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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96666-1730

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720  
LSD 42  
6 March 1991

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

Encl: (1) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42) Command History for the Period 1 January  
- 31 December 1990  
(2) Ship's Photograph

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

  
W. J. MARSHALL, III

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

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)  
COMMAND HISTORY  
1 JANUARY 1990 - 31 DECEMBER 1990

I. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. Mission - GERMANTOWN's mission is to transport and land troops and equipment via 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 to deploy with an LCAC detachment. The LCAC is an attack hovercraft with the ability to deliver a 60 ton payload to hostile shores at speeds 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 332 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  
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.

Homeported in San Diego, California, USS GERMANTOWN is named for the historic Germantown district of Pennsylvania. 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 is Commander, Amphibious Squadron SEVEN, the Readiness Squadron Commander for West Coast LSDs, LSTs and LKAs.

d. Units Under Operational/Administrative Control:

None

e. Commanding Officer - Commander William J. Marshall, III graduated from Villanova University and was commissioned in the U. S. Navy via the NROTC program in December 1972. He was stationed at NAS Bermuda (Port Royal Bay) as the Port Operations Officer while awaiting initial sea duty.

Continuing his overseas assignment, Commander Marshall was ordered to the USS SAMPSON (DDG-10), homeported in Athens, Greece from 1974 to 1977. During his next assignment, he served as a Warfare Specialty Instructor at the Newport Basic Division Officer School until 1980.

Following training at Department Head School, Commander Marshall was assigned as the Weapons Officer on board USS AYLWIN (FF-1081) from 1981 to 1982, then split toured to USS MANITOWOC (LST-1180) as First Lieutenant. Reporting in June 1982, Commander Marshall participated in the initial landing of U. S. Marines in Beirut, Lebanon as part of the multi-National Peacekeeping Force, and their final extraction two years later. During this tour, Commander Marshall also participated in Operation Urgent Fury/Grenada.

Commander Marshall attended the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, receiving a Masters of Arts degree in Financial Management in 1985. From 1986 to 1987 he served as Executive Officer on USS SAGINAW (LST-1188).

Prior to receiving orders as prospective Commanding Officer of USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42), Commander Marshall served on the staff of Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic.

Commander Marshall is married to the former Tricia Herion of Glenmore, PA. The Marshalls have three children; Kelly, Katie, and Bud.

## II. CHRONOLOGY

1 Jan - 27 Apr	Docking Phase Maintenance Availability
13 Jan	Out of Dry Dock, Southwest Marine (SWM)

20 Feb	Ney Award Evaluation
26 Feb - 2 Mar	PLOE Phase II
23 Mar	Dead stick move to Pier 10, NAVSTA, San Diego
26 - 30 Mar	PLOE Phase III
9 - 12 Apr	LOE
16 Apr	AAV/ASIR/TA
23 Apr	Arrival of CDR Marshall
23 - 25 Apr	Sea Trials
26 Apr - 8 May	Inport San Diego
4 May	Change of Command
7 - 26 May	A Avail with USS ACADIA
9 - 11 May	Underway for Seal Beach
10 May	Ammo transfer Seal Beach
11 May	Burial at Sea
11 - 27 May	Inport San Diego
14 May	AAV/ASIR
27 May	Underway for Everett Washington, Salty Sea Days
27 - 31 May	Transit to Everett Washington
31 May - 5 June	Inport, Everett Washington
5 June - 22 Jun	Law Enforcement Operations, SOCAL
23 - 26 June	Inport San Diego
27 - 29 June	Underway for TRE
29 June - 30 Jul	Inport San Diego
2 - 20 Jul	A Avail USS ACADIA
9 - 13 Jul	Embark COMPHIBRON 1
11 Jul	PTRI
17 - 24 Jul	Surface Line Week
23 - 27 Jul	MTT Phase I
30 Jul - 3 Aug	Refresher Training
4 - 5 Aug	Inport San Diego
6 - 10 Aug	Refresher Training
11 - 19 Aug	Inport San Diego
14 - 16 Aug	Industrial Hygiene and Safety Survey
20 - 24 Aug	Amphib Refresher Training
25 - 26 Aug	Inport San Diego
27 - 31 Aug	Amphib Refresher Training
1 - 11 Sep	Inport San Diego
4 - 10 Sep	French Ship Visit, FOU DRE
12 - 14 Sep	Underway for MTT Phase II
15 - 19 Sep	Inport San Diego
20 Sep - 1 Oct	Kernel Usher 90-2
2 - 8 Oct	Inport San Diego
4 Oct	Pre-deployment fair
9 - 11 Oct	Underway for MTT Phase III
12 - 23 Oct	Inport San Diego
22 - 24 Oct	OPPE
25 Oct - 13 Nov	Inport San Diego
15 Nov	Dependents Cruise
1 Dec	Deploy
1 - 8 Dec	Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI
8 - 10 Dec	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
10 - 27 Dec	Transit to Subic Bay, P.I.
27 Dec - 1 Jan	Inport Subic Bay, P.I.

### III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

GERMANTOWN entered the New Year high and dry, still in dry dock, for an important part of her Docking Phased Maintenance Availability at Southwest Marine. Early on the morning of January 13th, she came out of dry dock and was moved to the pier immediately along side.

To complete the remainder of the work package, GERMANTOWN remained at Southwest Marine until 23 March. Upon completion of the availability, it was business as usual, including a Ney Award Evaluation of food services and PLOE Phase II. After a dead stick move to pier 10, all attention soon turned to preparations for the CINCPACFLT Light Off Examination (LOE) and getting underway. On 26 March PLOE Phase III started and was the final event prior to light off.

After many drills the ship was ready to begin CINCPACFLT LOE. This examination lasted from 9-12 April, and proved that all the hard work had paid off. Once again GERMANTOWN's crew demonstrated it's typical pride and professionalism by successfully completing this arduous engineering inspection.

Sea Trails marked the beginning of the end of the DPMA period. It also marked the arrival of the new prospective Commanding Officer, CDR W. J. Marshall, on 23 April. On 27 April DPMA was officially complete, ending almost a continuous five month period in port.

On May 4th the Change of Command was held on board with CDR W. J. Marshall, III relieving CDR T. Michael Wittkamp. Many distinguished guests were present. Captain Andrew J. Murphy, Commander, Amphibious Squadron Seven was the key speaker.

May 7-26 was designated as an availability period with the USS ACADIA. On 9 May the ship was underway to Seal Beach, CA to reload ammunition on 10 May. While returning to San Diego a burial at sea was conducted for five distinguished service members.

On 27 May GERMANTOWN was underway for a well deserved liberty port visit in Everett, Washington. The ship and her crew were in port for 4 1/2 fun filled days to help celebrate "Salty Sea Days." During this time the ship conducted tours for over 5000 of the local towns people. Also included were trips by the crew to areas in Seattle and Vancouver, Canada. There was hardly a lack of activity including softball games, carnivals, parades, golf tournaments, etc, all sponsored by local organizations.

Upon departing Everett, GERMANTOWN was assigned to conduct Law Enforcement Operations off the coast of Baja California. A lot of quality training was conducted during this period in preparation for Refresher Training. GERMANTOWN returned to port on 22 June for a brief time prior to TRE, which was conducted 27 - 29 June.

The month of July included another "A" availability with the USS ACADIA, 2 - 20 July. During a busy week, COMPHIBRON ONE embarked 9 - 13 July; and looking ahead to Amphibious Refresher Training, PTRI, was completed 11 July. Surface Line Week, 17 - 24 July enabled the crew to compete against other ships on the water front in everything from softball, to professional events such as Navigation and Semaphore.

The end of July brought Refresher Training with the first week being underway from 30 July to 3 Aug and back for the weekend. Refresher training ended the next week on 10 Aug. GERMANTOWN performed superbly and proved to FTG that she was more than ready to sustain herself at sea. The next week, prior to beginning Amphibious Refresher Training, the industrial hygiene inspection was completed. On 20 Aug PHIBREFTRA began and ended on 31 Aug. An overall grade of outstanding was achieved, "sweeping" all of the evolutions.

The next 11 days were in port, but were a prelude to pre-deployment workups. With the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 Aug our schedule had taken a dramatic change and our focus intensified. During this in port period extra time was spent hosting our French sister ship, the FOU DRE. France's newest LSD enjoyed six days of liberty in San Diego. The FOU DRE proved to be outstanding guest by hosting many functions herself. MTT Phase II commenced on 12 Sep and completed 14 Sep.

Kernel Usher 90-2 was the first schedule change affecting the ship. Being moved from November and condensed to 10 days, it began on 20 Sep. We embarked over 300 Marines and in company with the USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), USS DENVER (LPD-9), USS MOBILE (LKA-115), and USS PEORIA (LST-1183) conducted exercises off the coast of San Clemente Island. Returning to port enabled the crew to prepare for MTT Phase III and attend the predeployment fair to assist dependents' preparations on 4 October. MTT Phase III, conducted 9 - 11 October in the SOCAL area, brought the GERMANTOWN one step closer to the CINCPACFLT Operational Propulsion Engineering Inspection.

The week of 15 - 19 October included the 3M inspection for which GERMANTOWN received the highest accomplishment rates ever seen. The following week commenced OPPE, and again the ship excelled in all evolutions. "The best ever," was quoted directly by the senior member of the inspection team. Also during the month of October GERMANTOWN was awarded the Coast Guard "Special Operations Pennant Ribbon" for its participation in the September 1989 LEO OPS.

Proceeding into POM on the 26th of October the target date for deploying was 15 November. However, in the following week, a new deployment date of 1 December was given which allowed for a longer stand-down period. On 15 November the dependents cruise was conducted with LCAC Ops performed for a first hand look at shipboard life.

After celebration of the Thanksgiving holidays with their families and friends, the crew of the GERMANTOWN prepared for a West-Pac deployment like no other the ship has seen; for they were embarking upon a mission to support Operation Desert Shield, now in its fourth month. Fit and ready for action, the GERMANTOWN sailed as part of the largest deployment of West Coast ships since 1965. The farewell on 1 December was grand and patriotic as the people of San Diego waved and cheered the sailors and marines passing under the Coronado Bridge and out to sea.

The first stop was Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 9 December and the ship was supplied and the crew had their first liberty. The briefings in Pearl Harbor had a unique perspective as the circumstances in the Middle East were deteriorating and the possibility of war increased. The GERMANTOWN was ready and moved forth to her next stop, Subic Bay, R.P.

After seventeen days at sea, the crew welcomed the visit to the Philippines on 27 December. All repairs and maintenance were completed and the ship was again supplied for the mission ahead. Some of the crew participated in a community service project by painting and refurbishing a local medical clinic. It was quite a success and the community was very appreciative. Additionally, sports teams participated in marathon tournaments of various athletic events. The small port city was filled with over twenty thousand sailors and marines, given the unique circumstances of Operation Desert Shield, but all had a good liberty; especially on New Year's Eve. On 2 January, the GERMANTOWN began its transit to the Persian Gulf.

1991 will prove a challenge to the GERMANTOWN, but given the outstanding track record of this LSD, the ship will surely bear the burden. So, the GERMANTOWN sails into the future, praying for peace, but prepared for war.