



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO 96666-1730

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Ser LSD42/81

24 February 1989

From: Commanding Officer, USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D CH-1

Encl: (1) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42) Command History for the Period 1 Jan - 31 Dec 87
(2) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42) Command History for the Period 1 Jan - 31 Dec 88
(3) Ship's Photograph

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are hereby forwarded.



T. M. WITTKAMP

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC (N-021)
COMPHIBGRU THREE
COMPHIBRON SEVEN

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)
COMMAND HISTORY
1 JANUARY 1987 - 31 DECEMBER 1987

I. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. Mission - The mission of USS 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) and was, during 1987, the first U. S. Navy ship to deploy with an LCAC detachment. The LCAC is an attack hovercraft with the ability to deliver a 60 ton payload to hostile shores over 40 knots. Utilizing this new craft, GERMANTOWN can carry out an amphibious raid or assault over a much wider range of beaches than previously accessible by conventional landing craft.

b. Ship's Characteristics

Length.....609 feet, 7 inches
Beam.....84 feet
Draft.....19 feet, 2 inches
Well Deck.....440 feet by 50 feet
Ship's Company.....24 Officers, 19 CPO's and 372 Enlisted
Embarked Troops.....25 Officers, 13 SNCO's and 362 Enlisted
Combat Systems.....AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-67 Surface Search Radar
LN-66 Surface Navigation Radar
AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Countermeasures Set
Phalanx Close-in Weapon System
Propulsion.....Four Colt-Pielstick PC2.5V
16 Cylinder Diesel Engines
Two shafts with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP)
Four 1300 KW Ship's Service Diesel Generators

Build by Lockheed Shipbuilding Company, Seattle, Washington

Homeported in San Diego, California, USS GERMANTOWN is named for the 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.

The name Germantown has been borne by one previous U. S. Navy ship, a sloop of war (1847-1864) which performed significant service during the war with Mexico in the Home Squadron under Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry.

c. Organizational Structure - GERMANTOWN is the first LSD 41 class ship in the Pacific Fleet under the operational and administrative organization of Commander, Naval Surface Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Group THREE. While in CONUS, GERMANTOWN's Immediate Superior in Command was Commander, Amphibious Squadron SEVEN, the Readiness Squadron Commander for West Coast LSDs, LSTs and LKAs. While deployed to the Western Pacific, 18 June - 18 December, GERMANTOWN was under the immediate command of Commander, Amphibious Squadron FIVE, one of three deploying West Coast tactical squadrons.

d. Units Under Operational/Administrative Control:

ACU 5 Det Alpha
SBU 12 Det Delta
Various USMC units of 13th MAU

e. Commanding Officer - Commander Edward Marvin Kline, Jr. was USS GERMANTOWN's Commanding Officer throughout 1987. He attended the University of Idaho graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. Upon graduation he received his commission through the NROTC program.

Commander Kline's first tours of duty included Combat Information Center Officer for the USS BRISTER (DER 327) and Boat Group Commander aboard the USS NAVARRO (LPA 215). Attending the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California during 1970 and 1971, CDR Kline received a Master of Science degree in Oceanography upon graduation in March 1971.

Following training at the Naval Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island, CDR Kline was assigned as Operations Officer of USS TURNER JOY (DD 951) after which he took command of USS HITCHITI (ATF 103) from September 1975 until August 1977.

After serving as the Senior Staff Officer for Surface Operations for the Commander Canadian Maritime Forces, Pacific in Victoria, British Columbia, CDR Kline served as Executive Officer, USS FORT FISHER (LSD 40) and then was assigned as Operations Officer for Commander Amphibious Squadron THREE prior to being assigned as Commanding Officer, USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42). After commissioning USS GERMANTOWN in February 1986, CDR Kline served as her first Commanding Officer.

CDR Kline has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of a second award as well as several campaign and service awards. He is married to the former [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. The Kline's have two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

II. CHRONOLOGY

1-4 Jan	Leave/Upkeep Period San Diego
5-9 Jan	ISE for ECC Drills
10-11 Jan	Inport San Diego
12-16 Jan	ISE for ECC Drills
17-20 Jan	Inport San Diego
21-22 Jan	OPPE
23-25 Jan	Inport San Diego
26-30 Jan	Refresher Training
31 Jan - 1 Feb	Inport San Diego
2-6 Feb	Refresher Training
7-9 Feb	Inport San Diego
10-13 Feb	LCAC Operations
14-16 Feb	Inport San Diego
17-21 Feb	LCAC Operations
22 Feb - 8 Mar	Inport San Diego Upkeep
9-12 Mar	ISE SSRNM
13-15 Mar	Inport San Diego

16-20 Mar	Amphibious Refresher Training
21-22 Mar	Inport San Diego
23-27 Mar	Amphibious Refresher Training
28 Mar - 6 Apr	Inport San Diego Upkeep
7-17 Apr	LCAC Operations OT III B
18-20 Apr	Inport San Diego
21 Apr - 3 May	Kernel Usher 87-3
4-6 May	Inport San Diego
7 May	CSRT
8-17 May	Inport San Diego Upkeep
18 May	Ammo Transfer
19 May - 10 Jun	Pre Overseas Movement
11 Jun	Dependents' Cruise
12-17 Jun	Pre Overseas Movement
18 Jun - 8 Jul	Transitex 87-20
9-10 Jul	Port Visit Buckner Bay Okinawa
10 Jul	LCAC Demo Buckner Bay
11-13 Jul	Group Sail Subic Bay, Philippines
14-15 Jul	Landex/Raidex Subic Bay
16 Jul - 10 Aug	Upkeep Subic Bay
11-14 Aug	Enroute Pattaya Beach, Thailand
15-18 Aug	Port Visit Pattaya Beach, Thailand
19 Aug	LCAC Demo Sattahip, Thailand
19-21 Aug	Group Sail Singapore
22-26 Aug	Inport Singapore Upkeep
25 Aug	LCAC Demo Singapore
26 Aug	NEY Award Phase 1 Evaluation, Singapore
27 Aug - 6 Sep	Group Sail Fremantle, Australia
28 Aug	LCAC Demo Lemut, Malaysia
31 Aug	"Crossing the Line"
7-10 Sep	Anchor Fremantle, Australia
11-16 Sep	Valiant Usher 87-3
17-22 Sep	Port Visit Fremantle, Australia
23-26 Sep	Group Sail Lombok Straits
27 Sep - 2 Oct	Group Sail Subic Bay, Philippines
3-15 Oct	Inport Subic Bay Upkeep
16-18 Oct	Group Sail Buckner Bay, Okinawa
19-20 Oct	Anchor Buckner Bay, Okinawa
21-23 Oct	Enroute Pohang, Korea
24-26 Oct	Inport Pohang, Korea
26 Oct	LCAC Demo Pohang, Korea (VIP Visit)
27 Oct - 6 Nov	Valiant Blitz 88-1
7-9 Nov	Inport Pusan, Korea
10-11 Nov	Group Sail Buckner Bay, Okinawa
11 Nov	Marine Corps Birthday Celebration
12 Nov	Offload Buckner Bay
12-13 Nov	Group Sail Subic Bay, Philippines
14-19 Nov	Inport Subic Bay
20-22 Nov	Exercise Balikatan, Subic Bay
23 Nov	Inport Subic Bay
24 Nov - 8 Dec	Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI
9-10 Dec	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI (Embark Tigers)
11-17 Dec	Transit to San Diego (Tiger Cruise)
18-31 Dec	Inport San Diego Upkeep/Leave

III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

GERMANTOWN began 1987 after the holiday leave period with two weeks of extensive ISE/ECC periods in preparation for OPPE. After a highly successful OPPE, GERMANTOWN began Refresher Training. During the leave and upkeep period in December and January, GERMANTOWN conducted a self-observed training readiness evaluation (TRE). This, plus selected training assistance from FTG instructors, prepared GERMANTOWN for training. GERMANTOWN emerged from Refresher Training with an overall grade of "Outstanding" and the distinction of being classified as a "Star" performer by COMFLETRAGRU. In the middle of February, GERMANTOWN started extensive workups with LCACs off the Southern California coast in preparation for April Operational Tests. Running the Ship Self Radiated Noise Measurement (SSRNM) Range off San Clemente Island was useful for establishing class data and improving future LSD 41 class hulls. Two weeks of Amphibious Refresher Training were intensive but tiring weeks, conducting wet well and AAV operations, alongside handling, LCU marriage and helo operations. Again GERMANTOWN stood out despite a relatively inexperienced but dedicated crew. Operational tests (Phase II) for LCACs in mid April were extensive, but again allowed GERMANTOWN to refine her 1A LCAC Team and work closely with her future deployment LCAC crews. The natural follow on to that training was Exercise Kernel Usher 87-3 off Camp Pendleton and San Diego. The exercise was GERMANTOWN's first opportunity to participate in an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) level exercise with COMPHIBRON FIVE, USS TRIPOLI, USS DULUTH, USS DURHAM and USS FREDERICK. The exercise was a large success and verified the ARG's readiness for underway. The last major hurdle before POM was CSRT where the electronics and weapons suite on board were inspected and groomed.

The pre-deployment Dependents' Cruise for sailors', Marines' and embarked detachments' wives, families and friends was very well received. Over 600 civilians embarked for a day of demonstrations (including an LCAC recovery) and tours.

GERMANTOWN's first overseas deployment was not only operationally significant but was historic, marking many new firsts:

- First LSD 41 class to deploy to the Western Pacific
- First deployment of an LCAC detachment
- First utilization of a hovercraft in a joint and combined exercise
- First LCAC amphibious landing on a foreign shore
- First launching of advance forces from over the horizon at high speed to an unprotected, unmarked beach
- First high speed non-helo MEDEVAC of simulated personnel casualties
- First amphibious landing at a beach protected by a barrier reef

Throughout GERMANTOWN and her three LCAC detachment demonstrated their overall contribution to ARG mission accomplishment and amphibious operations flexibility. Participating in six major WESTPAC exercises in five different countries proved her readiness and flexibility. For her superior performance in

the area of tactical development, GERMANTOWN was awarded the COMPHIBRON FIVE Tactical Development Award.

The following major inspections were also accomplished during the deployment.

- ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment - above average (the highest adjective grade attainable)
- Aviation Certification/Aviation Readiness Evaluation - passed satisfactorily, certifying GERMANTOWN's capability to conduct helo operations
- NEY Competition - Supply Food Service Inspection which eventually led to GERMANTOWN finishing 3rd place Navy wide for superior food service operation.

On the return from deployment, GERMANTOWN embarked 102 "Tigers", male guests and relatives of crewmembers for the transit from Hawaii to San Diego. The final days of December were spent in a holiday leave and upkeep status with families and friends.

For her superior performance in 1987 and professionalism across the spectrum of competitive categories, USS GERMANTOWN was selected as a COMNAVSURFPAC Battle 'E' winner in her first ever competitive cycle and won departmental awards in Engineering, Damage Control, Gunnery and Assault Boat Coxswain.

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AN/SPS-67 Surface Search Radar
AN/SPS-64 Surface Navigation Radar
AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Countermeasures Set
Phalanx Close-in Weapon System
NIXIE Torpedo Deception System
Propulsion.....Four Colt-Pielstick PC2.5V
16 Cylinder Diesel Engines
Two shafts with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP)
Four 1300 KW Ship's Service Diesel Generators

Built by Lockheed Shipbuilding Company, Seattle, Washington

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d. Units Under Operational/Administrative Control:

None

e. Commanding Officer - Commander Edward Marvin Kline, Jr. was USS GERMANTOWN's Commanding Officer until 12 May 1988, when he was relieved by Commander T. Michael Wittkamp during ceremonies in San Diego. Commander Wittkamp served as Commanding Officer for the remainder of 1988. He received his commission in June 1970 upon graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy.

Following his first tour of duty as Chief Engineer in USS FORCE (MSO 445) he was assigned to the precommissioning crew of USS ROBERT E. PEARY (FF 1073) as First Lieutenant and Communications Officer. Upon completion of the Department Head Course at the Naval Destroyer School in July 1976, he served as Operations Officer in USS HOLLISTER (DD 788). Commander Wittkamp then served as First Lieutenant in USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) from April 1978 to June 1980 which was followed by a tour at Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters as Director Management Systems Division. Commander Wittkamp served as Executive Officer in USS FORT FISHER (LSD 40) from June 1982 to February 1984. Following a tour in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as an Action Officer in the Strategy, Plans and Policy Division (OP-60), Commander Wittkamp attended the National War College where he graduated in June 1987.

Commander Wittkamp has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars and the Navy Achievement Medal. In addition he is authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation, Navy 'E', Humanitarian Service Medal and various unit and campaign awards.

Commander Wittkamp is married to the former [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The Wittkamp's who currently reside in San Diego, have two children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

II. CHRONOLOGY

1-18 Jan	Leave and Upkeep Period San Diego
19-24 Jan	ISE for ECC SOCAL
25-31 Jan	Upkeep San Diego
1-12 Feb	Exercise Kernel Blitz 88-1
13 Feb - 13 Mar	Upkeep San Diego
14-19 Mar	ISE LCAC Operations SOCAL
20-21 Mar	Inport San Diego
21-25 Mar	ISE, ECC's, DLQ's SOCAL
25 Mar - 4 Apr	Upkeep San Diego
4-9 Apr	ISE, ECC, FLT OPS SOCAL
9-11 Apr	Inport San Diego
11-12 Apr	ISE for ECC SOCAL
12-19 Apr	Upkeep San Diego
19-22 Apr	OPPRE SOCAL
22-26 Apr	Upkeep San Diego
26-29 Apr	ISE SOCAL
29 Apr - 16 May	Upkeep San Diego
12 May	Change of Command
16 May - 18 Jul	PMA San Diego
18-23 Jul	Deperm San Diego

24-25 Jul	Inport San Diego
25-30 Jul	ISE for DLQ's SOCAL
31 Jul - 2 Aug	Upkeep San Diego
2-4 Aug	TRE San Diego
4-9 Aug	Inport San Diego
9-13 Aug	Ammo Onload Seal Beach CA
13-21 Aug	Upkeep San Diego
22-27 Aug	IRFT SOCAL
27-29 Aug	Inport San Diego
29 Aug - 2 Sep	IRFT SOCAL
3-11 Sep	Upkeep San Diego
12-17 Sep	PRFT SOCAL
17-19 Sep	Inport San Diego
19-24 Sep	PRFT SOCAL
25 Sep - 17 Oct	Upkeep San Diego
3-7 Oct	CSRT
15 Oct	SECNAV Visit
18-31 Oct	Exercise Kernel Usher
1-8 Nov	Upkeep San Diego
4 Nov	3-M Inspection
8-10 Nov	ISE for ECC's SOCAL
10-15 Nov	Inport San Diego
16-22 Nov	Kernel Usher - 1B SOCAL
22-28 Nov	Upkeep San Diego
28 Nov - 2 Dec	MTT, IERA SOCAL
3-6 Dec	Inport San Diego
6-31 Dec	POM San Diego

III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

GERMANTOWN began 1988 after a holiday leave period conducting Engineering Casualty Control (ECC) drills in January in the Southern California Operations Area (SOCAL). In the month of February following ECC drills GERMANTOWN participated in Exercise Kernel Blitz 88-1 off of San Clemente Island and Camp Pendleton. GERMANTOWN operated with USS DURHAM, USS TRIPOLI, USS DULUTH, USS OKINAWA and USS FREDERICK in exercises that were well planned and executed. After Kernel Blitz and various underway and training periods, GERMANTOWN was tested for her engineering capabilities. In April OPRE was conducted with pride and professionalism by the ship's engineering department with an overall passing score. In the month of May GERMANTOWN marked its first change of command in which Commander E. M. Kline was relieved by Commander T. M. Wittkamp during ceremonies at Naval Station San Diego. Among the many distinguished guests were Commodore Terry, Commander Amphibious Squadron SEVEN and Rear Admiral Donovan Commander Amphibious Group THREE who was the principle speaker. A week after the change of command, GERMANTOWN entered a maintenance availability which was contracted with Southwest Marine at Naval Station, San Diego. This availability concluded in July as GERMANTOWN prepared for TRE, REFTRA and PHIBREFTRA in August and September. As usual GERMANTOWN swept all evolutions with nothing less than outstanding grades. Because of her outstanding training and overall readiness, GERMANTOWN finished REFTRA two days early, an event which was unprecedented in NAVSURFPAC. After these training periods, GERMANTOWN began an upkeep period which included a visit by the Secretary of the Navy, William Ball. Secretary Ball's comments were very complimentary and he promised another visit in the near future for a personal

talk with GERMANTOWN sailors.

In October GERMANTOWN participated in Exercise Kernel Usher the second major amphibious exercise of 1988 on the West Coast of the United States. Kernel Usher was unique in that it included an exercise that practiced the withdrawal of American citizens from volatile situations overseas. GERMANTOWN was there to help in any way possible to include medical treatment and berthing of evacuees. Following Kernel Usher GERMANTOWN prepared for various inspections that were required before WESTPAC deployment in January of 1989. These inspections included CSRT, MTT and a major 3-M Inspection. GERMANTOWN ended 1988 with a Pre Overseas Movement leave and upkeep period. A much deserved rest was reward enough for the crew's outstanding performance during 1988.