



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS MEMPHIS (SSN 691)
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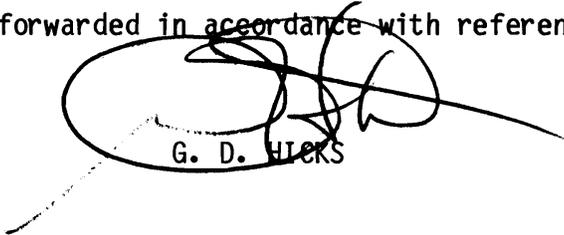
From: Commanding Officer, USS MEMPHIS (SSN 691)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Annual Command History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 May 1971

Encl: (1) USS MEMPHIS (SSN 691) Command History for 1979

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).


G. D. HERS

COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS MEMPHIS (SSN 691) FOR 1979

Upon completion of a post shipyard availability at Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Company, Newport News, VA, MEMPHIS completed shakedown sea trials and returned to Norfolk in mid-February. After a short at sea period, the ship proceeded south to the acoustic range (AUTEK) facility at Tongue of the Ocean. Enroute to AUTEK, MEMPHIS conducted mutual exercises with USS BIRMINGHAM (SSN 695). At AUTEK, MEMPHIS successfully completed MK 48 torpedo certification. After AUTEK, MEMPHIS had a port call in FT Lauderdale, Florida for several days in preparation for a technical evaluation of the AN/BQS-15 Sonar System. After a return visit to FT Lauderdale to debark technical evaluation personnel and equipment, MEMPHIS proceeded to Norfolk. While underway MEMPHIS completed a [REDACTED] evaluation by Commander Submarine Squadron SIX. The ship's performance during this [REDACTED] was so successful that the follow on requirement of a [REDACTED] was waived. Upon arrival in Norfolk, MEMPHIS commenced an upkeep that was an extensive preparation for the upcoming Mediterranean deployment. This upkeep included a week of drydock at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and de-perming of the entire ship at Craney Island, Virginia. The upkeep ended in early May and the ship transited to New London for a one week pre-deployment training period. These classroom sessions combined with the at sea training proved to be an effective workup for the approaching Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Certification. Another at sea workup period, this time with the USS SEA DEVIL (SSN 661) fully prepared the MEMPHIS for its POM Certification which was completed successfully in early June with the USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663). The ship then held upkeep which served to finalize material readiness for the deployment and on June 22 left Norfolk for the Mediterranean. MEMPHIS picked up the Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE) team in Gibraltar in early July and successfully completed her second ORSE on the way to La Maddalena, Italy. After a brief port visit there, MEMPHIS proceeded on at sea operations for the remainder of July. The beginning of August found MEMPHIS paying a port visit to La Spezia, Italy. The crew enjoyed a week of relaxation there sightseeing at famous locations such as Pisa and Florence. After La Spezia, MEMPHIS held upkeep in La Maddalena along side submarine tender HOWARD W. GILMORE (AS-16) during the middle of August. The upkeep was intense but was highlighted by a visit from the Commander of the U. S. SIXTH Fleet, Vice Admiral William N. SMALL. During the latter part of August, MEMPHIS participated in NATO fleet exercise National Week XXVII; contributing to the development of submarine employment tactics. MEMPHIS concluded National Week with a brief stop in Augusta Bay, Sicily to embark the Commander Submarine Group EIGHT, Rear Admiral Paul D. TOMB for the three day transit to MEMPHIS's next port call; Ashdod, Israel. MEMPHIS, moored alongside USS CARON (DD-970), enjoyed four days in Israel with the crew touring historic places such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. During the visit, MEMPHIS along with CARON participated in the filming of a CNO Sit-Rep concerning the port visit. MEMPHIS departed Ashdod on 4 September for Naples, Italy, and arrived there after a short transit. MEMPHIS spent five days in Naples, with the crew visiting such places as the ruins of Pompei and the island of Capri. After Naples, MEMPHIS participated in at sea

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operations and returned for a one month upkeep in La Maddalena, again along side the GILMORE. MEMPHIS departed La Maddalena the last day of October and participated in at sea operations before making a brief stop in Gibraltar, after which MEMPHIS departed the Mediterranean, headed for home. MEMPHIS returned to Norfolk and her new submarine squadron, Squadron EIGHT, on 15 November and commenced a stand down and upkeep with EMORY S. LAND (AS-39). MEMPHIS finished out 1979 moored in homeport. MEMPHIS was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" for Submarine Squadron EIGHT for the fiscal year 1979. Department awards also included the Damage Control and Communication "E" for outstanding achievement in fiscal year 1979.