on station while JOHN L. HALL conducted refueling-at-sea operations with USNS WACCAMAW (T-AO-108). Upon completion of refueling, JOHN L. HALL returned to station and relieved USS ARIES (PHM-5).

Mid-morning on the 18th of January a soviet battle group comprised of OTILCHNY (DDG-403), RAZITELNYN (FFG-804), ZADORNYI (FFG-937) a Cuban KONI (FF-356) and the AOR DNESTR was detected departing Havana, Cuba. JOHN L. HALL departed station and continued surveillance of the Soviet Sag as it proceeded into the Gulf of Mexico.

On 22 January, JOHN L. HALL transited the Old Bahama Channel while conducting surveillance operations, and the following day transited the Crooked Island Passage as the Soviet Sag headed in a southerly direction. When the Sag anchored in Cienfuegos Harbor, Cuba, JOHN L. HALL conducted underway refueling with USNS MISSISSINAWA during the afternoon of 25 January. After a short transit by the Soviet Sag to anchorage off Banco De Jardinillos on the 26th, JOHN L. HALL was relieved by SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON (FFG 13) on station on the 28th of January.

While transiting the Yucatan Channel JOHN L. HALL gained IFF contact on a suspected narcotics transport aircraft and relayed the information to CTG-24, which resulted in the apprehension of the aircraft upon landing in the United States. Once in the vicinity of Key West, the MTT was embarked for training during transit to Mayport for the upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

JOHN L. HALL returned to Mayport, Florida, on 31 January, continuing OPPE preparations. Underway for one day on the 12th of February, JOHN L. HALL conducted various exercises utilizing the services of USS PAIUTE (ATF-142) towing a target sled. Mooring on 13 February, and underway on 15 February in the Jacksonville OPAREA, JOHN L. HALL continued OPPE preparations by practicing all types of basic engineering casualty control drills. Returning on 16 February, JOHN L. HALL remained inport until 10 March. JOHN L. HALL assisted USS BOONE (FFG-28) in a TYCOMMEX.

ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

Early on the morning of 11 March, JOHN L. HALL slipped her lines and made for the Jacksonville OPAREA with the OPPE certification team on board. Upon the successful completion of all engineering drills, JOHN L. HALL moored late in the afternoon of the 12th of March.

Underway on the morning of 26 March, JOHN L. HALL headed into the Jacksonville OPAREA for anti-submarine exercises with COMSUBRON TWENTY-FOUR vessels. Upon the completion of the ASW exercises on 27 March, JOHN L. HALL headed South along the coast of Florida enroute to Key West Florida for a port visit. Mooring on the 29th of March, JOHN L. HALL then was underway on 30 March for the Island of Granada in the southern Caribbean Sea.

Arriving in Granada's port city of St. Georges, on 5 April, JOHN L. HALL was hosted by U.S. Embassy officials and local dignitaries for tours. The following two days general visiting was conducted with over 300 local residents touring JOHN L. HALL. A one-day transit from Granada To Barbados on 8 April, with JOHN L. HALL mooring in Bridgetown, Barbados the morning of 9 April.

Following a brief two day port visit, JOHN L. HALL was underway for Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Mooring the morning of 12 April, preparations and briefs were conducted in preparation for A 76MM gunshoot, tracking exercises, and missile shoot. A short transit from Naval Base Roosevelt Roads to the Weapons Tracking Facility was conducted the morning of 13 April. Once on station, JOHN L. HALL conducted aircraft tracking on an A-4 aircraft and conducted a 76mm gun shoot. The following day, 14 April, JOHN L. HALL successfully fired a standard missile utilizing a drone target. A close-in weapons system exercise followed the missile shoot.

Departing Puerto Rico OPAREAS, JOHN L. HALL transited to ST Croix underwater weapons range and embarked personnel for sub-surface noise measurement evaluation. The SSRNM was conducted on range during the evening and early morning hours of 15-16 April. Upon completion of the noise evaluation tests, SSRNM personnel were debarked, and JOHN L. HALL departed for a port visit at ST Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Anchoring just outside ST. Thomas Harbor, JOHN L. HALL conducted a three day port visit, departing on 19 April for Montego Bay, Jamaica. Mooring on the morning of 21 April in Montego Bay, JOHN L. HALL commenced a two day port visit in the island's second largest city. Underway on the 23rd of April, JOHN L. HALL headed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After a brief stop for fuel and embarking FEWSG Det 1 - Team Bravo, JOHN L. HALL departed Guantanamo Bay on 24 April and headed for a rendezvous with the USS SARATOGA (CV-60) in the windward passage. Leapfrogs, and other maneuvering drills and an underway replenishment were conducted utilizing services of the USS SARATOGA (CV-60). The following day, 26 April, a 76MM PAC Fire and maneuvering tactics were held while in transit to Mayport, Florida.

JOHN L. HALL moored in Mayport, Florida on the 27th of April and remained inport until the afternoon of 1 May at which time JOHN L. HALL got underway for exercise Solid Shield '85 off the east coast of the United States in the vicinity of North Carolina and Virginia. On 4 May, USS JOHN L. HALL joined up with USS MERRIMAC (AO-178) and the PHM's AQUILA, ARIES, and HERCULES.

The 6th of May found JOHN L. HALL conducting refueling operations with USS AQUILA (PHM-4), USS ARIES (PHM-5) and USS HERCULES (PHM-3). Another refueling-at-sea was conducted on 7 May and 11 May with USS MERRIMAC (AO-178). Fleet operations were continued in conjunction with exercise Solid Shield 85, with refuelings of the PHM's AQUILA, ARIES, and HERCULES held on 12 and 14 May.

The Navy Relief Fund Drive was completed on 15 May with \$8,219 donated (\$41.09 per crew member average) and a final refueling conducted with USS MERRIMAC (AO-178) before departing for Mayport at the conclusion of Exercise Solid Shield '85.

After a short, one day stay in Mayport, JOHN L. HALL was underway from Mayport, Florida to the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC), operations area located in Tongue of the Ocean off Andros Island as ASW School Ship.

Arriving in the AUTEC OPAREA on 18 May, JOHN L. HALL joined up with USS HAYLER (DD-998) for ASW mini-wars with USS BILLFISH (SSN-676). Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six embarked in USS HAYLER (DD-998), was OTC for mini-war ASW exercise. ASW exercises continued until 21 May when CDS-26 and three JOHN L. HALL personnel were transferred, by AUTEC range craft, to USS BILLFISH as observers. Two mini-ASW wars were conducted before transfer was effected on 22 May of CDS-26 and JOHN L. HALL personnel, and USS HAYLER conducted a towing exercise with JOHN L. HALL.

JOHN L. HALL moored in Mayport on 23 May and remained inport until 3 June. Dependents and guests were boarded early on the morning of 3 June for a dependents cruise into the Jacksonville operating area. Mooring briefly to debark guests and dependents, JOHN L. HALL then departed for Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina, arriving the morning of 4 June.

With all weapons offloaded, JOHN L. HALL departed for Mayport, Florida on 5 June, arriving on the 6th of June. Selective Restricted Availability One started on 13 June. A Readiness Support Group 3-M assist visit was conducted on board JOHN L. HALL on 24-26 June.

August 8th was the start of post SRA dock trials and 9 August Combat Systems testing commenced. Underway on 12 August in the Jacksonville OPAREA for HM/E trials, JOHN L. HALL returned the afternoon of the 12th until 29 August. August 26-27 found JOHN L. HALL being inspected for aviation certification. Underway on 29 August for Combat Systems Sea Trials, JOHN L. HALL tested all of radars and weapons to ensure their operability, returning on 30 August to Mayport.

On 4 September, JOHN L. HALL departed Mayport for Naval Weapons Station Charleston, South Carolina. Tying up on 5 September, weapons were uploaded safely and efficiently, enabling JOHN L. HALL to depart Naval Weapons Station Charleston on time the following morning.

Underway from 6-10 September, JOHN L. HALL headed South via the Virgin Island, Crooked Island and Windward Passages enroute to special operations in the Eastern Pacific via the Panama Canal. Transiting the Panama Canal the afternoon and night of 10-11 September, JOHN L. HALL moored to the pier at Rodman, Canal Zone and commenced turnover with USS AUBREY FITCH (FFG-34).

Departing Rodman on 12 September, JOHN L. HALL headed for the special operations operating area transiting in international waters along the coasts of Panama, Costa Rica, and San Salvador. Upon reaching the operating area, JOHN L. HALL conducted surveillance operations until 21 September, and then headed South. Crossing the Equator on 23 September, JOHN L. HALL moored in Rodman, Canal Zone on 25 September.

The 28th of September found JOHN L. HALL again heading North along the West Coast of Central America to her special operations MODLOC South of El Salvador, arriving on station on the 28th September. A rendezvous with USS SPHINX (ARL-6) was conducted and a transfer of material and personnel undertaken using JOHN L. HALL'S Motor Whale Boat. JOHN L. HALL departed station on 6 October in transit to Rodman, Canal Zone, arriving on 8 October.

Turnover of material and personnel was conducted with USS SPHINX (ARL-6). On 11 October, JOHN L. HALL departed with visitors from various military commands in the Canal Zone for a West to East transit of the Panama Canal. Debarking the visitors just outside of Gatun Locks while at anchor, JOHN L. HALL completed the special operations portion of the Central American operations.

Completing the passage through the Panama Canal. JOHN L. HALL headed South and transited along the east coast of Columbia. Returning to Colon, Panama for a brief stop for fuel on 17 October, JOHN L. HALL was underway that afternoon for a port visit to Moin, Costa Rica, mooring in that new port complex on 18 October. Local dignitaries and Embassy personnel from the U.S. Consulate in San Juan, Costa Rica toured the ship enthusiastically. Volunteers from JOHN L. HALL participated in rebuilding a schoolhouse and distributed Project Handclasp materials to a local orphanage as part of community relations projects.

October 21, JOHN L. HALL got underway for a short transit North to Tela, Honduras. Mooring to the only pier in the small coastal city on 25 October. USS JOHN L. HALL crew members participated in community relations projects in the city's hospital and local clinic as well as distributing Project Handclasp materials. Remaining until 5 November, USS JOHN L. HALL departed Tela, Honduras and moored in Puerto Cortez, Honduras at the fueling pier, upon completion of fueling, JOHN L. HALL anchored overnight in the harbor before departing for her homeport of Mayport, Florida, arriving on 9 November 1985.

A Supply Management Inspection (SMI) was conducted on JOHN L. HALL 19 through 22 November in conjunction with an Immediate Unit Commanders Inspection (IUC) and preliminary evaluation for the Ney award as best mess in the medium afloat category. Upon completion of the SMI, JOHN L. HALL was designated a "Supply Superstar" having achieved grades of 4 excellents and 3 superiors in the seven categories.

On 9 December, a 3-M inspection was conducted on USS JOHN L. HALL, and awarded a grade of 90.5 overall. The remainder of 1985 was spent in port preparing for the upcoming Board of Inspection Survey visit.