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From: USS GRIDLEY (DLG-21)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic History for 1971
(2) Chronology of events.

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.


W.M. CROWE, Jr.
By direction

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BASIC HISTORY

New years Day 1971 found the GRIDLEY at the North Search and Rescue Picket Station (NSAR) in the Gulf of Tonkin, acting as Commander Task Unit 77.0.1. With her was the USS T.E. CHANDLER (DD-717) as shotgun. On 6 January the CHANDLER was detached, having been relieved by the USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON (DD-786). On 11 January shotgun duties passed to the USS BUCK (DD-761). GRIDLEY departed North SAR 15 January and entered Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, where she operated with the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63), USS EUCK (DD-761), USS W.L. LAND (DD-703), and USS ROWAN (DD-782). The next day GRIDLEY departed, steaming independently for Yokosuka, Japan where she arrived on 20 January for a 3 day layover before getting underway for Sasebo. After a week in Sasebo GRIDLEY was again underway, this time for special operations (SPECOPS) in the Sea of Japan. On 2 February 1971 GRIDLEY was exercising command of Task Unit 71.0.4 in the Sea of Japan with the USS JOHN R. CRAIG (DD-885). After a week of SPECOPS, GRIDLEY returned to Sasebo. By the 20th of February GRIDLEY was again on patrol in the Sea of Japan, this time accompanied by the USS HEPBURN (DE-1055). While on this mission several Russian ships were sighted including the ships NAKHODKA and KAHCK, and a KASHIN class DLG, which frequently operated in close proximity to GRIDLEY.

GRIDLEY returned to Sasebo on 28 February, departing for Yokosuka on 7 March. Brief stops were made at Yokosuka and Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines before GRIDLEY reached its destination of the British Crown Colony, Hong Kong on 18 March. A week later GRIDLEY was back at sea, steaming once more for North SAR where she would relieve the USS HALSEY (DLG-23) as Commander Task Unit 77.0.1. Shotgun during this line period, was handled by the USS O'BRIEN (DD-725), USS DEHAVEN (DD-727), and USS HEPBURN (DE-1055). On 22 April GRIDLEY was underway for home. As Commander Task Unit 70.0.5 consisting of GRIDLEY, the USS HOLLISTER (DD-788), and the USS CHANDLER (DD-717), she took on fuel at the U.S. Naval Station, Apra, Guam on 30 April and got underway for Midway Island. On 3 May GRIDLEY inched to First Fleet and assumed command to Task Unit 15.9.3. Steaming past Midway on 5 May, GRIDLEY arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 8 May, and was steaming for Long Beach later the same day. On 13 May, 1971, GRIDLEY returned to its home port ending a six month deployment to the Western Pacific.

On the 2nd of June 1971, Captain Eugene J. REIHER, USN relieved Captain Robert L. THORSON, USN as Commanding Officer of the USS GRIDLEY.

GRIDLEY barely got its 30 day stand-down period. On 17 June she unloaded weapons at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station in preparation for a Midshipman Cruise that commenced 21 June. On that day she got under-

Enclosure (1)

way for local operations in the Southern California operating area. The Schedule was a busy one, with multi-ship operations, missile shoots, Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) launchings, and firing of the 3 inch guns. An ASROC was fired on 22 June in exercises with the USS OZBORN (DD-846), the USS CHANDLER (DD-717), and the USS WORDEN (DLG-18) with the Commander Destroyer Squadron 13 embarked on GRIDLEY as OTC. GRIDLEY was back in Long Beach from 24-28 June and got underway on the 28th as part of Task Unit 10.1.L. On the 29th and 30th of June a total of four Terrier missiles were fired at targets and on 1 July GRIDLEY headed north for Monterey, Calif., where she arrived the next day. She anchored in Monterey Bay for 4 days to allow the crew liberty before steaming north on 6 July for Everett, Washington, with a fuel stopover at Manchester, Washington. GRIDLEY was in Everett from 9-13 July and then got underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the Hawaii Local Operating Area. The 27th of July was a particularly eventful day as GRIDLEY fired three Terriers, one ASROC, and one exercise torpedo. The missile destroyed two targets. On the 29th of July and again on the 30th, the 3" guns were fired at various targets. GRIDLEY returned to Long Beach on 4 August for a welcome period of leave and upkeep.

On 2 September, GRIDLEY once more took on weapons at Seal Beach in preparation for fleet operations. GRIDLEY's Dependents Cruise was held on 7 September the day before she got underway for Ropeval 3-71, a major First Fleet exercise for Task Group 170.8. On the 16th of September GRIDLEY was on the Pacific missile range and fired a total of seven Terriers before returning to Long Beach on the 17th.

All Weapons were off-loaded at Seal Beach on the 28th of September and the next day GRIDLEY entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for Restricted Availability (RAV) begin conversion to Navy distillate fuel, a cleaner burning fuel. On 21 December, GRIDLEY went out for local operations and equipment checkout. She returned the same day to the shipyard to continue the RAV. She remained there through the end of December 1971.

Enclosure (1)

Chronology of Events

- 01 Jan 71 NSAR in Tonkin Gulf as CTU 77.0.1 with USS T.E. CHANDLER (DD-717)
- 15 Jan 71 U/W for and at Ynakee Station in Tonkin Gulf
- 16 Jan 71 U/W for Yokosuka, Japan independently.
- 23 Jan 71 U/W for Sasebo, Japan
- 25 Jan 71 Arrived Sasebo, Japan
- 01 Feb 71 U/W for SPECOPS in Sea of Japan
- 02 Feb 71 Commenced Sea of Japan SPECOPS as CTU 71.0.4 with JOHN R. CRAIG (DD-885)
- 09 Feb 71 U/W for Sasebo
- 10 Feb 71 Arrived Sasebo
- 19 Feb 71 U/W for local ops and return to Sasebo
- 20 Feb 71 U/W for and commenced Sea of Japan SPECOPS as CTU 71.0.4 with USS HEPBURN (DE-1055)
- 27 Feb 71 U/W for Sasebo
- 28 Feb 71 Arrived Sasebo
- 07 Mar 71 U/W for Yokosuka
- 09 Mar 71 Arrived Yokosuka
- 10 Mar 71 U/W for Philippine Op area
- 15 Mar 71 Arrived Philippine Op area
- 16 Mar 71 U/W for and at Subic Bay, R.P.
U/W for HONG KONG, B.C.C.
- 18 Mar 71 Arrived Hong Kong
- 24 Mar 71 U/W for NSAR in Tonkin Gulf
- 25 Mar 71 GRIDLEY relieves USS HALSEY (DLG-23) at NSAR as CTU 77.0.1 with USS O'BRIEN (DD-725)

22 Apr 71 U/W for Subic Bay, R.P.
23 Apr 71 Arrived Subic Bay
26 Apr 71 U/W for Apra, Guam as CTU 70.0.5 with USS HOUISTER (DD-788)
and USS CHANDLER (DD-717)
30 Apr 71 Took on Fuel at Apra, Guam and departed for Midway Island
03 May 71 GRIDLEY assumes duties as CTU 15.9.3
05 May 71 Stop at Midway to allow Hollister and Chandler to take on
fuel. U/W for Pearl Harbor.
08 May 71 Arrived Pearl Harbor. U/W for Long Beach
13 May 71 Returned Long Beach
02 Jun 71 Capt. Eugene J. REIHER Relieves Capt. Robert L. THORSON as
CO GRIDLEY
17 Jun 71 Load out at Seal Beach
21 Jun 71 U/W for social op area
22 Jun 71 Fired ASROC in ASW exercises with USS OZBORN (DD-846)
23 Jun 71 Exercises with USS OZBORN, USS CHANDLER (DD-717) and
USS WORDEN (DLG-18)
24 Jun 71 Returned Long Beach
28 Jun 71 U/W for and at SOCAL Op area for local Ops with Task Unit
10.1.2
29 Jun 71 Fired 2 Terrier missiles
30 Jun 71 Fired 2 Terrier missiles
01 Jul 71 U/W for Monterey, Ca.
02 Jul 71 Arrived Monterey, Ca.
06 Jul 71 U/W for Manchester, Washington
09 Jul 71 Refueled at Manchester. U/W for and at Everett, Washington
13 Jul 71 U/W for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
21 Jul 71 Arrived Pearl Harbor

Enclosure (2)

26 Jul 71 U/W for and at Hawaii local op area
27 Jul 71 Fired 3 inch guns (both mounts)
30 Jul 71 Fired 3 inch guns (both mounts)
04 Aug 71 Returned Long Beach
05 Aug 71 Offload at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach
02 Sep 71 Loadout at Seal Beach
07 Sep 71 Dependents Cruise
08 Sep 71 U/W for SOCAL OP area for fleet exercises with Task
Group 17.0.8
16 Sep 71 U/W for and at Pacific Missile Range. Fired 7 Terriers
17 Sep 71 U/W for and return to Long Beach
28 Sep 71 Load Out Seal Beach
29 Sep 71 Return to Long Beach, Entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard for
Navy distillate fuel conversion
21 Dec 71 U/W for SOCAL OP area for Local Ops and equipment checkout.
RETURNED TO SHIPYARD
31 Dec 71 Moored Long Beach Naval Shipyard

Enclosure (2)