

PAGE 1
3 APRIL 1959 - 27 JULY 1959

4/3/1959 Moored Pier 1 Boston Naval Shipyard, Boston, MA
Officers & crew ASSEMBLED AFT MAIN DECK for
commissioning ceremony. 1529 RADM Carl ESPE
Commandant First Naval District, came aboard
to commission Somers (DD942). Pursuant to CNO
letter 2132P43 of 26 JAN 1959, RADM ESPE
placed SOMERS in commission. The commission
pendant was broken & the ensign hoisted. CDR
E. J. Cummings, Jr, USN read his orders, BUPERS
Orders 053558 of 8 Oct 1958, assumed
command & ordered the watch set. The
following officers were aboard at the time
of commissioning:

LCDR P. BOLAND, USN	Executive Officer
LT L. LAYMAN, USN	Operations Officer
LT R. PETRIE, USN	Supply Officer
LJTG C. REED, USN	Engineering Officer
LJTG D. L. GRIMES, USN	Gunnery Officer
LJTG B. A. O'REAR, USN	Electronics Officer
LJTG P. A. BAKER, USN	First Lieutenant
LJTG L. W. FERNALD, Jr, USN	ASW Officer
LJTG H. A. FELDMAN, USNR	CIC Officer
ENS W. A. MEYER, USNR	2 nd Division Officer
ENS C. HOSTERMAN, USN	D.C. Assistant
ENS J. H. Murray, Jr, USNR	Communications Officer

1606 Broke the flag of RADM ESPE

- 4/4/1959 - 4/24/1959 Moored Pier 1 Boston Naval Shipyard
- 4/21/1959 Full dressed ship in honor of Queen ELIZABETH's of England actual birthday.
- 4/24/1959 Underway from Pier 1 to East Jetty, South Annex
- 4/25/1959 - 4/26/1959 Moored to EAST JETTY. 1000 COMMENCED general visiting. 1630 Secured general visiting.
- 1703 Underway for pier 1 east, Boston Naval Shipyard
- 4/26/1959 - 4/30/1959 Moored to pier 1 east, Boston Naval Shipyard.
- 4/30/1959 Commenced preparations for going into dry dock.
- Resting on Keel blocks in dry dock No. 1 Boston Shipyard
- 4/30/1959 - 5/7/1959 ON Keel blocks in dry dock
- 5/7/1959 Dry dock flooded. Moved to pier 8E, Boston Shipyard
- 5/7/1959 - 5/12/1959 Moored to pier 8E
- 5/11/1959 LT PETRIE returned to the ship having drawn \$13000 from the Shawmut National BANK. ENS W.M. KARRAS, USN reported aboard for duty.
- 5/12/1959 UNDERWAY for Sea TRIALS. Sonar test, vibration survey, GENERAL Quarters, Rudder drill, Abandon ship drill, Entered inland waters, Standing in to Boston HARBOR. Moored to pier 11, Boston Shipyard
- 5/12/1959 - 5/19/1959 Moored to pier 11. Underway for Boston Operating AREA. Passed into International Waters
- VARIOUS drills.
- 5/20/1959 Proceeding to NANTASKET Roads Explosive Anchorage. Anchored in 7 fathoms of water. Completed receiving Ammunition. Underway for President Roads

PAGE 3

5/20/1959 Cont'd Anchored in President Roads, Boston HARBOR

5/21/1959 Underway to Boston Operating AREA. More drills,
Moored to pier 11 Boston Naval HARBOR

5/21/1959 - 5/25/1959 Moored to pier 11 Boston Naval HARBOR
Underway for Boston Op AREAS. Enroute to
Newport, R. I. degaussing range

5/26/1959 - 5/27/1959 Steaming in company with USS Dogfish (SS 350)
Conducting ASW exercises with the USS Dogfish (SS 350)

Completed ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

5/28/1959 Conducted STRUCTURAL firing tests

✓ Engineering drills. Entered inland
waters into Boston HARBOR. Moored to pier 11E.

6/1/1959 Underway for Newport, R. I.

6/2/1959 Anchored off Block Island in 7 fathoms

6/3/1959 Underway for Op AREA to evaluate Antenna.

Moored Stbd side to USS Brownson (DD 868) in
berth 154 pier 1, Newport R. I. in a nest of

4 Ships: USS Arcadia (AD 23) USS Decatur (DD 936)

6/5/1959 Moored as before. LCM 5 moored to port.

LOADED AMUNITION

6/6/1959 Getting underway to ARGENTIA, Newfoundland

6/9/1959 Entering into ARGENTIA, Newfoundland

Moored to fuel wharf. Received 45,326 gallons.

Underway to Copenhagen, Denmark

6/12/1959 Passed Swedish ship DANAHOLM close to port.

6/14/1959 Sighted Westray Island, ORKNEY Islands group

PAGE 4

6/14/1959 (CONT'D) PASSED Light House DENNIS NESS
ENTERED NORTH Sea

6/15/1959 HMS VICTORIOUS R38 passed

6/16/1959 PASSED by KROMBERG CASTLE

Entered the port of Copenhagen, Denmark
Moored to LANGE Linie Quay, Copenhagen, DENMARK
The Commanding Officer left the ship to call
officially on his Excellency, Mr VAL Peterson,
American Ambassador, The Commander-in-
Chief, Royal Danish Navy & the Commandant
of Copenhagen. ¹¹⁰⁵ Captain returned from
official calls. 1115 The Commanding Officer
left the ship to call officially on the Flag
Officer, DANISH NAVAL Command. 1330 The
Commanding Officer returned from official
calls. 1440 Major General CHRISTENSEN,
Commandant of Copenhagen came on board
to return the official call of the Commanding
Officer. 1457 CAPTAIN E. A. AALBORG, Acting
Chief of Staff, NAVAL Command Sound, Copenhagen
came on board to return the official call of
the Commanding Officer. 1515 Vice Admiral
NYHOLM, Commander in Chief, Royal Danish
Navy came on board to return the official call
of the Commanding Officer. 1530 The Honorable
VAL PETERSON, American Ambassador to

PAGE 5

6/16/1959 (Cont'd) Denmark came on board to return the official call of the Commanding Officer.

6/17 - 6/19/1959 Moored to Langelinie Quay, Copenhagen

6/19/1959 ⁰⁸⁰⁹ UNDERWAY for Kiel, GERMANY 1820 Stopped all engines. 1822 Captain Green, USN, CDR Bradley, USN, LT HASPIER, German Federal Navy, and LT Stricker, GERMAN FEDERAL NAVY came aboard. 1849 Change speed to 5 knots Moored to Tirpitz Mole, Kiel, Germany Ships present include HMS Broadsword (D131), HMS Grenville (F197)

6/20/1959 Moored to Tirpitz Mole, Kiel, GERMANY

Swedish destroyer Smaland (D19) moored to Tirpitz Mole. ⁰⁸⁵⁰ Commanding Officer left to call officially on Rear Admiral Rogge & Captain Busse, German Federal Navy & the Minister President, Schleswig-Holstein & the City President of Kiel.

1045 The C.O. returned from official calls. 1140 Rear Admiral Rogge, German Federal Navy came on board to return the Captain's official call.

1200 Captain Busse, German Federal Navy came on board for an official call on the Commanding Officer. 1350 Dr Lenike, Minister President, Schleswig-Holstein, came on board for an official call on the C.O. 1415 Mayor of Kiel made an official call on the C.O. 1500 BELGIAN F.N. ARTEVEIDE (M90)

Page 6

6/20/1959 (Cont'd) Moored to Tirpitz Mole.

6/21/1959 Moored to Tirpitz Mole. 1130 I. S. IMPETUOSO (CT 558) moored to Tirpitz Mole 1240 Mr MANNING, Counsel General of HAMBURG came aboard and departed at 1900.

6/21-6/23/1959 Moored to Tirpitz Mole. 1008 Underway for Stockholm, Sweden

6/24/1959 Enroute to Stockholm, SWEDEN 1116 Sighted 10 Russian T43 minesweepers. 1229 Sighted Russian modified "W" class submarine, hull number 103.

1255 Sighted Russian destroyer & 4 patrol craft.

1309 Change speed to 22 KNOTS. 1322 $\frac{1}{2}$ s to 20 KNOTS.

1336 $\frac{1}{2}$ s to 25 KNOTS (CFE's note - the Russians were trying to get close) 1339 $\frac{1}{2}$ s to 20 KNOTS. 1345 $\frac{1}{2}$ s

to 15 KNOTS. 1525 $\frac{1}{2}$ s to 5 KNOTS while conducting B/T drop. 2254 Sighted VILSONDI Light house.

2302 Sighted KOPU Light house.

6/25/1959 0310 Sighted ALMA Grunder Light. 0522

Entered KANHOLMSFJARDEN BAY. 0538 DEPARTED

KANHOLMSFjarden Bay 0600 PASSED KALVO

Island Light. 0638 PASSED Brodstycket Beacon.

0847 Moored to KASTELLholmen Pier, Stockholm,

Sweden 0955 The C.O. Left the ship to call

officially on Chief of Naval Staff (Sweden)

1115 RADM BLIDBERG, RSN, Chief of Naval Staff,

came on board for an official call to the C.O.

PAGE 7

6/26/1959 Moored to KASTELLHOLMEN Pier, Stockholm
1048 Oil Barge came alongside + Commenced
fueling, 1230 Completed fueling, 63,090 gallons

6/27/1959 Moored as before, 1300 Commenced
general visiting 1600 Secured from general
visiting

6/28 - 6/29/1959 Moored as before. Commenced preparations
for getting underway for Portsmouth, England.

6/30/1959 0457 PASSED Kiel Lightship while standing
into Kiel, Germany HARBOR & the Kiel Canal,
0604 Entered Kiel Canal approach, 0613
moored to OLD LOCKS in the Kiel Canal approach.
0623 Locks closed. 0642 Underway steering
various courses at various speeds while
transiting the Kiel Canal. 1440 Bow passed
over the Lock at Brunsbuttel, 1450 Moored
to Starboard side of Lock, Brunsbuttel, Germany.
1531 Transited Brunsbuttel Locks & entered
the De Elbe River.

7/1/1959 Steaming enroute from Stockholm, Sweden
to Portsmouth, ENGLAND 1621 PASSED No MAN'S
LAND FORT. ENTERED PORTSMOUTH HARBOR.

1648 Moored to South Slip JETTY, Royal Dockyard,
7/2/1959 Portsmouth, ENGLAND 0957 C.O. Left the ship to
call officially on RADM CURREY, R.N. Chief of
Staff, CINC, Portsmouth. 1510 RADM Currey, RN, came

PAGE 8

7/2/1959 (CONT'D) aboard to return the official call of the C.O.

7/3/1959 Moored to South Slip Jetty, Royal Dockyard, Portsmouth, England. Prepared to get UNDERWAY for BERMUDA. Steering various COURSES AT VARIOUS speeds standing out of PORTSMOUTH HARBOR. PASSED WAR MEMORIAL. PASSED SPIT SAND FORT. PASSED HORSE SAND FORT. PASSED NAB tower. PASSED St. Catherine Lighthouse. PASSED DURLSTON Lighthouse. PASSED LIZARD Head Lighthouse. Sighted WOLF ROCK Lighthouse. Sighted Longships Lighthouse. PASSED WOLF ROCK Lighthouse. Sighted Bishop Rock Lighthouse. Took departure for NAVAL Station, BERMUDA.

7/4-7/9 Steaming for NAVAL Station, BERMUDA

7/10/1959 Steaming ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Sighted St DAVID'S Lighthouse. Standing into BERMUDA. Entered the NARROWS. Moored to TENDER Pier, U.S. NAVAL Station, BERMUDA.

0855 COMMENCED taking on fuel 1240 Completed taking on fuel. Received 134,059 gallons.

1300 Made preparations for getting UNDERWAY.

1407 UNDERWAY for U.S. NAVAL Base, Guantanamo Bay, CUBA. 1615 Took departure from BERMUDA.

7/11-7/12/1959 Steaming as before. 1414 Sighted Providenciales Islands. 1450 Commenced

Page 9

7/12/1959 (CONT'D) MAN-OVERBOARD Drill. 1511 Completed Man-overboard drill. All engines Stopped. 1522 Sounded. Swim call 1535 Secured from Swim call. 1558 $\frac{1}{2}$ s to 13 KNOTS.

7/13/1959 Steaming as before 0045 Sighted Cape Maisi Lighthouse. 0252 PASSED Punta Caleta Lighthouse. COMMENCED preparations for entering Guantanamo Bay. Moored to Wharf Bravo, U.S. NAVAL STATION, Guantanamo Bay, CUBA 1640 COMMENCED taking on fuel from the pier. 1737 Secured taking on

7/14/1959 fuel after taking on 47,916 gallons. Commenced preparations for getting underway for operating areas. MANeuvering to take Station ASTERN of USS NITRO (AE 25) for rearming exercises. 0900 Went to General Quarters while conducting engineering casualty drills. 1128 Secured from General Quarters. 1245 COMMENCED General Quarters. MANeuvering various courses & speeds to conduct Z-24-G exercise 1314 Commenced firing. 1410 Ceased firing, rounds EXPENDED 26 rounds 5"/54 ammunition. 1442 Commenced Z-2-G exercise 1602 Secured Z-2-G exercise. SET SPEED 20 KNOTS proceeding to port

7/15/1959 Moored to Wharf Bravo. 0700 making preparation for getting underway to GUANTANAMO OP AREA. Commenced running the measured mile. 1202

PAGE 10

7/15/1959 (Cont'd) Completed running the measured mile.
1220 Conducting ASW exercises with the USS BALBOA
(SS 285) & the USS RHODES (DER 384). 1556
Secured from ASW exercises having expended
13 PLASTER Loaded hedge hog projectiles.
1640 STANDING into Guantanamo Bay. Captain
has the Conn. 1657 Hit small camel alongside
Wharf Bravo. Fuel Oil streaming into water
from below waterline. 1720 Investigation of
oil Leak revealed a split horizontal seam 2'
Long and about $3\frac{1}{2}'$ below the waterline at
frame 61.

7/16/1959 Moored portside to Wharf Bravo, Guantanamo
Bay, Cuba. 0025 YD 85 alongside to starboard.
Commenced off loading fuel. 0240 YD 86 alongside
Loading fifty tons of weights on Starboard
Side main deck frames 157-164. 0340 YD 86
departed. 0628 YD 85 departed. 1115 YD 86
moored alongside to starboard. 1543 Added 6
five ton weights to starboard side.

7/17/1959 Moored port side to Wharf Bravo, U.S. Naval Base,
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. with 80 tons of concrete
weights on the starboard side causing a 10.5°
List to Starboard. YD 86 moored alongside to
starboard. 1940 Removed 80 Tons of weights from
STARBOARD quarter. 2025 YD 86 underway from

PAGE 11

7/17/1959 (CONT'D) STARBOARD QUARTER COMMENCED taking on fuel. 2230 Completed taking on fuel, having received 113,820 gallons. 2308 Underway from Wharf Bravo enroute Rodman, Panama Canal Zone.

7/18/1959 Steaming independently enroute from Guantanamo Cuba to Rodman, Panama Canal Zone.

7/19/1959 Steaming as before. Proceeding to anchorage 0803 PASSED through Cristobal Breakwater entrance. Anchored in West AREA, Limon Bay, Panama Canal Zone. 0836 LCDR CANADY, U.S.N., 15th NAVAL DISTRICT Representative came aboard. 0900 LCDR CANADY, USN, left the ship. 1215 COMMENCED preparations for getting underway. 1309 Underway to transit Panama CANAL. 1324 Steering various courses & Speeds to enter Panama Canal & Gatun Locks #1. 1526 EXITED Gatun Locks #1, ENTERED Gatun Locks #2. 1552 EXITED Gatun Locks #2, ENTERED Gatun Lock #3. 1600 Commenced flooding Lock #3. 1613 Crossed sill of Lock #3. ENTERED GATUN LAKE. 1627 Anchored in GATUN LAKE. 1755 Anchor aweigh. Transiting the Panama Canal. 1928 Entered Culebra Reach. 2053 Moored to Pedro Miguel Locks. 2114 Cast off all lines. 2115 Bow crossed sill of Lock #1. 2122 Closed Lock #1 & commenced flooding.

Page 12

7/19/1959 (CONT'D) 2130 Commenced deflooding Lock #1.
2138 Bow crossed sill of Lock #1. 2139 Commenced
steering on various courses at various
speeds while transiting canal. 2157 Gate #1
of Miraflores Locks opens. 2215 Gate #1
closed & commenced deflooding. 2226 Bow
crossed over sill of gate #3, Lock #2. 2243 Gate
#4, Lock #2 opens. 2245 Bow crossed over gate #4
sill. 2246 Commenced steering on various
courses at various speeds while transmitting
canal. 2308 Moored to Pier #2, U.S. NAVAL
STATION, Rodman, Canal Zone. Ships present
include USS FALCON (MSC 190).

7/20/1959 Moored to pier #2 U.S. NAVAL Station, Rodman,
C.Z. 0850 the Commanding Officer left the
ship to call officially on Commandant, 15th NAVAL
DISTRICT. 1200 C.O. returned. COMMENCED
preparations for getting underway. 1357
UNDERWAY for San Diego, California 1400
STANDING OUT of the Panama CANAL. 1430
Set the STEAMING WATCH. 1933 Passed Cape
Mala Light. 1955 Sighted Frailes DEL Sur Light.
2040 Sighted Morro Puercos Light

7/21/1959 Steaming independently en route from
Balboa, Canal Zone to San Diego, California
0127 Sighted Isla Jicarita Light.

Page 13

7/21/1959 (Cont'd) 2230 Entered heavy electrical STORM, ST ELMO's Light appeared at various places about the ship.

7/22/1959 Steaming as before.

7/23/1959 ✓ ✓ ✓ 2358 Sighted Acapulco ROQUETTA Island Light.

7/24/1959 STEAMING AS before. 1801 PASSED PUNTA Compos Light

7/25/1959 Steaming AS before. 1810 PASSED CAPE Falso Light

7/26/1959 Steaming as before. 2140 PASSED N.W. San Benito Light

7/27/1959 Steaming as before. 1522 Sighted Sur Coronado Light. 1715 Entered inland waters. 1722 entered San Diego HARBOR 1818 Moored port SIDE to U.S.S. HANNA (DE 449) at Pier 1, NAVAL Repair Facility, San Diego. U.S.S. Brinkley Bass (DD 887) AND U.S.S. BROWN (DD 546) in board of U.S.S. HANNA. 1900 ENS. Robert L. LARKIN, JR, U.S.N. reported on board for duty.

SAN Diego, CALIFORNIA = Home port