



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5850
Ser LSD42/001
3 Jan 94

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

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 to 31 December 1993
(2) Ship's Photograph

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted per reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. D. Bray".

J. D. BRAY

Copy to: (w/o encl (2))
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC (N-021)
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USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)
COMMAND HISTORY
1 January - 31 December 1993

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 of her class to be permanently assigned to the Seventh Fleet, that carries the new Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) and to deploy with an embarked LCAC detachment. The LCAC is an attack hovercraft with the ability to deliver a sixty ton payload to hostile shores at speeds of over forty 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 (Full Load).....	19 feet, 2 inches
Well Deck.....	440 feet by 50 feet
Ship's Company.....	25 Officers 19 CPOs 372 Enlisted
Embarked Troops.....	25 Officers 13 NCOs 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 Two MK 38 MOD Hughes 25mm Chain Gun Two MK 15 MOD 12 Block 1, Close-in Weapon System Six 50 Caliber Machine Guns 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 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 One. Forward deployed as part of the Overseas Family Residency Program. GERMANTOWN's immediate superior in command is Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eleven, the Readiness Commander for the BELLEAU WOOD Amphibious Readiness Group.

d. Units Under Operational/Administrative Control:

- Assault Craft Unit Five, Detachment WESTPAC Alfa
- Various USMC units of Thirty-first Marine Expeditionary Unit

e. Commanding Officer: Commander James D. Bray earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Ohio State University in 1973 and his Masters Degree in National Security Affairs from Navy Post Graduate School, Monterey, California in 1978.

Commander Bray was commissioned an Ensign in 1973 via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps four year scholarship program. His first tour of duty was as Combat Information Center Officer and later as Navigator aboard USS ROBERT H. MCCARD (DD-882) where he earned his Surface Warfare Officer qualification.

Following graduation from Navy Post Graduate School, Commander Bray received orders to USS TRUETT (FF-1095) as Weapons Officer via Department Head School at Newport, Rhode Island. In 1981, he was assigned as Chief Engineer in 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 1983-1985, 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). He then reported to the Navy Operational Intelligence Center, Washington, DC as Special Projects Department Head from 1987 to 1989. During this tour, he was selected for temporary additional duties as a military escort for the First Family during the 1989 Presidential Inaugural.

Prior to receiving orders as prospective Commanding Officer of USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42), 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 Jim Bray has been in command of GERMANTOWN since 23 January 1992.

II. CHRONOLOGY

1-10 Jan.....	Upkeep: Sasebo, Ja.
11-13 Jan.....	Underway: Enroute Okinawa
13-14 Jan.....	Onload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
15-25 Jan.....	Underway: Enroute Guam
19-24 Jan.....	Blue/Green Water Workups
25-27 Jan.....	Inport Guam
27 Jan-5 Feb.....	Underway: Enroute Okinawa
1-4 Feb.....	Exercise VALIANT USHER 93-3, Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable Certification
5 Feb.....	Offload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
6-7 Feb.....	Onload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
8-10 Feb.....	Underway: Enroute Pohang, Republic of Korea
10 Feb.....	Offload: Pohang, Korea
11-12 Feb.....	Underway: Enroute Sasebo, Ja.
12-24 Feb.....	Upkeep: Sasebo, Ja
24-26 Feb.....	Underway: Enroute Okinawa
26-27 Feb.....	Onload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
28 Feb-3 Mar.....	Underway: Enroute Pohang, Korea
3-5 Mar.....	Inport Pohang, Korea
5-11 Mar.....	Exercise TEAM SPIRIT '93
11-14 Mar.....	Underway: Enroute Yokosuka, Ja. Offload LCAC 42
15-18 Mar.....	Underway: Enroute Pohang, Korea
18-19 Mar.....	Backload: Pohang, Korea
20-22 Mar.....	Underway: Enroute Okinawa
22-23 Mar.....	Offload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
24-26 Mar.....	Underway: Enroute Pohang, Korea

Chronology (cont'd)

26 Mar.....Backload: Pohang, Korea
27-29 Mar.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
29 Mar.....Offload Buckner, Okinawa
30-31 Mar.....Underway: Enroute Sasebo, Ja.
1-30 Apr.....Upkeep: Sasebo, Ja.
1-2 May.....Underway: Enroute Pohang, Korea
2 May.....Onload: Pohang, Korea
2-4 May.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
4-6 May.....Onload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
7-14 May.....Underway: Enroute Sattahip,
Thailand
14-16 May.....Inport: Sattahip, Thailand
16-24 May.....Underway: Exercise COBRA GOLD
'93
24-25 May.....Backload: Sattahip, Thailand
26-30 May.....Port Visit: Pattaya Beach,
Thailand
31 May-9 Jun.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
9 Jun.....Offload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
9-10 Jun.....Underway: Enroute Sasebo, Ja.
11 Jun-6 Jul.....Upkeep: Sasebo, Ja.
7-9 Jul.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
9-10 Jul.....Onload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
11-22 Jul.....Underway: Enroute Guam Operating
Area
15-22 Jul.....Exercise TANDEM THRUST '93
23-26 Jul.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
26-29 Jul.....Inport: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
29-31 Jul.....Underway Philippine Sea:
Blue/Green Water Workups
1-4 Aug.....Exercise Valiant Usher '93-4,
Marine Expeditionary Unit
Special Operations Capable
Certification
4-5 Aug.....Inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa
5-9 Aug.....Underway: Enroute Hong Kong
9-13 Aug.....Port Visit: Hong Kong
14-19 Aug.....Underway: Enroute Surabaya,
Indonesia
19-26 Aug.....Upkeep: Surabaya, Indonesia
27 Aug-7 Sep.....Underway: Enroute Perth,
Australia
4-6 Sep.....Exercise VALIANT USHER '93-5
7-12 Sep.....Port Visit: Perth, Australia
13-26 Sep.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
26-28 Sep.....Offload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
29-30 Sep.....Underway: Enroute Sasebo, Ja.
30 Sep-7 Nov.....Upkeep: Sasebo, Ja.
7-8 Nov.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
8 Nov.....Onload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa

Chronology (cont'd)

9-18 Nov.....Underway: Enroute Tarawa Atoll,
Betio, Republic of Kiribati
18-22 Nov.....Operation REMEMBRANCE: Tarawa
22-26 Nov.....Underway: Enroute Honiara,
Guadacanal, Solomon Islands
26-30 Nov.....Port Visit: Guadalcanal
30 Nov-9 Dec.....Underway: Enroute Okinawa
9 Dec.....Offload: Buckner Bay, Okinawa
10-11 Dec.....Underway: Enroute Sasebo, Ja.
11-31 Dec.....Upkeep: Sasebo, Ja.

III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The crew of GERMANTOWN celebrated New Year's Eve at their new homeport, Sasebo, Japan; with the other ships in the BELLEAU WOOD Amphibious Readiness Group. The crew was upbeat and GERMANTOWN was ready to accept upcoming challenges. During her first year forward deployed, GERMANTOWN was able to meet and exceed all of her commitments. Despite the high operations tempo during 1993, the crew's desire to do well remained at an all time high.

GERMANTOWN's underway schedule began on 11 January, enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan for an onload prior to conducting Blue/Green Water Workups in the Guam operating area. During the workups, GERMANTOWN and her embarked Marines, from the Thirty-first Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), successfully completed long range LCAC operations. Upon completion of the operations GERMANTOWN sailors enjoyed three days of liberty at Guam.

After the time off in Guam, GERMANTOWN and her crew went back to work, steaming back towards Okinawa and participating in Exercise VALIANT USHER 93-3 and completed the Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable Certification (MEU(SOC)). After the exercise, GERMANTOWN steamed towards Pohang, Republic of Korea; via Buckner Bay for onload. At Pohang, GERMANTOWN conducted an offload before returning to Sasebo for upkeep from 12 to 23 February.

On 26 February, GERMANTOWN returned to Buckner Bay to commence onload and embark Marines in support of Exercise TEAM SPIRIT '93. After arrival at Pohang, Korea; GERMANTOWN conducted offload from 3 to 5 March. From 5 to 11 March, GERMANTOWN participated in Exercise TEAM SPIRIT. On 11 March, GERMANTOWN was detached to steam to Yokosuka, Japan. On 14 March, GERMANTOWN arrived at Yokosuka to deliver LCAC 42 for repairs. After spending a day in Yokosuka, GERMANTOWN steamed back towards Pohang. Between 18 and 29 March, GERMANTOWN made two "pumps" between Pohang and Buckner Bay, conducting backloads in Korea and offloads in Okinawa. With the completion of a successful Exercise TEAM SPIRIT, GERMANTOWN returned to homeport on 31 March for an upkeep period at Sasebo from 1 to 30 April.

Narrative Summary (cont'd)

On 1 May, GERMANTOWN once again sailed for Pohang, Korea to backload remaining Marine Corps equipment. At completion of the backload, GERMANTOWN steamed towards Okinawa, arriving at Buckner Bay on 4 May for onload. On 7 May, GERMANTOWN got underway enroute Sattahip, Thailand. After a brief period at anchorage off Sattahip, GERMANTOWN and USS BELLEAU WOOD participated in a highly visible combined live fire exercise and Exercise COBRA GOLD '93. After the exercise, GERMANTOWN returned to Sattahip for backload of Marine equipment. From 26 to 30 May, the Amphibious Readiness Group enjoyed a well-deserved liberty call at Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

From 31 May to 9 June, GERMANTOWN was underway enroute Buckner Bay. On 9 June, GERMANTOWN commenced offload and returned to Sasebo on 10 June. From 11 June to 6 July, GERMANTOWN sailors prepared for an upcoming three month Central Command tether deployment.

On 9 July, GERMANTOWN arrived at Buckner Bay for onload. From 11 to 22 July, GERMANTOWN was enroute the Guam operating area. During this underway period, GERMANTOWN participated in Exercise Tandem Thrust. Following the exercise, GERMANTOWN returned to Buckner Bay for a brief inport period. From 29 to 31 July, GERMANTOWN conducted Blue/Green Water Workups in the Phillipine sea. From 1 to 4 August, GERMANTOWN underwent another MEU(SOC) Certification to train the many new members of the Thirty-First MEU.

After another brief inport period at Buckner Bay, GERMANTOWN steamed towards Hong Kong. The port visit, from 9 to 14 August, was a welcome Port O' Call for GERMANTOWN sailors and embarked Marines.

From 15 to 19 August, GERMANTOWN detached from the ARG and steamed towards Surabaya, Indonesia. From 19 to 26 August, GERMANTOWN underwent repairs and conducted tours for Indonesian sailors and marines. Though this was a working port, sailors and marines enjoyed their liberty.

From 27 August to 7 September, GERMANTOWN steamed towards Australia. During this period, GERMANTOWN participated in Exercise VALIANT USHER '93-5. From 7 to 12 September, GERMANTOWN enjoyed a port visit at Perth, Australia. From 13 to 26 September, GERMANTOWN steamed to Buckner Bay.

On 26 September, GERMANTOWN arrived at Buckner Bay for offload. At the completion of the offload, GERMANTOWN's excited crew returned to Sasebo, arriving on 30 September.

On 7 November, GERMANTOWN departed on her final voyage of 1993. In support of Operation REMEMBRANCE, GERMANTOWN independently steamed towards Tarawa and then Guadalcanal.

Narrative Summary (cont'd)

On 18 November, GERMANTOWN anchored off of the Tarawa Atoll. During this visit, GERMANTOWN's sailors and embarked Marines participated in a number of ceremonies and events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa. Sailors and Marines were involved with a parade, Project Handclasp, Community Relations Projects, and sporting events. On 22 November, GERMANTOWN steamed towards Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

On 26 November, GERMANTOWN arrived at Guadalcanal where GERMANTOWN sailors and Marines participated in events similar to those at Tarawa which culminated in Senator Chafee (R-RI) dedicating a new parliament building to the people of Honiara. On 30 November, GERMANTOWN departed for Okinawa.

On 9 December, GERMANTOWN conducted offload at Buckner Bay and returned to Sasebo on 11 December. 1993 proved to be a challenging and demanding year for GERMANTOWN. But with "Can Do" spirit, GERMANTOWN once again excelled!