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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)
FPO AP 96666-1730

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5720
Ser LSD42/085
1 March 1993

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42) Command History for period
1 January - 31 December 1992
(2) Ship's Photograph

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).


J. D. BRAY

Copy to: (w/o encl (2))
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC (N021)
COMPHIBRON ELEVEN

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)
COMMAND HISTORY
1 JANUARY 1992 - 31 DECEMBER 1992

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 of 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
AN/SPS-64 Surface Navigation Radar
AN/SLQ-32 Electronics Countermeasures Set
MK 38 MOD Hughes 25mm Chain Gun
MK-15 MOD 12 BLOCK 1; Close-in Weapon System (CIWS)
Six 50 Caliber Machine Guns
AN/SLQ-25 NIXIE Torpedo Deception System
AN/SLQ-49 Decoy System
MK-36 MOD 6 Decoy Launching System

Propulsion:

Four Colt-Pielstick PC2.5V 16 Cylinder Diesel Engines
Two shafts with Controllable Pitch Propellers
Four 1300 KW Ship's Service Diesel Generators
Built by Lockheed Shipbuilding Company, Seattle, Washington

Homeported in Sasebo, Japan, USS GERMANTOWN is named for the historic Germantown District of Pennsylvania. Now a residential section of Philadelphia, Germantown was founded in 1683 and was 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 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, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Task Force 76. GERMANTOWN'S immediate superior in command is Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eleven.

d. Units Under Operational/Administrative Control

ACU 5 Det WESTPAC Alfa
Various USMC units of III MEF

e. Commanding Officer - Commander James D. Bray graduated from Ohio State University and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy via the NROTC program in 1973.

Commander Bray's first tour of duty was as Combat Information Center Officer and later as Navigator aboard USS ROBERT H. MCCARD (DD-822) where he earned his Surface Warfare Officer Qualification. Selected for postgraduate education, he was sent to the Naval Postgraduate School to earn his Master's Degree in National Security Affairs.

Following graduation in 1978, he received orders to USS TRUETT (FF-1095) as Weapons Officer via department head school in Newport, Rhode Island. In 1981, he was assigned as Chief Engineer of USS HERMITAGE (LSD-34). His follow on duties took him to Munich Germany as the Scientific and Technical Intelligence Officer for Commander Task Group 168.4 from 1983 to 1985 where he earned a proven subspecialty in Naval Intelligence.

Following that, Commander Bray received orders to San Diego, California as Executive Officer of USS JUNEAU (LPD-10). Commander Bray then reported to the Navy Operational Intelligence Center, Washington DC, as the Special Projects Department Head from 1987-1989. During his tour, he was selected for temporary additional duties as a military escort for the First Family during the 1989 Presidential Inaugural.

Commander Bray reported to Commander Carrier Group EIGHT in August 1989 as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Material/Logistics. He participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as the Roosevelt Battle Group Logistics Coordinator. Later, during that deployment, he assisted in the multinational Kurdish relief effort, Operation Provide Comfort, as the personal representative ashore in Incirlik, Turkey for Commander Task Force 60. Commander Bray assumed command of USS GERMANTOWN on 23 January 1992.

II. CHRONOLOGY

1 - 15 Jan.....Upkeep San Diego
13 Jan - 17 Jan.....Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Ordnance Survey
14 Jan.....Safety Standown
16 - 17 Jan.....Independent Steaming Southern California OPAREA
18 Jan - 4 Feb.....Upkeep San Diego
23 Jan.....Change of Command (CDR James Bray relieves CDR William Marshall)
27 - 30 Jan.....Aviation Certification
3 Feb.....Ship's Equipment Maintenance Monitoring Survey Performance Monitoring Team
5 - 7 Feb.....Independent Steaming Southern California OPAREA
6 Feb.....Deck Landing Qualification (DLQ) (HMH-161)
7 Feb.....Enroute San Diego
8 - 9 Feb.....Inport San Diego
10 -14 Feb.....Independent Steaming Southern California OPAREA
14 Feb.....Enroute San Diego
15 - 23 Feb.....Upkeep San Diego
24 - 26 Feb.....Underway Southern California: Mobile Training Team Phase II
26 Feb.....Enroute San Diego
27 Feb.....Inport San Diego
28 Feb - 9 Mar.....Underway, Enroute Kuskokwim Bay, Alaska
10 Mar.....Arrive/Underway, Dutch Harbor Alaska
11 - 15 Mar.....Underway, Arctic LCAC Demonstration/Evaluation
15 - 17 Mar.....Anchor at Dutch Harbor, Alaska
17 - 25 Mar.....Underway, Arctic LCAC Demonstration/Evaluation
25 - 29 Mar.....Enroute Juneau, Alaska
29 Mar - 2 Apr.....Port Visit, Juneau, Alaska

3 - 7 Apr.....Enroute San Francisco
 7 - 12 Apr.....Port Visit, San Francisco
 13 - 17 Apr.....Underway SOCAL: Mobile Training Team Phase III
 17 Apr - 4 May.....Inport San Diego
 19 - 24 Apr.....Combat System Readiness Review (CSRR)/Shipboard Explosive
 Safety Inspection (SESI)
 30 Apr.....Safety Standown
 4 - 8 May.....Underway Southern California OPAREA: All Comers At Sea
 Training (ACAT)
 7 May.....Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with Duty Oiler
 8 May.....Enroute San Diego
 8 - 10 May.....Inport San Diego
 10 -15 May.....Underway Southern California: Type Training
 14 May.....UNREP with Duty Oiler
 15 May.....Enroute San Diego
 15 May - 3 Jun.....Upkeep San Diego
 18 - 21 May.....Material, Maintenance and Management System Assist Visit
 27 May.....Fast Cruise
 2 Jun.....Inport Phase: Operational Propulsion Plant Examination
 (OPPE)
 3 Jun.....Underway Phase: OPPE
 3 - 14 Jun.....Upkeep San Diego
 12 Jun.....Environmental Health Survey
 15 - 19 Jun.....Underway SOCAL: Amphibious Refresher Training (REFTRA)
 19 Jun.....Enroute San Diego
 19 - 30 Jun.....Upkeep San Diego
 19 - 21 Jun.....Visit Ship at Broadway Pier
 22 Jun.....Metrology and Calibration Inspection
 1 - 2 Jul.....Training Readiness Exam
 3 - 6 Jul.....Upkeep San Diego
 3 - 5 Jul.....Visit Ship at Broadway Pier
 6 - 21 Jul.....Underway Southern California: Exercise TANDEM THRUST 92
 22 Jul - 2 Aug.....Upkeep San Diego
 2 - 7 Aug.....Underway Southern California: REFTRA
 7 - 9 Aug.....Inport San Diego
 9 - 11 Aug.....Underway: REFTRA
 12 Aug.....Enroute San Diego
 12 Aug - 6 Oct.....Inport San Diego
 17 - 21 Aug.....Command Inspection
 6 - 9 Oct.....Underway Southern California: Sea Trials
 9 - 12 Oct.....Inport San Diego
 13 Oct - 3 Nov.....Underway: Enroute Sasebo, Japan
 28 Oct.....Chop to Seventh Fleet
 3 Nov - 1 Dec.....Upkeep Sasebo
 1 - 2 Dec.....Underway: Enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa
 2 - 4 Dec.....Onload, Buckner Bay, Okinawa
 4 - 8 Dec.....Underway: Enroute Hong Kong
 8 - 13 Dec.....Port Visit: Hong Kong
 13 - 16 Dec.....Underway: Enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa
 16 - 18 Dec.....Offload, Buckner Bay, Okinawa
 18 Dec.....Underway: Enroute Sasebo
 19 - 31 Dec.....Upkeep Sasebo

III. Narrative Summary

The crew of GERMANTOWN enjoyed bringing in the new year from her berth in her original homeport at San Diego. During the month of January, GERMANTOWN only spent two days at sea. After a much deserved holiday standown, GERMANTOWN underwent a series of inspections, surveys and assist visits, which included a safety standown, CMS assist visit, HERO survey, ASIR certification, CIWS post-

PMA trials and concluding the month with a highly successful change of command ceremony, when CDR Bill Marshall was relieved by GERMANTOWN's present Commanding Officer, CDR Jim Bray.

In February, GERMANTOWN spent her time preparing for her upcoming operation off Alaska. GERMANTOWN spent underway days conducting DLQs with HMH-161, Engineering Casualty Control (ECC) drills in preparation for Mobile Training Team (MTT) Assist Visit Phase II.

On 28 February, GERMANTOWN was underway, enroute Kuskokwim Bay in Alaska. Upon arrival, she commenced Arctic LCAC operations in support of CNO Project 0954. After completing all required test and evaluation of LCAC operations and fighting the severe weather conditions, the crew of GERMANTOWN looked forward to a port visit in Juneau, Alaska from 30 March to 2 April.

With Arctic operations complete, GERMANTOWN steamed for her next port visit at San Francisco, California. The crew enjoyed five days in San Francisco before returning to San Diego. Enroute San Diego, GERMANTOWN commenced MTT Phase III and conducted UNREP with a duty oiler. After arriving in San Diego on 18 April, GERMANTOWN underwent CSRR/SESI and another safety shutdown.

Much of May was extremely busy for the engineering department as they made preparations for the OPPE. From 11 to 15 May, GERMANTOWN got underway for type training conducting ECC drills. From 18 May to 1 June, GERMANTOWN spent her time in San Diego for upkeep. During that time, GERMANTOWN had a 3-M assist visit and a fast cruise. Also during this period, there was a homeport change meeting in Washington, where GERMANTOWN learned that she would become part of the Overseas Family Residence Program (OFRP) and change homeports to Sasebo, Japan.

In June, GERMANTOWN spent two days undergoing OPPE. She spent another four days undergoing Amphibious REFTRA in the SOCAL area.

GERMANTOWN kicked off the month of July with a training readiness evaluation (TRE) in preparation for REFTRA and a visit ship period at Broadway pier. From 7 to 21 July, GERMANTOWN was underway for Exercise TANDEM THRUST 92. From 3 to 7 August, GERMANTOWN underwent REFTRA.

From mid-August to 13 October, GERMANTOWN made preparations for her homeport change to Sasebo. During that time, GERMANTOWN went through a Command Inspection and homeport change meeting in Sasebo, where the Commanding Officer, Chief Engineer, Operations Officer and Command Master Chief attended.

On 13 October, GERMANTOWN left San Diego and steamed toward her new homeport at Sasebo. On 28 October, GERMANTOWN changed operational commanders from Commander Third Fleet to the Seventh Fleet. GERMANTOWN arrived in Sasebo on 3 November. After her arrival, GERMANTOWN's crew spent the rest of the month in a maintenance and upkeep period becoming familiar with Sasebo. November also provided time for families to settle into their new homes.

On 1 December, GERMANTOWN steamed toward Buckner Bay, Okinawa to commence an onload. With the onload complete, GERMANTOWN joined the Amphibious Ready Group composing of USS BELLEAU WOOD, USS DUBUQUE and commanded by Commander Amphibious Squadron Eleven and sailed towards Hong Kong for a port visit. From 8 to 13 December, the crew enjoyed liberty in Hong Kong. On 14 December, GERMANTOWN steamed back towards Buckner Bay for a backload and then steamed toward Sasebo. GERMANTOWN returned to Sasebo on 17 December.

The remainder of 1992 was spent enjoying the holiday season. GERMANTOWN and her crew, having met every challenge placed before them in 1992, started 1993 fresh, rested and eager to meet the challenges of the new year.