

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. S. COLLETON (APB-36)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLLETON (APB 36)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) 1968 Chronology
(2) 1968 Basic Narrative
(3) Muster Roll and Roster of Officers
(4) Family Gram
(5) Photograph of USS COLLETON (APB 36)

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).


P. G. HOUGH
By direction

Copy to:
CNO (less encl (5))
CINCPACFLT (less encl (5))
COMPHIBPAC (less encl (5))
COMNAVFORV (less encl (5))
COMRIVFLOT ONE (less encl (5))

US COLLETON (APB 36) 1968 CHRONOLOGY

16 Jan Returned to Dong Tam
21 Jan COMSIVRON-9 broke his personal flag onboard
22 Jan Transited to Vinh Long
25 Jan Underway to Ban Tre
26 Jan Transited to My Tho
27 Jan Underway to Vinh Long

1 Feb Returned to Dong Tam
4 Feb Transited to Vinh Long
9 Feb Returned to Dong Tam
12 Feb Underway to Can Tho
13 Feb Anchored at Can Tho
22 Feb LCDR BAMBURY was relieved by LCDR ALPERSON as Commanding Officer

2 Mar Underway to Binh Thuy
3 Mar Returned to Dong Tam
7 Mar Transited to My Tho
9 Mar Returned to Dong Tam
18 Mar Underway to Vinh Long
19 Mar Returned to Dong Tam
24 Mar Underway to Vinh Long
25 Mar Returned to Dong Tam
26 Mar Transited to My Tho
27 Mar Returned to Dong Tam

4 Apr Underway to My Tho
8 Apr Returned to Dong Tam
11 Apr Underway to My Tho
15 Apr Returned to Dong Tam
21 Apr Underway to Vinh Long

2 May Transited to Ban Tre
4 May Returned to Dong Tam
6 May Observed Dong Tam under mortar attack--began suppressive fire on mortar flashes
7 May Transited to Vinh Long
8 May Underway to My Tho
10 May Returned to Dong Tam
12 May Surgeon General US Armed Forces Pacific arrived for visit
14 May Underway to Ban Tre
16 May Returned to Dong Tam
17 May Underway to Sol Raps
22 May Returned to Dong Tam

1 Jun Underway to Vinh Long
3 Jun Transited to Sa Dec
5 Jun Underway to Cao Lanh
6 Jun Underway to Sa Dec

Enclosure (1)

(con't)

8 Jun Returned to Dong Tam
10 Jun Transited to My Tho
12 Jun 3rd/60th, 3rd/47th, 4th/47th, 3rd/34th, River Flotilla ONE and
9th Infantry held conference on board to discuss ops
13 Jun Underway to My Tho
14 Jun Returned to Dong Tam
16 Jun Transited to Can Tho
23 Jun Underway for Cho Moi
24 Jun Returned to Dong Tam
26 Jun Transited to vicinity Song Soi Rap

5 Jul Returned to Dong Tam
7 Jul Underway to My Tho
8 Jul Returned to Dong Tam
10 Jul Transited to Tra Vinh
18 Jul Returned to Dong Tam
21 Jul Underway for My Tho
22 Jul Returned to Dong Tam
23 Jul Transited to Ban Tre
24 Jul Underway to Dai Dien
25 Jul Transited to Dong Tam
26 Jul Underway to Vinh Long
28 Jul Transited to Can Tho
31 Jul Underway to Binh Thuy

2 Aug Transited to Can Tho
5 Aug Underway to Binh Thuy
8 Aug Transited to Can Tho
10 Aug Underway to Binh Thuy
11 Aug Returned to Dong Tam
14 Aug Underway to My Tho
16 Aug Returned to Dong Tam
18 Aug Transited to Vinh Long
20 Aug Returned to Dong Tam
23 Aug Underway to Vinh Long
24 Aug Returned to Dong Tam
26 Aug Underway for My Tho
27 Aug Returned to Dong Tam. 3rd/47th embarked aboard
29 Aug Underway to Vinh Long
30 Aug Transited to Sa Dec
31 Aug Underway to Vinh Long

2 Sep Returned to Dong Tam
5 Sep Underway to Vinh Long
6 Sep Returned to Dong Tam. Underway to My Tho, RVN
7 Sep Returned to Dong Tam
11 Sep Underway to My Tho
13 Sep Returned to Dong Tam

(cont)

14 Sep Transited to Ban Tre
16 Sep Underway to Dai Dien
18 Sep Transited to Ban Tre
20 Sep Underway to Dai Dien
21 Sep Underway to Ban Tre
23 Sep Underway to Dai Dien
26 Sep Transited to Ban Tre
27 Sep Underway to My Tho
29 Sep Returned to Dong Tam

1 Oct Transited to Ban Tre
4 Oct Returned to Dong Tam
7 Oct Underway to My Tho
15 Oct Underway to Sasebo, Japan detached from CTG 117.1 for repairs
25 Oct Anchored at Sasebo, then later moved to berth 7 "I" basin
29 Oct Went into Dry Dock Number 1

23 Nov Underway to shift berths--No. 2 "I" to Ammunition Pier, went through Degaussing Range
24 Nov Loud explosion from stack. #2 Boiler exploded
29 Nov Received message to head to Subic Bay.

1 Dec Anchored at Berth 15, Subic Bay, Philippines Islands
2 Dec Shifted from Berth 15 to Rivera Pier 17
14 Dec Shifted from Rivera Pier 17 to Anchorage No. 6. Received and cast off Ammunition Barge. Underway Subic Bay to Dong Tam, Republic of Vietnam
16 Dec Set General Quarters--for training on 40mm, Mount 41
18 Dec Departed South China Sea--entered Song Tien Giang. Anchored at My Tho
19 Dec Returned to Dong Tam
21 Dec 4th/47th Infantry embarked aboard, "A" "B" and Headquarters Company
25 Dec Celebrated Christmas Anchored at Dong Tam
29 Dec Transited to Ban Tre
31 Dec Underway to Dai Dien

USS COLLETON (AFB-36) 1968 BASIC NARRATIVE

The USS COLLETON (AFB-36) a self propelled barracks ship, was built at Boston Navy yard, Boston Massachusetts. Her keel was laid on 9 June 1945, and she was first launched on 30 July, but she was not completed until September of that same year.

After twenty two years of deactivation she was towed to the Philadelphia Naval Ship Yard and within five months was specifically designed and extensively remodeled to serve the needs of the United States Army as a Command Control Center as well as a floating home, and was commissioned on 26 January 1967.

The COLLETON is 328 feet long with a 50-foot beam. Unlike a majority of Navy Ships she has a shallow draft of only 12-feet which gives her the crucial maneuverability needs for navigating the shallow rivers, streams, and canals that interlace the Mekong Delta.

Since the time of her arrival in Vietnam June of 1967 COLLETON has been operating with the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta; River Assault Flotilla One.

The primary combat units of the MRF are the 2nd and 3rd Brigades of the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division and eight squadrons of River Assault Boats which at different times have been embarked aboard the COLLETON.

The COLLETON received a new Commanding Officer on 22 February 1968 when LCDR ALDRISON relieved LCDR BANBURY.

During the year COLLETON conducted many and varied operations throughout the Delta which required many transits to Con Tre, My Tho, Vinh Long, Can Tho, and Dong Tam meeting the immediate needs of the Army.

Also COLLETON, along with the Mobile Riverine Force, was doing her part by firing many rounds of harassment and interdiction fire on the south bank opposite of Dong Tam to thwart the Viet Cong Communist aggressors.

12 June Commodore R.S. SALZER, USN, CTG 117 came aboard along with Army elements and held brief on Riverine Operations.

COLLETON continued with these operations until 15 October when we left for Sasebo, Japan for a much needed yard and upkeep period. Arriving in Sasebo 25 October, and into dry dock number one on the 29th of that same month.

On the 23rd of November finished yard period and were underway for the "Delta" however a casualty in number two boiler required us to make a stop at Subic Bay, Republic of Phillipines.

Enclosure (2)

Having completed repairs COLLETOR was underway again on 14 December 1968 to the Mekong Delta, Republic of Vietnam.

On 16 December 1968 COLLETOR rejoined Mobile Riverine Force at My Tho, to resume combat operations. Normal Riverine Assault Operations proceeded until the end of 1968 having embarked "Alfa" and "Bravo" Companies of the 4th Battalion 47th Infantry.