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U. S. S. SOMERS (DDG-34)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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5750
Ser 128
25 February 1976

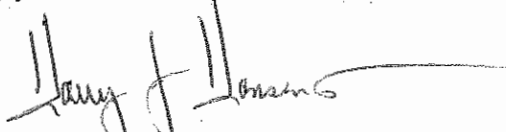
From: Commanding Officer, USS SOMERS (DDG 34)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: USS SOMERS (DDG 34) 1975 Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1);
submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events
(2) Narrative of Events
(3) Documentary Annex to the History of the USS SOMERS

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.


HARRY J. HANSEN III

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OF USS SOMERS (DDG 34)

1 JANUARY to 31 DECEMBER 1975

1 - 9 JAN	INPORT Pearl Harbor, Pre-regular Overhaul
9 JAN	INPORT Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Commence Regular Overhaul
9 JAN - 6 OCT	INPORT Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Regular Overhaul
7 OCT	Change of Command, CDR Harry J. HANSEN III relieves CDR H. L. PABST
7 OCT - 22 OCT	INPORT Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Regular Overhaul
23 OCT	UNDERWAY Local OPS - First Sea Trials
24 - 27 OCT	INPORT Pearl Harbor
28 - 30 OCT	UNDERWAY Local OPS - Second Sea Trials
30 OCT - 6 NOV	INPORT Pearl Harbor
7 NOV - 9 NOV	UNDERWAY Local OPS - Third Sea Trials
10 NOV	INPORT Pearl Harbor, Regular Overhaul Completed
10 - 13 NOV	INPORT Pearl Harbor
14 NOV	UNDERWAY Local OPS
15 - 16 NOV	INPORT Pearl Harbor
16 - 18 NOV	UNDERWAY Local OPS
19 - 30 NOV	INPORT Pearl Harbor, Liberty and Upkeep
1 - 5 DEC	UNDERWAY Local OPS (USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD 950), USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145), USS TAUTOG (SSN 639))
5 DEC	INPORT Pearl Harbor
6 DEC	INPORT, Visit Ship in Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day
7 - 8 DEC	INPORT Pearl Harbor
8 - 9 DEC	INPORT NAD West Loch, Ammunition Loadout
9 - 10 DEC	UNDERWAY Local OPS - PMRF for STV Services
11 - 31 DEC	INPORT Pearl Harbor, Liberty and Upkeep

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS OF USS SOMERS (DDG 34)

SOMERS welcomed the New Year at the United States Naval Station Pearl Harbor in preparation for regular overhaul which commenced on 9 January at Dry Dock #1 of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Thus began the rigorous demands and frustrations of a complex yard period. Major scheduled events during January included extensive engineering repairs and overhauls to the MK 13 MOD 1 TARTAR missile launcher, SQS 23E Sonar and MK 16 MOD 4 ASROC launcher. The 5"/54 MOD 9 gun mount was replaced with a lightweight MOD 10.

SOMERS' seventh birthday since her conversion to a DDG was celebrated on the 12th of February, an occasion which highlighted a month of routine shipyard work. The months of March and April were spent in the midst of overhaul work with May bringing the end of the dry dock period. On 10 May the SOMERS passed an underwater hull inspection and undocked, mooring port side to shipyard Berth B-1.

The end of May and all of June were again spent in overhaul work with the emphasis placed on ship's personnel taking advantage of training, both aboard and at various schools in the Pearl Harbor area. On 12 June both the officers and crew relaxed at a ship's picnic held at Barbers Point Naval Air Station.

Overhaul progressed throughout July, including a highly successful Lighting Off Examination of the forward engineering plant on 23 July. August proved to be another hard working regular overhaul month in which the SOMERS again became home for her crew. All hands were moved back on board by 31 August.

The crew finally began to see some benefit from all their work when the renovated Enlisted Dining Facility opened on the 2nd of September. The month also saw a successful Lighting Off Examination of the after engineering plant on 8 September and missile radar collimation on the 15th of September.

The beginning of October was highlighted by a Change of Command Ceremony on the 7th, in which the fifth Commanding Officer, Commander H. L. PABST, USN, was relieved by the sixth Commanding Officer, Commander Harry J. HANSEN III, USN.

On the 10th of October the SOMERS had its first underway simulation, or "FAST CRUISE," which gave the crew an opportunity to become familiar with its Watch, Quarter and Station Bill. The 13th of October was spent observing Holiday Routine in commemoration of the 200th Birthday of the Navy, both on board and at various base activities.

The 23rd of October found the SOMERS accomplishing a successful first sea trial followed by a second successful sea trial from 28 - 30 October during which boiler flexibility tests and antenna radiation patterns were accomplished.

The beginning of November located the SOMERS inport and successfully completing Helicopter Certification on the 4th. SOMERS was again underway on 7 - 8 November, this time for a full power run and test firing of the new 5"/54 MOD 10 lightweight gun. Friday the 14th of November found SOMERS underway to the FORACS Range (Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Sight) which was followed by the 16 - 18 November underway period in which Weapons System Accuracy Tests (WSAT) were held. The month of November closed with "holiday routine" as the ship celebrated Thanksgiving.

On the 1st of December, SOMERS got underway for local operations with the USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD 950), USS HASSAYAMPA (AO 145) and the USS TAUTOG (SSN 639). During this at sea period, the SOMERS conducted a gunshoot, a refueling exercise and engineering casualty control drills. The SOMERS was inport on 5 December in preparation for "Visit Ship" on 6 December, in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day 24 years earlier. The SOMERS proceeded to NAD West Loch on 8 December for a complete ammunition loadout which restored the SOMERS to full fighting trim. On the 9th and 10th of December the SOMERS operated at the Pacific Missile Range for submarine target vehicle services. The remaining weeks of December were devoted to upkeep and liberty with the SOMERS quietly spending the Christmas Holidays, capping off a busy year, in anticipation of planned Weapons System Qualification Tests and Refresher Training.



U. S. S. SOMERS (DDG-34)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:

22 December 1975

Dear Families and Friends of SUPER SOMERSMEN,

I would like to take this opportunity in my first letter to you as Commanding Officer of SOMERS to thank you for the warm "Welcome Aboard" received by my family and myself upon assuming command of the finest guided missile destroyer in the Pacific Fleet. Since taking command, I have been impressed by the attitude and spirit on board and I greatly appreciate the support of everyone -- on the ship as well as off -- in making the transition from an extended overhaul period to fleet operations a smooth one.

As many of you know, the month of October was a busy one for SOMERS. She started off by successfully completing testing of main engines on 10 October, the final hurdle prior to sea trials. Following these tests, a number of "Fast Cruises" -- so named because the ship remains fast to the pier -- were conducted in which underway evolutions were simulated. These preparations set the stage for SOMERS first underway period which occurred on 22 October. This first sea trial was devoted principally to testing main propulsion equipment and familiarization of all hands with underway duties. As I recall, the sea was a bit choppy that first time out and there were mixed emotions among newer members of the crew about life on a rolling destroyer. The second sea trial, 28-30 October, saw more engineering tests but this time a detailed checkout of installed electronics systems was added to the agenda. The third sea trial, 6 through 8 November, found SOMERS conducting a full power run, completing electronics checks and test firing her new gun. With the completion of the third sea trial the ship was ready to leave Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and rejoin the Pacific Fleet.

Now somewhat used to going to sea, the period 16-18 November found SOMERS underway, this time for Weapons System Accuracy Tests. Thanks to a lot of hard work, all tests were completed successfully and we returned to port tired but happy with the satisfaction that comes with success. At this point SOMERS was allowed a brief but well appreciated rest for the Thanksgiving holiday. As is custom, the talented food service personnel served a "SUPER" Thanksgiving dinner in the Crew's Dining Facility for the crew, their dependents and guests.

The beginning of the Yule month again found SOMERS underway; by now most people had their sea legs and local operations were old hat. The ship conducted a gun shoot, refueling exercises, engineering casualty control and shiphandling drills, small arms training and anti-submarine warfare exercises. These evolutions are all part of a detailed plan to transform the crew from a

group of individuals into a smoothly functioning team. These drills, which take considerable time and effort, are necessary to develop the discipline required to react quickly in any situation. Despite the effort involved, I feel everyone enjoyed the change of pace; boot and old salt alike were finally doing some of those things that the recruiting posters promise. This not only helps morale but makes a commanding officer's job much easier, especially with the fine crew I have in SOMERS.

At this point it should be noted that our special activities were not limited to underway times. On 5 December SOMERS moored near the landing for boats shuttling visitors to and from the Arizona Memorial. She had been chosen as the "Visit Ship" in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day 34 years earlier. During this special weekend, SUPER SOMERSMEN again responded with enthusiasm and more hard work in preparing the ship for some 850 visitors who came to tour during a four hour open house on Saturday afternoon, 6 December. All hands deserve a "Well Done" for the way they hosted the public.

In the last two months, a number of personnel have been singled out to receive individual recognition for past achievement. Congratulations are in order for the following:

LCDR V. H. MORRISON, USN	JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL
ETC W. W. HAWLEY, USN	NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
HTC J. P. STANKS, USN	LETTER OF APPRECIATION
ICL R. M. OLIVER, USN	SUPERSOMERSMAN OF THE MONTH (NOVEMBER)
SM3 MARK A. ARNETT, USN	LETTER OF COMMENDATION
MS3 PAUL L. JUNIO, USN	LETTER OF COMMENDATION
MS3 ROMEO I. IGNACIO, USN	LETTER OF COMMENDATION
MM3 GEORGE W. RASH, USN	SUPERSOMERSMAN OF THE MONTH (DECEMBER)

October and November saw some advancements in rate as well. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the following promotions:

Steven J. HOLDEN to Boiler Technician Second Class
Dan R. KAUPPI to Boiler Technician Second Class
Matthew F. KINNEY to Electrician's Mate Third Class
Gregory A. MAGNER to Gunner's Mate Third Class
David L. ROBERTSON to Boatswain's Mate Third Class

Michael J. SOLTYSIAK to Storekeeper Third Class

Between now and the end of June, SOMERS' schedule will be filled with more trials and inspections. In the period ahead we cast a determined eye toward Missile System Qualification Trials, refresher training and various battle readiness drills to name a few, all aimed at getting the ship in top readiness for deployment. However, that deployment, it appears, will be some time next winter, unless the "menehunes" (little Hawaiian gremlins) do something to change our schedule.

Now I would like to discuss a Navy program that SOMERS has not participated in previously. As a commanding officer I am interested not only in my crew but in their families as well. It is no secret that if problems at home are minimized life aboard ship will be easier. Often the irritants in life require outside assistance for relief. Realizing that husbands are not always available to solve problems or bring things to the attention of the Command, SOMERS has adopted the Navy Wives Ombudsman Program. Its prime purpose is to give wives of Navy personnel an official representative who will not only express their views to the commanding officer but will be available when another Navy wife is needed for advice. For SOMERS, Linda HELM, the wife of FTGC Jack HELM, has graciously consented to take on the Ombudsman duties. Linda may be contacted at 423-1796. She stands ready to help and I encourage your calling, not only for problem solving but to offer your assistance as well.

Again, thank you for your support and interest in SOMERS. I wish all the families and friends of SOMERS a happy holiday season and my sincere best wishes for the coming year.

Sincerely,


HARRY J. HANSEN III
CDR USN