

U.S.S. PARSONS (DDG-33)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS PARSONS (DDG 33)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
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Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic History
(2) Calendar of Events 1970
(3) Cruise Book *Sent to 93 12/14/71 R.J.*

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.


R. T. S. KEITH, Jr.
By direction

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USS PARSONS (DDG 33)
BASIC HISTORY 1970

Commanded by Commander James F. KELLEY, Jr., USN from 1 January 1970 to 31 December 1970, USS PARSONS started off the new year by shifting administrative organizations on 1 January, and became a member of Destroyer Division 172, a unit of Destroyer Squadron 17 and Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla 11.

Scheduled to deploy on 2 March 1970, time was a precious commodity to be devoted strictly to preparing every aspect of this warship for the rigorous duties to which she would later be assigned in the grueling months ahead. While undergoing TAV beside the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37) for engineering aspects of the preparation, the Weapons and Operations departments were constantly testing and retesting all equipments to insure their perfection. The two brief operating period in these predeployment months, periods devoted to HUXASWEXS and COMTUEXS, were immensely successful not only because of the training and experience gained, but in the satisfaction received by the crew in knowing that their ship was ready -- ready for sea and ready for war.

Eagerly anticipated, the cruise began on schedule as PARSONS, in company with USS SHELTON (DD 790) and USS DUNCAN (DD 874) departed San Diego harbor in the early morning hours of 2 March 1970. A warship in the finest tradition of the Navy, PARSONS was ready and she went.

After brief stopovers in Hawaii, Midway, Guam, and Subic Bay, PARSONS plunged eagerly into what was to be the first of many duties in her WESTPAC deployment. We plane-guarded for the USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43) for almost two weeks of high speed round the clock operations before being detached with a hearty "well done" for a well deserved upkeep period in Sasebo, Japan.

Because of the rapidly deteriorating situation in Southeast Asia however, our upkeep period was cut short and PARSONS put to sea late in the evening of 25 April in order to conduct special operations off the coast of Cambodia. Preluding these operations, however, PARSONS again assisted CORAL SEA in a plane-guarding capacity. Traditionally long hours were made longer by the tragedies of operations which were dangerously hazardous at best -- PARSONS conducted search and rescue operations with unnerving regularity.

Detached by the CORAL SEA on 7 May, PARSONS steamed by Point De Ca Mau and into the Gulf of Siam to participate in the support of U. S. ground troops deeply involved in the Cambodian invasion.

Relieved by the USS DECATUR (DDG 31), PARSONS steamed from the "sea of snakes" toward Bangkok, "The Venice of the East", where we were to spend five well deserved, and what turned out to be very relaxing days and nights. A timeless city of bright colors, vivid contrasts, and friendly, graceful people, provided all men aboard with a time out, a respite, to regain drained energies. Our morale and spirits once restored however, it was back "on the line" for almost two more weeks off the Cambodian coast. This patrol duty finably terminated on 15 June when PARSONS sailed for Subic. After debriefings, PARSONS was released for a port visit to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Billed as one of the most exciting ports in all of the Western Pacific, it was indeed that. After five (dream-like) days the cruise had to continue and on 30 June we returned to Subic Bay. On 2 July 1970, when a touch of finery

mixed with international diplomacy was needed, PARSONS was again called upon to cement the Philippine-American relations in the small province of Cebu City in the Southern Philippines.

Over four thousand people viewed PARSONS and "Ipalagay mong ikaw ay na sa sarili" or "You are most welcome in my house" was an expression heard many times during our too brief stay in Cebu City.

Our fighting edge was never dulled however by the euphoric interludes in Hong Kong and Cebu. PARSONS, with all the grim determination expected of a man o' war returned to Subic Bay to receive final orders and make final preparations before entering operations on the gunline.

Our period on the gunline from 13-23 July was an immense success. A one gun ship, PARSONS experienced no failures, no casualties, and was able to provide continuous, dependable and skilled gun fire support -- support expected but nevertheless welcomed from a professional naval war vessel. Contributing directly to the United States effort in Vietnam, PARSONS answered over two hundred calls for fire with a lethally intense and continuous shell bombardment -- twenty-two missions, twenty-two successes.

PARSONS concluded these highly rewarding operations on 22 July and proceeded from II Corps to act as plane guard for the attack carrier USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31) as she conducted air operations deep into the heart of Vietnam. A gratefully uneventful period, PARSONS terminated these duties on 28 July and steamed for "The Land of the Rising Sun" where, in Yokosuka, we could accomplish some desperately needed engineering maintenance before making the long but eagerly anticipated voyage home.

Leaving Yokosuka against gusting August winds, PARSONS headed for home. Although all scheduled commitments had been met, PARSONS continued special operations en route to our first refueling stop in Adak, Alaska. A brief stopover in this 100% American community for liquid refreshment for both men and ship gave the officers and men of PARSONS a tantalizing taste of the life to which they would be returning.

Amidst a euphony of band playing, children shouting and wives waving, PARSONS arrived home on 3 September 1970. What followed after our return to San Diego was the longest period of inport time PARSONS had experienced since recommissioning. PARSONS spent from 3 September to 15 November in leave, R&R, and general maintenance to men and machines.

PARSONS departed San Diego 16 November 1970 for a four month overhaul in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. As of 31 December 1970, PARSONS was having accomplished all tasks necessary to make her, again, a #1 performer in the coming year.

CALENDAR YEAR 1970

JANUARY

1-6 Inport San Diego
7-12 HUKASWEX Southern California Operating Area
13-31 Inport San Diego/TAV USS SAMUEL GOMPERS

FEBRUARY

1 Inport San Diego/TAV USS SAMUEL GOMPERS/Embarked COMDESRON 17 and Staff
2-6 COMTUEX Pacific Missile Range
7-31 Inport San Diego/TAV USS SAMUEL GOMPERS

MARCH

1 Inport San Diego/TAV USS SAMUEL GOMPERS
2-7 Enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
8-9 Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
10-12 Barking Sands Missile Range/Enroute Midway Island
13-19 Midway Island-Fuel Stop/Enroute Guam Island
20-23 Guam Island-Fuel Stop/Enroute Subic Bay, P.I.
24-28 Inport Subic Bay, P.I.
29 Disembarked COMDESRON 17 and Staff/Embarked COMDESDIV 172 and Staff
30-31 Enroute Yankee Station

APRIL

1-10 Yankee Station-Plane Guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43)
11-13 Enroute Okinawa
14 Okinawa-Fuel Stop
15-25 Inport Sasebo, Japan
26 Okinawa-Fuel Stop
27-28 Enroute Yankee Station
29-30 Yankee Station-Plane Guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43)

MAY

1-7 Yankee Station-Plane Guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43)
8-10 Enroute SPECOPS
11-27 Patrol Duties off Vietnam Coast
28 Enroute Bangkok, Thailand
29-31 Inport Bangkok, Thailand

JUNE

1-3 Inport, Bangkok, Thailand
4-15 Patrol Duties off Vietnam Coast
16-17 Enroute Subic Bay, Philippines
18-21 Inport Subic Bay, Philippines
22-23 Enroute Hong Kong
24-30 Inport Hong Kong

JULY

1-2 Inport Subic Bay, Philippines
3 Enroute Cebu City, Philippines
4-5 Inport Cebu City, Philippines
6 Enroute Subic Bay, Philippines
7-8 Inport Subic Bay, Philippines
9 Gunfire Training, Tabones, P.I. Op Area
10-12 Enroute NGFS RVN
13-22 Gunline-Vietnam (I & II Corps)
23-28 Yankee Station-Plane Guard for USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31)
29-30 Enroute Okinawa OP Area
31 Missile Firing Exercise Okinawa

AUGUST

1 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan
2-19 Inport Yokosuka, Japan
20-24 Enroute Adak, Alaska
25 Fuel Stop Adak, Alaska
26-31 Enroute San Diego, California

SEPTEMBER

1-2 Enroute San Diego, California
3-30 Inport San Diego, California

OCTOBER

1-31 Inport San Diego, California

NOVEMBER

1-15 Inport San Diego, California
16 Enroute Seal Beach, California/Disembarked COMDESDIV 172 and Staff
17 Offload Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach
18-30 ROH, Long Beach Naval Shipyard

DECEMBER

1-31 ROH, Long Beach, Naval Shipyard