



**U. S. S. WARRINGTON (DD-843)**

**CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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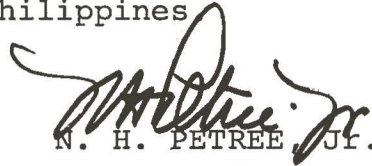
**From: Commanding Officer, USS WARRINGTON (DD-843)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-0989).  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C. 20390**

**Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)**

**Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12B**

**Encl: (1) Command Organization  
(2) Summary of Operations.  
(3) Miscellaneous documents.**

1. In accordance with reference (a) the enclosed ships history is submitted covering the period 1 January to 1 October 1972, the date of decommissioning WARRINGTON at the U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines

  
N. H. PETREE, JR.

**Copy to:  
COMCRUDESANT  
COMCRUDESFLOT TWO  
COMDESRON TEN**

USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) SHIP'S HISTORY 1972

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

PART I - BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

INPORT BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD FOR ROH	1 JAN - 16 JAN
ENROUTE AND INPORT NEWPORT, R.I.	17 JAN - 23 JAN
ENROUTE MAYPORT FLORIDA	24 JAN - 28 JAN
INPORT MAYPORT AND WEAPONS SYSTEM ACCURACY TRIALS	29 JAN - 13 FEB
ENROUTE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA FOR REFRESHER TRAINING	14 FEB - 16 FEB
REFRESHER TRAINING GUANTANAMO	17 FEB - 20 MAR
GUNFIRE SUPPORT QUALIFICATION CULEBRA ISLAND, AND ENROUTE NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND	21 MAR - 25 MAR
INPORT NEWPORT WITH TENDER AVAILABILITY AND LOCAL OPS	26 MAR - 4 JUN
ENROUTE AND TRANSIT OF PANAMA CANAL	5 JUN - 9 JUN
ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR & CHANGE OF COMMAND	10 JUN - 22 JUN
ENROUTE TO GUAM	23 JUN - 30 JUN
ENROUTE AND INPORT SUBIC BAY	1 JUL - 5 JUL
ENROUTE GULF OF TONKIN AND GUNLINE DUTY	6 JUL - 15 JUL
INPORT DANANG HARBOR	15 JUL
UNDERWAY AND ON STATION FOR LINEBACKER OPERATIONS OFF NORTH VIETNAM	16 JUL
RECIEVED BATTLE DAMAGE FROM UNDERWATER EXPLOSIONS	17 JUL
ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, R.P. UNDER TOW BY USS TOWOKONI (ATF-114)	18 JUL - 23 JUL
DRYDOCKED, SHIP REPAIR FACILITY (SUBIC BAY)	24 JUL - 1 SEP
INSURV INSPECTION	21 - 25 AUG
FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR DECOMMISSIONING	12 SEP - 30 SEP
DECOMMISSIONING OF USS WARRINGTON (DD-843)	1 OCT

Enclosure (1)

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

PART II BASIC NARRATIVE

Commander CHRISTOS ZIRPS, USN, COMMANDING OFFICER 4 February 1972  
to 22 June 1972

Commander NOEL H. PETREE, JR. USN, COMMANDING OFFICER 22 June 1972  
to 1 October 1972

During 1972 USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) was administratively assigned to Destroyer Squadron TEN in Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla TWO, Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CRUDESANT), and under the temporary operational control of Cruiser-Destroyer Group SEVEN Fleet in the Western Pacific.

## SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

JAN 1 - JAN 17: New Years Day, 1972, found WARRINGTON in the following circumstance;

Moored as before, portside to Pier 4  
In the yard down in Boston Bay  
Moored lines doubled, frozen not troubled  
In the standard ole destroyer way.

With frost in the air we ships do not care  
As is the way of the Atlantic Fleet  
Cause we've faith in the man, who says that he can  
And rules all afloat from Intrepid, his seat.

Our captain of lore has taken to shore  
His rest, one of relief  
For asleep, in the silence, his crew of reliance  
Alert even on this, a New Year's Eve.

At this time WARRINGTON was completing an extensive four month overhaul during which she receive major repairs in everthing from the Engineering spaces to the anemometer at the top most point. The crew during this period worked around the shipyard work to accomplish their assigned tasks. The proof of the magnitude of the effort and dedication put into the ship by all was the almost perfect sea trial made by WARRINGTON on 6-7 January, during which time a four and one half hour full power run (31.5 knots) was made without turning a valve. BOSTON was not all work, however, the WARRINGTON basketball team placed second in the Commander First Naval District playoffs on 17 January.

17 JAN - 24 JAN: On 17 January WARRINGTON got underway from Boston Naval Shipyard and proceeded to homeport, Newport, Rhode Island, arriving there on the 18th. This period in homeport was spent taking on stores and ammunition at Prudence Island and in getting ready to go to sea for individual ship training off the Florida Coast and Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

24 JAN - 29 JAN: At 1011, on 24 January, 1972, WARRINGTON got underway from Newport, R.I. enroute to Mayport, Florida where she moored in a nest of four destroyers on 27 January. While enroute some trouble was encountered with one of the main engines, but repairs were made in Mayport and no further trouble was experienced.

29 JAN - 14 FEB: WARRINGTON got underway on 29 January enroute to Port Everglades, Florida, arriving there on the 30th. From 30 January to 4 Feburary. WARRINGTON conducted Weapons Systems Accuracy Training Trails at the Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center (AUTEK) Range in the Bahamas. The purpose of the WSAT was to checkout the alignment and performance of all weapons systems, particularly those concerned with anti-submarine warfare and to conduct some engineering sea trails. From 30 January to 2 Febuary WARRINGTON visited Port

Everglades, Florida, as part of the WSAT inport calibration period. The Fort Lauderdale chapter Navy League of the United States treated the ship royally and made the visit most enjoyable for all.

14 FEB - 17 FEB: Enroute from Mayport Florida to Guantanamo Bay Cuba for Refresher Training.

17 FEB - 21 MAR: Upon arriving in Guantanamo Bay, on 17 February 1972, WARRINGTON changed operational control to Commander Fleet Training, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Under the tutorage of Commander Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo, WARRINGTON preceeded through all phases of refresher training, from the elementary settings of material conditions to the preparations and counter-measures for atomic attack. A brief break from training was provided the crew in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 3-5 March, and then it was back to Guantanamo Bay for the final phase of the extensive training which converted us into an effective fighting unit of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. During this training the crews attitude and performance drew praise from the observers who rode the ship. This command was included in the final report of training: "WARRINGTON commenced training with an enthusiastic attitude and strong desire to learn. Cooperation in seeking to achieve high standards of training in all areas was outstanding. It was a pleasure to assist in training WARRINGTON.

21 MAR - 26 MAR: Upon completion of refresher training on 21 March, WARRINGTON proceeded to the vicinity of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for Naval Gunfire Support qualification off Culebra Island. Upon successful completion of firing with a grade of good, WARRINGTON proceeded to Newport arriving Sunday, 26 March, to the joy and anticipation of family and friends.

26 MAR - 5 JUN: On 26 March WARRINGTON was moored portside to a nest of 4 ships, USS ROAN (DD-863), USS RUSH (DD-714) and USS BASILONE (DD-824) at Pier one berth 134, U.S. Naval Base Newport, Rhode Island. This period in port was marked by two tender availibilities and many inspections and visits in preparation for the upcoming deployment to the Middle East. During this period, 24 April - 27 April, WARRINGTON also spent three days of type training with USS BASILONE (DD-824) and USS TALBOT (DEG-4) in gunnery, manauvering exercises and anti-submarine excercises with USS TULLIBEE (SSN-576) at sea in Narragansett Bay, Operating Areas. In addition, WARRINGTON completed another excellent full power trial, once again proving out the tightness of the plant. Commander Destroyer Squadron TEN had shifted his pennant at this time. Between 23 May and 24 May, WARRINGTON was again underway on local operations in Narragasett Bay Operating Areas #9 conducting gunnery and engineering tests.

5 JUN - 11 JUN: At approximately 1200 on 5 June WARRINGTON departed Newport, R.I. as a ship of Tast Unit TWO SEVEN PT EIGHT PT NINE, in company with USS BASILONE (DD-824), USS HEWES (DD-1078), USS TRIPPE (DD-1075), and the USS SANTA BARBARA (AE-28) out of Davisville, bound for Pacific waters via the Panama Canal to become relief ships for units operating with the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Western Pacific waters.

Commander Task Unit TWO SEVEN PT EIGHT PT NINE, bound for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the 11 June the following message was received: "In behalf of the officers and men of the U.S Pacific Fleet in time of need and their performance has always been superb. I have every confidence that you will continue this tradition, and I assure you that your presence in WESPAC will make an important contribution to the cause of freedom in Southeast Asia---Admiral B.A. CLAREY, USN, Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet." - and the following message on the 12th of June. "The intensified aggression of the North Vietnamese has required expeditious augmentation of Yankee Station forces to protect U.S. lives in South Vietnam. The enemy has increased the level of hostilities and has embarked on a campaign designed to disrupt Vietnamization efforts. To hold the line, the following weeks will require the fullest of your professional competence. Many teammates are in position and await your arrival. I am aware of the many difficulties caused by this unexpected change in your deployment itinerary. I am pleased with WARRINGTON's positive and timely reaction to our nations needs. The flexibility and can do spirit you have exhibited in meeting the attending changes in logistical and operational considerations are appreciated. When called you responded. The ships and their crews which are now demonstrating the U.S. determination to remain firm in seeking a satisfactory termination of the conflict are in every sense professionals. I am proud to be associated with you." - E.R. ZUMWALT, JR. Admiral, U.S. Navy, Chief of Naval Operations. On 21 June WARRINGTON moored in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, outboard of USS BASILONE (DD-824). On 22 June CDR N.H. PETREE, JR. USN relieved CDR. C. ZIRPS as Commanding Officer USS WARRINGTON (DD-843).

23 JUN - 1 JUL: Enroute to Apra Harbor, Guam, from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. WARRINGTON continued training on the way to the gunline by conducting fire drills, simulated rocket hits, general quarters exercise and steering control drills. At 0652M 1 July, WARRINGTON moored in Guam to take on fuel, water, and ice cream, and to make minor engineering repairs.

1 JUL - 6 JUL: WARRINGTON departed Guam at 1639M, 1 July, enroute to Subic Bay, R.P. WARRINGTON anchored in Subic Bay, R.P. on 4 July and enjoyed beautiful weather while taking on anti-air and surface machineguns and REDEYE missile launchers and ordnance.

6 JUL - 15 JUL: WARRINGTON got underway again on 6 July enroute to Point Angela, off Military Region I, Republic of Vietnam, for gunfire support duty, in company with the USS BASILONE (DD-824). While enroute WARRINGTON continued its readiness training holding many exercises and drills. At 1152I, 7 July WARRINGTON entered Yankee Station observation zone. At 1516I, WARRINGTON was detached by USS BASILONE (DD-824), to proceed to Station Echo, Point Angla, to relieve USS EVERSOLE (DD-789) for Naval Gunfire Support missions. During the period 7 July - 15 July WARRINGTON carried out many fire missions. During the period 7 July - 15 July WARRINGTON carried out many fire missions against enemy troop emplacements, tanks, structures, and illumination missions, and expended well over 800 rounds from four

different positions on the gunline. The ship at this time was operating under TWO SEVEN PT EIGHT PT Nine, embarked in USS J.S. McCAIN (DDG-36).

15 JUL - 17 JUL: At 1300I on 15 July, WARRINGTON entered Danang Harbor, RVN, to exchange a defective covered voice radio unit, and then departed at 1530I, enroute to LINEBACKER OPERATIONS off the coast of North Vietnam. WARRINGTON was steaming independently enroute 18°N, 107°E to rendezvous USS KNASAS CITY (AOR -3) to take on ammunition and stores. At 0919I, 16 July, WARRINGTON relieved USS HAMNER (DD-718) for LINEBACKER OPERATIONS as a member of T.U. 77.1.1. On the morning of July 17 while operating with USS ROBINSON (DDG-12) and USS HULL (DD-945), WARRINGTON received rapid fire gunfire from shore batteries, took evasive action and continued on station off of Hon La Anchorage.

15 JUL - 17 JUL: The WARRINGTON's primary mission at this time was the detection and destruction of waterborne landing craft and surveillance of Chinese Communist merchant ships. At 1316I, on 17 July, WARRINGTON sustained severe damage as a result of two underwater explosions close aboard the port side of the ship. The shock from the underwater explosion caused extensive damage to the after fireroom, after engine-room and main control. The cool presence and hard training of WARRINGTON men paid off, however, and WARRINGTON was able to make 10 knots in clearing the area until she was forced to shut down the plant and coming under tow by USS ROBINSON (DDG-12).

17 JUL - 24 JUL: On 18 July, after a hard night of controlling flooding from ruptured fuel oil and fresh water tanks, WARRINGTON was taken under tow by the USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42) enroute to Subic Bay. On 20 July, the USS TAWAKONI (ATF-114) took WARRINGTON under tow from RECLAIMER. This period under tow was marked by hard work and perseverance on the part of all WARRINGTON crewmembers and officers. Despite the gravity of the situation and unbearable living conditions, a sense of humor was kept by all and morale and comrade-ship remained high.

24 JUL - 12 SEP: On 24 July, WARRINGTON entered Subic Bay, Philippines and moored outboard of USS PYRO (AE-24) at Naval Magazine, Subic Bay for offloading ammunition. On 25 July the ship was drydocked in AFDM-6, Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay, R.P. From 25 July to 22 August WARRINGTON underwent extensive yardwork to improve habitability and to insure watertight integrity. All was not work, however - on the 12th and 13th of August the crew enjoyed a cookout and party on Grande Island, and while in drydock WARRINGTON the intramural sports programs was very active. On 22 August, Rear Admiral John D. BULKELEY, President Board of Inspection and Survey, arrived to conduct a survey of WARRINGTON to determine the fitness of the ship for further active service.

On 25 August, Rear Admiral BULKELEY announced his decision to recommend to the Chief of Naval Operations that WARRINGTON be decommissioned and stricken from the rolls of U.S. Navy ships at her present location in the Philippines. On 12 September word was received from the Chief of Naval Operations that Secretary of the Navy WARNER had approved Rear Admiral BULKELEYS recommendation to strike WARRINGTON from the rolls of active ships.

12 SEP - 30 SEP: On the 12th of September WARRINGTON made her last voyage as an active U.S. Navy ship when she was moved from floating drydock number six to Riveria Piers, across the slip. The remaining days of September were spent in transferring materials back to COMCRUDESANT and in turning in equipment to the Naval Supply Depot and Ship Repair Facility Subic Bay. Transfer of personnel and personal effects were also carried out in preparation for decommissioning.

30 SEP - 1 OCT: On the morning of 30 September, 1972 at approximately 1000 the USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) was stricken from the register of U.S. Naval vessels and officially decommissioned. Noted personages attending the solemn ceremony included Rear Admiral John S. KERN, (COMCRUDESANT 9), Rear Admiral J.H. DICK (COMNAVBASE, SUBIC, CAPTAIN J.W. CONTE (Base Chaplain). Captain L.W. FISHER (COMMANDING OFFICER Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay). Upon decommissioning WARRINGTON was turned over to Ship Repair Facility Subic Bay, for disposition.