

ORIGINAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS AUSTIN (LPD 4)
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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9 March 1972

From: Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD 4)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 09B9)

Subj: Command History 1 January - 31 December 1971 Supplement

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) 1971 Command History Supplement

1971

1. In compliance with reference (a), the 1971 Command History Supplement is forwarded herein as enclosure (1).


W. S. GUTHRIE

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Command History - 1971 Supplement

I. Chronology of Outstanding Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 January	Continued deployment with Amphibious Squadron TWO on Med 3-70
6 Jan - 9 Jan	Embarked ASW helicopters for exercises with CTF 60.2 in the Western Mediterranean
12 Jan - 23 Jan	Conducted amphibious landing exercises at Aranci Bay, Sardinia
9 February	Conducted beach survey of Milos, Greece for future amphibious exercises.
11 Feb - 14 Feb	Conducted amphibious landing exercises with the Hellenic Navy and Marines at Navplion, Greece
15 Feb - 17 Feb	Embarked ASW helicopters from HS-3 for Exercise National Week VIII with CTF 60.1 in the Ionian Sea
17 February	HS-3 helo Bureau #156503 made a hard landing on Spot One. The tail wheel strut collapsed and extensive frame and skin wrinkling in the pylon area was noted. There were no personnel injuries. It was the first faulty landing on board after 6,308 accident free landings.
27 Feb - 2 Mar	Continued amphibious exercises at Navplion, Greece
23 Mar - 27 Mar	Conducted amphibious landing exercises at Carboneras, Spain
22 Apr - 6 May	Captain R. S. VERMILYA, USN departed the ship on TAD orders for the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. CDR C. A. WINTERS, Executive Officer, assumed acting command
6 May	Arrived Morehead City, North Carolina to offload elements of BLT 3/8
7 May	Arrive Norfolk, Virginia

Enclosure (1) to LPD4 ltr ser 148 of 9 March 1972

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
14 July	Conducted Apollo 15 space craft recovery exercises in the Virginia Capes Operating Area.
23 Jul - 27 Jul	Acted as the Atlantic prime recovery ship for the Apollo 15 Spacecraft launch
28 Jul	USS AUSTIN awarded a second consecutive Battle Efficiency Award plus departmental excellence awards in Amphibious Assault (gold fifth consecutive), Air (gold fifth consecutive), Engineering (gold third consecutive), Operations (third consecutive), Supply (third consecutive), Communications (second award).
30 Jul	Captain William S. GUTHRIE, USN relieved Captain Robert S. VERMILYA, USN as Commanding Officer
2 Aug - 13 Aug	Conducted minecounter measures exercises with HM-12 and the staff of Commander Mobile Mine Counter Measures Command in the Charleston Operating Area.
23 Aug - 27 Aug	Conducted type training with Amphibious Squadron TWO in the Virginia Capes Operating Area
13 Sep - 12 Oct	Commander Amphibious Squadron EIGHT broke his flag in this ship
14 September	Commander Amphibious Group TWO presented this ship the Amphibious Force Best Mess Award and the Ney Competition Second Place Award for Large Mess Afloat.
20 Sep - 24 Sep	Conducted amphibous vehicle exercises off Onslow Beach, North Carolina
12 Oct - 15 Oct	Conducted type training with Amphibious Squadron TWO in the Virginia Capes Operating Area
20 Oct - 22 Oct	Conducted amphibious exercise BASCOLEX 6-71 at Onslow Beach, North Carolina
27 October	Held Dependent's Day cruise

4. Special Topics

a. Flight time: Missions: 585 missions including 130 vertical replenishments using H-46, UH-2, H-3 and H-53 helicopters.

b. Ammo expenditure: 481 rounds of 3"/50 caliber ammunition were expended on air shoots; 263 on surface shoots.

c. Troops carried - Med 3-70: 647 Marine Officers & Troops

d. Number of Unrep - 4 complete vertical replenishments while deployed in the Mediterranean.

e. Development of Tactics - Continued the development of the underway launch of tank landing vehicles conducting three such launches during the year.

USS AUSTIN also operated with SH-3 ASW helicopters during two ASW exercises in the Mediterranean testing various ways to use an LPD as an ASW helo platform.

USS AUSTIN operated with H-53 helicopters on two mine counter measure exercises developing newer methods of using the LPD as an advance force ship in an amphibious assault.

f. Manning level of total enlisted personnel on board remained at or near 100% while deployed in the Mediterranean although the leader paygrades (E-5 and above) remained in a personnel casualty report status for various rates especially machinist mates and damage controlmen. Since returning from the deployment, the overall manning level dipped to 85 - 90% with the leader paygrades still critical.

g. Awards/Commendations: USS AUSTIN was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation as a participant in the 1967 Apollo 4 space mission. Other ship's awards are noted in Section I in chronology.

h. Notable "Firsts": First Atlantic Fleet LPD to embark SH-3 helicopters and participate as an ASW helo platform with a carrier task force during two separate live exercises.

i. Press Relations: USS AUSTIN appeared in picture and print in various Norfolk newspapers as well as one television and two radio programs. The ship received notoriety in various Naval newspapers and magazines. The ship also served as a platform for the RCA, Incorporated filming a new ship's internal communications system presently planned for installation on the new LHAs.

III. Documentary Annexes

A. Roster of Officers and assigned billets as of 31 December 1971.

CAPT William S. GUTHRIE, USN	Commanding Officer
CDR Wallace R. HUNTER, USN	Executive Officer
LCDR [REDACTED], USN	Engineer Officer
LCDR [REDACTED], USN	Air Officer
LCDR [REDACTED], USN	Operations Officer
LCDR [REDACTED], CHC, USN	Chaplain
LT [REDACTED], SC, USN	Supply Officer
LT [REDACTED], USN	First Lieutenant
CAPT [REDACTED], USMC	Combat Cargo Officer
LT [REDACTED], MC, USNR	Medical Officer
LT [REDACTED], DC, USNR	Dental Officer
LT [REDACTED], USNR	Navigator
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR	Flight Deck Officer
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	CIC Officer
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR	Gunnery Officer
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR	Communications Officer
LTJG [REDACTED], SC, USN	Assistant Supply Officer
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR	Main Propulsion Assistant
ENS [REDACTED], USN	First Division Officer
ENS [REDACTED], SC, USN	Disbursing Officer
ENS [REDACTED], USNR	Second Division Officer
ENS [REDACTED], USNR	Main Engines Officer
CWO-3 [REDACTED], USN	Electronics Material Officer
CWO-2 [REDACTED], USN	Damage Control Assistant
WO-1 [REDACTED], USN	Electrical Officer
WO-1 [REDACTED], USN	Ship's Boatswain

B. Biography and picture of Captain William S. GUTHRIE, USN, attached.