



U.S.S. HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

DDG7/TRT:wks

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard, Washington
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Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1 for 1973; Submission of

1973

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12B

Encl: (1) USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7) Command History for 1973

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

J. M. Rodgers
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Re 97797 (3-151)

I. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1973
USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7)

- 1-5 Jan. - PT. JOEY - PT. EWAN, RVN
- 5 Jan. - Inbore Explosion Mt. 51 underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
- 6-14 Jan. - Inport Subic Bay, P.I.
- 14-18 Jan. - Underway for Guam, Marianas Islands.
- 18 Jan. - Refuel Guam.
- 18-23 Jan. - Enroute to Midway, Island.
- 23 Jan. - Refuel in Midway, Island.
- 23-26 Jan. - Enroute to Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii.
- 26 Jan. - Refuel in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 26-1 Feb. - Enroute to San Diego, Calif.
- 1 Feb. - Arrived in San Diego, Commenced Post Deployment Stand Down.
- 1 Feb. - 2 Apr. - Inport San Diego.
- 3 Apr. - Underway SOCAL LOCAL OPS.
- 4-17 Apr. - Inport San Diego.
- 17-19 Apr. - INSURV Inspection.
- 19 Apr.-15 May - Inport San Diego.
- 16 May - Underway SOCAL ROH Systems Check Out.
- 17 May-24 Jun. - Inport San Diego.
- 25-28 Jun. - DATC Boiler School Ship.
- 28 Jun. - Dependants Cruise.
- 29 Jun.-18 Jul. - Inport San Diego.
- 19 Jul. - Enroute Seal Beach, Calif., Inport Seal Beach.
- 20 Jul. - Inport Seal Beach, Enroute San Diego.
- 25-26 Jul. - Underway as DATC School Ship.
- 27 Jul.-1 Oct. - Inport San Diego.

2 Oct. - Enroute under tow to Long Beach, Calif.

3-28 Oct. - ROH, Inport Long Beach, Calif., Pier #2

28 Oct.-31 Dec. - ROH, Dry Dock #1, Long Beach, Calif.

I. BASIC HISTORY

- A. COMMAND ORGANIZATION
- B. OPERATIONS SUMMARY
- C. SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7)
COMMAND ORGANIZATION

1. USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7) was commanded during 1973 by Commander Robert L. JENSEN, USN, [REDACTED] (1 January 1973 - 31 December 1973)
2. USS HENRY B. WILSON'S mission in Third Fleet is to maintain a high state of AAW/ASW^{AW} readiness and be ready to operate as an element of a Third Fleet Surface Action Group.
3. USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7) is a member of the Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and also Destroyer Squadron SEVENTEEN. Personnel assigned at year's end include 20 Officers and 301 Enlisted Personnel.
4. USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7) was homeported at U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, California, 1 January - 3 October 1973, and at U. S. Naval Shipyard, Longbeach, California, 4 October - 31 December 1973.

B. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7)
BASIC NARRATIVE, SHIPS HISTORY 1973

The first day of the new year found WILSON observing a 24 hour cease fire off PT. JOEY RVN. The second of January the ship got back to work conducting Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) off PT. JOEY and PT. EWAN. On 5 January while conducting a support mission, the forward gun mount, mount 51 had an inbore explosion. A 5" 54 caliber projectile burst just as it was leaving the barrel sweeping the fore-castle and port side of the ship with shell and barrel fragment. At the time of the accident the mount was trained approximately 270 degrees R. Two men were injured by fragments, one man struck in the shoulder, and another man had two and one half fingers severed.

WILSON was released from NGFS operations that same day and headed for Subic Bay for repairs and an investigation of the accident arriving the 6th of January. A new barrel was installed and a board of investigation was convened on board soon after arrival in Subic Bay. Meanwhile the ship received much awaited orders detaching her from Seventh Fleet and sending her home.

On the 14th of January, the investigation was completed, WILSON got underway for Guam on the first leg of the transit back to San Diego. The transit was made in company with USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) and USS RUPERTUS (DD 851). The transit was uneventful, the only stops made were refueling stops at Guam on 18 January, Midway 23 January, and Pearl Harbor 26 January. WILSON arrived at Pier 8, U. S. Naval Station, San Diego on 1 February. RADM WOODS, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet (COMCRUDESPEC) came aboard for a brief welcome home visit and WILSON entered a post deployment stand down period.

WILSON remained in the port of San Diego until 3 April when she got underway for the Southern California Operating Area (SOCAL) to test out all systems in preparation for an INSURV Inspection. WILSON returned to San Diego on 4 April and spent the next two weeks inport preparing for the inspection. On 6 April RADM WOODS (COMCRUDESPEC) and RADM ST. GEORGE (FLOTILLA 11) came aboard for a brief inspection and visit.

17 April found WILSON underway, SOCAL with the Board of Inspection and Survey as well as Destroyer Squadron 23 aboard. April 18 and 19 were spent inport with the inspection team aboard.

INSURV completed, WILSON stayed at Pier 8 until 16 May when she again got underway SOCAL for a systems check out. This time it was with representatives of Long Beach Naval Shipyard aboard observing. The Shipyard evaluated systems in preparation for Regular Overhaul (ROH). WILSON returned that same day and remained inport until 25 June.

25 June through 28 June WILSON was DATC School Ship, providing underway training for perspective engineers. Boiler study was the topic and the ship departed San Diego every morning for SOCAL, returning in the evening. The final day of DATC School Ship, 28 June, was combined with a dependants cruise. The remainder of June and the first 18 days of July were spent inport, July 7 through the 11th, WILSON flew the flag of COMCRUDESGRU 3.

On 19 July WILSON steamed North to Seal Beach for an ammunition off-load. Offloading was begun the afternoon of the 19th and completed the morning of the 20th when WILSON departed Seal Beach and steamed back to San Diego to begin preparing for overhaul.

Inport the 20th through the 24th of July, 25 and 26 of July WILSON was again DATC School Ship underway each morning and returning each evening. Upon completion of this evolution, ship's force engineers began dismantling the engineering plant in order to get a head start on ROH.

The remainder of July and the month of August was spent inport in San Diego with the ship's force commencing overhaul of equipment and systems which the shipyard would not be working on. The pace quickened in September when WILSON was moved alongside USS DIXIE (AD 14) for a 30-day pre-ROH tender availability.

On 2 October WILSON was under tow for Long Beach Naval Shipyard. WILSON was towed by fleet tug USS ABNAKI (ATF 96) arriving off Long Beach some 18 hours after leaving San Diego. 4 October WILSON began Regular Overhaul, and dismantling and overhaul of the ship systems began in earnest. On 28 October WILSON was moved to drydock one together with USS MEYERKORD (DE 1058) (to port) and (YFD 71) (forward). The 29th of October through the year's end were spent in drydock one.

C. SPECIAL PROJECTS

III SPECIAL PROJECTS

Presently HENRY B. WILSON is undergoing Regular Overhaul which in addition to making her more formidable in all three (AAW, ASW, ANTI-SURFACE) environments, will also leave her a better place to live.

I. WEAPONS

New or updated weapons currently being installed include an AN/SQQ-23 Pair SONAR, an AN/SPS 39A Medium Range Target Acquisition 3-d Radar, Conversion of the MK 74 Missile Fire Control Systems from Analog to Digital Computers, the 5"/54 Caliber Gun Mounts have been updated to MK 42 MOD 10, and the Missile Launcher is being updated to handle Standard Arm Missiles.

II. ENGINEERING

All four of the major Engineering spaces are being extensively overhauled and repaired. Major improvements include; conversion to Navy Distillate Fuel, several improvements to the 1200 PSI Steam System for greater efficiency, and Automatic Fuel Tank Reserve Indicating System, an improved Machinery Space Fire Fighting System (AFFF), Contaminated Holding Tanks for environmental protection, and an additional 65 ton Air Conditioning Plant.

III. OPERATIONS

In addition to an improved IFF (Identification Friend/Foe) System with added capabilities designated AIMS, the Communications Systems will also be updated. The Communications Alteration includes a complete re-vamping of Radio Central and the rearranging of the Antenna System on board for greater dispersion.

IV. SUPPLY

Habitability will be improved greatly during the overhaul. The Mess Decks will be completely torn up and refurnished. Booths will be installed and the Galley will have new stoves, refrigerators, and soft drink dispensers. A new entertainment system will also be installed.

V. NAVIGATION

Navigation capabilities will be enhanced with the addition of the OMEGA Navigation System.