



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

AOE2:ERN:nn
5750
Ser 35
MAR 08 1972

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Unclassified upon removal of enclosures

From: Commanding Officer, USS CAMDEN (AOE 2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History for 1971; submission of (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic History
(2) Documentary Annex

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

Reid Stringfellow
REID STRINGFELLOW

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COMSERVPAC
COMSERVPAC (PAO)

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BASIC HISTORY

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL commanded CAMDEN from 19 August 1970 until 6 November 1971 when he was relieved by Captain Reid STRINGFELLOW, CAMDEN's present Commanding Officer.

While in EASTPAC, CAMDEN is assigned administratively to Commander Service Group ONE and Commander Task Force THIRTEEN. When deployed to the Seventh Fleet west of 160° East, CAMDEN remains in the COMSERVGRU ONE administrative chain-of-command but reports also to Commander Service Group THREE for administrative purposes and to Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN operationally.

As of 31 December 1971, CAMDEN's on board count included 29 officers and 502 enlisted men.

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

a. Chronological Summary

1 JAN - Enroute from Sasebo to Subic Bay
2 JAN - Arrive Subic Bay
9-10 JAN - Sight-seeing tour to Pagsanjan Falls for 37 men
13 JAN - Underway for Yankee Station
14 JAN - Recovered 11 survivors of Taiwan vessel HO CHING ENG Number ONE
16-17 JAN - Visit by RADM K. A. WHEELER (NAVSUP) and RADM P. F. COSGROVE (COMSERVPAC Fleet/Force Supply Officer)
24 JAN - Collision with USS HAMNER (DD 718)
30 JAN - USO Show - Miss Black America, Miss Black Utah, Miss Black Alabama and Miss Black North Carolina
- Visit by RADM L. R. GEIS, USN (CHINFO)
6 FEB - Cookout/Band Concert on Fantail
10 FEB - Arrive Subic Bay

GROUP 1
Declassify at 5 year intervals;
Indefinitely if over 15 years

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- 13-14 FEB - Sight-seeing tour to Pagsanjan Falls for 23 men
- 15 FEB - Underway for Yankee Station for last line period of deployment
- 2 MAR - Arrive Subic Bay
- 6 MAR - Depart Subic Bay
- Cookout/Band Concert on Fantail while transiting San Bernadino Straits
- 9 MAR - Arrive Guam for ammunition off-load
- Commander Richard H. ENGELBRECHT, relieves Commander Raymond E. HELMS, Jr., as Executive Officer
- 10 MAR - Underway for Sydney
- 17 MAR - Arrive Sydney
- 21 MAR - Underway for Long Beach
- 27 MAR - Crossed Equator - Pollywog Initiation and Fantail Cookout
- 28 MAR - "Going Home"Variety Show on Mess Deck
- 3 APR - Arrive Long Beach
- 23 MAY - Commence overhaul at Naval Shipyard Long Beach
- 8-9 JUN - "Sailors of the Month" honored at Palm Springs sponsored by Palm Springs Council of the Navy League
- 11 JUN - Personnel Inspection and "Sailors of the Month" Awards Ceremony
- 16 JUL - Captain R. A. BOWLING, COMSERVGRU ONE, presents Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL, with Bronze Star Medal
- 22 JUL - Entered Drydock No. 1 at Naval Shipyard Long Beach
- 24 JUL - CAMDEN nominated as COMSERVGRU REP Long Beach area nominee to receive COMFIRSTFLT Pollution Control Award

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- 14 AUG - All Hands/Family picnic on the Naval Station Mole in Gull Park
- 17 AUG - Came out of Drydock
- 20 AUG - CAMDEN receives SERVPAC Battle Efficiency "E"
- 20 SEP - Lit off boilers
- 28 SEP - Held dock trials
- 5 OCT - Held sea trials
- 13 OCT - Captain R. A. BOWLING, COMSERVGRU ONE, presents Supply Corps Blue "E" to Supply Department
- 23 OCT - Official completion of yard period
- 30 OCT - Commander James R. POOLE relieves Commander Richard H. ENGELBRECHT as Executive Officer
- 5 NOV - Dependents Cruise
- 6 NOV - Change of Command - Captain Reid STRINGFELLOW relieves Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL as Commanding Officer
- Captain R. A. BOWLING, COMSERVGRU ONE, presents CAMDEN with Meritorious Unit Commendation for 1970-1971 WESTPAC deployment
- 15 NOV - Begin Refresher Training in San Diego
- 3 DEC - Complete Refresher Training
- 13-15 DEC - Night underway replenishment with USS HANCOCK (CVA 19)
- 20-31 DEC - Moored at Pier 3, Naval Shipyard Long Beach

b. Narrative Summary

CAMDEN completed her mid-deployment upkeep in Sasebo, Japan on 30 December 1970 and proceeded to Subic Bay for loadout, arriving 2 January. On 13 January, CAMDEN departed Subic Bay for Yankee Station for her first underway replenishment of the new year.

On 14 January about 30 miles north of the uninhabited Paracel Island in the South China Sea, CAMDEN rescued 11 Taiwanese who had been

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adrift in a lift raft for 11 days. The survivors, including the master of the Taiwan vessel HO CHING ENG Number ONE, reported they had been enroute from Penang, Malaysia to Kaohsiung, Taiwan when the vessel sank as a result of a fire on 3 January. The survivors were treated in CAMDEN's sickbay where they were given appropriate medical attention and fed. Clothing, which they had carried with them in the raft, was laundered in the ship's laundry and other clothing and personal items were provided them. On 15 January the survivors were taken by CAMDEN's helicopter detachment to DaNang for further transportation to Taiwan.

The first day on Yankee Station, CAMDEN replenished nine Seventh Fleet ships and before the line period was over, 84 ships had been alongside for either replenishment or consolidation of fuel, ammunition and stores. During one consolidation with the USS HALEAKALA (AE 25) CAMDEN transferred what is believed to be a record amount of tonnage, over 1200 tons in less than five hours. This transfer was even more spectacular in that it was accomplished under adverse conditions brought about by heavy weather and rough seas.

On 24 January, while attempting to replenish the USS HAMNER (DD 718) in the Tonkin Gulf, HAMNER collided with the starboard side of CAMDEN causing some structural damage to both ships. No personnel injuries were sustained and CAMDEN completed her line swing with necessary repairs scheduled to be made during her ROH in Long Beach. CAMDEN completed her first line period of the new year and arrived in Subic on 10 February.

After a final loadout and a short 5-day stay in Subic, CAMDEN departed on 15 February for Yankee Station and her last line period of the 1970-1971 deployment. After successfully completing her line period, CAMDEN returned to Subic on 2 March to off-load her service ammunition and load ammunition and 2 LCVP's for delivery to Guam. On 4 March, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 02 consisting of 1 officer and 2 enlisted men debarked CAMDEN. The expertise and capabilities of EOD Team 02 were well appreciated by CAMDEN's crew during the entire deployment. On 6 March, CAMDEN departed Subic for her homeport of Long Beach via Guam and a 5-day, well earned stopover in Sydney, Australia.

On arrival in Guam on 9 March, Commander Richard H. ENGELBRECHT relieved Commander Raymond E. HELMS, Jr., as Executive Officer. After off-loading ammunition and the LCVP's, CAMDEN departed Guam for the "Land Down Under" on 10 March.

After seven stormy and rough days at sea, CAMDEN arrived in Sydney and moored port side to Kirribilli Dolphins below the Harbor Bridge in Sydney Harbor, which was by far the most picturesque site which she enjoyed during the cruise. Ship's boats made liberty runs

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to Garden Island Landing. On 21 March, CAMDEN departed Sydney for Long Beach. Six days out of Sydney, on 27 March, CAMDEN crossed the Equator and initiated approximately 175 Pollywogs into the "Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep" as trusty Shellbacks.

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE, Detachment 103, homeported at Naval Air Station, Imperial Beach, California debarked off the coast of San Diego on the morning of 3 April. CAMDEN proceeded on to Long Beach and a thunderous welcome home. Tug boats, spouting streams of water from their hoses, came out to meet her in the harbor and, as the ship approached Pier Echo, Naval Station, Long Beach, she was greeted by a military band, baton-twirling majorettes from a local high school, and several hundred dependents and friends waving flags, carrying banners and wondering why a ship that could travel almost 7000 miles in two weeks took so long to travel the last few hundred yards. After customs, CAMDEN's brow was lowered and the guests and dependents streamed aboard.

Because the commencement of overhaul was imminent, it was necessary to postpone the normal 30-day standdown period until after all ammunition and fuel has been off-loaded. On 6 April, CAMDEN moved to anchorage off the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach and commenced ammunition off-load. On 10 April, CAMDEN shifted to the Navy Fuel Depot, San Pedro where it was necessary not only to pump off all fuel but to "muck" or clean cargo tanks. On 19 April, with all pre-overhaul tasks completed, CAMDEN commenced her 30-day stand-down at Pier Echo, Naval Station, Long Beach.

On 23 May, CAMDEN commenced her first regular overhaul since being commissioned in 1967. All electronics, ordnance, material handling equipment, RAS/FAS stations and main propulsion machinery were completely redone and reworked. After a 3-month, \$3.5 million dollar overhaul turned into a 6-month, \$6.4 million dollar overhaul, CAMDEN emerged from the shipyard on 23 October ready for her upcoming deployment to WESTPAC and her role as the "Floating Supermarket of the Tonkin Gulf".

On 30 October, Commander James R. POOLE relieved Commander Richard H. ENGELBRECHT as Executive Officer.

On 5 November, a dependents Cruise was conducted for over 500 dependents and friends of CAMDEN off the Southern California coast. CAMDEN also played host to her sponsoring Navy League Council, the Palm Springs Council of the Navy League, plus over 20 members of the Malibu Council of the Navy League. On 6 November Captain Reid STRINGFELLOW relieved Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL as Commanding Officer.

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Between 15 November and 3 December CAMDEN operated in the Southern California operations area off San Diego where she underwent Refresher Training in preparation for the next WESTPAC deployment. From 13-15 December, CAMDEN again went to sea for her first under-way replenishment since coming out of overhaul with USS HANCOCK (CVA-19). Upon return to Long Beach on 15 December, CAMDEN moored at Navy Fuel Depot, San Pedro to off-load fuel. On 20 December she again shifted to anchorage off Seal Beach and off-loaded her ammunition in preparation for the upcoming holiday cold-iron status in the Naval Shipyard Long Beach. On 20 December CAMDEN berthed at Pier 3, Naval Shipyard Long Beach where she remained through the end of the year.

3. SPECIAL TOPICS

a. Awards and Commendations

SA Roy Allen FISHER, USN, was presented with a CAMDEN Letter of Commendation for his alertness and subsequent action in the performance of his duties as lookout on board CAMDEN which resulted in the recovery of 11 survivors of the HO CHING ENG Number ONE.

Nine officers and men were awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, 35 were awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and 13 received SEVENTHFLT Letters of Commendations:

(1) NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL:

CDR R. E. HELMS, Jr.
LCDR F. V. FRAAS
LCDR H. E. WILCOX, SC
LCDR W. E. STALEY
CWO-2 R. J. DYKSTRA
CWO-4 J. F. HAYES
YNC E. R. NICHOLSON
BMC M. B. JAY
MMC W. M. McDOUGALL

(2) NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL:

BM3 D. R. ARRINGTON
BT1 S. BENAVIDES
RM3 W. D. BARBER
BTC C. H. BOOKER
BM2 G. F. BOONE
ENS K. L. BUCHANAN
MR2 R. D. FELTS
RD2 A. H. FENIMORE
GMG1 J. L. GOLSTON
BT1 R. R. CUNNINGHAM

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NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (Cont'd):

BTC M. E. FORD
MM2 F. G. GARDINER
SF3 C. U. KAIWI
LTJG E. J. KALUPA
LTJG D. E. KEEHN
SM2 J. T. KELLY
IC2 T. R. LENNOX, III
BM2 J. F. LICATA
BM1 E. C. McINTYRE
SK3 C. H. MOLL
BM3 D. C. OLSON
SK3 C. L. PFEIL
QM3 R. D. REINSHOLDSON
LCDR R. L. ROBERSON, CHC
SDC A. F. ROSETE
PNC D. A. RUSSELL
SH2 J. L. SLOSS
RM1 R. D. STABLER
BMCN S. STINER
MM3 M. F. THOMPSON
LT E. C. TRIMPERT, SC
YN2 R. A. WILHELM
GMG3 M. D. TYNER
ET2 D. H. VANDRE
ET1 R. E. WILSON

(3) SEVENTH FLEET LETTER OF COMMENDATION:

FN J. "C" COTTRILL
SN D. H. CRUMP
BT2 J. F. DAVIS
FN S. L. JONES
EM3 R. A. KING
SN J. A. PALIMENO
IC2 E. C. PFEIL
CS3 C. W. RHODE
EN2 J. F. ROTH
SD1 B. C. SANTERO
MMC R. M. SCOTT
FN M. L. SOUTHWICK
HMC B. E. STANDARD

Eight CAMDEN Sailors-of-the-Month, two wives, and LTJG J. H. MAXWELL (their officer excort) visited Palm Springs as guests of the Palm Springs Council of the Navy League. Among the many attractions

afforded them were tours of the city, western steak barbeques, an appearance on Television Station WMIR as a guest of Don Wilson, of Jack Benny Show fame, and a greeting by "Miss CAMDEN - 1971". In an awards ceremony held aboard CAMDEN on 11 June, Mr. Kenneth Ferrer, President of the Palm Springs Navy League Council, presented each man with a handsome plaque honoring him as a CAMDEN Sailor of the Month. Those honored were SH2 J. L. SLOSS, YN3 J. G. WHEELER, SN M. S. CHRISTENSEN, MR2 R. D. FELTS, GMG1 J. L. GOLSTON, SD1 A. F. ROSETE, BM3 D. L. OLSON and PN2 J. D. MacDONALD.

Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service as CAMDEN's Commanding Officer during her WESTPAC deployment from 6 September 1970 to 21 March 1971.

CAMDEN received the Battle Efficiency "E" for Fiscal Year 1971 as top ship of her class. Competition was based one-fourth upon completion of required training exercises and three-fourth upon day-to-day performance.

CAMDEN's Supply Department received the Supply Corps Blue "E" in recognition for outstanding performance during Fiscal Year 1971. Out of 45 Pacific Fleet Service Force ships, only five Blue "E's" were awarded to shipboard Supply Departments.

b. Communications

Communications recorded a total of 2397 outgoing messages and 9555 incoming messages for 1971.

c. Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE homeported in Imperial Beach, California provided the helicopter detachment for CAMDEN during 1971. The Detachment was formed in July 1970 with LCDR M. D. McCLELLAND as Officer-in-Charge. Five officers and 19 enlisted men flew and provided maintenance on two UH-46D helicopters.

In two line periods, during the months of January through March, 2571 short tons of cargo and 368 passengers were transferred to ships on Yankee Station. During this period, aircraft availability averaged 92.8 per cent. HC-3, Detachment 103 returned to her homeport on CAMDEN's arrival in CONUS on 3 April 1971.

d. Supply and Logistics

The following represents underway/vertical replenishment data during 1971:

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(1) Liquid Cargo (GALS)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
NSFO	15,177,120	11,111,100
JP-5	11,513,473	8,245,009
AVGAS	45,481	0

(2) Ordnance (S/T)

Total Ordnance Handled	15,379.7
Retrograde received	329.9

(3) Provisions (S/T)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
Chill	126.7	4.7
Freeze	144.3	4.5
Dry	168.9	12.9
TOTAL	439.9	22.1

(4) PACFLAP/POL/BTLD GAS (S/T)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
PACFLAP	25.6	0
POL	14.7	0
BTLD GAS	8.8	1.3
TOTAL	49.1	1.3

(5) Fleet Freight (S/T)

147.2

(6) Mail (S/T)

30.4

(7) Personnel transported

368

(8) Ships alongside

133

e. Distinguished Visitors

RADM K. A. WHEELER (NAVSUP) and RADM P. F. COSGROVE (COMSERVPAC Fleet/Force Supply Officer) visited CAMDEN on 16-17 January to discuss supply operations in the Tonkin Gulf.

RADM L.R. GEIS, Chief of Naval Information, visited CAMDEN on Yankee Station on 30 January in connection with a Seventh Fleet Public Affairs tour.

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CAMDEN played host to a USO Show on board on 30 January. Performing were Frankie Snowden and his Philadelphia Rock Theater, Miss Black America (Stephanne Clark); Miss Black Utah (Kay Slade); Miss Black Alabama (Brenda Duff); and Miss Black North Carolina (Sylvia Smith).

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