

USS WIDGEON MSC-208

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

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5750

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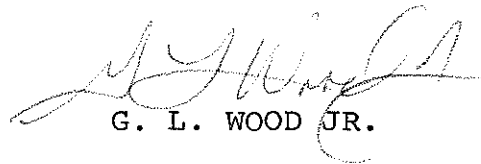
From: Officer in Charge, USS WIDGEON (MSC 208)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B9), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5750.2B

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) through (3) are submitted as the command history for calendar year 1970.



G. L. WOOD JR.

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CINCPACFLT

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1 JAN - 5 FEB 1970	Upkeep and Maintenance, Material Inspection
6 FEB 1970	Meritorious Awards
7 FEB - 6 APR	Market Time Patrol
7 APR - 19 APR	Subic Bay, Hong Kong, and Kaoshuing, Tiawan
2 May	Returned to Sasebo
14 MAY - 10 JUN	Refresher Training Yokosuka
11 JUN - 15 JUN	EXPO "70", Osaka, Japan
16 JUN - 6 JUL	Upkeep Sasebo
7 JUL - 21 JUL	MINEX Kaoshuing, Tiawan
26 JUL - 15 AUG	Upkeep Sasebo
16 AUG	Meritorious Unit Commendation
17 AUG - 5 SEP	Enroute Pearl Harbor
6 SEP - 17 SEP	Enroute Long Beach
18 SEP - 30 SEP	Upkeep Long Beach
1 OCT	Decommissioning Cerimonies
2 OCT - 31 DEC	Reserve Training San Diego

Enclosure (1)

BASIC NARRATIVE

USS WIDGEON (MSC 208), commanded by LT Julian E. MINARD, USN, administratively homeported in Sasebo, Japan, was under the control of both COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET and COMMANDER NAVAL RESERVE TRAINING during 1970. The mission of the ship was to maintain a high state of readiness in mine warfare as a member of the SEVENTH FLEET Ready Group and a high degree of training readiness under COMMANDER NAVAL RESERVE TRAINING as a Reserve Training Ship. Operational control of WIDGEON was assumed by COMMANDER TASK FORCE 115 during the period of her Market Time Patrol in February through 6 April 1970.

The new year started with our annual Maintenance, Material and Personnel Inspection given by COMMANDER MINE FLOTILLA ONE, Captain A. J. KODIS. Upon completion of the personnel inspection, Commodore KODIS made award presentations. LT Gordon L. WOOD Jr. received the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service while attached to and serving in USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20) as Fire Control Officer. Engineman Chief Wesley G. ROOT was awarded his fifth Good Conduct Medal. Sonar Technician First Class Dennis J. LYMBURNER was awarded his second Good Conduct Award representing eight years of outstanding Naval Service. Gunners Mate Second Class Samuel K. KALAMA was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service while serving in Vietnam. The ship completed the inspection with a grade of 94.6.

On 7 February the ship got underway for another of its many Market Time Patrols. The ship engaged in Gunfire Support missions and conducted inshore skimmer operations for Commander Task Force 115. WIDGEON boarded and searched over 300 vessels for contraband, arms, and ammunition. The ship detected over 1100 vessels off the coast of Vietnam. After three months of grueling patrol we headed for Subic Bay, Hong Kong, and Kaoshuing for a well deserved liberty. Completing our rest and relaxation we were called on to assist other units of the Mine Countermeasures Ready Group in Buckner Bay, Okinawa for Mine Countermeasures Refresher Training. Finally we were ready to head home to Sasebo, Japan, but not before we assisted the Pacific Destroyer Force in towing a gunnery target for bombardment by the USS DUNCAN (DD 874).

On the 27th of April we headed for home arriving in Sasebo, on May 2nd. Reunions with wives and sweethearts were the order of the day. The stay was short, however, the task of Fleet Refresher Training awaited us in Yokosuka, Japan.

Enclosure (2)

On 15 May, we were again underway, this time to match our skills against other ships of the same class in the SEVENTH FLEET. Our training and high state of morale and readiness proved to be a domineering factor as we completed our mission with a well deserved grade of 92.4. After all that work, we decided to take a rest and , Osaka, Japan, the site of EXPO "70" was unanimously voted on. The crew enjoyed four days of interesting sites and historical information, before we headed back to Sasebo for upkeep and reunions.

On 7 July, we got underway for Kaoshuing, Tiawan for a joint MINEX with other units of Mine Countermeasures Ready Group and the Nationalist Chinese Navy. During the MINEX, we heard a rumor that we were going back to the states to be homported in San Diego, California. Everyone had ~~their~~ own ideas and by the time we arrived in Sasebo, we knew the rumor was true. Our rumor was confirmed by Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet in that we were to arrive in Long Beach, California no later than 17 September. WIDGEON set about the task of getting ready for the long trip across 4,200 miles of water. On 16 August we were ready. All lines were taken in at 0800 on the morning of 17 August and we were underway for the U.S.A.

Prior to our departure, Commander Mine Flotilla ONE, Captain A. J. KODIS presented the WIDGEON with the Meritorious Unit Commendation for services both as a unit of the Mine Countermeasures Ready Group and as a unit of the Coastal Surveillance Forces on patrol off the shores of South Vietnam. Commodore KODIS also awarded Storekeeper First Class John B. STOCKTON Jr. the Navy Achievement Medal for his services in Vietnam from March 1968 to May 1969. Commissaryman First Class Terrance V. DEEDS received his third Good Conduct Award making him a member of the Gold Hash Mark Club.

On 5 September our task group consisting of USS CATSKILL (MCS 1), USS VIREO (MSC 205), USS WARBLER (MSC 206), and USS WIDGEON (MSC 208) arrived in Pearl Harbor. We took on fresh provisions and fuel for the final leg of the voyage home. The task group arrived in Long Beach on the morning of 17 September.

On 1 October the USS WIDGEON (MSC 208) was decommissioned at Fellows and Stuarts Ship Yard. Ceremonies were held as her Commissioning Pennant was hauled down to put her in a Reserve Status as a Group Two Minesweeper. LT Gordon L. WOOD Jr. assumed the duties as Officer in Charge relieving LT Julian E. MINARD as Commanding Officer.

On 2 October, the ship got underway for San Diego, California, our new home port, to become a Reserve Training Ship for Commander Naval Reserve Training. Although our mission is not as exciting as it was in the far east, we still maintain a high degree of readiness for our reserve forces and maintain a strict training program as a member of the U.S. Navy.

LT Gordon L. WOOD Jr. was born in Duluth, Minnesota on September 9, 1939. He enlisted in the Navy on 23 May 1960 as a Seaman Recruit. Upon completion of basic training he reported aboard the USS LYNNE D. MC CORMICK (DDG 8) where he served from June 1961 until May 1962. In September 1962 he was accepted into the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program (NESEP) at the University of Colorado. Upon graduation he attended Officers Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign on 23 November 1966. Ensign WOOD served as Missile Officer and Fire Control Officer on board the USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20) from April 1967 until May 1969. In September 1969 LTJG WOOD reported aboard the USS WIDGEON (MSC 208) as Executive Officer. LT WOOD assumed the duties as Officer in Charge of WIDGEON on 1 October 1970.

LT WOOD is married to the former Miss Merideth [REDACTED] of La Crescenta, California. Mr. & Mrs. WOOD have two sons; Steven [REDACTED], and Kevin [REDACTED]. The WOOD family presently reside in San Diego, California.

LT WOOD is authorized to wear the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960 -), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Navy Unit Citation.