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USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 96601

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Ser: 030
MAY 14 1971

1970 Hist.

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)
Subj: USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045) Command History; submission of (OPNAV 5750-1)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12
Encl: (1) Chronology of Highlights
(2) Historical Narrative
(3) Roster of Officers and Enlisted Personnel as of the end of the year
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Command History for the USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045) is forwarded herewith.

H. B. Russell
H. B. RUSSELL
By direction

Copy to:
GINCPACFLT
COMCRUDESAC
COMDESRON ELEVEN
Director of Naval History (09B9)

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USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045) COMMAND HISTORY
1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1970

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS:

1 January - 20 January "Ready for Sea" period at U. S. Naval Shipyard Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

21 January - 15 February Conducted type training exercises in Pearl Harbor Operating Areas which included various gunnery and CIC exercises and equipment calibration at the FORACS range Pearl Harbor.

16 February - 1 March Commenced RAW at U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

2 March - 10 April Conducted refresher training as part of TG 54.3.

11 April - 26 April Commenced upkeep period and type training at U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

27 April - 30 April Participated in COMPTUEX 8-70 conducting hold down, line AAW, and ASROC non-firing exercises.

1 May - 6 May Upkeep at U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

7 May - 8 May Commenced POM, ADMIN, and Material inspections in preparation for WESTPAC deployment.

9 May - 25 May Predeployment upkeep period at U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

26 May Underway for WESTERN PACIFIC deployment.

26 May - 6 June Enroute to Subic Bay, Philippines as a unit of Task Group 17.5, consisting of USS ORISKANY (CVA-34), USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045) (COMDESBON ONE HUNDRED TWELVE embarked), and USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742).

1 June Inchop SEVENTH Fleet as TE 70.0.6.2.

6 June Inchop as TU 77.5.2

7 June - 9 June Upkeep period at U. S. Naval Station Subic Bay, Philippines. COMDESBON ONE HUNDRED TWELVE departs ship with staff for TAD assignment on USS ST. PAUL (CG-72). Embark two Midshipmen for summer training cruise.

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10 June Departed Subic Bay, Philippines for Yankee Station.

10 June - 20 June Operated as a unit of TG 77.5 providing plane guard/escort services to USS ORISKANY (CVA-34).

21 June - 2 July Assigned NGFS in Republic of Vietnam in I, II and III corp. as an element of TU 70.8.9.

3 July - 4 July Enroute to Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

5 July - 9 July Upkeep in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

10 July - 16 July Operating as TU 77.5.2 providing plane guard/escort services to USS ORISKANY (CVA-34).

16 July Helo transports two Midshipmen.

17 July - 22 July Operating as an element of TU 77.0.1 on North SAR Station acting as shotgun for USS COONTZ (DDG-9).

23 July - 29 July Joined TG 77.3 comprised of USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31)(COMCRUDIV ONE embarked), USS PARSONS (DDG-32)(COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO embarked) and USS LOFBERG (DD-746).

24 July Three Midshipmen embarked.

30 July - 1 August Enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.

2 August - 11 August Upkeep in Yokosuka, Japan.

8 August COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE and staff embark.

12 August - 14 August Enroute to Yankee Station with USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31).

14 August Developed HP/LP crossover piping casualty while refueling from USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31).

15 August Enroute to Subic Bay, Philippines to effect repairs on crossover piping.

16 August - 18 August Inport U. S. Naval Base, Subic Bay, Philippines to effect emergency repairs on HP/LP crossover piping.

19 August - 20 August Enroute to Yankee Station to join USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31).

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21 August - 31 August Operating as a unit of TG 77.3 providing plane guard/escort services to USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31).

29 August Three Midshipmen debark.

1 September - 3 September Enroute to Singapore with TG 77.3.

4 September - 8 September Inport Singapore for port visit.

9 September - 12 September Enroute from Singapore for Subic Bay, Philippines.

10 September Cross Equator at 00°N, 106°42'E at 0400.

12 September COMCRUDIV ONE, RADM CARMOUDY visits ship.

13 September Upkeep at U. S. Naval Base, Subic Bay, Philippines.

14 September - 15 September Enroute to Hong Kong, B. C. C.

16 September - 21 September Inport Hong Kong, B. C. C. for port visit. Blood donation 50 pts.

22 September Enroute to Subic Bay, Philippines.

23 September Upkeep at U. S. Naval Base, Subic Bay, Philippines in preparation for special ops. investigation. COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE departs for USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-764).

24 September - 25 September Enroute to Paracel Islands.

26 September Conducting special ops around Paracel Islands.

27 September Join TG 77.3 on Yankee Station.

27 September - 4 October Operating as a unit of TG 77.3 providing plane guard/escort services to USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31).

5 October Enroute to Military region III and IV for NGFS assignment.

6 October Relieved USS ROBERSON (DDG-12) of NGFS duties. COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE assumed duties as CTU 70.8.9.

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6 October - 21 October Assigned to III and IV Military regions to conduct NGFS Assignments.

17 October Major General Flagstaff, Deputy Commander Second Military region visits the ship.

21 October Inport Da Nang Harbor, Republic of Vietnam for CTU 70.8.9 turnover.

21 October - 22 October Enroute to Subic Bay, Philippines.

23 October - 27 October Inport U. S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines to effect voyage repairs.

28 October - 6 November Transitting as an element of TU 70.0.1 enroute to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in company with USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) and USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742).

7 November Arrive U. S, Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

7 December ADM CLEARY, CINCPACFLT visits ship on DAVIDSON's fifth anniversary.

7 December - 31 December Docked in drydock #4,,U. S. Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In the first twenty days of January, DAVIDSON completed a "ready for sea" period at the U. S. Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii after completing a regular overhaul period. During this time the ship accomplished sonar and ECM sea trials, SOAP backload, shaft strain sea trial (conducted by NAVSEC), and an ammunition load-out at West Loch, U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

With the ship ready for sea DAVIDSON spent the next three weeks training in the mid-Pacific operating areas. 20 January, the ship conducted battery alignments on both mounts satisfactorily. On the 23rd, the ship entered the FORACS range, Pearl Harbor, to conduct electronic and sonar equipment calibration as the first phase of the Weapons Systems Accuracy Test.

The next three days the ship spent in port, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the afternoon of 27 January, DAVIDSON got underway for Barking Sounds Test Range (BARSTUR) off Kauai to conduct ASW exercises. While transiting to the range the ship started a 20 knot economy trial but aborted due to engineering problems. On the morning of 28 January, the ship completed an engine log calibration for 24 knots. Later the same day on BARSTUR range, the ship was unable to fire any exercise torpedoes due to both BARSTUR and DAVIDSON problems. On the following day the ship fired two ASROC's and two torpedoes, all of which were successful. On 30 January, two more torpedoes were successfully fired; in addition, the gun mounts were checked and successfully test fired upon leaving BARSTUR range. While transiting from BARSTUR range to Pearl Harbor, DAVIDSON successfully completed her 20 knot economy trial.

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The weekend of 31 January was spent inport preparing for several major evolutions occurring in the week of 2 February. On the morning of 2 February a nuclear weapons assistance team was received on board from Destroyer Flotilla FIVE to evaluate DAVIDSON's nuclear weapons safety program. In addition to finding no major discrepancies, the team made constructive comments on how to improve the training program for all hands concerned with the nuclear weapons program. Commencing 3 February, the ship entered a four day technical availability to assist the engineering department with the automatic combustion control. On 4 February, the NGFS training team from Fleet training group Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, spent the day preparing the ship to complete the required exercises for shore bombardment qualifications. 5 February the ship got underway to conduct ASW exercises and provide services for the USS CARBONERO (SS-337). At this time DAVIDSON fired two torpedoes of which one was declared a hit while the other was lost. On the morning of 7 February, the ship arrived in Hilo, Hawaii for a weekend of R & R. During the weekend, general visiting was conducted.

The week of 9 February, the ship conducted various gunnery, CIC, engineering and damage control exercises while conducting local operation in Pearl Harbor op areas.

On 16 February, the ship entered a two week restricted availability at which time the boiler bellows were checked and the rudder post was re-packed. 19 February the ship received a training and readiness evaluation, the outcome of which was very satisfactory. The remainder of the RAV was concerned with training and upkeep in preparation for refresher training.

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For the next six weeks, 2 March to 9 April, the ship conducted a refresher training period. During this time the ship spent many hours at general quarters working on battle problems ranging from mine fields and enemy contacts to engineering and damage control problems. Particularly noteworthy were the grades of outstanding obtained by ship control personnel and engineering control personnel. Averaging all the control station's grades, the overall grade for the ship was 89.86 for an adjective grade of excellent.

The remainder of the month DAVIDSON was concerned with upkeep and local operations which were highlighted by a Composite Training Unit Exercise from 27 to 30 April. During the COMPTUEX, DAVIDSON, THE USS KNOX (DE-1052) and the USS J. C. OWENS (DD-776) conducted extensive ASW, AAW, Communications and maneuvering drills.

The month of May found DAVIDSON busy in the last stages of her preparations for WESTPAC. On the 1st of the month the ship completed her pre-deployment ammunition load-out. From the 6th through the 8th, DAVIDSON underwent administrative, material and personnel inspections, completing them with an overall grade of 91.1. On the 19th and 20th, the ship underwent a Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection with a recommended grade of "outstanding." In addition to the inspections, from 8 to 20 May, DAVIDSON was engaged in a Tender Availability. It was with a sigh of relief that the ship got underway on the 26th, in company with the USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) and the USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742) as part of Task Group 17.5 for the Western Pacific.

From 26 May to 7 June DAVIDSON transitted to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, crossing the dateline on the 29th and in-chopping to the Seventh

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Fleet as Task Element 70.0.6.2 on 4 June.

The ship underwent a brief two day upkeep period in Subic Bay from 8 to 9 June during which time the ship received two first-class midshipman for summer training. In addition, COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE and his staff departed the ship for a temporary additional duty period on board the USS SAINT PAUL (CG-72).

After getting underway on the 10th, the ship conducted a few hours of ASW with the SCULPIN (SSN-590) and some NGFS refresher training on the Tabones shore bombardment range, finally joining the USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) and Task Group 77.5 on Yankee station where the ship provided escort services from the 10th to the 21st of June.

From 21 June to 2 July the ship operated as an element of TU70.8.9 providing NGFS in I, II and III corps of the Republic of Vietnam. After completing a successful twelve day tour, the ship departed the gunline of 3 July for a port visit to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, arriving on 5 July. During the ship's stay in Kaohsiung, the engineering department furthered the ship's people-to-people program by spending two days helping the Daughters of Saint Paul Nunnery with some minor mechanical problems.

On 10 July the ship departed Kaohsiung and continued operating as a unit of TG 77.5, providing plane guard and escort services for the USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) until 16 July. Prior to departing the ORISKANY group on the 16th, the ship transferred the two midshipmen to the ORISKANY by helo upon completion of their six week training cruise.

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On 17 July DAVIDSON reported on station as shotgun for the USS COONTZ (DDG-9) on North SAR station in the northern portion of the Gulf of Tonkin as TV 77.0.1. Until the ship left North SAR on 23 July, the ship remained in a Condition of readiness III, ready for any emergency. The ship was flexible enough to accommodate all of the AIC's from the COONTZ and assume AAW reporting duties during some minor casualties on board the COONTZ, while maintaining complete control of the surface raid reporting duties already assigned.

From 23 July till 29 July the ship joined TG 77.3 comprised of the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31), with COMCRUDIV ONE embarked, USS PARSONS (DDG-32), with COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO embarked, and the USS GOFBERG (DD-746), providing plane guard and escort services. While on Yankee Station, three midshipmen were received. The following two days were spent in transit for summer cruise training to Yokosuka, Japan.

On 2 August the ship entered Yokosuka, Japan for its only upkeep period of the entire deployment which lasted until 11 August. During this time, COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE and his staff returned to the ship.

On 12 August the ship departed Yokosuka to join the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) and return to the Gulf of Tonkin; however, as the weather went from bad to worse, the task group began moving on a typhoon evasion route away from Typhoon Wilder. Early on the 14th the ship developed a high pressure/low pressure cross-over piping casualty while refueling from the BON HOMME RICHARD, at which point the ship headed for Subic Bay, R. P. to begin an emergency restricted availability commencing 16 August.

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With repairs completed, the ship got underway on the evening of 18 August and transitted to Yankee Station to join Task Group 77.3. For the next twelve days the ship provided escort services for the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31). In addition, many gunnery, engineering and CIC exercises were conducted while at one point the BON HOMME RICHARD took part in a ship maneuvering exercise and acted as a destroyer. On the 29th, three midshipmen debarked by helo to end their six week summer training.

From 31 August to 3 September the ship transitted from Yankee Station to Singapore with Task Group 77.3, comprised of the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31), R. B. ANDERSON (DD-786) and USS DAVIDSON (DE-1045).

On 4 September the Task Group entered the harbor of Singapore and moored at H. M. B. Terror - Berth 6. After several informative briefings at sea for all hands, the crew of DAVIDSON was well prepared to enjoy and participate in the activities Singapore offered. For those "pollywogs" on DAVIDSON crossing the equator was not far away.

From 9 September to 12 September the ship transitted from Singapore to Subic Bay, E. P. for a brief upkeep. Along the way the ship made one detour and went south for a few miles and crossed the equator at 00°N, 106°42'E at 0400 on 10 September, at which time the entire ship participated in a rather enjoyable ceremony.

Prior to our arrival into Subic Bay on 13 September, RADM CARINOUDY visited the ship from the BON HOMME RICHARD. While attached to the BON HOMME RICHARD, RADM CARINOUDY acted as COMCRUDIV ONE.

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Early on the morning of 14 September the ship got underway for sea, to eventually enter the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong on 16 September. While the crew thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Hong Kong, they were also able to contribute their share to the Hong Kong people. On the morning of 18 September, three Red Cross nurses came on board DAVIDSON as previously arranged and received the donation of fifty pints of blood from the crew of DAVIDSON, which was one of the largest single donations the Hong Kong Red Cross had received.

On the morning of 22 September the ship got underway from Hong Kong and returned to Subic Bay, R. P. to prepare for a special operation and to disembark COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE for a routine investigation on the USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-764). At this time the ship again prepared for another long period at sea, which began on 24 September with the ship conducting a special operation around the Paracel Islands.

By 27 September the ship was back on Yankee Station again, providing escort services to the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) and Task Group 77.3. On the evening of 27 September the ship provided for a personnel transfer and received COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE from the USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-764). In addition to providing escort services the ship was able to take advantage of many scheduled exercises to enhance the battle readiness of the crew.

On 5 October the ship departed Yankee Station to return to the gun line for the last time. On 6 October the ship entered Da Nang Harbor to relieve the USS ROBERSON (DDG-12) as gun line commander with COMDESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE acting as Commander of Task Unit 70.8.9 until 21 October. During this time

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the ship operated in both II, III and IV military regions. The ship was honored on 17 October with the visit of Major General FLAGSTAFF, Deputy Commander of the Second Military Region.

After completing a most successful tour on the gun line, the ship entered Da Nang Harbor on 21 October to effect the turnover of Commander Task Unit 70.8.9. That same day the ship transitted to Subic Bay, R. P. for the last time to check on last minute voyage repairs before returning to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. With everything intact the ship got underway on 27 October and transitted the Western Pacific from Subic Bay to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, a journey which took eleven days. During that time the ship continued to conduct exercises with the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) and the USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742) as an element of TU 70.0.1.

On 7 November the ship entered Pearl Harbor after having been gone since 26 May and was very warmly greeted in the traditional Aloha fashion. From 8 November until 6 December the ship enjoyed a very liberal leave and accompanying upkeep period.

On 7 December the ship celebrated its fifth anniversary at which time ADM CLEARY, CINPACFLT, visited the ship and answered questions from all crew members about all facets of the Navy. After his departure the same day, the ship got underway for drydock #4 in the U. S. Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for a sonar dome inspection and repair to remain there until 31 December.

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