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USS GREENFISH (SS-351) Annual Supplement to Ship's History

1. Chronology of Events 1968

JANUARY

- 1-7 Leave and Upkeep, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 8-12 Type training, local operating areas
- 13-14 In port, Pearl Harbor
- 15-19 Type training, local operating areas
- 20-21 In port, Pearl Harbor
- 22-25 Advanced type training, local operating areas
- 26-31 In port, Pearl Harbor

FEBRUARY

- 1 Individual ship's exercises, local operating areas
- 2 In port, Pearl Harbor
- 3-10 Transit to San Diego, California
- 11-14 In port, San Diego, California
- 15-29 Services to DEPCOMOPTEVFORPAC

MARCH

- 1-8 Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 9-24 Upkeep and Change of Command, Pearl Harbor
- 25-29 Services to COMNAVAIRPAC, local operating areas
- 30-31 In port, Pearl Harbor

APRIL

- 1-6 Training operations for Prospective Commanding Officers,  
Pearl Harbor local operating areas

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- 7-8 In port, Kailua, Hawaii
- 9-12 Training operations for Prospective Commanding Officer, Pearl Harbor local operating areas
- 13-14 In port, Pearl Harbor
- 15-18 Type training, local operating areas
- 19-30 Upkeep, Pearl Harbor

MAY

- 1-12 In port, Pearl Harbor
- 13-17 Services to DEPCOMOPTEVFORPAC
- 18-19 In port, Pearl Harbor
- 20-23 Type training, local operating areas, Operational Readiness Inspection
- 24-31 Preparation for deployment to U. S. SEVENTH Fleet

JUNE

- 1-6 Preparation for deployment to U. S. SEVENTH Fleet
- 7-21 Transit to Yokosuka, Japan
- (16 Change of Operational Control to COMSEVENTHFLT)
- 22-29 Upkeep, Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka, Japan
- 30 Services to CTG 72.4 Yokosuka operating areas

JULY

- 1-2 Transit to Okinawa operating areas
- 3-7 Services to CTG 72.2 Okinawa
- 8-11 Transit to Yankee Station, Vietnam operating areas
- 12-18 Services to CTG 70.4 Vietnam

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- 19-20 Transit to Philippine operating areas
- 21-22 Services to CTG 72.3 Philippines
- 23-24 In port, Sangley Point, Luzon, Philippines
- 25 Transit to Subic Bay, Luzon, Philippines
- 26-28 In port Subic Bay
- 29-30 Transit to Bashi Channel
- 30-31 Participation in Exercise SWIFT MOVE 68

AUGUST

- 1-5 Participation in Exercise SWIFT MOVE 68
- 6-7 Transit to Okinawa operating areas
- 8-10 Services to CTG 72.2 Okinawa
- 11-22 Upkeep, Yokosuka, Japan
- 23 Commenced Special Operations

OCTOBER

- 9 Completed Special Operations
- 10-20 Upkeep, Yokosuka, Japan
- 21-22 Transit, storm routing
- 23-25 Upkeep, Yokosuka, Japan
- 26-31 Transit to Okinawa

NOVEMBER

- 1-3 Services to CTG 72.2 Okinawa
- 4-5 Transit to Hong Kong, B.C.C.
- 6-10 In port, ship visit, Hong Kong
- 11-13 Transit to Vietnam operating areas

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- 14 Services to CTG 72.4 Vietnam
- 15 Transit to Subic Bay, Luzon, Philippines
- 16-20 Upkeep, Subic Bay
- 21-25 Transit to Guam, Marianas Islands
- 26 Services to COMSUBRON FIFTEEN, Guam
- 27-30 Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- (28 Shifted Operational Control from COMSEVENTHFLT to COMSUBPAC)

DECEMBER

- 1-7 Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 8-31 In port, Holiday and Leave, Pearl Harbor

2. Events and Operations.

GREENFISH (SS-351) started 1968 with a rigorous schedule of training designed to bring the crew to peak efficiency after the shipyard overhaul which was completed in October 1967. Several weeks of torpedo firing and other advanced exercises were scheduled during the month of January. As a result of her performance in these and previous exercises GREENFISH was awarded the coveted Fire Control Award for Fiscal Year 1968, honoring her as the most successful torpedo marksman in Submarine Division SEVENTY-TWO.

At the end of January, GREENFISH commenced a transit to San Diego, California where services were provided to Deputy Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Forces, Pacific. Her mission was the evaluation of GREENFISH's advanced electronics system. Upon completion of the evaluation the ship returned to Pearl Harbor on 8 March 1968.

Lieutenant Commander M. W. BYRD relieved Commander R. C. BLANCHARD as Commanding Officer on 13 March 1968. Shortly after the change of command ceremony, GREENFISH conducted local operations, including Prospective Commanding Officer training, type training, and services to ASW aircraft. These operations were continued through the months of April and May, as GREENFISH gradually increased the tempo of operations preparatory to deployment to the Western Pacific. During the period 20-23 May 1968 an Operational Readiness Inspection was completed and the ship was designated by COMSUBDIV 72 as ready in all respects for extended operations. Following this inspection, two weeks were allotted to the final preparation for deployment.

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On 7 June 1968, GREENFISH deployed to the Western Pacific. The surface transit to Japan was followed by an upkeep period for minor repairs in Yokosuka. Late in June, GREENFISH commenced operations with units of the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.

The month of July was spent operating with air and surface ASW groups. After twenty-three days of operations GREENFISH entered Sangley Point, Luzon, Philippines for a rest and recreation period lasting two days. This was followed by a transit to the U.S. Naval Base in Subic Bay for refueling and minor repairs. On 1 July 1968 the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander M. W. BYRD was promoted to the grade of Commander. Upon departure from Subic Bay the ship participated in fleet exercise SWIFT MOVE 68 with an ASW carrier group in the Bashi Channel north of Luzon. Upon completion of the exercise the ship transited to Yokosuka, Japan providing services for CTG 72.2 while passing Okinawa. Upon arrival in Yokosuka the ship began an upkeep. The upkeep was completed on 22 August at which time the ship commenced special operations. USS GREENFISH completed her special operations on 9 October 1968 upon arrival at Yokosuka. GREENFISH departed Yokosuka after a two week upkeep on 25 October 1968 and provided services to CTG 72.2 enroute to Okinawa.

The highlight of GREENFISH's 1968 Western Pacific Tour was a six day visit to Hong Kong, British Crown Colony. The ship arrived on 5 November and was visited by a young Chinese girl and her family whom the ship's crew has supported for the past five years through the Foster Parents Plan.

Departing Hong Kong on 11 November the ship proceeded to Subic Bay providing services to CTG 72.3 enroute. A five day upkeep in Subic Bay marked the last of the ship's port visits in the Western Pacific. Departure was made on 20 November. The ship transited the San Bernardino Straits and proceeded to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by way of Guam. Arrival in Pearl Harbor was on 7 December, six months to the day after commencement of the deployment. A holiday and leave period was enjoyed by the crew for the remainder of the year.

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