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BRIGHT PENNY

April - June 2021

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15)

Prospects Bright for Our October Reunion In Portland!

Director's Update



Hope you and your family are in good health. We appear to be heading toward the "new normal", and hopefully less stressful times!

As I mentioned in the January newsletter, an October reunion in Portland, Maine has been planned and will take place **October 14 - 17**. The Best Western Merry Manor Inn will begin hosting reunions again this July, and they have taken every precaution to ensure the health and safety of all their guests. With the rollout of vaccines to combat the corona virus, we should all have the opportunity to be vaccinated in the near future if we so choose. The association will work closely with the hotel staff to ensure your safety, and if necessary, we will have masks and sanitizers available in the Hospitality Suite and at all functions.

Registration is now open for the reunion, and a registration form is available in this edition of the newsletter. To make reservations at the Merry Manor Inn, call (207) 774-6151 and tell them you are with the USS Berkeley Association to ensure receiving our group discount.

If for any reason the reunion needs to be postponed again or you should decide to cancel your attendance, a full refund will be available. Reunion details are available on the website and in the January 2021 newsletter. We are excited about the opportunity to see our former shipmates again, and

hope you will be there to join us!

I am currently working on updates to the master roster for a late-April distribution to active (paid) members. If any of your contact information has changed during the past year, please provide an update via the "Quarterdeck" page on the website. For those of you without access to the website, you can also provide an update by calling (408) 656-3879, and leaving a message with your name and update info. As a reminder, our paid members will receive a \$10 savings on reunion registration for yourself and your guest

The Year In Review - 1964

1964 found the Berkeley transformed from the "showboat" Navy into the operational forces. The year began with the ship in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard to complete a few items still amiss from the shipyard period in San Francisco the previous summer. This visit extended over a six-week period through mid- February.

The ship then loaded ammunition at Seal Beach, and spent a few days at sea shaking out various systems. On February 24th, the Berkeley started a busy week by conducting shore bombardment exercises on San Clemente Island, then proceeding to the Pacific Missile Range off Pt. Magu for a missile firing exercise. The ship then proceeded north to San Francisco Bay and to Mare Island to load missiles again. In this case, the load out was for Western Pacific deployment.

On Friday March 13th, the Berkeley departed Long Beach for her first operational deployment with the U.S. Seventh Fleet. What was scheduled to be a 6-month deployment would last 8 months and 8 days. After a short stopover in Pearl Harbor, the ship reported to Task Group 77.6 which included the USS Midway (CVA-41). A month of high-speed carrier task group operations followed in the operating area off Japan.

On April 18th, the Berkeley was detached from Task Group 77.6 to proceed to Hong Kong and report to Commander Seventh Fleet for special duty as his temporary flagship. On April 21st, the ship headed to Bangkok, Thailand. During a 3-day visit the ship provided communications services for Vice Admiral Thomas H. Moorer (COMSEVENTHFLT), and in addition held open house for over ten thousand visitors of all nationalities, including many of the delegates present for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization Conference. Admiral Moorer departed by air on April 30th, and the Berkeley departed Bangkok to resume regular operational duties.

The ship rejoined Task Group 77.6 for a short period of task group operations. After a brief visit to Subic Bay in the Philippines, the USS Midway departed for home, and the Berkeley, in company with two other ships of Destroyer Division 192, sailed for Hong Kong and a week of rest and recreation for the crew.

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Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen:

Northeast: Francis Almeida

Southeast: Francis Sholly

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Vacant

Northwest: Vacant

Southwest: Todd Frazier

Ship's Store Mgr.: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor & Publisher: Al Meier

Webmaster: Gerald Hansen

Newsletter Distribution: to current (paid) dues members e-mail in pdf form, and non-e-mail members via U.S. Mail

Ship's History: April 2021

50 Years Ago, 1971

- 01 Inchop Seventh Fleet
- 01-03 Enroute Guam
- 03 Fueling stop Guam
- 03-07 Enroute Subic Bay, P.I.
- 07-10 Upkeep Subic Bay
- 10-12 Enroute Yankee Station
- 12-26 CTG 77.5, Escort USS Kitty Hawk
- 26-27 Enroute Subic Bay
- 27-30 Upkeep Subic Bay

40 Years Ago, 1981

- 01-08 Inport Guam, undergoing repairs
- 09-11 Underway to Subic Bay, R.P.
- 12 Inport Subic Bay
- 13-16 Enroute Thailand, Multi-Ship Exer.
- 17-21 Inport Pattaya Beach, Thailand
- 22-25 Exercise SEA-SIAM 81-2
- 26-27 Inport Pattaya Beach, Thailand
- 28-30 Enroute Hong Kong

30 Years Ago, 1991

- 01-07 Underway: Transit to San Diego
- 08-25 Inport San Diego
- 26-30 u/w East. Pacific: Law Enforcement

20 Years Ago, 2001

In service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece as the H.S. Themistokles

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After the Hong Kong visit, orders were received to proceed to rendezvous with the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) and Task Group 77.4 which was enroute to the South China Sea. Berkeley was "on the way". After a thirteen day period, the ship was relieved, and then joined Task Group 77.5 with the USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14) off the Philippine coast in time to participate in the combined SEATO landing exercise "LIGTAS" on Midoro Island, south of Manila. While the carrier visited Manila, the destroyer units of Task Group 77.5 spent a few days offshore brushing up on anti-submarine tactics, utilizing the submarine USS Seafox (SS-402) as target ship.

On June 13th, Task Group 77.5 reassembled and set course for Japan. While other ships of the task group visited Sasebo, the Berkeley detached and joined the missile cruiser USS Topeka in Okinawa for a missile firing exercise. The ship rejoined her task group in Sasebo, remained in port for three days, then departed ahead of schedule to avoid Typhoon Betty. This was to have been a sortie for routine carrier task group operations, but was interrupted by the "fire gong". On the way at 25 knots, the Berkeley entered the South China Sea. This visit was destined to extend to 126 days, the first 45 of which were underway continuously.

During this period, on July 23rd, Commander Michael D. Ricinak relieved Commander Wyatt E. Harper, Jr. as Commanding Officer. The change of command ceremony was conducted underway at 20 knots, with no change in the tempo of operations.

Prior to the change in command and on into August, the Berkeley operated as a supporting unit for Carrier Task Group 77.5, screening and plane guarding for the USS Ticonderoga.

Although not directly committed in the Gulf of Tonkin actions, Berkeley was in the vicinity with the task group. For those supporting operations, Berkeley was subsequently to become the first Guided Missile Destroyer to be awarded and have the honor of flying the Navy Unit Commendation Pennant.

On August 19th, the Berkeley entered Subic Bay for a brief upkeep period, sailing again on August 26th for a two-week period escorting logistic support ships. The ship then returned to Subic Bay for a promised period of upkeep.

On September 14th, the Berkeley joined the attack carrier Bon Homme Richard with Task Group 77.7. On October 13th, the task group transited the Bashi Channel leaving the South China Sea for the last time, it was hoped, enroute to Sasebo. After 3 days in Sasebo, it was on to Yokosuka to prepare for the Pacific transit eastward. While in Yokosuka, an accident aboard the fleet tanker USS Ashtabula (AO-51) required immediate medical attention. The Berkeley was called upon to furnish taxi service for a doctor from the Bon Homme Richard. The doctor arrived in time to save the life of one of the two casualties aboard the Ashtabula.

Upon arriving in Yokosuka on October 21st, everyone was in agreement that it was time to head for home, but no one could say definitely when. The dilemma was solved when mortar shells were fired on an air field north of Saigon. On November 2nd, the ship departed for the South China Sea. Then on November 4th, the ship was pleasantly surprised by the news it wouldn't be needed after all, and a cheer went up throughout the ship!

After a fuel stopover in Subic Bay, the Berkeley was finally headed home. The ship entered Long Beach at 0930 on November 21st. Leave and upkeep completed the year.

2021 Portland Reunion Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Contact email or phone: _____

Staying at the Best Western Merry Manor Inn? Yes ___ No ___

Reunion (all events including Banquet) 10/14 - 10/17 \$80x _____ = \$ _____

Non-member \$90x _____ = \$ _____

Banquet Only Saturday 10/16 \$65x _____ = \$ _____

Non-member \$75x _____ = \$ _____

Dinner Entrée: (please insert quantity for selections)

Crew Member: Prime Rib ___ Chicken Cordon Bleu ___ Haddock ___ Vegetarian Lasagna ___

Guest: Prime Rib ___ Chicken Cordon Bleu ___ Haddock ___ Vegetarian Lasagna ___

Ladies Tea (Saturday afternoon) Yes ___ No ___

Members are those who have paid 2021 dues. If you have paid 2021 dues, both you and one guest will pay the member prices.

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2021 Portland Reunion Tour Order Form

Name(s): _____

Contact email or phone: _____

Tours:

Maine Maritime Museum & LL Bean Tour Friday 10/15 \$55 x _____ = \$ _____

See details in the January 2021 newsletter

Total enclosed (check or money order payable to the USS Berkeley Association) \$ _____

Please mail payment to:

USS Berkeley Association
C/o Gerry Hansen
6318 S 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

All Payments for the reunion and tours must be received by September 10, 2021