

1972

U.S.S. SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

AD37/16:ddt  
5750  
Ser

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37),  
1 January 1972 to 31 December 1972,  
(Parts I and II).

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with  
reference (a).

  
A. J. PICKERT, JR.

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMCRUDESAC

Part I, Basic History, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37), 1 January  
1972 to 31 December 1972

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

- 1 January 1972: In port, moored Rivera Pier, Subic Bay.
- 7 January 1972: Memorial Services held on forecastle for MRC Thomas Code.
- 17 January 1972: Underway for Hong Kong, B.C.C. carrying dependents.
- 19 January 1972: Arrive Hong Kong Harbor.
- 21 January 1972: USS SAMUEL GOMPERS separates from her mooring buoy and drifts into USS MORTON (DD-948) inflicting minor damage to the destroyer. The SAMUEL GOMPERS' stern and port anchors were dropped in order to halt her. Port service tugs later towed her to the outer harbor where she remained for the remainder of the night.
- 22 January 1972: Moved from outer Hong Kong Harbor to original buoy number 1.
- 24 January 1972: Underway for Subic Bay, Republic of The Philippines, carrying dependents.
- 26 January 1972: Arrive Subic Bay.
- 18 March 1972: Depart Subic Bay for Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- 6 April 1972: Depart Kaohsiung for Yokosuka, Japan.
- 7 April 1972: Received word from Captain Banks that our course has been changed. We are now on course for Danang, South Vietnam.
- 9 April 1972: Anchored in Danang Harbor. Security reasons prompted our departure each evening. Returned each morning.
- 11 April 1972: MGEN John W. Barnes, USA, expresses thanks to crew of the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS for giving on-the-job training to members of the Chinese Navy.
- 16 April 1972: Underway for Subic Bay.

17 April 1972: CO, USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-764) expresses thanks for superb assistance in the 24 hours prior to her getting underway to CO, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

18 April 1972: Inport, Subic Bay.

20 April 1972: Depart Subic Bay for Danang, South Vietnam.

22 April 1972: CO, USS BADGER (DE-1071) sends letter of thanks to CO, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS, for weapons transfer and repairs made while alongside, 16 April 1972, in Danang Harbor.

23 April 1972: In port Danang, South Vietnam.

30 April 1972: Left the territorial waters of Vietnam for the final time.

1 May 1972: A ship's television program is planned between 0800 and 0830 each day to feature individuals and items of topical interest.

2 May 1972: Moored at Subic Bay.

14 June 1972: CO, USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22) sends a letter of appreciation to CO, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

12 July 1972: Underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

17 July 1972: COMSEVENTHFLT, VADM J. L. Holloway III, USN, says "Well Done" to crew of the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS after a demanding deployment in WESTPAC.

24 July 1972: In port Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

25 July 1972: Underway for San Diego, California.

31 July 1972: In port San Diego.

4 August 1972: Message to crew, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS from ADM B. A. Clarey, USN, CINC U.S. Pacific Fleet--Well Done.

25 August 1972: USS SAMUEL GOMPERS along with 23 other ships and activities has been awarded CINCPACFLT Career Motivation Award for fiscal year 1972, the Golden Anchor Award.

29 August 1972: CRUDESPEC, RADM Sheldon Kinney, USN, is relieved of command by RADM Mark W. Woods, USN.

8 September 1972: Change of Command; Captain Daniel L. Banks, Jr. is relieved by Captain Aloysius J. Pickert, Jr. as Commanding Officer, USS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

5 October 1972: For repair work done to USS PERRY (DD-844) on 28 September, RADM Woods, COMCRUDESPEC, says "Well Done".

22 November 1972: USS SAMUEL GOMPERS has been selected to participate in a study to determine the number and skill level of personnel required to operate AD-37 class ships.

4 December 1972: RADM Rogers relieved of command as COMCRUDESPEC Eleven by Captain A. J. Pickert, Jr.

31 December 1972: In port, moored Pier 3, Naval Station, San Diego, California.

#### NARRATIVE

New Years Day 1972 found the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37) moored at Rivera Pier, Subic Bay, Republic of The Philippines, working in her capacity as the only tender in Subic Bay.

On 7 January memorial services were held on GOMPERS' forecastle for Chief Machinery Repairman Tom Code who developed cancer late in 1971. Chief Code was also the Chief Master at Arms of the ship.

On 17 January GOMPERS got underway for Hong Kong, British Crown Colony. Naval dependents from Subic Bay were aboard for the trip. The ship arrived in Hong Kong Harbor on 19 January, where the dependents were set free to enjoy the sights and the shopping until the scheduled departure on 24 January.

During the evening of 21 January GOMPERS separated from her mooring buoy and drifted into the USS MORTON (DD-948), inflicting minor damage to the destroyer. The port and stern anchors of GOMPERS were dropped in order to halt the ship. Service tugs later towed her to the outer harbor where she remained for the night. She returned to original buoy #1 on 22 January.

Meanwhile, Gompersmen bought incredible amounts of stereos, cameras, and clothes at typically good Hong Kong prices.

The 24th of January had GOMPERS setting out to return to Subic Bay with the dependents who had journeyed with her to Hong Kong. The ship arrived in Subic on 26 January.

On 18 March GOMPERS departed Subic Bay for Kaohsiung where she stayed until 6 April. This good will mission was designed to provide technical training in repair operations to members of the Nationalist Chinese Navy. During this stay GOMPERS successfully underwent PMS and Boiler Inspections held April 3-4.

On 6 April GOMPERS departed Kaohsiung for Yokosuka, Japan. During the night Captain Banks received word that our course was to be changed for Danang, South Vietnam, where we would serve destroyers in that area. Emergency messages were sent out to dependents who were to have met us in Yokosuka, telling them we would not arrive there.

On 9 April, anchor was dropped in Danang Harbor. Security reasons prompted our departure each evening and return every morning. The primary mission was logistic support and gun barrel changes on destroyers which had been on the gun line.

On 16 April GOMPERS departed for Subic Bay. On 17 April the Commanding Officer of the USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-764) thanked Captain Banks for the superb assistance in the 24 hours prior to the THOMAS' getting underway.

On 18 April, arrived at Subic Bay. The next two days were spent resupplying for return to Vietnam. Departed 20 April to return to Danang. On 22 April the Commanding Officer of USS BADGER (DE-1071) sent a letter of thanks to Captain Banks for logistic support and repairs made 16 April while alongside GOMPERS in Danang Harbor.

On 22 April GOMPERS arrived in Danang. She continued her round-the-clock activity of daylight repairs and night steaming.

On 30 April GOMPERS left the territorial waters of Vietnam for the final time just before midnight.

On 1 May a ship's television series was introduced. It was shown between 0800 and 0830 each day and was designed to introduce individuals and items of topical interest to the crew. The crew received presentations from the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer, Educational Services Officer, Medical Officer, Special Services Officer, etc.

On 2 May the GOMPERS arrived at Subic Bay, Philippines. The ship received a letter of appreciation from the Commanding Officer of the USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22) on 14 June. RCPE inspection was held 2-4 July and GOMPERS got underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 12 July.

On 17 July Vice Admiral J. L. Holloway III, Commander Seventh Fleet, sent "Well Done" to the crew of the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS after a demanding deployment in the Western Pacific. Outchopped 19 July from Seventh Fleet to First Fleet.

On 24 July arrived in Pearl Harbor and departed for San Diego, California, 25 July. Arrived in San Diego 31 July. GOMPERS was greeted by the Wives Club at the entrance to the harbor by signal light, by banner, and by a helicopter carrying a sign reading "Welcome Home Sammy G."

Admiral B. A. Clarey, Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet delivered a "Well Done" to GOMPERS crew on 4 August.

GOMPERS successfully underwent a RPS inspection on 15 August.

On 25 August the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS, along with 23 other ships and activities, was awarded the CINCPACFLT Career Motivation Award, the Golden Anchor Award, for fiscal year 1972.

29 August marked the date that Commander CRUDESPEC, Rear Admiral Sheldon Kinney, was relieved by Rear Admiral Mark W. Woods.

On the 8th of September GOMPERS held its third Change of Command as Captain Daniel L. Banks, Jr. was relieved by Captain Aloysius J. Pickert, Jr. Captain Pickert became the fourth Commanding Officer of GOMPERS.

On 5 October Rear Admiral Woods, COMCRUDESPEC, said "Well Done" for repair work done to the USS PERRY (DD-844) on 28 September.

On 8-10 November GOMPERS was selected to participate in a two week study to determine the number and skill level of personnel required to operate AD-37 class ships.

Rear Admiral Rogers was relieved of his command as COMCRUDESPEC Eleven by Captain A. J. Pickert, Jr. on 4 December. Captain Pickert also retained command of GOMPERS.

31 December found the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS in port, moored at Pier 3, Naval Station, San Diego, California.