

U.S.S. PARSONS (DDG-33)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, 96601

DDG33/BPH:sc  
5750  
Ser: 136

23 MAR 1970

From: Commanding Officer, USS PARSONS (DDG-33)  
To: Director of Naval History, OP-09B9 Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A  
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5750.2B

Encl: (1) Ship's History, photograph, and welcome aboard brochure  
(2) Chronological list of events for 1969  
(3) Narrative of Year's events  
(4) Cdr. Kelly photo and biography  
(5) Cdr. Morris photo and biography  
(6) Change of command program and photographs  
(7) List of Officers - 1969  
(8) Roster of Midshipmen for PACMIDTRARON 69  
(9) Meritorious Unit Commendation  
(10) News Releases  
(11) Family grams  
(12) WESTPAC Cruise Book [EXEMPTED TO LIBRARY]  
(13) Copies of proposed awards

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (13) are forwarded herewith as the USS PARSONS (DDG-33) history for 1969.

  
J. F. KELLY, Jr.

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMCRUDESPAC (less enclosures (4) thru (13))  
COMCRUDESFLOT ELEVEN (less enclosures (4) thru (13))  
COMDESRON SEVENTEEN (less enclosures (4) thru (13))  
COMDESDIV ONE SEVENTY-TWO (less enclosures (4) thru (13))

CALENDAR YEAR 1969

January

1 INPORT SASEBO, JAPAN  
2-21 UNDERWAY FOR ASW TRAINING AREA-WESTPAC-ASW  
COORDINATING FLAGSHIP  
22-26 UNDERWAY-EXERCISE BEACON LAMP  
26 FIRED WARHEAD MISSILE OFF SUBIC BAY-SUCCESSFULL  
27-31 INPORT SUBIC BAY  
30 CHANGE OF COMMAND-CAPTAIN ROBERT KIRK RELIEVED  
CAPTAIN REMBRANDT C. ROBINSON AS COMDESRON 31

February

1-2 INPORT SUBIC BAY  
3-19 UNDERWAY FOR ASW TRAINING AREA-WESTPAC  
20-23 UNDERWAY FOR SINGAPORE  
24-31 INPORT SINGAPORE

March

1-3 INPORT SINGAPORE  
4-20 UNDERWAY FOR YANKEE STATION-PLANEGUARD FOR USS  
HORNET (CVS-12)  
20-23 UNDERWAY FOR TAIWAN  
24-31 INPORT TAIWAN

April

1-15 UNDERWAY FOR ASW TRAINING AREA-WESTPAC  
16-18 UNDERWAY FOR SEA OF JAPAN  
18-26 UNDERWAY AS UNIT OF TASK FORCE 71 IN SEA OF JAPAN  
27-28 UNDERWAY FOR YOKOSUKA-DETACHED FROM TASK FORCE 71  
29-30 INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

May

1-11 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
3 OUTCHOP TO FIRST FLEET  
12-31 INPORT SAN DIEGO

June

1-8 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
9-12 COMMENCED PACMIDTRARON 1969-UNIT OF TG 10.1-UNDERWAY  
FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATING AREAS  
12 SUCCESSFULLY FIRED 3 MISSILES AT PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE  
13 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
14-15 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
16-19 UNDERWAY FOR SOUTHERN CALIF. OP AREA  
20 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO  
21-22 INPORT SAN DIEGO

June Cont'd

23 UNDERWAY FOR SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF./OPERATING WITH  
USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62)  
24-27 INPORT SAN FRANCISCO  
28-29 UNDERWAY FOR TACOMA, WASHINGTON WITH NEW JERSEY  
30 INPORT TACOMA FOR THAT CITY'S CENTENIAL CELEBRATION

July

1-4 INPORT TACOMA  
5-11 UNDERWAY FOR PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII WITH NEW JERSEY  
AS UNIT OF TG 10.1  
11 SUCCESSFULLY FIRED 3 MISSILES AT BARKING SANDS  
RANGE  
12-17 INPORT PEARL HARBOR  
17 CHANGE OF COMMAND-COMMANDER JAMES F. KELLY, Jr.  
RELIEVED COMMANDER ROBERT MORRIS AS COMMANDING OFFICER  
OF USS PARSONS (DDG-33)  
18 UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OP AREA FOR ASW EXERCISE  
19-20 INPORT PEARL HARBOR  
21-26 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO, CALIF.  
27-31 INPORT SAN DIEGO-COMPLETED PACMIDTRARON '69-DETACHED  
FROM TG 10.1

August

1-17 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
18-22 UNDERWAY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OP AREA-PLANE GUARD FOR  
USS HORNET (CVS-12)  
23-31 INPORT SAN DIEGO

September

1 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
2-8 UNDERWAY-HUKASWEX 9-69-OPERATING WITH USS HORNET  
9-11 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
12 UNDERWAY FOR SEAL BEACH-OFFLOAD UNDERWAY FOR LONG  
BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD  
13-30 INPORT LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD-CHOP COMCRUDESPEC

October

1-29 INPORT LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD  
30 UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS IN LONG BEACH OP AREA  
31 UNDERWAY FOR SEAL BEACH-ONLOAD-CHOP FIRST FLEET-  
UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

November

1-2 INPORT SAN DIEGO  
3-5 UNDERWAY FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OP AREA  
6-30 INPORT SAN DIEGO

December

1-9 INPORT SAN DIEGO

December Cont'd

10 UNDERWAY FOR PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE  
11-31 INPORT SAN DIEGO

## USS PARSONS (DDG-33) NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

1969

The first day of 1969 found USS PARSONS (DDG-33) moored in Sasebo, Japan, three months into her distant duty deployment. During this deployment, her first since conversion to a guided missile destroyer, PARSONS was flagship for COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON THIRTY-ONE. Thus far, the primary mission of PARSONS during this deployment was to act as training coordination flagship for the ASW training area, Western Pacific.

Underway from Sasebo on 2 January, PARSONS headed for the ASW training area to resume exercises with other Seventh Fleet destroyers. After nineteen days of extensive operations, PARSONS joined other units of ASW Group Five and USS HORNET (CVS-12) and participated in exercise BEACON LAMP 1-69 enroute to Subic Bay. On 26 January, PARSONS arrived on the Philippine Missile Range and successfully fired a warhead missile at an exercise target. With this series of operations completed, PARSONS entered Subic for a most welcome tender availability alongside USS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

COMDESRON THIRTY-ONE remained embarked in PARSONS throughout the deployment. On 30 January, Captain Rembrant C. ROBINSON was relieved as Squadron Commander by Captain Robert KIRK in a change of command ceremony onboard PARSONS in Subic Bay.

PARSONS completed her tender availability on 2 February and departed Subic Bay to return to the ASW training area and resume flagship duties under the new squadron commander. After two weeks of ASW operations, PARSONS joined the ASW support carrier USS HORNET and departed for Singapore. Under the regal eye of King Neptune, PARSONS and crew crossed the equator at Longitude 105°E on 23 February and appropriate offerings were made. Complete with new and old shellbacks, PARSONS arrived in Singapore on 24 February.

After five days inport, PARSONS departed Singapore and returned to Yankee Station and the ASW training area. For the next sixteen days PARSONS remained with HORNET as rescue destroyer. HORNET continued flight operations until 20 March when PARSONS was detached to proceed to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Arriving on 24 March, PARSONS remained in Taiwan for the rest of the month.

Underway again on 1 April, PARSONS returned to the ASW training area for the final time during this tour in WESTPAC. While operating in the ASW area, PARSONS was unexpectedly ordered to re-join HORNET with Commander ASW Group Five embarked and proceeded to the Sea of Japan. The shooting down of a U. S. Naval aircraft by North Korean aircraft led to the formation of Task Force

71 which quickly grouped and headed for the Sea of Japan.

Arriving on 18 April, PARSONS remained on station in the Sea of Japan for nine days. On 28 April, PARSONS and ASW Group Five were detached from Task Force 71 and proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan. For her role in Task Force 71 Operations, the ship received the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

In Yokosuka, ASW Group Five and COMDESRON THIRTY-ONE were relieved by other Seventh Fleet units. On 1 May PARSONS, along with other units of ASW Group Five, departed for the United States and their respective homeports.

San Diego welcomed PARSONS and crew as she reentered her homeport on 12 May for the first time since 30 September 1968. After a brief rest for the crew and ship, PARSONS began preparations for her next major operation, the Pacific Midshipmen Training Cruise (PACMIDTRARON 69). Sixteen midshipmen, eight first classmen and eight third classmen, embarked in PARSONS for their annual at sea training period.

On 9 June PARSONS left San Diego, and proceeded to the Pacific Missile Range. On 12 June, three exercise missiles were fired, all successfully. After this favorable beginning, and two days of local exercises in the Southern California operating areas, PARSONS returned to San Diego. Underway again shortly thereafter, PARSONS conducted 4 days of ASW training for the Midshipmen, a task for which PARSONS was especially well qualified after her missions while a part of the Seventh Fleet.

On 23 June, the main operation of the Midshipmen Cruise began. PARSONS joined eleven other destroyers and the Battleship NEW JERSEY to form Task Group 10.1 and headed for San Francisco. Extensive exercises and demonstrations were conducted for the Midshipmen enroute.

After spending the Fourth of July in Tacoma, Washington, PARSONS again joined Task Force 10.1 which was underway for Pearl Harbor. Enroute, numerous exercises were conducted with the midshipmen participating actively. Arriving at the Barking Sands Missile Range at Kauai, PARSONS fired three successful missile shots on 11 July. These shots brought PARSONS' record to eleven successful shots out of twelve fired.

PARSONS entered Pearl Harbor and on 17 July, CDR James F. KELLY, Jr. relieved CDR Robert E. MORRIS as Commanding Officer of PARSONS.

After a day of local ASW exercises and shore bombardment training and a few more days in Pearl Harbor, Task Group 10.1 departed for San Diego. PARSONS arrived in homeport on 27 July,



disembarked her midshipmen, and was detached from Task Group 10.1.

PARSONS remained inport until 18 August when she was underway for five days of operations as rescue destroyer for HORNET as she conducted carrier qualifications off the coast of Southern California.

On 2 September, PARSONS was again underway, this time to participate in HUKASWEX 9-69. After a week of ASW exercises, PARSONS returned to San Diego for two days and then was underway for Seal Beach to offload ammunition in preparation for a six week yard period. On 12 September, PARSONS entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

During this yard period, PARSONS was drydocked for four weeks in order to install an inflight helicopter refueling capability and to obtain some routine repair and maintenance. A one day sea trial scheduled for 20 October proved all systems satisfactory and PARSONS returned to Seal Beach to onload her ammunition. The ship then returned to San Diego.

After a brief two days in homeport, PARSONS was underway for type training in the local operating area until 5 November. The remaining days of November were spent in San Diego.

On 9 December, PARSONS was underway for the Pacific Missile Range. At 0516 on the morning of 11 December, PARSONS was rammed on the port side by the 110 foot fishing boat ORIENT of Philippine registry at Latitude 32.58N, Longitude 119-52.5W. PARSONS' whaleboat was placed in the water immediately and succeeded in rescuing all 18 of the ORIENT's crew shortly before the boat sank. All aboard ORIENT were transferred safely to PARSONS. PARSONS sustained only minor damage. As a result of this operation, three personnel in PARSONS were nominated for the Navy-Marine Corps Medal and six for the Navy Commendation Medal.

On the evening of 11 December, PARSONS returned to San Diego, and disembarked the rescued crew of the ORIENT. PARSONS remained inport San Diego for the rest of December preparing for a fleet ASW exercise in early January.