

U.S.S. HANSON (DD-832)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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5720-1
Ser 124
5 APR 1971

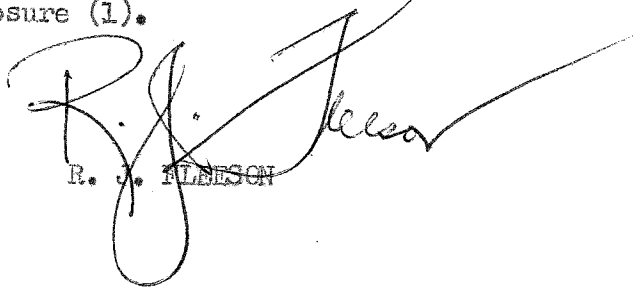
From: Commanding Officer, USS HANSON (DD-832)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History, submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12 series
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5750.2 series

Encl: (1) USS HANSON (DD-832) Command History for 1970

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), HANSON's Command History for 1970 is forwarded as enclosure (1).


R. J. HANSON

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMCRUDESPAC

[1970]

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 1970

- 1 - 17 Provided Naval Gunfire Support off Coast of South Vietnam (I MR)
- 18 - 19 Enroute Subic Bay, P. I.
- 20 Arrive Subic Bay, Prepare for return CONUS
- 25 Enroute CONUS in company with USS FLOYD B. PARKS (DD-884), USS DENNIS J. BUCKLEY (DD-808), USS HULL (DD-945), and USS JOUETT (DLC-29) with COMDESRON ONE embarked
- 28 Refuel, U. S. Naval Station, Guam

FEBRUARY 1970

- 5 Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 6 Continue transit to San Diego, California
- 12 Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, California
- 26 - 27 Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection
- 28 Commenced 30 day leave and upkeep period

MARCH 1970

- 1 - 31 Leave and upkeep inport San Diego

APRIL 1970

- 1 - 5 Inport San Diego
- 6 Underway/arrive NWS Seal Beach, California to top off ammunition and load ASROC for Quality Assurance Service Test
- 7 Fired ASROC Missile (QAST) offshore San Nicholas Island
Plane Guard for USS ORISKANY
- 8 - 9 Continued plane guard duties with USS ORISKANY
- 10 - 11 Inport San Diego. Load fifteen ASROC exercise test missiles

APRIL 1970 (Continued)

12 Underway/arrive San Clemente Island for ASROC test firing (CNO Project DS-315)

13 - 15 Fired fourteen ASROC Missiles

16 - 30 Inport San Diego, upkeep

21 Annual Supply Inspection

MAY 1970

1 - 31 Inport San Diego, upkeep and preparation for regular overhaul

4 - 18 Weapons/Electronics pre-arrival shipyard inspections

15 COMCRUDESPEC 3-M Surprise Inspection

20 - 22 INSURV Inspection

28 Awards Ceremony

JUNE 1970

1 - 28 Inport San Diego continuing preparations for regular overhaul

5 Shipyard pre-arrival conference

23 LCDR MILTON M. FINKELSTEIN, USN relieved LCDR David E. WOODBURY, USN as Executive Officer

25 Commanding Officer, CDR Richard J. FLEESON, USN presented Bronze Star Medal by COMDESRON ONE

29 - 30 Enroute Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco for regular overhaul. Offload all ammunition at NWS Seal Beach, California

JULY 1970

1 - 31 Commenced three months regular overhaul at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco

10 Entered drydock 3

AUGUST 1970

1 - 31 Continued regular overhaul
21 Undocked

SEPTEMBER 1970

1 - 29 Continued regular overhaul
9 Dock trials
17 Sea trials
24 Sea trials/Electronic trials
28 Bay trials
30 Completed regular overhaul, enroute to U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, California

OCTOBER 1970

1 Enroute San Diego
2 - 4 Inport San Diego
5 Enroute NWS Seal Beach, California. Load out service ammunition allowance
6 - 8 Independent ship exercises/training in local op-areas off San Diego
16 - 17 Ship's dinner dance/picnic
9 - 28 Upkeep San Diego
29 - 30 Local ISE Operations. Ran FORACS tests at San Clemente Island
31 Inport San Diego

NOVEMBER 1970

1 Inport San Diego
2 Changed operational control to COMFLTRAGRU, San Diego. Commenced Refresher Training

NOVEMBER 1970 (Continued)

2 - 8 Inport phase of Refresher Training

9 - 30 At Sea phase of Refresher Training

DECEMBER 1970

1 - 16 Continued at sea phase of Refresher Training

16 Completed Refresher Training. Returned to U. S. Naval Station, San Diego

16 - 31 Commenced holiday leave/upkeep period

PART II

BASIC NARRATIVE

1. Command Organization

HANSON remained a unit of Destroyer Squadron ONE homeported in San Diego, California. Her home yard is Mare Island Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, California. Commander Richard J. FLEESON, USN, 554932/1100 remained in command of HANSON the entire calendar year. Upon HANSON's return from deployment on 12 February 1970 she came under the operational control of Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet.

2. Operations (1 JAN 70 - 31 DEC 70)

New Year's Eve found HANSON enroute to the First Military Region to provide Naval gunfire support for the First ARVN Division ten miles north of Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam. During the ensuing eighteen days the ship's two twin 5 inch/38 caliber guns expended 4,500 rounds of ammunition. She was credited with destroying enemy troop positions, weapons positions, supply and infiltration routes, and sampans carrying enemy troops and supplies along inland waterways. Night interdiction fire, lasting until daybreak, was conducted continuously and denied enemy forces the use of many trails, bunkers, and collection points just south of the DMZ. HANSON was now on the last leg of her fourth deployment to the Vietnam Theater. She entered Subic Bay, P. I. on 20 January 1970 for pre-voyage repairs lasting five days. In company with USS FLOYD B. PARIS (DD-884), USS DENNIS J. BUCKLEY (DD-808), USS HULL (DD-945), and USS JOHNEY (DLG-29) with DESRON ONE embarked (Captain A. L. STICKLES II), HANSON was enroute 25 January to her homeport of San Diego, California. The transit eastward went smoothly and the seas were generally calm allowing time for preparation of topside spaces. During this transit period, preparations were being made for the Annual Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection involving the ASROC weapons system scheduled for 26 February 1970, only 13 days after arrival in San Diego.

HANSON arrived at 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego on the morning of 12 February 1970. It was a joyous occasion as friends, relatives, and loved ones met the ship upon arrival.

HANSON's leave and upkeep period was delayed until the completion of her NTPI. All activity was being devoted to the upcoming inspection. The NTPI was conducted on 26 and 27 February. An adjective grade of "Outstanding" was assigned by the Chief Inspector as no technical or administrative discrepancies were noted.

HANSON remained in San Diego until 6 April when she got underway for Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California to top off ammunition and load one ASROC missile for a Quality Assurance Service Test. The missile was successfully fired the next day offshore San Nicholas Island and was

observed by a representative from NAD, Oahu, Hawaii. The next two days found HANSON plane guarding for the aircraft carrier ORISKANY. She returned to port for the weekend and loaded fifteen ASROC missiles in preparation for CNO project DS-315 (positive buoyancy exercise torpedo tests) scheduled 12 thru 15 April offshore San Clemente Island. Civilian project engineers from Naval Underwater Weapons Research Station, Pasadena embarked HANSON on 12 April. By the end of the week fourteen missiles were successfully fired which provided the project engineers with valuable testing information for the new missile. Upon completion of the tests, a message was received from Admiral Plate, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet congratulating the HANSON for outstanding performance.

The period 16 April thru 29 June found HANSON inport San Diego undergoing tender upkeep, inspections, and preparation for regular overhaul. On 21 April she was given an Annual Supply Inspection by COMCRUDESPAC and assigned an adjective grade of "excellent". Shortly thereafter, 4 thru 18 May found shipyard engineers from Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco conducting pre-arrival shipyard inspections in the weapons and electronics areas. In addition, boiler inspections were being conducted by representatives from COMCRUDESPAC. On 15 May, a Surprise 3-M Material Management Inspection was administered by COMCRUDESPAC. All areas of Material Management and PMS were found to be above the Force average. Many long hours were witnessed by the officers and men of HANSON during the month of May in carrying out the normal workload, undergoing inspections and preparing work schedules for the coming shipyard overhaul. In addition to these inspections, preparations were in progress for the INSURV Inspection scheduled for 20 thru 22 May. The Board of Inspection and Survey, Pacific Fleet, found the HANSON to be satisfactorily fit to continue her active service. Three days later HANSON celebrated her 25th anniversary. The Commanding Officer, Commander R. J. FLEESON, and the oldest and youngest crew members joined in a cake cutting ceremony marking the occasion.

An awards ceremony was held 28 April rewarding the officers and men of HANSON who distinguished themselves during the last deployment. Lieutenant junior grade Eugene J. CUMMINS, Jr., USN received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for meritorious service. Four Navy Commendation Medals, ten Navy Achievement Medals, and numerous CINCPACFLT letters of commendation were presented to the officers and men of HANSON.

The month of June was again a busy month as the commencement of regular overhaul was rapidly approaching. Arrangements and liason was established early in June with Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard to provide berthing, messing, officer quarters in preparation for the ship's arrival. On 5 June, the Type Commander's Shipyard pre-arrival Conference was held and funds were released to cover approved work requests.

On 23 June, LCDR Milton M. FINKELSTEIN, USN relieved LCDR David E. WOODBURY, USN as Executive Officer. LCDR WOODBURY was ordered to report to the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island for duty under instruction.

During a surprise Awards Ceremony on 25 June, Commander Richard J. FLEESON was presented the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during HANSON's deployment. The award was made by Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE, Captain Albert L. STICKLES II. 29 June found HANSON enroute to Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California to offload her ammunition and torpedoes. On 30 June, she arrived at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard to begin a three month overhaul scheduled to end 1 October 1970.

HANSON entered drydock 3 on 10 July for repairs and sandblasting of the hull. She was undocked on schedule 21 August. Shipyard overhaul went very smoothly. Close liason was maintained between ship's company and shipyard personnel. Progress meetings were held twice weekly to monitor the progress of each job. All major milestones were met with little difficulty. Ship's company personnel put forth extra hours in accomplishing their work. Their efforts resulting in an outstanding overhaul. Special military flights weekly to San Diego and early liberty for the crew Friday morning was normal routine during the overhaul. In addition, this period was utilized to send personnel to Naval schools in San Diego for formal training. On 9 September dock trials was satisfactorily completed. Sea trials followed on 17 September, then electronic trials on 24 September. A final bay trial was held on 28 September and showed the HANSON was once again ready for unrestricted operations at sea. She completed shipyard overhaul one day early and departed for San Diego on 30 September.

The weekend was spent in San Diego. HANSON was underway 5 thru 8 October conducting local ship exercises, training new crew members and loading ammunition at Seal Beach. The period 9 thru 28 October was made available for tender upkeep. In addition, shipboard training and schools were of prime importance this month as the ship was now preparing for six weeks of Refresher Training. An informal ship's dinner dance was held on the evening of the 16th. The next day a ship's picnic was held at Admiral Baker Field. Both events witnessed a large turnout and were enjoyed by all. On 29 and 30 October local operations at sea were conducted and the Force Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Sight (FORACS) tests were run off San Clemente Island.

On 2 November HANSON changed operational control to Commander Fleet Training Group, San Diego and shifted to buoys 19/20 in San Diego Bay. The inport phase of Refresher Training lasted until 8 November. The at sea phase lasted until 16 December concluding with the final "battle problem". HANSON completed Refresher Training with an adjective grade of "good". Her officers and men were now trained and ready for another deployment to the Western Pacific. The remainder of December was spent in a holiday and upkeep status in San Diego.

HANSON departed Beppu on 12 November in response to yet another schedule change and, after a brief refueling stop in Sasebo, once again set course for the Sea of Japan to serve as "Shotgun" destroyer for USS MAHAN (DLG 11) on picket station. HANSON replaced USS WADDELL (DDG 24). HANSON returned to Sasebo again on 20 November to refuel and to set to sea the same day to proceed south toward Yankee Station and rendezvous with USS HANCOCK. We remained with HANCOCK in heavy seas until 30 November, when we were detached to proceed independently to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. The period 2 to 8 December was, for most HANSONmen, their first experience in one of the most celebrated ports in the Far East. For all, it was a pleasurable experience. HANSON returned to sea on the 8th, setting course for Subic Bay and an unscheduled dry-docking. During heavy seas throughout the month of November, two hull cracks had developed which required repair. The Ship Repair Facility at Subic Bay completed the repairs within four days and HANSON returned to sea to proceed to rendezvous with USS JOUETT (DLG 29) on SAR Station as a Unit of Task Unit 77.0.1. On 30 December, the ship was detached to proceed to the "Gun Line" via Yankee Station where USS RANIER (AE 5) was ready to rearm our magazines.

The evening of 31 December, found HANSON in I Corps at the DMZ, ready in all respects to support the First ARVN Division. During the ensuing eighteen days the ship's main battery would be credited with destroying enemy troop positions, weapons positions, supply and infiltration routes and sampans carrying troops and supplies along inland waterways. Night interdiction, lasting until daybreak, would be conducted continuously and would deny enemy forces the use of many trails, bunkers and collection points south of the DMZ.