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CVS10/5750-1

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From: Commanding Officer USS YORKTOWN (CVS-10)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05A5G)

1966

Subj: Command History for USS YORKTOWN (CVS-10) for period 1 January
1966 to 31 December 1966; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Chronology of outstanding events
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Aviation Historical Summary (OPNAV 5750-3)
(4) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is
submitted for year 1966.

W.M. McCULLY

Copy to:
CNO (OP-09B9)
CINCPACFLT

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REF # 450

Chronology of outstanding events.

1. 5 Jan. Departed Long Beach for San Diego to embark Air Anti-Submarine Group fifty-five.
2. 17 Feb. Yokosuka, Japan
3. 28 March Subic Bay, Philippines
4. 10 April Cebu City, Philippines
5. 2 May Sasebo, Japan
6. 22 May Manila, Philippines
7. 5 June Bangkok, Thailand
8. 18 June Hong Kong, B. C. C.
9. 25 June Yokosuka, Japan
10. 25 July Search and Rescue for General Stillwell and crew in downed DC-3.
11. 27 July Long Beach
12. 28 July to 11 Oct. Carrier Qualification
13. 12 Oct. to 27 Oct. OPERATION BASELINE II First Fleet Exercise.
14. 28 Oct. to 16 Nov. Carrier Qualification
15. 17 Nov. Rescue of downed helo crew Helicopter Squadron 2. Bodies of Commander W.E. TODD, USN and LTJG J.E. GRAY, USNR recovered by Yorktown crew.
16. 7 Dec. XC142-A Tri-Service V/STOL (Vertical/short take off and landing aircraft) on board YORKTOWN for tests.
17. 12 Dec. to 15 Dec. Carrier Qualifications
18. 16 Dec. to 31 Dec. Leave period.

Enclosure (1)

Basic Narrative

1. Command Organization and Relations:

a. Captain James B. GAIN served as Commanding Officer from 11 June 1965 to 7 May 1966. Captain William M. McCULLEY, Jr. relieved Captain GAIN on 7 May 1966 while YORKTOWN was in Sasebo, Japan.

b. YORKTOWN is homeported at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California.

c. The aircraft carrier is the key member of the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Hunter-Killer team. It is the command post of the Hunter-Killer team which includes: the carrier, with an ASW CO embarked as the Task Group Commander; four to eight destroyers, with a Destroyer Division Commander embarked as Screen Commander; and a Carrier Anti-Submarine Air Group—consisting of two S2E "Tracker" squadrons, one helicopter squadron and a detachment of three airborne early warning radar equipped AD Skyraiders—based on board the carrier.

The aircraft carrier is a high speed mobile base that can move from one troubled sea lane to another as needed and on very short notice. It serves as the logistics center for the units of the ASW team and as a command post from which operations of the Hunter-Killer team are coordinated and controlled by the Task Group Commander.

To permit timely, effective and efficient employment of the element of the Task Group, the aircraft carrier provides a wide variety of surface and air search radars, highspeed communications equipment,

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electronic countermeasure devices and electronic navigational equipment. This equipment provides a rapid and continuous flow of vital tactical information to the Combat Information Center and Flag Plot of the carrier-- information which the Task Group Commander must have in order to effectively carry out the ASW team's mission: Hunt and Kill enemy submarines.

d. Refer to enclosure (3).

2. Operations or Activities:

a. As Christmas leave period ended, YORKTOWN departed Long Beach for San Diego on 5 Jan. to pick up her air group and 14 SecNav guests. Six days later she arrived in Pearl Harbor to disembark her guests and undergo Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) in the vicinity of the Hawaiian chain from 13 to 21 Jan. before departing for WestPac deployment. The crew enjoyed an island visit from the 21 of Jan. to the 9th of Feb. Leaving Hawaii the 9th, YORKTOWN arrived in Yokosuka, Japan on the 17th and there relieved the USS HORNET (CVS-12) on the 21st. Putting out for the South China Sea on the 21st of February, she spent 36 consecutive days at sea and returned to Subic Bay, Philippines for upkeep and four days of rest and recreation (R & R). April saw the "Lady" on Yankee Station for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), search and rescue (SAR), and surface-subsurface surveillance with a short two day goodwill visit to Cebu City, Philippines. On May 2, YORKTOWN came into Sasebo, Japan for two weeks R & R and a change-of-command. The trip to Manila on 16 May was in preparation for a major SEATO exercise. The operation,

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known as "Sea Imp" was primarily designed to practice assigned forces in their operational roles for the protection of a convoy against surface, subsurface, and air attack. As part of the SEATO force, YORKTOWN entered the "Pearl of the Orient", Bangkok, Thailand on 5 June. Departing Bangkok on 9 June, YORKTOWN and her escorts set sail for six days in Hong Kong, B.C.C. The "Lady" set sail from Hong Kong to Yankee Station and then to Yokosuka for upkeep and R & R, relief by the USS Kearsarge (CVS-33). Then on 15 July, YORKTOWN steamed toward CONUS. Three days out of San Diego, YORKTOWN was called upon to assist in a search and rescue for General Stilwell, USA, and crew aboard a downed Dc-3. She arrived in San Diego on 27 July to disembark her air group and continue on to her homeport, Long Beach, the same day.

During this 1966 cruise, the sixth such voyage to the Far East for the "Fighting Lady" as an ASW carrier, YORKTOWN visited such ports as Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan; Subic Bay, Manila and Cebu City, Republic of the Philippines; Bangkok, Thailand and Hong Kong. The visits to Manila and Bangkok were part of Operation "Sea Imp", a combined-nation SEATO exercise involving 45 ships, some 100 aircraft and 14,000 men from Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand, Republic of the Philippines, Thailand and the United States.

Active People-to-People and Handclasp programs were carried out in each port visited. When the ship left Long Beach, she carried seven tons

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of Handclasp and 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of People-to-People material consisting of medicine, clothing, books, equipment and toys. Crewmembers participated in a fund drive for the construction of a Home Economics Building in Zambales Province, Philippines and helped deliver part of the Handclasp materials to the Eversley Child Sanitarium for Leprosy, St. Theresa's Dispensary, St. Joseph's Clinic and Cebu Boy's Town in Cebu City.

YORKTOWN's Marine Detachment provided a marching unit for the Bataan Day Parade held there. Also while in Cebu City, 16 men from the ship provided a half-hour of music on a television show over the local TV station.

In Sasebo, Japan over 100 men volunteered to help repair the Tenshin Ryo, Sasebo Municipal Orphanage for Boys, the Omiya Mother's and Children's Home and the Seifuen Folks Home. Also in the same area, YORKTOWN's COMASWGRU Three Band entertained over 3,000 people during a tour of the Ashya Park Recreation Center, the Central Hospital Hieukuski Sanitorium, Kwatana Junior High School, Fukagawa Porcelain Company, Arita Town Office and the Sasebo Police Station.

While in Hong Kong more Handclasp Materials went to St. Timothy's Hostel, the Christian Children's Home, the Church World Service, and St. Christopher's Orphanage while donations went to the Noodle Factory, Church World Service, the Ebenezer School for Blind, St. James Settlement and Project Concern. One division aboard ship adopted a Chinese orphan named Chow Hon Sang whom they will continue to support while back in the States.

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During the very last inport period in Yokosuka before returning to Long Beach, a party was provided for mentally retarded children in the Kanagawa Prefectural Nagasawa Gakuen. In addition, each man aboard did his own share as an individual ambassador among the peoples of the countries visited.

Some of the vital statistics of the cruise include: Since departure from Long Beach in January, the ship has steamed 46,721 miles consuming 8,646,859 gallons of Navy Special Fuel Oil. There were a total of 205 ships alongside for refueling and replenishment, which averages out to about one ship per day during the cruise. Over a million gallons of Aviation Gasoline were consumed by the ship's Air Group who made a total of 2,335 fixed wing landings to bring the total since commissioning to 113,832 with the possibility of passing the 114,000th mark before return to the states.

Much of the cruise was spent at sea off the coast of Vietnam where YORKTOWN carried out her multiple mission of Anti-Submarine Warfare, protecting the attack carriers from possible enemy submarines around-the-clock; Search and Rescue, picking up a total of 24 downed Navy and Air Force Pilots and aircrewmembers from hostile waters; and Surface Surveillance, watching for and reporting continuously during periods as long as 26 days the many unidentified ships and small craft which might pose a threat to U.S. Forces off Vietnam. Over 50 personal decorations

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have been awarded or recommended including six Silver Stars to LT William E. TERRY, LT. "Rick" H. KILIPPERT, LT(jg) Joel MILLEN, LT(jg) Ken OLSON, LT(jg) Richard E. BENSON and LT(jg) Dennis S. DANIELS.

The latter part of the calendar year saw the "Lady" in six separate at sea periods for Carrier Qualifications and overall training. Operation Baseline II took place from 12 Oct. to 27 Oct. as a major First Fleet exercise with the main stress on ASW.

3. Special Topics:

a. During 1966 YORKTOWN conducted 214 underway replenishments. There were 35,835 starboard launches and 24,122 port launches. JP5 fuel consumed: 1,471,400 gallons. AVGAS: 1,520,599 gallons. Since commissioning YORKTOWN has landed 118,439 aircraft as of 31 December 1966.

c. No major modifications or conversions.

k. No engineering casualties.

Flight deck accident of plane pusher involved in collision with aircraft propeller. He sustained extensive injury and was evacuated to the U.S. MEDICAL FACILITY, Da Nang, Vietnam. Following surgery he was returned to CONUS. Treatment of two Air Force pilots recovered off North Vietnam by HS-2 helicopters. There were four amputated fingers treated and five emergency appendectomies.

m. Medical Officers received training in anesthesiology. Four hospital corpsmen were trained in search and rescue and participated in SAR missions with HS-4 off the coast of Vietnam.

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n. People-to-People programs were conducted throughout the WestPac under supervision of the ship's Chaplain.

Cebu City, Philippines: 1,000 lbs. of toys, clothing and books.
Hong Kong, B.C.C.: 2700 lbs. of clothing, toys and financial support of two orphans adopted by YORKTOWN. Sasebo, Japan: repairs on local orphanage. Yokosuka, Japan: support to Kanagawa Orphanage.

o. Tours and open houses, bake sales were conducted by Public Affairs Office. Goblin on the Doorstep, an ASW film was shown to dependents wives in Sasebo, Japan.

q. Numerous reserve personnel from various reserve units have trained in YORKTOWN in the year of 1966. No "special" training was conducted for either reservists or foreign representatives.

t. The YORKTOWN's Monthly Town Crier received the Chief of Naval Information Merit Award.

w. On YORKTOWN's visit to Cebu City, Philippines seven men from the ship were on a local television program.

x. Billy Casper was aboard for an exhibition of golfing.
Ann-Margaret and Johnny Rivers presented a show on board during WestPac cruise.

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