

ORIGINAL

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: Command History for 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology for 1968
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are hereby submitted.

J. W. Hulihan
W. HULIHAN

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1968 USS OGDEN (LPD 5) Narrative
History of the USS OGDEN (LPD 5) for
the year 1968

Commanded by:

R. L. DISE, Captain, USN 1-4 January

E. J. CARROLL, Captain, USN 5 January - 31 December

HOMEPORTED IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

MISSION

To transport and land Troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft or amphibian vehicles augmented by helicopter lift.

1968 USS OGDEN (LPD 5) CHRONOLOGY

January

- 1-8 Inport San Diego.
- 6 Change of command ceremony. CAPT E. J. CARROLL relieved CAPT R. L. DISE.
- 9-12 Underway off the coast of Southern California for Raidex exercises.
- 13-14 Inport San Diego.
- 15-18 Underway off the coast of Southern California for amphibious training operations and gunnery exercises.
- 19 Annual Ney Award Inspection held.
- 19-4 Feb Inport San Diego for upkeep.

February

- 5-8 Underway off the coast of Southern California for training.
- 9-12 Weekend visit to San Francisco, Calif. for recreation.
- 13-18 Mar Inport San Diego for upkeep.

March

- 19 Ship entered drydock, commenced restricted availability. Repainted hull, removed and repaired rudders, constructed aircraft hangar.

April

- 10 OGDEN host ship for MONTICELLO arrival, leave drydock.
- 20 Provided color guard for Little League ceremony; opening day for OGDEN sponsored team.
- 22-23 Nuclear Training Preparedness Inspection conducted.
- 30 Conducted inclining experiment.

May

- 9 Moved to La Playa fuel piers for fueling.

- 13-17 Underway off the coast of Southern Calif. in preparation for refresher training.
- 18 OGDEN PHIBPAC representative for Armed Forces Day - 92 visitors.
- 18-19 Inport San Diego.
- 20-24 Underway off the coast of Southern California in preparation for refresher training.
- 24 Navy League cruise. Anchored off Silver Strand for demonstration of ship's capabilities.
- 25-26 Inport San Diego.
- 27-28 Training readiness evaluation.
- 29-7 June Refresher training conducted off coast of San Diego.

June

- 1 Established Damage Control department on a trial basis.
- 8-15 Inport San Diego.
- 14 Navy League cruise off San Diego for amphibious demonstration.
- 15 Conducted day-long family day cruise off San Diego.
- 24 Received PHIBRON NINE Battle Efficiency Award.
- 24-3 July Conducted Amphibious Refresher Training. Received grade of EXCELLENT.

July

- 3-28 Preparation for overseas movement inport San Diego.
- 8 Covenant players presented two plays aboard.
- 17 Ship's picnic.
- 22 Ship's party.
- 29 Deperming at San Diego deperming facility.

August

- 2-5 Lima pier Naval Air Station, North Island loading for deployment.
- 6 Underway for WESTPAC.

- 12 Crossed International Dateline.
- 15 Changed operational control from FIRSTFLT to SEVENTHFLT.
- 19 Arrived Buckner Bay, Okinawa, commenced loading materials for Vietnam.
- 20 Assisted in emergency repairs to the snorkel of the SS SEA FOX.
- 21 Departed Okinawa for South Vietnam.
- 24 Arrived off coast of Vietnam, commenced fly off HMH-462.
- 25 Anchored in Danang Harbor, completed offload, underway for Subic Bay.
- 27 Anchored Subic Bay, relieved USS VANCOUVER (LPD 2), embarked ACU-1 and BLT 2/7.
- 30 Underway for Vietnam with TG 76.5.

September

- 3 Conducted demonstration of LPD capabilities for BGEN WILLIAMS, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Shifted to combat support status for OPERATION SWIFT PLAY II.
- 5 Commenced evasion of Typhoon Bess.
- 7 Embarked UDT Detachment "F".
- 8 Held flight deck Barbeque.
- 14 UDT destroyed derelict pontoon bridge segment near Danang.
- 17 3000th Helo landing. Swim call in the well deck.
- 20 Liberty section I, selected Marines, and personnel from TRIPOLI have party at China Beach, Danang. OGDEN Medical Officer and Corpsman attend an injured seaman on SS MATA-PON.
- 21 Amphibious landing demonstration for RADM PRATT, COMPHIB-TRAPAC.
- 24 Minor fire in well deck.
- 27 China Beach party for liberty section II.
- 29 Swim call in the well deck.

October

- 2 Stern gate GASREP.
- 4 Departed Vietnam for Subic Bay for upkeep, repairs, and recreation. Terminated support for Operation SWIFT PLAY II.
- 6 Arrived in Subic Bay, conducted amphibious training exercise, AMTRAEX with TG 76.5.
- 6-20 Inport Subic.
- 15 Voluntary working party painted 3 room building at Tapulao elementary school in Orani province, RPI.
- 21 Underway for Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- 23 Arrive Kaohsiung for rest and recreation.
- 28 Underway for South Vietnam.
- 30 Arrived in steaming areas south of Danang.

November

- 5-6 Backloaded elements of BLT 2/7.
- 10 Commenced Operation DARING ENDEAVOR, OGDEN acted as Primary Control Ship. Offloaded BLT 2/7.
- 17 Visit by VADM SMITH, COMPHIBPAG, completed Operation DARING ENDEAVOR.
- 20 Commenced Operation SWIFT MOVE, Offloaded BLT 2/7.

December

- 6 Terminated Operation SWIFT MOVE.
- 7 Departed Vietnam for Hong Kong, BCC.
- 8 Arrived Hong Kong for rest and recreation.
- 11 Members of crew donated 100 pints of blood to Hong Kong British Red Cross.
- 13 Underway from Hong Kong for Subic Bay, conducted full power run.
- 15-26 Inport Subic for upkeep and liberty.
- 22 Sponsored Christmas party aboard for 31 boys from Olongapo Boy's town.

- 24 Volunteer working party constructed sections of building for Boy's Town.
- 27 Underway for Danang Harbor.
- 29 Arrived in Danang, commenced support of Operation SWIFT MOVE II.

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1968 USS OGDEN (LPD 5) NARRATIVE

- (U) 1 January 1968 found the USS OGDEN (LPD 5) moored to pier 5 in her homeport of San Diego, California enjoying a period of rest and recreation after participation in Operation BLUE LOTUS the previous year. Preparations were also being made for the change of command ceremony which took place on the 5th of January. Captain E. J. CARROLL Jr., relieved Captain R. L. DISE in a short morning ceremony on the flight deck. Distinguished visitors included Captain J. L. LOWENTROUT, Commander Amphibious Squadron NINE.
- (U) On 9 January the ship got underway for a week of operations off the coast of Southern California in the vicinity of Camp Pendleton and San Clemente Island. The exercise, called RAIDEX, involved practice placing a small highly trained combat group of Marines ashore by helicopter or boat for the purpose of carrying out a raid against enemy positions. After a weekend inport in San Diego the ship again spent the week of 15 January at sea, conducting amphibious exercises and gunnery exercises at Del Mar and San Clemente respectively. During the day of the 16th, OGDEN conducted a series of rapid LVT launch trials at various speeds. The annual Ney award general mess inspection was conducted on the 19th while the ship was inport, however, OGDEN was not nominated for the 1968 Ney award. The ship remained in port for the rest of January; during this period the MOGAS and AVGAS systems were inspected and cleaned.
- (U) On the 5th of February, OGDEN was again underway off the coast of Southern California for training exercises which included gunnery exercises, drill battle problems, boat control and helo operations, and, on 7 February, an amphibious demonstration for students attending an amphibious operation familiarization course at NAVPHIBASE, Coronado. The ship departed the coast off San Diego on the 8th for a weekend visit to San Francisco, the first visit in this port for OGDEN. Upon her return on the 13th of February, OGDEN remained inport in San Diego for upkeep until 13 May. On 19 March, the ship travelled cold iron from pierside to the San Diego drydock to commence the major repairs of the restricted availability period. The major work accomplished during the period included: construction of a collapsable aircraft hangar on the flight deck, removal and repair of leaking rudder ports, sandblasting and repainting of underwater hull, removal of automatic pallet loader and unloaders, installation of a secure voice radio communication system, and sandblasting and repainting of AVGAS and MCCAS tanks.
- (U) On 10 April the ship moved from drydock to pierside and, in addition, acted as host ship for the arrival of the USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35) from her overseas deployment. OGDEN was the only ship in San Diego to sponsor a Little League team, and, on 20 April provided a color guard for the opening day ceremonies of the Presidio Little League. An inclining experiment was conducted throughout the morning of 30 April to determine new stability criteria for the ship after the RAV work.

- (U) Upon completion of the restricted availability, the ship began its preparations for refresher training; first travelling to the La Playa piers on 9 May to refuel. The ship got underway on 13 May for a week of drills in preparation for refresher training. During the weekend in San Diego OGDEN served as Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet representative for Armed Forces day, Saturday 18 May. A total of 92 visitors came aboard and were given a tour of the ship. Then intensive drills and training were continued during the week of 20 May while operating close offshore San Diego. Several members of the San Diego Navy League were given a familiarization cruise on 24 May during which the ship anchored off Silver Strand and conducted various amphibious demonstrations.
- (U) The San Diego based fleet training group administered the training readiness evaluation to OGDEN on 27-28 May. A grade of SATISFACTORY was recieved.
- (U) Refresher Training was conducted from 27 May to 7 June in special operating areas off the coast of San Diego. Individual departmental grades recieved were as follows:

Ship Control	OUTSTANDING	95
Navigation	OUTSTANDING	95
CIC	OUTSTANDING	96
Communications	GOOD	77
Electronics	SATISFACTORY	71
Gunnery	GOOD	80
Engineering	SATISFACTORY	74.5
Damage Control	UNSATISFACTORY	55
Personnel Casualty Control	EXCELLENT	91
Air	OUTSTANDING	95

- (U) On 1 June a separate Damage Control department was established on board OGDEN for a one year trial. A hydraulic winch drive motor for the boat and aircraft crane burned out on 6 June, hampering boat operations until its replacement on 18 June. Upon completion of refresher training, the ship remained inport San Diego until 17 June when an amphibious demonstration cruise for 9 Navy League members was held off Coronado Roads. On the following day OGDEN was again underway off the coast for a family cruise. Activities of the day included amphibious demonstrations at anchor, a steak barbeque on the flight deck, an underway replenishment exercise with the USS PEREGRINE, and a small arms gunnery demonstration. This day also marked the third anniversary of OGDEN's commissioning.
- (C) The ship commenced preparations for amphibious refresher training on 17 June with boat handling drills at anchor off Coronado Roads. Upon completion of the drills on 19 June the ship returned to port, remaining until the start of amphibious training on 24 June. On that date OGDEN also received notification that she had won the Battle Efficiency Award for Amphibious Squadron NINE. From 24 June until 3 July, OGDEN was engaged in amphibious drills and exercises. A majority of these drills took place at anchor off Coronado Roads, however

- (C) an underway launch and helo assaults off Camp Pendleton were also performed. The ship received an overall grade of EXCELLENT for its performance in all phasis of amphibious training. From the completion of AOT to the time of WESTPAC deployment, OGDEN remained inport San Diego preparing for overseas movement. As well as loading cargo and stocking necessary items, the preparations included the force Medical Officers inspection on 11 July. A national repertory group, the Covenant Players, presented two plays on board on 8 July, "The Contract" and "Transit Gloria" with 55 persons attending. The ship held an afternoon picnic on 17 July at Admiral Baker Field and an evening dinner dance at the 1st and 2nd Class Petty Officers Club on 22 July. OGDEN travelled to the deperming facility at San Diego and was depermed during the period 29-30 July. From 2 August until 5 August materials bound for Vietnam were loaded at a pier at NAS North Island. Included were the 10 CH-53 helicopters of Marine Squadron HMH-462.
- (C) At 1010 on 6 August the OGDEN began its 1968 WESTPAC deployment, sailing directly from San Diego to Buckner Bay, Okinawa via a modified great circle route. At 1510 on 12 August the ship crossed the International Dateline and on 15 August chopped from FIRSTFLT to SEVENTHFLT. After a twelve day trip during which the Medical Department completed the shot series for WESTPAC, the ship arrived in Buckner Bay on 19 August and immediately commenced loading and unloading Marine ammunition and other supplies around the clock. The SS SEA FOX put in to Buckner Bay on 20 August with a leak in her exhaust snorkel. OGDEN assisted in emergency repairs which were completed that same day. Early on the 21st the ship left Okinawa and after a rough passage through the Bashi Channel in the wake of Typhoon Shirley, arrived off the coast of South Vietnam near Phu Bai on the 24th. The 10 CH-53 helicopters of HMH 462 were flown off and, with the assistance of pilots from Phu Bai, most of the equipment which was to be offloaded in Danang was flown off with the CH-53 helicopters. Thus, the ship was able to enter Danang, complete the offload, and get underway for Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands on 25 August. Soon after arrival in Subic Bay on 27 August OGDEN relieved the USS VANCOUVER (LPD 2) as a member of Amphibious Ready Group "B" (TG 76.5). During the stay in Subic four M-8 boats and crews of Assault Craft Unit 1 were embarked as well as Marines and equipment of BLT 2/7. On 30 August OGDEN sailed for the coast of Vietnam in company with USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35) and USS TRIPOLI (LPH 10), members of ARG-B.
- (C) The ship arrived off the coast of Vietnam for its first extended on the line period on 2 September. For the next 28 days the OGDEN steamed in special operating areas south of Danang. Brigadier General WILLIAMS, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific boarded OGDEN on 3 September for a demonstration of amphibious capabilities of the LPD. Operations included well deck demonstrations of assault boat handling and an underway launch of amphibious tanks. On 3 September OGDEN also commenced combat support of Operation SWIFT PLAY II. Upon notification that the tropical typhoon Bess would be crossing

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- (C) the Vietnamese coast north of Danang, TG 76.5 steamed southward on 5 September to the vicinity of Cu Lao Re Island. OGDEN's preparations included ballasting for stability. The storm abated quickly and the task group was able to return to its assigned area the following morning. Underwater Demolition Team Eleven, Detachment Fox-trot, was embarked on 7 September. The team remained on board OGDEN almost the entire deployment and was exercised in many ways from acting as swimming lifeguards to surveying hostile beaches under enemy fire.
- (U) Sunday, 8 September was the date of OGDEN's first flight deck barbeque in Westpac which included a skeet shoot and an awards presentation. During the time at sea OGDEN conducted about one underway replenishment a week with both oilers and stores ships. In addition, when operations permitted, the ship entered Danang harbor on Fridays to pick up dairy products and fleet freight. A ready helo deck was always maintained for emergency medivac helos when the USS TRIPOLI was conducting replenishments. General drills, amphibious exercises and training lectures occupied the remainder of the spare time.
- (U) After an unrep on 14 September OGDEN sighted a derelict pontoon bridge segment near the Danang harbor entrance. It was deemed a hazard to the shipping in the area and the UDT team was dispatched to destroy it with high explosives. This they accomplished in a spectacular fashion after a long afternoon of tedious preparations. The UDT detachment also acted as lifeguards for a swim call held out of the well deck on 17 September. That day also saw the 3000th helo landing on board OGDEN since her commissioning.
- (U) While in Danang on a dairy products run on 20 September, the ship held a party for one third of the crew, embarked Marines and personnel from TRIPOLI at China Beach. This was the first time ashore for all since 30 August. The ship's Medical Officer and a hospital corpsman were called to examine an injured seaman on the SS MATAPON before his transfer to a Danang hospital, also on 20 September. After many rehearsals the previous week, a thirty minute demonstration of the LPD's amphibious capabilities, plus UDT and assault craft operational briefings were held on board on 21 September for Rear Admiral PRATT, COMPHIBT-ASAC.
- (U) A minor fire in the well deck on 24 September was the cause of an unscheduled GQ. Paint burns and smoke damage to an assault boat were the only damage caused by a careless welder who did not have a fire watch. Recreational activities and training completed the month, with a China Beach party for liberty section II on 27 September, and an off the stern swim call on 29 September.
- (U) While offloading elements of BLT 2/7 in Danang on 2 October the stern gate hydraulic system was damaged due to rough seas. This casualty involved no change of plans since the ship was scheduled to return to Subic Bay shortly. On 4 October OGDEN departed Vietnam for Subic Bay in company with the USS TRIPOLI terminating Operation SWIFT PLAY.

- (U) Upon arrival on 5 October, a complete predawn amphibious training landing called AMTRAEX was staged on the western shore of Subic Bay by TG 76.5 composed of OGDEN, MONTICELLO, TRIPOLI, and USS MERRICK (LKA 94).
- (U) The inport Subic period 6-20 October was primarily for repair, upkeep, and rest and relaxation but community affairs projects included painting the inside and outside of a three room building at the Tapulao Elementary School in Orani Province, RPI. The following items were donated to the school: a bell engraved with the ship's name, a 20 volume set of Children's Classics, ten cases of paper, ten cases of cocoa mix and three tables with ten benches.
- (C) The ship got underway for Kaohsiung, Taiwan, the second largest city in Nationalist China, on 21 October. During the transit many drills including gunnery exercises were held. The stay in Kaohsiung from 23 to 28 October was primarily for liberty. Most of the crew participated in organized tours and many Handclasp items were distributed to needy children's homes and missionaries. On 30 October the ship arrived in the steaming areas south of Danang for her second extended period on the line in South Vietnam. Again OGDEN fully utilized her spare time with a heavy training schedule sandwiched between underway replenishments, supporting operations, and runs into Danang harbor. During the 5th and 6th of October OGDEN backloaded 17 officers and 577 enlisted men and their associated equipment from Battalion Landing Team 2/7. In a predawn assault 30 miles south of Danang, OGDEN commenced Operation DARING ENDEAVOR on 10 November with an underway launch of amphibious tanks. Throughout the day OGDEN conducted helo operations and acted as Primary Control Ship, offloading 535 Marines, 20 vehicles and a basic allowance of ammunition. For the next week OGDEN remained in support of DARING ENDEAVOR by acting as PCS, supplying on-call serials to the troops ashore and conducting beach surveys in conjunction with the embarked Underwater Demolition team. DARING ENDEAVOR was completed on 17 November with the backload of BLT 2/7. On that date Vice Admiral SMITH, Commander Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet arrived on board for a briefing on LPD operations, a tour of the ship, and an awards presentation. The next few days were spent in preparation for Operation SWIFT MOVE, a helo borne assault of the remaining rifle companies of BLT 2/7 which took place on 20 November. For the following two weeks the ship remained in support of SWIFT MOVE and completed the offload of BLT 2/7 in Danang while conducting various training exercises. Operation SWIFT MOVE was terminated on 6 December, with the OGDEN underway for Hong Kong the following day. During the 5 day liberty period in Hong Kong from 8 to 13 December, members of the crew donated 100 pints of blood to the Hong Kong British Red Cross. The ship conducted a full power engineering trial with successful results upon getting underway for Subic Bay on 13 December. Before entering Subic on 15 December a successful gunnery exercise was held.
- (U) During the inport Subic period of 15-26 December, the crew took part in many community relations projects. The five students that OGDEN

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- (U) sponsored through Operation Schoolhouse were invited aboard on 20 December. They were given a tour of the ship, lunch, and a boat ride around the harbor. On 22 December all 31 boys and six staff members of Boy's Town near Olongapo City were guests of the ship for a Christmas party which included gifts and a cartoon movie. Finally, a seventeen man volunteer working party assisted in the construction of a new building in Boy's Town on 24 December.
- (U) The ship was again underway on 27 December for Vietnam, arriving in Danang on the 29th, commencing combat support for Operation SWIFT MOVE II. Ahead for the new year lay the longest but the final on-line period for OGDEN during the 1968 deployment.

NAVIGATION

Miles steamed	23,392.0
Times anchored	Port: 30 Stbd: 23
Times moored	Buoy: 01 Pier: 14

OPERATIONS

Messages transmitted by teletype	2,432
Messages received by teletype	19,684
Messages sent by visual means	902
Messages received by visual means	696
Radar contacts tracked	940

ENGINEERING

Engine miles	24,058.4
Days steaming	221
ND burned	3,636,857 gallons
Fresh water distilled	8,467,320 gallons
Fresh water received	1,438,561 gallons

3-M

4790.2K forms submitted to DSCPAC	2,304
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AIR

Helicopter landings	1,329
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JP-5 used

Small boats	5,355 gal
Helos	248,936 gal
ACU-1	4,790 gal
Engineers	61,675 gal
PMS	13,500 gal
MSO Support	65,796 gal
ATF Support	16,000 gal
TOTAL	<u>416,052 gal</u>

MOGAS used

30 gal

MEDICAL/DENTAL

Patients seen	4,274
Prescriptions filled	4,482
Laboratory tests performed	2,145
Physical examinations	99
Immunizations administered	1,349
X-rays taken	262
Electrocardiograms performed	30
Minor surgery performed	40

Enclosure (3)

MEDICAL/DENTAL (Cont'd)

Eyeglasses ordered 111
Dental patients seen 1,337

SUPPLY

Ship's store sales \$166,815.00
Ship's store profits \$27,000.00

OPTAR expended
 Equippage \$8,888.97
 Repair parts \$56,379.33
 Consumables \$124,396.02
 Medical/Dental \$6,963.46
 TOTAL \$196,627.78

Total crew pay \$3,444,575.33
Total taxes withheld \$341,991.03

General mess consumption
 Beef 39,506 lbs.
 Seafood 2,390 lbs.
 Bread 18,155 lbs.
 Milk 12,238 gal.
 Fresh fruit 28,210 lbs.
 Fresh vegetables 67,049 lbs.
 Coffee 3,570 lbs.
 Eggs 12,128 dzn.

Total value of all stores consumed \$247,879.00
Meals served 507,840

CHAPLAIN

		<u>HELD</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>
Religious services on board	Protestant	52	735
	Catholic	08	120

Charity contributions
 Navy Relief \$528.45
 CFC \$2,972.10

		<u>CLASSES</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>
People programs	UPWARD	10	340
	Human Relations	35	275

Enclosure (3)

ADMINISTRATION

Advancements in rate 115
Officer promotions 05

Reenlistments First 26
Subsequent 19

Emergency leave cases 09
Drug exemptions granted 02

GUNNERY

Rounds expended Armor piercing 514
VT Non-frag 27
VT Frag 24
TOTAL 565

Days guns fired 06

DAMAGE CONTROL

Times ballasted 82