



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49) ✓
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC
20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY JUNE TO DECEMBER 1984 (OPNAV REPORT SYMBOL
5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Narrative History of USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)
(2) Chronology of USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted. The chronology of the ship's schedule is attached as enclosure (2).

2. Some key points of interest are highlighted below and point out the spirit behind "Power to Prevail".

a. USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY commissioned 30 June 1984 in Bath, Maine with Capt David W. Somers, USN, Commander Destroyer Squadron Six as principal speaker.

b. Ceremonial commissioning held 11 August 1984 in Portsmouth, NH with Vice Admiral Joseph Metcalf, USN, Commander Second Fleet as principal speaker.

c. USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY arrived in homeport Charleston, SC on 18 August 1984.

d. Commenced ASW Operations and provided target ship services for COMSUBRON FOUR 30 August 1984.

e. High scores achieved on Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) on 23 August 1984 and on Departure Material Status Report (DMSR) on 11 September 1984.

f. Shakedown Training at FTG Guantanamo Bay began 18 September 1984 and ended 11 October with the highest FFG scores to date. This included successful completion of the Operational Propulsion Plant Exam certification by FTG.

g. First torpedo firings accomplished 19 October near Andros Island, Bahamas.

h. Two successful surface to air missile firings during the Combat Systems Ships Qualification Tests (CSSQT) 5 December 1984 on the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range in the Northern Puerto Rican OPAREAS.


T. I. EUBANKS

CHRONOLOGY OF USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG-49)

1984

30 JUN	Commissioning, Bath, Maine
6-7 AUG	Enroute Portsmouth, New Hampshire
8-12 AUG	Inport Portsmouth, New Hampshire
11 AUG	Ceremonial Commissioning
13-17 AUG	Enroute Charleston, South Carolina
18-26 AUG	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
27-28 AUG	Weapons onload
29-30 AUG	Underway Charleston OPAREA
30 AUG	Support Ship for "Open Ocean Torpedo Proficiency Firing"
31 AUG-8 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
9-11 SEP	Hurricane Diana Sortie
12-14 SEP	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
14-17 SEP	Enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
18 SEP-11 OCT	Shakedown Training/OPPE Certification, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
6-8 OCT	Port Visit, Port Antonio, Jamaica
9 OCT	Enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
11-13 OCT	Enroute Port Everglades, Florida
13-17 OCT	Inport Port Everglades, Florida
18-20 OCT	Underway for AUTEK/WSAT
21-24 OCT	Inport Nassau, Bahamas
24-25 OCT	Enroute Charleston, South Carolina
26 OCT-05 NOV	Inport Charleston, South Carolina
6-30 NOV	CSSQT/Charleston OPAREA
1-3 DEC	Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
3-4 DEC	Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
5 DEC	Underway Puerto Rico OPAREA MISSILEX
6 DEC	Underway Puerto Rico OPAREA ISE
7-11 DEC	Port Visit, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
12-15 DEC	Enroute Charleston, South Carolina
15 DEC-31 DEC	Inport Charleston, South Carolina

Enclosure (2)

USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)
SHIP'S HISTORY JUNE TO DECEMBER 1984

JUNE 1984

The crew of the ROBERT G. BRADLEY reported onboard for the first time on 15 June 1984, and for well over half of the crew it was their first time onboard a U.S. Navy vessel. On 30 June 1984 the ship was officially commissioned in a private ceremony. The principal speaker was Captain David W. Somers, Commander Destroyer Squadron Six. Following the commissioning there was a cake cutting ceremony and a commissioning picnic for the ship's crew. Commander Thomas I. Eubanks took command as USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY's first Commanding Officer.

JULY 1984

On 1 July 1984 the USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY hosted an open house in cooperation with Bath Iron Work in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the shipyard. During this day the ROBERT G. BRADLEY received over 3000 visitors. On the fourth of July the ship was officially adopted by the city of Portsmouth, NH as her "official surface vessel," in preparation for the ship's ceremonial commissioning 11 August. The rest of the month was an intensive period of indoctrination, familiarization, training and preparations for Light Off Examination (LOE). LOE was successfully completed on July 26th and the ship began preparations for crew certification and sailaway.

AUGUST 1984

The sixth of August found the ROBERT G. BRADLEY underway for the first time transiting from Bath Iron Works down the Kennebec river. The ship conducted a dependents cruise from Bath to Harpswell, ME where there was a stop for fuel. Upon completion of fueling the ROBERT G. BRADLEY continued enroute to Portsmouth, NH with 18 members of the Portsmouth Maritime Heritage Commission onboard. On the eighth of August the ship moored at the State Pier in Portsmouth, received a key to the city from Mayor Foley, and began preparations for the commissioning. The eleventh of August was a date no plankowner would forget. The ship's ceremonial commissioning was held with all of the honors required for such an auspicious event. The principal speaker for the commissioning was Vice Admiral Joseph Metcalf, Commander U. S. Second Fleet. The ship's sponsor was Mrs Edna Woodruff, mother of the ship's namesake, the late Lieutenant Robert Graham Bradley, who was killed in action aboard the USS PRINCETON in WW II. Also in attendance was Mrs. Barbara Bradley Caves, Robert G. Bradley's widow, classmates of Robert G. Bradley in the Naval Academy class of 1943, and survivors of the USS PRINCETON, the ship in which Robert G. Bradley heroically gave his life. On 13 August the ship was underway for its homeport, Charleston, SC with a brief stop at Earle NJ to load ammunition. On 18 August the ROBERT G. BRADLEY entered its homeport for the first time. On 22 and 23 August the ship successfully completed the Ship's Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) in preparation for Shakedown Training. Following a full weapons onload on 27 and 28 August, the ship began a brief underway operational period in the Charleston OPAREAS. During this time on 30 August the ROBERT G. BRADLEY was an assist ship for a COMSUBRON FOUR Unit's Open Ocean Torpedo Proficiency firing, during which valuable insights into the ship's capabilities and limitations were learned.

SEPTEMBER 1984

From the first to the ninth of September, the ROBERT G. BRADLEY was in port making final preparations for the Departure Material Status Review (DMSR) and its departure to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Shakedown Training. However the ship's preparations were interrupted by the weather and on the ninth the ship sortied with other ships in Charleston to avoid Hurricane Diana. The sortie gave the ship valuable lessons in securing for sea and in multiship divisional tactics, which helped considerably at Shakedown Training. During the sortie the ROBERT G. BRADLEY was able to track the eye of the hurricane on radar and provide valuable real time information to the sortie commander. The ROBERT G. BRADLEY returned to Charleston on eleven September and departed for Guantanamo Bay on fourteen September. On the seventeenth of September the ship moored pierside in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and began a rigorous four week Shakedown Training schedule. The ships schedule while at Shakedown Training included an Operational Propulsion Plant Exam Equivalency, night ASW Operations and manila highline transfer exercises with the USS KIDD (DD 993). Interspersed with this intense schedule were numerous anti-boredom activities including weekly crew picnics, a boxing smoker, and intermural softball.

OCTOBER 1984

Shakedown Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba continued and on the sixth the ROBERT G. BRADLEY took a well deserved break and headed for its first foreign port visit in Port Antonio, Jamaica. After a three day recuperative port visit, the ship returned to Guantanamo Bay to complete its training. On the eleventh of October the ROBERT G. BRADLEY completed Shakedown Training with the highest overall score achieved for a FFG-7 class ship. From the 11th to the 13th the ship was underway, heading towards Port Everglades, Florida. The thirteenth found the ROBERT G. BRADLEY taking a well deserved break at Port Everglades and making preparations for the combat systems Weapon System Accuracy Test (WSAT) off Andros Island. On eighteen October the ship headed to the WSAT Range, where two MK46 torpedo firings were conducted. Upon completion of WSAT on 20 October the ship and the crew spent four days, from the 21st to the 24th, tied to the cruise ship pier at Nassau, Bahamas. On 24 October the ROBERT G. BRADLEY was again underway heading back to Charleston SC. On the 26th the ship returned to port and began preparations for Combat Systems Ships Qualification Tests (CSSQT).

NOVEMBER 1984

November was a month of intense preparations for the ROBERT G. BRADLEY'S CSSQT. From the sixth of November, the ship was underway three or four days each week conducting aircraft tracking exercises to check out Combat Systems equipment. Aircraft were supplied by NAS Jacksonville and NAS Oceana, and flew various flight profiles to train radar operators and fire control technicians in preparation for the ship's first live missile firing. The ship conducted its first surface gunnery exercises off the coast of Virginia on 24 November, scoring grades of 95 and above in two selected exercises. A memorable event of this month was the special Thanksgiving dinner served to the crew and the Divine services conducted by the DESRON SIX Chaplain.

DECEMBER 1984

On the first of December the ROBERT G. BRADLEY headed south to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for the final preparations for the live missile firing exercise. The voyage down was highlighted by the first annual Damage Control Olympics, followed by a fantail cookout and skeet shoot. Three and four December found the ship in port Roosevelt Roads, and on the fifth of December the ship headed out for what was to be the culmination of the crews effort over the last month and a half. On that day the ROBERT G. BRADLEY completed two highly successful live missile firings, after F-14s from the USS NIMITZ escorted two Bear D Soviet reconnaissance planes off the missile range. The next day was spent conducting battle problems and electronic warfare exercises. On the morning of the seventh of December, a 16 ton ORDENEZ cannon was loaded onto the flight deck of the ROBERT G. BRADLEY. The cannon was a gift of the Spanish government and was being transported back to Charleston for restoration. The crew was rewarded for its outstanding performance over the last six months with a five day port visit to St Thomas, Virgin Islands, where we brought the island's first 1984 Christmas Tree to the intensive care unit of the hospital. We remained in St Thomas from the seventh to the eleventh. The ship got underway on 12 December and entered port in Charleston, SC on the fifteenth. Seventeen December began the holiday leave period, which was highlighted by waterborne carolers, a Christmas day feast, and the Christmas lighting competition. The ROBERT G. BRADLEY's Christmas lighting was judged the most festive in the Charleston Harbor by the Navy judges.