

U.S.S. KENNEBEC AO-36
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KENNEBEC (AO-36)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington
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Subj: OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST. 5720.12A

Encl: (1) USS KENNEBEC (AO-36) Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with
reference (a).


E. T. ALBERTA

USS KENNEBEC (AO-36)
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1968

- January
- 1 - In port at Hunter's Point
 - 3 - Conducted operations in San Francisco Operations Area
 - 8 - Departed for San Diego Operations
 - 12 - Arrival in San Diego
 - 18 - Underway for San Francisco
 - 19 - Arrived in San Francisco
- February
- 5 - Departed San Francisco for San Diego and Refresher Training
 - 23 - Completed Refresher Training underway for San Francisco
- March
- 9 - Departed San Francisco for WestPac
 - 16 - Arrived at Pearl Harbor
 - 18 - Departed Pearl Harbor
 - 27 - UNREP/ED KEARSARGE and escorts
- April
- 3 - Arrived Subic Bay
 - 5 - Departed Subic for Market Time
- April to July
- 5
 - 9 - Conducted UNREP operations in Vietnam theater
 - 10 - Departed Subic Bay for Hong Kong
 - 12 - Arrived in Hong Kong
 - 17 - Departed Hong Kong for Yokosuka
 - 18 - Conducted Training Exercise with units of Chinese Nationalist Navy

July 23 - Arrived Yokosuka

August 5-7 - Received INSURV inspection

19 - Departed Yokosuka for Sasebo

22 - Arrived Sasebo

30 - Departed Sasebo, Japan for Subic Bay and Vietnam

August to September 30

22 - Conducted UNREP Operations

22 - Departed Subic Bay enroute to San Francisco

October 14 - Arrived in San Francisco

November 18 - KENNEBEC arrived at Bethlehem Steel Shipyard San Francisco, to commence dry dock phase of overhaul

22 - Commander Service Squadron Seven awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" to the KENNEBEC

December 2 - KENNEBEC arrived at Pacific Ship Repair, San Francisco, for regular overhaul

ROSTER OF OFFICERS 1968

Commanding Officer, CAPT. EDWARD THOMAS ALBERTA, 486252/1100
Executive Officer, LCDR CARL THOMAS BRAUN, 595953/1100
Operations Officer, LT KENNETH RAE CLARK, 653115/1100
Engineering Officer, LT CHARLES L. BLAKE, 652815/1100
First Lt., LT WILLIAM J. BARKSDALE, 681304/1100
Supply Officer, LTJG DAVID GOLDSTEIN, 705173/3105
Communications Officer, LTJG EARL W. RUPP, 709063/1105
Navigation Officer, LTJG REX L. LIVENGOOD, 710514/1100
Damage Control Assistant, LTJG RICHARD F. OBENCHAIN, 705975/1100
Gunnery Officer, LTJG RICHARD F. WELLS, 725962/1105
Supply Officer, LTJG KENNETH W. FITZGERALD, 719000/3100
Auxiliaries Officer, ENS. STEPHEN J. G. QUIRK, 728425/1100
MPA Officer, ENS. WILLIAM J. SCOLARI, 729053/1105
Communications Officer, ENS. DONALD B. SQUIRES, 733224/1105
Ship's Boatswain, WO-1 IVAN G. MATHERS, 757350/7132

USS KENNEBEC (AO-36)
COMMAND HISTORY 1968

The USS KENNEBEC (AO-36) is a unit of Service Squadron SEVEN, and Service Group ONE. KENNEBEC is homeported at San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard, Hunter's Point. Captain Edward T. ALBERTA, USN, is the Commanding Officer.

During 1968 the primary mission of KENNEBEC was to provide services to units of the Seventh Fleet in the Vietnam theater. To this end KENNEBEC performed over 300 underway replenishments on the line in Vietnam, which involved not only the transfer of NSFO and JP-5, but also the transfer of 5" ammunition, mail, and provisions.

The months of January and February were involved with the preparations for the ship's WestPac deployment. During the first week of January KENNEBEC conducted various training exercises in the San Francisco Operations Area. Following local operations the ship departed San Francisco for San Diego on 8 January to provide services to the Fleet Training Group. From 10 January to 18 January KENNEBEC conducted training exercises and provided services in the San Diego Operations Area and returned to San Francisco on 19 January 1968.

On 5 February 1968 KENNEBEC departed San Francisco Naval Shipyard enroute once again to San Diego for Refresher Training. KENNEBEC remained in San Diego, conducting

Fleet Training Group exercises until the 23rd of February. On the 23rd KENNEBEC departed for her homeport of San Francisco, arriving on 25 February. During the next 13 days KENNEBEC made final preparations for the WestPac deployment.

KENNEBEC deployed from San Francisco on 9 March 1968 enroute to Subic Bay via Pearl Harbor. On 16 March KENNEBEC arrived in Pearl Harbor for a two day R & R stop. At this time KENNEBEC also topped off on fuel and loaded additional provisions. KENNEBEC left Pearl Harbor 18 March and conducted a gunnery shoot in the Pearl Harbor Operations Area.

From 18 March until April KENNEBEC steamed independently enroute to Subic Bay. One week prior to arrival in Subic, on 27 March, KENNEBEC conducted an UNREP of opportunity with the USS KEARSARGE and her escorts.

KENNEBEC arrived at the U. S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines on the morning of 3 April 1968. The Subic Bay Naval Station was the primary operating base for KENNEBEC's WestPac operations. At Subic Bay KENNEBEC loaded fuel, provisions, fleet freight, mail, and ammunition for tours on the line in Vietnam. Onloading of fleet freight and mail was co-ordinated with the transcor office in Subic Bay. Arrangements for ammunition onloading were made with NAVMAG Subic. KENNEBEC was directed to carry 52 pallets of

5"/38 ammunition. Later in the cruise KENNEBEC also carried 5"/54 ammunition. Upon completion of onloading operations at Subic Bay KENNEBEC commenced her operations in Vietnam as a unit of CTF 73.5. KENNEBEC departed Subic Bay for her initial trip on the line on 5 April. After a three day transit to the Mekong Delta area KENNEBEC commenced UNREP operations in the Market Time Area. Normal operating procedures consisted of steaming along a northerly course through the Market Time areas thence on to the Sea Dragon, and SAR, PIRAZ areas. A normal line cycle was usually completed with a fuel consolidation in the Gulf of Tonkin.

KENNEBEC followed this same operating schedule from 5 April until 9 July. Upon departure from Subic Bay KENNEBEC conducted various exercises in the Subic Bay Operations Area including gunnery shoots on 24 April, 9 May, 15 June, and 28 June.

KENNEBEC left Subic Bay on 10 July 1968 for an R & R stop in Hong Kong, arriving there on 12 July. From 12 July through 17 July KENNEBEC remained anchored in Hong Kong harbor. Maximum liberty was afforded to the crew at this time since this was the first R & R port for KENNEBEC in WestPac.

Following the R & R stop in Hong Kong the ship proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan via the Formosa straits, arriving 23 July

for upkeep and availability. While transiting the Formosa straits the KENNEBEC conducted underway replenishment exercises with three ships of the Nationalist Chinese Navy, the PCE-68, PF-37, and DE-21.

While in Yokosuka the KENNEBEC received an INSURV inspection 5-7 August, conducted by the Sub Board of Inspection and Survey, Pacific Fleet. Following the INSURV inspection KENNEBEC remained in an availability status through 18 August. The morning of 19 August the KENNEBEC departed Yokosuka enroute to Sasebo, Japan, arriving there 22 August. Although the KENNEBEC was due to remain in Sasebo for the remainder of the WestPac deployment, a schedule change resulted in the KENNEBEC getting underway from Sasebo on 30 August for another tour on the line. KENNEBEC arrived in Subic Bay, unloaded fuel, fleet freight, and ammunition and proceeded to Vietnam for a final tour on the line.

Following this final line period in Vietnam KENNEBEC returned to Subic Bay for a one-day layover and departed on 22 September for San Francisco. KENNEBEC arrived in San Francisco on 14 October completing a seven month deployment during which time KENNEBEC met every scheduled underway replenishment commitment and earned the "E" for Battle Efficiency.

Upon return to San Francisco the ship made final preparations for an extensive overhaul. The overhaul was performed by two private shipyards. Bethlehem Steel Shipyard in San Francisco was awarded the contract for the dry dock phase of the overhaul. KENNEBEC arrived at Bethlehem Steel Shipyard on 18 November 1968. From 18 November until 2 December KENNEBEC remained in dry dock at Bethlehem Steel. On 22 November the Commander, Service Squadron SEVEN arrived on board to officially present the Battle Efficiency "E" to the crew of KENNEBEC.

KENNEBEC departed Bethlehem Steel Shipyard on 2 December 1968 and arrived and moored the same day at Pacific Ship Repair Corporation, Pier 36, San Francisco for the commencement of the regular phase of the overhaul. The remainder of calendar year 1968 was spent at the Pacific Ship Repair Corporation.