

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS BROOKE (FFG-1)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

FFG1/JAD:tj
5720
Ser 109
25 May 1979

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS BROOKE (FFG 1)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Navy Department, Washington, DC 20350

Subj: USS BROOKE (FFG 1) Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS BROOKE (FFG 1) Command History for 1978

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.



A. ZABROCKI

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I. COMMANDING OFFICERS DURING 1978:

1 Jan - 19 Dec - CDR RAYMOND G. ZELLER, USN

20 Dec - 31 Dec - CDR ALAN D. ZABROCKI, USN

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1978:

1 - 2 Jan	Inport San Diego
3 - 6 Jan	Underway SOCAL
7 - 15 Jan	Inport San Diego
16 - 20 Jan	COMPTUEX 1-78
21 - 24 Jan	Inport San Diego
25 Jan - 1 Feb	READIEX 2-78
2 Feb	Transit San Francisco
3 - 6 Feb	Inport San Francisco
7 Feb	Transit PMTC
8 Feb	Annual Training MISSILEX PMTC
9 Feb	Transit Seal Beach
10 - 11 Feb	Offload Seal Beach, Transit San Diego
12 Feb - 31 Mar	Inport San Diego (PRAV)
1 - 9 Apr	Inport San Diego
10 Apr	Transit Long Beach
11 Apr - 25 May	Drydock LBNSY
26 May	Transit San Diego
27 - 30 May	Inport San Diego
31 May - 1 Jun	Underway SOCAL
2 Jun	Onload Seal Beach
3 - 7 Jun	Inport San Diego
8 Jun	Underway (ECC)
9 - 14 Jun	Inport San Diego (ARM Certification)
15 - 18 Jun	Underway (Planeguard)
19 Jun	Underway (LAST Services)
20 - 21 Jun	Underway (ECC)
22 - 25 Jun	Inport San Diego
26 Jun	Underway (ECC)
27 Jun	Underway (QAST)
28 - 29 Jun	Underway (AGFS Qualification and Surface Gunnery)
30 Jun	Inport San Diego
1 - 8 Jul	Inport San Diego
9 - 11 Jul	Underway MTT Phase II/ECC
12 - 16 Jul	Inport San Diego
17 - 20 Jul	Underway MTT Phase II
21 Jul	Onload NWS Seal Beach
22 - 26 Jul	Inport San Diego
27 - 28 Jul	Underway ECC
29 - 30 Jul	Inport San Diego
31 Jul - 3 Aug	Underway OPPE

4 - 6 Aug	Inport San Diego
7 - 11 Aug	COMPTUEX 3-78
12 Aug	Dependents Cruise
13 - 16 Aug	Inport San Diego
17 - 28 Aug	FLEETEX 2-78
29 Aug - 4 Sep	Inport San Diego
5 - 8 Sep	Enroute Esquimalt, BC
9 - 10 Sep	Inport Esquimalt, BC
11 - 16 Sep	COMBEX MARCOT W.C. 78
17 - 18 Sep	Inport Esquimalt, BC
19 Sep	Enroute Seattle
20 - 24 Sep	Inport Seattle
25 - 29 Sep	Enroute San Diego
30 Sep	Inport San Diego
1 - 15 Oct	Inport San Diego
16 - 27 Oct	Interim Refresher Training
28 Oct - 2 Nov	Inport San Diego
3 - 10 Nov	READIEX 1-79
11 Nov - 3 Dec	Inport San Diego
4 - 15 Dec	FLEETEX 1-79
16 - 31 Dec	Inport San Diego, Holiday Leave/Upkeep

III. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

The new year 1978 found BROOKE in her homeport of San Diego, California making preparations for up-coming Fleet Exercises and various demanding examinations such as MIT, OPPE and REFTRA. BROOKE, under the command of CDR RAYMOND G. ZELLER faced an extremely rigorous schedule that was met in a most professional manner. At years end, BROOKE was determined to be fully prepared to meet all tasks assigned to a ship of war.

In January, BROOKE displayed her true colors during two successful exercises; COMPTUEX 1-78 and READIEX 2-78. These events confronted BROOKE with simulated surface battles. The officers and crew met the challenge of this intensive period and upon completion of the exercises, were lauded for their excellent performance.

In early February, BROOKE set sail for San Francisco where the crew was able to enjoy four outstanding days of liberty. On the 6th of February BROOKE shifted her colors and steamed for Seal Beach to offload ammunition. While moored to the ammunition pier within the confines of the Naval Ammunition facility in Seal Beach, the mighty warship BROOKE faced her darkest day. As winds and seas began to intensify, it became evident that BROOKE would be in for a rough night. Winds reached speeds in excess of 90 knots. BROOKE was literally picked up and thrown against the pier. When the weather calmed, the damage was assessed. BROOKE's starboard side was badly disfigured. The decision was made to drydock her in Long Beach and by 25 May work had been completed. On the 26th of May BROOKE was once again in her natural environment as she steamed back home to San Diego.

The next few months found BROOKE conducting local operations and preparing for MTT (Mobile Training Team Examinations) and OPPE (Operational Propulsion Plant Examinations). These tough, thorough exams evaluate all aspects of the Engineering Department including administration, material and professional performance. On 31 July all training had been concluded and BROOKE was underway for her real test; OPPE. On 3 August the results of the evaluation board were known as BROOKE received the grade of "SATISFACTORY". She was the only ship in Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE to receive such distinction and the performance the Engineers put forth was simply outstanding.

During the month of August BROOKE took part in COMPTUEX 3-78 and FLEETEX 2-78. Although demanding, these exercises proved to be very valuable training lessons. Once again, the exercises were comprised of simulated surface battles.

In September BROOKE steamed north to Esquimalt, British Columbia to participate in COMBEX MARCOT W.C. 78. This was an allied exercise in which British, Canadian and American ships operated together. Upon conclusion of this exercise, BROOKE was able to spend time in Esquimalt, BC and Seattle, Washington. This period of relaxation was enjoyed by all.

On 25 September BROOKE left Seattle and set sail for home. As we departed the serene northern United States, the crew was aware of BROOKE's rigorous upcoming challenges. Long hours and hard work were to be required by all hands and since REFTRA was right around the corner, we had to buckle down.

On 16 October the two weeks of Refresher Training commenced. During this period BROOKE was evaluated as to her degree of battle readiness. Numerous Damage Control, Engineering Casualty Control and Combat System drills were conducted. The hard work and perserverance payed off when the REFTRA evaluation team bestowed upon BROOKE a grade of SATISFACTORY. We had passed one more difficult hurdle.

In November BROOKE participated in READIEX 1-79 and FLEETEX 1-79. On 16 December BROOKE had finished her last exercise for the year and she steamed into her home port so the crew could enjoy a relaxing holiday period.

1978 was a most productive year for BROOKE. It was a year in which she completed every examination and operational commitment with flying colors. Her fine performance clearly reflects the hard work and endeavors put forth by all hands. BROOKE now had a new skipper, CDR ALAN D. ZABROCKI. CDR RAYMOND G. ZELLER turned the conn over on 19 December. In his hands CDR ZELLER left CDR ZABROCKI a surface combatant that would be well prepared to meet the challenges of her upcoming WESTPAC 79.