



OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: 6/13/06
U.S.S. ROGERS (DD-876)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96001

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DD876/ARB;eg
5750
Ser 64

10 FEB 1967

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From: Commanding Officer, USS ROGERS (DD 876)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0929)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS ROGERS (DD 876) 1966 Command History

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

J. R. Roppke
J. R. ROPPKE
By direction

Copy to:
CINPACFLT

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ENCLOSURE (1)

1966 Command History - - USS ROGERS (DD 874)

Chronology of Highlights

29 January - ROGERS departed San Diego for WESTPAC deployment in company with the USS COONTZ (DLG 9). USS O'BANNON (DD 450) joined the transit task unit in Pearl Harbor on 6 February.

2-11 March - Assigned plane guard duties with USS WITTY BAWK (CVA 63) on Dixie Station.

31 March - 30 April - ROGERS and COONTZ served as the northern Search and Rescue team in the Tonkin Gulf. Primary responsibilities included Search and Rescue missions for downed American pilots, anti-air warfare surveillance and collection of electronic intelligence.

22 April - While investigating the wreckage of a downed American plane about six miles offshore from Vinh, North Vietnam, ROGERS drew fire from shore batteries. The ship returned fire and left the scene immediately, receiving no hits from enemy shells.

16-17 May - ROGERS and COONTZ attended the annual Black Ship Festival at Shimoda, Japan in commemoration of Commodore Perry's arrival in that country.

31 April - 1 July - ROGERS and COONTZ returned to the Tonkin Gulf as the northern Search and Rescue team.

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14 June - ROGERS provided air intercept support which contributed to the downing of a North Vietnamese aircraft as it was attacking South Vietnamese patrol boats.

1 July - While ROGERS was on patrol in international waters with COONTZ, USS KING (DLG 10) and USS GURKE (DD 783), the task unit was attacked by three North Vietnamese PT boats. Aircraft called in from USS RANGER (CVA 64) sank all three enemy boats. Nineteen prisoners of war were taken by COONTZ. There were no material or personnel casualties aboard the American ships.

1 August - Rogers returned to her home port of San Diego, California.

7 October - CDR. C. D. CLARK, received the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service as Commanding Officer of ROGERS during her 1966 tour of duty with the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

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Basic Narrative

Command Organization and Relations

ROGERS was commanded throughout 1966 by CDR Carroll Doyle CLARK 48648C/1100, USN. Home port was San Diego, California. ROGERS operated as a unit of First Fleet 1 January - 15 February and 26 July - 31 December and as a unit of Seventh Fleet 16 February - 25 July. Authority for changes of operational control was contained in respective fleet commanders' quarterly employment schedules.

Ship's complement as of 31 December was 19 officers and 251 enlisted.

Operations and Activities

January 1 1966 found ROGERS in port at San Diego as a unit of Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Eleven and Destroyer Squadron Seventeen. Administrative and material preparations were being made for the ship's upcoming January 29th deployment to WestPac. January 10 - 13 was spent at sea participating in a combined training unit exercise with other destroyers from the squadron. ASW and anti-PT boat exercises were conducted. On 14 January the ship was given her annual Operational Readiness Inspection by USS COONTZ (DLG 9)

ROGERS and COONTZ departed San Diego on 29 January, bound for WestPac and a tour of duty with the U.S. Pacific Fleet. USS ORANION (DD 1650) joined the transit group in Pearl Harbor on 6 February. The three destroyers made fueling stops at Midway and Guam, arriving at Subic Bay, P.I., 21 February. Operational control had been shifted from

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First to Seventh Fleet on 10 February.

Following station ship duties in Hong Kong, 24 February - 1 March, ROGERS headed south to Dixie Station for plane guard duties with USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63). Returning to Subic Bay 12-19 March, the ship accomplished numerous minor repairs and maintenance during a tender availability. The remainder of March was filled with extensive type training including shore bombardment near Subic (20-22 March) and anti-PT boat maneuvers near Da Wang (26-30 March).

On 31 March ROGERS joined COONTZ to become the northern search and rescue team in the Tonkin Gulf. Primary responsibilities included search and rescue missions for downed American pilots, anti-air warfare surveillance, and collection of electronics intelligence. In addition, ROGERS was equipped to refuel helicopters as they hovered over the Eastail, thus greatly increasing on station time for the SUBA search and rescue helicopters deployed from carriers on Yankee Station. In April a total of 37 holes were refueled with 11,362 gallons of JP-5.

On 22 April, while investigating the wreckage of a downed American plane about six miles offshore from Vinh, North Vietnam, ROGERS drew fire from shore batteries. The ship began to return fire immediately, but was not able to determine the precise location of the enemy positions due to a heavy coastal haze. ROGERS immediately went from dead in the water to flank speak and headed for sea. Although several enemy shells exploded

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in the water 50 - 100 yards from the ship, no hits were taken and no casualties suffered. Damage caused to enemy positions is unknown.

Upon completion of search and rescue duties, ROGERS headed for Yokosuka, Japan and a much needed tender availability 6 - 15 May. A routine underwater hull inspection by swimmers disclosed a hole in the left rudder. The ship was placed in drydock for four days while repair was accomplished.

ROGERS and COONTZ then attended the annual Black Ship Festival in Shimoda, Japan in commemoration of Commodore Perry's arrival in that country. Several hundred young children from area orphanages were given tours of the ship 16 and 17 May. Sailors from ROGERS marched in the festival parade and the ship's softball team played the Shimoda all-star team.

Shore bombardment in the I and II Corps areas of South Vietnam was ROGERS' next assignment. Shooting 24-29 May, the ship expended 550 rounds of 5" ammunition and could account for 107 Viet Cong structures destroyed, 93 damaged, and many left burning. Assigned targets included VC assembly areas, supply routes, and entrenchment systems.

On 31 May ROGERS and COONTZ began their second month - long tour in the Tonkin Gulf. During June 55 helicopters were refueled with 17,191 gallons of JP-5.

On 1 July while ROGERS, COONTZ, USS KING (DDG 10), and USS HURKE (DD 783) were on patrol in international waters, the task unit was attacked by three

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North Vietnamese PT boats. Aircraft from USS RANGER (CVA 64) were returning from strikes over North Vietnam at the time and were called in to destroy the attackers. All three PT boats were sunk by the aircraft and 19 prisoners of war were taken by the task unit. Later interrogation of the prisoners revealed that 3 torpedoes had been fired at the American ships and missed. The PT boats never approached closer than 14,000 yds. before they were neutralized by aircraft. Thus, no casualties were suffered by the American task unit.

Following a period of rest and relaxation in Hong Kong (11-13 July), the ship proceeded to Subic Bay for one day's offloading of WestPac pool gunnery and communication equipment (11 July). A tender availability 16-21 July prepared the ship for transit to the United States. On 22 July this ship departed Yokosuka in company with USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) USS COONTZ (DLG 9), USS HOPEWELL (DD 681), and USS O'BANNON (DD 450). O'BANNON departed the transit unit at Pearl Harbor and HANCOCK departed the unit on 29 July to head for San Francisco. On 1 August ROGERS, HOPEWELL, and COONTZ arrived home in San Diego. ROGERS commenced a six week leave and upkeep period.

Returning to sea 19 - 22 September, ROGERS served as school ship for Fleet ASW Training Group, San Diego. Dual ship attacks were conducted with USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD 729) against USS BREAK (AGSS 243). Officer and enlisted students received extensive training in ASW conning

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techniques and CIC procedures during ASW. Similar exercises were conducted 25-28 September.

ROGERS was then moored alongside USS DIXIE (AD 14) for a tender availability 1-14 October. The remainder of the year was spent providing services for various San Diego training commands and undergoing series of pre-overhaul inspections prior to entering Long Beach Naval Shipyard in January 1967.

Specifically, the ship was employed as a submarine target vessel 24-26 October, gunnery school ship 28 October, ASW school ship 31 October - 3 November, gunnery school ship 4 November, ASW school ship 7-9 November, plane guard for USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31) 10-22 November, gunnery school ship 28-30 November and 2 December.

In addition, ROGERS was selected to represent the Navy during the Navy Day celebration at Newport Beach, California 28-31 October. The ship was open for general visiting for two days and received about 2400 visitors. Many more visitors could have been handled if there had been a sufficient supply of small boats to shuttle civilians to and from the beach. Crew members were invited to several parties in town while officers were invited to a formal ball and a barbecue.

On October 6, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" was presented to the Commanding Officer in a shipboard ceremony. CDR CLARK was cited for

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meretorious service during his ship's deployment to Vietnam. The award was presented by RADM George MUSE, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla ELEVEN. See Appendix I reproduction of the citation accompanying the medal.

The month of December was spent in part in San Diego and used as a holiday and upkeep period. Planning and preparations were continued for the ship's entry into Long Beach Naval Shipyard the following month.

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APPENDIX F

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
770 SAN FRANCISCO 96601

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet takes pleasure in awarding the Bronze Star Medal to

Commander Carroll Doyle CLARK
United States Navy

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For meritorious service while serving as Commanding Officer, USS ROGERS (DD 876) during the period 14 February to 25 July 1966. ROGERS performed meritorious service in the rescue of downed airmen, in the in-flight refueling of rescue helicopters, and in the conduct of anti-air and surface warfare operations. This meritorious service was highlighted on 14 June 1966 when air intercept support from his ship significantly contributed to the downing of an enemy aircraft in a night air action, and again on 1 July 1966 when ROGERS participated in an engagement off the coast of North Vietnam which resulted in the destruction of three enemy motor torpedo boats and the capture of 19 prisoners of war. ROGERS continually demonstrated a high degree of professional skill and teamwork in providing back-up to the flagship, particularly in the areas of CTC operations, communications, and electronic warfare. Commander CLARK's outstanding leadership, alertness, and aggressiveness were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Commander CLARK is authorized to wear the Combat "V"

ROY L. JOHNSON
Admiral, U.S. Navy

TEMPORARY CITATION

Appendix F