

USS Forrestal (CVA-59) ZONE DESCRIPTION H(-8) DATE Sunday 30 July 1967
(Day) (Date) (Month)
 AT/PASSAGE FROM Gulf of Tonkin TO _____

POSITION	ZONE	TIME	POSITION	ZONE	TIME	POSITION	ZONE	TIME	LEGEND:
0800 L 17° 37.7 N		BY 4	1200 L 17° 46 N		BY 4	2000 L 15° 48 N		BY 4	1. CELESTIAL
λ 108° 15.1 E		BY 4	λ 108° 06.5 E		BY 4	λ 110° 41 E		BY 4	2. ELECTRONIC
									3. VISUAL
									4. D. R.

REMARKS

00-04 Steaming in the Gulf of Tonkin in company with the USS Repose (AH-16), HMAS Hobart (D-39) USS Blaseel (DD-845), USS Tucker (DD-875) and the USS Chandler (DD-837) on course 080° at 9Kts. SOPA is COMCARDIV TWO Embarked. OTC is Commanding Officer of this vessel. Boilers 1A, 2A, 4A, 1B, 2B, 3B, and 4B and Generators 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 are on the line. Condition of Readiness I and Material Condition Zebra (modified) are set. 0050 46 to 110°. 0025 Detached HMAS Hobart and USS Chandler. 0056 46 to 14Kts. 0101 46 to 090°. 0129 Secured to 4-boiler operation using Boilers 1B, 2B, 3B, and 4A. 0155 46 to 9Kts. 0222 46 to 305°. Commenced maneuvering on various courses at various speeds while maintaining station 500 yards astern of USS Repose on Base course 305° at 9Kts.

R.C. Conbeille
 R.C. Conbeille LT USN

USS Forrestal Deck Log 30 July 1967

Flashback – Fifty Years

The attached file is a photo copy of a portion of the deck log of USS Forrestal (CVA-59). A cousin dredged it up from somewhere in cyberspace and sent it to me as an item of personal interest. With some brief explanation, it may be of interest to you as well.

At around 1000 on 29 July 1967 our ship was in serious trouble with fires raging over the after third of the flight deck, in the after half of the hangar deck, and in several places in between. We were at General Quarters with the onset of the blaze and stayed at General Quarters for just under 24 hours when the fires were finally extinguished.

Up until we were assigned to Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, I had been the General Quarters Officer of the Deck. With constant demand for up-to-the-minute weather information, with demands coming from the embarked Carrier Division commander, the Air Wing commander and the ship's captain, I was relieved of underway watch standing duties. Somewhere during the late afternoon the captain asked me to relieve the Officer of the Deck because we had been at General Quarters for about 7 hours and the guy needed a break. I do not recall the exact hour when I took over the deck watch but I was not relieved of those duties until next morning when we finally secured from General Quarters.

The portion of the deck log appended hereto includes four hours out of the stint. The USS Repose is a hospital ship and we kept station on her until daylight, at which time we commenced transporting the wounded and the dead over to Repose. That all happened after the 0000-0400 watch. (Still pretty dark at 0400) I remember it all as a sleepless night and much of it has become fuzzy in the ensuing fifty years. There are some things etched indelibly in my mind and they never become fuzzy, and that, I believe, is a good thing. Some things should never be forgotten.

There is nothing considered close-hold information in any part of the foregoing so if you want to forward it to anyone you believe might be interested, go ahead. I have told and re-told the story many times.

Submitted by CAPT R. Claude "Frenchy" Corbeille, USN RET