

1969

From: Commanding Officer, USS O'BANION (DD-450)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0939)  
Subj: Annual Command History (COMNAV Report 5750-1); submission of  
Ref: (a) COMNAVREP 5750.12A  
(b) COMNAV REPORT 5750.23  
Encl: (1) Chronological History of USS O'BANION (DD450) for the period  
1 January 1969 through 30 January 1970  
(2) Narrative Command History of USS O'BANION (DD450) for the  
period 1 January 1969 through 30 January 1970  
(3) Special Topic Narrative for the period 1 January 1969 through  
30 January 1970  
(4) Muster Roll and Roster of Officers for the USS O'BANION (DD450)

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded herewith.

  
J. P. IREDALE

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CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF USS O'BANNON (DD-450)  
FROM 1 JANUARY 1969 THROUGH 30 JANUARY 1970

1 JAN - 21 JAN	Inport Pearl Harbor
22 JAN - 24 JAN	COMPTUEX 3-69
25 JAN - 2 FEB	Inport Pearl Harbor
3 FEB - 6 FEB	COMPTUEX 4-69
7 FEB - 9 FEB	Inport Pearl Harbor
10 FEB - 16 FEB	Enroute San Diego
17 FEB	Inport San Diego
18 FEB - 24 FEB	STRIKEX 1-69
25 FEB -	Enroute San Francisco
26 FEB - 3 MAR	Inport San Francisco
4 MAR - 9 MAR	Enroute Pearl Harbor
10 MAR - 13 APR	Inport Pearl Harbor
14 APR - 23 APR	Enroute Yokosuka
17 APR	Fuel Stop Midway
21 APR	Joined U.S. Seventh Fleet
24 APR - 25 APR	Inport Yokosuka
26 APR - 27 APR	Enroute Sasebo
28 APR - 29 APR	Inport Sasebo
30 APR	Enroute Rendezvous Task Force 71
1 MAY - 12 MAY	Steaming with Task Force 71 East China Sea/Yellow Sea
12 MAY - 14 MAY	Enroute Subic Bay with Task Group 77.4
15 MAY - 20 MAY	Inport Subic Bay
21 MAY - 23 MAY	Enroute Singapore with Task Group 77.4

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF USS O'BANNON (DD-450)  
FROM 1 JANUARY 1969 THROUGH 30 JANUARY 1970

24 MAY - 28 MAY	Inport Singapore
29 MAY - 30 MAY	Enroute Yankee Station, TG 77.4
31 MAY - 2 JUN	SPECOPS Yankee Station, TG 77.4
3 JUN	SPECOPS Yankee Station, TG 77.7
4 JUN - 8 JUN	Enroute Sasebo with TG 77.7
9 JUN - 17 JUN	Inport Sasebo with TG 77.7/71.7
18 JUN	Type Training, Sasebo Operation Area
19 JUN - 24 JUN	Inport Sasebo with TG 77.3/71.3
25 JUN - 28 JUN	Enroute Yankee Station with TG 77.3
29 JUN - 13 JUL	SPECOPS Yankee Station, TG 77.3
14 JUL - 15 JUL	Enroute Subic Bay with TG 77.3
16 JUL - 20 JUL	Inport Hong Kong with TG 77.3
28 JUL - 29 JUL	Enroute Subic Bay
28 JUL	Evade Typhoon Viola
30 JUL - 3 AUG	Inport Subic Bay
4 AUG - 5 AUG	Enroute Yankee Station
6 AUG - 77 AUG	SPECOPS Yankee Station with TG 77.5
8 AUG - 30 AUG	NGFS I and II Corps, TU 70.8.9
31 AUG	Enroute TG 77.5
1 SEP - 3 SEP	Enroute Sasebo, TG 77.5/71.5
4 SEP - 12 SEP	Inport Sasebo, TG 77.5/71.5
13 SEP - 17 SEP	Enroute II Corps, TU 70.8.9
18 SEP - 10 OCT	NGFS II and III Corps, TU 70.8.9

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF USS O'BANNON (DD-450)  
FROM 1 JANUARY 1969 THROUGH 30 JANUARY 1970

11 OCT - 15 OCT	Enroute Yokosuka
14 OCT	FUEL Stop Buckner Bay Okinawa
16 OCT - 18 OCT	Inport Yokosuka
19 OCT - 20 OCT	Enroute Pearl Harbor
21 OCT	Evade Typhoon Ida
22 OCT	Enroute Yokosuka
23 OCT	Refuel Yokosuka
24 OCT - 31 OCT	Enroute Pearl Harbor
26 OCT	Joined U.S. First Fleet
29 OCT	Fuel Stop Midway
1 NOV - 30 JAN 1970	Inport Pearl Harbor
30 DEC	Off-load Ammunition West Lock, Pearl Harbor
13 JAN	Awards Ceremony
30 JAN	Decommissioning

NARRATIVE COMMAND HISTORY OF USS O'BANNON (DD-450)  
FROM 1 JAN 1969 THROUGH 30 JAN 1970

The USS O'BANNON (DD-450) began the new year of 1969 in home port at Pearl Harbor for leave and upkeep prior to what would be her fourteenth Western Pacific deployment. This in-port period was interrupted from 22 to 24 January and 3 to 5 February for COMPTUEX's 3-69 and 4-69 respectively. During these COMPTUEX's O'BANNON took part in a variety of exercises within the Hawaiian Operating Areas.

On 10 February O'BANNON departed Pearl Harbor for her first visit to San Diego in twelve years. Starting on 18 February O'BANNON participated in STRIKEX 1-69 with units of the U.S. First Fleet and the Canadian Navy off the coast of California. The superior handling of an actual man overboard during STRIKEX 1-69, won O'BANNON a seamanship award. However, the most spectacular event of the exercise occurred one night when O'BANNON opened up with primary and secondary batteries to sink a target hull that was drifting dangerously close to the coast of Mexico. On 27 February O'BANNON arrived in San Francisco where she visited until 4 March. O'BANNON returned to Pearl Harbor on 10 March and remained in home port until her deployment to WESTPAC on 14 April.

After stopping at the normal fuel replenishment source, Midway Island, she officially became a part of the Seventh Fleet on 21 April. Arriving at Yokosuka, Japan, on 24 April, she commenced outfitting with the special equipment and materials required for the various Seventh Fleet operations.

Her stay was cut short by the shooting down of a Navy EC-121 reconnaissance aircraft in the Sea of Japan. Enroute to the Sea of Japan on 27 April, a casualty to her evaporators necessitated an unscheduled, short stopover in Sasebo for repairs. With these repairs completed, on 1 May O'BANNON reported for duty as part of Task Force 71 supporting the aircraft carrier Enterprise.

When the Task Force 71 duties were turned over to other units of the Seventh Fleet on 12 May, O'BANNON accompanied the Enterprise group, now Task Group 77.4, to port calls in Subic Bay from 15 to 21 May and Singapore from 24 May to 29 May.

Back on Yankee Station on 31 May, the O'BANNON supported the Enterprise as she launched her air strikes against enemy targets in Vietnam. Still on Yankee Station, O'BANNON changed to Task Group 77.7 in support of the carrier Ticonderoga. Departing the strike station on 4 June, O'BANNON, serving as screen commander, accompanied the Ticonderoga group to Sasebo for a short upkeep period. In a dual role as Task Group 71.7, these units also served as a contingency team in the event that U.S. ships were needed in the Sea of Japan on short notice.

NARRATIVE COMMAND HISTORY OF USS O'BANNON (DD-450)  
FROM 1 JAN 1969 THROUGH 30 JAN 1970

Again shifting aircraft carriers, on 17 June, O'BANNON assumed support duties for the USS KITTY HAWK. The KITTY HAWK group, functioning as Task Group 71.3, departed Sasebo on 25 June with O'BANNON as screen flagship arriving on Yankee Station 29 June 1969.

During the period 1 through 4 July, O'BANNON participated in special ASW exercises with Task Group 77.9. Having completed a variety of single and multiple ship day and night exercises on 4 July, she returned to her carrier escort duties on Yankee Station with Task Group 77.3 and the carrier KITTY HAWK.

Task Group 77.3 departed Yankee Station on 14 July with O'BANNON again acting as screen commander for port calls in Subic Bay from 16 to 20 July and Hong Kong from 22 July to 27 July.

Leaving Hong Kong a day earlier than expected because of typhoon evasion measures, the KITTY HAWK and her escorts proceeded southwest toward Yankee Station. After successfully evading the storm, O'BANNON was detached to proceed to Subic Bay for repairs to her rudder.

After three days in the ARD-22 floating drydock, O'BANNON left with repairs completed to join Task Group 77.5, and the USS BON HOMME RICHARD on 7 August. This proved to be a short tour when on 8 August the O'BANNON started her first tour as one of the gunfire support units in Task Unit 70.8.9.

For the period 8 to 31 August, her main batteries were brought to bear in I and II Corps areas, firing over 1500 rounds on coastal targets. Rejoining Task Group 77.5, again as screen commander, O'BANNON accompanied the BON HOMME RICHARD to Sasebo, Japan, for a short upkeep period. During most of this time, the group functioned as a contingency element for Defender Station duties as Task Group 71.5.

Departing Sasebo on 13 September as screen commander, O'BANNON accompanied the task group to the vicinity of Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Having been detached to proceed independently on 15 September, she arrived for her second gunline tour in Southern II Corps on 18 September.

During this period, until 11 October, the O'BANNON again provided gunfire support for friendly units in II and III Corps near Phan Thiet. She departed the gunline enroute Yokosuka on 11 October having fired a total of 3,446 rounds of 5 inch ammunition and 543 rounds of 3 inch ammunition on a variety of targets from Cam Rahn Bay to the Rung Sat Special Zone.

On 14 October, O'BANNON made a brief fuel stop in Buckner Bay and was again enroute Yokosuka. Arriving in her last Western Pacific port on 16 October, after completing a full power trial, she spent the next three days completing all requirements concerned with leaving the control of Commander Seventh Fleet.

NARRATIVE COMMAND HISTORY OF USS O'BANNON (DD-450)  
FROM 1 JAN 1969 THROUGH 30 JAN 1970

As part of Task Unit 70.0.1, O'BANNON departed Yokosuka on 19 October enroute Pearl Harbor via Midway. Because of deteriorating weather and typhoon danger, the task unit of five ships was forced to return to Yokosuka on 23 October for fuel and voyage repairs.

The next day, on 24 October, the ships departed on their second attempt to cross the Pacific. With more favorable weather conditions, the transit was made safely and swiftly. O'BANNON officially left the operational control of Commander Seventh Fleet on 27 October.

After a fuel stopover in Midway on 29 October, the O'BANNON continued on to Pearl Harbor arriving home on the morning of 1 November 1969.

The first two weeks in Pearl were hectic for all hands since O'BANNON received official word that she would be decommissioned and FMS and INSURV inspections were required.

Hard work paid off though, and O'BANNON sailors commenced short working days after passing the FMS inspection and successfully preparing the ship for the inspection of the INSURV Board.

O'BANNON got underway on her own power for the last time on 30 December when she went to West Lock Ammunition Depot to off-load all ordnance. On 13 January 1970 thirty of O'BANNON's officers and men received 7th Fleet Awards which they earned during the last West Pac deployment.

Finally, on 30 January 1970 O'BANNON was decommissioned at Pearl Harbor.

SPECIAL TOPICS

**Material Performance:**

Engineering. During 1969 O'BANION's engineering plant improved continually in spite of the fact that the ship celebrated her twenty-seventh birthday. In January O'BANION completed her administration inspection and the engineering department received a "95", duplicating the grade just received in REFTRA. In the course of the year, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, and full power trials were all successfully completed making O'BANION a top contender for the Engineering E for her last year of commissioned service.

Weapons. The heavy schedule of exercises during the first two months of 1969 gave the weapons department a chance to utilize all systems in showing their preparedness for the ship's fourteenth WESTPAC deployment. Gunline tours near the end of the deployment accounted for over 3500 rounds of five inch ammunition expended in support of allied units in I, II, and III corps of South Vietnam. On 10 October O'BANION's guns were fired in anger for the last time during a twenty-seven year career. The principle difficulties experienced in the weapons department were the results of wear and tear on an over-aged system.

Operations. Much to the credit of an outstanding team of Electronic Technicians, the Operations Department completed O'BANION's last deployment with no CASREPTS to radar or communications equipment. A snappy communications team also defeated all challengers in flag-hoist signal competition.

Community Relations. O'BANION enjoyed visits to many interesting ports during her last WESTPAC deployment, and she also succeeded in making lasting friendships in these ports of call. In Hong Kong over 30 school children delighted in their first visit to a Navy ship. In the Philippines the crew got a chance to meet Bella Regamay and the family of this young school girl who they put through high school by means of the Operation Schoolhouse Program. The young girl was later thrilled to find out that the O'BANION had paid for the remainder of her education in advance so that she could continue her education despite the ship's decommissioning.

Awards. On 13 January 1970 O'BANION held her final Awards Presentation. Thirty officers and men were commended for their performance on the ship's final deployment. Eight Navy Commendation Medals, nine Navy Achievement Medals and thirteen Seventh Fleet Letters of Commendation were awarded.

Enclosure (3)