



USS KING (DDG-41)
FPO, NEW YORK, NY 09501

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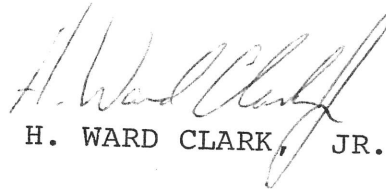
From: Commanding Officer, USS KING (DDG-41)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington
Naval Yard, Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History (1979); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events for 1979
(2) Narrative History for 1979
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Change of Command Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), (3), and (4) are forwarded.


H. WARD CLARK, JR.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1-14 Jan - Inport NORVA
15 Jan - 2 Feb - READEX 1-79
3-4 Feb - Inport Port Everglades, FL
5-6 Feb - ENR Yorktown, VA
7 Feb - Loadout Yorktown
8 Feb - 13 Mar - Inport NORVA
13 Mar - Deployed to Mediterranean
13-24 Mar - Fleet exercises with COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT enroute
Rota, Spain
17 Mar - Open Ocean Missilex
24-31 Mar - Inport Rota
1 - 3 Apr - ASW Week Operations, Western Med
4-10 Apr - PVST Civitavecchia, Italy
11-13 Apr - PVST Taormina, Sicily
19-20 Apr - Training Anchorage, Augusta Bay
21-23 Apr - MULTIPLEX 1-79
26-28 Apr - Open Ocean Missilex, Gulf of Sidra
29 Apr - Transit Western Med
30 Apr - 2 May - PVST, Taormina, Sicily
3 May - Transit Western Med
4-9 May - PVST Split, Yugoslavia
10-12 May - Transit to exercise DAWN PATROL
13-26 May - Exercise DAWN PATROL
27 May - 11 Jun - PVST Trieste, Italy - IMAV with USS SHENANDOAH
12-17 Jun - Transit Eastern Med
18-25 Jun - PVST Ashdod, Israel
26-27 Jun - Transit to Training Anchorage
27-29 Jun - Training Anchorage, Souda Bay, Crete
30 Jun - 4 Jul - Transit to Training Anchorage
5-8 Jul - Training Anchorage, Pollensa Bay, Palma, Spain
9-22 Jul - PVST Barcelona, Spain
22-31 Jul - MULTIPLEX 2-79
28-30 Jul - Open Ocean Missilex/Sinkex, Gulf of Sidra
31 Jul - 1 Aug - Transit
2-9 Aug - PVST Ville de Franche, France
10-12 Aug - Transit
13-18 Aug - PVST Palma de Majorca, Spain
19-20 Aug - Transit
21-24 Aug - Training Anchorage, Augusta Bay, Sicily
25-27 Aug - ASW Operations, Central Med
28-29 Aug - Training Anchorage, Augusta Bay, Sicily
29-30 Aug - Transit
31 Aug - 8 Sep - PVST Vallencia, Spain
8-9 Sep - Transit
10 Sep - Inport Rota, Spain
11-12 - PEB (OPPE)
12-22 Sep - Transit NORVA
22 Sep - 19 Nov - LV/UPK NORVA
22 Oct - 17 Nov - IMAV with USS SHENANDOAH
5 Nov - 16 Nov - Combat Systems Readiness Review

19-21 Nov - ISE VACAPES
22 Nov - 25 Nov - Inport NORVA
26 Nov - 12 Dec - Missile School Ship 2-80, AFWTF NGFS,
Vieques Range - Tethered Ops with USS PEGASUS
13-14 Dec - Inport Yorktown, VA (Loadout)
15-31 Dec - LV/UPK NORVA

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF 1979

1979 saw USS KING perform the final stage in her modernization - the transformation of an operationally untested crew and ship into a fully operational, combat ready fleet unit. During 1979, KING completed her first extended deployment since 1973, participated in six major fleet exercises both in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, successfully completed the PEB inspection and earned six departmental awards.

Put to the test in READEX 1-79, an intense fleet exercise in the Caribbean, USS KING and her crew performed in superior fashion while gaining much needed experience for the forthcoming Med deployment. Continuous effort by the members of A-Gang (Auxiliary Machinery) earned the KING her certification for HIFR (Helicopter In-Flight Refueling).

With March came a more stringent test of KING's readiness, a six month deployment to the Mediterrean Sea, attached to COMCRUDESGRU TWO as COMDESRON FOURTEEN Flagship. KING seized the opportunity for further growth and realization of the potential of a NTDS (Naval Tactical Data System) Guided Missile Destroyer. Many long hours and much hard work were spent exploring and critiquing Over the Horizon Targeting concepts. USS KING, specifically designed for anti-air warfare, was also employed extensively in ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) operations.

Hard work and long hours were the norm underway with the Sixth Fleet, and often this extended to the port visits as well. In a display of the flag and as an ambassador of good will, KING excelled. In Split, Yugoslavia, KING fulfilled her mission of good will in the Mediterranean Theater by extending a tour to some 1,700 Yugoslavians in two days including the Yugoslavian Admiral of the Navy.

Operations in the Mediterranean involved exercise after exercise with every conceivable fleet asset - submarines, carriers and aircraft, and also the assets of other NATO countries. DAWN PATROL was a major NATO exercise which tested the ability to mold the fleets of varying nations into a single fighting force. The operations proved a success and were beneficial to all involved.

During the deployment KING served extensively as a combat air patrol control ship. Implementation of an automated control capability therefore rose to a high priority in KING's transition to a fully capable unit. Despite longstanding fleetwide difficulty in this area, KING successfully achieved automated control of F-14 aircraft.

Though nearing the end of her deployment, the pace on the KING did not slacken. After months of preparation, KING departed Rota, Spain en route Norfolk with the OPPE team from CINCLANTFLT aboard, completing all six areas with grades of satisfactory. Accomplishing this difficult task at the end of a six month deployment without the usual services required was the final step in attainment of the Engineering symbol of excellence, the Red Engineering "E". In addition, KING was awarded the Combat Information Center "E", Electronic Warfare "E", Damage Control "DC", Communications "C" and ASW "A" during the competitive year.

September 22nd, found the KING finally in her homeport for a well deserved leave and upkeep period.

With the crew refreshed, KING was underway again, this time for the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF) at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. As testimony to her combat readiness, KING was tasked with Missile School Ship, during which the missile firing teams of several ship's utilized KING as a training platform to hone their skills. In a period of two and a half days, KING fired twenty-three "Birds" at drone targets provided by AFWTF off the coast of Puerto Rico. In addition, KING successfully completed Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) Qualification at the Vieques Range. When a system casualty precluded dual sided operations of her 5"/54 gun mount and threatened her qualification, KING came through firing in single-sided casualty mode - a tribute to her "can-do" spirit.

Her operations with AFWTF completed, USS KING and USS PEGASUS, a patrol hydrofoil, conducted test and evaluation of a previously untested method of fast patrol boat operations. Termed "Tethered Ops", KING towed PEGASUS to her area of operations, greatly extending her patrol and strike range. The problems involved in towing a fast patrol boat at high speeds were numerous. However, KING's deck force came through in typical KING fashion, overcoming the inherent problems with this untested procedure.

Enroute Norfolk, the evaluation complete, KING performed a midnight rescue of five Cuban refugees in the Straights between Florida and Cuba. The rescue was complicated by darkness, fog, and seven foot seas, but all five were delivered safely to Port Everglades, Florida.

Inport Norfolk in mid-December, the KING's officers and crew enjoyed the Christmas season with family and friends.

During the 1979 year, KINGSMEN were continually challenged by tasks requiring not only skills previously learned, but also skills never before taught. With planning, hard work, and ingenuity, KING has set the standards for all destroyers in

Enclosure (2)

the fleet. In the finest tradition of her ancestors, she has brought to life the spirit and pride of the finest - the Destroyer Navy.

KING was commanded by Commander Grant A. Sharp until 17 June 1979, when he was relieved by Commander H. Ward Clark, Jr.

Enclosure (2)