

USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

CHAP:RED:rdf  
5700  
Ser: 216  
14 APR 1975

**DECLASSIFIED**

From: Commanding Officer, USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology of USS DUBUQUE's Movements During Period  
1 JAN 74 to 31 DEC 74

1. (U) In compliance with reference (a), the history of USS  
DUBUQUE (LPD-8) for period 1 January 1974 to 31 December  
1974 is hereby submitted.

2. (C) Basic History

a. Command Organization

(1) During this period, USS DUBUQUE served as a unit  
of Amphibious Squadron ONE. The following officers commanded  
the ship:

1 January 1974 - 21 February 1974  
Captain Cecil J. KEMPF, USN, [REDACTED]

22 February - 31 December 1974  
Captain Roy W. McLAIN, Jr., USN, [REDACTED]

(2) Designation of Units Assigned. The following units  
were embarked in USS DUBUQUE.

9TH Infantry, U.S. Army, Ft. Lewis, WA 9-12 SEP  
First Battalion, Third Marines 17-25 OCT  
BMU-1, Naval Beach Master Unit ONE DET CHARLIE  
18 OCT - 31 DEC  
ACU-1, Navy Assault Craft Unit ONE DET BRAVO  
18 OCT - 31 DEC  
Second Battalion, Third Marines 26-28 OCT  
First Marine Brigade 29 OCT - 14 NOV  
Seventh Comm. Battalion 20 NOV - 11 DEC  
Charlie Company, First Battalion, Ninth Marines  
21 NOV - 11 DEC  
HMM-165 Helo Detachment and EODGUONE Swimmers  
12-13 DEC, 17-21 DEC, 31 DEC

**DECLASSIFIED**

CHRONOLOGY OF USS DUBUQUE'S MOVEMENTS  
1 JAN TO 31 DEC 74

01 JAN 74

Ship moored port side to Pier 3, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

05 FEB

1417 Underway for Long Beach Naval Shipyard for overhaul.

06 FEB

0740 Anchored at anchorage E4, Seal Beach for unloading of ammunition.

2054 Underway for Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach California.

2200 Moored portside to Pier 1, Berth 13, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California.

25 FEB

1810 Underway cold iron for dry dock.

1821 Dry docked.

29 MAY

1704 Underway cold iron for Pier 1, Berth 13, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, CA.

1717 Moored portside to Pier 1 Berth 13, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California.

08 JULY

0823 Underway for Sea Trials.

09 JULY

0753 Moored portside to Pier 1, Berth 13, Long Beach, Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California.  
Overhaul completed.

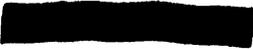
15 JULY

0630 Underway for San Diego, CA.

**DECLASSIFIED**

Enclosure (1)

**DECLASSIFIED**

  
15 JULY

0755 Moored at Ammunition Pier, Seal Beach, CA.  
1546 Underway.  
1643 Anchored in anchorage E2 for loading of Ammunition.  
1956 Underway.

16 JULY

1429 Moored Portside to USS DURHAM LKA-114 at Pier 3,  
Berth 35N3, U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

22 JULY

0905 Underway for Coronado Roads, California  
1123 Anchored Anchorage 158 Coronado Roads, California.

25 JULY

1220 Underway.

26 JULY

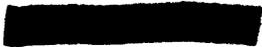
1052 Anchored Anchorage 158 Coronado Roads, California.  
1108 Underway for return to port.  
1354 Moored Pier 6, Berth 66N6, U.S. Naval Station,  
San Diego, California.

29 JULY

1047 Underway to shift berths.  
1314 Moored Buoys #20 and #21, San Diego, California.

1 AUG

0710 Underway for Refresher Training (REFTRA)  
1439 Anchored ASW Basin, San Diego, California.  
1519 Underway for REFTRA.

  
Enclosure ( / )

[REDACTED]

# DECLASSIFIED

01 AUG

2258 Anchored at anchorage 158, Coronado Roads, CA.

02 AUG

0742 Underway for REFTRA.

0901 Moored Bouy #20 and #21, San Diego, California.

05 AUG

0858 Underway for REFTRA.

1818 Anchored at anchorage 214, San Diego, California.

06 AUG

0728 Unerway for REFTRA.

1535 Anchored at anchorage 214, San Diego, California.

07 AUG

0745 Underway for REFTRA and exercises with USS BLUE RIDGE and USS CAMDEN.

1206 Anchored at anchorage 213, San Diego, California.

1330 Underway for REFTRA.

09 AUG

1502 Moored Bouys #25 and #26, San Diego, California.

12 AUG

0930 Underway for REFTRA.

13 AUG

1457 Anchored in anchorage 215, San Diego, California.

1520 Underway for REFTRA.

DECLASSIFIED [REDACTED]

**DECLASSIFIED**

16 AUG

- 1311 Anchored in anchorage 213, San Diego, California.
- 1358 Underway to shift berths.
- 1430 Moored Starboard Side to Berth India, NAS, North Island. California.

19 AUG

- 0940 Underway for REFTRA.
- 2136 Anchored in anchorage 158, Coronado Roads, CA.

20 AUG

- 0640 Underway for REFTRA.
- 1936 Anchored in anchorage 214, San Diego, California.

21 AUG

- 0830 Underway for REFTRA.

23 AUG

- 1240 Anchored in anchorage 212, San Diego, California.
- 1336 Underway to return to port.
- 1439 Moored portside to USS ALAMO (LSD-33), Pier 8, Berth 82, U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, California.

03 SEP

- 1455 Underway for Amphibious Refresher Training.  
(AMPHIBREFTRA)
- 1643 Anchored in anchorage 148 Coronado Roads, Calif.
- 2302 Underway for transit to Del Mar, California.

04 SEP

- 0630 Anchored Del Mar, California.
- 1115 Underway for transit to San Diego, California.
- 1440 Anchored in anchorage 148 Coronado Roads, Calif.

**DECLASSIFIED**

Enclosure ( / )

**DECLASSIFIED**

06 SEP

1220 Underway to return to port.

1449 Moored Pier 6 Berth 61N6, Naval Station, San Diego, California.

09 SEP

1807 Underway for AMPHIBREFTRA.

1002 Anchored in anchorage 148 Coronado Roads, Calif.

12 SEP

1203 Underway for AMPHIBREFTRA.

13 SEP

1258 Return to port, moored Pier 8 Berth 82S8, Naval Station, San Diego, California.

09 OCT

0832 Underway for sea trials.

10 OCT

1858 Return to port, moored Pier 8, Berth 82 N, Naval Station, San Diego, California.

18 OCT

0953 Underway for WESPAC cruise, enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

25 OCT

1003 Underway for Amphibious Training, Hawaiian Operating Areas.

28 OCT

1410 Return to port, moored Pier 3, Pearl Harbor, Oahu.

29 OCT

0935 Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.

**DECLASSIFIED**

Enclosure ( / )

**DECLASSIFIED**

14 NOV

0918 Moored Starboard side to Rivera Pier, Berth 14 and  
15 Subic Bay, R.P.

27 NOV

1142 Underway for MABLEX 1-75/BAYANIHAN and Storm Evasion.

04 DEC

2315 Anchored Paluan Bay Area.

05 DEC

1825 Underway for UNREP.

06 DEC

1615 Anchored Paluan Bay Area.

10 DEC

1515 Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.

11 DEC

0641 Moored Leyte Pier, Cubi Point, R.P.

12 DEC

1009 Underway for PROJECT SOFT training.

14 DEC

0809 Moored Port of Manila, R.P.

17 DEC

0804 Underway for PROJECT SOFT training.

21 DEC

1204 Moored Starboard side to Rivera Pier, Berth 14 & 15,  
Subic Bay, R.P.

**DECLASSIFIED**

Enclosure ( 1 )

**DECLASSIFIED**

b. Summary of Operations.

At the beginning of the year, DUBUQUE was in home port, Pier 3 Naval Station San Diego, CA. On 5 February DUBUQUE got underway for Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a scheduled five month regular overhaul. Early on 6 February DUBUQUE anchored at Seal Beach and off loaded ammunition. On completion of the ammunition off loading DUBUQUE proceeded to Long Beach and arrived at Pier One Berth 13 at 2200 to commence overhaul.

At 1030 on 22 February 1974 Captain Cecil J. KEMPF, USN was relieved of command by Captain Roy W. McLAIN, Jr., USN in ceremonies on board USS DUBUQUE. Remarks and Reading of Orders were delivered by Captain Jason P. LAW, USN, COMPHIBRON ONE, Guest Speaker. On 25 February DUBUQUE entered dry docked at Long Beach Naval Shipyard. On 29 May DUBUQUE undocked and was moored port side Pier 1 Berth 13.

From 10 to 17 June Captain McLAIN assumed duties as SOPA LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH AREA.

On completion of overhaul, DUBUQUE got underway for San Diego on the morning of 15 July, first loading ammunition at Seal Beach. DUBUQUE arrived at home port San Diego on the afternoon of 16 July and berthed at Pier 3, Naval Station. July 22 through 26th DUBUQUE conducted training, tests, and individual ship exercises while anchored at Anchorage 158, Coronado Roads. On 26 July DUBUQUE was visited by COMPHIBRON ONE.

The period of 29 July through 23 August was spent in rigorous refresher training under the direction of Commander Fleet Training Group, San Diego. At the conclusion of this training, the new men aboard DUBUQUE demonstrated that the training had welded them into an efficient unit with the men who had remained on board from the previous deployment.

During the period 3 September through 13 September DUBUQUE was employed in Amphibious Refresher Training which enabled the crew to be exercised in all areas of amphibious warfare. Elements of the 9th Infantry, U.S. Army, Fort Lewis, Washington were embarked on 9 September and remained on board through 12 September while conducting effective training. Beginning 13 September through 9 October DUBUQUE made final preparations for and successfully conducted a Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection. A Type Commander's 3-M Inspection was conducted on 27 SEP 74. On 4 October DUBUQUE's CCTV system was activated for on-air broadcasting capability. On 23 September a Pre-Deployment Briefing was conducted on board ship for DUBUQUE

# DECLASSIFIED

Wives and Families. COMPHIBRON ONE was aboard to address the wives and families for the briefing. DUBUQUE commenced preparation for overseas movement on 13 September. On 9 October DUBUQUE proceeded to sea for two days Individual Ship Exercises and equipment tests and trials.

On 17 October the First Battalion, Third Marines embarked DUBUQUE for an administrative lift to Pearl Harbor. On 18 October Beachmaster Unit One detachment "Charlie" and Assault Craft Unit One embarked DUBUQUE and at 0953 DUBUQUE was underway from San Diego for a scheduled 7-1/2 month deployment to the Western Pacific. Departing in company with DUBUQUE were four other ships of PHIBRON ONE, USS THOMASTON, USS DURHAM, USS VANCOUVER, and USS BLUE BRIDGE. Enroute Pearl Harbor Hawaii, PHIBRON ONE ships conducted training in ship maneuvers in formation and individual ship exercises to enhance readiness and proficiency.

DUBUQUE arrived in Pearl Harbor on 25 October and was visited by VADM St. GEORGE, DEPCINCPACFLT. The Marine detachment on board debarked. The morning of 26 October DUBUQUE was underway for training in the Hawaiian operating areas with Second Battalion, Third Marines embarked. Amphibious Operations with LVTP and helicopter units was accomplished during the two day period. DUBUQUE returned to Pearl Harbor on 28 October and on 29 October embarked elements of the First Marine Brigade for opportune lift to Subic Bay, R.P. On 29 October DUBUQUE departed Pearl Harbor enroute to Subic Bay. During this transit the first CCTV on-the-air live news and sports telecast was performed on 8 November. On 9 November CO, USS DUBUQUE assumed duty as Commander Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO, consisting of USS DUBUQUE, USS DURHAM (LKA-115) and USS FREDERICK (LST-1184). DUBUQUE arrived in Subic Bay the morning of 14 November and debarked First Marine Brigade elements. Upkeep was performed while in Subic Bay, and on 20 November 7th COMM Battalion, USMC embarked. On 21 November First Battalion, Ninth Marines embarked in preparation for MABLEX 1-75. On 23 November RADM D. B. WHITMIRE, USN, Commander Amphibious Force 7TH Fleet visited DUBUQUE. DUBUQUE got underway on 27 November to participate in MABLEX 1-75/BAYANIHAN. MABLEX 1-75/BAYANIHAN (the Tagalog word Bayanihan means "working together") was a major amphibious exercise involving U.S. and Philippine naval and marine forces. The exercise was scheduled for the period 1-10 December at Paluan Bay, Mindoro, R.P.

Enroute MABLEX 1-75/BAYANIHAN, DUBUQUE and other shipping involved in the exercise was required to conduct storm evasion in the South China Sea. Typhoon IRMA threatened to delay the exercise but dissipated in time for participants to arrive in scheduled anchorages in Paluan Bay, Mindoro, R.P. on 30 November.

On 1 December, Captain Jason P. LAW, USN, COMPHIBRON ONE and staff embarked on DUBUQUE to utilize Flag spaces in support of Amphibious Landings to be conducted. MABLEX 1-75 D-Day was successfully conducted on 4 December. On 5 December, after

COMPHIBRON ONE debarked, DUBUQUE left the Paluan Bay area in order to conduct surface gunnery firings. Gunnery exercises were successfully completed on 6 December and DUBUQUE returned to Paluan Bay that evening and anchored.

On 8 December DUBUQUE was assigned Primary Control Ship duties, and commenced withdrawal, backloading and securing of the exercise area, completing these duties on 10 December. DUBUQUE then got underway for Subic Bay, arriving there on 11 December to offload elements of First Battalion, Ninth Marines and to embark four CH-46 helicopters of HMM-165 for special recovery technique development and rehearsal in preparation for DUBUQUE's role in PROJECT SOFT. On 12 December DUBUQUE embarked HMM-165 Detachment TWO and swimmer personnel of EODGRUONE Barbers Point, Hawaii and got underway for Subic operating areas to conduct practice operations in support of PROJECT SOFT. Practice operations were conducted on 12-13 December. DUBUQUE then proceeded to Manila, R.P. for a recreational visit from 14-16 December. Underway on 17 December, DUBUQUE resumed PROJECT SOFT recovery technique practice, completing on 20 December, to commence upkeep until 31 December in Subic Bay, R.P.

On 31 December four CH-46 helos and HMM-165 and EODGRUONE swimmers re-embarked in preparation for PROJECT SOFT operations scheduled for January 1975.

c. Special Topics

(1) Distinguished Visitors

- 23 April - Rear Admiral John H. NICHOLSON, USN,  
Naval Ships Systems Command
- 30 July - Captain Creighton D. LILLY, USN, Chief  
of Staff, Commander Training Command,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet
- 8 October - Vice Admiral Robert S. SALZER, USN,  
Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific  
Fleet
- 25 October - Vice Admiral William ST. GEORGE, USN,  
Deputy and Chief of Staff, CINCPACFLT
- 23 November - Rear Admiral Donald B. WHITMIRE, USN,  
Commander Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet
- 26 November - Brigadier General H. L. COFFMAN, USMC  
Assistant Division Commander, THIRD  
Marine Division (-) Reinforced

(2) Congratulatory Messages

From Vice Admiral George P. STEELE, USN, on 9 November: Welcome aboard from Commander Seventh Fleet. Your deployment with the SEVENTH Fleet as the Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO Flagship will provide the officers and men of DUBUQUE the opportunity to perform in a variety of mission roles. Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO operations will be both demanding and rewarding. I look forward to a visit with you during your deployment.

From SOPA Los Angeles on 28 June 1974: Search for missing Navy dependent: "The response by all ships present to requests from Naval Station to provide volunteer personnel for subject search was heart warming and gratifying. In particular, OKINAWA, DUBUQUE and ASHTABULA are commended for their immediate and willing response to the call for volunteers."

From BGEN KOLER, CG First Marine Brigade, on 31 October 1974: "During the weekend of 26-28 October 1974 this command participated in a successful amphibious training period. In spite of adverse sea and weather conditions, all training objectives were met. The professionalism, spirit and can do attitude of your command were major factors in the safe and efficient execution of this vital training. Please express my warm thanks to your officers and men for a job Well Done."

From Officer-In-Charge, MIDPAC Marines, on 14 November 1974: "...embark, transit, and debark outstanding in all respects. Accommodations, cooperation and attitude of DUBUQUE most professional and in keeping with traditional Navy-Marine Corps team..."

  
R. W. McLAIN, Jr.