



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO 96666-1730

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser LSD42/295
30 Apr 87

From: Commanding Officer, USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2), Navy Department,
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42) Command History for the period from the
commissioning, 8 February 1986 to 31 December 1986.
(2) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42) Commissioning Book

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.


E. M. KLINE

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC
COMPHIBGRU THREE
COMPHIBRON SEVEN

1. CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF SHIP'S SCHEDULE FROM COMMISSIONING TO DECEMBER 1986.

8 FEB COMMISSIONED USS GERMANTOWN LSD-42
18 FEB MTT/PL/LOE II
18-19 FEB CREW'S CERTIFICATION PHASE I
20 FEB PRE-COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIPBOARD QUALIFICATION TRIAL
25 FEB HOT/COLD CHECKS ON DIESEL PLANT
11-13 MAR LIGHT OF EXAM (LOE) CINCPACFLT INSPECTED LOE
13-14 MAR CREW'S CERTIFICATION PHASE II
18 MAR UNDERWAY FOR FIRST TIME FULLY MANNED
20 MAR FIRST PORT VISIT ESQUIMALT, CANADA
24 MAR UNDERWAY FOR SAN FRANCISCO
28 MAR MOORED PIER 45 FISHERMAN'S WARF, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
29-30 MAR OPEN HOUSE WITH 1992 VISITORS
4 APR UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO
7 APR MOORED SAN DIEGO (ARRIVED HOMEPORT FOR FIRST TIME)
18 APR HOSTED COMNAVSURVPAC (VADM DAVIS), COMPHIBGRU 3 (RADM HIGGINSON) FOR LUNCHEON AND TOUR
19-20 APR BROADWAY PIER VISIT SHIP, 804 VISITORS PLUS 304 RTC RECRUITS VISITED
2 MAY MTT PHASE II
12-23 MAY SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING
25 MAY-13 JUN TAV WITH USS ACADIA
4 JUN USO WORLD BOARD OF GOVERNORS' DINNER
9-13 JUN MTT PHASE II
23 JUN INSURV
24 JUL DC MARATHON
30 JUL MOOR RODMAN CZ
31 JUL TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
6 AUG MOOR NEW ORLEANS, LA
11 AUG UNDERWAY FOR PANAMA CITY, FL
12 AUG MOOR PANAMA CITY, FL
14 AUG EMBARK LCACS (EMBARK COMMANDANT USMC, GEN. P. X. KELLEY, USMC). UNDERWAY SAN DIEGO, CA
18 AUG MOOR CRISTOBAL, CZ
19 AUG TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
29 AUG EMBARK CINCPACFLT
29 AUG MOOR NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
22-24 SEP MTT PHASE III
7 OCT COMMENCE OPPE
14 OCT MOOR SOUTHWEST MARINE FOR POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY (PSA)
14 OCT-13 DEC PSA
14 OCT 3M ASSIST VISIT
22 OCT NAVSEA ILS MEETING
27 OCT COMNAVMECOM MCPOC VISIT
10 NOV SHIPBOARD SAFETY INSPECTION
3 DEC ENGINE TRIALS/NAVSESS EVAL OF PROPULSION PLANT
13 DEC ENTER DRY DOCK
14 DEC NAVSEA/SUPSHIP INSPECTION OF HULL
15 DEC LEAVE DRY DOCK
20 DEC- 5 JAN 87 HOLIDAY UPKEEP AND LEAVE PERIOD

2. COMMAND ORGANIZATION:

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42) is under the command of CDR. Edward M. Kline, USN. GERMANTOWN spent most of 1986 in CINCPACFLT. GERMANTOWN was under CINCLANTFLT from 28 July to 22 August while in transit to Florida. GERMANTOWN was assigned to Commander Amphibious Group Three until 17 October when she was assigned to Amphibious Squadron Seven. GERMANTOWN is homeported in San Diego, California and is named after a historic Pennsylvania district of Germantown. Now a residential section of Philadelphia, Germantown was founded in 1683 and was the site of an important battle of the American War for Independence fought on October 4, 1777 between the forces of General George Washington and General Sir William Howe.

3. MISSION, TASKS AND FUNCTIONS:

a. USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42) is the first ship of the new WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41) class to serve in the Pacific Fleet. Capable of speeds in excess of 20 knots, GERMANTOWN's main propulsion plant consists of four diesel engines, each providing more than 8,500 shaft horse power.

b. The mission of GERMANTOWN is to launch and support assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores. GERMANTOWN is the first ship in the Pacific Fleet to carry the new Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC). The LCAC is an attack hovercraft with the ability to exceed 40 knots while carrying a 60-ton payload. Utilizing this new craft, GERMANTOWN forces will be able to carry out an amphibious attack against a wider range of beaches than previously accessible to conventional landing craft.

c. USS GERMANTOWN accomplishes her mission through the use of her welldeck which is flooded to embark and launch conventional assault craft. LCACs can enter a "dry" welldeck. After exiting the ship, assault craft are directed toward the shore by the ship's Combat Information Center. Two helo landing spots coupled with an air control tower make GERMANTOWN a multi-dimensional threat.

d. GERMANTOWN is equiped with the Navy's latest technology including updated communication and combat systems, 20 and 60-ton cranes, expanded repair shop facilities, two helicopter landing areas, complete medical and dental facilities and an automated computer based supply system.

4. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

USS GERMANTOWN was commissioned on a bright sunny 8 February. RADM J. J. Higginson read the commissioning directive. General P. X. Kelley, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps was principal speaker at the ceremony. Unfortunetley, Mrs. P. X. Kelley, the ship's sponsor, was unable to attend due to poor health. The ceremony, held in the well deck, lasted about one hour and included speeches by RADM L. S. Severance, Jr. USN, COMNAVBASE Seattle; Mr. L. A. Smith, President Lockheed Marine Systems Group; and COL. E. E. Shoults, USMC (RET), Amphibious Ship Aquisistion Project Manager NAVSEA System Command. Such traditions as setting the watch and manning the ship were observed. About 850 persons attended.

Following commissioning, the USS GERMANTOWN entered Post Delivery Availability. The purpose of this yard period was to allow Lockheed to put the finishing touches on the recently commissioned ship and allow GERMANTOWN's crew to complete the final training necessary before getting underway.

February and March saw GERMANTOWN begin an intense series of inspections and tests. Commencing on 13 March were both the CINCPACFLT Light Off Examination and COMPHIBGRU Three Crew Certification (Phase I). Both inspections were highly successful setting a trend that would be maintained throughout the year. Crew Certification (Phase II) was the final test prior to getting underway. A series of "Fast Cruises" proved that the officers and crew of GERMANTOWN were indeed ready to set sail.

One prolonged blast and "Underway, shift colors" were met with hearty cheers as GERMANTOWN's crew fell into quarters for leaving the port of Seattle. After three days at sea during which the ship's radiation patterns were measured GERMANTOWN pulled into her first liberty port of Esquimalt, British Columbia Canada. The host ship for the wonderful four-day stay near Victoria, British Columbia from 20 March to 24 March was HMCS KOOTENAY.

After being out in the open ocean for the first time GERMANTOWN and her crew arrived in San Francisco on 28 March. GERMANTOWN held an open house at Fisherman's Warf during which she had over 1900 visitors in two days. The remainder of GERMANTOWN's visit was spent training her crew; crew members were sent to Naval Station Treasure Island for damage control training.

After leaving San Francisco on 4 April GERMANTOWN was underway for three days with male friends and relatives of the crew embarked for a Tiger Cruise before pulling into her permanent homeport of Naval Station San Diego, California. GERMANTOWN's crew conducted her first flight quarters just prior to pulling into her new homeport. Embarked by helicopter were two television camera crews and a newspaper reporter and a photographer interested in the Navy's newest "Gator". Friends and family were treated to tunes by the local Navy Band while GERMANTOWN moored at pier 12 adorned by a giant lei.

COMNAVSURFPAC, VADM George Davis was also interested in the Pacific Fleet's newest amphibious ship. On 18 April VADM Davis and RADM Higginson, COMPHIBGRU 3 visited GERMANTOWN for lunch and a tour.

From 12 to 23 May GERMANTOWN's crew received some of the most intensive training that they would experience for all of 1986 - Shakedown Refresher Training. GERMANTOWN's crew performed admirably and proved to FTG that they were serious about the challenge set by the ship's motto: "Follow in Our Footsteps".

On June 4 GERMANTOWN and her crew were honored to host The USO World Board of Governors' Annual Dinner. The event, attended by numerous senior officers and 13 flag officers was held to honor San Diegans who had done more than their share to support the USO. The awardees were Alex G. Spanos, Arthur C. Engel, Morris Waxman, and Mrs. Edwin Meese. Other dignitaries that attended the dinner were The Honorable Edwin Meese, the Attorney General of the United States and Bob Hope. The dinner was held in the ship's well deck while GERMANTOWN was moored at Broadway Pier San Diego.

The week of 23 June was highlighted by a successful INSURV overseen by RADM Buckley. This inspection or final contract trials was to determine if Lockheed had provided a good product, which indeed they had.

GERMANTOWN departed on a "mini-deployment" to Panama City, Florida to embark ACU-5 on 17 July. After transiting the Panama Canal, GERMANTOWN sailors became members of the "Order of the Ditch" on 31 July. The ten hour sea and anchor detail seemed shorter due to the fine, though hot, weather and the interesting history of the canal itself.

Due to unforeseen delays in LCAC testing, GERMANTOWN was diverted to New Orleans, LA for a week long visit from 6 to 11 August. While in New Orleans GERMANTOWN sailors participated in various athletic events including a softball game with a local radio station and a 10K run. GERMANTOWN received her berth at the Bienville Street Warf free of charge thanks to tours provided to the public by GERMANTOWN sailors. 850 people attended over a two day open house.

GERMANTOWN got underway on 11 August to receive ACU-5 personnel and cargo in Panama City, FL. After a long two day cargo onload GERMANTOWN got underway again, this time heading home. Immediately outside Panama City harbor GERMANTOWN set condition 1A LCAC for the first time and also embarked her first Marine by LCAC: Gen. P. X. Kelley, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Arriving for an overnight stay in Cristobal, CZ GERMANTOWN was met by a five member U.S. Coast Guard Drug Interdiction Team that stayed with GERMANTOWN until her arrival in San Diego. Just before launching the LCACs and ACU-5 to their permanent homeport at Camp Pendleton, CA GERMANTOWN embarked ADM Lyons, CINCPACFLT for an operational view of the LCACs.

7 October GERMANTOWN underwent her first Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, or OPPE. Due to a previously undetected design flaw discovered during a Loss of Power to Main Machinery Console drill OPPE was terminated. Except for this one unfortunate incident GERMANTOWN's crew performed exceptionally. GERMANTOWN engineers subsequently wrote and submitted to NAVSSES the procedures for controlling the casualty that terminated her OPPE.

14 October saw GERMANTOWN shifting berths from NAVSTA San Diego to Southwest Marine ship yard, San Diego, CA for her 12 week Post Shakedown Availability (PSA). During this yard period work was accomplished to correct INSURV discrepancies and items covered by the Lockheed warranty.

The final phase of the PSA was accomplished in the Naval Station dry dock on 13 December. GERMANTOWN was afloat again on 15 December following her hull inspection that revealed no problems.

On 20 December GERMANTOWN's crew commenced a two-week holiday leave and upkeep period in anticipation of 1987 and GERMANTOWN's rigorous employment schedule for the new year.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**PCO GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)
SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING,
CONVERSION AND REPAIR, USN
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98115-5003**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**5060
29 January 1986**

MEMORANDUM

**From: Prospective Commanding Officer, USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)
To: Office of Information, Attn: LTJG Deware**

Subj: COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF LSD-42

**Encl: (1) GERMANTOWNNOTE 5061 of 27 Jan 86
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography**

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are provided for your information. The commissioning of the USS GERMANTOWN is scheduled for 1000 on 8 February 1986.

2. The point of contact for the commissioning ceremony is LCDR Weiss phone AV 941-3300/COMM (206)526-3300. Should you have any questions or special needs for the ceremony please contact Commander Weiss as soon as possible.


E.M. KLINE