

U. S. S. PLATTE (AO-24)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: USS PLATTE History of 1967

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Four Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) constitute the history of this command for the calendar year 1967 and are forwarded herewith.


H. F. SNOWDEN

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CINCPACFLT

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN 1967

- 1 January: Continued overhaul at Todd Shipyard, San Pedro, California.
- 25 April: Departed Todd Shipyard.
- 13 May: Arrived in San Diego for commencement of Refresher Training.
- 12 June: Captain Harold F. SNOWDEN relieved Captain William J. ADAMS as Commanding Officer at sea during a Dependents Day Cruise.
- 13 June: Departed Long Beach for deployment to Western Pacific.
- 22 June: Arrived Pearl Harbor for upkeep.
- 13 July: Departed Pearl Harbor for deployment.
- 22 July: Changed to operational control of Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet.
- 28 July: Arrived at U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
- 10 October: Arrived in Kaoshiung, Taiwan to load fuel and for informal visit.
- 4 November: Arrived in Sasebo, Japan for upkeep period.
- 2 December: Crossed Equator and crew was duly initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Orders of the Deep.
- 7 December: Arrived in Singapore for informal visit and rest and recreation.
- 31 December: Arrived in Chilung, Taiwan for informal visit and rest and recreation.

ENCLOSURE (1)

Basic Narrative

Command Organization and Relations

USS PLATTE was commanded by Captain William L. ADAMS until his relief by Captain Harold F. SNOWDEN on 12 June 1967 during a dependents day cruise. Captain SNOWDEN commanded PLATTE throughout the remainder of the year.

PLATTE's homeport was officially changed from San Pedro to Long Beach during the year. Her administrative commander wears two hats as Commander Service Group ONE and Commander, Service Squadron ONE, and his headquarters are in San Diego. Commander, Service Forces Pacific, is PLATTE's type commander and is headquartered in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As a fleet oiler, PLATTE is built for and assigned the continuing mission of transporting and transferring to Navy ships at sea Navy Special Fuel Oil (known in the fleet as NSFO or "black oil"), J1-5, aviation jet fuel (a close equivalent to high grade diesel fuel), and high octane aviation gasoline. PLATTE also carries supplies of bottled gases and drums of lubricating oil and automotive gasoline which may be drawn upon by units of the fleet as they come alongside for refueling. While operating in the Western Pacific PLATTE is also assigned the task of carrying freight, mail and personnel to ships operating on stations removed from the land-based supporting facilities.

Operations

PLATTE started off 1967 in Todd Shipyard, San Pedro, California undergoing a regular shipyard overhaul. She remained there until 25 April, when she went to sea for the first time in almost five months for sea trials.

After sea trials and fleet exercises, PLATTE arrived in San Diego on 13 May for Refresher Training where she remained until 2 June. Ready to carry out her mission, the PLATTE went back to Long Beach for leave and upkeep before deploying to LSTAC. On 12 June the PLATTE held a combination Change of Command and Dependents Day cruise, when Captain Harold F. SNOWDEN relieved Captain William L. ADAMS as Commanding Officer. Over 100 dependents enjoyed a day out at sea along the Southern California coast.

The following day on 13 June with PLATTE's fuel tanks loaded, she departed San Pedro bound for the Western Pacific.

On 22 June the PLATTE stopped in Hawaii for an upkeep period where she remained until 13 July. Once again taking a westerly heading the PLATTE steamed on towards the Philippines.

PLATTE reported to the operational control of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet on 22 July. On 27 July landfall was made as PLATTE entered the San Bernardino Straits. The next day PLATTE tied up at the fuel pier U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. On 29 July PLATTE left port ready to fulfill her commitments to the operating forces in and near Vietnamese waters.

ENCLOSURE (2)

On 1 August the PLATTE arrived in the Gulf of Tonkin for her first replenishment of 1967 in Vietnam waters. The USS ONISKANY (CVA-34) and her destroyer escorts came alongside and were topped off with USFO and Ja-5. After spending another day in the Gulf of Tonkin the PLATTE steamed south along the Vietnam coast refueling the various gunfire support units. On 6 August with her first line trip completed, the PLATTE headed back to Subic Bay.

During the next two months PLATTE made 4 more line trips. These line trips would start at the southern tip of Vietnam in the Gulf of Siam and PLATTE would work her way up the coast of Vietnam refueling minesweepers, Coast Guard cutters and gunfire support ships. After four days in Market Time, the PLATTE would usually spend three days in the Gulf of Tonkin refueling the various units located there. This usually ended with a consolidation to a larger oiler and then a run back to Subic Bay to reload fuel once again. The PLATTE averaged about 35 ships alongside during one line trip.

On 10 October the PLATTE arrived in Kaoshiung, Taiwan for her first visit to a WESTPAC port other than Subic Bay. After spending 3 days here the PLATTE steamed south to Subic Bay to load out freight and mail, ready once again for another Market Time run.

After finishing another line trip on 30 October the PLATTE headed northeast toward the Formosa Straits. After passing through the Strait and into the East China Sea, the PLATTE arrived in Sasebe, Japan on 4 November for two weeks of well-deserved upkeep. The PLATTE had been on the go for three straight months with not more than three days at a time in port. During this three-month period, the PLATTE transferred more than 21 million gallons of fuel.

On 16 November PLATTE departed Sasebe and steamed south towards Subic Bay. After a quick load out she headed towards the southern tip of Vietnam for a short Market Time run. This Market Time run was shortened because PLATTE was called on to travel to Sunda Straits between Java and Sumatra to refuel the USS INTREPID (CVS-11) on her way back to Norfolk via the Indian Ocean.

Having this opportunity to steam to almost 7 degrees south latitude the PLATTE crossed the Equator on 2 December and a suitable ceremony permitted all pellywags to be initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep. Sunday found the crew recovered from their transformation from lowly pellywags to esteemed shellbacks.

The USS INTREPID (CVS-11) was refueled on 4 December and PLATTE turned around and headed north. Crossing the Equator again, the PLATTE stopped and held swim call. The swimming party was a huge success and many members of the crew swam back and forth across the Equator.

On 7 December PLATTE arrived in Singapore and spent four days of Rest and Recreation. Many of the crew had the opportunity to visit and talk to many of the British Navy men since Singapore is the home of the British Far East Fleet.

ENCLOSURE (2)

leaving Singapore on 11 December another Market Time run was in store for ALATTE. On 19 December the ALATTE refueled her last ship of 1967 when the USS ROBISON (DDG-12) came alongside to port.

After spending Christmas in Subic Bay, the ALATTE departed on 29 December for Chilung, Taiwan where she arrived on 31 December to spend the New Year's holiday.

During the first 6½ months of the cruise, ALATTE had replenished 320 ships and had transferred over 35 million gallons of fuel.

ENCLOSURE (2)