

U. S. S. THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY REFER

DD717/DER:bm
5750
Ser 50
8 February 1966

From: Commanding Officer, USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 291 sh)

Subj: Ship's History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7
(b) COMCRUDESPACINST P5000.3B

Encl: (1) Revised up-to-date History of USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)

1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted



D. E. REPASS
By direction

Copy to:
COMCRUDESPAC
COMCRUDEFLOT 3
COMDESRON 9
COMDESDIV 92

SHIP'S HISTORY OF THE USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)

The history of the USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717) officially began on 9 July 1942 when her construction was authorized. On 23 April 1945 her keel was laid at Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Kearney, New Jersey and on 20 October 1945 she was launched. A long hull 2250 ton destroyer, CHANDLER was commissioned on 22 March 1946 at which time Commander F. O. C. FLETCHER assumed command.

THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717) is named in honor of Rear Admiral Theodore Edson CHANDLER, USN. Commissioned from the Naval Academy in 1915, he rose to flag rank during World War II. Admiral CHANDLER was killed on 7 January 1945 on board his flagship, the USS LOUISVILLE in Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands.

After a shakedown cruise to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and subsequent availability at Brooklyn Naval Shipyard, CHANDLER participated in flight qualification operations in the Atlantic with the USS SAIPAN and USS LEYTE.

In September 1946, CHANDLER proceeded from New York to San Diego via the Panama Canal to report to Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Upon reporting, CHANDLER joined DESDIV 171 in San Diego, consisting of the USS WILISTIE (DD 716), USS HAMNER (DD 718) and USS OZBOURN (DD 846). The latter was replaced by the USS CHEVALIER (DDR 805) in 1949 and this division was subsequently designated DESDIV 111.

On 6 January 1947, CHANDLER departed from San Diego for duty in the Western Pacific, thus beginning the first of two tours on "China Station" in the Far East. In September of 1947, Commander FLETCHER was relieved by Commander U. G. DOUKAS as Commanding Officer. It was during this period that the book "China Station" was written by one of CHANDLER's Officers.

Immediately after the invasion of South Korea by the North Koreans in 1950, CHANDLER, along with the rest of DESDIV 111 was ordered to Korean waters. During the Korean hostilities, CHANDLER made a total of three tours to the forward area participating heavily in the action. In March 1951 Commander CULLUM was relieved by Commander T. H. WELLS as Commanding Officer. The second Korean tour was likewise marked by numerous shore bombardment engagements, during which CHANDLER was credited with destroying six enemy batteries of 105MM guns. In March 1952 Commander WELLS was relieved by Commander D. M. RUBEL as Commanding Officer. During the third tour to Korea in 1953, after rotation from Task Force 77 to Formosa Patrol to shore bombardment with Task Force 95, CHANDLER earned membership in the exclusive "Trainbusters Club" and received high praise for her operations. As a result of her participation in the Korean conflict, CHANDLER received all nine battle stars that were issued. Near the end of 1953, Commander J. D. H. KANE relieved Commander D. M. RUBEL as Commanding Officer.

Since the termination of hostilities in Korea, CHANDLER has made routine six month tours to the Far East, in addition to training operations off the West Coast of the United States. These tours include operations with Task Force 77 and Formosa Patrol, as well as visits to such ports as Hong Kong, Kobe, Yokosuka, Sasebo. Early in 1956 Commander W. W. WITTER relieved Commander J. D. H. KANE as Commanding Officer.

During the 1956 tour, the Division made a visit to Brisbane, Australia. This was the first visit by U. S. Destroyers to that city since World War II. The fifth and sixth tours in 1957 and 1958 were highlighted by visits to Melbourne, Australia. In 1956, CHANDLER flew the Battle Efficiency "E" for outstanding performance.

In March of 1958, Lieutenant Commander G. L. CLARK relieved Commander WITTER. Commander CLARK was relieved in turn by Commander G. C. BROWN in December 1959, shortly after CHANDLER was reassigned to DESDIV 92, composed of USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887), USS HENDERSON (DD 785), and USS DUNCAN (DDR 874).

On 5 March 1960, CHANDLER, in company with DESDIV 52, departed once more for the Western Pacific. The busy tour saw duty on the Formosa Straits patrol, Strike Carrier Operations, and Anti-Submarine Warfare, in addition, to joint training exercises with Chinese Nationalist ships.

On 15 February 1961, CHANDLER reported to the San Francisco Naval Shipyard for Mark I Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization conversion. In addition on 15 February 1961 Lieutenant Commander S. L. GRAVELY, Jr. relieved Commander G. C. BROWN as Commanding Officer. Commander J. L. SPERANDIO relieved Lieutenant Commander GRAVELY on 21 October 1961. On 9 February 1962 the ship rejoined the fleet as one of its most modern and efficient units, equipped to handle the complex, fast-paced operations of current naval warfare. At this time she was reassigned to DESDIV 112 composed of USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) and USS OZBOURN (DD 846).

CHANDLER in company with DESDIV 112, again departed for the Western Pacific on 7 June 1962. Carrier and Anti-Submarine Operations, Formosa Patrol, and visits to several ports including Pearl Harbor, Kaohsiung, Yokosuka, Sasebo, Subic Bay and Hong Kong combined to make up this tour.

Upon completion of WESTPAC tour in December 1962, the USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717) was in Long Beach, California for extended upkeep and repairs to her engineering plant through the months of January, February and March 1963. The repairs were accomplished by the two destroyer tenders USS BRYCE CANYON (AD 36) and USS FRONTIER (AD 25).

Commander Lionell H. NELSON, USN, relieved Commander Joseph L. SPERANDIO, USN as Commanding Officer on 6 April 1963. During April and May CHANDLER conducted type training exercises in local operating areas. On the night of 16 May 1963, while planeguarding for USS BENNINGTON (CVS 20) CHANDLER rescued two downed pilots.

A two month Interim Availability was assigned to CHANDLER during June and July. June was spent alongside the USS FRONTIER (AD 25) and July in San Francisco Naval Shipyard. Local operations were conducted during August.

CHANDLER participated in two Hunter-Killer operations. The first, Operation SADDLE SCAP in September with USS HORNET (CVS 12), DESRON ELEVEN, and DESDIV TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE. Again in October she conducted HUK Operations in company with USS YORKTOWN (CVS 10), DESDIV ONE HUNDRED TWELVE, and CONTROV THREE.

Late in November, CHANDLER sailed with the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31) and USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. She returned to Long Beach in late December for the holiday leave and upkeep period.

In January, 1964, CHANDLER was again assigned to Anti-Submarine Group ONE, consisting of the USS KEARSARGE (CVS 33), Escort Division THIRTY-ONE, and units of Destroyer Division ONE HUNDRED TWELVE. While with ASWGRU ONE, the CHANDLER took part in operation PINE TREE, an exercise involving the screening of amphibious units against submarine attack, and many other ASW operations off the West Coast of the United States.

On 19 June CHANDLER sailed with ASWGRU ONE for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and the Western Pacific. On 1 July CHANDLER was assigned to Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-THREE and Destroyer Division TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE, composed of USS OZBOURN (DD 846), USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) and USS HENDERSON (DD 785).

Soon after the CHANDLER joined the SEVENTH Fleet, the August Tonkin Gulf crisis occurred and ASWGRU ONE, CHANDLER included, proceeded to this area to provide the ASW support for Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the South China Sea. After this situation eased, the CHANDLER returned to her normal schedule and continued her ninth Western Pacific cruise.

In early December CHANDLER and HOLLISTER were assigned to the USS CONSTELLATION (CVA 64), while the remaining units of ASWGRU ONE were detached from the SEVENTH Fleet to proceed back to Long Beach. Soon afterwards, the CHANDLER took part in operation TAJLBACK; a large scale fleet exercise to increase the readiness of the SEVENTH Fleet in strike, anti-aircraft, and anti-submarine warfare. In addition a sizeable underway replenishment operation was conducted.

On the 23rd of December, CHANDLER was detached and with the USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) set a course for Long Beach, her home port, via Midway Island and Pearl Harbor.

During this cruise, the CHANDLER visited the following ports: Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan; Buckner Bay, Okinawa; Hong Kong, Victoria Island, B.C.C.; Midway Island; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

On 1 January 1965 CHANDLER was assigned to DESDIV 92 composed of USS OZBOURN (DD 846), USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) and USS MANSFIELD (DD 728).

On 6 January 1965 CHANDLER arrived in Long Beach and began a leave and upkeep period. From 19 February 1965 to 24 May 1965 CHANDLER went through a regular shipyard overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard. On 6 April Commander John R. CRUMPTON, Jr., USN relieved Commander Lionell H. NELSON, USN as Commanding Officer. The period 25 May through 10 June was set aside to enable CHANDLER to get "Ready for sea" and conduct independent ship's exercises. On 11 June CHANDLER reported to Commander Training Command U. S. Pacific Fleet for refresher training which was satisfactorily completed on 23 July. During the period 24 July - 20 August, the ship conducted an Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise 9-12 August with DESDIV 92 and prepared for another deployment to WESTPAC. On 20 August the CHANDLER deployed to WESTPAC in company with Destroyer Division 92 and the fleet oilers USS KENNEBEC (AO 36) and USS NAVASOTA (AO 106). CHANDLER's crossing for this tenth cruise to Western Pacific was non stop to Yokosuka, Japan and was completed 4 September. After a four day tender availability, CHANDLER in company with USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) proceeded to Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines.

This marked the beginning of duty detached from DESDIV 92 for CHANDLER and HOLLISTER. On arrival in Subic Bay they were immediately assigned to the Taiwan Patrol Force and were on patrol in the Taiwan Straits 16-20 September. The two ships returned to Subic Bay for a short availability and a few days type training in the Subic Operating Areas. The last of two days on the Tabones shore bombardment range was interrupted by the unexpected assignment on 30 September of CHANDLER and HOLLISTER as screen units for the SEVENTH Fleet Ready Amphibious Group. A high speed run through the South China Sea was made to the rendezvous where the group was standing by for possible evacuation of U. S. personnel from Indonesia. This action was not necessary and the group was disbanded.

CHANDLER and HOLLISTER then proceeded to join USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31) on 9 October. They relieved as screen units of Task Group 77.4. A few days later they were joined by USS SHELTON (DD 790) (COMDESDIV 53 embarked). The Task Group operated on DIXIE Station off the central coast of South Vietnam until 18 October. Each of the screen units was assigned two days shore bombardment duty along the coast but weather prevented any firing.

On 19 October, the Task Group shifted operations to the YANKEE Station area from which the planes of BON HOMME RICHARD flew air strikes against North Vietnam. On 29 October the group departed enroute to Subic Bay for a five day availability followed by a five day R and R visit to Hong Kong, B.C.C.

On 11 November USS DUNCAN (DDR 874) joined the group as it departed Hong Kong enroute to continued operations in the YANKEE Station area. On 18 November, CHANDLER was detached as an AAW picket where she remained for 22 days. While on this independent duty, Robert KATUBI, FA, USN was overboard and recovered. CHANDLER rejoined the group on 10 December where air strike operations continued until 18 December when the group departed enroute to Subic Bay. After one day in Subic Bay, the group departed enroute to Hong Kong for another five day R and R visit.

CHANDLER was detached from Task Group 77.4 on 26 December and on 27 December departed Hong Kong enroute to Subic Bay where the year was ended with a one day availability and one day training on the Tabones shore bombardment range preparing for Naval Gunfire Support duty on the coast of South Vietnam.