

USS GRIDLEY (CG-21)
FPO San Francisco 96666

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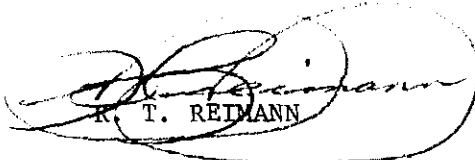
From: Commanding Officer, USS GRIDLEY (CG-21)
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09B9), Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History for calendar year 1981, submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS GRIDLEY (CG-21) Chronology of Events 1981
(2) USS GRIDLEY (CG-21) Basic Narrative 1981

1. In accordance with reference (a), and enclosures (1), (2) are forwarded for calendar year 1981.


R. T. REIMANN

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COMMAND HISTORY 1981
USS GRIDLEY (CG-21)
PART I - CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

01-05 Holiday leave and upkeep, San Diego.
06-08 Underway, Independent ship exercises.
12-16 Enroute to Acapulco, Mexico
16-19 Visited Acapulco, Mexico.
20-23 Enroute San Diego

FEBRUARY

24-17 Inport (readying for Operational Propulsion Recertification Examination.)
18-20 Underway
21-22 Inport, San Diego
23-27 Underway

MARCH

28-15 Inport, San Diego
16-20 Underway
21-22 Inport, San Diego
23-27 Underway
28-29 Inport, San Diego
30-31 Underway

APRIL

01-02 Underway
03-05 Inport, San Diego
06-17 Combat Systems Readiness Test
18-26 Upkeep, San Diego, Inport
27-29 Underway

MAY

30-03 Upkeep, Inport, San Diego
04-06 Operational Propulsion Recertification Examination.
07 Inport, San Diego
08-21 Readiness Exercises in the Eastern Pacific.
22-26 Pearl Harbor, Inport

JUNE

27-05 Readiness Exercise
05-07 Inport San Diego
08-11 Underway
12-30 Inport San Diego

JULY

01-05 Inport San Diego
06-20 Fleet Exercise
21-31 Pre Overseas Movement, Inport, San Diego

AUGUST

01-19 Pre-Overseas Movement, Inport, San Diego
20 Underway WESTPAC
20-28 Enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
29-31 Inport Pearl Harbor, HI

SEPTEMBER

01 Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
02-20 Enroute Subic Bay, Philippines
21-29 Inport Subic Bay, RP
30 Underway, Enroute Singapore

OCTOBER

01-06 Underway, Enroute Singapore; executed operation Merlion, a joint exercise with Battlegroup Charlie and Singapore Navy Units.
07-10 Inport Singapore
11-18 Underway, Enroute Indian Ocean
19-31 Operations, IO

NOVEMBER

01-30 Operations, I.O.
18-23 GONZO Exercise, joint, Battle Group Charlie with British Naval Units
29-10 December Operation Bright Star during this time period, GRIDLEY joined with Battle Group Charlie and an Amphibious Group Headed by USS SAIPAN to make an amphibious landing exercise on Oman.

DECEMBER

01-17 Operations, I.O.
18-19 Enroute to South China Sea
20-26 Operations, South China Sea
27 Enroute Pattaya Beach, Thailand
28-31 Inport, Pattaya Beach, Thailand

COMMAND HISTORY
USS GRIDLEY (CG-21)
Basic Narrative
01 Jan - 31 Dec 1981

Commanded by Captain J.J. MCCRATH, USN, GRIDLEY continued to observe holiday leave and upkeep through the period of 01 January to 05 January as she was moored at pier #4, San Diego Naval Station. Later in the month, 12 - 19 January, GRIDLEY transited to and visited Acapulco, Mexico. While underway, GRIDLEY's officers and crew conducted a number of underway exercises in preparation for Refresher Training scheduled for the month of March. GRIDLEY arrived San Diego Naval Station 23 January and began readying for the upcoming Operational Propulsion Recertification Examination.

GRIDLEY was underway 16 - 20 February and received Mobile Training Team assistance in preparation for the Operational Propulsion Recertification Examination. Later in the month, 23 - 27 February, GRIDLEY was again underway and continued to receive more assistance from the Mobile Training Team. 16 - 20 March, GRIDLEY began her first phase of Refresher Training while underway. GRIDLEY's two day in port period, 21 - 22 March, was immediately followed by the second phase of Refresher Training.

For the next five weeks, GRIDLEY found herself in constant preparation for Operational Propulsion Recertification Examination. 06 - 17 April GRIDLEY was underway conducting a Combat Systems Readiness Test. Underway 04 - 06 May, GRIDLEY successfully passed all phases of the Operational Propulsion Recertification Examination tests. Following one day inport in San Diego, Naval Station, 07, May, GRIDLEY was underway again conducting Readiness Exercises in the Eastern Pacific as she transited to Pearl Harbor, HI. There GRIDLEY enjoyed liberty for a period of five days, 22 - 26 May. Following that inport period, GRIDLEY continued to conduct Readiness Exercises during the transit to her homeport, San Diego Naval Station.

As GRIDLEY was now looking toward her 81 - 82 WESTPAC she began to undergo exercises preparing for the seven month deployment. During the months of June and July GRIDLEY was underway twenty-four days conducting exercises such as COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER/WEAPONS tracking exercises, Fleet Operational Range and Accuracy Check and visual communication drills.

From 22 July until 20 August, GRIDLEY was inport Naval Station San Diego, pier 4, taking care of housekeeping chores before deploying for WESTPAC. One of the highlights of this period was a Dependents' Day 13 August. Tours of GRIDLEY were given, as well as a demonstration of the Missile Launchers and a portion of the Ship's Damage Control Equipment.

Early on 20 August GRIDLEY was underway for points west. Enroute to Subic Bay, R.P., GRIDLEY laid over at Pearl Harbor for two days for briefings prior to her departing the THIRD FLEET and entering the SEVENTH FLEET. On 02 September GRIDLEY was underway enroute to the Indian Ocean by way of Subic Bay, R.P. and Singapore. GRIDLEY chopped from the THIRD to the SEVENTH FLEET on 10 September. Arriving at Naval Station Subic on 21 September for ten days, GRIDLEY underwent an inspection of preventative maintenance procedures. Leaving Subic at 0900, GRIDLEY began her transit to Singapore.

Prior to arriving Singapore, the Battlegroup joined with Singapore units for Merlion Exercises, 05 - 06 October. The afternoon of 06 October, GRIDLEY moored along Sembawang berthing at the British Naval Yards Singapore. Singapore was a liberty port for GRIDLEY sailors prior to an extended at sea period. Early Sunday, 11 October, GRIDLEY was underway for the Indian Ocean.

A visit was made 21 October on board GRIDLEY by RADM T. F. BROWN III, Battle Group Charlie Commander. Daily readiness operations were conducted by GRIDLEY during the remainder of October which included early air warnings exercises.

On 02 November, VADM M. S. HOLCOMB, COMSEVENTHFLEET, visited GRIDLEY and toured the ship's engine rooms and the combat information center areas. Later that month, GRIDLEY participated in a Gunnery Exercise with Battle Group Charlie as she towed the target spar. From 17 - 23 November, GRIDLEY participated in a joint exercise between a British Naval Units and the Battle Group. During that period, GRIDLEY hosted guests from HMS EURYALUS on 19 November.

Thanksgiving was observed aboard GRIDLEY, with a traditional Thanksgiving meal enjoyed by officers and crew. Beginning 29 November the battle group entered into amphibious exercises with an amphibious group headed by the USS SAIPAN. During that exercise, 29 November to 10 December, a landing was made on Oman. Also during that period, on 02 December, GRIDLEY was visited by RADM H. HARDESTY, COMMANDER TASK FORCE 70, who toured the ship and addressed her officers, Chief Petty Officers and crew.

14 December RADM T. F. BROWN visited GRIDLEY and addressed the officers and crew commending them for doing a professional job during the Indian Ocean exercises. 18 December GRIDLEY crossed the equator and all polywogs were initiated as SHELLBACKS. The 18 - 19 of December GRIDLEY was enroute to South China Seas and during the week of 20 - 26 December conducted early warning exercises in that area.

Following those exercises, GRIDLEY steamed for Pattaya Beach, Thailand for some well deserved liberty and arrived there after a seventy-eight day underway period. New Year's Eve found GRIDLEY anchored off Pattaya Beach and looking forward to the remainder of her deployment which was scheduled to take her into the Western Pacific and later to the Sea of Japan for cold weather exercises.