

ORIGINAL

USS CONSTANT (MSO 427)
PPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

MSO427/TJB:se
5750
Ser: 1
5 January 1966

From: Commanding Officer, USS CONSTANT (MSO 427)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-291SH)

Subj: Ship's History for 1965; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7
(b) COMINPACINST 5720.3A

1. In compliance with the provisions contained in references (a) and (b), the following addition to the history of the USS CONSTANT (MSO 427) is submitted for the period 1 January 1965 to 31 December 1965.

a. Commanding Officers and periods served:

(1) LCDR R.B. MOORE was the Commanding Officer from 21 May 1963 to 23 August 1965.

(2) LCDR W.L. BRENNEN assumed command on 23 August 1965.

b. The principal ship's movements have been as follows:

On arrival in Subic Bay, P.I. 30 December 1964, CONSTANT tied up alongside USS DIXIE (AD 14) for a restricted tender availability. The month of January 1965 was spent in port in preparation for an oceanographic survey to be conducted off the South Viet Nam coast.

An abrupt change of plans occurred on the evening of 8 February 1965 when Mine Division NINETY-TWO was ordered to proceed to Viet Nam the following morning as units of an amphibious operating force composed of USS PRINCETON (LPH 5), USS HEXAR (APA 237), USS ROMAN (DD 782), USS THOMASTON (LSD 28) and USS BLACK (DD 666). MINDIV 92 returned to Subic Bay 26 February 1965 to complete preparations for the oceanographic survey.

In company with USS ADVANCE (MSO 510), USS ENERGY (MSO 436) and USS ABNAKI (ATF 96), CONSTANT again sailed for Viet Nam and commenced 30 consecutive days of survey work. During this period, many underway replenishments were conducted with various ships of the Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Returning to Subic Bay on 4 April 1965, CONSTANT and the other units of MINDIV 92 prepared for a cruise to Australia as part of the Coral Sea Celebration. Sailing on 9 April 1965, the long trip south took CONSTANT across the equator at longitude 144° 40' East where the pollywogs were duly initiated into King Neptune's Realm on 17 April 1965.

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The first port of call south of the equator was Rabaul, New Britain. Here MINDIV 92 put in for a one night fueling stop 19-20 April. CONSTANT then proceeded independently to Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia arriving 1 May 1965 and staying for the weekend. The next port was Sydney, where CONSTANT's crew spent the party-filled week of 4-10 May enjoying the Australian hospitality. CONSTANT sailed for her last Australian port, Hobart, Tasmania, 10 May, arriving there 13 May. The long trip home began 17 May with stops at Suva, Fiji Islands, Pago Pago, American Samoa, Johnston Island and Pearl Harbor. Long Beach was finally sighted 24 June 1965, after 8 months and 26 days.

A leave period commenced immediately upon return. An INSURV inspection was conducted on 14 July and CONSTANT entered Todd's Shipyard, Los Angeles, California on 15 July for minor alterations to her navigational lights. CONSTANT left Todd's 26 July to prepare for a short cruise (30 July to 21 August) to Vancouver and Powell River, British Columbia to take part in their Sea Fair. San Francisco was visited during the return trip.

LCDR W.L. BRENNEN, USN, relieved LCDR R.B. MOORE, USN, as Commanding Officer on 23 August 1965 in Long Beach. Preparations began in earnest for the upcoming yard overhaul. An Oregon State University NROTC Midshipman, John M. LARSON, spent two weeks aboard CONSTANT during this period.

The overhaul bid was awarded to Harbor Boat Building Company, Fish Harbor, and CONSTANT moved into their yard 4 October to begin a two month overhaul.

As the yard period slowly ended, dock and sea trials were conducted 19-22 November 1965 and CONSTANT finally moved back to Pier 9, U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach on 24 November to complete the finishing touches of the yard period.

RFS and independent ship's exercises were conducted the first two weeks of December. The remainder of the month was spent alongside Pier 9 at Long Beach, closing out a very busy, yet rewarding year.

W.L. Brennen
W.L. BRENNEN

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