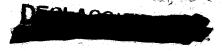
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601



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From:

Commanding Officer, USS O'BRIEN (DD-725), FPO San Francisco 96601

To:

Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09139)

1970 Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref:

(a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl:

(1) 1970 Chronology

(2) 1970 Command History Narrative

(3) Commanding Officer's photograph (CDR W. N. CAMPBELL, USN)

(4) Commanding Officer's biography (CDR W. N. CAMPBELL, USN)

(5) Photograph of O'BRIEN operating in waters off the coast of

Southern California

In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are hereby forwarded.

Copy to:

CINCPACFLT (less enclosures (3) through (5))

COMCRUDESPAC (less enclosures (3) through (5))

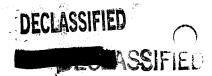
COMCRUDESFLOT 7 (less enclosures (3) through (5))

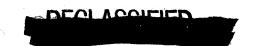
COMDESRON TWO NINE (less enclosures (3) through (5))

[1970]

DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS







On 1 January 1970, O'BRIEN was proceeding north towards the Gulf of Tonkin and a rendezvous with Task Group 77.5. Nearly 26 years old, O'BRIEN had been involved in every major conflict since World War II. Her keel was laid by Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine, in December 1943, and she raised her commissioning pennant at the Boston Navy Yard on 25 February 1943. She has deployed numerous times to the Western Pacific in support of the United States effort to achieve peace in Southeast Asia. While a member of the SEVENTH FLEET she was assigned to duties ranging from operations with fast carrier strike forces to Naval Gunfire Support for allied units ashore.

O'BRIEN is homeported in Long Beach, California, as a unit of Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Nine.

After two days of plane guard duty with the USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43), she was detached from Task Group 77.5 and steamed independently for Okinawa.

On 8 January, O'BRIEN entered Buckner Bay, Okinawa, to embark a team and equipment from Beach Jumper Unit ONE. O'BRIEN was underway that evening to rendezvous with Task Group 71.6 in the East China Sea.

After joining with USS RANGER (CVA-61), (Commander, Carrier Division THREE embarked) and USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7), (Commander, Destroyer Divison 212 embarked), the task group headed north to the Sea of Japan for assigned duties. On 13 January, after several days of flight operations, freezing weather, and shadowing by Russian naval units, the task group headed south, mooring in Sasebo, Japan on 14 January.

For the following nine days, O'BRIEN took advantage of an upkeep period with USS AJAX (AR-6).

On 24 January, O'BRIEN was underway with a larger Task Group 71.6 now consisting of USS RANGER (CVA-61), (Commander, Carrier Division THREE embarked), USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7), (Commander, Destroyer 212 embarked), USS EVERSOLE (DD-789) and USS BENNER (DD-807). The task group headed south to the OKinawa Operation Areas for flight operations and anti-submarine warfare exercises. On 26 January, O'BRIEN was detached from Task Group 71.6 and rendezvoused with Task Group 71.5 consisting of USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) and USS EVERSOLE (DD-789).

On 29 January, USS HOLLISTER (DD-788), (Commander, Destroyer Division 92 embarked), and USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7), (Commander, Destroyer Division 212) joined and Task Group 71.5 headed north, mooring in Sasebo, Japan on 30 January.

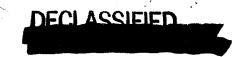
O'BRIEN once again benefited from a tender upkeep period with USS AJAX (AR-6).

On 10 February, O'BRIEN was underway with Task Group 71.5 consisting of USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43), USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7), (Commander, Destroyer Division 212 embarked), and USS EVERSOLE (DD-789). O'BRIEN conducted independent engineering economy trials enroute to Subic Bay, P. I. O'BRIEN rejoined the task group on 12 February; EVERSOLE was detached to proceed independently. The task group designation was changed from 71.5 to 77.5 on 12 February.

On 13 February, O'BRIEN moored in Subic Bay for a weekend. The warm weather was a pleasant change from the cold climate of Japan.







O'BRIEN was underway once again on 16 February with Task Group 77.5, USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) and USS HOEL (DDG-13), enroute for Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, South China Sea. The Task Group arrived on station 18 February; the HOEL was detached and USS FECHTELER (DD-870) joined for duty.

O'BRIEN planeguarded during the CORAL SEA flight operations for the next 18 days while on Yankee Station. On 8 March, Task Group 77.5 departed the Gulf of Tonkin, mooring in Subic Bay on 10 March for an overnight stay.

On 11 March, O'BRIEN departed Subic with the USS CORAL SEA and FECHTELER enroute for Hong Kong. The task group moored in Hong Kong, British Crown Colonies, on 13 March for six days of rest and relaxation.

On 19 March, Task Group 77.5 was enroute for Yankee Station once again. O'BRIEN was detached on 21 March and joined Task Group 77.4 consisting of USS HANCOCK (CVA-19) and USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7), (Commander, Destroyer Division 212 embarked). After six days in the Gulf of Tonkin, Task Group 77.4 departed and entered Subic Bay on 28 March.

After a brief two day stop in Subic, O'BRIEN was underway with the HANCOCK and HENRY B. WILSON as Task Unit 70.0.5 enroute to the United States.

A brief fuel stop was made in Guam on 5 April.

On 15 April, O'BRIEN returned to her homeport of Long Beach, California, after a six month absence from families and friends.

It was 21 May before O'BRIEN was underway again. On that morning she proceeded to anchorage 43 in the Long Beach Outer Harbor to off-load ammunition. This was in preparation for her much needed and well-deserved Shipyard Period. In the afternoon, O'BRIEN moored to Pier I in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard beginning her six week restricted availability.

It was 7 July when O'BRIEN completed her shipyard period. After a full day of sea trials testing the equipment which had been inspected, repaired or replaced, the O'BRIEN returned to Long Beach. On 13 July, she was underway for Southern California Operating Areas for five days of material testing and the training of her crew. A full power run of the engineering plant was conducted on the night of the 14 July. On 17 July, O'BRIEN moored in Long Beach.

The O'BRIEN remained at pierside until 17 August. She then put to sea to conduct tests on a new cable which had been installed on her Variable Depth Sonar, and again calibrate and tune her engineering plant. She put in to Long Beach on 21 August.

The Commander of Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-NINE embarked O'BRIEN on 24 August. On that day O'BRIEN was underway for the Southern California Operating Area with the USS EVERSOLE (DD-789), USS BAUER (DE-1025) and USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050), for five days of Squadron Formation Exercises in the Southern California Operating Areas. COMDESRON 29 debarked in San Diego Harbor on 26 August. O'BRIEN returned to Long Beach on 29 August.

QOUNTERADED<sup>2</sup>AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS DEGLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS, DOD DIR 5200.10 DECEMBRILLED

Enclosure (2)



On 1 September, O'BRIEN conducted her Operational Readiness Inspection. The observers embarked and immediately posed simulated casualties on both personnel and equipment as she proceeded to the Southern California Operating Areas. The inspection covered battle problems ranging from simulated minefields to surface bursts of nuclear weapons. After eight hours and hundreds of simulated problems, O'BRIEN, "battle weary", came home to Long Beach.

On 4 September, O'BRIEN received a new Commanding Officer, Commander William N. CAMPBELL, USN. Captain CAMPBELL assumed command of the venerable O'BRIEN from Commander William H. C. SELF, USN, in formal ceremonies held on the ship's flight deck.

On 22 September, O'BRIEN departed Long Beach under her new Captain for the Southern California Operating Areas and the massive fleet exercise ROPEVAL 4-70. After onloading ammunition in the Outer Breakwater Harbor at anchor, O'BRIEN steamed for rendezvous with Task Unit 170.4.2 consisting of the USS BRONSTEIN (DE-1037), USS MEYERKORD (DE-1058), USS JAMES KEYES (DD-787), HMCS ST CROIX (DDE-256) and HMCS YUKON (DDE-263). The Task Unit Commander was Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-THREE embarked in the USS BRONSTEIN.

On 23 September, the O'BRIEN became a member of Task Unit 170.8.2 comprised of the USS SOMERS (DDG-34), USS HOEL (DDG-13), USS CHANDLER (DD-717), USS HOLLISTER (DD-788) and USS OZBOURN (DD-846), and commanded by Commander Destroyer Squadron NINE embarked in the USS HOLLISTER.

On 25 September, O'BRIEN joined Task Group 177.3 commanded by the Commanding Officer of the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) a major body of the "Blue" forces. Acting in a dual capacity as both an ASW screening unit and AAW ship, O'BRIEN took enemy "Orange" aircraft and surface units under fire. The USS MASON (DD-852) and USS HOEL (DDG-13) assisted O'BRIEN in repulsing the "enemy attacks".

On 1 October, O'BRIEN was detached from Task Group 177.3 and proceeded to Long Beach, ROPEVAL 4-70 complete; and with a wealth of experience gained for her crew.

On 6 October, O'BRIEN left Long Beach for independent exercises in the Southern California Operating Areas. On 8 October, she once again moored in her homeport, after several hours of Junior Officer Mooring Exercises at Pier 19. The remainder of October was devoted to final preparations for her impending cruise to the Western Pacific.

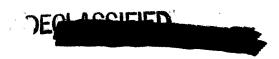
A final systems and engineering test was conducted on 2 November in the local waters immediately off of Long Beach. Ready in all respects, O'BRIEN departed her homeport of Long Beach on 6 November for the Western Pacific.

O'BRIEN departed in a C-1 status for her second consecutive cruise. She is one of the few ships on the West Coast to have consistantly maintained this highest "C" condition of Operational Readiness.

O'BRIEN steamed for rendezvous with Task Group 17.7 commanded by the Commanding Officer of the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63). USS HOEL (DDG-13) was also in company and was Commander of Task Unit 17.7.2. The Task Group arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 11 November.

Enchosure (2)

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days of operations in the local Hawaiian Operating Areas. O'BRIEN acted as a plane guard ship for the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) and also as an ASW screening unit. Task Group 17.7 returned to Pearl Harbor on 19 November.

A casualty to the O'BRIEN's main evaporator effected a change in her schedule and O'BRIEN remained in Pearl Harbor until 28 November.

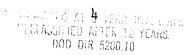
With the USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC-722), O'BRIEN steamed for Guam as a member of Task Unit 10.8.1. On 3 December, O'BRIEN and USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC-722) chopped to SEVENTH FLEET. Accordingly, Task Unit 10.8.1 was disestablished and Task Unit 70.0.2 was formed. On 7 December the Task Unit entered Guam for fueling and overnight repairs. On 12 December, O'BRIEN and USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC-722) arrived in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

On 14 December, O'BRIEN departed Subic Bay and steamed independently for Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin and her first tour of the cruise in the Combat Zone. She arrived on station on 16 December and reported for duty as a member of Task Group 77.5 consisting of the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) and the USS HOEL (DDG-13). After one day of plane guard duty, O'BRIEN proceeded to a Picket Station in the Northern portion of the Gulf of Tonkin.

On 17 December, O'BRIEN joined USS CHICAGO (CG-11) and became a member of Task Unit 77.0.2 on the Northern PIRAZ Station. The USS JOUETT (DLG-29) relieved USS CHICAGO (CG-11) on 19 December as Commander of Task Unit 77.0.2.

On 28 December, O'BRIEN journeyed south and rejoined Task Group 77.5. On the following day USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63), USS HOEL (DDG-13) and O'BRIEN proceeded for Subic Bay arriving there on 30 December.

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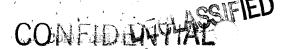
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OPERATING on YANKEE Station in Gulf of Tonkin in company with USS KETTY HAWK (CVA-63) and USS HOEL (DDG-13) as a member of Task Group 77.5. CTU 77.5.1 is USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) and CTU 77.5.2 is USS HOEL (DDG-13). COMCARDIV 551s embarisd in USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) as CTG 77.5.

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### NARRATIVE

BIOGRAPHY OF COMMANDER WILLIAM NELSON CAMPBELL COMMANDING OFFICER USS O'BRIEN (DD-725)

Commander CAMPBELL was born April 6, 1930 in Appleton, Wisconsin. He attended area schools and graduated from Appleton High School in 1948. After one year of studies at Lawrence College he transferred to the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of 1953.

Following his commissioning, Commander CAMPBELL remained at the Naval Academy as an instructor. In September, 1953, he entered Naval Flight Training, and earned his Wings in November 1954. He then served as an aviator with Fighter Squadron VF-114 at Miramar, California. He has served as Operations Officer aboard the USS A. T. HARRIS (DD-447); Operations Officer and Gunnery Officer aboard the USS BASILONE (DDE-824); Executive Officer aboard the USS COOK (APD-130); and Executive Officer aboard the USS R. S. EDWARDS (DD950).

Commander CAMPBELL has attended the Combat Information Center School in Glenview, Illinois; the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia; and the Naval Intelligence School in Washington, D. C. He has served as Assistant U. S. Waval Attache and Attache for Air in Helsinki, Finland; Readiness and Training Officer, Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet at San Diego. During his last tour of duty he was a student at the United States Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennyslvania.

Commander CAMPBELL is entitled to wear the National Defense Service Medal with a bronze star; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Commander CAMPBELL is married to the former Lillian of Aldenburg, Germany. They reside with their five children in Cypress, California.