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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17)  
FPO. NEW YORK 09566-1247

Obtained by Hans M. Kristensen  
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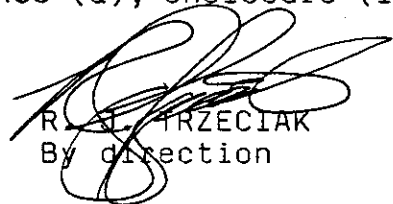
From: Commanding Officer, USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B4), Washington

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17) Ship's History 1988

- 1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

  
R. N. TRZECIAK  
By direction

USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17)  
SHIP'S HISTORY 1988

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

Mission: The guided missile destroyer USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17) is a multi-threat platform with the mission of performing carrier escort, anti-submarine warfare and surface warfare in addition to aviation warfare and naval gunfire support services.

Organizational Structure: USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17) is a member of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO, under the command of Commodore Woodbury. USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17) is also under the command of Rear Admiral Boorda, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group EIGHT.

Commanding Officer: Commander David O. Rose, U.S. Navy.

Home Port: Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: None.

Chronology:

- 1 Jan: Continued leave and standdown period.
- 8 Jan: Conducted Sailor of the Year Selection Board.
- 15 Jan: Commenced Intermediate Maintenance Availability with USS SHENANDOAH (AD-44).
- 19 Jan: Leave and standdown period ended.
- 25 Jan: Completed Aviation Certification.
- 30 Jan: COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT Visit.
- 8 Feb: Underway for weapons onload at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia. ✓
- 11 Feb: Returned to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 14 Feb: QM1(SS) Jonathan Roberts and Miss Gail Scothorn married on the bridge.
- 16 Feb: Underway for the Virginia Capes operating area. Awards/Frocking ceremony conducted on the 01 Level Aft.
- 19 Feb: Returned to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 22 Feb: Hull cleaning completed. Secretary of the Navy James Webb resigns.
- 23 Feb: Navy Comptroller General Visit.

2 Mar: Awards Ceremony onboard.  
 7 Mar: Underway for the Virginia Capes operating area.  
 11 Mar: Returned to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.  
 21 Mar: Commenced Surface Warfare Training Week.  
 22 Mar: LCDR R. J. Trzeciak relieves LCDR W. J. Boulay as Executive Officer.  
 11 Apr: Underway for special CNO Project.  
 17 Apr: Assumed duties as COMDESRON TWO Flagship.  
 22 Apr: Awards Ceremony, Visit Ship.  
 26 Apr: Passed a Nuclear Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection. ✓  
 12 May: Commenced an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination.  
 13 May: Satisfactorily completed OPPE. Returned to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.  
 17 May: Conducted the Middle East Force 2-87/USS STARK (FFG-31) Incident Awards Ceremony.  
 19 May: Ship's Picnic at the Fleet Recreation Park, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.  
 24 May: Completed a no-notice 3-M Inspection.  
 26 May: Conducted semi-annual Physical Readiness Test.  
 1 Jun: MMCM(SW) Richard A. Curtis, Command Master Chief, retired.  
 3 Jun: Underway for Northern Europe Midshipman Training Cruise.  
 12 Jun: Steel Beach Picnic, North Atlantic Ocean.  
 17 Jun: Moored Kiel, West Germany for "Kieler Woche" 1988.  
 26 Jun: Underway for Antwerp, Belgium.  
 27 Jun: Conducted Awards Ceremony.  
 28 Jun: Moored Antwerp, Belgium.  
 29 Jun: Belgium Parliament Members Visit.

30 Jun: Underway for Aalborg, Denmark.

2 Jul: Greenpeace demonstration enroute to Aalborg -- Moored Aalborg, Denmark. ✓

3 Jul: U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Visit.

5 Jul: Underway for Cobh, Ireland.

8 Jul: Moored Cobh, Ireland. ✓

12 Jul: Underway for Norfolk, Virginia.

16 Jul: Frocking Ceremony.

17 Jul: Ship's Birthday Party/Cookout.

22 Jul: Irish National stowaway discovered.

23 Jul: Moored Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

16 Aug: Exercise Teamwork 1988 Pre-sail Brief.

22 Aug: Underway for Naval Gunfire Support Qualification at Bloodsworth Island

23 Aug: Moored Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

25 Aug: Underway for Exercise Teamwork 1988. ✓

11 Sep: Conducted Naval Gunfire Support off Norwegian coast. Entered Norwegian fjords.

12 Sep: Conducted operations in the Trondheim Channel, Norway.

17 Sep: Anchored Asta Fjord, Norway.

18 Sep: Underway for Trondheim, Norway.

21 Sep: Exercise Teamwork 1988 ended. ✓

22 Sep: Crossed Arctic Circle. Conducted Blue Nose Ceremony.

23 Sep: Moored Trondheim, Norway. ✓

24 Sep: Ship's Picnic.

29 Sep: Underway for Norfolk, Virginia.

1 Oct: Conducted Anti-Ship Missile Defense Exercise.

11 Oct: Moored Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. ✓

- 21 Oct: Completed Harpoon Tactical Qualification Trial.
- 7 Nov: Completed Combat Systems Readiness Review.
- 20 Nov: DS2 Kobylarz's son baptized onboard.
- 21 Nov: Underway for Combat Systems Assessment.
- 22 Nov: Moored Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 28 Nov: Underway for ASROC/Torpedo Firing.
- 29 Nov: Moored Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 1 Dec: Ship's Christmas Party.
- 3 Dec: Children's Christmas Party.
- 8 Dec: Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, VADM Donnel Visit. Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-FOUR Visit.
- 14 Dec: Children's Pre-Deployment Dinner onboard.
- 30 Dec: Underway for Mediterranean Deployment 1-89.

Narrative:

USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17) began 1988 by continuing the holiday leave and standdown period. The Sailor of the Year Board selected MA1(SW) David P. Callahan as the ship's Sailor of the Year for 1987 on 8 January. The return to normal operations came on 15 January, as CONYNGHAM began an Intermediate Maintenance Availability with USS SHENANDOAH (AD-44). The remainder of the crew returned from standdown leave on 19 January. The ship began making preparations for an Aviation Certification on 25 January and a weapons onload at the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia beginning 8 February.

QM1(SS) Jonathan Roberts and the former Miss Gail Scothorn were married in the Pilot House on 14 February, Valentine's Day. The event was not without its own pitfalls, as a security alert on an inboard ship delayed the ceremony. The Supply Department spent the remainder of February preparing for the Navy Comptroller General Visit on 23 February.

The month of March saw CONYNGHAM preparing for major inspections and steaming in preparation for an upcoming Engineering Mobile Training Team visit and an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination. On 21 March, CONYNGHAM participated in Surface Warfare Training Week, which saw the ship compete in numerous surface warrior events, including small boat operations, bumper drills and anchoring evolutions. The week was a success as many received valuable training.

April found CONYNGHAM underway again, this time for a CNO project. The crew used this valuable time to continue preparations for upcoming inspections. This hard work paid off when, on 26 April, CONYNGHAM successfully completed a Nuclear Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection with outstanding final grades.

On 12 May, the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination commenced, and the "Gus Can Do" tradition was never more evident. CONYNGHAM passed their OPPE on the first try, an exceptional accomplishment for a twenty-five year old warship. On 17 May, the anniversary of the missile attack on USS STARK (FFG-31), CONYNGHAM sailors who participated in the Rescue and Assistance efforts on the stricken ship were recognized at an awards ceremony held at the Naval Station Theatre. Over 100 Navy Commendation and Achievement Medals were awarded to those crew members.

The long, gruelling inspection at end, CONYNGHAM sailors relaxed at a ship's picnic at the Naval Station's Fleet Recreation Park. A big attraction during the picnic was the dunking booth, with the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer the most popular participants. A no-notice 3M inspection conducted by COMDESRON TWO on 24 May found CONYNGHAM outstanding with an overall grade of 97 per cent.

Underway for the Northern Europe Midshipman Training Cruise on 3 June, it was time to train future naval officers on their duties as officers in the U.S. Navy. On 17 June, CONYNGHAM entered the port of Kiel, West Germany, where the crew assisted other NATO sailors in celebrating "Kieler Woche" 1988. Underway shortly thereafter, CONYNGHAM arrived at the historical city of Antwerp, Belgium. After a short day, during which members of the Belgian Parliament toured the ship, CONYNGHAM was underway again for Aalborg, Denmark. ✓

Approaching Hals Barre Lighthouse outside of Aalborg, CONYNGHAM confronted Greenpeace demonstrators. For the next ten hours the crew fended off the anti-nuclear group utilizing fire hoses before finally mooring at 1700, 2 July. CONYNGHAM's measured response to the demonstrators was lauded by CINCUSNAVEUR, and greatly enhanced the image of the U.S. Navy in Europe. ✓ The Fourth of July was celebrated with CONYNGHAM crew members participating in the annual Danish Rebild Festival which celebrates the American Independence Day.

On 8 July, CONYNGHAM steamed into Cobh, Ireland. During the four day port visit, the crew enjoyed the lush green countryside and took advantage of such products as lead crystal and woolen sweaters. On 12 July, CONYNGHAM got underway for Norfolk, Virginia. The ship's birthday was celebrated with the oldest and youngest crew members cutting the cake on 17 July. CONYNGHAM's return transit was hastened when, on 22 July, an Irish national stowaway was discovered onboard. The ship began a high speed run back to Norfolk, and on 23 July, the ship moored in her home port and the stowaway was on her way back to Ireland.

Preparations for Exercise Teamwork 1988 began shortly after the ship's return from Northern Europe. On 22 August, the ship sailed for Naval Gunfire Support qualification at Bloodsworth Island. Shortly after commencement of the qualification, the ship suffered a major casualty to the Gunfire Control radar. Utilizing World War II era techniques, the ship nevertheless attained this important qualification and was able to sail for the exercise on time on 25 August.

Once along the Norwegian coastline, the navigation detail was maintained as the ship maneuvered within the narrow fjords in support of amphibious exercises on the beach and conduct Naval Gunfire Support. Upon the completion of the exercise, CONYNGHAM celebrated the crossing of the Arctic Circle with the Blue Nose Ceremony. Newly "indoctrinated" crew members painted the bullnose blue in keeping with tradition. On 22 September, the ship entered Trondheim, Norway and spent the next five days enjoying the hospitality of the Norwegian people. On 24 and 25 September, CONYNGHAM held a ship's picnic at a local park where the crew relaxed and enjoyed the beautiful setting. CONYNGHAM was underway again on 29 September, heading for an 11 October reunion with families and friends in Norfolk, Virginia.

The remainder of October and November were spent preparing for an extended deployment to the Mediterranean. On 20 November, DS2 Kobylarz had his newborn son christened in the Pilot House, with the ship's bell being utilized to hold the baptismal water. Chaplain Tambourin from COMDESRON TWO performed the ceremony.

December opened with the annual Christmas Party, held at the Fifth National Banque in Norfolk. On 3 December, the Children's Christmas Party, another annual event, was held at a local pizza house. After an abbreviated holiday leave period, the ship sailed on 30 December for the Mediterranean deployment.