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USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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CHAP:RED:rrt
5700
Ser: c277
14 MAY 1976

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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 75 to 31 DEC 75.

1. (U) In compliance with reference (a), the history of USS
DUBUQUE (LPD-8) for period 1 January 1975 to 31 December 1975
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 1975 - 27 May 1975
Captain Roy W. McLAIN, Jr., USN, [REDACTED]

28 May 1975 - 31 December 1975
Captain Andrew C. FERGUSON, USN, [REDACTED]

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

HMM-165 Helo Detachment	1 JAN - 7 MAY
EODGRUONE Swimmers	8 - 10 JAN
1st Marine Division	30 MARCH - 7 MAY
BLT 1/9 Marines	4 - 7 MAY
BLT 1/3 Marines	7 - 19 MAY
Royal Canadian Sea Cadets	29 JUNE - 12 JULY
2nd Battalion, 14th Marines,	
4th Division	30 JUNE - 3 JULY
BLT 3/5, 1st Division	29 AUGUST - 3 OCT
2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry,	
U. S. Army	21 - 24 OCT

CLASSIFIED BY: COMMANDING
OFFICER USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR
INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1981

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CHRONOLOGY OF USS DUBUQUE'S MOVEMENTS
1 JAN TO 31 DEC 75

01 JAN 75

Ship underway from Rivera Pier Subic Bay, P.I. for Kwajalein

17 JAN

0942 Ship moored Yokosuka, Japan Piedmont Pier, Berth 3 starboard.

23 JAN

1617 Ship underway for Numazu, Japan.

24 JAN

0725 Ship anchored Numazu, Japan.

1823 Ship underway for Hong Kong.

29 JAN

1614 Ship moored at Buoy #2, Hong Kong Harbor, Hong Kong, B.C.C.

03 FEB

0900 Underway for Pohang, S. Korea.

07 FEB

0816 Ship anchored, Pohang Harbor, S. Korea.

09 FEB

0232 Ship underway for Yokosuka, Japan.

11 FEB

0837 Ship moored starboard side to berth 12, Naval Station, Yokosuka.

16 FEB

0924 Underway for Pohang, S. Korea.

18 FEB

1530 Anchored at Pohang, S. Korea.

19 FEB

1837 Underway for local ops.

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20 FEB

0644 Anchored vicinity of Usan.

24 FEB

1227 Ship underway.

26 FEB

1415 Ship moored Starboard side to West Side Navy Pier, White Beach, Okinawa, Japan.

01 MAR

1005 Underway.

04 MAR

0842 Anchored Numazu, Japan for off-loading BLT 3/9.

1557 Underway for Yokosuka, Japan.

05 MAR

0811 Moored pierside Berth #11, Yokosuka, Japan.

06 MAR

0900 Underway.

0933 Anchored in anchorage A-12 Yokosuka, Japan.

07 MAR

0902 Underway.

08 MAR

1000 Dry docked at Dock 5, Yokosuka, Japan.

24 MAR

1400 Left Dry Dock Cold Run.

1427 Moored Berth #3 Yokosuka, Japan.

26 MAR

0734 Underway.

0805 Anchored Anchorage A-12 to load Ammo.

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1458 Underway for Yokosuka, Japan.

1517 Moored Berth #3, Yokosuka, Japan.

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27 MAR

1704 Underway for Okinawa

30 MAR

1157 Anchored at Buckner Bay to on-load Marines 1-4.

1718 Underway for Vietnam.

03 APR

1849 Anchored Phan Rang, Vietnam to take on 80 refugees.

2301 Underway.

06 APR

1533 Anchored at Dao Phu Quoc Island, Gulf of Siam, to take food, medicine to civilian ships loaded with refugees. (4 ships).

10 APR

1511 Underway.

17 APR

0757 Anchored, Subic Bay, R.P.

18 APR

2143 Underway for Vietnam.

27 APR

1643 Ship anchored off Vietnam.

28 APR

0001 Underway.

1648 Ship anchored off Vietnam.

1931 Underway for Dao Phu Quoc.

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04 MAY

1309 Anchored Subic Bay.

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1700 Underway.

1734 Moored Pier Side, Subic Bay.

2225 Underway.

07 MAY

0837 Moored White Beach, Okinawa, Japan.

1806 Underway for Iwakuni, Japan.

09 MAY

0829 Anchored Iwakuni, Japan.

10 MAY

0659 Underway for Pearl Harbor

19 MAY

0918 Moored Pier M3, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

21 MAY

0900 Underway for San Diego.

28 MAY

1015 Moored Pier 6, San Diego Ca.

11 JUN

0800 Underway for Pier 8.

1032 Moored Pier 8.

30 JUN

0935 Underway for local ops.

1730 Anchored San Clemente (Wilson Cove)

2217 Underway.

01 JUL

0919 Anchored off Camp Pendleton.

1718 Underway.

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02 JUL

1536 Anchored San Clemente (Wilson Cove).

2105 Underway for San Diego.

03 JUL

1353 Moored Broadway Pier, San Diego, CA.

07 JUL

0951 Underway.

1118 Moored Pier 6, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

28 JUL

0757 Underway for local ops.

31 JUL

0714 Anchored.

1234 Anchor aweigh.

1410 Moored Pier 6, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

01 AUG

0945 Underway for dependent's cruise.

1300 Anchored.

1347 Underway.

1527 Moored Pier 6, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

02 SEP

0829 Underway for Alaska.

09 SEP

1558 Anchored off Montague Island, Alaska.

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13 SEP

1824 Underway.

14 SEP

1427 Anchored off Montague Island, Alaska.

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15 SEP

0555 Underway.
0922 Anchored off Montague Island, Alaska.
1800 Underway.
2117 Anchored off Montague Island, Alaska.

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16 SEP

1600 Underway.

18 SEP

0913 Anchored.
1322 Underway.
1704 Moored Anchorage, Alaska.

21 SEP

0537 Underway for San Francisco, CA.

27 SEP

0804 Moored Pier 5, NSC, Oakland, CA

01 OCT

1335 Underway for Ecology Tour of Bay.
1626 Moored NSC Oakland.
1702 Underway for San Diego, CA.

03 OCT

1220 Moored Pier 6, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

20 OCT

0504 Underway for local ops with U.S. Army.
1119 Anchor Seal Beach for off-load of ammo.
2018 Underway.

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21 OCT

0704 Anchored Coronado Roads.

23 OCT

0954 Underway.

24 OCT

0548 Anchored at Del Mar, Camp Pendleton.

1046 Underway.

1507 Moored Pier 6, South, Naval Station, San Diego.

06 NOV

0916 Underway cold to change positions.

0952 Moored Pier 6, South, Naval Station, San Diego.

14 NOV

0830 Underway cold to Pier 6 North.

0950 Moored Pier 6, North, Naval Station, San Diego.

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b. Summary of Operations.

At the beginning of the year DUBUQUE was in Subic Bay, R.P. On 1 January 1975, DUBUQUE left Subic Bay with CH-46 helos and HMM-165 on board at 1122 enroute to Kwajelein in order to engage in DUBUQUE's special mission "Project Soft". On 9 January DUBUQUE arrived at Kwajelein, where Project Soft was accomplished in fine style on 10 January. The teamwork of the EODGRUONE swimmers and HMM-165 helicopters with DUBUQUE's support was a total success in the recovery of the missile.

Having completed our mission, DUBUQUE was now enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. On 17 January, DUBUQUE arrived in Yokosuka for upkeep and repair. On 23 January, DUBUQUE was underway for Numazu, Japan to embark BLT 1/9. Having embarked BLT 1/9 on 24 January, DUBUQUE was now enroute to Hong Kong for rest and recreation. DUBUQUE arrived in Hong Kong on the evening of 29 January and was in port until the morning of 3 February, when she got underway for Pohang, South Korea.

After a four day transit, DUBUQUE arrived in Pohang on 7 February, debarking BLT 1/9. On 9 February DUBUQUE was underway for Yokosuka, Japan where she arrived two days later on 11 February to continue ship maintenance. DUBUQUE got underway on 16 February for Pohang, where she anchored on 18 February and backloaded BLT 1/9. Amphibious Ready Group Bravo, **consisting** of USS DURHAM, USS FREDERICK and USS DUBUQUE, began conducting BLTEX 2-75. The exercise was completed on 24 February and all units were on their way to Okinawa.

DUBUQUE arrived at White Beach, Okinawa and debarked BLT 1/9 on 26 February. BLT 3/9 embarked DUBUQUE on 27 February. 1 March DUBUQUE was underway for Numazu, Japan and arrived on 4 March to offload BLT 3/9. The afternoon of 4 March DUBUQUE was underway for Yokosuka, Japan, and arrived on 5 March in the morning. On 6 March DUBUQUE was underway for anchorage A-12 Yokosuka to offload ammunition in preparation for going into drydock. On 8 March at 1000 DUBUQUE entered dry dock 5, Yokosuka, for repairs. On 24 March DUBUQUE was moved from dry dock and moored at Berth 3.

DUBUQUE left on 26 March for anchorage A-12 to load ammunition and returned to Berth 3 that evening. On 27 March DUBUQUE received orders to leave Yokosuka and steam for Okinawa. DUBUQUE arrived 30 March and anchored in Bucker Bay and loaded 1st Marines, 4th Division and HMM-165.

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The evening of 30 March DUBUQUE was underway for Okinawa to take on Marines and supplies. We arrived in Okinawa on 31 March and embarked Marines from HMM-165 and 1st Marines 4th Division. Late evening DUBUQUE was underway for Vietnam. DUBUQUE anchored at Phan Rang, Vietnam on 3 April and took on 80 refugees. On the same day we were underway for Dao Phu Quoc to assist four civilian ships loaded with refugees. We arrived on 6 April and commenced aiding the ships with food, medicine, water, and Marine guards. On 10 April we were underway and received orders to go to Subic Bay, R.P. We arrived in Subic on the morning of 17 April and were immediately placed on a 4 hour standby for returning to Vietnam. On 18 April we left Subic Bay for Vietnam.

We arrived in Vietnam on 21 April to aid in the evacuation of Saigon. On 28 April we were given a special mission which took us back to Dao Phu Quoc, to assist helicopters leaving country by refueling them.

1 May ship was underway for Subic Bay, R.P., arriving there on 4 May and leaving for Okinawa the same day after embarking BLT 1/9 Marines. Having arrived 7 May at White Beach, Okinawa we off loaded BLT 1/9 and embarked BLT 1/3. We were underway that evening for Iwakuni, Japan and arrived there on 9 May. The next morning we were underway for Pearl Harbor and arrived there 19 May and off loaded BLT 1/3. On 21 May we were underway for San Diego.

On 27 May 1975 Captain Roy W. McLain, Jr., USN, was relieved of command by Captain Andrew C. Ferguson, USN, in ceremonies on board USS DUBUQUE. Remarks and reading of orders were delivered by Captain Robert N. Congdon, USN, COMPHIBRON ONE, Guest Speaker.

On 28 May at 1015 DUBUQUE was greeted at her home port, Naval Station, San Diego at Pier 6 by family and friends. Thus ended a 7 1/2 month deployment.

The month of June DUBUQUE was in a standown status. On 30 June we were underway for local operations with 2nd Bn., 14 Marines, 4th Division and 51 Royal Canadian Sea Cadets embarked. DUBUQUE arrived back in San Diego on 3 July and moored at the Broadway Pier for open house over the 4th of July weekend. On 7 July, DUBUQUE moved to pier 6 at the Naval Station and began an upkeep period. On 28 July, DUBUQUE was underway for 3 days of local ops. A dependents cruise was conducted on 1 August and the ship returned to port and continued the upkeep period.

On 29 August, BLT 3/5, 1st MARDIV embarked DUBUQUE. On 2 September at 0829 DUBUQUE was underway for Alaska. DUBUQUE anchored off Montague Island, Alaska for cold-weather amphibious exercises. On the 18th of September we arrived in Anchorage, Alaska for a 2 day port visit. Leaving Anchorage on the 21st we arrived in Oakland, CA on the 27th.

October 1st DUBUQUE was underway for her home port and arrived in San Diego on the 3rd. During the month of October, DUBUQUE was in an upkeep period with the exception of local operations with the U.S. Army. DUBUQUE returned to homeport on 24 October for upkeep. The month of November and December, DUBUQUE was in a yard period at her home port.

c. Special Topics

(1) Distinguished Visitors

- 5 February - RADM Donald B. Whitmire, USN, COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT
- 7 February - RADM Donald B. Whitmire, USN, COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT
- 15 March - RADM Donald B. Whitmire, USN, COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT
- 28 August - His Honor the Mayor of Dubuque, Iowa

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(2) Congratulatory Messages

From the Commander, Kwajalein Missile Range on 14 January: "The Commander, Kwajalein Missile Range, extends his congratulations to the officers and men of the USS DUBUQUE and attached forces for successful recovery of the Project Soft payload. All interfaces between recovery forces and the range were handled in a highly responsive manner, contributing significantly to efficient accomplishment of our respective missions.

From VADM SALZER, COMPHIBPAC; on 14 January: "The professional performance of DUBUQUE and embarked units in achieving a successful conclusion to Project Soft is noted with pleasure. I particularly admired the straight forward manner in which you met and overcame the series of unforeseen problems which complicated your mission. Extend my personal well done to all hands."

From COMSEVENTHFLT on 30 April: "Again, warm thanks for your extraordinary effort today. It was a first class professional job. We all share equally in this high praise and appreciation from the Secretary of Defense. Quote - Once again it is my privilege to congratulate you and the men and women of your command for your continuous and exhausting efforts in the evacuation of personnel from South Vietnam during the past twenty four hours. Again, as in the evacuation from Phnom Penh, the world has witnessed the professionalism and dedication of America's military forces in executing a most difficult operation. The performance of people under your command is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces and reflects great credit on them, on the Pacific Command, and on the Department of Defense. Please extend to your entire command our appreciation for another job well done - Unquote.

From COMSEVENTHFLT on 30 April: "Execution of Operation Frequent Wind is a tribute to the courage, professionalism, and devotion to duty of the air crews, ground security forces, ship's companies and support personnel who participated. This final humanitarian action, culminating a long military commitment in Southeast Asia, was accomplished under the most demanding circumstances. Please convey my personal appreciation and admiration to those who executed this successful operation". George S. Brown, General, USAF, Chairman, JCS.

From COMSEVENTHFLT on 01 May: "The evacuation of U.S. citizens, together with Vietnamese and others, from Vietnam just completed was accomplished with untold numbers of individual acts of valor. Those officers and men committed to or supporting the operation who were not personally subjected to danger displayed a uniformly high standard of dedication and professionalism. The Navy-Marine Corps team once again gave a superb performance under fire in the most gruelling and exhausting circumstances. My hat is off to all of you. Thank you and well done. Vice Admiral George P. Steele, USN, Commander, Seventh Fleet.

From ADM Noel GAYLER, USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, on 01 May: "The job was uncertain, unprecedented, dangerous beyond measure. It demanded the last ounce of endurance and fortitude and savvy, and you gave it that and more. To the exhausted but tireless aircrews, ground crews, and deck crews-ships and bases all credit. The rescue was a tremendous and joint enterprise, under the most difficult conditions. Performance of all hands was superb. WELL DONE."

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From James R. SCHLESINGER, Secretary of Defense on 01 May: "As the last withdrawal of Americans from Vietnam takes place, it is my special responsibility to address to you, the men and women of our Armed Forces, a few words of appreciation on behalf of the American people. For many of you, the tragedy of Southeast Asia is more than a distant and abstract event. You have fought there; you have lost comrades there; you have suffered there. In this hour of pain and reflection you may feel that your efforts and sacrifices have gone for naught. That is not the case. When the passions have muted and the history is written, Americans will recall that their Armed Forces served them well. Under circumstances more difficult than ever before faced by our military services, you accomplished the mission assigned to you by higher authority. In combat you were victorious and you left the field with honor. Though you have done all that was asked of you, it will be stated that the war itself was futile. In some sense such may be said of any national effort that ultimately fails. Yet our involvement was not purposeless. It was intended to assist a small nation to preserve its independence in the face of external attack and to provide at least a reasonable chance to survive. That Vietnam succumbed to powerful external forces vitiates neither the explicit purpose behind our involvement - nor the impulse of generosity toward those under attack that has long infused American policy. Our record of duty performed under difficult conditions remains unmatched. I salute you for it. Beyond any question you are entitled to the nation's respect, admiration and gratitude."

From RADM Donald E. Whitmire, USN, COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT on 01 May: "As the South Vietnamese refugee evacuation operations draw to a close temporarily and we prepare for the next operation, I wish to commend each of the Officers and men of DUBUQUE for the vital role played in these operations. You sailed from Yokosuka on short notice and arrived in Okinawa just in time to conduct a quick loadout and sail for Vietnamese waters. You were then assigned as on-scene coordinator for the refugee offload operations at Phu Quoc island. This was a most demanding and challenging assignment which you tackled with the determination and vigor that has typified every job DUBUQUE has undertaken. During the offload of refugees at Phu Quoc Island, DUBUQUE sailors unflinchingly gave of their time and energy to provide food, water and medical supplies to some 35,000 refugees crammed into the crowded holds of four MSC ships. Your tireless efforts, which were often accomplished at personal risk, provided a significant degree of much-needed relief for thousands of suffering refugees. Your actions were truly humanitarian and embodied the utmost in personal sacrifice and professionalism. You have distinguished yourselves and your ship in the finest manner. I heartily congratulate you for your superb performance. Well done and keep charging."

Andrew C. Ferguson
ANDREW C. FERGUSON

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