

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)  
Fleet Post Office  
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Ø1A:jrm  
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Ø1A removed upon removal of Annex H

Removed

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

Subj: Command History for 197Ø; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 575Ø.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology for 197Ø  
(2) Basic Narrative  
(3) Documentary Annexes

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

  
J. H. ALVIS

Copy to:  
COMPHIBPAC , except Annexes B, H.

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[1970]

USS OGDEN (LPD 5) Chronology

1 JANUARY 1970 - 31 DECEMBER 1970

JANUARY

- 1-5 Inport Subic Bay
- 6-7 Underway for Da Nang Ready OPS
- 7-11 Ready OPS Off Coast RVN
- 10 Amphibious demonstration for RVN Defense College students
- 11-12 Underway to Subic Bay
- 13-17 Type Training in Subic OPAREAS
- 17-25 RAV Subic Bay, Offload BATTALION LANDING TEAM (BLT) 2/9
- 25-26 Underway to Da Nang
- 27 Anchored in Da Nang Harbor. Commenced Keystone Bluejay Redeployment Backload
- 27-28 Night Steaming Off Coast Near Da Nang
- 28 Completed Keystone Bluejay Backload at Da Nang deep water piers
- 28-31 Underway to Okinawa
- 31 Fuel stop at Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Underway to Del Mar, California

FEBRUARY

- 1-13 Enroute to Del Mar
- 13 Offloaded Keystone Bluejay redeployment personnel and equipment at anchor off Del Mar. Underway to San Diego. Moored at San Diego.
- 13-25 Upkeep San Diego
- 25 FEB - Underway to Subic Bay  
15 MAR

MARCH

- 15-18 Backload BATTALION LANDING TEAM 2/9
- 18 Underway to Okinawa
- 21-23 Offloaded BLT 2/9, backloaded BLT 3/9 at ORA WAN and Buckner Bay, Okinawa
- 24-26 Pre-Operation Golden Dragon exercise and training at Kin Blue and Buckner Bay, Okinawa
- 27 MAR- Underway to Subic Bay  
1 APR

APRIL

2-9 RAV Subic Bay  
9-13 Underway to Okinawa  
13-14 Backloaded MEB for Operation Golden Dragon  
14-19 Enroute South Korea conducting exercises related to Operation Golden Dragon  
19-20 Operation Golden Dragon rehearsal  
20-25 Operation Golden Dragon near Po' Hang, Korea  
23 5,000th Helicopter Landing  
25-27 Underway Okinawa  
27-29 Offloaded MEB at Buckner Bay, Okinawa  
29 APR- Underway to ready Ops  
1 MAY

MAY

2-5 Ready Ops  
5 Underway to Hong Kong (Visit cancelled)  
6 Underway to Da Nang Ready Ops  
7-9 Ready Ops  
9-11 Underway to Hong Kong  
11-18 In port Hong Kong  
18-20 Underway to Subic Bay  
20-25 Inport Subic Bay  
26-29 En route Okinawa  
29-30 Turnover, Okinawa  
30 MAY- Enroute Da Nang  
2 JUN

JUNE

2-3 Retrograde Load Da Nang  
3-5 Enroute Subic Bay  
5 Brief fuel stop Subic Bay and Exchange of Boats

APRIL (CONT.)

5-8 Enroute Koror  
8 Turned LCU over to COMNAVFORMARIANAS Representative  
8-10 Enroute Guam  
10 Brief fuel stop Guam  
10-18 Enroute Pearl Harbor  
18 Partial Offload Pearl Harbor  
19 Ship's birthday party  
18-24 Enroute San Diego  
24 JUN- Leave and Upkeep San Diego  
27 JUL

JULY

27-29 Gunnery School Ship  
29 JUL- Inport San Diego  
2 AUG

AUGUST

3-7 ISE  
7-15 Inport San Diego  
15-20 Operation High Desert  
20-31 Inport San Diego  
28 Change of Command

SEPTEMBER

1-8 Inport San Diego  
8-22 Enroute Okinawa  
9 Rendezvous with MANITOWOC (LST 1180)  
11 Detached MANITOWOC  
22 Brief fuel stop Okinawa  
22-25 Enroute Hong Kong  
25-29 Inport Hong Kong  
29-30 Enroute Da Nang

SEPTEMBER

30 Anchored Da Nang  
30 SEP- Night Steam off Da Nang Harbor  
1 OCT

OCTOBER

1-3 Anchored Da Nang  
3-4 Load Retrograde at Deepwater Piers  
5-6 Enroute Subic Bay avoiding Typhoon Iris  
6 Brief fuel stop Subic and partial load exchange  
6-16 Enrout Pearl Harbor  
16-17 Partial Offload, brief fuel stop Pearl Harbor  
17-22 Enroute Camp Del Mar  
22-23 Offload Camp Del Mar  
23 Enroute San Diego  
23-30 Inport San Diego  
30 OCT- Anchored at Coronado Roads  
1 NOV  
1 NOV- RAV San Diego  
31 DEC  
12-13 NOV Command Inspection

1970 USS OGDEN (LPD 5) HISTORY NARRATIVE

COMMANDED BY:

J. W. HULIHAN, CAPTAIN, USN  
J. H. ALVIS, CAPTAIN, USN

1 JAN - 28 AUG  
28 AUG - 31 DEC

Homeported in San Diego, California. Assigned to Amphibious Squadron NINE of the Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

MISSION:

To transport and land troops and their equipment and supplies by means of landing craft, amphibian vehicles and helicopters.

On 1 January 1970, USS OGDEN commenced the third month of her third deployment to the western Pacific inport Subic Bay, Philippines receiving restricted availability services from various repair facilities. Four days later, OGDEN got underway with BLT 2/9 embarked for "ready Operations" along with other units of Assault Ready Group (ARG) - Alfa to which the ship was assigned during the deployment. For the period of 7 to 11 January, these operations were conducted off the coast of the Republic of Viet Nam near Da Nang, and included an amphibious demonstration for students of the Vietnamese Defense College. The ship then returned to the Subic Bay area for four days of underway type training before another restricted availability in Subic Bay and the offload of BLT 2/9 in preparation for a high-speed trans-Pacific crossing as part of Operation Keystone Bluejay.

Arriving at an anchorage in Da Nang Harbor on 27 January, the ship commenced a two-day backload of equipment and personnel which were to be redeployed out of Viet Nam to the U. S. as part of Keystone Bluejay. The backload was completed at the deepwater piers in Da Nang after a night of steaming off the coast, and the ship then headed for a fuel stop at Buckner Bay, Okinawa and an independent transit to the U. S. At first light on 13 February, the ship anchored off the Del Mar Boat Basin at Camp Pendleton to offload its cargo before noon and then proceed to its homeport of San Diego that same day. Following a week and a half of upkeep, the ship returned independently to Subic Bay via a fuel stop in Guam to backload BLT 2/9 and resume operations with ARG-ALFA.

Since BLT 2/9's afloat period was now completed, OGDEN returned them to Okinawa, where over a three-day period at Ora Wan and Buckner Bay they were offloaded and BLT 3/9 was backloaded. During the next three days the OGDEN and its embarked troops conducted various landing exercises at Buckner Bay and Chin Wan in preparation for Operation Golden Dragon. Following a week's restricted availability in Subic Bay, OGDEN returned once again to Okinawa to take aboard members of the Golden Dragon Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) before conducting various exercises in the Okinawa area and enroute to South Korea as part of Operation Golden Dragon, the first joint U. S. - Korean amphibious operation since the Korean Conflict. After a day's delay due to heavy seas, a rehearsal landing was made South of the assault area near Po' Hang, Korea and then the next day the assault operations began with OGDEN inserting UDT and SEAL Teams into the landing area under cover of darkness. This OGDEN followed with an LVT raid south of the landing area before rendezvousing with the remainder of the task force at complete darken ship. The task force landed at dawn on 21 April. The exercise was observed by a large number of high-ranking Korean officials. When the operation was completed on 25 April, the ship returned to Okinawa to offload the MEB at Buckner Bay before returning to ready operations in the South China Sea.

Following these operations, OGDEN proceeded toward Hong Kong for a scheduled port visit, but just as the ARG was approaching the off-lying islands, orders came in not to enter port, and to proceed immediately to the Da Nang area for ready operations. After three days of steaming off the coast of Viet Nam, the ARG turned once again toward Hong Kong where it remained for a week. The ARG returned once more to Subic Bay for a week and then went to Okinawa for a turnover of its BLT to the relief ships.

Due to further troop redeployments of operation Keystone Robin, OGDEN went to Da Nang to load retrograde materials. Enroute home a stop was made in Subic Bay to refuel, offload a YFU, and pick up an LCU for delivery to Koror, in the Palau Islands. This boat was being transferred from the Navy to the Department of the Interior, and was therefore the cause for the OGDEN to go farther south than it had ever gone. When the ship lay to off the East side of Koror, to offload the LCU, a Navy Captain representing the Commander of the Naval Forces of the Marianas Islands came aboard to accept the boat and express the Command's gratitude. Departing Koror, the ship headed for Pearl Harbor via a brief fuel stop in Guam. In Hawaii, OGDEN offloaded part of its cargo and picked up additional cargo as well as fuel before the last leg of the journey home to San Diego via an offload of the remainder of the cargo at Camp Del Mar. On 19 June, the 5th anniversary of OGDEN's commissioning was celebrated with a cookout on the flight deck and an enormous cake in the shape of an LPD.

A post-deployment leave and upkeep period was enjoyed inport San Diego from 24 June to 27 July. This was followed by a brief period as gunnery school ship for a new Fleet Training Center class for Gunnery Officers of the Amphibious Force. Another brief inport period was followed by a week of independent training exercises in the Southern California operating areas. During the next week inport, OGDEN prepared for operation High Desert, a Marine Reserve exercise culminating in a landing at Camp Pendleton which was observed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, various military and civilian officials, news media, and members of the general public.

Another week inport gave the crew time to prepare for ceremonies on 28 August in which Captain John H. Alvis, USN relieved Captain John W. Hulihan, USN as Commanding Officer of OGDEN. The ceremony on the ship's flight deck was attended by Rear Admiral Victor Dybdal (Commander Amphibious Group ONE) and the friends and families of the two Commanding Officers, the wardroom and the crew.

OGDEN's first time underway under Captain ALVIS's command was enroute to the Western Pacific to deliver Handclasp material and to pick up more redeployment material as part of Operation Keystone Robin (ALFA). Before leaving San Diego Harbor, OGDEN stopped at North Island Naval Air Station to pick up six helicopters for delivery to Da Nang and Okinawa. In the early morning hours of 9 September, OGDEN rendezvoused with USS MANITOWOC (LST 1180) which was to have steamed in company to the Western Pacific but which had to be detached on 11 September due to equipment problems. After a fuel stop in Okinawa, the ship went to Hong Kong for a brief visit before going to Da Nang to backload retrograde materials.

Although OGDEN arrived in Da Nang on 30 September, extremely heavy seas and winds prevented the ship from going alongside the pier to offload the Project Handclasp materials and helicopters and to start loading until 3 October. Departing Da Nang just after midnight on 4 October, it was necessary to steam south along the coast of Viet Nam to avoid a storm which was centered over the normal track to Subic Bay and which soon developed into Typhoon Iris. In Subic Bay, fuel was taken on and the boat load was changed before proceeding to Pearl Harbor for an overnight fueling and offloading stop. Five days later OGDEN arrived off Camp Del Mar to offload its remaining cargo before mooring in San Diego on 23 October.

Following a week inport, the ship got underway once more for the Southern California operating areas to conduct boat loading tests. This at sea period was, however, cut short by a casualty to the sterngate. The ship spent the remaining months of 1970 in San Diego with a restricted availability. On 12 and 13 November an administrative was conducted in which the ship received an overall grade of excellent.

1970 USS OGDEN (LPD-5)

STATISTICS

APPENDIX 1

Navigation

Miles Steamed	- 51,984
Anchored	- Stbd 13, Port 17, Total 30
Moored	- 32

Engineering

Engine Miles	- 55,700.3
Days Steaming The Plant	- 253
NSFO Burned	- 5,244,159 Gal.
JP-5 Burned	- 269,858 Gal.
Fresh Water Produced	- 6,089,865 Gal.
Fresh Water Received	- 2,733,531 Gal.

Air

Landings	- 1,098
JP-5	- 14,070
Mogas Pumped to Craft	- 9,610

Operations

Messages Sent	- 1,516
Messages Received	- 5,774
Radar Contacts Tracked	- 1,080

Supply - General Mess Consumption

Meat	- 151,169 lb.
Lobster	- 2,979 lb.
Dairy Products	- 18,355 lb.
Milk	- 33,671 gal.
Eggs	- 24,502 doz.
Ice Cream	- 4,360 gal.
Fresh Vegetables	- 217,034 lb.
Bread and Pastry	- 40,231 lb.

Medical

Sick Call Visits	- 6100
Medivacs	- 2
Prescriptions	- 5325
Lab Tests	- 1221
Immunizations	- 1698
X-Rays	- 331
Physical Examinations	- 275

Administration

Advancements in Rate	- 84
Reenlistments	-
First Term	- 6
Second and Subsequent	- 6

Chaplain

Religious Services Aboard OGDEN

Protestant	- 54
Roman Catholic	- 23
Latter Day Saints	- 3
Lay Leader	- 10

Religious Services Conducted by  
Ship's Chaplain Aboard other Ships

	- 4
Eccumenical Services	- 1
Bible Studies	- 40
Religious Films	- 8
Emergency Leave Requests Handled	- 34

Charity Contributions

Navy Relief	- \$501.91
Combined Federal Campaign	- \$2,098.39
Operation Schoolhouse	- \$292.00

Children From Operation Schoolhouse Hosted for a Tour of the Ship	- 13
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Appendix 2 - Troop Units Embarked

ACU1 Detachment Aboard When Attached  
to ARG-ALFA

Boats - 4      Officers - 1      Enlisted - 16

Battalion Landing Team 2/9

Units

"G" Company 2/9	Officers - 7	Enlisted - 195
"H" Company 2/9	- 8	- 202
"W" Battery 3/12	- 5	- 85
1st AMTRAK Bn Detachment	- 1	- 41
3rd Tank Bn Detachment	- 1	- 25
3rd Engineering Bn Detachment	- 1	- 16
Headquarters and Service Company 2/9	- 1	- 56
UDT Detachment	- 1	- 9

Equipment

Quantity

Vehicles

92

Cargo

404 Short Ton

Battalion Landing Team 3/9

Units

"K" Company 3/9	Officers - 6	Enlisted - 144
"L" Company 3/9	- 6	- 144
"W" Battery 2/12	- 4	- 75
1st AMTRAK Bn Detachment	- 1	- 44
3rd Medical Bn Detachment	- 1	- 22
3rd Engineering Bn Detachment	- 1	- 39
Headquarters and Service Company 3/9	- 1	- 8
"F" Battery 2/12 Detachment	- 2	- 8
UDT Detachment	- 2	- 7

Equipment

Quantity

Vehicles

85

Operation Golden Dragon Supplement to BIL 3/9

MEB Units

Headquarters Battery 12th Marine	Officer - 9	Enlisted - 52
Headquarters Company 11th MEB	- 12	- 8
Marine Air Support Squadron 2, 1st Marine Wing	- 2	- 0
17th Interogation/Translation Team, 3rd Marine Div.-	2	- 3
Tactical Exercise Coordinator 11th MEB	- 4	- 35
Korean Troops Loaded 18 APR	- 12	- 37

Vehicles

13

Keystone Bluejay Load

Personnel Loaded in Danang

Officer	38
Enlisted	466

Personnel Loaded In Okinawa

Officer	1
Enlisted	10

Equipment Loaded in Danang

LVT	33
CH 53 Aircraft	2
Other Vehicles	70
Total Cargo Weight (Including Palletized Cargo not shown above)	28 Short Tons
Conex Boxes Loaded in Okinawa	17

Keystone Robin Load of Retrograde Material

Vehicles	168
Cargo and Aircraft	226 Short Ton
YFU Offloaded in Subic Bay	1
LCU Loaded in Subic Bay	1
Vehicles Offloaded in Pearl Harbor	28
Vehicles Loaded in Pearl Harbor	5
Aircraft Offloaded in Pearl Harbor	2 CH-34

Keystone Robin (ALFA) Load

Personnel	Officer	Enlisted
Loaded in Danang	1	17
Loaded in Subic Bay	1	13
Offloaded in Pearl Harbor	1	15
Equipment		Quantity
Vehicles Loaded in Danang		129
Cargo Loaded in Danang	391 Short Ton or 4322 Measurement Ton	
Boats Loaded in Subic Bay		3 LCM-6
Vehicles Offloaded in Pearl Harbor		26

Project Handclasp Materials

Ice Cream Mix	41,800 lb
Books and Paper	54,410 lb
Men's Khakis	1,380 lb
Soap Bars	56,500 lb
Drinking Glasses	2 Pallets
Shock Cord	2 Pallets
Yarn	2 Pallets
Ceiling Tile	4 Pallets
Clothing	1,500 lb
Toys and Sport Equipment	3,700 lb
Beds and Mattresses	23,939 lb
Carnation Liquid Slender	11,606 lb