



U. S. S. CHARLESTON (LKA-113)

FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

LKA113/11/tch
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09E9)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1); forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) CHARLESTON Chronology 1 January 1971 - 31 December 1971
(2) CHARLESTON Narrative 1 January 1971 - 31 December 1971
(3) CHARLESTON Documentary Annexes

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


C. E. BOGER

CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY

- 1-7 Inport, South Annex Norfolk, Virginia (TAV period with USS VULCAN AR-5)
- 8 Conclude TAV period with USS VULCAN AR-5
- 9-26 Inport, Norfolk
- 27-28 Ammo anchorage
- 29-31 Inport Norfolk

FEBRUARY

- 1-2 Inport Norfolk
- 3-4 Ammo anchorage
- 5-8 Inport Norfolk
- 9 U/W Davisville, Rhode Island
- 10-15 Inport Davisville, Rhode Island
- 16 U/W for Reindeer Station
- 27-28 Inport Monrovia, Liberia

MARCH

- 1 U/W for Port Louis, Mauritius
- 3 Cross point 00^o Long. 00^o Lat.
- 4-15 U/W for Port Louis, Mauritius
- 16-17 Inport Port Louis
- 18-19 U/W Reindeer Station
- 20 Arrive Diego Garica, commenced offload
- 21-25 Continued offload
- 26-30 U/W Singapore, Malaysia
- 31 Inport Singapore

APRIL

- 1 Change to Amphibious Squadron FOUR
- 1-3 Inport Singapore
- 4-5 U/W for Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam

6-7 Inport Da Nang

8-11 U/W Okinawa

9 Refuel Subic Bay, Phillipines

12 Inport Okinawa

13-20 U/W Pearl Harbor

21-23 Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

24-28 U/W San Diego, California

29-30 Inport San Diego

MAY

1-3 U/W Acapulco, Mexico

4-6 Inport Acapulco

7-10 U/W Panama

11 Arrive Panama

12 Transit Canal Zone

13-16 U/W Norfolk

17 Arrive Norfolk (USS CHARLESTON completes circumnavigation of globe)

17-31 Inport Norfolk

JUNE

1-14 Inport Norfolk

15-18 Ammo Anchorage

19-20 Inport Norfolk

21 U/W for TTY (Relieve EL PASO (LKA-117) Activate Caribbean Amphibious

23 Conduct Project Rice

25-27 Inport Norfolk

28 U/W Dependants Cruise

29-30 Inport Norfolk

JULY

1-5 Inport Norfolk
6 U/W Morehead City
7 Arrive Morehead City load BLT 1/6
7-10 U/W GTMO
11 Arrive GTMO (Conduct change of command Capt. WALLER relieved by
Capt. BOGER) U/W for local drills
12 Return GTMO
13 U/W Local drills, return GTMO 1400
14 U/W Local drills, return GTMO 1300
15 U/W Colon, Canal Zone
17-18 Inport Colon, Canal Zone
19 U/W Local Drills return 1700 Colon, Canal Zone
20 U/W Local Drills return 1730
21 U/W Local Drills return 1730
22 U/W Cartagena Colombia
23-25 Inport Cartagena
26 U/W Canal Zone
27 Arrive Canal Zone
28 U/W Kingston Jamaica
30-31 Inport Kingston

AUGUST

1 U/W GTMO Arrive GTMO 1800
2 U/W Morehead City
5 Arrive Morehead City, U/W Norfolk
6-31 Inport Norfolk, South Annex

SEPTEMBER

1-8 Inport Norfolk
9 U/W Morehead City
10 Arrive Morehead City U/W Vieques
15-16 Anchored Vieques (conducted amphibious landing - offload B/T 1/6)
17-21 Participated in ESCORT TIGER X
22 Inport Roosevelt Roads
23-30 Inport San Juan

OCTOBER

1 U/W Vieques
2 Anchored Vieques (re-embark B/T 1/6)
3 U/W Aruba Netherlands Antilles
4-6 Inport Aruba
7-8 U/W Vieques (participated in DORIA SALUTE)
9-11 Anchor Vieques (conduct amphibious landing)
12 Inport Roosevelt Roads
13 U/W Vieques (conduct over horizon landing)
14 U/W San Juan
15-17 San Juan
18-20 U/W Curacao
20 U/W St Thomas
22 Anchored St Thomas, U/W Morehead
27 Inport Morehead City, U/W Norfolk
28-31 Inport Norfolk

NOVEMBER

- 1-14 Inport Norfolk
- 15 U/W Morehead City, (conducted emergency sortie)
- 16 Inport Morehead City (onloaded BLT 1/6, U/W)
- 17 Inport Morehead City (offloaded BLT 1/6, U/W Norfolk)
- 18 Arrive Norfolk
- 19-30 Inport Norfolk

DECEMBER

- 1-31 Inport Norfolk
- 27 Deactivate Caribbean Amphibious Ready Group

USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113) NARRATIVE, 1 JANUARY 1971 - 31 DECEMBER 1971

1. Command Organization and Relations

a. Commanding Officer - Captain Edward C. WALLER III continued as commanding officer of the CHARLESTON until 11 July when he was relieved by Captain C. E. BOGER.

b. Homeport - Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia

c. Mission - Transport and land combat equipment and material with attendant personnel, ammunition, and supplies during amphibious assault by means of embarked landing craft and by transport helicopters provided by other ships.

d. Composition of command - The ship was assigned to Amphibious Squadron 10 until 1 April at which time it was transferred to Amphibious Squadron 4. As of 31 December 1971 the personnel manning level was 320 enlisted and 24 officers.

2. Narrative. The USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113) brought in the new year making preparations for an around-the-world cruise. The world cruise began the 9th of February when the ship got U/W for Davisville, R. I. The ship spent five days in loading and then proceeded across the Atlantic Ocean on her way to the island of Diego Garcia. On the journey to Diego Garcia the ship visited Monrovia, Liberia and Port Louis, Mauritius.

Two days out of Monrovia, Liberia the ship crossed the equator at the prime meridian, thus making the crew "golden shellbacks." Following appropriate ceremonies, the ship continued onward to arrive at Diego Garcia on the 20th of March. The offload commenced immediately and all of CHARLESTON's cargo was discharged in five days.

On the return trip to Norfolk the ship visited Singapore, Da Nang, Subic Bay, Okinawa, San Diego, Acapulco, and Panama. In Da Nang the CHARLESTON loaded marine equipment and supplies for offload in Okinawa. In Subic Bay the ship loaded OV-10 aircraft which were offloaded at Pearl Harbor. The transit of the Panama Canal was accomplished on the 12th of May and the CHARLESTON arrived in Norfolk on the 17th of May having traveled around the earth.

On June 21 the CHARLESTON was activated as part of the Caribbean Amphibious Ready Group. As part of the Caribbean Amphibious Ready Group the ship was on call until its relief on 27 December 1971. On the 6th of July the ship was U/W for Morehead City to onload BLT 1/6. The ship then proceeded to the Caribbean where it conducted various amphibious landings and exercises and visited Colon, Panama; Cartagena, Columbia; and Kingston, Jamaica. The CHARLESTON returned to Norfolk on the 6th of August.

Enclosure (2)

On the 9th of September the ship made a second deployment as part of the Ready Group. Upon unloading BLT 1/6 at Morehead City the ship proceeded to the island of Vieques. During this deployment the ship conducted amphibious landings and participated in Escort Tiger X and Doria Salute. Escort Tiger X was designed to test the ship's ability to respond to civil disorders and insurgency actions. Doria Salute was a joint U.S. - Dutch amphibious operation. The ship visited in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Oranjestad, Aruba. On October 28 the CHARLESTON returned to Norfolk.