

USS Somers DD947
Flagship DESRON 5
1960 WestPac Deployment
32,000 Miles Steamed
105 Days at Sea
Operations: Blue Star, Sea Lion & Cosmos

- 16 FEB 1960: Underway from San Diego, California
- 22 FEB 1960: Arrived, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 23 FEB 1960: Underway for Guam, Mariana Islands
- 08 MAR 1960: Arrived, Guam
- 10 MAR 1960: Underway for Keelung, Formosa
- 16 MAR 1960: Arrived, Keelung
- 16 MAR 1960: Underway for Yokosuka, Japan
- 22 MAR 1960: Arrived, Yokosuka, Japan
- 31 MAR 1960: Underway for Subic Bay, Philippines
- 03 APR 1960: At Sea – Somers Outstanding Man of the Year: Bresnahan, R. D.
IC2, Runner Up: Hill, FT1, Keiler, DK2, Kilcline, RM2.
- 10 APR 1960: Stopped at Buckner Bay, Okinawa (5 Hours)
- 13 APR 1960: Arrived, Subic Bay, Philippines
- 23 APR 1960: Underway for Bangkok, Thailand
- 27 APR 1960: Passed through an area of very unusual phosphorescence. Entire
Surface pulsed brightly in waves.
- 28 APR 1960: Arrived, Bangkok, Thailand (HMAS Queenborough, F-02 to port side.
- 02 MAY 1960: Underway for Sattahip, Thailand
- 02 MAY 1960: Arrived, Sattahip, Thailand. (Base during SEATO Sea Lion exercises).
- 13 MAY 1960: Arrived, Singapore, China.
- 16 MAY 1960: Underway for Saigon, Vietnam. Ship's log noted 1639, the Navigator
Relieved the OOD (LTJG Fernald) because of polywog shoal waters.
The OOD, being a Shellback was unqualified to conn the ship through.
2022 crossed the equator at longitude 105 degrees, 13.3 east, on course
180 degrees. 2044 re-crossed the equator on course 000 degrees.
- 17 MAY 1960: 0815 Royal Highness Neptune Rex, King of the High Seas made the
official call. Broke the Jolly Roger.
0840 Royal Court convened in the case of the Trusty Shellbacks vs.
Polywogs. 1115 Royal Court adjourned, having found all Polywogs
guilty as charged and exacted appropriate punishment. 1120 King
Neptune departed. Hauled down the Jolly Roger.

- 18 MAY 1960: 0708, entered the Saigon River, Vietnam. 1112, three (3) LCM's turned the ship around.
- 21 MAY 1960: Underway for Subic Bay, Philippines
- 24 MAY 1960: Arrived, Subic Bay (Base for sea exercises).
- 17 JUNE 1960: Escorted President Eisenhower on the USS St. Paul (CA73) with USS Yorktown (CVS10) & USS Gurke (DD783) from Manila, P. I. to Keelung, Taiwan.
- 18 JUNE 1960: Manned the Rail for Presidential Inspection by helicopter.
- 23 JUNE 1960: Lowered the whaleboat to investigate aircraft wreckage. Carrier is the USS Ranger (CVA61).
- 26 JUNE 1960: Arrived, Hong Kong, B.C.C. (British Crown Colony). 0748 moored to Buoy B-3.
- 28 JUNE 1960: 1530 recalled all liberty parties. 1942 Underway to evade Typhoon Olive.
- 30 JUNE 1960: Arrived, Hong Kong. 1738 moored to buoy B-3. 1746 parted mooring shackle, 1759 moored to buoy B-3.
- 02 JULY 1960: Underway for Subic Bay, P.I.
- 03 JULY 1960: Arrived Subic Bay, P.I.
- 05 JULY 1960: Underway for Kobe, Japan.
- 07 JULY 1960: Ship detached from formation to proceed to Buckner Bay, Okinawa to transfer emergency appendicitis case.
- 09 JULY 1960: Arrived Kobe, Japan
- 16 JULY 1960: Underway for Yokosuka, Japan
- 17 JULY 1960: Arrived Yokosuka, Japan
- 19 JULY 1960: Underway for Midway Island
- 24 JULY 1960: Arrived Midway Island
- 24 JULY 1960: Underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 27 JULY 1960: Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (Cleared by Customs)
- 28 JULY 1960: Underway for San Diego, California
- 01 AUG 1960: Lying to, in order to clean the ship's sides
- 02 AUG 1960: Lying to, in order to clean the ship's sides
- 03 AUG 1960: Arrived, San Diego, California

DECK LOG:

01 JAN 1960: Moored at U.S. Naval Air Station North Island

0000-0400: Across from San Diego, our home so dear.
Moored inboard North Island's "Kilo Pier."
Oriskany's to starboard on the pier face.
Our crew has been working at a Holiday pace
Six-inch lines doubled, wires fore and aft
The gig's in the water...our liberty raft.
Fresh water and phones have been brought from ashore
The telephone's outstanding, the water poor.
No steam or electricity is available here
Much to the chagrin of the Chief Engineer
In the event a missile brings in the New Year,
Condition YOKE is maintained, never you fear.
COMFIRSTFLEET is SOPA and he has prescribed
PACFLT is in port to greet the New Year.
The crew is ashore getting filled with good cheer
And I, on the Quarterdeck writing these verses
Muttering oaths and unprintable curses.

R.A. Petrie
LT, SC, USN

Dear Book Log:

01 JAN 1960: Moored in a nest of 3 destroyers to Buoy 20 with 12 fathoms of chain on deck in San Diego Harbor:

San Diego, Buoy 2 naught
Is Somers New Year's mooring spot
Our head is east, easy to ride
With 12 fathoms chain, to an ebbing tide
SOUTHERLAND is to our port tonight
Beyond her, GURKE's anchor light
To keep our Skipper's mind untroubled
Our standard mooring lines are doubled
ROWAN's ailing, boilers obtuse
Have left her plant like that well-known goose
So, she is moored port side to the tender

With troubles peculiar to age and gender
DESDIV 51 is ready
Though staff finds New Year's Eve too heady
They went ashore en masse today
To celebrate in a spiritous way.
A sounding watch is on patrol
To keep our YOKE in close control
And readiness condition IV
Keep us warm in this cold war
With PACFLEET ship's S.D.'s well-staffed
Plus usual yard and district craft,
And the North Isle, across the Bay
Sits COMFIRSTFLEET, SOPA
To men of the sea celebrating tonight
We offer two thoughts to start '61 right
A Happy New Year as we end this mid-watch
And don't run aground on the rocks in the Scotch.

James H. Murray
LTJG, USNR

S.O.P.A = Senior Officer Present Afloat