

LYMAN K. SWENSON Command History for 1968

1. January 1968 - New 5"/38 gun mounts were installed by the Naval Development and Training Center (DATC) U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, California.
2. 27 February - Moored at Long Beach Naval Shipyard in order to prepare the ship for entrance in the yards and start overhaul period.
3. 20 March - Entered drydock #3 at Long Beach Naval Shipyard for installation of ECM-2 and hull work.
4. 8 July - Training Readiness Evaluation administered by Fleet Training Group, San Diego, California.
5. 22 July - Entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard for repair of Sonar Dome and additional work on Mount 53.
6. 19 August - Passed a partial Training Readiness Evaluation administered by Fleet Training Group, San Diego, California and commenced Refresher Training.
7. 15 September - Chopped from Fleet Training Group to Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
8. 19 September - Commander L. J. BROWN, USN, relieved Commander N. L. ROCKWELL, USN, as Commanding Officer.
9. 1-10 October - Participated in "BEAT CADENCE", a Fleet Exercise off the coast of California and Mexico by Commander FIRST Fleet.
10. 14 October - Commenced the final two weeks of Refresher Training, successfully completed on 25 October.
11. 15 November - Departed San Diego for deployment to the SEVENTH Fleet in the Western Pacific
12. 27 December - Relieved the USS BAUSELL (DD-845) as "Shotgun" on South SAR (Search & Rescue) station in the Gulf of Tonkin.

The USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD-729) began the 1968 calendar year under the command of Nevin L. ROCKWELL, Commander, USN. Commander ROCKWELL was relieved on September 19, 1968 by L. J. BROWN, Commander, USN.

The SWENSON has been homeported in San Diego, California and is a unit of Destroyer Squadron SEVENTEEN under the Command of C. P. ROZIER, Captain, USN.

From January 1 until February 26, the SWENSON was moored at Pier 4, U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, California, preparing for a regular overhaul.

The Naval Development and Training Center (DATC), completed a job they had started the previous December of installing new 5"/38 gun mounts. The installation of the three mounts by DATC instead of at a shipyard was an unprecedented success.

On February 14, the Wardroom of the SWENSON hosted Rear Admiral SUN of the Republic of China Navy and Captain KOYASHIKI of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. These distinguished visitors were touring the Fleet Training Center. After inspection of the ship, a reception in their honor was sponsored by the Wardroom at the Commissioned Officer's Mess (open), Naval Station San Diego.

Ammunition was off-loaded at the U. S. Naval Ordnance Depot, Seal Beach, California on 26 February in preparation for entering the Long Beach Naval Shipyard on the following afternoon. During the next three months the SWENSON was given a complete overhaul.

The ship was provided additional capabilities by installation of new equipment. The AN/ULQ-6 electronic countermeasure equipment necessitated major changes in the ship's after superstructure. The projectile hoists in the gun mounts were changed to accommodate Rocket Assisted Projectiles (RAP) which extend the range of 5"/38 guns. Radar Signal Processing Equipment (RSPE) was installed in the MK 25 Fire Control Radar. This equipment enables the radar operator to lock on high speed targets automatically and improves the radar display. There were no significant changes in the Engineering Department.

During the overhaul period, SWENSON participated in the Long Beach Cruiser-Destroyerman's Ball, and was tasked with the responsibilities of the floor and seating committee for this now annual event which was held on 4 May 1968. The ball was termed a success and compliments were bestowed on SWENSON for its fine participation.

From March 20 until April 22, SWENSON rested in Drydock #3 at Long Beach Naval Shipyard. Sea trials were held on the following dates: May 17, 24, 29 and June 3.



On June 6 the SWENSON loaded ammunition at the U. S. Naval Ordnance Depot, Seal Beach, California and returned to San Diego that evening. While passing 10th Street pier a dredger weighed both of its anchors without warning as the SWENSON was passing over them. The anchor cables straddled the sonar dome causing a dent. The damage was later discovered by an underwater hull inspection conducted by divers from the USS DIXIE (AD-14).

From June 21-29 the two MK 25 torpedo tubes were removed by the ship's force, assisted by COMCRUDESPEC staff technicians, and the USS DIXIE (AD-14).

Forty Ensigns from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force were hosted on a tour of the ship on 4 July. The SWENSON also acted as host ship for the Japanese ship URANAMI when she visited San Diego from July 1 - 6.

SWENSON started its Training Readiness Evaluation administered by Fleet Training Group, San Diego, California on 8 July. It was determined by the inspection that the ship was not ready to begin Refresher Training. Major areas of discrepancies were Damage Control and Engineering Material Readiness, although all departments were found basically unprepared. A week later COMCRUDESPEC ELEVEN inspected with satisfactory results. At this time SWENSON returned to Long Beach Naval Shipyard for repairs to the sonar dome and some additional work to the gun mounts.

On July 12 the SWENSON was school ship for the Fleet Training Center's 5"/38 mount team course. While conducting an anti-aircraft firing exercise, several projectiles exploded near the Norwegian Freighter JARILLA transiting the area. An investigation into this incident as well as the dented sonar dome took place when the ship entered the yards again.

On July 22 the SWENSON entered drydock #2 at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard after off-loading all the ammunition at the U. S. Naval Ordnance Depot, Seal Beach, California. Work immediately started on the gun mounts and sonar dome.

August 15, SWENSON unloaded ammunition and returned to San Diego. On 19 August, Fleet Training Group administered a partial Training Readiness Evaluation and determined that the SWENSON was now prepared to begin six weeks of refresher training.

On September 15, after four weeks of training, the SWENSON was returned to the operational control of COMCRUDESPEC. Commander L. J. BROWN, USN, relieved Commander N. L. ROCKWELL, USN, as Commanding Officer on September 19. The ship then prepared for "BEAT CADENCE", a ten day Fleet Exercise. Following BEAT CADENCE, SWENSON made a brief stop at the U. S. Naval Ordnance Depot at Seal Beach to top off ammunition, and returned to San Diego to prepare for routine administrative and pre-deployment inspections on October 26. SWENSON commenced the last two weeks



of Refresher Training on 14 October, successfully completing training on October 25. A tender availability with the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37) was assigned from October 26 to November 7.

The SWENSON departed San Diego for duty with the SEVENTH Fleet on November 15, transiting in company with the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37), USS COONTZ (DLG-9), USS DUNCAN (DD-874) and USS HOPEWELL (DD-681). COMDESRON SEVENTEEN was embarked on the COONTZ and was OTC. The group stopped at the U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for three days and made a brief fuel stop at Guam enroute to Subic Bay, where they arrived on 8 December. Training conducted enroute included ASW exercises, small arms fire, maneuvering and tactical exercises, and man overboard drills. Two .50 caliber machine guns and a smoke generator were mounted on the ship while in Subic Bay.

On December 14 the SWENSON left Subic Bay for the Gulf of Tonkin. From 16 December until 26 December SWENSON escorted at various times USS RANGER (CVS-61), USS HANCOCK (CVS-19), USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) and the USS INTREPID (CVS-11) in special operations on Yankee Station. December 27 found the SWENSON in the harbor of DaNang, South Vietnam with the USS COONTZ (DLG-9) for briefings pertaining to SAR (Search and Rescue) station duty. That night and the next day was spent conducting anti-PT boat and SAR exercises. On December 27 the SWENSON and the USS COONTZ (DLG-9) relieved the USS BAUSELL (DD-845) and USS WORDEN (DLG-18) respectively on South SAR Station.