

U.S.S. THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1971  
IN REPLY REFER  
DD717/MOB:cn  
5700  
Ser 184

24 APR 1972

From: Commanding Officer, USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Summary  
(2) Narrative  
(3) 1971 Employment Chronology  
(4) 1971 Kudos  
(5) 1971 Cruise Book *sent to Ly Rl.*

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

  
ROBERT F. CONNALLY

USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717)

SUMMARY

SHIP'S HISTORY 1971

During the year 1971, the USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717) continued to meet all commitments. Although homeported in Long Beach, California, she spent 7 1/2 months performing duties elsewhere. These assignments ran the gamut of destroyer operations, from plane guarding and escort duties for attack aircraft carriers to providing gunfire support for Free World Forces in the Republic of Vietnam. In all, there were seven major operational commitments during the year. These were:

1. WESTPAC Deployment (1 Jan 1971 - 13 May 1971). While deployed to the Western Pacific, T. E. CHANDLER provided gunfire support for Free World Forces ashore in the II, III and IV Military Regions in the Republic of Vietnam; acted as a Search and Rescue Unit and forward picket in the Gulf of Tonkin; and assumed the role of plane guard and escort destroyer during flight operations for the USS HANCOCK (CVA19) on Yankee Station. Additionally, the ship visited the liberty ports of Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand; Hong Kong; and Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
2. PACMIDTRARON 71 (17 Jun 1971 - 4 Aug 1971). During the summer months of June and July, 29 midshipmen were embarked in CHANDLER as she participated in 7 weeks of extensive training for NROTC Midshipmen. As an element of a 12 ship task group, CHANDLER was involved in conducting CIC training, gunnery exercises, communications drills and seamanship indoctrination. Along with the intensive training schedule, the ship visited the ports of San Francisco, Seattle and Pearl Harbor.
3. Plane Guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA43) (20 Sep - 24 Sep 1971). During this four day period, the CHANDLER provided plane guard services to CORAL SEA as she conducted carrier qualifications for her embarked air wing.
4. Plane Guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA43) (4 Oct 71 - 6 Oct 71). CHANDLER provided plane guard services during this first of two occasions in October to CORAL SEA as the carrier worked with her air wing prior to her WESTPAC deployment.

Enclosure (1)

5. Plane Guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA43) (13 Oct 71-19 Oct 71). Underway for the second time in October, CHANDLER assisted CORAL SEA in the successful completion of her pre-deployment Operational Readiness Inspection. The ORI included flight operations, CIC and tracking drills and visual and radio communications exercises.

6. Acapulco Visit (8 - 20 Nov 71). T. E. CHANDLER, in company with USS SUMTER (LST1181), visited the resort city of Acapulco, Mexico, for a 5 day R & R period. While anchored in Acapulco Bay, the ship's company was able to enjoy the warm weather and Mexican hospitality. After a brief fuel stop in Manzanillo, the ship returned to Long Beach on 20 November 1971.

7. Plane Guard for USS HANCOCK (CVA19) (6 - 15 Dec 71). The final underway period of 1971 saw T. E. CHANDLER in company with HANCOCK as the CVA conducted her ORI/COMPTUEX prior to her WESTPAC deployment. Over the nine day period, CHANDLER acted as planeguard for flight operations and target ship for tracking exercises. In addition, she participated in communication and CIC drills prior to returning to Long Beach for the Christmas holidays.

USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717)

NARRATIVE

SHIP'S HISTORY 1971

During the year 1971, the Commanding Officer was Commander Robert F. CONNALLY, USN.

The THEODORE E. CHANDLER is a unit of Destroyer Squadron NINE and until the disestablishment of Destroyer Division NINE TWO on 15 June 1971, a unit of that organization. She was homeported in Long Beach, California, along with the other squadron units which, at that time, included USS SOMERS (DDG34), USS OZBOURN (DD846), USS DE HAVEN (DD727), USS HOLLISTER (DD788), USS BADGER (DE1071), and USS HAROLD E. HOLT (DE1074). In June, the squadron was reorganized and for the remainder of the year consisted of the USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG32), USS HIGBEE (DD806), USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067), and the USS BADGER (DE1071).

CHANDLER began the year as a unit of the U. S. SEVENTH Fleet. She spent the entire month of January on the line, first as a SAR ship in the Gulf of Tonkin and later as a gunfire support ship in the II and III Military Regions of the Republic of South Vietnam. While on SAR, CHANDLER alternately escorted the USS GRIDLEY (DLG21), USS JOUETT (DLG29), and USS CHICAGO (CG11) with Admiral D. V. COX, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group, SEVENTH Fleet, embarked. While on the gunline during this period, CHANDLER fired over 1,000 rounds on shore targets while working closely with American spotters ashore.

On the 29th of January, she departed the gunline for a seven day upkeep period in Subic Bay. Her next commitment returned her to SAR station in the company of the USS HALSEY (DLG23). After two weeks in the Northwest sector of the Gulf of Tonkin, CHANDLER returned to Subic Bay for a second seven day upkeep period.

The month of March included a memorable week in the exotic city of Bangkok, Thailand. Having left Subic Bay behind and rounding the Southern tip of Vietnam, CHANDLER crossed the Gulf of Siam and entered the Chao Phaya River on the 9th of March. After seven days of Thai hospitality and rest and relaxation, the ship returned to the gunline in the III and IV Military Regions of the Republic of Vietnam for the remainder of the month.

Enclosure (2)

The 31st of March ended an exhausting 2 weeks of around the clock gunfire support and commenced the transit for Hong Kong. Arriving in Victoria Harbor on the 2nd of April, the ship began a seven day R and R period. On 9 April, CHANDLER departed Hong Kong enroute to Subic Bay and another week of upkeep.

Returning to Yankee Station on 17 April, CHANDLER provided plane guard services for the USS HANCOCK (CVA19) for a period of five days. This was the last line period before returning to the United States. Departure from Yankee Station on the 22nd of April marked the beginning of the three week transit back to Long Beach. After a brief three day stop in Subic, and fuel stops in Guam, Midway and Pearl Harbor, the CHANDLER arrived in Long Beach on the 13th of May.

The last half of May and the first half of June were spent inport in a post deployment standown.

On 17 June, 29 Midshipmen representing the NROTC units from 11 universities reported aboard for seven weeks of intensive training. CHANDLER, along with eleven other ships and their embarked midshipmen became floating schools. The future naval officers were indoctrinated in gunnery, seamanship, communications, and CIC evolutions in addition to being rotated through all three line departments on board. In spite of the the rigorous training schedule, time was allowed for the ship's company and midshipmen trainees to enjoy the hospitality of San Francisco, Seattle and Pearl Harbor. CHANDLER returned to her homeport, Long Beach, on 4 August bringing to a close a highly successful Midshipman Cruise.

The remainder of August and the first half of the month of September saw the ship in a Tender Availability period and conducting inport training and inspections in Long Beach.

On 20 September CHANDLER was underway again for the first of three plane guard assignments with USS CORAL SEA (CVA43). These assignments saw CORAL SEA through her work up for deployment. During the last assignment, CHANDLER not only provided plane guard services but also played a key role as communications and target ship in CORAL SEA's Operational Readiness Inspection. Upon completion of the ORI, CHANDLER was detached to return to homeport on 19 October.

On 8 November with the USS SUMTER (LST1181) in company, CHANDLER departed Long Beach and steamed south to Acapulco, Mexico. Arriving in Acapulco Bay on the 12th of November, she spent the next 4 days anchored in the warm Mexican sun. CHANDLER returned to Long Beach on the 20th of November, after making a brief fuel stop in Manzanillo, Mexico while enroute.

The remainder of the year's operational commitments were spent as plane guard and escort destroyer for USS HANCOCK (CVA19). The ship returned to port on 15 December to conclude the year in a well earned Christmas leave and upkeep period.

EMPLOYMENT CHRONOLOGY

1 Jan 1971 North SAR with USS GRIDLEY  
6 Jan 1971 Arrive South SAR with USS JOUETT/USS CHICAGO  
16 Jan 1971 Arrive II & III Military Regions for NGFS  
29 Jan 1971 Depart Gunline  
1 Feb 1971 Arrive Subic  
8 Feb 1971 Depart Subic  
10 Feb 1971 Arrive NSAR with USS HALSEY  
26 Feb 1971 Arrive Subic  
6 Mar 1971 Underway for Bangkok  
9 Mar 1971 Arrive Bangkok  
16 Mar 1971 Depart Bangkok for IV Military Region  
31 Mar 1971 Depart Gunline for Hong Kong  
2 Apr 1971 Arrive Hong Kong  
9 Apr 1971 Depart Hong Kong  
10 Apr 1971 Arrive Subic  
17 Apr 1971 Arrive Yankee Station with USS HANCOCK  
22 Apr 1971 Depart Planeguard for Subic with USS HANCOCK  
23 Apr 1971 Arrive Subic  
26 Apr 1971 Depart for CONUS  
30 Apr 1971 Arrive Guam  
5 May 1971 Arrive Midway  
8 May 1971 Arrive Pearl Harbor  
13 May 1971 Arrive Long Beach  
17 Jun 1971 Midshipmen embarked  
21 Jun 1971 Underway for SOCAL OPAREA  
24 Jun 1971 Return Long Beach  
28 Jun 1971 Underway for San Francisco  
2 Jul 1971 Arrive San Francisco  
6 Jul 1971 Underway for Seattle  
9 Jul 1971 Arrive Seattle  
13 Jul 1971 Underway for Pearl Harbor  
21 Jul 1971 Arrive Pearl Harbor  
26 Jul 1971 Depart Pearl Harbor  
26-29 Jul 1971 Operations at Barking Sands Range  
4 Aug 1971 Arrive Long Beach. Disembark Midshipmen.  
20 Sep 1971 Underway for plane guard with USS CORAL SEA  
24 Sep 1971 Arrive Long Beach  
4 Oct 1971 Underway for planeguard with USS CORAL SEA  
6 Oct 1971 Arrive Long Beach  
13 Oct 1971 Underway with USS CORAL SEA for carrier  
qualifications, and assist in her Operational  
Readiness Inspection  
19 Oct 1971 Arrive Long Beach  
8 Nov 1971 Underway for Acapulco  
12 Nov 1971 Arrive Acapulco

Enclosure (3)

16 Nov 1971 Underway for Long Beach  
17 Nov 1971 Fuel stop Manzanillo, Mexico  
20 Nov 1971 Arrive Long Beach  
6 Dec 1971 Underway for plane guard with USS HANCOCK  
15 Dec 1971 Arrive Long Beach



1971 KUDOS

The following congratulatory messages were received by USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717) during 1971:

30 April 1971 - Upon completion of the 70-71 WESTPAC Deployment, the following message was received from Vice Admiral M. F. WEISNER, COMSEVENTHFLT:

"Upon departure from the Western Pacific on a long homeward voyage, I wish to commend COMDESDIV 92 his staff, and the officers and men of USS OZBOURN, THEODORE E. CHANDLER, DE HAVEN and HOLLISTER for their highly successful deployment with the SEVENTH Fleet."

"I wish to express my "Well Done" to each of you for your professional services while significantly contributing to the free world effort in the Far East."

Vice Admiral M. F. WEISNER, USN

12 May 1971 - Upon completion of the 70-71 WESTPAC Deployment, the following message was received from Captain P. R. BUSH, COMDESDIV 92:

"On the eve of completing this Deployment to WESTPAC, I should like to express my appreciation and admiration for the outstanding manner in which you have performed your duties. You have every right to be extremely proud of your accomplishments in every phase of destroyer operations. The kudos which you have so deservedly received from your operational commanders truly reflect the high esteem in which you are held."

Captain P. R. BUSH, COMDESDIV 92

3 August 1971 - Upon completion of PACMIDTRARON 71, the following message was received from Captain JOHNSON, CTG 10.1:

"As CRUDESFLOT THREE, DESRON SEVEN and DESRON THIRTEEN Staffs; USS CHICAGO, GRIDLEY, HALSEY, STERETT, LYNDE MCCORMICK, THEODORE E. CHANDLER, ROWAN, GURKE, R. B. ANDERSON, HOLLISTER, OZBOURN and J. R. CRAIG return to their homeports and the 1971 Pacific Midshipman Training Squadron is dissolved, ship's companies, embarked Midshipmen, and staffs can look back on the past seven weeks as a period of accomplishment - one during which everyone from the most junior seaman/fireman recruit to the task group commander have been able to advance professionally as well as reap the personal and cultural benefits of

Enclosure (4)

varied port visits.

"Accomplishment of the above is a direct result of the individual and team effort of all - officers, Midshipmen and enlisted, and the enthusiasm displayed in every activity, no one individual, team or unit has led the group, but the aspect of a "Dead Heat" or Photo Finish" have prevailed throughout." "Well Done to All."

Captain JOHNSON, CTG 10.1

15 December 1971 - Upon completion of providing planeguard services to the USS HANCOCK (CVA19), the following message was received from COMCARDIV ONE:

"In all respects, CHANDLER performed with a high order of responsiveness and professional competence. Though limited by severe casualties, CHANDLER was able to execute each assignment, smartly and on time."