

OPNAV Report 5750.1
Command History of USS FRED T. BERRY (DD-858)
period 1 January 1966 through 31 December 1966

I. Chronology of Highlights

- 19 January 1966 - In company with the units of Destroyer Squadron TWELVE, the BERRY, a member of Destroyer Squadron TEN, departed Newport, R.I., on a seven month deployment to Vietnam.
- 10 March - The BERRY entered the Vietnam Combat Zone.
- 11 March - The BERRY commenced gunfire support operations on the III Corps area of Vietnam. At 1145 local time this date, the BERRY for the first time in her 20 years of service, fired her guns in direct support of United States military operations against an enemy.
- 21 May - Operating as a unit of TG 77.7, the BERRY supported the nuclear aircraft carrier USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)-65).
- 7 June - The ship received by highline, thirty members of COMCARDIV SEVEN staff and nine tons of equipment from USS ENTERPRISE for further transportation to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 6 July - The ship departed Subic Bay with Destroyer Squadron TWELVE enroute to Newport, R.I.
- 27 July - Transited Suez Canal to the Mediterranean Sea.
- 17 August - The BERRY arrived at Newport, R. I. completing her seven month around the world cruise.
- 30 September - 4 October - The ship was engaged in surveillance operations off the east coast of the United States.
- 7 November - Rear Admiral Edward A. RUCKNER, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet, visited the BERRY while the BERRY was operating out of Key West, Florida.

28 November - 16 December - The ship participated in Lantflex 66, a Second Fleet exercise in the Caribbean involving 93 ships of the Atlantic Fleet.

II. Basic Narrative

CDR R. J. DERMODY was Commanding Officer of the USS FRED T. BERRY throughout 1966. The ship's homeport was Newport, Rhode Island. Complement at the end of the year was: Officers 15, Enlisted 273.

On 19 January 1966, the FRED T. BERRY got underway from her homeport of Newport, Rhode Island with Destroyer Squadron TWELVE and commenced her deployment to the Western Pacific. The BERRY transitted the Panama Canal and stopped at San Diego, California; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Kaoshiung, Taiwan, and Subic Bay, Philippine Islands before arriving in the Vietnam Combat Zone on 10 March. The ship's first assignment in Vietnam was for gunfire support operations in the III Corps Area. The BERRY fired 1533 rounds of 5"/38 cal. high explosive ammunition on sixty-one day and night missions during her two weeks on the gun line. Airborne spotters reported that the ship's fire had destroyed at least twenty-eight enemy structures and damaged seventy-three others during this period, and that the BERRY's accuracy was consistently outstanding. Upon completion of gunfire support operations, the BERRY joined the USS HANCOCK on Dixie Station as plane guard. On 2 April the ship entered Subic Bay for a tender availability alongside USS DIXIE (AD-14), during which time all four gun barrels were replaced. Following this availability, the ship visited Hong Kong BCC for eight days returning to Subic Bay for type training, rest, and recreation. At the Tabones Gunfire Range, Subic, the ship fired 540 rounds for training of gunfire support spotters scheduled for Vietnam duty.

On 21 May, the BERRY departed Subic Bay as a unit of Task Group 77.7, consisting of the USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N)-65), the USS BAINBRIDGE (DLG(N)-25) and the

USS MASSEY (DD-778) for operations on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf.

For two weeks the BERRY was plane guard for the Big "E" during the final operations of her first deployment in Vietnam. On the morning of 7 June, thirty staff members and nine tons of cargo of Commander Carrier Division Seven were transferred from the ENTERPRISE to the BERRY for transportation to Yokosuka, Japan.

The BERRY left Japan on 21 June as escort for the USS CRISKANY (CVA-34) as she headed for operations on Dixie Station in the South China Sea. On one day of gunfire support operations, the BERRY fired 140 rounds of 5"/38 cal. high explosive ammunition in the III Corps Area.

On 6 July, the BERRY and the ships of Destroyer Squadron TWELVE rejoined in Subic Bay and began their trip back to the United States. The ships crossed the equator at longitude 106° - 27° East and stopped at Port Dickson, Malaya; Cochin, India; and the British Protectorate of Aden. On 27 July, the ships transitted the Suez Canal, then stopped at Athens, Greece; Palma, Mallorca; and Gibraltar in the Mediterranean before crossing the Atlantic. On 17 August, the BERRY and DESRON 12 arrived in Newport, completing a seven month, around-the-world cruise. The BERRY then returned to the Operational Control of Commander Destroyer Squadron TEN. On 14 September 1966, Commander DERMODY received the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force while serving as Commanding Officer, USS FRED T. BERRY (DD-858) assigned to the Seventh Fleet during the period 1 March to 3 July 1966.

From 30 September to 4 October, the BERRY carried out surveillance operations off the east coast of the United States.

From 23 October to 11 November the ship was assigned as surveillance ship

out of Key West, Florida. During this period, the ship acted as school ship for the Fleet Sonar School. On the night of 7 November, Rear Admiral Edward A. RUCKNER, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet, visited the BERRY.