



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CANOPUS (AS34)

FPO New York 09501

AS34:JRS:jcd

5720

Ser 768

11 MAR 1973

From: Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS34)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History, 1973

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS CANOPUS (AS34) Command History, 1973

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted for calendar year 1973.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter A. Brooks", is positioned above the printed name.

WALTER A. BROOKS

Copy to:

CINCLANTFLT (PAO)

COMSUBLANT (PAO)

COMSUBRON FOURTEEN (PAO)

The Submarine Museum

COMMAND HISTORY  
USS CANOPUS (AS34)  
1973

Enclosure (1)

## BASIC HISTORY

### I. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

(a) Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS34), and dates of command:

Captain Walter A. Brooks, USN                      19 June 1972 - to date

(b) On 5 September 1973 Commander Robert D. Buzzard, Jr., USN, relieved Commander Thomas J. Smith, USN, as Executive Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS34). There have been no other changes in command composition, nor have there been changes in the mission or the functions of USS CANOPUS (AS34).

(c) USS CANOPUS (AS34) remained moored and home-ported in the Holy Loch, Argyllshire, Scotland.

### II. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(a) USS CANOPUS (AS34) was in Defense Condition Three during the period 25 October to 1 November. Of the three SSBNs in port at the time DEFCON THREE was set, one left in 12 hours, and the others left within 36 hours, and USS CANOPUS was underway coincidental with her regularly-scheduled underway period.

(b) USS CANOPUS (AS34) was underway for training during the periods 14-16 June and 30 October - 1 November.

(c) During the year USS CANOPUS' Repair Department refitted 41 Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines attached to Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN, with an average of 8,194 manhours per refit. In addition, another 7 un-scheduled vessels were refitted during this reporting period.

(d) The Automatic Data Processing Center developed and implemented the following local programs:

(1) Radiological Health Program for the Medical Department. This program was completely re-designed.

(2) Access Listing for the Marine Detachment security program.

(3) Personnel Listings for the Personnel Office. This program was developed entirely during this reporting period.

(4) Repair of Other Vessels (ROV) Program, designed to aid in accounting for money spent on submarine repairs.

(e) Deck Department accomplished the following major items during the year:

(1) Carried approximately 450,000 passengers, while the cranes handled over 5,500 long-tons of cargo.

(2) Made final preparations on the floating 25-ton YD-75 crane for its journey back to the United States. On 20 August, the crane was towed away by USS SALINAN (ATF-101).

(3) Canopus' Divers assisted local Scottish authorities several times in searching for missing fishermen in the surrounding lochs.

(4) In November, assembled a 2-foot by 11-foot pontoon section, which then was placed in the water alongside the section completed in October. These two sections should be welded together in early 1974, giving Canopus a one-piece, 125-foot liberty launch.

(f) Engineering Department accomplished the following items during the reporting period:

(1) Received 5,098,700 gallons of various fuel, with consumption as follows;

4,559,000 gallons of NSFO consumed by USS CANOPUS  
146,000 gallons of NSFO consumed by an unscheduled USNS  
122,000 gallons of diesel fuel consumed by unit SSBNs  
18,200 gallons of diesel lube oil consumed by unit SSBNs  
24,300 gallons of turbine/hydraulic lube oil consumed  
by unit SSBNs

(2) NAVSECPHILDIV inspection of "B" Division's boiler economizer element failure revealed a condition known as "Cold End Corrosion." From this inspection, the division expended more than 1,200 manhours replacing 33 economizer elements.

(3) "A" Division's Hydraulic Shop replaced the telescoping boom on Number 4 Traveling Crane, a feat not previously accomplished by a deployed submarine tender.

(4) "E" Division installed the Closed Circuit Color Television (CCTV) SHIPALT during the year. This SHIPALT provides a studio capable of broadcasting, via closed circuit cables, 16mm film, 35mm slides, video tapes, or live programming. In addition, the ship's radio station was renovated and now operates daily using AFRTS material.

(5) Damage Control (DC) Division installed a new brow landing platform on the 01 Level of the YFNB, that is 9 feet wide by 25 feet long. This raised the Canopus stern brow approximately 16 feet and brought it to an almost-level position.

(6) "E" Division instituted a new basic electricity training program modeled on the EM "A" School. Classes are held daily for one hour and are a valuable tool in training non-rated personnel.

(7) In July "E" and "DC" Divisions began a project to provide 1,200 AMPs shore power to the Dry dock moored in the Holy Loch. This evolution involved suspending four 350-foot cables from an overhead span wire between the YFNB and the Dry Dock, in addition to other processes.

(8) Approximately 30 percent of the telephone system between the Ardnadam Complex in Sandbank and USS CANOPUS was replaced.

(g) Repair Department accomplished the following items during the reporting period:

(1) R-1 Division installed major ventilation on the YFNB.

(2) R-1 Division re-opened the Foundry in September and began pouring Level 1 and Level 3 castings.

(3) R-2 Division added a true trace machine which machines valve balls to a mirror finish with a pattern up to 12 inches in diameter. Also, a Dalic Plating Machine and accessory equipment were installed. This machinery addition has significantly increased the plating capability of USS CANOPUS.

(4) R-2 Division accomplished one major shipyard job by changing a screw on an SSBN while it was in the Dry dock. This specific job required nearly 400 manhours.

(5) R-2 Division increased its capability by adding sail bearing optical alignment equipment. It also performed one major alignment on the USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN630), a shipyard job and a "first" for USS CANOPUS.

(6) R-4 Division completed 51 major SHIPALTs and Verification and Certification of the ESM systems of all unit 627 Class SSBNs.

(7) Radiological Control (RC) Division accomplished three major resin discharges while in the Dry dock, and these required an average of 2,192 manhours each.

(8) Repair Services (RS) Division installed one new printing press during the reporting period.

(9) Repair Technical (RT) Division's SHIPALT and A&I program was reviewed by SUBLANT early in the year, with the conclusion by the inspectors that this was the best within their command.

(h) Supply Department accomplished the following major items during the period:

(1) Material Division began in February making use of the Number 4 Traveling Crane for more expeditious movement of material during the monthly T-AK evolution. In April this division began using a modified housefall rig to move cargo to and from Hold #1 of the T-AK and the boat deck of Canopus. This transfer method has proven to be much faster than unloading/backloading with Number 4 Traveling Crane, and has reduced maintenance/breakdown time required on this particular crane.

(2) New tile was installed during August on the mess decks and surrounding area (in blue and gold colors). This was complemented by the repainting of the same areas.

(3) SSPO cog material was consolidated in September into Store-room 54 and 59 (HIVAC) to enhance inventory management. With the advice of an inventory team from SSPO, a complete inventory of all SSPO items was completed in September.

(4) Four new washers and two coat presses were installed during October in the laundry, while renovations were made to the ship's vending machines.

(5) A second soda fountain was opened in November to better serve the crew.

(6) During November new accounting procedures emphasizing monthly inventories were enacted to improve Sales Division's financial integrity.

(7) Ship's Stores registered sales of \$101,062.05 during December, topping the \$100,000 mark for the first time in USS CANOPUS' history. The "Exchange Commissary News" for November 1973 listed USS CANOPUS as a leader in "AS CLASS" Ship's Stores Sales for the year, with total sales of \$749,357.00.

(i) Weapons Department accomplished the following major items during the reporting period:

(1) W-1 Division's MK 14 Torpedo Shop accomplished the following weapons work;

Overhauls completed	8
Exercise made ready	10
Post-run performed	8
Warshot made ready	33

(2) W-2 Division's Fire Control Shop performed 12 Adjust Bdaim Gradients (SMP 21-3216) on 627 Class SSBNs. This test was new and required proofing and correcting by this shop.

(3) W-2 Division's Fire Control Shop performed two Station (STA) Pentamirror 90-degree Deviation Evaluations (SMP 22-3220) on 627 Class SSBNs. This test was new and had to be proofed and corrected. Equipment in the shop had to be modified to perform the testing.

(4) W-2 Division completed the conversion of MK 88 Mod 0 to Mod 1 on five 627 Class SSBNs.

(5) W-2 Division completed the following SPALTs on the indicated number of SSBNs;

3694 on three SSBNs  
3696 on seven SSBNs  
3701 on ten SSBNs  
3708 on ten SSBNs  
3721 on four SSBNs  
3722 on ten SSBNs  
3727 on nine SSBNs  
3730 on ten SSBNs  
3732 on ten SSBNs  
3737 on ten SSBNs

(6) The Fire Control (Underwater and Surface) Shop completed the following ORDALTs on 627 Class SSBNs;

6857 on ten SSBNs  
6492 on eight SSBNs  
6418 on ten SSBNs  
6963 on ten SSBNs  
7513 on ten SSBNs

(7) The Fire Control (Underwater and Surface) Shop completed the conversion of the MK 113 Mod 7 Underwater Fire Control System to Mod 9 on five 627 Class SSBNs.

(8) W-4 Division received C3P missiles as follows;

from POMFLANT	53
to PMFLANT	44
from SSBNs	82
to SSBNs	82

(9) W-4 Division conducted three operational tests, as follows;

USS TECUMSEH (SSBN628) 4 missiles (fired)  
USS CASIMIR PULASKI (SSBN633) 4 missiles (fired) (2 returned)  
USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN636) 4 missiles (returned)

(10) W-4 Division completed 195 major SPALTs during the period.

(11) W-5 Division completed the replacement of 12 Ships Inertial Navigation System (SINS) stable platform supports (due to bearing failures). On three separate units both SINS stems were replaced during the same refit - an FBM fleet "first."

(12) W-5 Division successfully proofed the improved Navigation Program, a complex package of SPALTs, cabling changes, equipment installations, and computer programming modifications.

(13) W-6 Division completed 1,461 Restricted Issue Control Inspections for command units. Although a new program, it was successfully implemented.

(14) W-6 Division processed 3,141 documents/changes in the Technical Publications Library.

(15) W-6 Division completed 473 SPALTs/ORDALTs on SSBNs and 65 SPALTs/ORDALTs on USS CANOPUS.

(j) The Medical Department received a new automatic film processor in May for the X-ray room, and a new X-ray machine in December. In addition to routine medical services provided, 7,761 immunizations were administered throughout the year.

(k) The Administrative Department accomplished the following during the reporting period:

(1) Personnel Office handled a personnel turnover of 2,300.

(2) Realized several changes in billeting, including an increase in the Race Relations billets, and two Legalman billets became authorized.

(3) Race Relations and Drug Abuse Education seminars began on a regular basis, with attendance at a maximum possible.

(4) In relation to education, these accomplishments were achieved;

800 advancement examinations administered  
60 personnel completed onboard college classes with the University of Maryland  
45 personnel were administered the High School GED  
30 personnel completed the CLEP examinations  
30 personnel applied for ADCOP  
12 personnel applied for NESEP  
12 personnel applied for the Warrant Officer program

(5) The City Colleges of Chicago began onboard High School training classes in English and mathematics in August. The value of this program has been immeasurable, and its success is parallel with that of the University of Maryland onboard college-level classes.

### III. SPECIAL TOPICS - OTHER OPERATIONS

(a) Deck Department was required to make numerous major repairs to Ardnadam Pier in Sandbank several times as damage was sustained from the gales and high tides.

(b) The eight sewage treatment plants proved to be an unsuccessful design, and NAVSHIPS directed their removal. This action required several hundred manhours of Engineering Department's "A" Division.



(c) The main engines operated for only 200 hours during this reporting period.

(d) Repair Department's R-1 Division manufactured a Snorkel Flex Hose on the USS FLYING FISH (SSBN673) in less than three hours.

(e) Repair Department's R-1 Division manufactured an ASW-43 Valve Pattern and Core Box in less than 36 hours.

(f) Repair Department's R-2 Division completely re-worked all valves in the missile hydraulics system of USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN627).

(g) Supply Department increased check-cashing and foreign currency sales services not only for the crew, but also for arriving SSBN off-crews and for SSBN crews returning from patrol.

(h) Weapons Department's W-1 Division received and issued four MK 37-0 warshots to the Brazillian Navy, and one exercise weapon was issued and received for Brazillian Navy test firings.

(i) On 4 November USS CANOPUS celebrated her eighth birthday.

#### IV. SPECIAL TOPICS - DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

(a) On 18 January The Honorable Frank Sanders, Under Secretary of the Navy, visited USS CANOPUS.

(b) On 25 January Rear Admiral M. N. Lucey, DSC, The Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, accompanied by Commodore Peter E. C. Berger, MVO, DSC, Commodore Clyde, Royal Navy, visited USS CANOPUS.

(c) During 6-7 February Rear Admiral Edwin M. Rosenberg, USN, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, US Naval Forces Europe, and several CINCUSNAVEUR Staff members visited USS CANOPUS.

(d) On 13 March Mr. Charles L. Ill, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installation and Logistics) and Mr. James E. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), with a party of ten, visited and toured USS CANOPUS. They held informal briefings and discussions on equal opportunity, drug abuse, human relations, and shipboard habitability.

(e) During 21-23 March CSCM(SS) Hugh McCracken, The Master Chief Petty Officer of Command, COMSUBLANT; MMCM Gray, The Master Chief Petty Officer of Command, CINCLANTFLT; and TMC(SS) Corey, Atlantic Fleet Sailor-of-the-Year, visited USS CANOPUS and talked with the crew.

(f) On 30 March Rear Admiral Levering Smith, Director, Strategic Systems Projects Office, visited USS CANOPUS to discuss matters pertaining to FBM support.

(g) During 31 March - 2 April Rear Admiral John H. Nicholson, Director, Fleet Maintenance and Logistic Support, visited USS CANOPUS to discuss the SMMS program and general maintenance and logistics matters.

(h) During 23-25 April Rear Admiral Paul J. Early, Commander Submarine Flotilla TWO, paid a working visit to USS CANOPUS.

(i) On 25 April, The New Christie Minstrels visited USS CANOPUS following performances earlier for the crew at Ardnadam, Sandbank, by Dunoon, Argyllshire, Scotland.

(j) During 6-7 May Vice Admiral Robert L. J. Long, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, visited USS CANOPUS preparatory to inspecting Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN units.

(k) During 17-18 May Rear Admiral Alfred J. Whittle, Commander Submarine Flotilla SIX visited USS CANOPUS and participated in operational briefings.

(l) On 12 June Lieutenant Colonel Donald R. Chapell, USMC, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and party of three, visited USS CANOPUS to discuss the Marine Detachment's requirement for personnel increases.

(m) During 8-9 June Captain Francis L. Wadsworth, USN, Head, SSPO, Training Systems Branch, visited USS CANOPUS to inspect the FBM program training and manning.

(n) During 14-16 July Rear Admiral Robert Y. Kaufman, Director, Strategic Submarine Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, visited USS CANOPUS to discuss SSBN security and operations matters.

(o) During 18-19 July Vice Admiral Means Johnston, Jr., Naval Inspector General, and Rear Admiral B. H. Shepherd, Deputy Naval Inspector General, and party of five, visited USS CANOPUS.

(p) During 8-9 August Rear Admiral A. W. Walton, CEC, USN, Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic, visited USS CANOPUS.

(q) During 8-10 August Vice Admiral Robert L. J. Long, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, visited USS CANOPUS to review facilities matters and to inspect the FBM program.

(r) On 17 August Representative Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa), Member, House Committee on Appropriations, accompanied by Commander Francis P. Jones, USN, Escort Officer, Office of Legislative Affairs, visited USS CANOPUS and visited most departments of the ship.

(s) On 20 August Representative James R. Mann (D-SC), Member, House Judiciary Committee, and a delegation of the Subcommittee on Claims and Government Relations of the House Judiciary Committee, composed of the following persons, visited USS CANOPUS:

Representative James R. Mann (D-SC)  
Representative George E. Danielson (D-Cal)  
Representative Barbara Jordan (D-Tex)  
Representative Carlos J. Moorhead (R-Cal)  
Representative L. Frey (D-Fla)  
Representative Earl B. Ruth (R-NC)  
Representative Frank E. Denholm (D-SD)  
Mr. William P. Shattuck, Counsel  
Mr. Peter T. Straub, Associate Counsel

(t) On 28 August The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, John D. Whittet, accompanied by MMCM J. R. Stiles, Fleet Master Chief, CINCUS-NAVEUR, visited USS CANOPUS and met with the crew.

(u) On 30 August Representative Melvin Price (D-Ill), Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and Member, House Committee on the Armed Services, accompanied by Mr. George F. Murphy, Jr., Deputy Director, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, visited USS CANOPUS to discuss and observe weapons storage facilities.

(v) During 13-15 October Rear Admiral K. E. Wilson, Jr., Vice Commander, Naval Ship Systems Command, visited USS CANOPUS to discuss matters on FBM submarine maintenance and advanced marine technology.

(w) On 24 October The Honorable John W. Warner, Secretary of the Navy, and party of four, visited USS CANOPUS and talked with the crew.

#### V. SPECIAL TOPICS - FOREIGN RELATIONS

(a) During the year, various Scottish groups, totaling 952 persons at year's end, were provided a 3-hour tour of USS CANOPUS. Although these persons were predominantly Scottish, some of the groups came from England, Ireland, and Germany.

(b) USS CANOPUS' varsity basketball team, the Sonics, played Scottish basketball teams in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Greenock, Paisley, and Perth. The Sonics also participated as one of seven basketball teams in the "St. Vincent International Basketball Tournament" in Dublin, Ireland on 16-18 March. For the first time, the Sonics hosted a "Site One Invitational Tournament" in the United States Navy Gymnasium, Ardnadam Complex, Sandbank, 30 March to 1 April. Two American and six Scottish basketball teams participated in this three-day tournament, with some audiences exceeding 300 persons.

(c) USS CANOPUS' Rod and Gun Club, with facilities at the Cot House, near Kilmun, Argyllshire, was very active throughout the year. The club installed a new trap shoot, which with other improvements, makes the range at the Cot House one of the most modern (and active) in Scotland. Both Scottish and American persons enjoy these international facilities each weekend.

(d) USS CANOPUS' Tug-o'-War Team became famous throughout Scotland. This year alone, the team participated in pulls at more than seven Highland Games, and was the "highlight" of some games.

(e) USS CANOPUS' Soccer Team, in its first year of organization, made inroads with the local soccer clubs.

(f) Scottish teams participated in USS CANOPUS' intramural sports, including basketball and softball.

(g) USS CANOPUS officers addressed approximately 20 Scottish organizations in diverse locations throughout Scotland during the year.

(h) USS CANOPUS' Marine Detachment regularly undergoes training exercises with the Royal Marines, with the City of Glasgow Police Department, and with the local organization of Lowlanders.