

USS Brinkley Bass DD-887

West Pac – 1965/66 - 66/67 Cruises
Two Cruises – A Movie

By

Bill ‘Smokey’ Stover



Movie Shot On Location By Bill ‘Smokey’ Stover
Medium – 8mm Film – 1965/66/67
Converted to VHS – 1986
Converted to DVD - 2006

USS Brinkley Bass DD-887
West Pac Cruises 1965/66 – 1966/67
Bill ‘Smokey’ Stover – FTG2 – 12/64 to 02/68
November 7, 2006

I bought the 8mm Camera and a few rolls of film at the ‘Duty Free Store’ while in port for our first R & R, Yokosuka, Japan. I also bought a 35 mm ‘Still Shot’ camera for taking ‘Slides’. My photographing time was shared between ‘Movie’ taking and ‘Still Shots’ for documentation. A few of my ‘Slides’ have been ‘Processed’ and are on the Association’ Web Site. This ‘Movie’ takes over 2 Gigs and 35 minutes on a DVD and is far to big to be placed on the Web Site. It will be distributed to any and all Bass Veterans and others who may want it for a Production and Shipping Fee. This ‘Movie’ has a few gaps in time. Many of the film canisters were mailed for development and then mailed home from our areas of operation. At least 3 short films were lost in the process. One of the movies lost was the one I was taking during the recovery from the collision with the Waddell.

Shortly after our second return to Long Beach and my Discharge (Feb 1968) from the Navy, I spliced about 15 short movies together with a Header written on a blackboard to make the 36 minute film. For the next 18 years, I carried my 8mm projector with film to every family outing and gathering of friends to show them my experiences. I also carried my 35 mm slide projector and about 200 slides to further document my world travels. By 1982 both 35 mm projector and 8mm projector had quit working. The slides and the movie had found their way to storage. Sometime around 1984 I bought my first Camcorder and began to take movies (VHS) of my family and friends. I began to document my oldest son as he became a Football and Baseball star and my youngest as he became the youngest ever to graduate from his high school.

As I began to rekindle my love for documenting my experiences in movies, I searched for and found my West Pac 1965/66 – 1966/67 movie. I had no way to show the movie so I set about searching for a functioning 8 mm film projector. I searched second hand stores and pawn shops in large cities. I carried my film with me to checkout any 8 mm projectors I found. By this time the film was very brittle from being stored in hot storage containers and attics. The film broke at least once every time I attempted to show it. I spliced the film at least a dozen times during the time that I was attempting recovery. I finally found a projector in a pawn shop in Los Angeles that worked well enough to show the movie and for \$50.00, I bought the 8 mm projector sometime in 1985.

By 1985, I had decided to attempt conversion from 8 mm film to VHS Tape. I started inquiry into finding a method for conversion. After a year or so I found the plans for a ‘Light and Mirror’ ‘Conversion Box’. I built the ‘Box’ and after much experimentation with lighting, sometime in 1986, I converted the film to VHS. It took about two days and patience that I no longer possess to make the conversion. I had to repair the projector, make belts for it and splice the film about 10 times before getting a final, finished product. A few years later a company manufactured

a 'Conversion Box'. I bought a box for about \$100.00. I never did get any better results because by the time I attempted another conversion, the projector was completely broken and the film would not stay together long enough to finish the conversion. The movie as shown today is a copy of my original conversion from film to VHS using the 'Conversion Box' that I build from the plans found in a photography magazine.

It is now November 2006. I decided about a year ago that I must preserve this Chronology for any and all who have an interest. I have researched the industry and yesterday morning I went to my favorite computer store, purchased the necessary hardware and software, and returned home to start the conversion of this 'Movie' from VHS to DVD in order to facilitate distribution in a 'State of the Art' Format and on a 'State of the Art' medium.

After about 4 hours of 'Software and Hardware Installation', I started the 'Process' of conversion from VHS to DVD. After an all nighter with an old VHS player and software that required a lot of tweeking, I have two good 'Master DVDs'. I have tested the DVDs and they play well on two computers and on a DVD attached to an 18 year old GE TV. While training myself in the 'Process', I wasted about 10 DVDs, lost a night's sleep, and my patience just about gave in to total discouragement. I have just taken time out to eat breakfast.

I have just replayed the 'Movie' and have jotted down an index and description of scenes in relation to the real timing of the DVD. That documentation is as follow:

West Pac – 1965/66 – 1966/67
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**DVD Timing
(Approximate)
Minute #**

Description of Scenes

- 1 Yankee Station – Ops – Plane Guard – Ticonderoga – Waddell**
- 3 Port – Subic Bay, Phillipines – Oilers – USS Sacramento – LSTs – Cubi Point Naval Air – D23 (Tender) – Nested Destroyers.**
- 5 Yankee Station – Firing Guns – Waddell – Junks – Ops – Speed Run – Cruiser – Helos.**
- 6 Helo Ops – Bass**
- 7 Port – Sasebo, Japan – Nagasake, Japan – WWII Atomic Bomb – Ground Zero – Building on hill/museum/bomb artifacts – Green Pillar marks**

Ground Zero – Charlie (Tour Guide) – Tram ride and view of Nagasake from mountain top and tram.

- 8 Leaving Sasebo, Japan – Capt. Lassiter’s Head/Cap – Japanese Destroyers**
- 10 Kaoshung, (Famosa) Taiwan – 100s of ships in the harbor.**
- 11 Downtown Kaoshung.**
- 12 Port – Hong Kong – Tram ride to Victoria Peak – Destroyers (Just Visible) in the harbor are Bass and Waddell.**
- 13 Hong Kong International Air Port – Flags on Air Port terminal – Swiss Air takeoff.**
- 16 Departing Honk Kong.**
- 17 Bass Flags.**
- 18 Steaming toward Subic Bay, Phillipines – Broken Bow.**
- 19 Port – Subic Bay – Headed for drydock to install tempory bow.**
- 20 Jeepneys (Jitneys) – Subic Bay – Downtown Alongapo – Fire – Locals on Bikes – Main Gate – Money Exchange.**
- 21 Boys in ‘Benjo Ditch’ – Diving for coins – Open Sewage.**
- 22 Myself and the Crew – Underway – Pictures looking over G51 – Can’t see the short bow.**
- 23 Guam**
- 24 Hawaii – Arizona Monument – Ford Island pulling out – on the way home.**
- 25 Start of second cruise – Crew and Families on Pier 15 – Long Beach – Pulling out – The ‘Mole’.**
- 25 Hawaii – 16 inch gun barrels on Ford Island – Some of the Crew on Liberty in the Banana Fields of Hawaii – Polynesian Cultural Center – Beaches – Shoreline – Blowhole.**
- 26 Midway Island – Gooney Birds – Midway Cemetery – WWII Dead – Remains of shipwreck/ran aground – Marshall Islands ? – Johnson Island – the Crew at dusk – Refueling stop only.**

- 29 Okinawa – Refueling stop only – Waddell – Helo Ops – Transfer of personnel.**
- 31 Port – Kaoshung – They had the ship’s party here. See those pictures in the 1967 Cruise Book.**
- 32 Kaoshung – Shopping Center – People on bikes and walking the streets.**
- 33 Refueling Ops – Destroyer Escort 387 – Waddell – Hospital Ship – Oiler (O22) – Bass – After Refueling Station.**
- 34 Nested Destroyers – Subic Bay, Phillipines.**
- 35 Port – Home Port – Long Beach.**
- 36 My Wife – Paulette – and Families on Pier 15.**