

USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD-717) ANNUAL HISTORY 1967

CHANDLER began the year of 1967 in her home port of Yokosuka, Japan. She got underway 11 January for two days of type training in a local operation area southeast of Tokyo Bay. The ship returned to Yokosuka for three days before departing from Japan 16 January enroute to the II Corps area of South Vietnam. CHANDLER arrived on station 22 January and relieved USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) of her gunfire support assignment. During the last two days of January, CHANDLER's guns were fired in support of the First Air Cavalry in Operation THAYER II 50 miles north of Qui Nhon.

After being relieved by USS MYLES C. FOX (DD-824) on 4 February, the ship proceeded to Keelung, Taiwan, for a one-day port visit on 8 February. From Keelung she steamed to the waters of the East China Sea in the vicinity of the northern Ryukyus Islands to participate in Operation GILLNET, a four day ASW exercise with USS REEVES (DLG-24), USS COLLETT (DD-730), and USS BLUE (DD-744). Upon completion on 14 February CHANDLER proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan, arriving 16 February.

The ship next got underway 11 March enroute to the Yankee Team operation area in the Gulf of Tonkin, South China Sea. CHANDLER joined USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) on 17 March for five days of screening and planeguarding duties. Following this assignment the ship operated with USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) until being detached 27 March to join USS BAINBRIDGE (DLGN-25), USS DUNCAN (DDR-874), and USS HENDERSON (DD-785) in a search and rescue effort for a downed aircraft. When the search was abandoned 29 March CHANDLER rejoined USS KITTY HAWK and proceeded to Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. Two days after arrival the ship got underway 2 April for ASW exercises with USS MCKEAN (DD-784) and gunnery exercises at the Tobones firing range. CHANDLER returned to Subic Bay 4 April and got underway the following day in company with USS REEVES. The two ships proceeded to Da Nang to participate in anti-PT boat training exercises 7 April. Upon completion CHANDLER and REEVES proceeded to the South SAR Station in the Gulf of Tonkin where CHANDLER relieved USS MANSFIELD (DD-728) on 9 April. The ship remained in company with USS REEVES until 5 May when she was relieved by USS ARNOLD J. ISBELL (DD-869). CHANDLER then proceeded independently to Yokosuka, Japan, arriving 11 May.

CHANDLER remained in her home port until 30 May when she got underway for Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands. Two days after arrival on 3 June the ship departed enroute to the Yankee Team operation area in the Gulf of Tonkin. She joined the attack carrier USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) on 7 June and remained with her five days. After being detached CHANDLER joined USS SUMNER (DD-692) on 12 June as a unit of Operation Sea Dragon. During the 11-day period she fulfilled this assignment, CHANDLER's mission was to assist in preventing the flow of enemy war material along the coastal highways and waterways of North Vietnam into South Vietnam. On two separate occasions CHANDLER received hostile fire while engaged in this mission without being hit. The first instance began when a Navy A-1H spotter aircraft from USS HANCOCK (CVA-19) located 7 cargo barges near the mouth of a river some twenty miles north of the Demilitarized Zone on the afternoon of 14 June. CHANDLER and SUMNER were called in to provide destructive gunfire, with CHANDLER designated as primary firing ship. CHANDLER's barrage, directed by the spotter aircraft, resulted in a direct hit on one barge, the destruction of another, severe damage to three more, and light damage to

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the two remaining. In addition, four or five buildings were destroyed and two large secondary fires were started. But this bombardment did not go unchallenged, for five North Vietnamese coastal gun emplacements opened up in fire on the two ships. Her mission completed, CHANDLER retired to seaward with SUMNER, successfully evading approximately 300 rounds of shore fire.

The second occasion of hostile fire occurred 8 days later on 22 June. This time four or five 60-to-80 foot cargo barges were spotted by an S2-E aircraft from USS HORNET (CVA-12). Once again CHANDLER was designated as primary fire ship. Soon after opening fire the ship received hostile fire from North Vietnamese shore batteries. CHANDLER shifted her sights to the enemy gun emplacement and, while maneuvering at maximum speed to avoid more than 150 rounds of enemy fire, delivered an accurate barrage that resulted in three secondary fires started in the midst of the shore batteries. Although several splashes were observed within 10 to 15 yards of the ship, no damage was received. Before training her guns on the enemy shore batteries CHANDLER destroyed two cargo barges and caused one large secondary explosion.

During her SEA DRAGON assignment, CHANDLER operated with USS BOSTON (CAG-1) and USS BRUSH (DD-745), in addition to SUMNER. The ship was relieved by HMAS HOBART (D-39) on 23 June before becoming an escort for USS HANCOCK (CVA-19). Upon being detached on 25 June she set her course for her home port of Yokosuka, Japan, arriving 29 June.

The ship remained in port until 7 July when she got underway to join Task Group 77.8 in the Gulf of Tonkin. She made a fueling stop in Buckner Bay, Okinawa, and remained in port the night of 9 July. CHANDLER joined the attack carrier USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) 12 July and remained in her company until 21 July. On that day after being detached, CHANDLER relieved USS BIGELOW (DD-942) as the destroyer assigned to South SEA DRAGON operations. The ship operated with USS STODDART (DDG-22) until that ship was relieved by HMAS HOBART (D-39) on 24 July. The following day CHANDLER was detached to proceed southward at best speed to use her guns in support of the Third Marine Division which was conducting Operation BEAR CHAIN. The ship joined Amphibious Squadron NINE designated as Task Group 76.5 and consisting of USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10), USS OGDEN (LPD-5) and USS MONTICELLO (LSD). On 26 July CHANDLER was detached and returned to SEA DRAGON. Three days later she departed the SEA DRAGON operating area in company with HMAS HOBART to proceed to the aid of USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) which had suffered a devastating fire. Shortly after midnight 30 July HOBART and CHANDLER were detached to return to SEA DRAGON. USS RUPERTUS (DD-851) relieved HMAS HOBART 1 August and on 2 August CHANDLER was relieved by USS WARE (DD-865). Enroute to Yokosuka, she joined the screen of USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31). CHANDLER arrived in her home port 8 August.

CHANDLER next got underway 17 August for Subic Bay in company with Task Group 77.3 composed of USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43), USS COONTZ (DLG-9), USS ROBISON (DDG-12), and USS FRANK KNEX (DDR-742). The Task Group arrived in Subic Bay on 22 August and departed three days later enroute to the Tonkin Gulf. CHANDLER was detached 28 August to relieve USS CREE (ATF-84) of Russian trawler surveillance duties. The ship rejoined USS CORAL SEA on 29 August. On 10 September, after conducting an in-flight transfer of DASH

drone DS 1383 to USS DEHAVEN (DD-727), the ship proceeded toward Subic Bay for needed gyro repairs. Five days after arrival on 12 September she departed for the Tonkin Gulf. On 19 September the ship rejoined Task Group 77.3. On 22 September Task Group 77.5, consisting of USS INTREPID (CVS-11) and her escorts, joined Task Group 77.3 along with USS VESUVIUS (AE-15) and USS MISPELLION (AO-105) to participate in a one-day anti-submarine warfare exercise. The following day CHANDLER was detached to proceed to Hong Kong for rest and relaxation. The ship arrived in the Crown Colony on 25 September and departed for the Tonkin Gulf five days later after a very enjoyable stay.

CHANDLER became an escort for USS INTREPID (CVS-11) on 1 October. The following day she was detached to join USS BRONSTEIN (DE-1037), USS COLLETT (DD-730), USS R.S. EDWARDS (DD-950), USS EVANS (DE-1023) and USS BREAM (AGSS-243) for three days of anti-submarine warfare exercises. Upon completion, CHANDLER was assigned Russian trawler surveillance duties. When this assignment terminated 6 days later, CHANDLER rejoined USS INTREPID. The following day the Task Group departed for Yokosuka, Japan, arriving 17 October.

CHANDLER then began a pre-planned restricted availability period at the Ship Repair Facility in Yokosuka for much needed repair and upkeep. This upkeep included a fifteen-day period during which the ship rested in keel blocks in drydock. The ship was next underway on 22 November for one day of sea trials in nearby Tokyo Bay. On 4 December CHANDLER was again underway, this time to onload ammunition at the explosive anchorage and to conduct additional sea trials. She returned to port the same day and remained in Yokosuka until 12 December when she departed for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. CHANDLER arrived on 15 December and departed the following day for the Tonkin Gulf. Enroute she joined USS BORDELON (DD-881) to conduct a merchant convoy exercise with USNS GENERAL GORDON which terminated 18 December. The following day CHANDLER relieved USS HAMNER (DD-718) and joined USS CANBERRA (CAG-2) in the Northern SEA DRAGON operating area. The ship remained in this assignment until the end of the Calendar Year 1967.

A mere chronological listing of the ship's assignments during the year fails to give a complete picture of her activities, however. Such quantitative information as the size of the crew, the number of miles steamed, the quantities of food and fuel oil consumed, the amount of ammunition expended, the volume of communication traffic handled, and the number of underway replenishments does much to foster a better understanding of destroyer life. The ship was underway 219 days, or 60% of the year of 1967. As she steamed a total of 83,136 miles, CHANDLER's boilers burned a total of 5,204,950 gallons of Navy Standard Fuel Oil. The ship's crew of approximately 280 enlisted men and 17 officers consumed 108,276 eggs, 8,505 gallons of milk, 1,278 gallons of ice cream, 33,710 pounds of Navy 6-way boneless beef, and 3,900 pounds of coffee.

The ship's radiomen handled 10,772 messages directly concerned with the command during 1967. This figure includes a monthly average of 775 messages received and 195 originated by the ship. In addition to these "write-ups" the ship copied approximately 30,000 messages a month from the Fleet Broadcast. While providing Naval gunfire along the coast of Vietnam, CHANDLER

expended 5,927 rounds of 5"/38 caliber ammunition. Also during the year, 9,057 gallons of JP-5 fuel were consumed by the ships emergency diesel generators, the motor whaleboat, and the Dash drones; or was transferred during helicopter inflight refueling operations in the Gulf of Tonkin.

With more than half of the year spent underway, it was necessary to onload a considerable amount of fuel, provisions, stores, and ammunition without returning to port. Consequently the ship was alongside 36 different auxiliary ships or carriers for a total of 88 underway replenishments during 1967. Additional information concerning these replenishments is tabulated below:

<u>TYPE OF SHIP</u>	<u>NO. OF DIFFERENT SHIPS</u>	<u>TOTAL NO. OF REPLENISHMENTS</u>
AO	16	48
AOE	1	5
AE	6	12
AF	6	10
AFS	1	2
AKS	2	6
CVS	1	2
CVA	3	3
TOTALS	36	88

Reenlistment and advancement rates aboard CHANDLER were unusually high reflecting the degree of morale and training present on board. CHANDLER's reenlistment rate among her career designated personnel was 100%, while the rate for first-term reenlistments was nearly three times the rate published for the Cruiser-Destroyer Force in the Western Pacific. Seventy percent of the enlisted men who took the Navy-wide Advancement Exams were advanced in rate. An additional 7% passed the examinations but were not advanced due to quota limitations. These figures are a credit to the officers and enlisted men on board CHANDLER.

The ship's exemplary performance in two other categories earned recognition in 1967. On the afternoon of 5 July a brief ceremony was held on the forecastle. At that time the Commanding Officer presented a donation of \$717.00 - an amount in dollars equal to the ship's hull number - to the Navy Relief Society in behalf of the crew. Accepting the donation in behalf of the Navy Relief Society was Senior Chaplain MCLAUGHLIN and Mrs. Mitchell, Director of the Navy Relief Volunteers. In another short ceremony held in the officers' wardroom on the afternoon of 21 November, CDR G. S. GROVE, Commander Destroyer Division 92, presented awards to the Commanding Officer in behalf of the crew to honor CHANDLER for having placed first in the intramural athletic competitions during the year. Several members of the ship's bowling, basketball and softball teams attended this presentation to acknowledge the ship's excellent sports program.

As the year of 1967 becomes CHANDLER history, those men who served aboard her during this period have reason to remember with pride the ship's many accomplishments in 1967. Ever quick to answer any call, they worked together to make the ship an efficient military unit capable of executing any assignment with the speed and precision that has come to be the hallmark of Destroyer Squadron NINE.