

## HISTORY OF USS UHLMANN (DD-687)

USS UHLMANN, the only ship to bear its title, was named for Ensign Robert W. UHLMANN of Birmingham, Michigan, who was killed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

On 6 March 1943, the keel was laid at the Staten Island, New York Works of the Bethlehem Steel Company, Shipbuilding Division. She was commissioned 22 November 1943 and entered the Pacific war late in 1944. UHLMANN participated in nearly every major strike against the enemy from her entry until the end of the war. This action included: a successful anti-submarine attack; anti-aircraft action off Kyusku, Formosa, and the Philippines; participation in strikes against Okinawa, Formosa, Luzon, and Smar; the second battle of the Philippine Sea; support of the landings at Mindoro and Iwo Jima; and in innumerable supporting strikes against the Japanese home islands and ports along the Chinese Coast. The end of World War II found UHLMANN as one of the first U.S. Ships in Tokyo Bay where she was present at the signing of the peace treaty. After a cruise with the occupation forces in Japan, UHLMANN returned to the United States and was decommissioned on 14 June 1946.

With the crisis in Korea, UHLMANN was recommissioned in reserve on 23 May 1950 and joined the active fleet on 27 January 1951.

On 16 June 1951, UHLMANN departed San Diego, California under the command of Commander P.A. LILLY, Jr., for her first tour of duty in the Korean combat zone operating with Task Force 77. While in Korea UHLMANN earned the Korean Service Medal with two stars, the United Nations Service Medal and the China Service Medal. In January of 1952, UHLMANN returned to the United States, and underwent a period of overhaul in the Mare Island Naval Shipyard at Vallejo, California. On 19 July 1952, at San Diego, Commander R.W. PENNOYER, USN assumed command. After leaving San Diego, she again headed for the far East, arriving in early September of the same year. The next six months found UHLMANN operating extensively, first with a fast carrier task force off the Korean Coast and then with a Hunter-Killer, anti-submarine group and on Formosa Patrol. While off the coast of Korea, UHLMANN delivered much destructive fire against the enemy's shore installations, and she received the Purple Heart for a hit received while accomplishing her mission.

The ship departed Yokosuka, Japan, on 3 March 1953 in company with Destroyer Division 152, stopping at Midway and Pearl Harbor, T.H., and arriving at San Diego on 19 March 1953.

On 27 July, Destroyer Squadron 15 and 17, USS HELENA (CA-75), USS LOS ANGELES (CA-135), and numerous other San Diego-based ships embarked for a north bound exercise tour which culminated with UHLMANN and ships in company being featured in the annual Seattle, Washington Sea Fair on 1 August.

October of 1953 found UHLMANN rejoining the forces in the Far East and participating in various operations. On 21 December 1953 Commander FENNOYER was relieved by Commander Daniel B. ELMORE, USN, as Commanding Officer. Returning to the United States in April, 1954, UHLMANN entered the Naval Shipyard at Long Beach, California and after the routine upkeep and type training which serves to modernize and rejuvenate the ships of our fleet she deployed in January 1955, for the Western Pacific areas. In May the ship returned to San Diego, and then January of 1956, she was rotated to the Far East again. In June UHLMANN once again headed for her home port of San Diego and in July she entered the Mare Island Naval Shipyard for another period of routine overhaul. From Mare Island UHLMANN proceeded to San Diego only to receive orders to sail immediately for Seattle, Washington on special duty. Five days after arriving in Seattle UHLMANN was ordered to San Diego again, and she arrived there on 25 December 1956.

After a period of operation in the waters off Southern California, UHLMANN was deployed once more to the Western Pacific. Leaving San Diego on 8 February 1957 under the command of Commander E.S. JACKSON, UHLMANN along with her sister ships of Destroyer Division 152, USS HOPEWELL, USS KIDD, and USS WEDDERBURN, was bound for Pearl Harbor; Saigo and Kure, Japan; Hong Kong and Yokosuka, Japan. While operating during the Pacific Cruise, UHLMANN served on Taiwan Patrol and in the maneuvers of the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.

After a pleasant and successful tour, the ship set its course for home and on 9 August she steamed in to San Diego Harbor where friends and families welcomed her men back to the United States.

During the rest of August UHLMANN remained in port while her crew enjoyed rest and recreation. On 25 September, a new Captain, Commander E.O. BRICKSON, formally assumed command of UHLMANN, and soon the ship was busy again with type training, maintenance, and upkeep. This active schedule was punctuated by two major operations, a strike exercise and a submarine exercise; which were fleet maneuvers designed to aid the development of advanced naval tactics and the use of new weapons. In December, UHLMANN was in port for the Holiday seasons, and during January and February she continued to operate near San Diego while preparing for her deployment to the Western Pacific.

On 18 March 1958, UHLMANN, in company with the other five ships of Destroyer Squadron 15, set sail for Sydney, Australia, stopping overnight at Pearl Harbor and Pago Pago. After five days in Sydney, she reported for duty with the Seventh Fleet and proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan, having called briefly at Manus Island and Guam. Five months of operating with Task Force 77 followed, as UHLMANN operated with USS HANCOCK and other ships in the vicinity of Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. During this period she paused briefly at Subic Bay, Okinawa, Yokosuka, and Hong Kong. The Lebanon and Quyenoy crisis, with their accompanying demands on the Seventh Fleet did not find UHLMANN'S readiness wanting. For her complete reliability and

"Can-DO" spirit during long and strenuous weeks at sea with a fast carrier group, UHLMANN earned praise from those with whom she worked. She returned to San Diego on 1 October 1958, and remained in port for the rest of that month while her crew enjoyed leave and liberty. Local training cruises followed during November. On 11 December UHLMANN entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for her biannual overhaul. Installation of new equipment and repairs to old were carried out by the crew and the shipyard personnel. At this time Commander John IACAVA, Jr., took command of UHLMANN.

On 11 March 1959 UHLMANN left the shipyard, and returned to San Diego for two months of upkeep and underway training. After successfully completing her training period, she made final preparation for deployment to WESTPAC on 2 June 1959.

While serving with the Seventh Fleet in 1959 UHLMANN engaged in an amphibious exercise on the east coast of Korea and served on the Taiwan Patrol. After operation with USS HORNET for an exercise the ship hosted the people of Iwakuni and took part in that city's annual festival. The ports of Hong Kong, Sasebo, Yokosuka and Kaohsiung were visited. The ship completed the cruise with an availability at Guam and headed home to arrive at San Diego November 12th, via Pearl Harbor.

The winter and spring of 1960 found UHLMANN participating in various routine operations near San Diego, UHLMANN hosted a platoon of Air Force Cadets for a week of operations during a large scale Air Defense Exercise. A treat came when UHLMANN was chosen to join in the Portland Rose Festival. The ensuing trip up the Columbia River and stay in Portland was enjoyed by all.

On 1 August UHLMANN deployed to the Western Pacific again, heading for Guam via Pearl Harbor. After a brief stay in Guam, UHLMANN headed for Subic Bay and operations with Task Force 77 carefully watching Laos and the South China Sea.

After a tour with Task Force 77 UHLMANN proceeded to Sasebo for October availability and a new Commanding Officer, Commander J.M. FADDIS.

UHLMANN again took her tour of the Taiwan Patrol, and during a brief stop at Hong Kong, she received her third consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" in a presentation made by Commander Destroyer Flotilla ONE. Upon leaving Hong Kong, UHLMANN returned to Task Force 72 and the Taiwan Patrol for a lengthening bout with heavy weather. 1960 ended as UHLMANN arrived Yokosuka, Japan just prior to New Year's Eve for an availability.

The New Year found UHLMANN in Yokosuka, Japan catching her last glimpse of the Orient before returning to the United States. On February 1, 1961 UHLMANN arrived back in San Diego where she went through a one month leave and upkeep period, followed by a two week trip to San Francisco, California. In late April UHLMANN entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for three months of routine overhaul. In August UHLMANN returned to San Diego and began a six week period of extensive underway training conducted by Fleet Training Group. Following the completion of her underway training period, UHLMANN took part in local fleet operations off the coast of Southern California including one major strike.

In December, 1961 UHLMANN commenced a one month availability in San Diego at the Naval Repair Facility and alongside USS DIXIE (AD-14) prior to its deployment to WESTPAC on 6 January 1962.

6 January 1962, found UHLMANN departing San Diego with twenty-five other ships for six months of duty as a unit of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. This mass movement marked the first time that an entire flotilla deployed for the Far East at the same time. After stopping for one week in Hawaii for anti-submarine exercises, UHLMANN arrived in Yokosuka, Japan on 1 February. From Yokosuka UHLMANN operated with the carrier LEXINGTON in the Sea of Japan and then proceeded to Hong Kong. From Hong Kong, UHLMANN participated in a large scale air defense exercise off the coasts of Luzon and Viet-Nam in the South China Sea. In March, UHLMANN again moved north to Sasebo, Japan. After a two week tender availability, she conducted further Task Force 77 operations with the LEXINGTON before proceeding to Kachaiung, where UHLMANN delivered her third consecutive shipment of medical and surgical supplies to Sister Hilda Meier at Saint Joseph's Hospital. This \$10,000 cargo was UHLMANN's part in the Operation Handclasp, "People to People" Program. From Formosa, UHLMANN returned to Hong Kong for duty as station ship. In early June, her tour nearly complete, UHLMANN went north to Yokosuka for a two week tender availability and departed for San Diego in July by way of the great circle route, arriving on 18 July 1962.

Following eight weeks of overhaul from January through March 1963, the next few months were spent with upkeep and operation out of San Diego. During July, UHLMANN along with the rest of the Destroyers of Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla NINE visited San Francisco. The remainder of the summer was well used in upkeep and underway training in preparation for the ship's deployment in October.

On 16 October, UHLMANN departed San Diego on her ninth deployment to WESTPAC since the Korean Conflict. She arrived in Subic Bay, Philippines in November having stopped at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Midway Islands, and Guam during the transit. Upon leaving Subic Bay, UHLMANN joined USS KITTY HAWK for escort duties. The Task Unit visited Kobe, Japan and then went into Yokosuka for an upkeep period over the holidays.

The New Year found UHLMANN and USS PERKINS departing Yokosuka for Kachsuang, Taiwan where the two ships along with USS McMORRIS spent a month patrolling the Formosa Strait. After this the ship visited Hong Kong before returning to Yokosuka for an upkeep period.

UHLMANN then rejoined KITTY HAWK, operating as part of the fast attack carrier task group. Stops were made at Sasebo, Japan and Buckner Bay, Okinawa, from where UHLMANN headed back for the United States via Pearl Harbor.

The ship arrived in San Diego on 16 April 1965 and commenced a leave and upkeep period.

On 24 April Commander R.J. BRABANT relieved as Commanding Officer. The leave and upkeep period continued followed by several days of local operating during May.

On 22 June 1964, UHLMANN, USS CORAL SEA, USS VANCOUVER, USS DIODON, and the ships of Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla NINE departed on a Midshipman training cruise. UHLMANN made visits to Bellingham, Washington and San Francisco, California before returning to San Diego on 9 July.

UHLMANN arrived at the Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California on 6 October 1964 for her regular overhaul. The overhaul was completed in late January 1965 and once again UHLMANN headed for San Diego for six weeks of refresher training.

On 4 April 1965 UHLMANN and various units of the FIRST Fleet participated in Operation Tee Shot. The remainder of April was spent in preparation for deployment to the Western Pacific.

On 27 April 1965, UHLMANN along with USS BON HOMME RICHARD, USS HULL, USS BUCKLEY, and USS PRICHETT again headed for the Western Pacific. During the first month of this cruise, UHLMANN participated in Market Time operations, searching over 150 junks for contraband and firing shore bombardment against six Viet Cong supply or bivouac areas. Also during this month, UHLMANN was the first U.S. Naval Ship to be assigned NGFS duty in DaNang Harbor.

UHLMANN spent the next five months of deployment plane guarding for USS BON HOMME RICHARD, whose air wing was conducting strikes in South Vietnam. These operations were interrupted periodically for brief repair stops in Subic Bay. UHLMANN also had a two-week tender availability in Yokosuka, Japan. On 1 October 1965, Commander Phillip A. WILSON assumed command.

Upon her final departure from USS BON HOMME RICHARD, UHLMANN along with USS HANSON, USS DENNIS J. BUCKLEY, and USS HULL proceeded to Hong Kong for a four-day ship's visit. From Hong Kong, UHLMANN went to Subic Bay for minor repairs and fuel, and then returned to San Diego, arriving 10 November 1965.

In early 1966, following the usual post-deployment leave and upkeep period, UHLMANN participated in a busy schedule of type cruises, including two weeks as ASW school ship and three days of spotter training for COMPHIBTRAPAC. During the latter, UHLMANN fired 550 rounds in an almost round-the-clock schedule.

During the portion of the year in which UHLMANN was a FIRST fleet unit, the most significant event was her participations, together with three other destroyers, in a good-will tour to Acapulco, Mexico, leaving San Diego on 16 May and returning on 28 May 1966.

After deploying for duty in the Western Pacific, UHLMANN divided her time between acting as rescue/screening destroyer for units of Task Group 77 and providing Naval Gunfire Support, as a unit of Task Unit 70.8.9. She acted in these capacities from 12 September until 17 December, with the exception of two brief inport periods. UHLMANN finished the year as station ship and SOPA Admin at the port of Hong Kong.

On 3 January 1967, UHLMANN left Hong Kong arriving off the coast of South Vietnam on 4 January to provide Naval Gunfire Support. On 11 January the ship left the gun line and headed for Yokosuka with a brief refueling stop at Buckner Bay, Okinawa arriving in Yokosuka on 17 January.

On 19 January the ship got underway for the United States and San Diego stopping from 27 to 28 January at Pearl Harbor and arriving in San Diego on 3 February at which time she commenced a six week period of leave, liberty and upkeep.

UHLMANN left San Diego again on 20 March for local operations during which she made a trip to San Francisco to plane guard for USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) from 3 April to 7 April.

On 27 April Commander Herbert B. DOWSE, Jr. relieved Captain Phillip A. WILSON as Commanding Officer. During this ceremony Captain WILSON was awarded the Bronze Star (with combat "V") for exceptional meritorious service as Commanding Officer of the USS UHLMANN during her deployment off Vietnam.

During May UHLMANN served as Gun School Ship and ASW School Ship and plane guarded for USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43).

Midshipmen started to arrive on board on 8 June, and by 1 July UHLMANN had 30 midshipmen aboard and got underway for PACMIDTRARON 67. During this midshipmen cruise UHLMANN visited San Francisco and Pearl Harbor and participated in a specially designed training program.

2 August found the ship back in San Diego where midshipmen went their separate ways. On 23 August UHLMANN entertained guests from the EL Centro Navy League on a one day cruise.

From 28 August to 31 August the ship participated in type training in local OPAREAS.

The ship underwent a tender availability with USS PIEDMONT (AD-7) from 8 September to 22 September, and participated in COMPTUEX 14-67 from 25 September to 29 September.

On 4 October UHLMANN got underway for San Francisco and arrived at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California and commenced a restricted availability which lasted until 6 December 1967.

UHLMANN was recognized by COMSEVENTHFLT and awarded Seventh Fleet Unit Commendation for her efforts in Viet-Nam.

UHLMANN had the honor of being the COMCRUDESPEC nominee for the Arleigh Burke award, which is awarded annually to the ship which has shown the most improvement in Battle Readiness in that year.

UHLMANN began the year of 1968 in upkeep preparing for her upcoming WESTPAC deployment. The early part of the month of January was spent participating in Fleet Exercise "Operation Beadstringer". On 27 January 1968 UHLMANN departed San Diego for a deployment to the Western Pacific and the Viet-Nam Combat.

On 23 March 1968 UHLMANN recovered a man overboard from the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31). Thomas J. MILLER, SA was lost over the side from BON HOMME RICHARD at approximately 2130 during replenishment operations and recovered on board UHLMANN at 2138.

On 16 July 1968 UHLMANN participated in a Naval Gunfire Support Mission off the coast of Hue, South Viet-Nam in which she simultaneously fired on two targets, over a thousand yards apart, with two gun salvos on each target. This is believed to be the first time on record that a United States destroyer has accomplished this feat in the I Corp Zone of Viet-Nam.

On 11 August UHLMANN returned to San Diego completing her deployment.

On 23 November UHLMANN celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary since commissioned in 1943. A ceremony was held on the ship during which awards for meritorious conduct in combat were presented to members of ship's company.

UHLMANN began a regular overhaul on 3 December at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California.

COMM. DING OFFICERS USS UHLMANN (DD-687)

CDR S. G. HOOPER, USN	11-22-43	3-10-45
CDR S. C. SMALL, USN	3-10-45	6-14-46 (Decomm)
CDR P. A. LILLY, Jr., USN	1-27-51	7-19-52 (RECOMM)
CDR R. W. PENNOYER, USN	7-19-52	12-21-53
CDR D. B. ELMORE, USN	12-21-53	8-27-55
CDR E. F. JACKSON, USN	8-27-55	9-21-57
CDR E. O. ERICKSON, USN	9-21-57	2-6-59
LCDR J. LACAVA, JR., USN	2-6-59	10-7-60
CDR J. M. FADDIS, USN	10-7-60	7-26-62
CDR T. G. RAY, USN	7-26-62	4-24-64
CDR R. J. BRABANT, USN	4-24-64	10-2-65
CDR P. A. WILSON, USN	10-2-65	4-27-67
CDR H. D. DOWSE, JR., USN	4-27-67	4-26-69
CDR R. L. ADAMS, JR., USN	4-26-69	10-30-69
CDR I. DOROSHUK, TR., USN	10-30-69	11-6-70
CDR William E. MUNEY, USN	11-6-70	5-26-72
LCDR John K. SLAVEN, USN	5-26-72	7-15-72