

SHIPS HISTORY

A. Command Organization and Relations

1. The Commanding Officer since August 1972 has been Commander John F. BAUMGARDNER, USN. The Executive Officer is Lieutenant Commander Robert M. WICKLUND, USN.

2. OUELLET's Homeport is Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Since arrival there 15 April 1971, USS OUELLET has been assigned to Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-THREE, commanded by Captain William S. LEWIS, USN.

3. The USS OUELLET is one of a new class of ocean escorts specifically designed to locate and destroy enemy submarines. She can effectively operate as a unit of a hunter/killer group, screen amphibious, underway replenishment and strike task forces and convoys, patrol coastal waters for missile firing submarines (continental defense) and conduct naval gunfire support missions. In addition, OUELLET is capable of assuming various other missions and tasks assigned to the modern Naval Escort, such as search, patrol, rescue, evacuation, blockade, visit and search and surveillance.

4. OUELLET has on board 17 Officers and 222 Enlisted personnel as of 31 December 1972.

B. 1970 Operations

17 JAN 1970 - Ship was christened and launched at Avondale Shipyard, Westwego, Louisiana.

30 NOV 1970 - Departed Avondale Shipyard

2 DEC 1970 - Arrived Charleston Naval Shipyard, Charleston, South Carolina.

12 DEC 1970 - Ship was commissioned USS OUELLET (DE-1077). Remained at Charleston through years end.

C. 1971 Operations

4 JAN 1971 - Fitting out availability due to end 22 January 1971 was extended until 22 February due to faulty 1200 lb steam valves.

8-9 February 1971 - Held FAST cruise alongside the pier at Charleston Naval Shipyard in preparation for sea trials.

11 and 16 FEB 1971 - Held sea trials in the Operation areas around Charleston, South Carolina.

Enclosure (1)

C. 1971 Operations (continued)

22 FEB 1971 - Fitting out availability was completed.

23 FEB 1971 - Moved up the Ashley River to U. S. Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina for the first ammunition load out.

24 FEB 1971 - Moved to U. S. Naval Station, Charleston, South Carolina for the remainder of her stay in Charleston.

2-5 MAR 1971 - Conducted independent ship's exercises in the OP areas around Charleston, South Carolina. While conducting exercises the ship encountered extremely heavy weather which caused minor damage to the 5"/54 gun mount, expansion joints and forecastle standing lights.

15 MAR 1971 - After about one year from the time the Nucleus crew started to assemble in New Orleans, LA. USS OUELLET set a course for the Panama Canal Zone for the first leg of a long awaited journey to her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

19 MAR 1971 - Arrived at the Panama Canal at about 0700 and began transit at 1403. The transit was completed at 2328 after which the ship moored at Rodman Naval Base, Panama Canal Zone for refueling.

20 MAR 1971 - Underway for San Diego, California to be welcomed as the newest addition to Cruiser Destroyer Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and undergo deperming.

28 MAR 1971 - Moored at U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, California.

30 MAR 1971 - Moved the ship to the deperming pier at Ballast Point.

31 MAR 1971 - Returned to U. S. Naval Station, San Diego for remainder of stay and COMCRUDESPEC briefings.

1 APR 1971 - OUELLET was assigned to Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three commanded by Captain William S. LEWIS homeport in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

10 APR 1971 - Underway for final leg to homeport.

15 APR 1971 - Arrived at U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The ship received a tremendous greeting, complete with hula girls, band and joyous families of the crew members.

27-28 APR 1971 - Final contract trials were held by the Inspection and Survey Board, Pacific.

C. 1971 Operations (continued)

29 APR 1971 - While conducting inport phase of Final Contract Trials (FCT) at berth B24, U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, the USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-764) attempting to moor at the berth forward of OUELLET backed into OUELLET's port bow. Damage to the port bow was minimal but the LLOYD THOMAS's starboard propeller tore a hole in the AN/SQS- 26CX bow mounted sonar dome. The sonar dome had been previously drained and accesses opened for FCT inspection. Flooding was immediate but due to good damage control techniques employed by the personnel at the scene the flooding was contained at the third deck level.

30 APR 1971 - Moved to pier H, U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor to off load fuel prior to entering drydock for sonar dome repairs.

1 MAY 1971 - Moved to drydock #2, U. S. Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor via Naval Ammunition Depot, Oahu for ammunition off load.

22 MAY 1971 - Post Shakedown Availability commenced to last for four months.

27 MAY 1971 - Departed drydock #2 and moored at berth B15 at the shipyard for the remainder of Post Shakedown Availability.

1-2 SEP 1971 - Underway for PSA sea trials. Sea trials and radiation pattern testing were considered a success.

21 SEP 1971 - Held sea trials prior to PSA completion.

22 SEP 1971 - Completed Post Shakedown Availability.

25 SEP 1971 - Moved to NAD, Oahu for ammunition load out and returned the same day to U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor.

27 SEP 1971 - Commenced Weapons System Accuracy Tests to be completed 2 October 1971.

28 SEP 1971 - Moved to East Lock Ammunition Anchorage for test firing of MK 32 Mod 9 Torpedo Tubes. Tests were successful and returned to Naval Base late the same morning.

29 SEP 1971 - Underway for testing of sensors on Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Site, Oahu for range and bearing testing of sonar, radars and gyro.

30 SEP-2 OCT 1971 - Underway for Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai for ASROC and torpedo firing phase of WSAT. Successful firings completed 1 OCT 71.

4-11 OCT 1971 - Conducted inport phase of Ship Qualification Trials (SQT) for Basic Point Defense Surface Missile System. Tests were conducted by Naval Surface Missile Systems Engineering Station, Port Hueneme and Naval Fleet Missile Systems Analysis and Evaluation Group, Corona, California.

C. 1971 Operations (continued)

12-15 OCT 1971 - Conducted at sea phase of Ship Qualification Trials (SQT). Two sparrow missiles were fired. SQT was considered by NSMSES to be successful due to the Missile Fire Control System and Missile Launching System demonstrating ability to operate effectively.

18-19 OCT 1971 - Training Readiness Evaluation was conducted by Fleet Training Group, Pearl in preparation for Shakedown training.

20-22 OCT 1971 - Radar Video Recorder van training conducted on board to train Combat Information Center and weapons personnel in anti-ship cruise missile defense.

26-29 OCT 1971 - Commenced Shakedown training 26 October 1971. ASW training scheduled for week of 26 October was cancelled due to engineering difficulties. Inport damage control and communication drills were held while along side the pier.

1 NOV 1971 - Underway in accordance with Fleet Training Group operation order for seamanship and navigation exercises. Held highline exercises with USS UTE (ATF-76) and man overboard drills.

2 NOV 1971 - Underway for North Pacific in connection with nuclear testing in Aleutian Islands in company with USS JUNEAU (LPD-10). The Commanding Officer of USS JUNEAU was the Officer in Tactical Command. Various self observed training requirements were completed during Alaskan operation 2-11 November 1971.

4 NOV 1971 - Refueled from USS JUNEAU. First refueling at sea for OUELLET.

11 NOV 1971 - Entered port, Pearl Harbor upon completion of Canniken operation in support of nuclear test on AMCHITKA Island, Alaska.

15-16 NOV 1971 - Conducted inport shakedown training in communication, damage control and engineering casualties.

17 NOV 1971 - Conducted navigation and seamanship exercises in the morning and acted as surface raider for Readiness Improvement Exercise, Pacific in the afternoon. About 1700 OUELLET intercepted the formation, simulated firing missiles and guns then turned and headed for Pacific Missile Range for Anti-Submarine Warfare exercises scheduled 18-19 November.

20 NOV 1971 - Returned to port (Pearl Harbor).

22 NOV 1971 - Conducted practice battle problem with FTG Observers on board for evaluators, after which we returned to Pearl Harbor.

C. 1971 Operations (continued)

23 NOV 1971 - Underway for damage control and engineering casualty drills after which we returned to port.

24 NOV 1971 - Underway for navigation and seamanship drills in the morning and underway replenishment exercise in the afternoon with USS KAWISHIWI (AO-145) Returned to port late afternoon.

29 NOV 1971 - Underway for AA and surface gunnery exercises. Returned to port in afternoon.

30 NOV 1971 - Underway for AA and surface gunnery exercises.

1 DEC 1971 - Conducted missile firing at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai. Fired one AIM-7D (sparrow) missile at an MQM-74 drone with good results.

2 DEC 1971 - Conducted practice final battle problem and AA gunnery exercise. Entered port in the afternoon.

3 DEC 1971 - Final battle problem was conducted and observed by Fleet Training Group Personnel. Final score was 82. Returned to port at 1200. Shakedown training was completed with a final score of 78.

6-7 DEC 1971 - Underway for Kahoolawe for Naval Gunfire Support exercise. The ship qualified as a NGFS ship and returned to port 7 December 1971.

10-27 DEC 1971 - Ship is undergoing tender availability alongside USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36).

16 DEC 1971 - Annual 3M inspection by COMDESFLOT FIVE held. Grade: Excellent.

18 DEC 1971 - Commenced holiday leave period until 9 January 1972.

D. 1972 Operations

1 JAN 1972 - In homeport (Pearl Harbor) for holiday leave and upkeep.

9 JAN 1972 - Underway for local ops and type training.

27 JAN 1972 - Deployed from Pearl Harbor - transit to Subic Bay.

30 JAN 1972 - Refuel at Midway.

6 FEB 1972 - Refuel at Guam.

10 FEB 1972 - Upkeep in Subic Bay.

16 FEB 1972 - Joined USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) on "Y" Station, and assumed Plane Guard Duty.

D. 1972 Operations (continued)

18 FEB 1972 - An F-4 Phantom ditched on its landing approach to USS CONSTELLATION while OUELLET was on Plane Guard Duty. OUELLET's Pilot Rescue Team was able to recover the Radar-Intercept Officer, but the Pilot was lost along with the aircraft.

27 FEB 1972 - USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050) arrived on "Y" Station to relieve USS OUELLET.

4 MAR 1972 - Scheduled upkeep in Subic Bay.

12 MAR 1972 - Underway - transit to "Y" Station. USS E. F. LARSON (DD-830) is in company.

16 MAR 1972 - USS HIGBEE (DD-806) arrived on "Y" Station to relieve OUELLET.

20 MAR 1972 - OUELLET arrived at PIRAZ.

1 APR 1972 - OUELLET arrived on "Y" Station, and assumed Plane Guard Duty for USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43). Conducted ASW exercise with USS SCULPIN (SSN-590).

2 APR 1972 - Detached from "Y" Station - transit to PIRAZ.

3 APR 1972 - Detached from PIRAZ to join USS CRAIG (DD-885) for SAR for man overboard reported from CRAIG. SAR conducted with negative results. OUELLET returned to PIRAZ.

6 APR 1972 - Detached from PIRAZ - transit to South SAR.

7 APR 1972 - OUELLET relieved by USS MAHAN (DLG-11), but remained on station South SAR to control a "Big Mother" helo for a downed pilot recovery of Hon Mat Island.

9 APR 1972 - Departed South SAR - transit to Gunline. Commenced NGFS OPS.

11 APR 1972 - Received Hostile Fire twice during NGFS, but OUELLET was not hit. However, a mount casualty forced detachment from Gunline - transit to "Y" Station to assume Plane Guard Duty for USS HANCOCK (CVA-19).

24 APR 1972 - Transit to Gunline. Commenced NGFS Ops.

29 APR 1972 - One day trip to Danang.

5 MAY 1972 - Scheduled upkeep in Subic Bay.

24 MAY 1972 - OUELLET relieved USS SANSFIELD (DD-837) on "Y" Station.

4 JUN 1972 - Relieved USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050) on the Gunline. Commenced NGFS Ops.

D. 1972 Operations (continued)

18 JUN 1972 - Scheduled upkeep in Sasebo, Japan.

25 JUN 1972 - Underway - transit to Gulf of Tonkin. Modified speed of advance to allow Typhoon Ora to pass ahead.

27 JUN 1972 - Received MOVORD: Return to Subic Bay to escort USS SARATOGA (CVA-60).

29 JUN 1972 - Underway with USS SARATOGA for "Y" Station.

1 JUL 1972 - Arrived "Y" Station, and assumed Plane Guard Duty for SARATOGA.

10 JUL 1972 - Arrived on Gunline. Commenced NGFS Ops.

16 JUL 1972 - Departed Gunline to escort USS MIDWAY (CVA-41).

17 JUL 1972 - Relieved as escort by USS HEWES. Transit to Gunline. Commenced NGFS Ops.

29 JUL 1972 - Departed Gunline via Danang to pick up mail for units on Gunline.

30 JUL 1972 - Picked up mail and returned to Gunline.

4 AUG 1972 - Arrived Hong Kong for leave and upkeep.

7 AUG 1972 - CDR John F. BAUMGARDNER relieved CDR Albert L. HENRY as Commanding Officer, USS OUELLET (DE-1077).

11 AUG 1972 - Arrived Subic Bay for upkeep.

15 AUG 1972 - Underway - transit Pearl Harbor, enroute to OUTCHOP.

18 AUG 1972 - Refuel at Guam.

21 AUG 1972 - OUTCHOP.

22 AUG 1972 - Refuel at Midway.

25 AUG 1972 - Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Commenced Post-Deployment Stand-down.

25 SEP 1972 - Entered Shipyard for ND Conversion.

30 OCT 1972 - NTPI

17 NOV 1972 - Inport for upkeep.

D. 1972 Operations (continued)

27 NOV 1972 - Underway for Local Ops. Fired all weapons systems successfully.

4 DEC 1972 - Commenced COMTUEX 24-72.

11 DEC 1972 - Underway for type training.

18 DEC 1972 - Returned to Pearl Harbor for holiday leave and upkeep.

E. 1973 Operations

8 JAN 1973 - Underway for Local Operations in the Hawaiian Island chain for regular training exercises.

10 JAN 1973 - OUELLET Held pre-deployment ORI. Passed with overall grade of satisfactory.

13 JAN 1973 - OUELLET Crew brings 245 visitors aboard for the OUELLET's first Dependents Cruise. The ship steamed off Oahu for the day, and a cook-out was held on the Flight Deck.

15 JAN 1973 - Command ADMIN Inspection by COMDESRON 33, Captain W. S. LEWIS, USN, and Staff.

16 JAN 1973 - Command Personnel Inspection by COMDESRON 33, Captain W. S. LEWIS, USN.

24 JAN 1973 - Underway for Local Operations in the Hawaiian Island Chain.

25 JAN 1973 - OUELLET qualified at NGFS exercises.

30 JAN 1973 - OUELLET is inspected by COMDESFLT 5 for pre-deployment Material readiness. Results of inspection certified ship complete material readiness.

1 FEB 1973 - OUELLET had the distinction of becoming the first flagship of VADM W. T. RAPP, USN, for the newly reinstated Third Fleet while participating in a Change of Command Ceremonies which formally combined the First Fleet and ASWFORPAC.

9 FEB 1973 - VADM W. T. RAPP, COMTHIRDFLT, visits USS OUELLET.

20 FEB 1973 - Underway for Local Operations in the Hawaiian Area to conduct routine at-sea training.

E. 1973 Operations (continued)

1 MAR 1973 - BMC A. L. MOORE retires after 20 years of service in the U. S. NAVY during a ceremony held aboard OUELLET in honor of Chief MOORE.

5 MAR 1973 - Underway for Local Training Operations.. Fired all weapons systems successfully, and conducted first Helicopter in-flight refueling this year.

14 MAR 1973 - BTC R. RUSSELL retires after 20 years of Naval Service during a ceremony held aboard OUELLET in honor of Chief RUSSELL.

F. Special Topics

1. Engineering

a. USS OUELLET was the first Avondale Shipyard Inc., DE-1052 class ship to be attached to the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and transitted independently 8000 miles, only 21 days after completion of the Fitting Out Availability. After her WESTPAC Deployment USS OUELLET was converted to burn Naval Distillate fuel. The following noticeable changes should occur with ND:

- (1) Increased interval between fireside cleanings
- (2) Topside and superstructure will remain cleaner and require less maintenance
- (3) The ships readiness will be increased
- (4) ND will result in less air pollution
- (5) The operational radius of the ship will reduce approximately 6 per cent

Although certain changes will be more obvious than others, overall operational procedures should not vary extensively.