



USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA 148)

FPO NEW YORK 09501

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CA148/001: dhr

5750

Ser 0001

23 MAR 1970

[REDACTED] (UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of Appendix B and E of enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer, USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-09B9)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 series

Encl: (1) 1969 Command History for USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

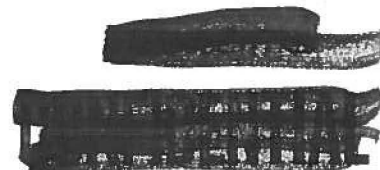
1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is herewith submitted.

J. E. Bonds
J. E. BONDS

Copy to:
CINCLANTFLT
COMCRUDESANT

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1969 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

DATE

1 - 9 Jan 69	Inport Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines. Commanding Officer is Captain Edwin K. SNYDER, USN. Rear Admiral David H. BAGLEY, USN, COMCRUDESFLT NINE/COMCRUDESGRU SEVENTH FLEET and Staff embarked.
10 JAN	Underway after rearming for I CORPS.
12 JAN - 20 FEB	GUNLINE: Provided gunfire support for: 3rd Marine Division, Battalion Landing Team 2-26 in Operation BOLD MARINER; Americal Division; Second ARVN; First Marine Division; Fifth Marine Regiment; 26th Marine Regiment; and Seventh Marine Division. Support Operations for above units conducted in First, Second, Third and Fifth provinces.
29 JAN	Celebrated 20th Anniversary.
20 FEB - 24 FEB	Enroute Yokosuka - Subic Bay.
24 FEB - 5 MAR	Inport Subic Bay.
1 MAR	Rear Admiral Thomas J. RUDDEN, Jr., USN, COMCRUDESFLT THREE relieved Rear Admiral BAGLEY as COMCRUDESGRU SEVENTH FLEET.
5 -6 MAR	Enroute Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
6 - 9 MAR	Inport Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
9 - 10 MAR	Enroute gun line.
10 MAR - 22 MAR	Provided Gunfire support for ROK Marine Brigade: 1st Marine Division; 3rd Marine Division.
23 - 24 MAR	Enroute Hong Kong.
24 - 29 MAR	Inport Hong Kong, BCC.
30 MAR	Enroute gunline.
31 MAR - 29 APR	Provided gunfire support for 1st Marine Division in Operation Oklahoma Hills; 3rd Marine Division; 30th Regiment 9th ROK Infantry Division; 101st Airborne Division in Operation Sheridan.

29 APR - 4 MAY	Enroute Yokosuka.
4 - 15 MAY	Inport Yokosuka.
15 - 17 MAY	Enroute Kagoshima
17 - 20 MAY	Inport Kagoshima.
20 - 23 MAY	Enroute gunline.
23 - 24 MAY	Hosted SECNAV.
25 MAY	Rear Admiral RUDDEN hauled down his flag and transferred to USS ST. PAUL (CA-73)
23 MAY - 4 JUN	Provided gunfire support for 3rd Marine Division; and 1st Marine Division.
4 - 5 JUN	Enroute Subic Bay.
5 - 6 JUN	Inport Subic Bay.
6 - 9 JUN	Enroute Yokosuka.
9 - 11 JUN	Inport Yokosuka.
11 - 20 JUN	Enroute San Francisco.
14 JUN	Crossed International Date Line.
20 - 22 JUN	Inport San Francisco.
23 JUN - 2 - JUL	Enroute Norfolk.
30 - JUN	Refueled Rodman and transited Panama Canal.
3 - JUL	Arrived Norfolk
3 JUL - 7 JUL	Inport Norfolk.
7 JUL	COMSECONDFLT embarked.
15 AUG	Captain Joseph Elee BONDS relieved Captain Edwin K. SNYDER as Commanding Officer.
23 AUG	Dependents Cruise.
8 SEP	Depart Norfolk for NATO exercise and Northern European and North Africa port visits.

17 - 23 SEP	Exercise PEACEKEEPER.
24 - 27 SEP	Inport Plymouth, England.
27 - 29 SEP	Enroute Copenhagen, Denmark.
29 SEP - 1 OCT	Inport Copenhagen, Denmark.
1 - 3 OCT	Enroute Helsinki, Finland.
3 - 6 OCT	Inport Helsinki, Finland.
6 - 8 OCT	Enroute Keil, Germany.
8 - 13 OCT	Inport Keil, Germany.
13 - 15 OCT	Enroute Brest transiting Keil Canal.
15 - 18 OCT	Inport Brest, France.
18 - 23 OCT	Participated in LANTFLT readiness exercise.
23 - 25 OCT	Enroute Casablanca, Morocco.
25 - 28 OCT	Inport Casablanca, Morocco.
28 OCT - 5 NOV	Enroute Norfolk.
5 NOV	Arrived Norfolk.
15 - 19 DEC	INSURV Inspection.

UNITED STATES SHIP NEWPORT NEWS (CA148)

COMMAND HISTORY

Year of our Lord

One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine

CAPTAIN EDWIN KNOWLES SNYDER, UNITED STATES NAVY, COMMANDING
CAPTAIN JOSEPH ELEE BONDS, UNITED STATES NAVY, COMMANDING

SHE WAS FASHIONED OF STEEL AND BORN INTO PEACE

REGINA MARIS

Enclosure (1)

Moored Portside To USS CANBERRA (CA-70)
With Standard Mooring Lines Doubled
She Makes Good Company

At Alava Pier, Berths A2 and A3
U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay
Phillipine Country

Fresh Water and Phone Service From The Pier
To Continue As Long
As We Remain Here

Boiler 2 and Generator 3 Are On The Line
The Steam From The Former
Causes The Latter To Whine

SOPA COMCRUDESGRU SEVENTH FLEET
Rear Admiral BAGLEY By Name
Heads The Elite

Embarked In CANBERRA He Calls It His Home
Until Later Today
When Our Decks He'll Roam

And So My Good Shipmates, I Close With This Pen
I Now Sign My Log
Happy New Year! God Bless All Men

... and 1969 was born.

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OPERATIONS

■ From early January until early June, NEWPORT NEWS was deployed in the waters adjacent to Vietnam. During this period she proved a valuable source of intelligence with; (1) written reports on Communist Bloc shipping in the Western Pacific; (2) broadcast reports on Market Time, giving locations of small craft in the coastal waters of Vietnam; and, (3) photography and tactical intelligence taken from Soviet trawlers. NEWPORT NEWS also produced a port study on Kagoshima, Japan, a port seldom seen by U. S. Naval vessels.

■ With the beginning of Exercise Peace Keeper in September, NEWPORT NEWS again began to make its contribution to the intelligence community. During the exercise NEWPORT NEWS turned in reports and photographs of the OKEAN TRAWLER CLASS AGI LINZA. The transit of the Baltic Sea was beneficial as we gained photography and electronic intelligence from a Russian TALLIN CLASS destroyer and MADGE BE-6 patrol plane (the photography of the plane was termed "the best yet of a BE-6" by the Naval Intelligence Center) While in Casablanca NEWPORT NEWS did acquire some photography on a Moroccan destroyer and the general port facilities.

ENGINEERING

(U) After celebrating New Year's and completing a ten-day upkeep period, the engineering plant was ready for steaming. During the next six months the ship was never cold iron and during one period steamed eighty out of ninety days with all four shafts turning. During the month of June the ship burned 1,754,289 gallons of NSFO. After two months of routine inport time, the engineering plant again responded to operational commitments. The Engineering Department met all requirements during the two month Northern Europe cruise. On 5 November, the engineering plant went cold iron for the remainder of the year except for a brief INSURV period.

WEAPONS

(U) At the beginning of 1969 NEWPORT NEWS was in the port of Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillipines making final preparations for a six month deployment in the Western Pacific in support of allied troops in South Vietnam. During the next six months, the Weapons Department took part in many significant evolutions. The ship had 68 alongside evolutions; included were 21 re-armings, 26 refuelings, 50 highlines, two conreps and five vertical replenishments. Probably the most significant of the evolutions were the vertical replenishments. Two receiving stations were utilized. In addition to the normal station aft of turret III, a forward area was made by training turret I abeam. While this forward station was inherently more dangerous and less efficient, it did increase the replenishment rate significantly and demonstrated the feasibility of two station vertrep. This was the first time the ship had replenished in this manner. The Weapons Department coordinated the efforts

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of the entire ship in striking stores below on both fore and aft stations. All of these alongside evolutions were accomplished without any serious injury.

The ship helped support various allied units operating on the mainland of South Vietnam. The guns of the NEWPORT NEWS fired on 1528 gunfire support missions in strikes against the enemy. The ship was credited with destroying or damaging numerous structures, bunkers, fortified trench line, sampans, ammunition sites and various other strategic areas of vital importance to the enemy. The ship expended a total of 10178 8"/55 cal. projectiles, 8700 5"/38 cal. projectiles and 50 3"/50 cal. projectiles. While firing a total of 18928 rounds, not one serious injury occurred.

The ship was awarded the "Top Gun" award for support of the allied forces during the deployment. The ship also fired a new type projectile for the first time during this deployment. The rocket assisted projectile increased the range of the 5"/38 cal. guns by as much as 50%. The Weapons Department was able to adapt easily to the new procedures in shooting this new projectile and the overall effectiveness of this weapon was excellent.

The department as a whole has suffered from a lack of personnel, both during the deployment and after the ships return in July of 1969. The fire control division was at approximately 70% strength for the entire year and consequently had to CASREP the ships MK 56 gun fire control system due to this lack of personnel.

A strongly documented recommendation was made to upgrade the ships AAW defensive posture by replacing the currently installed MK 5 TDS with the WDE MK 4 and as an extension to replace the AN/SPS 8 and/or AN/SPS-6 with the AN/SPS 39A. All replacement equipment was to have been obtained from stocks in excess of service requirements. This proposal was held in abeyance due to lack of installation funds.

The next major evolution that the Weapons Department was totally involved in was the ships cruise to Northern Europe and participation in Operation Peace Keeper. During Operation Peace Keeper the ship was alongside for eight evolutions in which the Weapons Department personnel were directly involved. Included were four refuelings and four high line transfers. The evolutions were again accomplished with no serious injuries.

The year of 1969 came to a close with the Weapons Department preparing for a much needed overhaul. Many repairs and modifications are expected to be accomplished on the weapons systems as well as various areas of the deck.