

USS SHELTON (DD-790)  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96603

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From: Commanding Officer, USS SHELTON (DD 790)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, D. C. 20390

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Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).
2. Annex 1 is classified SECRET NOFORN and is forwarded under separate cover. *[Retained in OPNAV]*
3. Enclosure (1) is unclassified upon removal of Annexes 4, 5 and 6.

*R. Kemble*  
R. KEMBLE

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1968 COMMAND HISTORY

USS SHELTON (DD 790)

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1968 COMMAND HISTORY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

SECTION II BASIC NARRATIVE

SECTION III ANNEXES

1. Operational Test Summary (Separate Cover)
2. List of Gunnery Exercises, Torpedo Firings and ASROC Firings
3. Administrative and Pre-deployment Inspection
4. Annual Supply Inspection of 2 July 1968
5. Operational Readiness Inspection of 20 July 1968
6. Report of NTPI of 26-27 June 1968
7. Report of Quarterly Surprise Security Inspection of 28 December 1968
8. Overseas/Fleet Ammunition Assets and Expenditures Report
9. Family Grams
10. Monthly Summary of Fuel Inventory and Steaming Hours
11. USS SHELTON NOTICE 1601
12. Biographies and Photograph of Commanding Officer
13. Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

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SECTION I

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

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CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS DURING 1968

JANUARY

2 JAN Underway San Diego enroute Guam via Pearl Harbor and Midway

14 JAN Arrive Guam

15 - 23 JAN Underway for Polaris Operational Test

FEBRUARY

2 - 3 FEB Underway Guam OpArea for ASW training

9 - 19 FEB Underway for Polaris Operational Test

25 FEB - 11 MAR TAV & R&R Yokosuka

MARCH

16 - 25 MAR Underway for Polaris Operational Test

25 MAR - 9 APR Enroute San Diego via Midway and Pearl Harbor

APRIL

9 APR - 20 MAY Inport San Diego. R&R period. DATC and NOSOPAC replace gun mounts.

MAY

20 - 25 MAY Underway San Diego OpArea for Type Training

27 - 29 MAY Underway for ASW School Ship in San Diego OpArea

JUNE

3 - 4 JUN Underway for Type Training in San Diego OpArea

11 JUN Administrative Inspection

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JUNE (Cont'd)

13 - 16 JUN Underway for Type Training Shore Bombardment  
San Diego OpArea  
19 - 20 JUN Underway for Type Training San Diego OpArea  
26 - 27 JUN NTPI

JULY

2 JUL Annual Supply Inspection  
6 - 11 JUL Underway local OpArea - HUKASWEX 7-68  
18 - 25 JUL Underway local OpArea - HUKASWEX 8-68  
22 JUL Operational Readiness Inspection

AUGUST

5- 12 AUG Underway local OpArea - HUKASWEX 9-68  
12 - 18 AUG TAV GOMPERS  
22 - 29 AUG Underway HUKASWEX 10-68

SEPTEMBER

30 SEP Underway for Pearl Harbor with PARSONS (DDG 33);  
ANDERSON (DD 786); and WEDDERBURN (DD 684)

OCTOBER

1 OCT Rendezvous with USS HORNET (CVS 12) and formed  
Task Group 14.2  
3 - 8 OCT Rendezvous with HMCS MCKENZIE (DDE 263);  
HMCS COLUMBIA (DDE 260); and HMCS YUKON (DDE 261)  
and conduct HUKASWEX 11-68  
18 OCT Task Group 14.2 underway for Yokosuka

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OCTOBER (Cont'd)

27 - 30 OCT Inport Yokosuka while HORNET relieved YORKTOWN  
as TG 70.4

NOVEMBER

4 - 7 NOV Plane guard for USS HORNET (CVS 12) on Yankee  
Station

8 - 11 NOV ASW operations with TU 77.9.2

12 - 14 NOV Plane guard USS INTREPID (CVA 11) TG 77.4

16 - 20 NOV ASWEX with TG 70.4

23 - 28 NOV Inport Hong Kong, B.C.C. R&R

DECEMBER

1 - 15 DEC Naval Gunfire Support II Corps, South Vietnam  
with TU 70.8.9

23 - 31 DEC Upkeep Sasebo. TAV USS AJAX (AR 6)

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SECTION II

BASIC NARRATIVE

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BASIC NARRATIVE  
COMMAND HISTORY 1968

The second day of the New Year found SHELTON, a FRAM I, Gearing Class Destroyer under the command of Commander R. E. KEMBLE, enroute Guam, M.I. SHELTON, with special Telemetry Equipment onboard, steamed independently during the twelve day transit, stopping at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Midway Island, only long enough to refuel.

Upon arrival Guam, all preparations were being completed for SHELTON to sail the following day on Special Operations. SHELTON was assigned Launch Area Support Ship for the operational tests of the Polaris Missiles. Captain Joseph L. SKOOG embarked as Launch Area Commander. The details of SHELTON's operation are discussed in Annex I.

Returning to Guam, on 23 January, SHELTON was assigned a ten day availability with the Ship Repair Facility in Guam. Amidst preparations for the second Polaris Operational Test, this inport period afforded time for a personnel inspection, an administrative inspection of the Damage Control capabilities and a ship's party.

With the exception of providing services for the USS STONE-WALL JACKSON (SSBN 634), 2-3 February, SHELTON remained inport until the next scheduled operational test, 9-19 February. During this second operational test, SHELTON again provided services as Launch Area Support Ship. Captain Vernon K. ROUX was embarked as CTU 57.9.2.

Upon completion of the second Operational Test, SHELTON steamed to Yokosuka, Japan for 14 days R&R and an availability with the Ship Repair Facility.

Returning to Guam, 14 March, preparations were once again being made to serve as Launch Area Support Ship. On 16 March, Captain Rupert BROOKS, COMSUBRON 15, was embarked as CTU 57.9.2, for the third Operational Test, and SHELTON was enroute to the Operational Area.

Nine days later, on 25 March, SHELTON returned to Guam to off load the special Telemetry Equipment and refuel. Upon completion of refueling, she was underway for San Diego via Midway Island and Pearl Harbor. Arriving in San Diego on 9 April, the ship was granted thirty days Leave and Upkeep. During the

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upkeep portion of this period, DATC (Development and Training Center) and NOSOPAC (Naval Ordnance Supply Office Pacific) removed Mounts 51 and 52 and replaced them with two completely reconditioned mounts. Once installed the new mounts had to be calibrated. Thus, on 20 May, SHELTON was underway for a Z-24-G calibration shoot in the San Diego Operation Area. [Annex 2] This underway period of training was the beginning of a summer of training and preparation for the WESTPAC deployment in September. The training and preparations included: ASW School Ship, seventeen gunnery exercises, three torpedo shots, three ASROC shots, [Annex 3] four Hunter Killer Anti-submarine exercises, an administrative inspection, [Annex 3] a material inspection, an Annual Supply Inspection, [Annex 4] an Operational Readiness Inspection, [Annex 5] a Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection, [Annex 6] a surprise security inspection, [Annex 7] and a Predeployment Inspection. [Annex 3]

On 1 July, SHELTON left Destroyer Squadron FIVE and joined Destroyer Squadron SEVENTEEN. Then on 1 September, when Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-THREE and Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE joined to make Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE, SHELTON left Destroyer Squadron SEVENTEEN and joined the newly formed Squadron.

USS PARSONS (DDG 33), USS ANDERSON (DD 786), USS WEDDERBURN (DD 684) and USS SHELTON (DD 790) were underway for WESTPAC on 30 September. On 1 October, the four ships rendezvoused with USS HORNET (CVS 12), formed Task Group 14.2, and proceeded to Hawaiian Operation Area to conduct HUKASWEX 11-68. Also included in the exercise were HMCS MACKENZIE (DDE 263), HMCS COLUMBIA (DDE 260), HMCS YUKON (DDE 261), USS DAVIDSON (DE 1024), and USS SMALL (DDR 838).


With stateside training completed, SHELTON and Task Group 14.2 were underway for Yokosuka, Japan on 18 October.

Arriving in Yokosuka, a day behind schedule after passing through the wake of Typhoon Judy, Commander ASW Group FIVE, on the HORNET, relieved Commander ASW Group THREE, on the USS BENNINGTON (CVS 20), as CTG 70.4.

When TG 70.4 arrived on Yankee Station, on 4 November, SHELTON was assigned Plane Guard duties for HORNET. SHELTON was assigned to TU 77.9.2 for ASW exercises 8-11 November and to USS INTREPID (CVA 11) for Plane Guard 12-14 November.

Upon departing Yankee Station on 15 November, and rejoining TG 70.4, the Task Group set course for the ASW Operating Area. ASW Exercise BEACON LAMP finished on 20 November, and SHELTON, in company with HORNET, PARSONS, DAVIDSON, and SMALL, headed for Hong Kong, B.C.C. and five days of R&R.

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By 1 December, SHELTON had returned to the Coast of Vietnam where she was assigned Gunfire Support in II Corps. SHELTON fired indirect call fire, Immediate Reaction, and harassment, and interdiction missions in support of Republic of Korea Forces, 18 miles north of Qui Nhon. [Annex 8]

On 4 December, Major General Yoon Pill Yong, Commander Republic of Korea's CAPITOL Division, visited the ship to observe a Call Fire Mission in support of his troops. Two days later, after supporting the General's CAPITOL Division during a Call Fire Mission, Military Advisory, Vietnam, released the following: "Hardest hit in the days action were Viet Cong bunkers and fortifications 18 miles north of Qui Nhon. Some 10 bunkers and 16 fortifications were destroyed there by guns of USS SHELTON in a shelling that preceded an air force strike against the area. The destroyer also knocked out two mortar positions, two masonry structures, 1000 meters of trail, and an estimated two tons of enemy supplies."

Completing the tour on the gun line, 19 December, SHELTON rendezvoused once again with TG 70.4 and proceeded to Sasebo, Japan, for Christmas Holidays and a TAV with the USS AJAX (AR 6).

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