



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DAHLGREN DDG 43

FPO NEW YORK 09567

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DAHLGREN (DDG 43)
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR THE YEAR OF 1988

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History for calendar year 1988

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

W. J. LAZ

Copy to:
COMNAVSURFLANT



COMMAND HISTORY
USS DAHLGREN
1988

COMMAND ORGANIZATION: USS DAHLGREN (DDG 43) WAS UNDER THE COMMAND OF COMMANDER WILLIAM J. LAZ, USN, 318-40-2675/1110. THE SHIP WAS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET, COMMANDER CRUISER-DESTROYER GROUP EIGHT, AND COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON TWO.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS: DAHLGREN WAS DEPLOYED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN/INDIAN OCEAN/NORTH ATLANTIC FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE YEAR RETURNING TO NORFOLK, VIRGINIA NEAR THE END OF OCTOBER. DURING THAT TIME DAHLGREN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION (OPPE) ON 24 OCTOBER. AFTER POST-DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP, OPERATIONS CONTINUED IN VACAPES.

JANUARY: DAHLGREN STARTED THE YEAR INPORT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. PREPS AND BRIEFS CONTINUED FOR FLEETEX 1-88. ON 4 JAN THE CO OF READINESS SUPPORT GROUP ARRIVED FOR A VISIT. AFTER AN AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF SNOW AND FREEZING RAIN IN WHICH THE CREW WAS KEPT ABOARD FOR SAFETY, DAHLGREN GOT UNDERWAY FROM PIER 21, NAVAL STATION, NORFOLK AND PROCEEDED TO X-RAY ANCHORAGE TO REMAIN FOR THE NIGHT: THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME UNDERWAY WITH CDR LAZ AS CAPTAIN. BY EARLY MORNING 9 JAN, DAHLGREN WAS UNDERWAY TO NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, YORKTOWN FOR AN AMMUNITION ONLOAD. BY LATE AFTERNOON SHE WAS UNDERWAY AGAIN RETURNING TO NORFOLK. ✓

FROM 11-20 JAN DAHLGREN PARTICIPATED IN FLEETEX 1-88 IN THE PUERTO RICAN OPERATIONS AREA. CONSTRUCTIVE GEOGRAPHY WAS USED TO SIMULATE THE NORWEIGAN SEA. EXERCISES WERE CONDUCTED IN MINE COUNTERMEASURES, ANTI-TERRORIST DEFENSE, ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE, ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE AND ANTI-AIR WARFARE. DAHLGREN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN TESTING SILENT SAM TACTICS. DURING THE 22ND, AN SM-2(ER) TERRIER MISSILE WAS LAUNCHED. ?

SEVERAL PERSONNEL FROM OTHER SHIPS REPORTED ABOARD FOR FLEETEX AS OBSERVERS OR FOR TRAINING INCLUDING ONE COMMANDER FROM THE CHILEAN NAVY AND ANOTHER FROM THE PERUVIAN NAVY.

THE REST OF JANUARY WAS SPENT INPORT NORFOLK.

FEBRUARY: COMMANDER CARRIER GROUP SIX PAID A VISIT TO DAHLGREN ON 5 FEB. THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH WAS SPENT IN UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE. ON THE LAST DAY OF FEB DAHLGREN GOT UNDERWAY FOR A WEEK OF SEA TRIALS IN THE VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA.

MARCH: DAHLGREN CONTINUED SEA TRIALS UNTIL ARRIVING AT NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, YORKTOWN, ON 3 MAR FOR AN AMMUNITION ONLOAD. ON 4 MAR DAHLGREN DEPARTED FOR NAVAL STATION, NORFOLK, ARRIVING LATER THAT DAY. ✓

ENCL (1)

ON 7 MAR COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 14, OUR IMMEDIATE OPERATIONAL COMMANDER FOR THE UPCOMING DEPLOYMENT, CAME ABOARD FOR AN INFORMAL VISIT. ON THE SAME DAY THE ENGINEERING MOBILE TRAINING TEAM CAME ABOARD.

ON 8 MAR DAHLGREN GOT UNDERWAY AGAIN WITH EMTT ABOARD TO OBSERVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT. WITH THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF EMTT THAT WEEK CAME ALSO THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF AN SM-2(ER) MISSILE AGAINST A VANDAL. DAHLGREN RETURNED TO PORT ON 12 MAR.

DAHLGREN HAD ITS PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEF AT THE NORFOLK NAVAL AIR STATION THEATER ON THE NIGHT OF 4 MAR FOR CREW AND FAMILY MEMBERS. THE FOLLOWING DAY DAHLGREN WENT TO A 72 HOUR UNDERWAY STANDBY CONDITION FOR DEPLOYMENT. THE SAME DAY, 15 MAR, MARKED THE FIRST ESWS QUALIFICATION UNDER CDR LAZ, OS2 NORRIS.

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON TWO CAME ABOARD FOR LUNCH ON 22 MAR AND ALSO PRESENTED A MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL TO COMMANDER LAZ FOR SERVICE ABOARD USS NIMITZ (CVN-28) AS CHIEF ENGINEER.

30-31 MARCH MARKED THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE SUPPLY MANAGEMENT INSPECTION. THE LAST PART OF MARCH ALSO SAW DAHLGREN PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT BY STARTING TO SEND NEARLY 150 OF HER CREW TO BASIC FIREFIGHTING SCHOOL.

APRIL: APRIL WAS PROBABLY THE BUSIEST MONTH FOR DAHLGREN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. FINAL PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE FOR DEPLOYMENT. INNOCULATIONS AND DENTAL SCREENINGS WERE BEING HELD FOR CREW AND LAST MINUTE BRIEFS WERE BEING HELD WHILE STILL CARRYING OUT THE REGULAR DAILY ROUTINE. ON THE 14TH, DAHLGREN FORMALLY ADOPTED HOLLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN A CEREMONY AT THE SCHOOL. DAHLGREN JOINED THE GROWING LIST OF COMMANDS PARTICIPATING IN THE ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM. ON THE 21ST COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON TWO, CAPTAIN WOODBURY, CAME ABOARD FOR OUR NAVIGATION INSPECTION DEBRIEF. ON THE 25TH DAHLGREN GOT UNDERWAY WITH CREW MANNING THE RAILS FOR HER INDIAN, MEDITERRANEAN, ATLANTIC OCEAN DEPLOYMENT. THE FIRST WEEK WAS FILLED WITH INTENSIVE OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES IN COMBAT SYSTEMS AS WELL AS ENGINEERING SYSTEMS. ON THE 26TH DAHLGREN TOOK TIME OUT OF HER SCHEDULE FOR A BURIAL AT SEA CEREMONY EWCM CHARLES R. JONES, SR., USN. ON THE 28TH DAHLGREN RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE USS FORRESTAL AND THE REST OF THE BATTLE GROUP FOR TRANSIT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

MAY: DAHLGREN CONTINUED HER TRANSIT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN COMPANY WITH THE FORRESTAL BATTLE GROUP. ROUTINE SHIPWIDE AND BATTLE GROUP EXERCISES WERE CONDUCTED. ROUGH WEATHER WAS ENCOUNTERED ONLY ONCE WHEN WINDS AND SEAS BEAT OFF THE PORT BEAM ON THE 3RD - 4TH OF MAY.

ON 6 MAY, DAHLGREN ENTERED THE MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH THE STRAITS OF GILBRALTAR. FROM THEN ON SHE COULD BE FOUND OPERATING FOR LONG PERIODS IN EXCESS OF 26 KNOTS. DURING THE MEDITERRANEAN TRANSIT DAHLGREN PRACTICED AND PERFECTED SURFACE SHIP CONTROL OF A-6 AND A-7 AIRCRAFT AGAINST OTHER SURFACE SHIPS, EARNING SEVERAL BZ'S FOR HER EFFORT.

AFTER RUSHING ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN, DAHLGREN ANCHORED IN PORT SAID, EGYPT, TO BEGIN HER ALL DAY TRANSIT OF THE SUEZ CANAL ON 13 MAY. THE PASSAGE WAS CONDUCTED SAFELY IN COMPANY WITH THE REST OF THE BATTLE GROUP INTO THE RED SEA.

THE STRAITS OF BAB AL MANDEB WERE TRANSITED ON 16 MAY, BRINGING DAHLGREN TO THE INDIAN OCEAN.

DAHLGREN FINALLY REACHED ITS FIRST DESTINATION, THE NORTH ARABIAN SEA ON 20 MAY AND CONDUCTED A TURNOVER WITH USS TRUXTON OF THE ENTERPRISE BATTLE GROUP. DAHLGREN THEN PROCEEDED TO A TENDER AVAILABILITY PERIOD ALONGSIDE THE USS SAMUEL GOMPERS ANCHORED OFF THE COAST OF RAS AL HADD OMAN. THE AVAILABILITY PERIOD LASTED FROM MAY 23 - 30. THE REST OF MAY WAS SPENT CONDUCTING OPERATIONS WITH FORRESTAL.

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY COMNAVSURFLANT ANNOUNCED THE MISSION AREA AWARDS FOR THE 87/88 CYCLE. DAHLGREN EARNED THE FOLLOWING:

MAIN PROPULSION	1ST AWARD
DAMAGE CONTROL	2ND AWARD
NAVIGATION	2ND AWARD
COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS	2ND AWARD
ANTI-AIR WARFARE	2ND AWARD
ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE	1ST AWARD
ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE	2ND AWARD
ELECTRONIC WARFARE	1ST AWARD

JUNE: DAHLGREN CONTINUED OPERATING WITH USS FORRESTAL INTO THE MONTH OF JUNE, PROVIDING AAW SHOTGUN COVERAGE IN THE NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

ON THE 10TH SHE WAS ENROUTE TO THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ EASTERN PATROL AREA TO RELIEVE USS SPRUANCE. CAPTAIN JOHN P. COLLINS, COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 14, SHIFTED HIS FLAG TO DAHLGREN AT THIS TIME AS WE ASSUMED GATEGUARD DUTIES. DURING A 9 DAY PERIOD DAHLGREN OPERATED WITHIN RANGE OF IRANIAN SILKWORM MISSILES AND OFTEN WITHIN SIGHT OF SOVIET MILITARY VESSELS. DAHLGREN DILIGENTLY RECORDED AND/OR INVESTIGATED ALL TRAFFIC COMING IN OR OUT OF THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ.

ON THE 18TH OF JUNE DAHLGREN CONDUCTED A PRECISION ANCHORAGE IN FUJAIRAH, OMAN, FOR A REFUELING EVOLUTION.

THE FOLLOWING DAY ON THE 19TH COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 14 AND HIS EMBARKED STAFF DEPARTED AS WE TURNED OVER GATEGUARD DUTIES TO SPRUANCE.

ON THE 20TH, DAHLGREN PROCEEDED TO MOOR ALONGSIDE THE EMORY S. LAND FOR ANOTHER TENDER AVAILABILITY. DAHLGREN WAS UNDERWAY AGAIN BY THE 26TH FOR FURTHER OPERATIONS WITH FORRESTAL.

JULY: DAHLGREN COMPLETED THE FIRST PHASE OF HER DEPLOYMENT IN THE GULF OF OMAN AND TRANSITED TO DUTIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

ON 2 JULY REAR ADMIRAL SMITH, COMMANDER CARRIER GROUP SIX, PAID A VISIT FROM USS FORRESTAL AND ADDRESSED THE WARDROOM.

TWO DAYS LATER ON THE 4TH DAHLGREN CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE DAY BY HAVING A PICNIC ON THE 01 LEVEL FOR THE CREW. DAHLGREN CONTINUED IN HER ROLE OF PROVIDING AAW SHOTGUN COVERAGE FOR USS FORRESTAL UNTIL SHE PROCEEDED NORTH TO RELIEVE THE USS SPRUANCE IN THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ EASTERN PATROL AREA (SOHEPA) ON THE 11TH.

WHILE IN SOHEPA, DAHLGREN ONCE AGAIN ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF GATEGUARD AND SUCCESSFULLY TRACKED AND IDENTIFIED LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF AIR AND SURFACE CONTACTS. DAHLGREN OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY AT THIS TIME WITH MINIMAL LOGISTIC SUPPRT FROM HER BATTLE GROUP. ON THE 14TH, 16TH, AND 20TH SHE ANCHORED OFF THE COAST OF FUJAIRAH, OMAN, IN ORDER TO TAKE FUEL FROM A BARGE.

ON THE 23RD DAHLGREN CONDUCTED A HIGH SPEED RUN REACHING SPEEDS IN EXCESS OF 30 KNOTS. FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY TURNOVER WITH USS SPRUANCE IN SOHEPA. AN AWARDS CEREMONY WAS HELD ON THE FANTAIL WHILE RETURNING TO JOIN OTHER BATTLE GROUP UNITS .

DAHLGREN HAD COME TO THE HALF-WAY POINT OF HER SCHEDULED DEPLOYMENT BY THE 25TH. THIS COINCIDED WITH HER COMING ALONGSIDE THE USS EMORY S. LAND FOR ANOTHER TENDER AVAILABILITY PERIOD. ON THE 29TH DAHLGREN WAS UNDERWAY AGAIN, THIS TIME IN CONCERT WITH THE ENTIRE FORRESTAL BATTLE GROUP, ON ITS WAY OUT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE HONORED DURING THE JULY 23RD AWARDS CEREMONY:

AUGUST: BY THE 2ND OF AUGUST DAHLGREN WAS TRANSITING THE STRAITS OF BAB EL MANDEB AND ENTERED THE RED SEA.

ON 3 AUGUST A SUCCESSFUL TYCOMMEX WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE SHIP OBTAINING A SCORE OF 97.6 PERCENT.

DAHLGREN REACHED THE NORTHERN END OF THE RED SEA BY THE 5TH AND ANCHORED OFF PORT SUEZ. ON THE 6TH SHE BEGAN HER TRANSIT OF THE SUEZ CANAL ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE FORRESTAL BATTLE GROUP. DURING PART OF THE TRANSIT THE SHIP ENTERTAINED SEVERAL GUESTS FROM THE U. S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO, EGYPT.

UPON LEAVING THE CANAL ON THE EVENING OF THE 6TH DAHLGREN ENTERED THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND STEAMED WEST TO HER FIRST PORT VISIT IN NAPLES, ITALY.

DAHLGREN MADE HER FIRST PORT CALL TO NAPLES ITALY ON 10 AUGUST AFTER 108 DAYS AT SEA. THIS WAS A WORKING PORT IN WHICH NEEDED UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE WAS CONDUCTED. TIME WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE MEN TO ALSO ENJOY LIBERTY IN THE COUNTRY WITH SEVERAL SHIP SPONSORED TOURS.

ON THE 16TH DAHLGREN GOT UNDERWAY FOR NATIONAL WEEK 88D IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN. AFTER CONDUCTING A WEEK OF EXERCISES, SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE CHANGE OF COMMAND OF SIXTH FLEET. ELEMENTS OF THE FORRESTAL AND JOHN F. KENNEDY BATTLE GROUPS WERE PRESENT.

DAHLGREN PROCEEDED TO HER FIRST REAL LIBERTY PORT, BENIDORM, SPAIN AFTER THE CHANGE OF COMMAND. SHE STAYED FROM 22 - 28 AUGUST. AFTER LEAVING BENIDORM ON THE 28TH, DAHLGREN EXITED THE MEDITERRANEAN AND STEAMED TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TO PARTICIPATE IN TEAMWORK 88.

SEPTEMBER: DAHLGREN ALONG WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE FORRESTAL BATTLE GROUP, CONTINUED STEAMING NORTH INTO THE ATLANTIC AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER; MOST OPERATIONS FOR TEAMWORK 88 CENTERING OFF THE COAST OF NORWAY ABOVE THE ARTIC CIRCLE. DAHLGREN PROVIDED AAW PROTECTION FOR MARITIME PREPOSITIONING FORCES AS WELL AS AMPHIBIOUS FORCES IN THE FJORDS OF NORWAY. THIS NATO EXERCISE OFFICIALLY ENDED WITH PARTICIPATING UNITS MAKING PORT CALLS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN EUROPE. DAHLGREN'S PORT VISIT WAS TO KARLSKRONA SWEDEN, THE FIRST VISIT BY A U.S. WARSHIP TO THAT COUNTRY IN OVER 12 YEARS. ✓

AFTER HOSTING MANY DIGNATARIES AND PROVIDING TOURS FOR VISITORS, DAHLGREN ENDED HER SUCCESSFUL PORT VISIT ON THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER. SHE IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO HER NEXT PORT, ARRIVING ON THE 30TH IN ARHUS, DENMARK.

ALTHOUGH OUR ARRIVAL WAS SLIGHTLY DELAYED BY A PROTEST FROM A GREENPEACE FLOTILLA OF PRIVATE BOATS, THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS AND THE STAY WAS ENJOYED BY ALL.

OCTOBER: THE LAST MONTH OF DAHLGREN'S DEPLOYMENT WAS PROBABLY ITS BUSIEST. BY THE 3RD DAHLGREN WAS UNDERWAY FROM ARHUS TO BEGIN BALTOPS 88. THE WEEKLONG EXERCISE WAS CONDUCTED IN THE WESTERN BALTIC SEA AND CULMINATED ON THE 6TH WITH EXERCISE BRAZEN DEED IN WHICH U.S. FORCES SIMULATED ESCORTING AN AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE THROUGH ENEMY WATERS. THE BRITISH, DUTCH, DANISH AND GERMAN NAVIES ALSO PARTICIPATED. THE END OF THE EXERCISE WAS A PORT VISIT TO KIEL, WEST GERMANY ON THE 8TH - 11TH.

DAHLGREN WAS UNDERWAY AGAIN ON THE 11TH HOMEWARD BOUND. THE LAST SCHEDULED EXERCISE WAS AN OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION. PREPS CONTINUED FOR THIS THROUGHOUT THE TRANSATLANTIC CROSSING. ON THE 15TH, CAPTAIN COLLINS, DESTROYER SQUADRON FOURTEEN, VISITED FROM HIS FLAGSHIP, USS SPRUANCE, FOR A PRE-OPPE INSPECTION AND WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED.

THE OPPE TEAM ARRIVED WHILE THE SHIP STEAMED OFF THE COAST OF BERMUDA ON THE 22ND. THE TEAM AND SHIP WENT IMMEDIATELY TO WORK AND SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE INSPECTION.

ON THE 25TH DAHLGREN ARRIVED PIER 21, BERTH 5, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA TO END HER DEPLOYMENT. STANDDOWN IMMEDIATELY COMMENCED.

NOVEMBER: POST DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP CONTINUED INTO THE MONTH ENDING ON THE 21ST. DAHLGREN THEN HELD A PQS STAND DOWN ON 22 NOVEMBER.

DECEMBER: DAHLGREN STARTED DECEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR HER FIRST UNDERWAY PERIOD SINCE THE DEPLOYMENT. FROM 12-16 DAHLGREN CONDUCTED SEA TRIALS AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SEVERAL SELECTED EXERCISES THAT WOULD PUT HER IN CONTENTION FOR THE BATTLE "E".