

USS OGDEN (LPD-5)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

LPD5/02:an
5750
Ser 188
18 MAR 1973

From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
To: Director of Naval History
Subj: Command History for calendar year 1972; submission of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) Chronology for calendar year 1972
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes
1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2),
and (3) are submitted.


R. E. NEIGER

Copy to:
COMPHIBPAC
COMPHIBRON THREE
CHINFO

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
1972 Chronology

JAN

- 01-09 Holiday upkeep period San Diego
- 10-13 Unit Training SOCAL OPAREAS
- 14 Captain J. C. BARROW relieved as Commanding Officer by
Captain R. E. NEIGER
- 14-17 Inport San Diego
- 17-20 Enroute to Acapulco, Mexico
- 20-23 Port visit Acapulco, Mexico
- 22 Hosted Mayor HERNANDEZ (Mayor of Acapulco), a
representative of RADM ALVAREZ, and other Mexican
Naval officers for lunch and tour of ship
- 24-27 Enroute to San Diego
- 28-31 Upkeep San Diego

FEB

- 01-21 Inport San Diego
- 08 Hosted American Medical Association tour
- 14-15 Annual Supply Inspection
- 14-16 Boiler Inspection by Long Beach Naval Shipyard personnel
- 15-18 PMS Inspection by PHIBPAC Inspection Team
- 22 Enroute to Seal Beach Naval Ammunition Depot
- 23 Offloaded all ammunition
- 24 Enroute to San Diego
- 25-27 Inport San Diego
- 28-29 ISE SOCAL OPAREAS
- 29 Conducted day and night helo qualifications with HML-267
and HMH-363

Enclosure (1)

MAR

01-02 ISE SOCAL OPAREAS provided LVT services at Camp Pendleton
03-30 Inport San Diego
06-17 RAV San Diego
07 NEY Award Semi-finalist Inspection
09 Long Beach Naval Shipyard Pre-Arrival Conference
09 Hosted visitors from Landing Force Training Command
14-17 Command Inspection by COMPHIBRON THREE
17 Awards Ceremony and Personnel Inspection
17-30 Pre-Overhaul Period San Diego
18 Hosted forty Boy Scouts and five adult supervisors for ship tour and lunch
22 Hosted fourteen foreign officers for ship tour
23 Hosted three Navy League guests
31 Enroute to Long Beach

APR

01-30 Inport Long Beach
03 Commenced Regular Overhaul
04 Arrival Conference at Long Beach Naval Shipyard
25 MCPOC (PHIBPAC) visited command

MAY

01-31 Inport Long Beach
04 Shifted berths from pier three to drydock one

JUN

01-30 Inport Long Beach
19 Shifted berths from drydock one to pier three

20 Boiler lighted - became 100th ship in the Navy to be converted to Navy Distillate

JUL

01-06 Inport Long Beach

05 Commodore W. H. ELLIS, COMPHIBRON THREE, presented PHIBPAC NEY plaque and other personal awards

06 Dock Trials Long Beach Naval Shipyard

07-08 Fast Cruise SOCAL OPAREAS

09-10 Inport Long Beach

10-11 Underway SOCAL OPAREAS for Machinery and Electronics Sea Trials

12-20 Inport Long Beach

12 Communications Security Group Training Visit

14 Preliminary Amphibious Training and Readiness Inspection

20 Tempest Certification completed

21 Departed Long Beach-Arrived Seal Beach Naval Ammunition Depot for ammunition and L-Form onload

22 Enroute to San Diego

23-31 Inport San Diego - Daily ISE SOCAL OPAREAS

24 Successfully completed Training and Readiness Evaluation

24-28 Commenced Interim Refresher Training

AUG

01-18 Daily operations while conducting Refresher Training

03 Completed Interim Refresher Training

04 Commenced Amphibious Refresher Training

07 Hosted Royal British Marine major and other ranking Marines

07-11 Laundry Service Team Assist Visit

08 JUMPS Assist Visit
09 Underwater Hull Inspection
10 Hosted forty children from Neighborhood House Association
of San Diego
09-10 NTPI Technical Assist Visit
09-10 Medical Technical Assist Visit
18 Completed Amphibious Refresher Training
18 Cargo onload for PHIBLEX 4-72
19-21 Inport San Diego
22-26 Underway SOCAL OPAREAS for PHIBLEX 4-72
25-31 POM San Diego
30 Annual Supply Inspection Assist Visit

SEP

01-29 POM San Diego
01 NTPI Assist Visit
06-07 NTPI
07-08 HERO Analysis
08 PMS Zone Inspection
08 Boiler Inspection
14 Pre-Deployment Ordnance Review
18 CTG 76.5/CTF 76 Predeployment brief by CTF 76 Staff
Representative
18-21 MISTRAUPAC Assist Visit including RAVAIR van training
19 C. O. NISO San Diego presented physical security brief
20 Pre-embark brief by C. O. ACU-1
21 Pre-deployment brief for dependents in NAVSTA theater

21 Received NTPI certification
22 Command Personnel Inspection
22 Embarked Reserves for two week ACDUTRA period
25 NEY Inspection
25 Technical Guidance Unit Assist Visit
25-27 Loadout for deployment
27 Communications Assistance Team Assist Visit
27 Post Office Assist Visit
29 Visit by VADM SALZER, COMPHIBPAC
29 SECNAV guests embarked
29 Embarked UDT Team 12 Plt 1
30 Enroute to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
30 Commenced CONVEX 2-72

OCT

01-05 Enroute to Pearl Harbor
06-07 Inport Pearl Harbor
06-07 Ship's officers attended predeployment briefs at
CINCPACFLT Headquarters
06 ACDUTRA reserves departed
08-13 Enroute to Eniwetok
13 PMS zone inspection
14 Inport Eniwetok for offload LCU 1614/onload LCU 1651
14-20 Enroute to Subic Bay R. P. I.
17 Brief stop Guam to transfer emergency leave case

20-26 Inport Subic Bay
20-21 Ordnance Survey Assist Visit
22 Embarked Kilo and Mike Companies, BLT 3/4
23 Embarked ACU-1 Det A Team 3
23-24 ZAM 9-72, Zambales Province, R. P. I.
27-28 Enroute to Gulf of Tonkin as part of ARG "A"

NOV

01-11 ARG Operations, RVN
02 COMPHIBPAC and COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT visit
06-09 Visual Communications Training and Assist Visit
06 Visit by technical director of CNAP TV
08 Red "E" awarded to Engineering Department
11-12 Enroute to Kaoh-Siung, Taiwan
13-17 Inport Kaoh-Siung
15-16 Hosted Chinese Marine Corps trainees
18 Enroute to Subic Bay
19 Diverted to Gulf of Tonkin to conduct Special Operations
19-30 Special Operations, Gulf of Tonkin
23 Underway replenishment from USS KANSAS CITY
25 Underway replenishment from USS NIAGARA FALLS
29 Underway replenishment from USS CACAPON

DEC

01-05 Special Operations, Gulf of Tonkin

06-07 Enroute to Subic Bay
06 Underway replenishment from USS MANATEE
08-18 Upkeep Subic Bay
19-20 Enroute to Hong Kong, B. C. C.
20 Commanding Officer's Personnel Inspection
21-26 Inport Hong Kong
24 Hosted fifty children for tour and Christmas dinner
27-28 Enroute to Subic Bay
29-31 Inport Subic Bay

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
1972

NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR THE USS OGDEN (LPD 5) for the year 1972

COMMANDED BY:

J. C. BARROW, Captain, USN
R. E. NEIGER, Captain, USN

1 JAN - 14 JAN
14 JAN - 31 DEC

Homeport:

San Diego, California

Assigned to:

Amphibious Squadron THREE

Mission:

The mission of the USS OGDEN (LPD 5) is to transport and land troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft, amphibian vehicles, and helicopter lift.

Enclosure (2)

On January 1, 1972 the USS OGDEN was moored in her homeport of San Diego, California during a holiday/upkeep period. On January 10, the ship got underway for its first time in 1972 for an independent steaming period in the Southern California Operation Areas. At various times during this period OGDEN joined USS CLEVELAND, USS TULARE, USS PROVIDENCE and USS RACINE to complete formation steaming and tactical maneuvering. On 13 January, OGDEN returned to San Diego and completed final preparations for the change of command ceremony on the following day. On January 14, Captain R. E. NEIGER relieved Captain J. C. BARROW as the Commanding Officer. The ceremony took place on OGDEN's flight deck and was attended by Commodore W. H. ELLIS and other prominent military and civilian dignitaries from the San Diego area. On January 17, OGDEN departed San Diego for a rest and recreation trip to Acapulco, Mexico. During the ship's stay in Acapulco, Mayor HERNANDEZ, Mr. Victor HUGO, a representative of Rear Admiral ALVAREZ, and several officers of the Mexican Navy were hosted for a tour of the ship and dinner in the wardroom. OGDEN returned to San Diego on January 27 and commenced a pre-overhaul/upkeep period.

February 1, 1972 found OGDEN moored in San Diego beginning the first series of pre-overhaul tests and inspections. On February 8, a party of nine members of the American Medical Association boarded OGDEN and were escorted on a tour of the ship and given a slide presentation which displayed the capabilities of the LPD. On February 14/15, the PHIBPAC Inspection Team conducted OGDEN's Annual Supply Inspection and awarded a grade of OUTSTANDING to OGDEN's Supply Department. During the period February 15-18, the PHIBPAC Inspection Team conducted a shipwide PMS inspection and awarded a grade of SATISFACTORY. On February 22, OGDEN got underway for Seal Beach Naval Ammunition Depot for the pre-overhaul offload of ammunition. With the offload complete on February 24, she returned to San Diego on February 25. On February 28 OGDEN was again underway, but this time the object was to conduct operations concerning her primary mission. HMH 363 and HML 267 used OGDEN's flight deck for helicopter qualification landings. Also, during this at sea period several underway replenishment exercises were conducted with the USS PEORIA and USS PASSUMPSIC.

March 1-2 found the ship anchored off Del Mar Boat Basin, Camp Pendleton, California providing wet well services to Marine Corps LVTs. OGDEN returned to San Diego on March 3 and moored for the remainder of the month while making final preparations for entering Long Beach Naval Shipyard for her regular overhaul. February 7 saw OGDEN's food service team being inspected as a semi-finalist in the PHIBPAC NEY Award competition. On February 9, a Pre-Arrival conference, with representatives of Long Beach Naval Shipyard and PHIBPAC, was held and the overhaul work package was reviewed.

March was OGDEN's month for tour groups. On March 9, a group of students from the Landing Force Training Command were guided through the ship on an orientation tour. A group of forty Boy Scouts and their five adult supervisors were aboard for a tour, slide presentation and refreshments on March 18. A group of 14 Senior Foreign Officers toured the ship and held a brief discussion with the commanding officer and a representative group of ship's company officers on March 22. On March 23, the commanding officer hosted a small group of Navy League guests for lunch and a tour of the ship. Commodore ELLIS and an inspection team from his staff conducted a command administrative inspection from March 14-17. Included in the final day of the inspection were an awards ceremony and a personnel inspection conducted by the Commodore. On March 31, OGDEN got underway for Long Beach to report for her regular overhaul.

On April 3, OGDEN commenced her second regular overhaul since she was commissioned in 1965. An arrival conference was held on April 4 and was attended by key ship's officers and representatives of PHIBPAC and the shipyard. The PHIBPAC Master Chief Petty Officer of the Command YNCM H. C. MUELLER visited the ship on April 25 and held conferences with the commanding officer and representative groups of crew members.

May was a continuation of the overhaul period with OGDEN's entry into drydock #1 on May 4 being the only break in standard routine.

June brought more progress toward completion of the overhaul. On June 19 drydock #1 was flooded and the ship was moved from drydock to pier three at the shipyard. On the following day, June 20, OGDEN's number one boiler was lighted and OGDEN became the 100th U. S. Navy ship to be converted to Navy Distillate for fuel.

July 1 found OGDEN still in the shipyard nearing completion of overhaul. On July 5, Commodore ELLIS acted as the principal speaker at an awards ceremony on OGDEN's mess decks. In addition to several personal awards, he presented the PHIBPAC NEY Award to OGDEN's Food Service Team. OGDEN got underway again on July 7, 8, 10 and 11 for fast cruise and machinery and electronics sea trials. On July 12, a team from Naval Communications Station, San Diego conducted Communications Security training visit. During the overhaul several major SHIPALTS and conversions were accomplished on OGDEN. They were: conversion to Naval Distillate fuel; installation of a new high frequency communication system (SHIPALT LPD 198); installation of a new ship's entertainment system, including cable television; and installation of a flight

deck communications system (SHIPALT LPD 184). While in Long Beach OGDEN became the first LPD to receive a shipyard installed communications quality control monitoring system. Other new installations included a MK 27 gyrocompass (as a replacement for the MK 26), a Stromberg-Carlson 200 line telephone exchange and a cathodic hull protection system. On July 14, the first step in OGDEN's pre-deployment training started with the Preliminary Amphibious Training and Readiness Inspection. OGDEN sailed from Long Beach on July 21 enroute to Seal Beach for the purpose of loading ammunition and L-Form. On July 23, OGDEN returned to her homeport of San Diego. July 24 began her retraining period with the Training and Readiness Evaluation, conducted by Fleet Training Group as the start of two weeks of Interim Refresher Training. On July 25, OGDEN's EW equipment passed the sensitivity standards evaluation of FLETRAGRU. She was the first LPD to pass and only the seventeenth of 169 units tested to do so.

August was an active month for OGDEN. On August 3, she completed her final battle problem of Interim Refresher Training and returned to San Diego to participate in Amphibious Refresher Training, a training cycle designed specifically for amphibious ships. Again in August, several visits were conducted. On August 7, a group of senior Marine (British and American) officers was given a tour of the ship and held brief discussions with the commanding officer. On August 10, OGDEN hosted a group of forty underprivileged children for the Neighborhood House Association of San Diego. As OGDEN's time for deployment drew near, assist visits and inspections were held as follows: August 8, JUMPS Assist Visit; and on August 9 - 10, NTPI Technical Assist Visit and Medical Technical Assist Visit. On August 18, OGDEN completed her second and final week of Amphibious Refresher Training with a grade of EXCELLENT on the final battle problem. In preparation for PHIBLEX 4-72, the onload of Marines and their equipment also took place on August 18. August 22 saw OGDEN underway in the Southern California OPAREAS again as a participant in PHIBLEX 4-72, a practice amphibious landing at Camp Pendleton, California. On August 25, OGDEN returned to San Diego to begin her Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) period. Another Annual Supply Inspection Assist Visit was conducted on August 30.

The entire month of September was spent inport in San Diego while making all final preparations for deployment. On September 6 - 7, an NTPI was conducted with a final grade of SATISFACTORY. A pre-deployment brief was held for dependents in the NAVSTA theater on September 21. Talks and information were given by representatives from Navy Relief, the American Red Cross, Naval Station Family Services, the command public affairs officer, the chaplain, and the commanding officer. On September 22, the commanding officer held a command personnel inspection.

Other assist visits and inspections during September included: September 1, NTPI Assist Visit; September 8, Boiler Inspection; September 14, Pre-deployment Ordnance Review by NOSSOPAC; September 18 - 21, MISTRAUPAC Technical Assist Visit; September 25, Technical Guidance Unit Assist Visit; and finally on September 27, Communications Assistance Team Assist Visit. On September 29, two guests of the Secretary of the Navy were embarked for a guest cruise from San Diego to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The guests were Mr. Charles L. PEARCE of El Paso, Texas and Dr. Cyril A. CONRAD of San Diego, California. On September 29, VADM SALZER visited OGDEN for a series of talks with representative groups of the ship's company. September 30 brought the start of OGDEN's eighth deployment to the western Pacific. She got underway with the USS TULARE, USS RACINE, and USS FRESNO as a participant in CONVEX 2-72, a merchant convoy exercise from San Diego to Pearl Harbor. CONVEX 2-72 included assembly of a convoy, transit from point to point, and entry into a port under opposition from enemy forces.

OGDEN arrived in Pearl Harbor during the morning of October 6. During the brief two-day stop in Pearl Harbor, officers and other key ship's company personnel attended pre-deployment briefs at CINCPACFLT/COMSERVPAC headquarters. On October 8, OGDEN parted company with the other participants of CONVEX 2-72 and proceeded independently to Eniwetok Atoll. On October 14, LCU 1614 was offloaded from OGDEN's well and LCU 1651 was loaded by personnel at Eniwetok. After this brief stop the ship again proceeded west with the next destination as Subic Bay, R. P. I. On October 16, OGDEN diverted from her original track to Guam to transfer a crew member whose mother had become critically ill. The actual stop involved lying to approximately three miles due west of Apra Harbor at 0100 on October 17. After the transfer, the ship was off again toward Subic Bay via the San Bernardino Straits. OGDEN entered Subic Bay on 20 October after a trip covering nearly 7000 miles and lasting 21 days. The ship received an Ordnance Survey Assist Visit from COMFAIRWESTPAC on October 20-21. Kilo and Mike Companies, 3rd BN, 4th Marines were embarked, with all of their equipment, on 22 October. On October 23-24, OGDEN and her newly embarked troops participated in ZAM 9-72. This was a coordinated assault by the Marines of Amphibious Ready Group Alfa on a beach located in Zambales Province, R. P. I. A well earned two day rest break was granted to the ship on October 25-26, then on October 27, she sailed, as part of Amphibious Ready Group Alfa to the Gulf of Tonkin.

November 1 found OGDEN operating as part of ARG "A" in the Gulf of Tonkin. Primary emphasis during this period was placed on formation steaming procedures, damage control drills, and other internal drills to increase the state of readiness of

the crew and her embarked troops. OGDEN ended her first period in the Gulf of Tonkin on November 11, when she set sail for Kaoh-Siung, Taiwan. With USS MONTICELLO in company, OGDEN entered Kaoh-Siung on the morning of November 13 for a four day rest and recreation stop. While in Kaoh-Siung, OGDEN's embarked Marines used the ship's wardroom and other facilities while conducting training with Chinese Marine Corps representatives. On November 18, OGDEN and MONTICELLO departed Kaoh-Siung, enroute to a rendezvous with the USS NEW ORLEANS and USS SAN BERNARDINO and a return to Subic Bay. Early in the morning of November 19, OGDEN was diverted and directed to return to the Gulf of Tonkin to conduct Special Operations. She reported on station on November 20, and remained there through the rest of November. While on this station OGDEN provided miscellaneous services to other ships, the foremost being medical assistance to smaller units not carrying doctors or dentists.

OGDEN's participation in Special Operations continued through December 6. At that time, she was ordered back to Subic Bay for an upkeep/rehabilitation period which lasted until December 18. On the morning of December 19, the ship sailed from Subic Bay with the USS SAN BERNARDINO in company and a destination of Hong Kong, B. C. C. The Ready Group's second port visit of the deployment lasted from December 21 to December 26. During this port visit, OGDEN hosted a group of fifty boys from the Salesian Father's School in Hong Kong. Aged from eight to fifteen years, the boys were given a tour of the ship and remained guests of the crew for Christmas dinner. On December 27, the Ready Group departed Hong Kong for the return trip to Subic Bay. COMPHIBRON THREE visited OGDEN on December 29 to observe OGDEN's entry in the squadron Junior Officer Ship-handling competition. Notification was received early in 1973 that OGDEN's nominee, LCDR [REDACTED], had won the squadron competition. Immediately following the competition, just as OGDEN was entering Subic Bay, an aircraft crash was observed in the water less than two miles from the ship. After a hasty turn and a few minutes of travel, the ship's motor whaleboat was lowered and proceeded to the crash scene. One crewman was rescued by the motor whaleboat crew, while the other was picked up by a helicopter from the Naval Air Station Cubi Point. The battle efficiency competition for the squadron for 1972 ended on 31 December. A few days later the ship learned that COMPHIBRON THREE had awarded OGDEN her fourth consecutive Battle Efficiency Award.