



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CANOPUS (AS-34)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS 34)

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

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Encl: (1) USS CANOPUS (AS 34) Command History, 1974

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted for calendar year 1974.


M. P. ALEXICH

Copy to:

CINCLANTFLT (PAO)

COMSUBLANT (PAO)

COMSUBRON FOURTEEN

Submarine Museum

COMMAND HISTORY
USS CANOPUS (AS 34)

1974

Enclosure (1)

BASIC HISTORY

I. Command Organization

A. Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS 34) and dates of command:

1. Captain Walter A. BROOKS, USN to 25 March 1974
2. Captain Milton P. ALEXICH, USN - 26 March 1974 to date.

B. Commander Robert D. BUZZARD, Jr., USN, has remained as Executive Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS 34). No other command composition or changes in mission or functions have occurred.

C. USS CANOPUS (AS 34) has remained moored and homeported in the Holy Loch, Argyllshire, Scotland.

II. Summary of Operations

A. During the year CANOPUS IMA conducted thirty-seven scheduled refits on Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) Submarines attached to Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN. The first Extended Refit Period (ERP) was performed by CANOPUS on SSBN 627. Additionally, there were thirteen other afloat units serviced by CANOPUS during the year.

B. USS CANOPUS (AS 34) was underway for training during the periods 29 March - 1 April and 28 - 30 June.

C. For exceptional performance during the Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI), Radiological Controls Practice Examination (RCPE), Communications, Engineering, and Supply evolutions the USS CANOPUS was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E".

D. Deck Department accomplished the following major items:

1. During March underway period Second and Third Divisions disposed of junk cars while at sea in an effort to improve local parking facilities.

2. During the August E-4 and E-5 advancement examinations, 100% of all participants from Deck Department were advanced.

3. Third Division provided boat support for local yacht races in June during Clyde Week and in September for the Polaris Regatta.

4. Third Division provided special boating service for Philadelphia Naval Shipyard personnel during overhaul of USS LOS ALAMOS (AFDB-7).

5. Divers and Third Division worked together in conjunction with underwater damage assessment and replacement of pilings at Ardnamadam pier in July and August.

Enclosure (1)

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

6. Deck Department drew up plans for a U shaped jointed three section float at Ardnadam pier. Currently construction is in progress for the 6' x 121' seaward component in a cooperative effort with CANOPUS Engineering Department.

7. 1974 saw a change in small boat allowance at Site ONE. Three 74 foot LCM8s, converted to personnel carriers arrived on the January, February and March T-AKs. Two covered LCM6s were returned to CONUS on the March and April T-AKs. In March one BOX-L was stripped and put up for local bid. In December CANOPUS received a new 33' OMB in exchange for one in need of major overhaul.

8. CANOPUS divers distinguished themselves through their efforts in changing two 300 KW motor generators and two BQN heads on Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN's SSBN's. Divers also provided support through the utilization of their Underwater Damage Assessment Television System when SSBN hull repair was questionable, and performed underwater weld repairs when needed.

9. CANOPUS crane crews helped offload 5745 tons of cargo and backloaded 1992 tons.

10. Close to 3/4 million passengers were transported annually on CANOPUS small boats.

11. Cut bilge keel off (waterborne) T-AK.

12. First Division manufactured a new awning for the 02 Level saving the Navy \$2,880.00.

E. Engineering Department accomplished the following significant events:

1. Electrical Division. Installed a security lighting system on CANOPUS which provides security light coverage around the entire perimeter of CANOPUS including three submarines alongside and the YFNB astern. Installed small boat landing lights around the Ardnadam pier landing sites. Replaced the suspended shore power cables from the YFNB to AFDB-7 after these cables had been dropped into the water due to heavy storms. Installed a tug shore power facility which permits CANOPUS to supply both Site tugs with shore power. Installed new garbage grinders in the CPO mess and both crew's mess sculleries. Installed a telephone distribution system, both dial and sound powered, on YFNB-31 which permits rapid communications between CANOPUS, YFNB-31 and AFDB-7. Installed heating system on YFNB-31 which services the boat cage, third division, and the Race Relations classroom.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

2. Damage Control Division. Replaced the submerged fresh water service line from the beach to AFDB-7 a distance of over 2000 feet. completely rebuilt a 40 foot utility boat which had been badly damaged from having been beached during a severe storm. Fabricated small boat landing pontoons to be used at Ardnadam pier. Repaired both cabins on CSS-14 barge which had been extensively damaged by dropping while hoisting on to the boat deck. Installed an extensive fresh water shipalt AS-1086-D. Participated in a Damage Control Safety Inspection conducted by the U.S. Naval Safety Center.

3. Boiler Division. Received, used, transferred over five million gallons of petroleum lubricants without a single spill incident. Replaced the floor and front wall in number one boiler and the floor in number two boiler. Replaced seven ruptured economizer tubes. Painted the entire fireroom and number two pump room. Accomplished major improvements in fireroom stowage lockers. Steamed the boilers a total of 359 days having only six days, divided into two periods for "cold iron" maintenance. Expended over 97,000 man-hours in support of CANOPUS' mission.

4. Machinery Division. Steamed the Engine Room with at least two SSTG's always operating 359 days. Each of the four SSTG's Operated over 4000 hours during 1974. Distilled 3 million gallons of pure water for use by the boilers and submarines alongside. Improved the lagging system on both evaporators to plan specifications thus increasing output from 72% to 100% design capacity. This lagging effort required over 2000 man-hours. Each evaporator operated over 5000 hours during 1974.

5. Auxiliary Division. Operated and maintained 15 small boats ranging from 33 foot OMB's to LCM-8s. These 15 boats made an average of 7 runs across the Clyde each day and an average of 50 runs per day to Ardnadam Pier. These 15 boats utilize a total of 43 diesel engines which have been maintained by the Auxiliary Division. Supplied a nitrogen charge to an FBM Submarine on the average of once every 7 days and an oxygen bottle charge on the average of once every 14 days. Accomplished foundation modifications to both boat and missile cranes to improve their weight handling reliability. Expended over 20,000 man-hours in the maintenance of cranes, elevators and conveyors on CANOPUS. Replaced three package air conditioning units and three ice machines. Completely overhauled both crew's dishwashing machines, installing new soap and rinse additive systems.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

6. *The Engineering Department* received high praise for its material readiness by numerous outside VIPs including VADM COUSINS, CINCLANTFLT, VADMs LONG and WILLIAMS, COMSUBLANT, CINCLANTFLT Inspector General, and CSS-16. The department spaces were toured by the Secretary of the Navy, Honorable J. William MIDDENDORF, II, during which visit the Department was presented the "Order of the Golden Snipe" Award.

F. The Repair Department accomplished the following items during the year 1974:

1. During 1974 CANOPUS' Repair Department conducted 37 refits on Fleet Ballistic Missile submarines attached to Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN and expended 516,435 productive man-hours. The first Extended Refit Period (ERP) was performed by CANOPUS on SSBN 627 with an expenditure of 23,700 man-hours. Additionally, there were 13 other afloat units serviced by CANOPUS' Repair Department during the year.

2. R-1 Division did the major structural work in support of SSMG rotor removal in SSBN 628, increased canvas, lagging and aeroquip shop capabilities to meet increased workload requires of Site One, made patterns and successfully poured several major ASW system components, completed several major SHIPALTS (1259,1062,1145) on units of Squadron FOURTEEN, repaired major storm damage on LCM-8 and 40' Utility boat, completed major hull repairs on YTB's and increased foundry pour capability to 500 pounds.

3. R-2 Division completed an emergency propeller change on SSBN 631 in 32 hours in the most extreme winter weather conditions, assisted in the 300 kw motor generator set rotor changes on two SSBN's, manufactured a 2" hull valve body plus the stem, position indicator, and several other parts, changed the main propulsion shaft on SSBN 631 (a first for CANOPUS and Site ONE), initiated the 3 HEPT headwindow coating process on the #2 periscopes of all submarines of Squadron FOURTEEN and repaired the SSBN 632 Lithium Bromide Plant which had been flooded with sea water due to tube failure in the condenser.

4. R-3 Division replaced a rotor in the 300 kw MG set in SSBN 628 (this repair normally accomplished by a shipyard, was a Site ONE first), overhauled a 300 kw MG set from SSBN 633 which included a rotor removal, installed a new secondary propulsion motor in SSBN 628 in drydock in under eight hours, and played a significant role in the first extended refit by completing a large number of jobs on or ahead of schedule.

5. R-4 Division completed 53 major SHIPALTS to 627 class SSBNs, replaced or repaired 106 Hydrophones/Transducers in drydock, replaced or repaired 148 Hydrophones/Transducers alongside, replaced an AN/BQN-3 Transducer waterborne, replaced an AN/BRA-15 antenna system and calibrated 12,094 items.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

6. RC Division performed four resin discharges requiring an expenditure of over 8,000 man hours and 9 man rem.

7. RT Division established a planning and estimating division which screens incoming work requests, assigns lead and assist centers, estimates man hours and writes detailed work and test procedures when Subsafe or Level 1 work is involved.

G. Supply Department accomplished the following items during the year 1974:

1. Periodic Supply Inspection was conducted in July by COM-SUBRON FOURTEEN with assistance from COMSUBLANT. A grade of satisfactory was assigned and many supply people were individually commended by the Chief Inspector.

2. Navy Regional Finance Center, Norfolk conducted an audit of disbursing procedures and failed to find any errors in public vouchers or travel claims.

3. The Data Processing Division was transferred from the Executive Department to the Supply Department in December.

4. Food Service Division received a visit from the Navy Food Service Management Team in August.

5. Modernization of habitability improvements in the Mess Decks were continued with the purchase and installation of new milk holding machines and fire-retardant drapes for the dining area.

6. COMSUBRON FOURTEEN nominated CANOPUS General Mess for participation in the Ney Award competition.

7. CANOPUS Supply Department issued 53,835 items from tender storerooms and processed 69,470 stock receipts.

8. 6,745 tons of cargo were received from CONUS during 1974 via T-AK and MAC channels while 1,992 tons of retrograde cargo were shipped to CONUS.

9. Gross disbursements by the Disbursing Officer amounted to \$10,800,000 while travel claims and foreign dealer bills were \$2,500,000. Sales of British sterling for the year were 1,850,000 pounds.

10. Food Service Division received and stowed 2,154 tons of provisions via T-AK for consumption by CSS-14 units.

11. Sales from the five retail stores aboard CANOPUS were in excess of \$975,000.00 for 1974.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

H. Weapons Repair Department accomplished the following major items during 1974:

1. During the past year the Weapons Repair Department was inspected on many occasions. These inspections were Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection, Torpedo Readiness Assistance Team Inspection, Quality Evaluation and Engineering Laboratory and Quality Assurance Audit. All inspections were satisfactory. During the year the department has experienced a severe shortage of personnel and current manning is 75%. The department expended 2,500 man-hours per SSBN refit. In 1973 this figure was 1,920 man-hours.

2. The department accomplished the following major items during the reporting period:

a. W-1 Division transferred approximately 65,356 tons of torpedoes, this consisted of 106 MK-14, 189 MK-37 and 60 MK-45. The following was also accomplished:

(1) MK-14 w/s overhauls	11
(2) MK-14 ex/s preps	40
(3) MK-14 ex/s postrun	27
(4) MK-37 w/s system and deck	99
(5) MK-37 ex/s preps	87
(6) MK-37 ex/s postrun	65
(7) MK-45 w/s assy and disassy	25
(8) MK-45 ex/s preps	36
(9) MK-45 postrun	27

b. The W-2 Division's Fire Control Shop performed thirty (30) optical alignments, eleven (11) optical realignments, twelve (12) Bdaim Gradient, thirteen (13) 90 degree deviation tests on SSBNs. Shipalt 1337 was completed on six (6) SSBNs. This was a new Shipalt and required a considerable number of man-hours to complete. The Fire Control Shop assisted the SSBN personnel in repairing casualties in the MK-88 Ballistic Missile Fire Control System. Numerous Spalts were accomplished on each Submarine and the Module Checkout Shop tested 4,833 type II modules during the year.

c. The W-2 Division Underwater and Surface Fire Control Shop provided assistance to Technical Representatives during the installation of the Ballistic Improvement Program on six (6) SSBNs. They conducted ten (10) Weapons System Reviews, performed thirty-six (36) Weapons System arrival inspections and performed numerous Ordalts and Shipalts on SSBNs. Additionally, they assisted the ship's force in repairing numerous casualties on the MK-113 Mod 9 Underwater Fire Control System.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

2. With an accomplishment of 32,086 dental procedures on 7,318 patients, 1974 was a productive and rewarding year for the Dental Department of the USS CANOPUS (AS 34). Of these total procedures, 6,062 were restorations; 221 were prosthetic appliances; and 1616 were stannous fluoride treatments. As a result of the department's production, the Dental Department received from RADM Wade H. HAGERMAN, JR., DC, USN, Inspector General, Dental, a letter complimenting the department on its "management effectiveness".

3. With an average of three dental officers and seven dental technicians attached to the department, dental treatment was provided to approximately 3,723 personnel directly dependent on this department for dental treatment, and approximately 55 personnel indirectly dependent on this department for dental treatment. These commands included the USS CANOPUS (AS 34), USS LOS ALAMOS (AFDB 7), COMSUBRON FOURTEEN, ten SSBNs, visiting naval ships, Military Sea Transportation ships, and two satellite commands.

4. During the year, two official visits were made to the Dental Department: CDR R. STEPNIK, Force Dental Officer, COMSUBLANT visited the department in June; and RADM R. W. ELLIOTT, JR., DC, USN, Assistant Chief for Dentistry and Chief, Dental Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, visited the department in July.

5. Regarding personnel in the Dental Department, LCDR L. G. CAMPBELL, DC, USN departed in June, and LT J. C. GILMORE, DC, USNR reported aboard in July. Also, DT3 M. D. TURCK was selected as USS CANOPUS Sailor of the Month for November. In addition, one-hundred percent of the technicians in the department eligible for advancement were promoted to the next highest rate.

J. The Administration Department accomplished the following during 1974:

1. The Personnel Office handled a personnel turnover of 1,519.

2. Race Relations training continued throughout the year reaching an unprecedented 90% of the entire crew. A viable affirmative action plan was completed and effectively carried out. Significant progress was made towards preparation for phase II of the Human Resources development program.

3. The Educational Services Office accomplished the following:

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

(a) 365 advancements were authorized, 5 NESEP, 3 NENEP, 2 OCS, 2 BOOST, 20 WO and 37 ADCOP candidates were processed throughout the year. University of Maryland college level courses became very popular with over 107 students participating in eight separate courses. Sixty men completed requirements for GED Diplomas through the Prep Program.

4. The Post Office opened and staffed a branch office ashore to improve postal service to dependents. Over 200 tons of mail was processed and approximately one and a half million dollars of stamps and money transactions were completed.

5. The Special Services Office conducted ten organized tours to various European cities which benefited over 500 people.

6. The Career Counseling efforts achieved dramatic proportions when reenlistment statistics reached 54% for first term personnel and 96% for career personnel. The overall reenlistment percentage was 70%, the highest recorded for submarine tenders. Over one half million dollars was paid in reenlistment bonuses.

7. An I Division was established which provided newly reporting personnel a complete indoctrination of CANOPUS and its crew oriented services. Additional cultural presentation acquainted each newcomer to Scotland with a brief orientation into the local environment and personnel as an effort to educate personnel in local practices involving illegal drug usage and sales.

K. The Operations Department accomplished the following:

1. Installed the latest generation of a long line of Navigational Aids to mariners which is the most accurate and sophisticated system. Completion of OMEGA was mid-May.

2. From 022200Z to 061930Z DEC 74 a landline casualty necessitated CANOPUS to activate a full period termination on two separate occasions. CSS-14 gave CANOPUS a well done for maintaining contingency communications by radio path to support the normal traffic load.

III. Special Topics-Foreign Relations

A. During the year various Scottish groups were given tours of CANOPUS. In addition, a swimming club from Germany, and two open houses brought the visitors total to approximately 1200 persons.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

d. W-3 Division procured, inspected, mated and demated eight hundred (800) re-entry bodies during the year. In addition to this there were two (2) Loaded Equipment Section (LES) transfers and twelve (12) H3520 transfers. All major events for such a small division.

e. W-4 Division transferred/received 228 missiles. It conducted 120 missile tests which included receipt and transfer inspection on each missile. A total of 394 Gimbal Assemblies and 218 Electronic Assemblies, 66 Nose Caps, 27 Primary Electronic Batteries and 56 Ignition Inverters were transferred/received. The Poseidon Modification Program (POMP) and Guidance Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP) programs were implemented on SSBNs. Numerous Spalts were completed on SSBNs.

f. W-4 Division assisted the SSBNs in launcher maintenance, MTRE SMP's, Guidance and Missile problems. Three men were sent TAD for six weeks to COMSUBRON SIXTEEN to support their operational test conversion. Also 144 ballast cans were transferred between the tender and SSBNs.

g. W-5 Division replaced eleven (11) Ship's Inertial Navigation System (SINS) stable platform supports. On three (3) different units both SINS stems were replaced during the same refit. This difficult task has never been accomplished by any other tender. Numerous Shipalts, Spalts and Phase One of the Improved Navigation Program were accomplished and all well ahead of schedule.

h. The most far reaching of W-5 Division's achievements during 1974 was undoubtedly the successful completion of the Extended Refit Period (ERP) aboard the USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN 627). Included on the Navigation work accomplished was the replacement of both SINS stems, with all associated mechanical, optical, and electrical alignments performed in dry dock. All SINS frangible pins were also replaced, an on Site FBM first.

i. W-6 Division processed 304 Spalt and Ordalt kits. They completed 1,329 restricted issue control inspections, processed 1,777 documents and made 9,239 Quality Assurance Inspections.

I. Medical and Dental Department's significant events for 1974 are:

1. The Medical Department received a new sterilizer, and chemistry machine. In addition to routine medical services provided, 6000 immunizations were administered throughout the year.

BASIC HISTORY (CONT'D)

B. CANOPUS provided the command boat to the National Association of Boys Clubs of London for a Cross Scotland by Water Canoe Expedition. Approximately 25 boys participated in the eight day expedition.

IV. Biography of Captain Milton P. ALEXICH, USN

A. Captain Milton P. ALEXICH, USN relieved Captain Walter A. BROOKS, USN, as Commanding Officer, USS CANOPUS (AS 34) on 26 March 1974 at Holy Loch, Scotland. Captain ALEXICH was born in Akron, Ohio, the son of Dr. Frank and Mildred ALEXICH. He was graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1952, having formerly attended the University of Akron and Ohio State University. His previous tours of duty have included the aircraft carrier PALAU and the submarines HARDER and ANGLER. In 1958 he attended the Nuclear Power School and Naval Reactor Prototype, following which he returned for duty as a staff instructor at the Nuclear Power School for one year. In 1960 he reported for duty aboard the nuclear submarine SEAWOLF. He has served in the polaris submarines ABRAHAM LINCOLN and as Executive Officer of the JOHN ADAMS.

Captain Alexich commanded USS TINOSA (SSN 606) from February 1966 until March 1968 and USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN 640) from May 1968 until August 1970. His most recent tour of duty has been in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Submarine Warfare, Washington, D.C.

Captain Alexich is married to the former Cheryl Pake of Akron, Ohio. Their five children are; Jeannette, Constance, Mark, Natalie and Frank.