

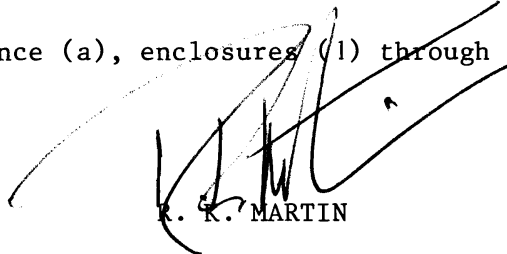


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) ✓
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard (OP-09BH)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D
Encl: (1) Chronology
(2) Narrative
(3) Supporting Documents *

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


R. K. MARTIN

* See also CAS file

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) 1986-88 CHRONOLOGY

86MAR03 KEEL LAID AT INGALLS SHIPBUILDING, PASCAGOULA, MISS.
87APR03 LAUNCHED
87APR25 CHRISTENED BY MRS. EVERETT PYATT (SHIP SPONSOR)
87JUN07 CW02 [REDACTED] FIRST CREW MEMBER, ARRIVES
87AUG24 AEGIS SYSTEM LIGHT OFF
87SEP08 CAPT R. K. MARTIN ARRIVED FOR DUTY AS PCO, ESTABLISHING RECOMUNIT AND PRECOMDET
87NOV16 MAIN ENGINE LIGHT OFF
88FEB01 FIRST UNDERWAY TRIAL ALPHA
88FEB22 SECOND UNDERWAY TRIAL BRAVO
88MAR07 NAVY ACCEPTANCE TRIAL CHARLIE
88JUN01 CUSTODY TRANSFER, CREW MOVE ABOARD
88JUN29 PASSED CREW CERTIFICATION
88JUL14 PASSED LIGHT OFF EXAMINATION
88JUL15 COMMISSION WITHOUT CEREMONY (0800), CAPT MARTIN TITLE CHANGED TO CO
88JUL19 SK2 [REDACTED] BECAME FIRST CREW MEMBER TO REENLIST ONBOARD
88JUL21 AIR DET (HSL 45, DET 11) ARRIVED, LCDR GREGORY J. MARTIN, OIC
88JUL22 VADM MARTIN, DEPUTY COMMANDER, CINCUSNAVEUR VISITS SHIP
88JUL23 FIRST DEPENDENT'S CRUISE, LASTING 3 HRS. 50 MIN. UNDERWAY FOR YORKTOWN, VA FOR AMMO ONLOAD
88JUL27 ARRIVED YORKTOWN, VA
88JUL28 UNDERWAY FOR NEWPORT, RI
88JUL29 FIRST UNREP; USNS JOSUA HUMPHREYS
88JUL30 ARRIVED NEWPORT, RI.
88AUG08 UNDERWAY MANHATTAN, NY FOR COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES

88AUG15 UNDERWAY ST. THOMAS, V.I.

88AUG16 BEGAN OPERATIONS WITH USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) AND USNS JOHN LENTHALL (TAO 189)

88AUG20 ANCHORED, ST. THOMAS, V.I.

88AUG23 UNDERWAY RIO DE JANIERO, BRAZIL

88AUG28 KING NEPTUNUS REX ARRIVED FOR POLLYWOG INITIATION, AS SHIP CROSSED THE EQUATOR AT LONGITUDE 043-42.2W

88SEP03 ANCHORED RIO DE JANIERO, BRAZIL

88SEP06 UNDERWAY LIMA, PERU

88SEP11 MAJOR L.O. LEAK MER #1 (CASUALTY CONTROL WAS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE; NO SECONDARY CASUALTIES)

88SEP13 BEGAN LOSING HURRICANE BULLWARK DUE TO HEAVY SEAS (SEE VIDEO TAPE ENCLOSED)

88SEP14 (1435) REACHED LOWEST POINT OF LATITUDE AT 56 06.0S, PASSING CAPE HORN

88SEP21 DETACHED FROM USS INDEPENDENCE

88SEP22 DETACHED USNS JOHN LENTHALL. BEGAN EXERCISE WITH PERUVIAN NAVY. THE FOLLOWING SHIPS PARTICIPATED: BAP VILLAVICENCIO (F52), BAP MONERO (F53), BAP MARIATECUI (F54) AND BAP CASMA (33-31)

88SEP23 CEASED EXERCISE, ANCHORED LIMA, PERU. VIP VISITS, LIMA

88SEP24 COMPLETED REMOVAL OF DAMAGED BULLWARK AND INSTALLED STANCHIONS (WORK PERFORMED BY SIMA, LIMA)

88SEP25 UNDERWAY ACAPULCO, MX

88SEP27 KING NEPTUNUS REX AGAIN ARRIVED, AND POLLYWOG QMCM(SW) HERBER, COMMAND MASTER CHIEF WAS INITIATED INTO THE REALM OF SHELLBACKS. CROSSED EQUATOR AT LONGITUDE 85 02.3W

88OCT01 ANCHORED ACAPULCO, MX. REJOINED USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62)

88OCT03 SHIP VISITED BY CAPTAIN, MEXICAN NAVY

88OCT04 UNDERWAY SAN DIEGO, CA

88OCT08 COMNAVSURFPAC ARRIVES. MOORED, NAS NORTH ISLAND, CA. COMNAVSURFPAC DEPARTS. UNDERWAY NAVAL STATION, SAN DIEGO, CA. MOORED NAVAL STATION, SAN DIEGO, CA

88OCT26 UNDERWAY SEAL BEACH, CA, FOR AMMO ONLOAD

88OCT27 MOORED, SEAL BEACH, CA
88OCT28 UNDERWAY PEARL HARBOR, HI
88NOV04 ARRIVE PEARL HARBOR, HI. DEPERM CONDUCTED
88NOV15 RDVU WITH USS LEAHY (CG 16) AT PACIFIC MISSILE TEST RANGE
88NOV18 DEPART RANGE, ARRIVE P.H. FOR FUEL
88NOV19 RETURN TO RANGE
88NOV22 UNDERWAY LAHAINA, MAUI. FULL POWER RUN
88NOV22 ARRIVE MAUI, HI
88NOV25 DEPART TO PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FOR CSSQT. FULL POWER RUN
88NOV30 DEPARTED RANGE FOR PEARL HARBOR
88DEC02 UNDERWAY SAN DIEGO, CA
88DEC06 WAR AT SEA EXERCISE (LAKE CHAMPLAIN VS USS CONSTELLATION BATTLE GROUP)
88DEC06 ASSIST WITH SAR FOR GHOST WALKER 606 (EAGB FROM CONSTELLATION LOST AT SEA). AIRCRAFT AND CREW LOST
88DEC08 ARRIVE SAN DIEGO, CA
88DEC14 UNDERWAY TO SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND FOR NGFS EXERCISES
88DEC15 ARRIVE SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND (FIREX ONE COMPLETE, WITH SCORE OF OUTSTANDING - 103.5%)
88DEC16 UNDERWAY SAN DIEGO, CA
88DEC17 BEGIN HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD
88DEC18 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CREW'S CHILDREN HELD ON BOARD AS A BUSY YEAR ENDS

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE

For the Aegis Guided Missile Cruiser, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57), history began on March 3, 1986, with the laying of her keel at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Mississippi. Thirteen months later, on April 3, 1987, she was placed in drydock and lowered into the sea for the first time. Shortly thereafter, on April 25, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was formally christened by her sponsor, Mrs. Everett Pyatt, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Shipbuilding and Logistics. Mrs. Pyatt noted that this was the third ship of the fleet to bear the name LAKE CHAMPLAIN, stating that "I know that this crew and the men who follow in your footsteps will carry on this proud heritage of ingenuity, daring, and discipline."

CWO2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] U.S. Navy, became the first member of the crew to arrive, reporting aboard on June 7, 1987. Just over two months later, on the 24th of August, the Ship's Aegis System was lit off for the first time, thus beginning the real process of breathing life into LAKE CHAMPLAIN. The subsequent testing proved more than satisfactory, setting the tone for the successful light off and testing of the main engines in November, 1987. As more and more of her crew began to arrive, work progress began to increase rapidly.

Captain Ralph K. Martin, U.S. Navy, Prospective Commanding Officer, reported for duty on September 8, 1987, establishing LAKE CHAMPLAIN Precommissioning Unit, Pascagoula, as well as the Precommissioning Detachment, San Diego, California. As the ship's construction rapidly continued, so too did the crew's training and preparations, with attendance at the TO-2 Team Trainer in Moorestown, New Jersey, while the ship lay in drydock for hull upkeep and sonar maintenance. To prepare for sea trials, on board equipment training was held, stressing ammunition handling, preparation, and firing rehearsals. As 1987 became 1988, the fevered pitch of operations aboard LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued to increase as the newest Aegis Guided Missile Cruiser neared her completion.

On February 1, 1988, LAKE CHAMPLAIN began her first sea trial, Underway Trial Alpha, completing it on February 2nd. Soon after, she completed Underway Trial Bravo from February 22nd through the 24th. Finally, on March 7, 1988, she completed Underway Trial Charlie and was accepted by The Board of Inspection and Survey. Following a "Mini-PSA" work package and equipment installation for approved engineering change proposals, the ship completed her Habitability Inspection on May 27, 1988. The only significant discrepancy was deterioration of the PRC decks. It was soon corrected.

May 28, 1988, saw the successful completion of an Aviation Assist Visit (AAV). The AAV was upgraded from an assist to a certification with the completion of the Pilot Rescue Team Trainer on June 8, 1988. So successful were the crew's efforts in the aviation venue that the ship was not required to complete the Aviation Readiness Exam.

On June 1, 1988, the Navy took custody of LAKE CHAMPLAIN, as scheduled, and the crew moved aboard to complete the task of bringing her to full readiness. During his first LMC announcement to mark the occasion, Captain Martin said in part,

"Today LAKE CHAMPLAIN is delivered to the Navy by Ingalls Shipyard. Our real work begins now--It will continue as long as the ship remains in commission.

We have but one task. It is the job of maintaining readiness to fight to our full capability. That job, God willing, we will do."

Crew certification was successfully conducted by representatives from Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in late June, followed by the Light Off Examination on July 14.

July 15, 1988 marked USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN's commissioning without ceremony at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula. Captain R. K. Martin, U.S. Navy, officially became the Commanding Officer, and CG 57 was at last ready to begin her career as a full-fledged U.S. Navy warship. There followed a series of firsts: SK2 [REDACTED], U.S. Navy, became the first crew member to reenlist aboard; HSL 45, Detachment 11, arrived aboard on July 21, becoming the ship's first Air Detachment; Vice Admiral Edward H. Martin, Deputy, Command-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, arrived as LAKE CHAMPLAIN's first visiting dignitary; and the first dependent's cruise, lasting three hours, 50 minutes, took place on July 23.

Following the Dependent's Cruise, LAKE CHAMPLAIN departed for Yorktown, Virginia. Completing a one day ammunition onload, she departed for Newport, Rhode Island on July 28. Enroute to Newport, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted her first underway replenishment alongside USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS. After spending one week in Newport making preparations for the final commissioning ceremony, LAKE CHAMPLAIN departed for New York Harbor on August 8.

On August 12, 1988, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57), eleventh Aegis Cruiser of the Ticonderoga Class, was placed into commission by The Secretary of the Navy, The Honorable William L. Ball III. Moored starboard side to Pier 88, New York Harbor, the ship lay in sight of USS INTREPID Museum, as dignitaries addressed those gathered to honor the occasion. The crew, all in dress white uniforms, rushed aboard to bring the great ship to life, and the first watch was set by the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Joseph J. Natale, U.S. Navy. The third USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN had at last arrived.

Following three days of open house visits, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway for St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on August 15. She was joined the following day by the newly-refurbished USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) and USNS JOHN LENTHALL (TAO 189) for the transit southward toward Cape Horn. The trip would provide many interesting and enjoyable events along the way.

The ship anchored at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on August 20, and weighed anchor three days later on the 23rd for the trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Along the way, the ship crossed the equator at longitude 043-42.2W, thus necessitating a visit first from Davy Jones, followed by His Royal Highness, King Neptunus Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main. As the king and his homely queen held court, the embarked shellbacks ensured that the ship's pollywogs were duly initiated into the solemn mysteries and ancient order of the deep. The pollywogs, having been examined by Neptunus Rex and found acceptable, became shellbacks. USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued on her way, arriving at anchorage in Rio on September 3rd.

After three days of liberty in Brazil, the crew reluctantly continued their southward trek on the 6th of September, bound for Lima, Peru. At this juncture, the men were graphically reminded of the dangers faced by seafarers, even aboard the newest of ships. On September 11, Central Control Station reported a major lube oil leak in Main Engine Room Number One. Fortunately, the outstanding casualty control efforts of the engineering team prevented any secondary casualties, and the underway routine soon returned to normal. Then, on September 13, while being pummeled by heavy seas, the ship began to lose her hurricane bullwark, the final blow being dramatically captured on videotape by the forward VLS camera.

On September 14 at 1435, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN reached her southernmost point of latitude at 56-06.0S as she passed Cape Horn. One week later, she was detached from USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), and the following day she detached from USNS JOHN LENTHALL (TAO-189) in preparation for operations with the Peruvian Navy. Joining B.A.P. VILLAVICENCIO (F-52), B.A.P. MONTERO (F-53), B.A.P. MARIATECUI (F-54), B.A.P. CASMA (55-31), AND B.A.P. ARICA (55-36), LAKE CHAMPLAIN spent the day as head of a Joint Task Force. The exercises concluded with the ship's anchoring in Lima, Peru.

As the crew enjoyed a very brief respite, the SIMA Activity in Peru removed the remaining damaged sections of the hurricane bullwark, installing temporary stanchions in the process. September 25th saw LAKE CHAMPLAIN underway again, bound for Acapulco, Mexico.

Enroute to Acapulco, King Neptunus Rex and His Royal Scribe, Davy Jones, again paid a call to initiate QMCM(SW) W. B. Herbert, U.S. Navy, Command Master Chief, and a small group of unfortunate pollywogs into the painful mysteries of the deep. As LAKE CHAMPLAIN crossed the equator at 085-02.3W, QMCM(SW) Herbert and his small band discovered that there is no worse shellback than a new shellback when it comes to the solemn rituals associated with his highness.

On the 1st of October, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN anchored in Acapulco Bay. As the men of CG 57 enjoyed the sun and fun of Acapulco, they were joined by the crew of USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62), and both ships found themselves playing host to numerous officers of the Mexican Navy.

Departure from Acapulco took place on October 4th, and USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) set out on the last leg of their long journey to their new home. Anticipation among the officers and crew mounted as San Diego drew ever nearer.

Finally, on October 8, 1988, LAKE CHAMPLAIN entered San Diego Harbor for the first time. Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral R.K.U. Kihune, U.S. Navy, flew out to ride San Diego's newest warship into port. Joining the Admiral were newspeople from KGB Radio 101.5 FM, to broadcast the occasion live. Rounding the bend, the crewmen manning the ship's rails could finally see the piers at Naval Air Station, North Island, where their loved ones anxiously awaited LAKE CHAMPLAIN's arrival.

The long-anticipated reunions took place among the ceremonies as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific fleet officially welcomed USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN

to the Pacific Fleet. Following VADM Kihune's departure, the ship's families and dependents embarked for the short journey to the 32nd Street Naval Station. The long transit, spanning two oceans and more than 15,000 miles, came to an end with LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored starboard side to Pier 8, Naval Station, San Diego.

After two weeks in port, adjusting to the routines of her new home, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN was once again underway on October 26, bound for the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California. After a day's unloading, she departed Seal Beach for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the Pacific Missile Test Range. After arriving at Pearl and completion of deperming on the 4th of November, CG 57 rendezvoused with USS LEAHY (CG 16) at the missile test range for the beginning of the Combat Systems Ship's Qualification Trials (CSSQT). After a brief return to Pearl for fuel on the 18th, it was back to the range for more trials the next morning. November 22nd brought a full power run to Lahaina and arrival that same day. Prior to departure from Lahaina on November 25th, the crew was treated to a Thanksgiving Luau. CSSQT was completed on November 30, with another outstanding performance turned in by the officers and crew of USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57). She departed for home on December 2, 1988.

On December 6, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted a mock war at sea strike against USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) and her battle group. In the course of the battle problem, one of CONSTELLATION's aircraft, an EA-6B, call sign GHOST WALKER 606, was reported missing at sea. Despite the arduous efforts of LAKE CHAMPLAIN and components of the CV 64 Battlegroup, the plane and its crew of four were lost. LAKE CHAMPLAIN arrived home on the 8th of December.

December 14th brought with it the last underway period of the year, a three day trip to San Clemente Island for Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) Exercises. She returned to port on the 16th, having scored 103.5%, an all-time high first score, well-deserving of the grade of outstanding received. December 17th commenced LAKE CHAMPLAIN's first holiday leave and upkeep period.

On December 18, 1988, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) held a Christmas Party on board for the crew and their families. She had been through construction, trials, numerous certifications, and the long transit, finally coming home for the holidays. Despite a busy new year ahead of them, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN and her crew were content to close their first chapter of the great warship's history at home, in the company of family and friends.