

Universal Ship Cancellation Society

Data Sheet # 13

Operation End Sweep - Mine Clearing of Haiphong Harbor by Task Force 78 6 February 1973 - 18 July 1973

Compiled by Stewart B. Milstein (7205)

When the truce with North Vietnam went into effect on 27 January 1973, the U.S. Navy was faced with the task of clearing the mines out of Haiphong Harbor as part of the Cease Fire Agreement. Task Force 78, commanded by RADM Brian McCauley, USN, was established to accomplish this. ADM Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret), in his book On Watch, states that this operation was undertaken with the slogan "Slow is Good" because we did not want to dispose of all the mines before all POWs were released.

This operation was of special importance to the Navy because it was the first use of helicopters towing minesweeping equipment. The CH-53 "Sea Stallion" helicopters had not been built to withstand the structural stress caused by towing the heavy sweeping gear. However, the helicopters performed well and the mission was accomplished with the loss of only two helicopters and no men.

This data sheet lists the units of Task Force 78 and the dates the ships were on station during Operation End Sweep. Ships are grouped by hull classification and number within assigned task group. Also included is a selection of covers from the collections of Stew Milstein (7205) and Bob Rawlins (5490) to show the variety of hand-written, typed and rubber stamp cachets/markings applied by TF 78 units and to illustrate postmarks which are associated with Operation End Sweep mail.

Mail from TF 78 ships without a post office was usually serviced on station by the MCM support ship. But it is noted that collector mail was not always serviced promptly by the task force units; collector requests were sometimes held on board for later dispatch at a shore facility in Japan, Hong Kong, the Phillipines or Guam which the ships visited for rest and recreation or upkeep. This mail may be recognized by Op End Sweep cachets or markings and dates between or shortly after assignment on station.

Because of the short duration of this operation and the fact that the names of units assigned did not receive wide distribution, "End Sweep" covers are not plentiful. A sharp eye and close attention to dates will reward a patient search.

Reference: Declassified U.S. Navy reports of Operation End Sweep

Operation End Sweep - Task Force 78

6 February 1973 to 18 July 1973

Name/Hull Number	On-Station Dates
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Surveillance/Notification Line Forces

EPPERSON (DD-719)	31 Jan - 17 Feb
HENDERSON (DD-785)	13 Apr - 18 Apr
MACKENZIE (DD-836)	17 Mar - 27 Mar
LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852)	17 Feb - 26 Feb
EDSON (DD-946)	27 Jun - 30 Jun
TURNER JOY (DD-951)	26 Feb - 17 Mar
JOHN KING (DDG-3)	23 Feb - 07 Mar
WADDELL (DDG-24)	19 Mar - 13 Apr
	01 Jul - 06 Jul
DECATUR (DDG-31)	15 Jun - 22 Jun
JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG-32)	15 Jul - 19 Jul
WORDEN (DLG-18)	21 Jan - 23 Feb
STERETT (DLG-31)	19 Apr - 23 Apr
CHARLES S. BERRY (DE-1035)	22 Jun - 14 Jul
BRADLEY (DE-1041)	18 Apr - 23 Apr
ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050)	07 Mar - 19 Mar
O'CALLAHAN (DE-1051)	27 Mar - 02 Apr
REASONER (DE-1063)	02 Apr - 19 Apr
STEIN (DE-1065)	06 Jul - 15 Jul
COOK (DE-1083)	15 Jun - 27 Jun
	14 Jul - 19 Jul

Surface Mine Countermeasures Forces (SMCM)

ENGAGE (MSO-433)	28 Jan - 27 Mar
	01 Jun - 22 Jul
ENHANCE (MSO-437)	08 Mar - 18 Mar
ESTEEM (MSO-438)	01 May - 22 Jul
FORCE (MSO-445)	28 Jan - 06 Mar
	26 Mar - 12 Apr
FORTIFY (MSO-446)	28 Jan - 27 Mar
	01 May - 28 May
ILLUSIVE (MSO-448)	07 Mar - 18 Apr
	01 May - 22 Jul
IMPERVIOUS (MSO-449)	28 Jan - 06 Mar
	26 Mar - 18 Apr
	01 Jun - 22 Jun
INFLICT (MSO-456)	16 Apr - 23 Apr
	01 May - 22 Jul
CONQUEST (MSO-480)	12 Apr - 18 Apr
	01 May - 22 Jul
LEADER (MSO-490)	08 Mar - 17 Mar
	18 Apr - 23 Apr
	01 May - 22 Jul
WASHTENAW COUNTY (MSS-2)	06 Apr - 23 Apr
	01 Jun - 24 Jul

Surface Counter Measure Support Force

WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1167) 28 Jan - 14 Mar
01 Apr - 23 Apr
01 May - 23 Jul

Airborne Mine Countermeasures Forces (AMCM)

HM-12 29 Nov - 18 Apr
01 May - 27 Jul

HMH-165 28 Jan - 01 Apr
16 Apr - 23 Apr
01 May - 24 Jul

HMH-463 28 Jan - 18 Apr
01 May - 22 Jul

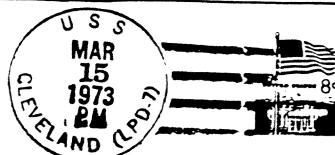
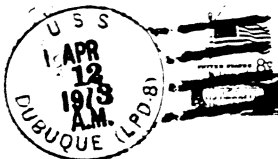
Airborne Mine Countermeasures Support Forces

VANCOUVER (LPD-2) 16 Apr - 23 Apr
01 May - 23 Jul
OGDEN (LPD-5) 30 Jan - 18 Apr
01 May - 21 Jul
CLEVELAND (LPD-7) 01 Feb - 01 Apr
DUBUQUE (LPD-8) 30 Jan - 18 Apr
01 May - 24 Jul
TRIPOLI (LPH-10) 01 May - 26 Jul
NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11) 29 Jan - 18 Apr
INCHON (LPH-12) 28 Jan - 01 Apr
16 Apr - 23 Apr
01 May - 26 Jul

Salvage Forces

GRASP (ARS-24) 12 May - 12 Jul
SAFEGUARD (ARS-25) 08 Mar - 30 Mar
BOLSTER (ARS-38) 28 Jan - 06 Mar
30 Mar - 23 Apr
01 May - 12 May
CREE (ATF-84) 01 May - 03 May
LIPAN (ATF-85) 10 Apr - 23 Apr
01 Jun - 14 Jun
TAWASA (ATF-92) 01 Feb - 24 Mar
CHOWANOC (ATF-100) 05 Feb - 18 Mar
MOCTOBI (ATF-105) 24 Mar - 10 Apr
03 May - 31 May
14 Jun - 18 Jul
BEAUFORT (ATS-2) 12 Jul - 22 Jul

Commanding Officer
U.S.S. BOLSTER (ARS-38)
FPO San Francisco 96601



OPERATION MINE SWEEP
Fuller PC-3



Subic Bay

Commanding Officer
USS CONQUEST (MSO 488)
FPO, San Francisco 96601

USS
CONQUEST
MSO 488

A unit of
Task Force 78
OPERATION
"END SWEEP"

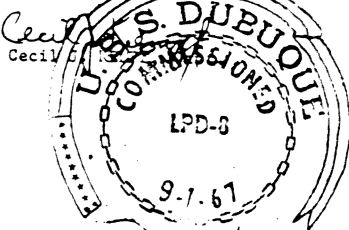
J. R. Heufelder
J. R. HEUFELDER
Commanding

Dear Capt Lawlins,

USS DUBUQUE is among 15 ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet involved in Operation End Sweep off the east of North Viet Nam. Mine clearing operations are presently being conducted in Haiphong Harbor by the ships and air units of Task Force 78. The first mine detonated in the End Sweep Operation was accomplished by a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter attached to Helicopter Mine Warfare Squadron TWELVE (HM-12) Detachment ALFA flying from the deck of USS DUBUQUE.

Cecil J. Kempf
Cecil J. KEMPF
Captain U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer

U.S.S. DUBUQUE (LFD-8)
OPERATION END SWEEP
21 Feb 73

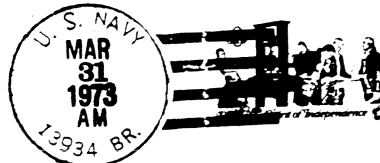


AT
NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA



Subic Bay

USS ENGAGE (MSO 439)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
96601



PARTICIPATING UNIT IN OPERATION END SWEEP
OFF HAIPHONG HARBOR, DRV 26 MAR 73
MM

Edwin T. Churchill USN
 USS IMPERVIOUS (MSO-449)
 FPO San Francisco 96601



Subic Bay

USS
 IMPERVIOUS
 MSO-449

A unit of
 Task Force 78

OPERATION
 "END SWEEP"

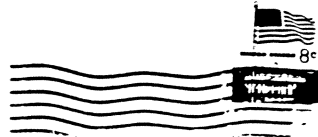
20°33.5N - 107°09.5E

COMMANDING OFFICER
 USS IMPERVIOUS (MSO-449)
 FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

OPERATION END
 SWEEP

20°33.5N Latitude
 107°09.5E Longitude

F. M. Reynolds
 F. M. REYNOLDS
 LCDR. USN



COMMANDING OFFICER
 USS IMPERVIOUS (MSO-449)
 FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

USS IMPERVIOUS
 MSO-449

OPERATION
 END SWEEP

Latitude 20°33.5N
 Longitude 107°09.5E
 Hai Phong Anchorage



COMMANDING OFFICER
 USS LEADER (MSO-490)
 FLEET POST OFFICE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

 * TASK FORCE 78 *
 * *
 * USS LEADER *
 * (MSO - 490) *
 * *
 * OPERATION *
 * END SWEEP *
 * 1973 *

Edwin T. Churchill LCDR USN



Subic Bay

Yokosuka

COMMANDING OFFICER
 USS LEADER (MSO-490)
 FLEET POST OFFICE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

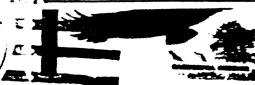
 * TASK FORCE 78 *
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 * USS LEADER *
 * (MSO-490) *
 * *
 * OPERATION *
 * END SWEEP *
 * 1973 *

Edwin T. Churchill LCDR USN



COMMANDING OFFICER
 USS LEADER (MSO-490)
 FLEET POST OFFICE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

 T *
 A *USS LEADER *
 S * (MSO 490) *
 K *
 * *
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 O *LCDR *
 R *Edwin T. *
 C *CHURCHILL *
 E *
 78 *



USS MUGTOSI (ATF-105)
F. P. O. SAN FRANCISCO 96601

JUN
6
AM
1973



Operation End Sweep

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601



OPERATION
END
SWEEP

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601



OPERATION
END
SWEEP

USS O'CALLAHAN (DE-1051)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 96601

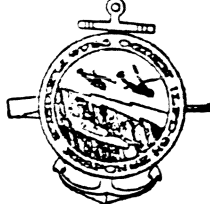


TASK FORCE 78

PARTICIPANT PROJECT END SWEEP



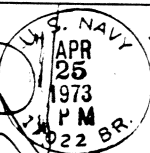
TASK FORCE 78



OPERATION ENDSWEEP
HAIPHONG HARBOR R.N.V.

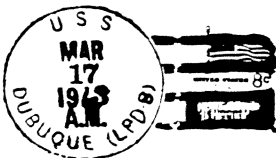


Commanding Officer
USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25)
FPO San Francisco 96601



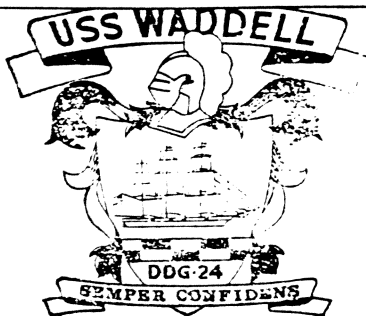
Naha, Okinawa

Post Office
San Francisco 94117
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 94117



Brian McCauley

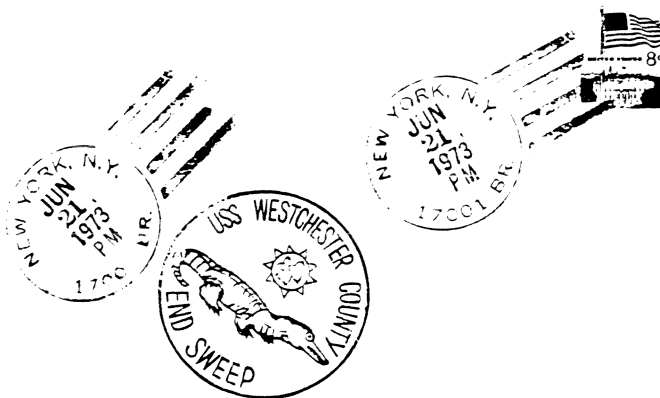
RADM BRIAN MCCAULEY, USN
COMMANDER TASK FORCE 78
OPERATION END SWEEP
CARRIED ON A MINESWEEPING
MISSION IN HAIPHONG HARBOR



Oburing, LCDR, USN
END SWEEP, 1973



Yokosuka



Backstamped

[Signature] FR 78 MARCH 1973
Commanding Officer
USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 94601