



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
 USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
 FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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 Ser: C 2

MAR 27 1978

From: Commanding Officer, USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
 To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History; submission of (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology of USS DUBUQUE's Movements during period
 1 January 1977 to 31 December 1977

1. (U) In compliance with reference (a), the history of USS
 DUBUQUE (LPD-8) for period 1 January 1977 to 31 December 1977
 is hereby submitted.

2. (C) Basic History.

a. (U) Command Organization.

(1) During this period, USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) served as a
 unit of Amphibious Squadron ONE. The following officers com-
 manded the ship:

(a) 1 January 1977 to 4 March 1977
 Captain Andrew C. FERGUSON, USN,

(b) 4 March 1977 to 31 December 1977
 Captain David E. SIGSWORTH, USN,

(2) Designation of Units Assigned. The following units
 were embarked in USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8):

(a) 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines	1 JAN - 1 FEB
(b) ACU-1/BMU-1 Seabees	1 JAN - 9 APR
(c) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines	1 FEB - 5 FEB
(d) 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines	5 FEB - 10 FEB
(e) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines	18 FEB - 4 MAR
(f) AMCM Unit Alfa	4 MAR - 8 APR
(g) COM 31 MAU	29 MAR - 1 APR
(h) 31st MAU	29 MAR - 1 APR
(i) COMPHIBRON ONE/CTG 76.4	29 MAR - 1 APR
(j) 1st Battalion, 9th Marines	14 APR - 23 APR

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SUBJECT TO ANNUAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE ON REGULATIONS OPNAV 11652
 AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED AT TWO YEAR
 INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1984

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(k) 27 Midshipmen
(l) COMPHIBRON ONE
(m) COMPHIBRON THREE

4 JUN - 8 JUL
1 MAY - 18 JUN
1 JUL - 27 JUL
31 JUL - 3 AUG

(3) Commanding Officer, USS DUBUQUE was assigned additional duties as CTG 76.5, 1 JAN 77 - 30 APR 77.

b. (C) Summary of Operations. On 1 January 1977 DUBUQUE was moored at U. S. Naval Station, Yokosuka, Japan for the Holiday Season and an upkeep period. On 8 January she got underway for Hong Kong via Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.

Upon departing Okinawa CO DUBUQUE assumed OTC of a transit group composed of USS DUBUQUE and USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) and both ships entered Hong Kong on 14 January for a 5 day visit. On 17 January 1977, during the port visit, SN Joseph Lee BURTON died on board from an apparent overdose of drugs. Rear Admiral James MORRIS, CTF 76/COMPHIBFORWESTPAC, came on board following this incident and addressed the entire crew to express his concern for the well being of personnel assigned to his forces and to emphasize the drug problem.

Departing Hong Kong on 19 January, DUBUQUE was OTC for a silent transit with the USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) and USS RACINE (LST-1191) to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, arriving on 21 January. During the next few days DUBUQUE enjoyed a brief upkeep period before proceeding to White Beach, Okinawa on 29 January.

On 30 January, in transit from Subic Bay to Okinawa, Japan, DUBUQUE lost propulsive power while steaming on one boiler due to loss of a main feed pump. Soon after becoming dead in the water she began taking heavy rolls due to high winds and moderate to heavy seas. LCU-1629 and LARK 965 were secured in the well deck. Due to the heavy rolling action of DUBUQUE these craft broke their lashings and began to shift from side to side. As a result of this action the LARK was severely damaged causing it to be surveyed. LCU-1629 was damaged and subsequently repaired by DUBUQUE's HT's. A fuel tank on DUBUQUE's port side was ruptured and there was a loss of some 50 thousand gallons of ND fuel. Propulsion power was regained after about 90 minutes and the transit was resumed.

BLT 2/9, on board since 24 November 1976, debarked on 1 February and BLT 1/9 embarked for transportation to Subic Bay. On 5 February BLT 1/9 was offloaded in Subic Bay. BLT 2/4 immediately embarked and DUBUQUE departed Subic Bay on the 7th, arriving in Okinawa on 10 February. This time, instead of loading marines, DUBUQUE picked up a damaged CH-53 for transportation to NAS Cubi Point arriving on 14 February for a one week upkeep period.

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For BLTEX 2-77 CO DUBUQUE was again designated OTC. In preparation for this exercise, BLT 1/9 embarked DUBUQUE on 18 February. The morning following CTF 76's arrival, DUBUQUE got underway in company with the USS DURHAM (LKA-114) and USS RACINE (LST-1191) for Botolan Point, R.P.. Arriving in the exercise area these units rendezvoused with units of the Philippine Navy at sea. During this exercise DUBUQUE had many visitors including COMSEVENTHFLT, CG 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, and the CNO of the Philippine Navy who observed the exercise assault. The exercise consisted of a variety of combined US/Philippine seamanship exercises, combined amphibious assault and operations ashore with joint air support. On 27 February, DUBUQUE proceeded to Manila for a well deserved rest.

After four days in Manila an underway Change of Command ceremony was conducted just off Corrigador Island. CAPT David E. SIGSWORTH, USN relieved CAPT FERGUSON as Commanding Officer of the ship. COMPHIBRON ONE, Captain R.N. CONGDON, USN officiated the ceremony and together with Captain FERGUSON departed by helicopter at its conclusion. The ship arrived in Subic Bay later that afternoon and BLT 1/9 offloaded.

The period 5-16 March was spent conducting Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) workup exercises with AMCM Unit Alpha, consisting of MCMU Alpha and HMM-11 Det ONE. The exercises were conducted at anchor and underway in the vicinity of Subic Bay, R.P. At the conclusion of the AMCM workup DUBUQUE departed on 19 March for Pusan, South Korea. The crew enjoyed a two day port visit and then continued to Pohang, South Korea for joint mine countermeasures operations with the Korean Navy. Because of difficulties experienced by the USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), DUBUQUE, in company with the USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2), steamed to Sasebo, Japan on 29 March. There DUBUQUE embarked CTG 76.4 (COMPHIBRON ONE) and units of 31st MAU and their equipment and returned to Pohang on 31 March to participate as flagship for the amphibious assault in TEAM SPIRIT 77. Commander, U.S. Forces Korea and COMSEVENTHFLT visited on 2 April to observe the amphibious operations and remained overnight. After the arrival of USS OKINAWA on 3 April, CTG 76.4 and staff debarked and DUBUQUE departed for Subic Bay. Twenty five continuous hours of flight deck operations were conducted during the landing exercise and DUBUQUE conducted her 8000th landing since commissioning. The AMCM unit departed upon arrival in Subic Bay on 4 April.

8-18 April was spent in upkeep in Subic Bay. BLT 1/9 embarked 18 April and the ship departed for Numazu, Japan, arriving on 23 April. BLT 1/9 was offloaded and the ship departed in the early evening of the same day for Chin Wan Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Upon arrival at Chin Wan Bay on 26 April, the

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loading of USMC tanks scheduled for opportune lift to CONUS commenced. The ship sailed for Subic Bay, R.P. early that evening. DUBUQUE arrived in Subic Bay on the morning of 29 April. After anchoring to offload the oplift tanks for cleanup DUBUQUE shifted to Leyte Pier where 13 aircraft of CVW-5 were loaded on the flight deck for opportune lift to CONUS. USS JUNEAU (LPD-10) relieved DUBUQUE of duties as CTG 76.5 on 30 April and the oplift tanks were reembarked. COMPHIBRON ONE shifted his flag to DUBUQUE on 1 May.

DUBUQUE sailed from Subic Bay enroute to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii via the San Bernardino Straits on 2 May. Sailing in company were other units of TF 76.1.4, USS DURHAM (LKA-114) and USS RACINE (LST-1191) under the tactical command of COMPHIBRON ONE. The ship arrived in Pearl Harbor on 14 May to refuel and embark 68 male guests (8 to 80 years old) of crew members for the "TIGER CRUISE". DUBUQUE departed Pearl Harbor on 15 May under the tactical command of CTG 36.9.6 (COMPHIBRON ONE) in company with USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2), USS DURHAM (LKA-114), USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35), USS RACINE (LST-1191), and USS SAN BERNARDINO (LST-1189). Various demonstration exercises were conducted for embarked guests while enroute to San Diego.

DUBUQUE arrived in San Diego, California on 21 May 1977 and commenced an upkeep period which was completed 19 June. COMPHIBRON ONE debarked 18 June 1977. On 20 June the ship got underway to participate in COMBATSYSEX 1-77 in Coronado Roads off San Diego. Due to an engineering casualty, the ship returned to San Diego for repairs on 21 June. Repairs completed, the ship sailed again on 24 June to participate in READIEX 4-77. Upon returning to San Diego on 1 July COMPHIBRON ONE reembarked. During July 1977 USS DUBUQUE was in upkeep and tender availability with DATC and USS PRAIRIE (AD-15) respectively and assigned to Task Group 36.2. On 27 July COMPHIBRON ONE debarked and on 31 July COMPHIBRON THREE embarked. After one day of local ops on 1 August, the USS DUBUQUE participated in PHIBLEX EASTPAC E1-77 named PALMTREE 6-77 for two days. Completing his assignment, COMPHIBRON THREE debarked on 3 August. Later in the month (15-17 August) DUBUQUE participated in PHIBLEX E2-77.

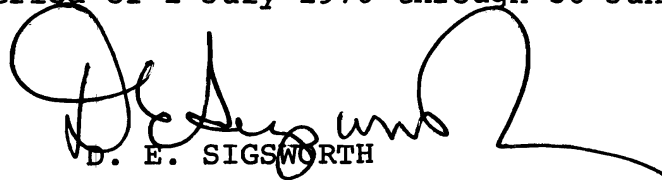
On 18 August ammunition was offloaded at Seal Beach, California in preparation for regular overhaul in Portland, Oregon. She returned to San Diego on 19 August, remaining there until departing for Bremerton, Washington on 6 September. During this inport period the Change of Command Ceremony for COMPHIBRON ONE was held onboard on 20 August and the Pacific Fleet Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) conducted a three day OPPE Monitor Visit. On 31 August the Master Chief of the Command for SURFPAC made a visit to the ship. In Bremerton, on 10 September, the DUBUQUE debarked her SOAP team and proceeded to Portland where she arrived for overhaul on 13 September. Homeport was shifted to Portland,

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Oregon effective 14 September. DUBUQUE remained in Portland through the 31st of December 1977, entering drydock on 2 October and leaving drydock on 22 October. On 16 December Captain SIGSWORTH presented the fifth consecutive Air "E" award to the Air Department for the period of 1 July 1976 through 30 June 1977.


D. E. SIGSWORTH

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CHRONOLOGY OF USS DUBUQUE'S MOVEMENTS DURING PERIOD
1 JANUARY 1977 TO 31 DECEMBER 1977

1 January		Moored U.S. Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan
8 January	1500	Underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan
11 January	0905	Moored at Navy Pier Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan
11 January	1209	Underway from Okinawa to Hong Kong, BCCO USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) in company.
14 January	1024	Moored to Buoy A35 Hong Kong Harbor
19 January	1114	Underway for Subic Bay, R.P., in company with USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) and USS RACINE (LST-1191)
21 January	0936	Anchored in Subic Bay, R.P. Commenced SDV operations.
23 January	1021	Underway shifting from anchorage to Leyte Pier USNAS Cubi Point, Subic Bay, R.P.
	1114	Moored Leyte Pier, USNAS Cubi Point, R.P.
29 January	0913	Underway for Ora Wan Bay, Okinawa, Japan
1 February	0442	Anchored in Ora Wan Bay, Okinawa, Japan
	0918	Underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan
	1203	Moored Navy Pier, White Beach, Okinawa, Japan
2 February	1527	Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.
5 February	1140	Moored Leyte Pier USNAS Cubi Point, R.P.
7 February	0750	Underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan

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10 February	0852	Moored at Navy Pier White Beach, Okinawa, Japan
	1431	Underway for the vicinity of Camp Hamby, Okinawa, Japan
	1948	Anchored in the vicinity of Camp Hamby, Okinawa, Japan
11 February	0939	Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.
14 February	0749	Anchored in D-5 Subic Bay, R.P.
	1024	Underway shifting to Botan Wharf, Subic Bay, R.P.
	1143	Moored Botan Wharf East Subic Bay, R.P.
21 February	0837	Underway to participate in BLT EX. 2-77
22 February	0310	Anchored off Botolan Point, R.P.
	1901	Underway on local exercise
23 February	0545	Anchored off Botolon Point
24 February	0841	Underway local training, engineering and gunnery drills
25 February	1653	Anchored off Botolan Point, R.P.
26 February	0800	Underway
	1855	Anchored off Botolan Point, R.P.
27 February	1801	Underway for Manila, R.P.
28 February	0901	Moored Pier #15 Manila, R.P.
4 March	0835	Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.
	1452	Moored Leyte Wharf, Subic Bay, R.P.
8 March	1202	Underway for AMCM operations

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9 March 0640 Anchored in Anchorage B-5 Subic Bay
1046 Underway to shift anchorages
1113 Anchored in Anchorage B-18 Subic Bay

13 March 1404 Underway for Rivera Wharf Berths 14 and
15.
1509 Moored Rivera Wharf

15 March 1632 Underway IAW CINCPACFLT OPSCHED
Operating with USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), USS
VANCOUVER (LPD-2), and USS SAN BERNARDINO
(LST-1189)

16 March 1616 Moored Pier RP-11 and 12 SRF Subic Bay

18 March 0830 Underway
1201 Moored Pier RP 11

19 March 0830 Underway
0901 Anchored in Subic Bay
1333 Underway for Pusan Bay, South Korea

23 March 0712 Anchored in Pusan Bay, South Korea
0851 Underway
0930 Moored Berth 11 Pusan, South Korea

25 March 0800 Underway for operations at PoHang,
South Korea

27 March 0611 Anchored PoHang, South Korea

28 March 2009 Underway for PoHang operations area

29 March 0610 Anchored off PoHang, South Korea
1655 Underway for Sasebo, Japan

30 March 0723 Anchored Sasebo, Japan
1731 Underway for PoHang, South Korea

31 March 0920 Anchored in PoHang Harbor, South Korea

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1 April 1010 Underway for AMPHIB OPS
 1124 Anchored
 2303 Underway for AMPHIB OPS

2 April 0119 Anchored

04 April 0334 Underway enroute for Pohang, S. Korea to Subic Bay, R.P.

8 April 1440 Moored Alava Pier, Berth 5, Subic Bay, R.P.

18 April 1603 Underway to Numazu, Japan

23 April 0803 Anchored Numazu, Japan
 1906 Underway for Okinawa, Japan.

26 April 0659 Anchored Chin Wan Bay, Okinawa, Japan
 1851 Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.

29 April 1155 Anchored Subic Bay, R.P.
 1326 Underway
 1358 Moored. Alava Pier, Naval Station, Subic Bay, R.P.

2 May 1602 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

14 May 0824 Moored STBD side Pier H-4 Pearl Harbor, HI. Picked up Tigers.

15 May 0810 Underway for San Diego.

21 May 0844 Moored STBD side Pier 8, San Diego, CA

25 May 0810 Underway from Pier 8 to Pier 6
 0837 Moored STBD side Pier 6

1 June 1350 Underway for Pier 10, San Diego, CA
 1419 Ship is moored STBD side Pier 10, San Diego, CA

20 June 1030 Underway
1322 Anchored at Silver Strand

21 June 1128 Ship is moored STBD side to Pier
10, Berth 5N, San Diego, CA

24 June 1359 Ship's Underway for READIEX 4-77

1 July 0800 Moored Port side to Pier 4, San
Diego, CA

1 August 0947 Underway for local OPS (Southern CA)
1642 Anchored Silver Strand.

2 August 1907 Underway IAW PALMTREE 6-77

3 August 0531 Anchored at White Beach
1239 Underway for San Diego, CA
1729 Moored Pier 4, San Diego, CA

15 August 0924 Underway
1136 Anchored (Southern CA)

16 August 1952 Underway for Southern CA OPS

17 August 0451 Anchored Camp Pendleton
1046 Underway for Seal Beach, CA
1645 Anchored-Long Beach Harbor.

18 August 0614 Underway
0807 Moored Seal Beach, Ammo Pier (AMMO
OFFLOAD)
1739 Underway for San Diego, CA

19 August 0045 Moored Pier 4, San Diego, CA

6 September 1342 Underway for Bremerton, Washington

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10 September	0829	Moored Supply Pier, Bremerton, WASH
12 September	0957	Underway for Portland, OR
13 September	1631	Moored STBE side to Willamette Iron and Steel CO Pier, Portland, OR
2 October	0900	Underway for drydock
	1055	On the blocks in Swan Island, Portland, OR, Dry Dock #3
23 October	1230	Clear of blocks in Drydock #3
	1349	Moored at Willamette Iron & Steel Company Pier, Portland, OR

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