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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS ERNEST G. SMALL (DD-838)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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5000
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12 November 1970

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From: Commanding Officer, USS ERNEST G. SMALL (DD-838)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9) Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of Highlights
(2) Basic Narrative

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


W. C. SYNSTAD

Copy to:
COMDESRON ELEVEN

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Reg 17341X

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CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS 1970

01-11 JAN Leave and Upkeep, Pearl Harbor

12-16 JAN Underway for COMPTUEX 1-70 with USS SAMPLE (DE1048), USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22) and USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16)

17-18 JAN Upkeep, Pearl Harbor

19-20 JAN Gunnery Exercises - Kahoolawe

21 JAN - 18 FEB Upkeep, Pearl Harbor

19-20 FEB Underway for ISE

21 FEB ORI

22-26 FEB Upkeep, Pearl Harbor

27 FEB Underway for FORACS

28 FEB - 1 MAR Upkeep, Pearl Harbor

02-10 MAR Enroute Western Pacific

10 MAR CHOP to SEVENTH Fleet

10-15 MAR Enroute Subic

16-18 MAR MA Subic

19-20 MAR Enroute Yankee Station

21-30 MAR TG 77.5, Special Ops Yankee Station

31 MAR Enroute RVN

01-05 APR TG 70.8.9, NGFS II CTZ

06 APR Enroute Yankee Station

07-10 APR TG 77.5, Special Ops Yankee Station

11-13 APR TG 77.5, Enroute Sasebo

14-24 APR TG 71.5, PHIBLEX Golden Dragon

25-28 APR TG 77.5, Enroute Yankee Station

29-30 APR TG 77.5, Special Ops Yankee Station

01-02 MAY TG 77.4, Enroute Yokosuka

ENCLOSURE (1)

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03 MAY TG 77.4, Enroute Subic
04 MAY TG 77.4, MA Subic
05-06 MAY Enroute South SAR
07-08 MAY TU 77.0.3, South SAR
09-16 MAY TG 77.5, Special Ops Yankee Station
17-18 MAY Enroute Subic
18-31 MAY Upkeep Subic
01-02 JUN Enroute Yankee Station
03-13 JUN TG 77.3, Special Ops Yankee Station
14 JUN TG 77.3, Enroute Subic
15-19 JUN TG 77.3, SAR Mission
20-23 JUN TG 77.3, Upkeep Subic
24 JUN TG 77.3, Enroute Hong Kong
25-30 JUN TG 77.3, Visit Hong Kong
01-02 JUL TG 77.3, Enroute Yankee Station
03-07 JUL TG 77.3, Special Ops Yankee Station
07-10 JUL Surveillance Ops
11 JUL Enroute Subic
12-15 JUL Upkeep Subic
16-18 JUL Enroute RVN
19-20 JUL TG 70.8.9 NGFS III MR
21-28 JUL TG 70.8.9 NGFS IV MR
29 JUL - 05 AUG TG 70.8.9 NGFS III MR
06 AUG Enroute Bangkok
07-11 AUG Visit Bangkok
12-17 AUG Enroute Kaohsiung (BSF Subic 16 AUG)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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18-19 AUG Visit Kaohsiung
20-23 AUG Enroute Yokosuka
24-26 AUG MA Yokosuka
27-29 AUG Enroute OUT-CHOP
29 AUG - 03 SEP Enroute Pearl Harbor
04 SEP Arrived Pearl Harbor
05-10 SEP Post Deployment Leave Period
11 SEP Underway for West Loch, offloading all ammunition
12-30 SEP Preparation for INSURV, inport Pearl Harbor
01 OCT ERNEST G. SMALL leaves active fleet
02-05 OCT Preparation for INSURV
06-08 OCT INSURV
08-13 OCT Preparation for Inactivation
14 OCT Change of Command - LCDR W. C. SYNSTAD relieves CDR J. P. CROMWELL Jr.
14 OCT - 12 NOV Inactivation and Preparation for Decommissioning
13 NOV Decommissioned

ENCLOSURE (1)

3

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BASIC NARRATIVE

1. Operations, Training, and Inspections.

In the year 1970, ERNEST G. SMALL was administratively assigned to COMDESRON ELEVEN within DESFLOT FIVE, and was assigned the homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Expecting to deploy to the Western Pacific in March, a multi-faceted and comprehensive training program was implemented. ERNEST G. SMALL participated in COMPTUEX 1-70 which provided her officers and crew much needed experience in Gunnery, ASW, and Shiphandling. The value of these exercises was realized when the ship qualified in gunnery at Kahoolawe in only one day.

ERNEST G. SMALL departed Pearl Harbor in early March for the Western Pacific, where she displayed her versatility as a ready destroyer. The vast training period implemented earlier was continued, including the subjects of seamanship, ASW, intelligence gathering, AAW, gunnery, engineering procedures and casualty control, 3M indoctrination, and damage control. Included in the varied list of exercises and operations in which ERNEST G. SMALL participated were: plane guarding for CVAs on Yankee Station, NGFS in I, II, III, and IV Corps Vietnam, mutual ASW services with SSS, PHIBLEX Golden Dragon, and two transit exercises with USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) and COMDESRON ELEVEN. During the transit home, a Honolulu police officer, Roland NAAUAO, gave safe-drive lectures to the crew. This was a continuation of ERNEST G. SMALL's extensive driver's training program, which has sent more than 250 men to the National Safety Council's Safe Driving Course given at the Pearl Harbor Naval Base Police Station.

ERNEST G. SMALL received its full share of inspections before, during, and after her deployment. On 9 January, she received her pre-deployment ordnance review from NOSSO Pearl Harbor. The inspectors were amazed at the outstanding condition of the ordnance and fire control equipment. An administrative inspection and distant duty preparation inspection was given by COMDESRON ELEVEN in early February. An adjective grade of GOOD and a numerical grade of 84 was received and the ship was judged ready for deployment. A concurrent 3M inspection was held and a grade of 83.6 was received.

No more formal inspections were held but a command imposed series of material inspections proved beneficial in maintaining material and operational readiness. Small problems were noted and corrected before they became big ones.

Another 3M inspection was held by COMDESRON ELEVEN in August and ERNEST G. SMALL received an outstanding grade of 92.8. Weapons department achieved a perfect score of 100 in this inspection. An INSURV inspection was held by SUBINSURVPAC in early October from which ERNEST G. SMALL was declared unfit for further duty. Inactivation procedures were ended and preparations for decommissioning were started. In early November, three members of the Royal Hellenic Navy, headed by Rear Admiral Aviamapolis, inspected the ship as she was placed for sale as a part of the Military Assistance Program. Her commission pennant was hauled down for the last time on 13 November as she was officially decommissioned.

ENCLOSURE (2)

2. Special Training.

ERNEST G. SMALL provided special training for both USN first class Midshipmen and RVN Aspirants. The two Aspirants, Mr. NGHIA and Mr. Am, embarked in Subic Bay, P.I., in March for two months of intensive shipboard training. They were rotated through Weapons, Operations, and Engineering departments, and stood Bridge and CIC watches as would an American Junior Officer. The language problem created a number of difficulties at first, but these were quickly overcome and the two Vietnamese were even allowed to Conn the ship on Yankee Station.

ERNEST G. SMALL also hosted two first class Midshipmen; Michael Miernicki and John Martin were heloed on board in June on Yankee Station and remained on board approximately six weeks. They went through a program similar to the Vietnamese, except that it was far more thorough and included more of the duties of a division officer. They stood Officer of the Deck watches inport and Junior Officer of the Deck underway, enabling them to fulfill their training requirements.

3. Community Relations.

Although at sea for more than 140 days during the year, ERNEST G. SMALL also undertook a series of community projects. While in Subic Bay in May, her crewmembers donated over \$500 to help defray costs of an operation to correct the birth defects of a six year old girl. After returning to Hawaii, they donated a new set of Americana Encyclopedia to the St. John's school in the underprivileged Honolulu district of Kalihi.

4. Awards.

ERNEST G. SMALL compiled an outstanding record of reliability in WestPac, meeting all of her commitments and many of her sister ship's. Captain CROMWELL, in appreciation for the hard work put in by the crew, made many recommendations for awards to COMSEVENTHFLT and also wrote letters of commendation to others.

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MMCS R. B. ST. JOHN

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

BT1 J. H. BECK

BM2 T. A. CECERE

LT L. W. CHASELS

MM2 R. D. FLETCHALL

MM1 W. R. GREEN

ET1 R. S. HOLLAND

ETR2 G. E. LUEBKE

LT G. K. REYNOLDS

RM1 J. R. RICHARDSON

DK1 C. K. SHOOP

LT W. C. TRUESDELL

MM2 K. R. WEATHERS

COMSEVENTHFLT LETTER OF COMMENDATION

SN J. L. ANDERSON

SH2 J. BANDARA

LTJG S. W. BATES

IC1 E. G. BECKER

STC J. M. BELEC

RM2 A. DYRE

RD2 W. C. FAHRINGER

MMFN P. F. FISK

MMC A. W. GRALEY

BT2 HATTER

MM3 G. A. MC GOUGH

GMG1 H. D. MILLER

GMG3 B. W. MORTON

LTJG D. H. NASH

EM1 B. M. O'BRIEN

COMSEVENTHFLT LETTER OF COMMENDATION (Cont'd)

MM3 M. J. BURT	MM3 W. C. HENGSTLER	PC2 R. M. PALINKAS
BT3 L. E. CAMPBELL	LTJG S. C. KARON	MM2 R. N. PEASE
MM3 D. CARBONELL	BT3 R. D. KNUTSON	BT2 W. E. RICHEY
MM2 R. J. CARTER	RD2 R. S. LASCELLE	ET3 L. J. ROBINSON
CS1 J. W. CHISHOLM	SKC W. T. F. LOO	MM3 L. M. SMART
MM2 D. B. COCITA	GMG3 E. H. LENINGTON	GMGC K. E. SMITH
RD2 R. D. CULLETON	BTC B. W. MARTIN	STG2 G. E. WIRICK
BT2 B. R. DUNBAR		

COMMANDING OFFICER LETTER OF COMMENDATION

RD3 D. L. BERRY	RM2 D. R. KENNEDY	MM3 T. E. ROWE
MM1 W. A. BOLIN	MM2 R. H. KLEMM	SN W. L. SAUL
SM3 J. C. BYRD	RDC N. LACY	SN T. B. SEAGRAVE
SN L. S. CARDELLA	EM3 J. B. LAWLER	RM3 C. D. SETTLE
BT1 D. N. CARLEY	SN J. A. LUCHT	RD3 L. W. STEPHENS
RM1 B. CARVALHO	YN2 T. C. MORRIS	RD3 D. R. STICKNEY
RDSN L. A. GAYLORD	BT3 W. D. MURPHY	TM2 N. VALDEZ
SN G. A. GODDARD	RD2 PECHALONIS	RD2 C. P. VANGELDER
MM3 L. H. HAMADA	EM3 G. M. POFF	SF1 C. C. WHITE
EM2 B. L. JARRETT	DC2 J. S. REHBERGER	SN R. R. YARBEROUGH
SN C. C. JONES	FTG3 M. K. REINGARDT	