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(UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURES 2, 3, AND 4)


From: Commanding Officer, USS O'BRIEN (DD-725)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: 1967 Command History (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 of 8 Nov 66
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5750.2 of 22 Dec 66
(c) COMCRUDES PACINST P5000.3C para A 3109

Encl: (1) 1967 Chronology
(2) 1967 Narrative *retained in CLASS. safe*
NIF (3) USS O'BRIEN TG 72.1 Post Patrol Report Ser016 of 24 Apr 67
NIF (4) Messages Concerning Sea Dragon Operations 2-16 Apr 67
NIF (5) CTG 70.8 MSG 170322Z April 1967
(6) Long Beach Press Telegram clipping 12 May 1967
(7) Long Beach Press Telegram clipping 13 May 1967
* (8) USS O'BRIEN report of visit of The Dalles, Oregon, w/encl. (COMFIRSTFLT Report symbol 3128.1)
(9) Memorabilia and clippings concerning O'BRIEN's visit to The Dalles, Oregon 19-24 July 1967

1. The 1967 Command history has been prepared in accordance with reference (a) and is forwarded in accordance with references (a) through (c).


G. W. FARRIS

Copy to:
COMDESRON 29 (less enclosures 3-9)
CINCPACFLT (less enclosures 4-9)
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**COMNAV Reports*

[1967]

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1967 COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE - USS O'BRIEN (DD-725)

The New Year found O'BRIEN moored at the U. S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines completing a restricted availability with USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36) and the U. S. Navy Ship Repair Facility Subic Bay. The repairs to the battle damage incurred 23 December 1966 were rushed to meet the demand for much needed destroyers on Yankee Station. Following Twenty-four a day shift work, O'BRIEN sailed for the Tonkin Gulf several days ahead of schedule.

Between 9 January and 23 January, O'BRIEN supported carrier operations with the U. S. Seventh Fleet striking force (TF 77) in the Gulf of Tonkin. During this period O'BRIEN was assigned as plane guard and screen for USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20), Task Group 70.4; USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14), Task Group 77.4; USS CORAL SEA (CVA-13), Task Group 77.3; USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63), Task Group 77.3; and USS ENTERPRISE (CVAN-65), Task Group 77.5. On the twenty-third of January the ship joined BENNINGTON and several other units of Anti-Submarine Warfare Group One and sailed for Subic Bay.

During this brief in-port period (27 January), Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Group One, RADM E. P. AURAND came aboard and presented the PURPLE HEART medal to BT1 C. C. OLSEN, BT2 R. H. SCUDDER, and FN R. D. HENSON, three of the four living crewmen who had been wounded in December. The fourth crewman FN W. C. WEHUNT had been transferred to USS REPOSE (AH-16) for further transfer to U. S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, California.

On 31 January, O'BRIEN in company with USS BENNER (DD-807) and USS EPPERSON (DD-719) sailed for a five day rest and relaxation visit to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Units of ASW Group One joined O'BRIEN in Hong Kong.

On 2 February the ship departed Hong Kong and proceeded independently to the port of Keelung in Taiwan for a six week period of patrol with Task Force 72. Commanding Officer O'BRIEN relieved Commanding Officer USS FLETCHER (DD-445) as patrol ship on 9 February and then, relieved Commanding Officer USS NICHOLS (DD-449) as CGC 72.1 on 15 March. During the entire time that O'BRIEN was on patrol LCDR KUNG-HSUI, RCN, served as liaison officer on board, advising O'BRIEN personnel of the latest operational and intelligence data in the Straits. During the patrol period, the Taiwan Strait area was relatively quiet (see enclosure 3). While on patrol on 19-20 February the government of the Peoples Republic of China issued the 424th serious warning against U. S. military craft intruding in the territorial waters of that nation. During the period 28 February to 2 March, O'BRIEN joined USS CARONERO (SS-337), RCN WAN YANG (DD-15), RCN TAI CHAO (DE-26), RCN TAI TSANG (DE-24), RCN TIEN SHAN (APD-215), RCN CHA YUNG (PCE-67), RCN HSI KIANG (PC-120), and RCN PO KIANG (PC-114) in a joint United States - Republic of China Navy anti-submarine exercise. The officer in Tactical command was RADM T. P. LIU, Commander, Destroyer Squadron, Chinese Navy. During in port periods O'BRIEN utilized fire fighting facilities at the Chinese Naval Base in Tsoying and assisted the Taiwan Christian Service in repairs to a school in Ping Tung.

Upon being relieved by USS BENNER (DD-807) on 30 March, the ship proceeded to join BENNINGTON on station in the Gulf of Tonkin. From 31 March until 3 April, the ship operated as plane guard and screen for BENNINGTON. During this period COMUSMACV 232, Captain G. L. CLARK, USN, utilized O'BRIEN as his flagship. On the morning of 3 April, the ship was detached from BENNINGTON and proceeded to join USS CANBERRA (CAG-2) on Sea Dragon operations. Between the period 3 April and 16 April, O'BRIEN served with task unit 77.1.2 alternately composed of USS CANBERRA, USS WADDELL (DDC-24), USS A. M. SUMNER (DD-692), and USS SPROSTON (DD-577).

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Normally operating in a two ship patrol along the coast of North Viet Nam between 17°N and 20°N while interdicting North Vietnamese waterborne logistics craft (WNLG) and conducting harassing and interdiction (H&I) fire on pre-selected targets. (See enclosure 4) The surveillance area was divided in half at the 18th parallel. Patrol in the area was normally alternated every three days with Task Unit 77.1.1 following refueling/replenishment. During this time O'BRIEN was normally in Condition II. The evaluator, in CIC helped to co-ordinate the various groups on watch and in handling tactical signals for COMDESDIV 232, (CTU 77.1.2) between 8 and 16 April. During this thirteen day period, O'BRIEN was taken under fire by coastal batteries on 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 13 April. On one occasion the ship was closely straddled by shells out to 26,500 yards from shore. In all instances no material or personnel injury resulted, although shrapnel was found on deck on several occasions.

On the afternoon of 16 April, Commanding Officer, USS BOSTON (CAG-1) relieved COMDESDIV 232 as CTU 77.1.2 and O'BRIEN then proceeded independently to join the units of Anti-Submarine Warfare Group One in Subic Bay.

After a short in-port period, BENNINGTON with Destroyer Division 251 sailed for a visit to Australian waters. USS EVERSOLE (DD-789) and O'BRIEN sailed North to Yokosuka, Japan, where USS CUNNINGHAM (DD-752) and BENNER (DD-807) would join them for the transit to Long Beach, California. The four ships of Destroyer Division 232 left Japan on 28 April with a 16 knot SOA, stopped for fuel at Midway Island and Pearl Harbor, and arrived in their home port on 12 May.

O'BRIEN spent the period between 12 May and 11 July in well deserved leave for crew members and upkeep and repair aboard ship. On 19-20 June, The Board of Inspection and Survey, Pacific Coast Section, conducted a material inspection. The Board considered O'BRIEN fit for further service.

On 11 July the ship got underway for a twenty-six hour period in order to test a sound velocity profile analysis system developed by the General Precision Corporation. Under the auspices of the Pacific Destroyer Development Group, two large swiveling beams were temporarily welded to the deck. Both on the starboard side, one on the fore'side and one on the fantail, the beams allowed the test devices to be lowered in and out of the water, as desired.

On the eighteenth of July, with the test devices removed, O'BRIEN got underway for her second port visit to The Dalles, Oregon. On board for the passage to The Dalles were SECNAV Cruise guests MR. EARL R. DEAN, Chairman of the Board, Northwest Telephone Co., and MR. TED WALKER, owner of RED WALKER CLEANERS, The Dalles, Oregon.

When the ship arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River, Bar pilots came aboard and then were exchanged off Astoria for River pilots, Captain DENNIS BROWN and Captain REX POLLIT supervised the navigation of the ship up the river. After stopping overnight in Vancouver, Washington, on the evening of 18 July, the ship departed the following morning with seventy-five local Navy League guests on board. Among the guests was Oregon Secretary of State CLAY MYERS who presented the Commanding Officer CDR GEORGE W. FARRIS, USN, with the Oregon State Flag. At arrival ceremonies in The Dalles, Secretary MYERS suggested to the crowd on hand that the Navy make The Dalles, O'BRIEN's home port. Mayor JOHN H. SKIRVING presented the Commanding Officer with a key to the city. The highlight of the ship's five day visit. (See enclosures 9,10) was the Fort Dalles Hodeo Days. At the opening ceremony, the Rev. ORIN HARDENBROOK said a brief memorial service for the

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men who died in combat aboard O'BRIEN in December 1966. For the second consecutive year, the people of The Dalles extended an extremely hospitable welcome to the men of O'BRIEN. More than 4,674 local people visited the ship when she was in The Dalles. Upon getting underway for return to Long Beach, the ship carried three SECNAV Cruise guests, DR. JOHN H. SKIRVING, Mayor of The Dalles; The HON. KENNETH JERNSTADT, member of the Oregon Legislature; and MR. NATHAN WRIGHT, Personnel Manager of the HARVEY Aluminum Corporation, Hood River, Oregon. In addition, eighty-five local Navy League guests were on board for the downriver trip to Vancouver, Washington. During the downriver passage the port propeller blades were damaged while entering the Bonneville Dam Locks.

On 26 July, O'BRIEN returned to the Southern California area. She steamed directly to the U. S. Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, to off load ammunition in preparation for the ship's forthcoming regular overhaul.

8 August marked the official commencement of O'BRIEN's regular overhaul at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. During the overhaul, extensive repairs were made to the boilers and main propulsion equipment, all three 5"/38 gun mounts were replaced by the first West Coast installation of totally prewired mounts, an enlarged ECM house and ECM mast were constructed on after conn to accommodate the new ULQ-6B Active jamming installation, probe refueling connections were installed, the port screw was replaced, air conditioning units were installed in all living compartments and electronic spaces, extensive repairs were made to shell plating, longitudinal beams and internal structure, the Variable Depth Sonar (VDS) and hull mount Sonar were given the capability of dual transmission.

O'BRIEN began her sea trials on 6 NOV. and she conducted sea trials alternately with shipyard repair time until completion of overhaul 28 NOV.

The week of 4 DEC- 8 DEC saw O'BRIEN underway in SOCAL OPAREAS for independent ship's exercises. Upon completion of her first week at sea since beginning overhaul, she returned to Long Beach where she entered a period of leave and upkeep through the new year.

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1967 Chronology
(all times local)

010001 - 071600 January

In port Subic Bay, Philippines completing restricted availability with USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36) and SRF, Subic, for repair of battle damage.

071600 - 250800

Underway. YANKEE Team operations in the Gulf of Tonkin. Supporting carrier operations with TF 77.

250800 - 310800

In port Subic Bay, Philippines.

310800 - 020800 February

Underway enroute Hong Kong, B. C. C.

020800 - 080800

In Port, Hong Kong.

080800 - 090800

Underway enroute Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

090800 - 110800

In port Kaohsiung.

110800 - 130900

Underway Taiwan patrol (TG 72.1)

130900 - 170900

In port Kaohsiung.

170900 - 210800

Underway, TG 72.1.

210800 - 260800

In port, Keelung, Taiwan.

260800 - 030800 March

Underway TG 72.1 Joint ROCN-USN ASW exercises.

030800 - 080800

In port Kaohsiung. TAV with USS PIEDMONT (AD-15).

080800 - 130800

Underway TG 72.1.

130800 - 150800

In port Kaohsiung. TAV with PIEDMONT.

150800 - 170800

Underway TG 72.1.

170800 - 220800

In Port Kaohsiung. TAV with PIEDMONT.

220800 - 270800

Underway TG 72.1.

270800 - 301200

In port Kaohsiung.

301200 - 312048

Underway for duty with TF 77 Gulf of Tonkin.

312048 - 031059 April

Yankee Station Carrier Operations.

022120

COMDESDIV 232 broke his pennant in O'BRIEN.

022120 - 161435

COMDESDIV 232 acting as CTU 77.1.2.

031059 - 161435

Sea Dragon Operations.

161435 - 180800

Underway enroute Subic Bay.

201606	COMDESDIV 232 shifted his pennant to USS EVERSOLE (DD-789)
180800 - 210800	<u>In port</u> , Subic Bay.
210800 - 250800	<u>Underway enroute</u> Yokosuka, Japan.
250800 - 280800	<u>In port</u> , Yokosuka, Japan.
280800 - 031100 May	<u>Underway enroute</u> Midway Island.
031100 - 031700	<u>In port</u> , Midway Island (refuel).
031700 - 060800	<u>Underway enroute</u> Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
060800 - 061600	<u>In port</u> Pearl Harbor (refuel).
061600 - 121000	<u>Underway enroute</u> Long Beach, California.
121000 May - 111000 July	<u>In port</u> Long Beach, Leave and upkeep period.
111000 - 121400	<u>Underway in</u> Southern California Operating Area during DESDIVGRU project (Sound velocity profile analysis - General Precision Corp).
121400 - 151730	<u>In port</u> Long Beach.
151730 - 181330	<u>Underway enroute</u> Vancouver, Washington, SECNAV guest cruise.
180558	Crossed Columbia River Bar.
181330 - 190900	<u>In port</u> , Vancouver, Washington.
190900 - 191655	<u>Underway enroute</u> The Dalles, Oregon.
191655 - 240800	<u>In port</u> , The Dalles, Oregon.
240800 - 241445	<u>Underway enroute</u> Vancouver, Washington.
241445 - 241835	<u>In port</u> , Vancouver, Washington.
241835 - 261330	<u>Underway enroute</u> Seal Beach, California, SECNAV Cruise.
250027	Crossed Columbia River Bar.
261330 - 261630	<u>In port</u> Seal Beach, off loading ammunition.
261630 - 261715	<u>Underway enroute</u> Naval Station Long Beach.
261715 - 311445	<u>In port</u> Naval Station Long Beach.
311445	Entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
080800 - August	Commenced Regular Overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
141745 - September	Entered dry dock #2 Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

140707 - October	Departed dry dock #2 Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
0001 1 OCT 67 - 2400 31 OCT 67	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
010010 NOV - 060600 NOV	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
060600 NOV - 061615 NOV	<u>Underway</u> for Machinery & VDS Sea Trials.
061615 NOV - 170700 NOV	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
170700 NOV - 171900 NOV	<u>Underway</u> COT & VDS Sea Trials.
171900 NOV - 200700 NOV	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
200700 NOV - 202300 NOV	<u>Underway</u> for VDS Sea Trials.
202300 NOV - 220700 NOV	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
220700 NOV - 222200 NOV	<u>Underway</u> RPIS Sea Trials.
222200 NOV - 270700 NOV	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
270700 NOV - 272230 NOV	<u>Underway</u> COT & VDS Sea Trials.
272230 NOV - 282400 NOV	Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
290000 NOV - 040700 DEC	<u>In port</u> Long Beach.
040700 DEC - 081800 DEC	<u>Underway</u> SOCIAL OP AREAS.
081800 DEC - 180800 DEC	TAV Long Beach.
180800 DEC - 312400 DEC	Upkeep Long Beach.