



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS REEVES (DLG 24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, USS REEVES (DLG 24)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History, 1972, USS REEVES (DLG 24)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History, 1972, USS REEVES (DLG 24)
(2) Summary of Operations

1. The USS REEVES (DLG 24) Command History for calendar year 1972 is submitted to ensure the annual compilation and preservation of information of historical significance concerning activities of this command.


LEE BAGGETT JR.

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMCRUDESAC
COMDESFLOT FIVE

Command Organization

1. Captain Lee BAGGETT Jr., USN, assumed command on 31 May 1972, relieving Captain William S. MAYER, USN, who had commanded REEVES since recommissioning 29 August 1970.
2. Missions and functions of REEVES did not change in 1972.
3. REEVES was assigned to COMDESFLOT FIVE for administrative control throughout 1972.
4. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii remained REEVES' homeport throughout 1972.

Summary of Operations, 1972

The month of January 1972 found REEVES in her homeport of Pearl Harbor; her crew enjoying the holiday leave period and a post-deployment leave and upkeep period after return to Pearl Harbor on 20 December 1971 from deployment with the U. S. SEVENTH FLEET.

At the end of January REEVES commenced an upkeep period, with emphasis on repairs and maintenance for engineering plant and combat systems. This upkeep period continued until 6 March when REEVES went to sea for a week of type training in the Hawaiian Operating Area. During this week at sea, equipments were tested, new crew members learned their assigned duties, and the old hands renewed their training, with ship's drills and exercises.

On 10 March REEVES returned to Pearl Harbor with a brief stop at NAD Oahu to load missiles for an upcoming exercise, Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) 7-72. REEVES then entered another brief upkeep period to ensure proper operation of all systems for the COMPTUEX.

On 20 March COMPTUEX 2-72 began. During this 4 day exercise off Oahu and Kauai, all hands were tested by multiple problems, drills and exercises in AAW, ASW and surface warfare. With return to Pearl Harbor on 24 March REEVES went into an upkeep period to prepare for her next exercise, COMPTUEX 10B-72, which was to commence in April.

On 11 April REEVES once again sailed from Pearl Harbor for a week of exercises. Although similar to COMPTUEX 7-72, COMPTUEX 10B-72 further sharpened REEVES' crewmen in the operation of their systems during multithreat exercises. COMPTUEX 10B-72 completed, REEVES returned to Pearl Harbor on 14 April for a month of upkeep. REEVES began 2 weeks of type training in the Hawaiian Operating Areas on 15 May, returning to Pearl Harbor on 26 May to make preparations for the upcoming Change of Command.

On 31 May Captain Lee BAGGETT Jr., USN, relieved Captain William S. MAYER, USN, as Commanding Officer.

REEVES remained in Pearl Harbor in an upkeep period until 26 June when she went to sea, stopping briefly at NAD Oahu to load missiles in preparation for a Midshipman Cruise to the West Coast of the United States and Canada. On 26 June REEVES conducted type training in the Operating Area south of Oahu and then steamed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, where on 27 June one missile exercise firing was completed before returning to the operating areas south of Oahu. The next day was devoted to low-elevation evaluation testing of the AN/SPG-55B Guided Missile Fire

Control Radars, conducted by the weapons department and Naval Ship Missile System Engineering Station personnel. REEVES spent the next day on the FORACS range, checking the calibration of her sensors, and on 30 June completed the low elevation tests and returned to port.

REEVES spent the Fourth of July holiday weekend inport, receiving 44 midshipmen who were assigned to REEVES for EX-PACMIDTRARON 72. This group of midshipmen consisted of 7 First Classmen and 37 Third Classmen from NROTC units across the country. For the next 5½ weeks they would be trained and indoctrinated in the many facets of shipboard life and the duties of officer and enlisted personnel.

On 5 July REEVES sailed from Pearl Harbor as a unit of EX-PACMIDTRARON 72, with her midshipmen eager to put to use the theory they learned in the classroom. EX-PACMIDTRARON-72, commanded by Captain George S. GROVE, Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirteen, consisted of 5 ships; USS REEVES (DLG 24), USS HORNE (DLG 30), USS DECATUR (DDG 31), USS ORLECK (DD 886) and USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852).

On 6 July REEVES was at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai. Here the midshipmen witnessed the firing of a Terrier Missile, an ASROC firing, and firing of the 3"/50 caliber guns. From Barking Sands REEVES, in company with the other units of EX-PACMIDTRARON 72, steamed to the Puget Sound area. While in transit to Puget Sound, daily shipboard training and intership exercises were conducted by ship's company and the midshipmen embarked. These drills covered all phases of shipboard life, and increased proficiency in shiphandling, engineering, gunnery, communications, flashing light, flag hoist and watch standing duties.

After a week of transit, USS REEVES and USS ORLECK arrived at Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada, on 15 July, with the remainder of the EX-PACMIDTRARON units going to Seattle, Washington. The people of Esquimalt and Victoria, as well as the Canadian Armed Forces, welcomed the REEVES and ORLECK, hosting a dance for the midshipmen and receptions and parties for the officers and enlisted men. During this visit to Esquimalt, the Governor General of Western Canada and other local dignitaries, including 60 members of the Canadian United Services Institute (former members of Canada's armed forces), were guests on board REEVES for a luncheon and tour of the ship. On 19 July the EX-PACMIDTRARON units formed up outside of Puget Sound and sailed for San Francisco. The visit to San Francisco, 21-26 July, gave REEVES' officers, midshipmen and men the chance to enjoy the hospitality of the city. In return, REEVES held an open house on 23 July, during which some

2000 citizens of the San Francisco area toured REEVES.

On 26 July REEVES left San Francisco, enroute to San Diego. The midshipman training cruise squadron conducted a multi-ship missile exercise at Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, on 27 July. With midshipmen manning some combat system stations and observing at others, REEVES fired one warhead missile which destroyed its target. After spending the weekend of 28-30 July in San Diego, REEVES returned to the southern California operating areas on 31 July, where final midshipmen competitions in weapons, shiphandling, and communications were conducted by the ships of the training squadron. With completion of these exercises on 3 August REEVES again entered San Diego where the midshipman cruise was terminated and midshipmen departed to return to their respective NROTC units.

On 7 August REEVES departed San Diego for her homeport of Pearl Harbor. After a brief stop at the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California, to exchange missiles, REEVES arrived in Pearl Harbor on 12 August and began making preparations for her deployment to the Western Pacific.

On 18 September REEVES departed Pearl Harbor in company with USS SCHOFIELD (DEG 3), the two ships comprising TU 15.8.7. Captain C. D. LILLEY, COMDESRON 35, and his staff were embarked in REEVES for the transit. REEVES crossed the International Date Line 22 September and marked her arrival in the Western Pacific area on 26 September when she came under the operational control of Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet. After a brief fuel stop at Guam on 28 September REEVES continued on to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, arriving 2 October. REEVES remained in Subic for 5 days, to outfit with special equipment and to prepare for operations in the Gulf of Tonkin.

On 7 October REEVES sailed from Subic Bay enroute to the Gulf of Tonkin as mutual support ship for USS ORISKANY (CVA 34). After one week in company with the ORISKANY, the REEVES relieved the USS LONG BEACH (CGN 9) at MIDSAR Station, as AAW/SAR picket ship, and remained on that station until 7 November when Typhoon Pamela forced units of TF 77 to go south for typhoon evasion. After Typhoon Pamela subsided, REEVES was assigned as mutual support ship for USS AMERICA (CVA 66) on 9 November, before departing the Gulf of Tonkin on 10 November, enroute to Subic Bay. Arriving in Subic Bay on 12 November REEVES remained there until 14 November when she sailed for Singapore. On 17 November REEVES anchored in the Man of War anchorage at Singapore and began a 7 day upkeep period.

After departing Singapore on 24 November REEVES returned to the Gulf of Tonkin, taking up duties at MIDSAR on 27 November. REEVES remained at MIDSAR until the evening of 5 December, at which time she proceeded to the North SAR Station in the Gulf of Tonkin and relieved the USS WORDEN (DLG 18) as AAW/SAR picket ship at that station on 6 December.

After 10 days at North SAR station, the REEVES departed the Gulf of Tonkin enroute to Hong Kong. Arriving in Hong Kong on 19 December, the crew enjoyed 9 days of leave and liberty over Christmas. REEVES sailed from Hong Kong on 28 December and returned to the Gulf of Tonkin on 29 December, relieving the USS HORNE (DLG 30) at North SAR Station. REEVES remained at North SAR for the remainder of the calendar year 1972.