

USS WILHOITE (DER-397)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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Ser: 369

01 OCT 1967

From: Commanding Officer, USS WILHOITE (DER-397)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Command History for 1966; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INSTR 5750.12 Ser 5152P09B9 of 8 November 1966  
(b) Your ltr OP-09B91SH/jw Ser 3439P09B9 of 3 October 1967

Encl: (1) Command History for 1966

1. According to the records of this command the USS WILHOITE Command History for 1966 was forwarded to the Public Affairs Office, Chief of Naval Operations on 20 February 1967.

2. In accordance with references (a) and (b) the Command History for 1966 is herewith resubmitted.

  
E. W. HAYS

RECEIVED  
8 NOV 1967  
OP-09B91SH/jw  
Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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USS WILHOITE (DER-397) Command History for 1966

I. Chronological list of events:

1-13 January	Market Time Patrol
14 January - 1 February	Enroute Pearl Harbor
2 February	Arrived Pearl Harbor
7 March - 29 April	Restricted Availability in Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
9-21 May	Refresher Training
6 June	Departed Pearl Harbor
6-19 June	Enroute WESTPAC
24 June - 6 August	Market Time Patrol
9-18 August	Upkeep; Kaohsiung, Taiwan
20 August - 21 September	Market Time Patrol
23-27 September	Inport Hong Kong
30 September - 28 October	Market Time Patrol
30 October - 10 November	Upkeep; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines
13 November - 9 December	Market Time Patrol
2 December	Change of Command
10-13 December	Inport Bangkok, Thailand
15-31 December	Market Time Patrol

II. Narrative:

HISTORY OF U.S.S. WILHOITE (DER-397) FOR 1966

The year 1966 found WILHOITE off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam participating in her 5th Market Time Patrol. She was relieved on January 14th and steamed for Pearl Harbor via Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, and Guam, Marianas Islands, completing an 8 month deployment with the Seventh Fleet and Task Force 115.

On February 2nd, WILHOITE arrived in Pearl Harbor and commenced an 18 day period of leave and upkeep. On February 21st, she was back at work again with a two week tender availability.

On March 7th WILHOITE entered the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard where she was to remain until April 29th undergoing a limited overhaul.

The first week in May was spent loading ammunition, supplies, and in general getting ready to go back to sea again. May 9th through 21st saw WILHOITE undergoing a period of refresher training in preparation for her imminent departure to West Pac. The final days of May were spent undergoing Operational Readiness Inspection, Annual Supply Inspection, and Administrative inspections.

The first week in June was spent making last minute preparations before deployment. From June 6th until June 20th WILHOITE was enroute to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, for her second tour of duty with the Seventh Fleet and Task Force 115.

The stay in Subic Bay was short and on June 21 WILHOITE was underway to begin her first patrol of this deployment along the coast of the Republic of Vietnam.

The month of July was spent on patrol and on August 9th WILHOITE sailed into Kaohsiung, Taiwan, to begin a 10 day tender availability. On August 19th WILHOITE left Kaohsiung to once again join the forces of TF 115.

Patrol number two was highlighted by the boarding of the 500th junk in conjunction with WILHOITE's Market Time duties. The weeks passed quickly and September 23rd found WILHOITE in Hong Kong, B.C.C., for 5 days of rest and recreation.

On September 28 WILHOITE was headed once again to assume duties as part of Operation Market Time. Patrol number three passed without incident and on October 30th WILHOITE arrived in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines for an 11 day period of repairs and upkeep.

On November 9th WILHOITE was visited by RADM W. R. BAUMBERGER, COMCRUDESPAC; while on board he presented the Bronze Star Medal to Commander O. G. BAIRD, COMCORTRON FIVE, for Commander BAIRD's actions in salvaging an infiltrating trawler off Vietnam.

On the morning of November 11th the ship was underway once again to begin patrol number four.

On December 2nd LCDR E. W. HAYS relieved LCDR J. E. FERNANDES as Commanding Officer. LCDR HAYS came to the WILHOITE from the U.S.S. COONTZ (DLG-9), where he had served as Executive Officer. LCDR FERNANDES reported to the Royal Naval Staff College, London, England for duty under instruction.

Patrol number four ended on December 10th when WILHOITE arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, for a four day period of rest and recreation.

On December 14th, WILHOITE was underway again and on December 15th assumed duties for the 5th time as a member of TF 115. Her 5th patrol went quickly and on 31 December she departed Market Time and headed for Yokosuka, Japan, for a short visit followed by her sail for Pearl Harbor.

III. Lessons Learned, Conclusions, Recommendations: NONE