

USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)
FPO, San Francisco 96601

AOE2:RLR:rlr
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13 FEB 1971

Classified upon removal of enclosures (2) and (3)

From: Commanding Officer, USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-0989), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History for 1970 (OPNAV Report 5750-1); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of Outstanding Events
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annex

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

Wm M Russell
Wm. M. RUSSELL

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COMSERVPAC (PAO)
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USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)
CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

Period Covered: 1 January 1970 - 31 December 1970

1 JAN In port Yokosuka, Japan

3 JAN Underway for Subic Bay

8 JAN Arrived Subic Bay

12 JAN Underway for Yankee Station

17 JAN Visited by Mr. Buck Lanier, Military Editor for LONG BEACH INDEPENDENT and PRESS TELEGRAM

20 JAN Visited by RADM BERGNER, COMSERVGRU THREE and party

21 JAN Cook-out and band concert on fantail

23 JAN CAMDEN transferred a dummy Tartar missile to USS SOMERS using Stream Station Five. This was the first successful missile transfer by stream between CAMDEN and a receiving ship since arrival in WESTPAC.

2 FEB Awards Ceremony and briefing of the crew on Singapore

3 FEB Arrived Singapore

4 FEB Conducted sight-seeing tour of Singapore Island for 64 men

5 FEB Conducted sight-seeing tour of Singapore Island for 100 men

7 FEB Underway for Subic Bay. Crossed the Equator at 1656.

8 FEB Polywog initiation ceremony. Cook-out and band concert on fantail.

10 FEB Arrived Subic Bay

13 FEB Underway for Yankee Station and final line period of 1969-1970 deployment

25 FEB Ship's Medical Officer and Corpsmen rendered emergency medical assistance to a patient from USS RAINIER who was injured when struck on the head by a pallet of bombs. Patient was transferred to USS CORAL SEA for further transfer to Danang. Medical Officer and Corpsman accompanied patient to CORAL SEA.

26 FEB Cook-out and band concert on fantail

2 MAR Cook-out and band concert on fantail

3 MAR Arrived Subic Bay

4 MAR Cargo Handling Battalion TWO detached

6 MAR 13 volunteers painted school house in Olongopo as a community relations project

10 MAR Underway for Long Beach. Cook-out and band concert on fantail. Passed through San Bernadino Straits.

15 MAR Chopped to COMFIRSTFLT

17 MAR Crossed International Date Line

21 MAR 22 shipboard entertainers presented a Going Home Party on the Mess Deck

22 MAR Games tournament conducted on Mess Deck

26 MAR Helicopter Support Squadron THREE, Detachment 103 debarked

26 MAR Arrived Long Beach

8-9 MAR Seven CAMDEN Sailors-of-the-Month and their wives honored as guests of the Palm Springs, California Navy League

20 APR Underway to gas-free tanks

22 APR Tour of ship conducted for four Naval Reserve Officers

25 APR Dependents Cruise

7 MAY Served as Host Ship for homecoming of USS PLATTE (AO-24)

8-9 MAY Ship's Party in Hacienda Motor Hotel, San Pedro, California

11-12 MAY NEY Award Inspection

12 JUN Contributed \$1,011.00 to Navy Relief Drive

22 JUN Completed shipyard overhaul

25 JUN Onloaded JP-5 at Mobile Oil Company pier, San Pedro, California

26 JUN Onloaded NSFO at Union Oil Company pier, San Pedro, California

27 JUN Commenced ammo loadout at Seal Beach anchorage

30 JUN - 2 JUL Administrative/Post Deployment Inspection by COMSERVGRU ONE Staff

7 JUL Underway for ISE in Southern California Operations Area

10 JUL Arrived San Diego

14 JUL Underway for Refresher Training

17 JUL Returned to San Diego

19 JUL Underway for final week of Refresher Training

24 JUL Arrived Seal Beach for ammo loadout

24 JUL Six Palm Springs Navy League members were guests of CAMDEN enroute from San Diego to Seal Beach

1 AUG Conducted tour of ship for 40 members of the Boys Club of Palm Springs

3-4 AUG NTPI/NWSS Inspection

6 AUG Conducted tour of ship for 45 high school students

7-8 AUG Three CAMDEN Sailors-of-the-Month, two wives, and one officer were guests of the Palm Springs, California Navy League

14 AUG Dependents Briefing and Open House

19 AUG Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL relieved Captain Randall W. YOUNG as Commanding Officer in Long Beach, California

25 AUG Helicopter Squadron THREE, Detachment 103 embarked

26 AUG Underway for WESTPAC

4 SEPT Conducted UNREP of opportunity with USS ALAMO and USS JUNEAU

4-5 SEPT 30 shipboard entertainers presented a "Headin' WESTPAC" variety show

6 SEPT Cook-out and band concert on fantail

9 SEPT Personnel Inspection and Awards Ceremony

11 SEPT Arrived Subic Bay for load adjustment. Delivered twenty tons of Project Handclasp materials.

13 SEPT Presented \$201.00, contributed by the crew, to Co-ordinator of Philippine Flood Relief Fund, Naval Station, Subic Bay

13 SEPT Embarked EOD Team consisting of one Warrant Officer and two enlisted men

15 SEPT Three CAMDEN sailors assisted in distribution of flood relief materials in the central Philippines

20 SEPT Underway for Yankee Station

29 SEPT Visited by RADM BERGNER, COMSERVGRU THREE and party

30 SEPT Visited by ADM HYLAND, CINCPACFLT and VADM WEISNER, COMSEVENTHFLT and parties

8 OCT Arrived Subic Bay

9 OCT Visited by RADM O'BRIEN, COMSERVPAC and party during his WESTPAC orientation tour

13 OCT Underway to evade Typhoon JOAN

15 OCT Returned to Subic Bay

17 OCT Underway for Hong Kong

18 OCT Briefing for crew conducted on Hong Kong

19 OCT Arrived Hong Kong

24 OCT Underway for Yankee Station

29 OCT Visited by VADM WEISNER, COMSEVENTHFLT and
VADM EMPSON, Commander Far East Forces, R.N.

9 NOV Arrived Subic Bay

14 NOV Conducted sight-seeing tour of Manila for 27
men

19 NOV Collected \$4,470.55 (\$7.61 per man) for Com-
bined Federal Campaign

19 NOV Underway for Yankee Station

8 DEC Arrived Subic Bay

13 DEC Underway for Sasebo, Japan

14 DEC Briefing for crew conducted on Japan

15 DEC Christmas Party and Show conducted by CAMDEN
personnel

16 DEC Arrived Sasebo, Japan for mid-deployment upkeep

19-20 DEC Conducted sight-seeing tour of Nagasaki for
39 men

26-27 DEC Conducted sight-seeing tour of Nagasaki for
30 men

30 DEC Departed Sasebo for Subic Bay

31 DEC Enroute to Subic Bay

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BASIC NARRATIVE

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONS

While in EASTPAC, CAMDEN is assigned administratively to COMSERVGRU ONE and CTF 13. When deployed to the SEVENTHFLT West of 180° East, CAMDEN remains in the COMSERVGRU ONE administrative chain-of-command but reports also to COMSERVGRU THREE for administrative purposes and to CTF-73 operationally.

Captain Randall W. YOUNG commanded CAMDEN from 15 May 1969 until 19 August 1970 when he was relieved by Captain Wm. M. RUSSELL, CAMDEN's present Commanding Officer.

CAMDEN's home port is Long Beach, California.

CAMDEN embarked Helicopter Support Squadron THREE, Detachment 103, on 25 August 1970 prior to her deployment to the Western Pacific. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team TWO embarked on 13 September after the ship's arrival in the Philippines. These units were aboard at the end of the year.

As of 31 December 1970, CAMDEN's on board count included 35 officers and 598 enlisted men, including embarked detachments.

2. OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

CAMDEN completed her mid-deployment upkeep in Yokosuka, Japan on 3 January and proceeded to Subic for loadout; arriving 8 January. CAMDEN was back on Yankee Station on 14 January. During this line period, CAMDEN accomplished the first successful missile transfer by Stream since her arrival in WESTPAC.

From 3 through 7 February, CAMDEN visited Singapore where she enjoyed five days of well-earned liberty and relaxation. After crossing the Equator, CAMDEN arrived in Subic on 10 February with approximately 500 newly initiated Shellbacks.

After successfully completing her final line period of the deployment, CAMDEN departed Subic for Long Beach, via the San Bernadino Straits, on 10 March. CAMDEN arrived in Long Beach on 26 March. The next 30 days were occupied with routine upkeep and leave for all hands.

On 25 April, a Dependents Cruise was conducted for over 600 dependents and friends of CAMDEN, after which she entered a Restricted Availability status where post-deployment repairs were effected by the Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

Upon completion of the Restricted Availability, on 22 June, fuel was received from the Mobile and Union Oil Companies, San Pedro, and CAMDEN moved to Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, where service ammunition, missiles, and cargo ordnance were loaded. From 7 through 24 July, CAMDEN operated in the Southern California operations area where she underwent Refresher Training in preparation for her next WESTPAC deployment.

On 24 July, CAMDEN returned to Seal Beach and completed her ammunition loadout.

GROUP-4

-1-

Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years

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She then proceeded to Pier "E" where stores were loaded and final deployment preparations were made. On 19 August, Captain Wm. M. Russell relieved Captain Randall W. Young as Commanding Officer.

After embarking Helicopter Support Squadron THREE, Detachment 103, CAMDEN departed Long Beach for Subic Bay on 26 August. West of Hawaii CAMDEN received a request from COMPHIBRON ELEVEN for what became her first underway replenishment of the deployment. Several hundred combat Marines were returning home aboard USS JUNEAU and USS ALAMO. These ships had encountered three typhoons and were two days behind schedule with a low fuel supply. CAMDEN turned East and steamed with them along their course during the UNREP: permitting them to arrive in Long Beach on schedule.

CAMDEN departed for Yankee Station on 20 September for her first line period. This was to be a real test as over one-third of her personnel had reported aboard since the last deployment. She serviced 32 ships and never missed a commitment. It was during this period that CAMDEN's motto "We're Number TWO; We Try Harder" was coined. Also, during this period, CAMDEN was visited by Rear Admiral BERGNER, Commander Service Group THREE; Vice Admiral WEISNER, Commander SEVENTH Fleet; and Admiral HYLAND, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Upon her return to Subic Bay, on 9 October, she was visited by Rear Admiral O'BRIEN who had recently relieved Rear Admiral COMBS as Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

After another successful line period, CAMDEN proceeded to Hong Kong for five days of R&R (19 through 24 October). Upon departure from Hong Kong, she proceeded to Yankee Station for her second line period (25 October through 7 November). She then proceeded to Subic Bay for load-out and returned for her third line period (21 November through 6 December).

Following this third line period, CAMDEN returned to Subic Bay where she off-loaded ammunition to bring her draft to 31 feet in preparation for entering India Basin in Sasebo, Japan. On 16 December, she arrived in Sasebo for her mid-deployment upkeep. During this period the crew enjoyed extensive liberty and had opportunities to sample the culture and beauty of Japan.

On 30 December, CAMDEN departed Sasebo and, at year's end, was enroute to Subic Bay.

3. SPECIAL TOPICS

a. Restricted Availability, Long Beach, California

CAMDEN was assigned a restricted availability from 27 April through 28 June at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard in Long Beach, California. After a year of continuous operation, the engineering plant was given a well-deserved rest and the "hotel" services of electricity, steam, and water were taken from the pier.

Essential repairs were made on cargo winches, elevators, and Stream heads as well as numerous vital pumps for the main engines. The ship's boilers

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underwent overhaul and replacement of brickwork deteriorated by many thousands of hours of operation. The ship's crew utilized the time to renovate working and living spaces, conduct training, and normal routine maintenance.

b. Mid-deployment Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan

From 16 December through 30 December, CAMDEN was assigned a mid-deployment upkeep period in Sasebo, Japan. The largest United States naval vessel to moor in Sasebo's India Basin, CAMDEN received vital assistance from the Ship Repair Department, Sasebo and the Repair Ship USS HECTOR (AR-7) in correcting problems and ensuring readiness to complete the remainder of the deployment. Several main engine pumps were overhauled and CAMDEN's cargo cranes were removed for a complete re-work.

The availability was an excellent rejuvenation for the ship and an opportunity for the crew to enjoy Christmas in Japan.

c. Personnel Matters

As of 31 December 1970 CAMDEN's on-board count included 35 officers and 598 enlisted men, including embarked detachments. 108 men earned advancement in rate and 28 re-enlistments were recorded.

d. Awards and Commendations

Nine Officers and men were awarded the NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL, 27 were awarded the NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL, and 12 received COMSEVENTHFLT Letters of Commendation.

(1) NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Commander Raymond E. HELMS, Jr., USN
Lieutenant Commander David DILLEY, USN
Lieutenant Commander John R. MORGAN, USN
Lieutenant Commander Sterley B. VANPELT II, USN
Lieutenant (junior grade) Lawrence C. McBRIDE, USN
Chief Warrant Officer LeRoy R. MIDDLETON, USN
Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Samuel STINER, USN
Master Chief Machinist's Mate John KAISHIAN, USN
Radarman Third Class Allen E. COTT, Jr., USN

(2) NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Senior Chief Electronics Technician Walter C. ANDERSON, USN
Machinist's Mate Second Class Terry B. AVERILL, USN
Signalman First Class Dave E. BARNEY, USN
Chief Shipfitter John M. DUKE, USN
Boatswain's Mate Third Class Jimmy R. ELLIOTT, USN
Machinist's Mate Second Class Fred G. GARDINER, USN

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Machinery Repairman Second Class Jeffrey A. GUEST, USN
Boatswain's Mate Third Class David N. HENDRICH, USN
Machinist's Mate Second Class Bernard D. HOLTROP, USN
Lieutenant (junior grade) Edward J. KALUPA, USNR
Boatswain's Mate Second Class Noel W. LAWRENCE, USN
Communications Yeoman Third Class Thomas F. H. LEREW, USN
Boatswain's Mate Second Class Wayne A. LUSK, USN
Chief Gunner's Mate Ervin E. LLOYD, USN
Yeoman Third Class, Charles J. McHUGH, USN
Storekeeper Second Class Victor B. MONROE, USN
Electrician's Mate Second Class Albert L. NAISH, USN
Chief Yeoman Ernest R. NICHOLSON, USN
Radioman Second Class Danny E. PINSON, USN
Electronics Technician Second Class Dave R. RAYBURN, USN
Senior Chief Boiler Technician Robert F. RUHL, USN
Warrant Officer Halley L. SIMPSON, USN
Storekeeper Third Class Andrew W. STITH, Jr., USN
Storekeeper Second Class Dean E. WARDEN, USN
Lieutenant Thomas E. WATT, USN
Damage Controlman Second Class Samuel J. WELCH, USN
Lieutenant John F. WOLF, MC, USNR

(3) COMSEVENTHFLT LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Seaman David L. BOHN, USN
Fireman Floyd K. CRICK, USN
Boilerman First Class Robert Ray CUNNINGHAM, USN
Boatswain's Mate First Class Wendy W. K. DeCOSTA, USN
Personnelman Third Class Wilber D. EDMONDSON, USN
Boatswain's Mate Second Class John J. FLYNN, Jr., USN
Machinist's Mate Second Class Robert M. LUNDEEN, USN
Interior Communications Fireman Roger L. ROBINSON, USN
Steward First Class Alfonso F. ROSETE, USN
Engineman Third Class James F. ROTH, USN
Electrician's Mate Third Class Harlan E. THOMPSON, USN
Machinist's Mate First Class George TOOKS, Jr., USN

e. Communications

Communications recorded a total of 3,980 outgoing and 12,074 incoming messages for 1970.

f. Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE, Detachment 103

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE, located in Imperial Beach, California, provided the helicopter detachment for CAMDEN's third WESTPAC deployment. Detachment 103 was formed in July 1970 with LCDR Michael D. McClelland, USN as Officer-in-Charge. Five officers and 19 enlisted men flew and provided maintenance on two UH-46D helicopters.

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In three line periods, during the months of September through December 1970, 9,933 tons of cargo and 296 passengers were transferred to ships on Yankee Station. 408.9 flight hours were accumulated. During this period, aircraft availability averaged 91.4%.

g. Medical Activities

The Medical Department was manned by one Medical Officer, six Hospital Corpsmen, and four hospitalman strikers. During the year, there were 16 admissions to the Sick List. 336 injuries were treated. On 26 March, one UH-46D helicopter crashed into the sea and two survivors were rescued by CAMDEN. These men were treated in Sick Bay and were released with no apparent serious injuries. One man was air-evacuated during Refresher Training in July to the Naval Hospital, San Diego with a diagnosis of acute appendicitis. Two men were transferred to an aircraft carrier; one suffered a broken shoulder and the other suffered from amebic dysentery. There were no major outbreaks of disease. There were 8,604 Sick Call visits.

On numerous occasions, medical assistance was rendered to other ships in the form of consultations with CAMDEN's Medical Officer, medical supplies, or laboratory examinations.

h. Chaplain's Activities

In addition to conducting Services aboard CAMDEN, the Chaplain was guest speaker in two civilian churches and one Navy Chapel. Arrangements were made for men of other faiths to worship aboardship and in Services ashore. Lay Leaders of ships without Chaplains were counselled and provided with taped religious music and religious supplies. An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held with the Chaplain and the ship's religious lay leaders leading the worship. 516 men were counselled concerning personal problems. 46 Red Cross and 10 Navy Relief cases were handled.

The Chaplain co-ordinated three fund-raising campaigns in which \$5,725.44 was contributed to humanitarian agencies. Six sight-seeing tours of Singapore, the Philippines, and Japan were organized for 300 CAMDEN personnel. Three variety shows, utilizing shipboard talent, were presented for the enjoyment of the crew. A Christmas party/show was held enroute to Sasebo. At the party, every man aboard received a gift.

i. Supply and Logistics

The following represents underway/vertical replenishment data during 1970:

(1) Liquid Cargo (GALS)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
NSFO	32,422,614	23,098,809
JP-5	20,876,092	15,636,778
AV-GAS	70,973	96,000
Total Liquid Cargo Handled		92,201,365

(2) Ordnance (S/T)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
	13,342	8,075
Total Ordnance Handled		21,417
Retrograde Received		846

(3) Provisions (S/T)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
CHILL	267.2	28.5
FREEZE	218.2	32.8
DRY	<u>447.5</u>	<u>11.0</u>
	932.8	72.3

(4) PACFLAP/POL/BTLD GAS (S/T)

	<u>TRANSFERS</u>	<u>CONSOLS</u>
PACFLAP	105.3	6.2
POL	81.8	38.4
BTLD GAS	<u>43.3</u>	<u>18.7</u>
TOTAL	230.4	63.3

(5) Fleet Freight (S/T)

399

(6) Mail (S/T)

119.3

(7) Personnel

139

(8) Ships Alongside

278

(9) INREP Sasebo (S/T)

CHILL	1.3
FREEZE	24.4
DRY	<u>37.8</u>
TOTAL	63.5

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b. Biography of Commanding Officer

Captain William Mason Russell, USN, was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 14, 1925. He attended the University of Texas for one year, after which he entered the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

Captain Russell's initial assignment to duty in USS LEYTE (CV-32) was followed by flight training and subsequent sea duty assignments to Fighter Squadrons 702 and 22. He graduated as the outstanding student of Class 15, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, in 1956 and was Project Test Pilot for various attack carrier aircraft at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, until 1958.

In 1958 and 1959, Captain Russell served as Fighter and Ground Training Officer for VF-124 where he flew F8U Crusaders. From 1960 until 1961 he attended the Command Staff Course of the Naval War College. Upon completion of the course, he served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of VF-211 until 1963. Next he attended the Naval Post Graduate School where he earned a Masters degree in Management in 1964.

In July of 1964 Captain Russell was assigned as Personal Aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. He was ordered to the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) in January of 1966, where he served first as Navigator and later as Air Officer. In July 1967 he was assigned as Military Assistant in the Office of the Director Defense Research and Engineering, (OSD) and in August 1969 as a student in the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He assumed command of USS CAMDEN on 19 August 1970.

Captain Russell is married to the former Billie June Hughes of Palo Alto, California.

c. Biography of Executive Officer

Commander Raymond E. Helms, Jr., was graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1954 and entered the Navy in June of that year. His first duty assignment in July 1954 was as Communications Officer of USS WALDRON (DD-699). In April 1956 he was transferred to the Staff, Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO for duty as Staff Communications Officer.

Commander Helms' next assignment was as Executive Officer of USS WINDHAM COUNTY (LST-1170) beginning in February 1958. He continued to serve in WINDHAM COUNTY until February 1959 when he was transferred to the Staff, Commander Landing Ship Squadron FIVE, as Staff Operations and Plans Officer.

In June 1960, Commander Helms attended Navy Management School at the

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Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California where he earned a Master of Science degree in Management. Upon completion of the course in June 1961, he attended the Transportation Management School, Naval Supply Center, Oakland, California until December 1961.

Commander Helms was next assigned as Executive Officer, Military Sea Transportation Service Office, Manila; a billet he held until January 1964. In February of that year, he was ordered to USS CHICAGO (CG-11) in San Diego as Navigator and served until detached in April 1966.

Commander Helms commanded the Military Sea Transportation Service Office, Long Beach from 30 May 1966 to 5 February 1968. From March 1968 until March 1969, Commander Helms served on the Joint Staff of Commander Military Assistance Command, Vietnam with headquarters in Saigon. He reported to USS CAMDEN (AOE-2) on 14 April 1969.

Commander Helms and his wife, the former Miss Marguerite Allmann of Waconia, Minnesota, together with their three children, Cynthia, Raymond, and Christa, reside in Garden Grove, California.

d. Change-of-Command Ceremony

On 19 August 1970, Captain Wm. M. Russell, 485547/1310, USN relieved Captain Randall W. Young, 521989/1100, USN as Commanding Officer, USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).

The ceremony took place aboard CAMDEN at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California.

The ceremony was attended by Captain John S. Oller, Jr., USN, Commander Service Group ONE and local military and civilian dignitaries.

A reception following the ceremony was held in the Wardroom and Crew's Mess aboard CAMDEN.

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