

U.S.S. HORNET (CVS 12)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1968
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Ser

28 FEB 1969

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HORNET (CVS-12)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: 1968 OPNAV Report 5750-1; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) HORNET Historical Summary for 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


M. D. MARSH
By direction

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9) (L/atch 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 3.f, & 3.g)
CINCPACFLT (L/atch 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 3.f, & 3.g)
COMNAVAIRPAC (L/atch 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 3.f, & 3.g)

Reg. 1094 X
3/7/69
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1968 HISTORICAL SUMMARY
USS HORNET (CVS-12)

1. CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS.

a. HORNET remained in a drydock and overhaul period until May. From 20 May until 29 September, she operated in and out of Long Beach Naval Base, conducting sea trials, underway training, individual ship exercises, and participating in ASW Exercises and her Operationsl Readiness Inspection (ORI). On 30 September, ASWGRU FIVE, consisting of HORNET (as flagship), DESRON 31 (less USS DAVIDSON and USS E. G. SMALL), and CVSG-57 left the continental United States enroute to Hawaii for their Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE). After completing ORE and spending four days in Pearl Harbor for re-supply, HORNET was underway for Japan and operations with the SEVENTH Fleet. After having had the duties of TG 70.4 turned over to her in Yokosuka, HORNET deployed for duties on Yankee Station. HORNET visited Hong Kong and Sasebo, Japan as breaks from her "line" periods. She also participated in an ASW exercise, Exercise Beacon Lamp 1-68. The year's end found HORNET in Sasebo for the holidays.

2. BASIC NARRATIVE.

a. On 23 February 1968, CAPT Gordon H. ROBERTSON was relieved as Commanding Officer USS HORNET (CVS-12) by CAPT Jackson A. STOCKTON, in ceremonies held aboard HORNET while in her homeport of Long Beach, California. Guest speaker at the change-of-command was RADM William J. MORAN, Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Group THREE.

b. HORNET's assigned Air Group, CVSG-57, was embarked from 6 to 12 July, 18 to 25 July, 1 to 11 August, 22 to 28 August, and from 30 September to 31 December. CVSG-57 is composed of VS-35, VS-37, HS-2, and VAW-111 Det 12.

c. From 1 January until 15 May, HORNET was in an extended overhaul period, which began on 15 November 1967. She was in drydock from 27 November 1967 until 16 January 1968, when she berthed at Pier #1, Naval Shipyard, Long Beach. On 6 and 7 April, HORNET conducted a "Fast Cruise" while alongside the dock. The purpose of this "Cruise" was to indoctrinate the new members of the crew and refamiliarize the "old hands". On 10 April, HORNET went to sea for a day of Machinery trials. She was at sea again on 22 and 23 April for Electronic trials and on 2 and 3 May for Radio Frequency Interference trials.

d. On 16 May, having completed her overhaul period, HORNET moved to Seal Beach to onload ammunition in preparation for training and operations. On 20 May, HORNET sailed for the Southern California operating areas to conduct individual ship's exercises. On 28 May, after spending a weekend in San Diego, she was again off the California coast for Refresher Training which ended 14 Jun. On 24 June, HORNET again put out to sea for carrier qualifications. From 29 June to 5 July, she was in Long Beach for upkeep.

Enclosure (1)

From 6 to 12 July, HORNET participated in HUKASWEX 7-68, returning to Long Beach for upkeep during the period 12 to 17 July. From 18 to 25 July, she participated in HUKASWEX 8-68, then returned to Long Beach from 25 to 31 July. From 1 to 8 August, HORNET was in HUKASWEX 9-68 and from 9 to 11 August, HUKASWEX 10-68, her Operationsl Readiness Inspection (ORI). From 12 to 21 August, she was in Long Beach for upkeep and back out to sea from 22 to 28 August for HUKASWEX 10A-68. From 28 August to 29 September, HORNET remained in Long Beach in preparation for deployment to SEVENTH Fleet, going to sea only from 4 to 8 September for carrier qualifications.

e. On 30 September, HORNET left CONUS for deployment to SEVENTH Fleet. From 1 to 8 October, while in Hawaiian waters, she participated in HUKASWEX 11-68, then stopped at Pearl Harbor for one day to re-supply. From 10 to 13 October HORNET participated in the ASWGRU FIVE Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE), following which she spent four days in Pearl Harbor for rest and re-supply.

f. HORNET departed Hawaii bound for Yokosuka, Japan, on 18 October arriving there for turnover with the USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20) on 26 October. On 30 October, she left Yokosuka for her first period on Yankee Station. Just prior to arriving on the "line", word was received of the bombing halt and accordingly, HORNET conducted her mission of Surface - Sub-surface Surveillance on a station off the coast, south of the DMZ. HORNET departed station on 14 November and commenced participation in an ASW exercise, Exercise Beacon Lamp 1-68 (see attachment 3.g). On the morning of 19 November, she was headed for Hong Kong, arriving there on 22 November and remaining until 27 November. On 28 November, HORNET was headed back to Yankee Station, remaining there from 29 November until 17 December. On 18 December, she left the line bound for Sasebo, Japan, arriving there 23 December for the holiday period.

g. During the year 1968, 7,554 landings were made on HORNET's flight deck. Of these, 2,522 were helicopter landings, 4,823 were made by propeller-driven aircraft, and 209 were jet landings. Catapult launches were as follows: port "Cat", 2,176 prop and 11 jet for 2,187 total. Starboard "Cat", 1,601 prop and 195 jet for 1,796 total. Grand total "Cat" shots for 1968 was 3,983. For the flight time logged by CVSG-57, the visiting jets, and fuel passed to accompanying destroyers, HORNET's V-4 division issued over 1,000,000 gallons of Aviation gasoline (AV/GAS) and over 1,250,000 gallons of jet fuel (JP-5).

h. For the year's steaming, HORNET logged 46,162.5 engine miles. She consumed 1,050,960 gallons of Naval Standard Fuel Oil (NSFO) in port and 6,310,127 gallons of NSFO while underway, for a total consumption of 7,361,087 gallons.

i. On 13 June, LTJG Rosedale of VS-35 made the 103,000th arrested landing on HORNET. He was followed by LCDR S. I. Stocking of VS-35 who, on 7 July, made the 104,000th arrest. On 26 August, LT E. A. Ashford of VS-37 made the 105,000th and on 7 September, LCDR H. D. Neilan, flying HORNET's C-1A, made the 106,000th arrest. On 14 November, LT Rick Birkemose of VS-35 made the 107,000th arrested landing on HORNET's flight deck.

j. On 8 December, HORNET played host to RADM GEIS, Chief of Naval Information. The admiral was aboard to learn of our mission on Yankee Station and to brief the crew on how the Navy tells its story. On 14 December, HORNET was visited by ADM J. J. HYLAND, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet and VADM W. F. BRINGLE, Commander SEVENTH Fleet. Admiral HYLAND briefed the crew over HORNET closed-circuit television on our role on Yankee Station. During these visits, Mr. Buck LANIER, the military editor of the Long Beach Independent-Press Telegram, was aboard interviewing HORNET crewmen who live in Long Beach and the immediate surrounding areas. On 15 December, Mr. Wayne SHEIRBORN, National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, and Mr. B. J. MAILE, National Judge Advocate for the same organization, came aboard for an orientation of ASW operations. Arriving at the same time was Mr. Cale YARBOROUGH, the stock-car driver. Mr. YARBOROUGH showed a racing movie and answered the crew's questions about his sport and profession. On 29 December, popular singer Neil SADAKA entertained HORNET's crew from 1600 to 1700 in the hangar bay.

3. DOCUMENTARY ANNEXES.

a. On 23 November, the following message was received:

FM: COMNAVAIRPAC

TO: USS HORNET

BT

UNCLAS

HORNET ANNIVERSARY

1. HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO USS HORNET, HER OFFICERS AND MEN, AS THEY OBSERVE HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY 29 NOV 1968.

2. FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO THE VIETNAM CONFLICT, A PERIOD OF ALMOST 200 YEARS, EIGHT HORNETS HAVE ADDED THEIR STING TO THE COLORFUL PAGES OF NAVAL HISTORY. THE SPIRIT OF HORNET CREWMEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN BONDED BY THE COMMON CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

3. IF ALL OFFICERS AND MEN FROM EARLIER HORNET'S WERE TO BOARD YOUR CARRIER TODAY, THEY WOULD SURELY BE AWED BY THE SIZE OF THE LATEST OF THE LINE, BUT THEY WOULD BE PROUD TO FIND THAT SHE SAILS WITH THE SPIRIT THAT MADE ALL HORNETS STAND OUT AMONG THE FIGHTING SHIPS OF OUR NAVY.

4. MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY

VADM A. M. SHINN.

BT

b. Biography of Command Officer.

Captain Jackson Allison STOCKTON was born in Dallas, Texas on 29 January 1921.

He attended East Central State College located in Ada, Oklahoma, and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, graduating from the latter in June 1943. Captain STOCKTON participated in seven Landing Support Bombardments and the Battles of Empress Augusta Bay and Leyte Gulf while serving on board the USS DENVER (CL-58). He earned the Navy Unit Commendation for the action at Empress Augusta Bay. Duty as a student naval aviator followed at the U. S. Naval Air Training Command. In August, 1946, Captain STOCKTON was assigned to duty with Patrol Squadron THREE based at Coco Solo, Canal Zone followed by duty as Officer-in-Charge of the Naval Auxiliary Station, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In January 1951, he was assigned to the staff of Commander Fleet Air Wing THREE and in July 1953, to the Aviation Plans Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D. C. This was followed by a tour of duty with Air Anti-Submarine Squadron 38 (VS-38) in 1955-57. Captain STOCKTON served as the Executive Officer of VS-39 then operating aboard the USS LEYTE (CVS-32) and in December 1958, he became the Commanding Officer of VS-39 which was then operating aboard the USS RANDOLPH (CVS-15) and the USS TARAWA (CVS-40). He later served as Operations Officer of the USS SALISBURY SOUND (AV-13) in 1960-61 prior to becoming the Air Group Commander of CVSG-53 embarked in USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33) in October 1961. In November 1962, he was again assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Aviation Plans Division. Graduating from the National War College in June 1965, Captain STOCKTON assumed the duties of Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) with Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Force, Atlantic where he served until assuming command of USS ELKOMIN (AO-55) in October 1966. Captain STOCKTON last served on the Staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia. Awards and medals include the Navy Unit Citation, the American Defense, the American Campaign, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign (4 battle stars), World War II Victory, the Philippine Presidential Citation and the National Defense Service Medals. Captain STOCKTON is married to the former Hester Louise HAMMOND of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They have two children, Jackson Jr. and Herbert, both midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

- c. Photograph of Commanding Officer, attached separately.
- d. Roster of Officer, attached separately.
- e. The HORNET's BUZZ is the official ship's magazine, printed monthly. The January, February, April, June and July editions are attached separately.
- f. Captain STOCKTON has sent a "Family-Gram" each month while HORNET was deployed in SEVENTH Fleet. Attached separately are copies of the Family-Grams covering October, November and December.
- g. Exercise Beacon Lamp 1-68 Operation Order, attached separately.