



USS WORDEN (DLG-18)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

DLG18/OPS:rhw
5750
Ser: **08**

26 FEB 1973

[REDACTED]

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From: Commanding Officer, USS WORDEN (DLG-18)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History of USS WORDEN 01 January 1972 to 31 December
1972 (U) (OPNAV Report 5750-11)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Brief Chronology
(2) Narrative
(3) Miscellaneous Information
(4) Roster of Officers
(5) WORDEN Familygrams for 1972
(6) WORDEN Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

NOT HELD

1. Enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

J. B. Shick, Jr.
J. B. SHICK, JR.

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DECLASSIFIED BY USS WORDEN LTR 5700 CG18/SS of 13 May 1985
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(UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF ENCLOSURES (1) THROUGH
(4)).

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USS WORDEN CHRONOLOGY 01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972

03 JAN - 16 JAN 1972 USS WORDEN conducts special operations in the Sea of Japan with USS ROWAN (DD-782). Units visit Sasebo, Japan for fuel stops on 07 JAN and 11 JAN.

22 JAN 1972 USS WORDEN underway from Yokosuka, Japan for extended operations in the Gulf of Tonkin.

26 JAN - 27 JAN 1972 Enroute to the Gulf of Tonkin, USS WORDEN visits Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Preparations made for joint WORDEN-Nationalist Chinese ASW exercise conducted off Kaohsiung 28 JAN 1972.

07 FEB 1972 USS WORDEN enters Gulf of Tonkin for first action with Task Force 77 since 1969.

08 FEB - 04 MAR 1972 USS WORDEN operates on North Search and Rescue (SAR) Station in the Gulf of Tonkin.

05 MAR - 11 MAR 1972 USS WORDEN operates on Positive Identification and Radar Advisory Zone (PIRAZ) station in the Gulf of Tonkin.

03 APR 1972 USS WORDEN while enroute to fleet operations off Okinawa is diverted to the Gulf of Tonkin as a part of Task Force 77 build-up to counter the North Vietnamese Easter offensive.

08 APR - 15 APR 1972 USS WORDEN escorts USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) on Yankee Station.

16 APR 1972 USS WORDEN assumes North SAR station in connection with first major air strikes on Haiphong since 1968. During the early morning raid WORDEN inadvertently struck by two anti-radiation missiles fired by U. S. aircraft. One crewmember killed, nine others wounded.

18 APR - 28 APR 1972 USS WORDEN retires to Subic Bay, Philippines for repair of battle damage.

30 APR - 07 MAY 1972 USS WORDEN returns to the Gulf of Tonkin as escort for USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63).

08 MAY 1972 USS WORDEN assumes SAR station off Thanh Hoa during initial mine-laying raids on North VietNam.

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16 MAY - 12 JUN 1972	Restricted Availability at Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka, Japan to complete repairs of 16 APR 1972 battle damage.
16 JUN - 17 JUN 1972	USS WORDEN demonstrates return to full capabilities in missile firings off Okinawa by fire-recertifying Missile Fire Control Systems 1 and 2.
20 JUN - 20 JUL 1972	USS WORDEN operates on South SAR station off Cape Mui Ron.
09 AUG - 23 AUG 1972	USS WORDEN operates as escort for USS MIDWAY (CVA-41), USS HANCOCK (CVA-19) and USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) during two week period on Yankee Station.
11 SEP - 15 SEP 1972	USS WORDEN visits Hong Kong, B. C. C.
18 SEP - 30 SEP 1972	USS WORDEN serves as escort for USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) on Yankee Station.
01 OCT - 07 OCT 1972	USS WORDEN operates on Middle SAR Station off Vinh.
08 OCT - 16 OCT 1972	USS WORDEN operates on South SAR Station off Cape Mui Ron.
21 OCT - 24 OCT 1972	USS WORDEN visits Hachinohe, Japan in connection with 1972 Navy Day festivities at Misawa A. F. B.
18 NOV - 12 DEC 1972	USS WORDEN operates on North SAR Station.
08 DEC - 12 DEC 1972	USS WORDEN visits Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
31 DEC 1972	USS WORDEN closes out the year at Berth 15, Yokosuka, Japan. Complement: 26 Officers. 368 Enlisted.

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THE HISTORY OF THE USS WORDEN
01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972

After enjoying a month-long holiday rest in December 1971, the USS WORDEN sailed from Yokosuka, Japan on the Third of January, for special operations in the Sea of Japan. Steaming in company with the USS ROWAN, WORDEN traversed the Tsagaru Strait between the Japanese islands of Hokkaido and Honshu, and spent two weeks in the cold waters of the Sea of Japan. Operations were interrupted only by brief fueling stops in Sasebo, Japan on the 7th and 11th of January.

WORDEN returned to Yokosuka on the 17th of January for a five-day stop in preparation for the ship's first cruise to the Gulf of Tonkin in three years. On the transit southward, the ship visited several ports for the first time since joining the U. S. SEVENTH FLEET in November 1971. On the 24th of January, WORDEN moored in Buckner Bay, Okinawa for a brief fuel stop, then proceeded to a two-day liberty visit in Kaohsiung, Taiwan on 26-27 January. Upon sailing from Kaohsiung on the 28th of January WORDEN participated in an Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise with Nationalist Chinese vessels in the Taiwan Straits. The final preparations for the Gulf of Tonkin were made in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, where WORDEN moored from the 2nd to the 5th of February.

On the 6th of February, WORDEN left the Philippines and proceeded west to assume duties in the Gulf of Tonkin. For the remainder of the month, WORDEN operated on North Search and Rescue (SAR Station (CTU77.0.1)). WORDEN Air Controllers not only provided radar and navigation information to Task Force 77 aircraft, but on 3 March vectored a rescue helicopter in to recover an F-4 pilot and his Radar Intercept Officer from the USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43).

WORDEN was relieved on North SAR by the USS MAHAN on 4 March, and moved closer to the North Vietnamese Coast Off Thanh Hoa to assume duties on the Positive Identification and Radar Advisory Zone (PIRAZ) Station (CTU 77.0.2). On the Eleventh of March WORDEN was relieved of PIRAZ duties by the USS CHICAGO and proceeded back to homeport - Yokosuka, Japan.

On 3 April, WORDEN departed Yokosuka for what was to be a month of operations off Japan and Okinawa, in connection with an amphibious exercise in the Sea of Japan (Golden Dragon). However, during the previous weekend, North Vietnamese units had crossed the Demilitarized Zone in a major offensive, and WORDEN was diverted south in a major buildup of Task Force 77 units to counter the North Vietnamese threat. On the 8th of April, WORDEN assumed duties as escort for the USS CORAL SEA and on 10 April WORDEN recovered one CORAL SEA flight-deck crewman who had fallen over the side of the carrier.

After a week of plane-guarding, WORDEN was assigned duties on North SAR Station on the 15th of April, with USS HIGBEE in company. That night, U. S. Forces conducted the first major air strike on Haiphong since 1968. During the strike, at 0357H, 16 April, WORDEN was damaged by two anti-radiation missiles inadvertently fired by U. S. support aircraft. One crewmember, Robert A. STERLING, Boatswain's Mate Third Class, was killed, and nine others were injured including [REDACTED], Boiler Technician

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First Class who was seriously injured. Less seriously injured were Quartermaster Seaman Apprentice [REDACTED], Radarman Third Class [REDACTED], Quartermaster Second Class [REDACTED], Seaman [REDACTED], Boiler Technician Second Class [REDACTED], Radarman Chief [REDACTED], Fire Control Technician Third Class [REDACTED], and Radioman [REDACTED]. Six of the injured were airlifted to the helicopter carrier TRIPOLI for treatment.

Although structural damage to the ship was not great, the ship's exposed antennas and electronic equipment were riddled with shrapnel. Thus, WORDEN was directed to proceed to Subic Bay for repairs, where she arrived on the morning of 18 April. After ten days of continuous repair work on the part of Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay, WORDEN departed the Philippines on 28 April and returned to the Gulf of Tonkin. From 30 April until 7 May, WORDEN served as escort for the USS KITTY HAWK on Yankee Station.

On May 8 WORDEN was detached from KITTY HAWK and assumed a SAR station (TU 77.0.4) off Thanh Hoa during the first U. S. Mine-laying strikes on North Vietnam. WORDEN returned to escort duties for KITTY HAWK on 9 MAY, until departing for Yokosuka again on 11 May.

The ship arrived in Japan on 16 May and immediately began a Restricted Availability at the Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka to install two new missile directors as replacements for two damaged on 16 April. After four weeks of hard work on the part of crewmembers, technical experts flown from the United States and Yokosuka repair personnel, WORDEN was ready to sail again on 13 June-completely recovered from the tragic events of April.

From Yokosuka, WORDEN proceeded to the Okinawa Missile Range, where on the 16th and 17th of June, the two new missile directors were successfully demonstrated against aerial targets. Continuing south, WORDEN assumed duties on South SAR Station (TU 77.0.3) on 20 June. For the next four weeks, WORDEN operated off Cape Mui Ron providing AAW protection for NGFS units in the area, and controlling surveillance aircraft over mined North Vietnamese waters. On the 21st of July, WORDEN was relieved by the USS ENGLAND, and headed back toward Japan. While enroute, WORDEN joined the USS ORISKANY and escorted her back to Yokosuka where they arrived on 28 July.

WORDEN sailed again on 5 August, arriving in the Gulf of Tonkin on 9 August, serving as escort for the USS MIDWAY until 12 August. WORDEN then escorted the USS HANCOCK from the 13th to the 15th of August, and the USS KITTY HAWK from the 16th to the 23rd of August. After shifting among several carriers, WORDEN returned to Yokosuka on 29 August.

Hong Kong was the destination of WORDEN when the ship departed Yokosuka on 7 September. Arriving in the British colony on 11 September, WORDEN crewmembers spent five days of liberty, before heading for the Gulf of Tonkin again on 17 September. Once again, WORDEN served as escort for the USS KITTY HAWK from 18-30 September.

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On the 1st of October WORDEN moved to the Middle SAR Station (TU 77.0.4) off Vinh, where she controlled aircraft monitoring North Vietnamese waters. On 7 October, WORDEN moved south to the familiar waters off Cape Mui Ron and the South SAR Station.

WORDEN departed the Gulf of Tonkin on 17 October and headed northward, toward the Japanese port of Hachinohe. WORDEN visited this city on the northeastern side of Honshu from 21-24 October, in connection with Navy Day festivities at the near-by Misawa Air Force Base. Navy Day activities were sponsored by the Naval Security Group at Misawa. Inclement weather forced postponement of a majority of events planned for WORDEN's visit, and the ship sailed for Yokosuka on the 25th of October. Upon returning to Yokosuka, the ship was drydocked for replacement of both propellers.

WORDEN departed Japan on 14 November, and arrived on North SAR Station in the Gulf of Tonkin on 18 NOV, where she operated until 5 December. The ship visited Kaohsiung, Taiwan again from 8-12 December on the way back to Japan. WORDEN arrived in Yokosuka on 16 December, and spent the last days of the year in a much-needed standdown after a challenging year of operations in the U. S. SEVENTH FLEET.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
RELATED TO USS WORDEN COMMAND HISTORY 1972

Miles Steamed 01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972	75,786
Gallons of Fuel Consumed 01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972	8,097,931
Number of Unreps 01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972	53
Number of Vertreps	07
Number of Helo Landings 01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972	210
Days in Combat Zone 01 JAN - 31 DEC 1972	158

Enclosure (3)

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE
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 FM CTF SEVE SSEVEN

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INFO RUHJBRA/CINCPACFLT
 CTQ SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT EIGHT

CHINFO

Z 160257Z APR 72
 FM COMCRUDESFLT ZPEVEN

TO COMSEVENTHFLT
 CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT ZERO

CTF SEVEN SEVEN
 CTG SEVEN ERO PT EIGHT

D 160030Z APR 72
 FM USS HIGBEE

TO USS JZRDN

INFO CTU SEVEN SEVEN PT ZERO PT ZERO

~~SECRET~~

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WORDEN INCIDENT (S)

1. (S) AT 0340H 16 APR ORIG WAS SHOTGUN FOR WORDEN AT NSAR. WURDE N WAS BEARING 000 DEGS AT 2000 YDS. ON COUNSE 090 DEGS T AT 8 KNOTS. ONE SKUNK WAS HELD AT CPA BEARING 226 DEGS T AT 13 MILES. WORDEN HELD HAD JUST BEEN LAUNCHED AND WAS BEING TRACKED ON SFC SEARCH RADAR AND BEING OBSERVED DYHPRIDGE PERSONNEL.

2. (S) AT 0356H DDD, SIGNALMEN AND LOOKOUTS OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE TWO SMALL AIR BURSTS CLOSE ABOARD ON PORT QUARTER OF WORDEN THEN ONE LARGE EXPLOSION NEAR BRIDGE LEVEL FD LOWED BY ANOTHER EXPLOSION NEAR PORT BOW OF THE WERQEN. TWO SEPARATE EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD ON GERTRUDE. NUMEROUS A/C WERE IN THE AREA. ALL A/C HAD BEEN EVALUATED AS FRIENDLY BUT HIGH DENSITY OF A/C DOES NOT PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILE A/C SLIPPING THRU. ALL SFC CONTACTS HAD BEEN EVALUATED AS FRIENDLY OR AS NLJ-THREATENING. NO RPT NO SMALL HIGH SPEED CONTACTS WERE OBSERVED.

3. (S) AT 0525H ESM DETECTED POSSIBLE POTHEAD RADAR BEARING 21

007...CDG

00 00G 09 09C 09BH 09M 090 90 92 03 03EG 32 04 05 50 51
 06 60 63 941 942 943 NRC NMIC BFR IP

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NAVAL MESSAGE *****

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***** NAVY DEPARTMENT

DEGS T BUT THIS RACKET DID NOT CORRELATE WITH ANY SFC COFTACT.
F/C RADAR DID LOCK ON A CONTACT AT ABOUT 25 MILES BUT IDENTITY
OF CONTACT WAS UNDETERMINED.

4. (S) ORIG BELIEVES ATTACK LAUNCHED BY A/C OF UNDETERMINED
ORIGIN BUT PROBABLY FRIENDLY.
GP-4

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

FLASH

Z 180829Z APR 72 ZFF6

FM SECDEF

TO COMUSMACV

INFO CINCPAC

CND

~~SECRET~~ 3455

OASD/PA SENDS

REF: CINCPACFLT 180445Z APR 72.

1. RELEASE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY, REPEAT IMMEDIATELY, FROM MACV. ADVISE OASD/PA VIA NMCC WHEN RELEASE ACCOMPLISHED. QUOTE. ONE SAILOR WAS KILLED AND NINE INJURED IN AN EXPLOSION SUNDAY ABOARD USS WORDEN IN THE TONKIN GULF. EXACT CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THE WORDEN WAS BEYOND THE RANGE OF ENEMY SHORE BATTERIES. WE DO NOT KNOW NOW WHETHER FIRE FROM ENEMY VESSELS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME. IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT ONE SAILOR WAS KILLED AND SEVEN INJURED WHEN USS BUCHANAN WAS HIT BY A ROUND FROM AN ENEMY SHORE BATTERY WHILE OPERATING PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 2672 ~~SECRET~~ OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM MONDAY. WE HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME. UNQUOTE.

2. IF ANY ASSESSMENT OF MATERIEL OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE CONCERNING EITHER SHIP IT MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE RELEASE. DO NOT REPEAT NOT HOLD UP RELEASE TO WAIT FOR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

3. IF THE ABOVE RELEASE RESULTS IN THE DIRECT QUERY QUOTE: IS IT POSSIBLE THE WORDEN WAS HIT BY US ORDNANCE? UNQUOTE, REPLY WILL BE QUOTE, AS WE SAID WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME KNOW THE EXACT CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION. AMONG OTHER THINGS WE WOULD, OF COURSE, CHECK THAT POSSIBILITY. UNQUOTE.

4. DO NOT AT THIS TIME ADD FURTHER DETAILS SUCH AS EXACT LOCATION OF SHIPS. ALL ADDRESSEES ADVISE OASD/PA OF ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY FURTHER ELABORATION BUT DO NOT HOLD UP IMMEDIATE RELEASE AS APPROVED BY ASD/PA.

GP-4

007...COG

00 00G 09 09C 09BH 09M 090 90 92 03 03EG 32 04 05 50 51 06 943 60 63 941
942 NRC 985 NMIC BFR IP

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NAVAL MESSAGE

*****CONFIDENTIAL*****

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ROUTINE
R 120600Z NOV 72
FM USS WORDEN

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TO NWL DAHLGREN VA

INFO COMCRUDESPAC SDIEGO CA
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
NAVDORSYSCOMHQ WASH DC

CNO WASH DC
CTF SEVEN FIVE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ //N03100//

A. YOUR 102159Z NOV 72

1. (C) REF A REQS CERTAIN INFO ON 16 APRIL DAMAGE.

2. (C) BASIC DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF 16 APR. WELL DOCUMENTED BY PHOTOS AND REPORT WHICH WILL BE MAILED ASAP VIA REG MAIL. RADAR EQUIPS LOST INCLUDED AN/SPS-48, AN/SPG-55B (SYNOS. ONE AND TWO). DAMAGE SUFFERED BY THESE THREE EQUIPS BOTH IN WAVE GUIDES AND ANTENNA ARRAYS. AN/SPS-10 ANTENNA ALTHOUGH SERIOUSLY RIDDLED, CONTINUED TO OPERATE SATISFACTORILY, AFTER ELECTRONIC CASUALTY CONTROL FIX, AS DID AN/SPS-43 WHICH WAS NOT DAMAGED (LOCATED ON AFT MACK ON DLG-16 CLASS SHIP). ALMOST ENTIRE SUIT OF COMM/ECM ANTENNAS WERE DAMAGED SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO REQUIRE REPLACEMENT (30 TOTAL).

3. (C) BLAST(S), WHICH HAS BEEN RECONSTRUCTED AS OCCURRING ABT 40 FT. ABOVE PORT BRIDGE WING, ADDITIONALLY CAUSED APPROX 850 HOLES, THE MAJORITY APPROX 1/4-1/2 IN. DIA, THE LARGEST 3 1/2 IN. THE FURTHEST PENETRATION OCCURED 3 LEVELS BELOW BLAST. THE NET EFFECT OF THIS TYPE OF DAMAGE IN ADDITION TO THAT DESCRIBED PARA2, WAS A SUBTLE, YET EFFECTIVE AND COMPLETE DESRUPTION AND DAMAGE OF WIRE RUNS, SUPPORT EQUIPMENTS, AND PERSONNEL WITHIN A 50-75 YD RADIUS OF THE BLAST. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT APPROX ETPP FT. OF CABLE WAS RERUN, JUST DUE TO DAMAGE IN MAST/PILOT HOUSE AREAS, ALONE.

5. (C) OTHER ASPECTS OF 16 APR. DAMAGE WHICH MAY BE OF VALUE IN PROJECT DESCRIBED REF A, AND SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO SHIP VISITOR WOULD INCLUDE;

- A. VULNERABILITY OF TOPSIDE WEAPONS STOWAGE (ASROC/MK 32 AWTT)
- B. PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTION/RESPONSE TO UNEXPECTED ATTACK,

43(6) ...COG

09BH(3) 97(4) 20(3) 22(4) 29(1) 03(2) 32(7) 04(2) 05(8) 05V(1) 51(1)
55(3) 943(5) 095(8) 098(1) 981(3) 007(8) 008(1) NMIC(4) BFR(1)

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NAVAL MESSAGE

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

PARTICULARIARY WITH REGARDS TO CASUALTY CONTROL/FIRST AID.
C. VULNERABILITY OF COMBATANT WARSHIPS TO ANTI-RADIATION
DEVICES.

6. (C) WELCOME VISITOR FOR INTERVIEW OF CREW MEMBERS. BEST TIME
WOULD BE DURING 15 DEC-10 JAN INPORT PERIOD YOKOSUKA.
GDS-78

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