rec'd 1/22/90

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO 96666-1730

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720
LSD 42
10 January 1990

From: Commanding Officer, USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42) Command History for the Period 1 January - 31 December 1989
(2) Ship's Photograph

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are hereby forwarded.

T. M. WITTKAMP

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC (N-021)
COMPHIBGRU THREE
COMPHIBRON SEVEN

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)
COMMAND HISTORY
1 JANUARY 1989 - 31 DECEMBER 1989

I. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. Mission - The mission of USS GERMANTOWN is to launch and support assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores. GERMANTOWN is the first ship in the Pacific Fleet to carry the new Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) and was, during 1987, the first U. S. Navy ship to deploy with an LCAC detachment. The LCAC is an attack hovercraft with the ability to deliver a 60 ton payload to hostile shores over 40 knots. Utilizing this new craft, GERMANTOWN can carry out an amphibious raid or assault over a much wider range of beaches than previously accessible by conventional landing craft.

b. Ship's Characteristics

Length.....609 feet, 7 inches

Beam.....84 feet

Draft.....19 feet, 2 inches

Well Deck.....440 feet by 50 feet

Ship's Company.....24 Officers, 19 CPO's and 372 Enlisted

Embarked Troops.....25 Officers, 13 SNCO's and 362 Enlisted

Combat Systems.....AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-67 Surface Search Radar
AN/SPS-64 Surface Navigation Radar
AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Countermeasures Set
Phalanx Close-in Weapon System
NIXIE Torpedo Deception System

Propulsion.....Four Colt-Pielstick PC2.5V
16 Cylinder Diesel Engines
Two shafts with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP)
Four 1300 KW Ship's Service Diesel Generators

Build by Lockheed Shipbuilding Company, Seattle, Washington.

Homeported in San Diego, California, USS GERMANTOWN is named for the historic Pennsylvania district of Germantown. Now a residential section of Philadelphia, Germantown was founded in 1683 and was the site of an important battle of the American War for Independence fought on October 4, 1777 between the forces of General George Washington and General Sir William Howe.

The name Germantown has been borne by one previous U. S. Navy ship, a sloop of war (1847-1864) which performed significant service during the war with Mexico in the Home Squadron under Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry.

c. Organizational Structure - GERMANTOWN is the first LSD 41 class ship in the Pacific Fleet under the operational and administrative organization of Commander, Naval Surface Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Group THREE. While in CONUS, GERMANTOWN's Immediate Superior in Command was Commander, Amphibious Squadron SEVEN, the Readiness Squadron Commander for West Coast LSDs, LSTs and LKAs.

d. Units Under Operational/Administrative Control:

None

e. Commanding Officer - Commander T. Michael Wittkamp of Richmond, Virginia, received his commission in June 1970 upon graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy.

Following his first tour of duty as Chief Engineer in USS FORCE (MSO 445) he was assigned to the precommissioning crew of USS ROBERT E. PEARY (FF 1073) as First Lieutenant and Communications Officer. Upon completion of the Department Head Course at the Naval Destroyer School in July 1976, he served as Operations Officer in USS HOLLISTER (DD 788). Commander Wittkamp then served as First Lieutenant in USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) from April 1978 to June 1980 which was followed by a tour at Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters as Director Management Systems Division. Commander Wittkamp served as Executive Officer in USS FORT FISHER (LSD 40) from June 1982 to February 1984. Following a tour in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as an Action Officer in the Strategy, Plans and Policy Division (OP-60), Commander Wittkamp attended the National War College where he graduated in June 1987.

Commander Wittkamp has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars and the Navy Achievement Medal. In addition, he is authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation, Navy "E", Humanitarian Service Medal and various unit and campaign awards.

Commander Wittkamp is married to the former Mary Ann Wolaver of New Orleans, LA. The Wittkamp's who currently reside in San Diego, have two children, Michael Louis and Jennifer Lynne.

II. CHRONOLOGY

1-12 Jan	Inport San Diego
12 Jan - 2 Feb	Transit Okinawa
2 Feb	Inport Okinawa
3-10 Feb	Transit Republic of Philllipines/Valiant Usher 89-3

11-23 Feb	Inport/Upkeep Subic Bay, RP
22 Feb	NEY Inspection
24-27 Feb	Transit Okinawa
27 Feb - 1 Mar	Onload Buckner Bay Okinawa
2-7 Mar	Transit Pohang, South Korea
7-8 Mar	Inport Pohang, South Korea
9-25 Mar	Exercises Team Spirit 89
26-28 Mar	Onload Pohang, South Korea
28-31 Mar	Transit Okinawa
1-4 Apr	Transit Hong Kong
4-8 Apr	Visit Hong Kong
9-11 Apr	Transit Subic Bay, RP
11-20 Apr	Inport/Upkeep Subic Bay, RP
21 Apr - 5 May	Transit Sydney, Australia
27 Apr	Shellback Day
5-14 May	Visit Sydney, Australia
15-22 May	Exercise Coral Sea Valiant Usher
22-24 May	Transit Townsville, Australia
24-30 May	Visit Townsville, Australia
30 May - 11 Jun	Transit Pearl Harbor, HI
6 Jun	Shellback Day
11 Jun	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
12-18 Jun	IERA
18 Jun	Offload Camp Pendleton
19 Jun	Return San Diego
19-30 Jun	Leave/Upkeep San Diego
1 Jul - 15 Aug	Inport/Upkeep San Diego
16-18 Aug	ISE SOCAL
19-20 Aug	Inport San Diego
21-25 Aug	MCCRES
26-27 Aug	Inport San Diego
28 Aug - 1 Sep	ISE SOCAL
2-5 Sep	INSURV Preps
6 Sep	ISE Pre-INSURV
7-13 Sep	Inport San Diego
11-15 Sep	INSURV
13 Sep	ISE INSURV
16-28 Sep	Post INSURV Upkeep San Diego
29 Sep - 12 Oct	Law Enforcement Operations, Baja California
13-30 Oct	Inport San Diego
31 Oct - 3 Nov	ISE SOCAL
4-12 Nov	Inport San Diego
13 Nov	Underway to Seal Beach
14 Nov	Offload Ammo Seal Beach, CA
15-17 Nov	ISE SOCAL
18-26 Nov	Inport San Diego
27 Nov - 31 Dec	DPMA Southwest Marine, San Diego

III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

GERMANTOWN started the New Year, after a Pre Overseas Movement leave and upkeep period, with it's second deployment in two years. The ship deployed for WESTPAC 12 January with Golf Battery 3/1 and ACU-5 Det BRAVO embarked as her marine/LCAC detachments, the first ship ever to deploy with four LCACs embarked.

12 January through 2 February were spent in transit to the Western Pacific operating areas. GERMANTOWN arrived in Okinawa for a one day stop for mail, fuel and stores on her way to the Phillipines to participate in Valiant Usher 89-3. Valiant Usher 89-3 was the first time during the ship's deployment that demonstrated the vast capabilities and professionalism of the GERMANTOWN/LCAC team. The remainder of February was spent at Ship's Repair Facility, Subic Bay, RP for upkeep and a much deserved rest and recreational time for the crew after 28 days at sea. During the Subic Bay upkeep period GERMANTOWN's Food Service Division participated in its second NEY inspection. Much work went into preparations which paid off. The GERMANTOWN was the only amphibious ship to make it to the NEY semi-finals. Next on the agenda for GERMANTOWN was Exercise Team Spirit 89. After her time in Subic Bay, the ship onloaded additional Marines in Okinawa and proceeded to Pohang, South Korea. Once on station, GERMANTOWN led the way during Team Spirit, utilizing her compliment of Marines and LCAC's to land the landing force. While off the coast of South Korea, GERMANTOWN's doctor was called to help in treating casualties from a helicopter crash that killed many servicemen while they were practicing the defense of democracy. LT Olch was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his actions in saving laives. After Team Spirit, GERMANTOWN headed south to Okinawa and then to Hong Kong for a port visit. The GERMANTOWN was underway once more, this time to Subic Bay, RP for another availability at SRF. The ship's crew again enjoyed the 10 days of recreation in the Subic Bay area. Continuing, the ship set sail once again, this time heading through the San Bernadino Strait on the way to Sydney, Australia. King Neptune initiated over two thirds of the crew into the solemn order of the deep, 27 April. Once in Sydney, the crew took advantage of the great hospitality and visited such sites as the Opera House, zoo and excursion of the Greem Mountain Park for a tour of the outback. While the ship was in Sydney, over 2000 guests were aboard for tours of the ship's various spaces, including a brief of the LCAC's by ACU-5. GERMANTOWN set sail on 15 May for Exercise Coral Sea Valiant Usher with our Australian allies. After Exercise Coral Sea, the ship transited parts of the Great Barrier Reef for a visit to Townsville, Australia. Again the crowds of people arrived for tours and general visitation. While in Townsville, the crew relaxed on the beach and toured the reefs off the coast. The ship departed Townsville 30 May on the way to Guam but due to conflicts in Central America, the Amphibious Ready Group was recalled to San Diego early. Courses were plotted to Pearl Harbor and from Pearl to San Diego. The ship arrived in Hawaii 11 June for a 1 day replenishment of fuel, stores and food. GERMANTOWN returned to San Diego the morning of 19 June. A post overseas movement leave period was scheduled from 19 June through 1 July and it was back to work 2 July. GERMANTOWN remained in San Diego for 6 weeks preparing for ISE, training period, MCCRES and an upcoming INSURV. During the month of August, the ship was underway for two and one half weeks for these evolutions. The Inspection and Survey Board Pacific conducted a material inspection of GERMANTOWN the week of 11 through 15 September. This was a significant event on the West Coast, because it was the first for a LSD 41 class ship. GERMANTOWN's material condition was in excellent shape and her crew left a hard act to follow for future LSDs on the West Coast.

The remainder of 1989 was spent participating in Law Enforcement Operations, support for two CNO projects and preparation for DPMA.

After INSURV, GERMANTOWN embarked a U. S. Coast Guard contingent for LEO Operations off Baja California, Mexico. Lots of quality training was accomplished during this period. GERMANTOWN returned to port on 12 October

for 2 weeks of upkeep. The week of 31 October to 3 November was underway for ISE in the SOCAL area followed by a week in port. On November 13, GERMANTOWN was underway for the ammunition offload in preparation for the upcoming DPMA and for SOCAL operations in support of two CNO projects. A burial at sea was conducted for five individuals enroute from Seal Beach, California to San Diego. From 4 December to 31 December, the GERMANTOWN was in dry dock at Southwest Marine for her DPMA which is to last until April 1990.