

**ORIGINAL**

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)  
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Ser: 134  
14 March 1968

From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op09b9)

Subj: Command History for 1967; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12

Encl: (1) Chronology for 1967  
(2) Basic Narrative  
(3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are hereby submitted.

  
E. J. CARROLL

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMPHIBPAC

## CHRONOLOGY 1967

### January

- 1-31 Ship located at San Diego, California conducting final preparations for overseas movement.
- 9,10,11 Annual Supply Inspection.
- 13 Career Information Pre-deployment Luncheon at the 1st and 2nd Class P.O. Club. Attendance - over 100.
- 16 First OGDEN All-Hands Dinner Dance. Attendance - approximately 230.
- 21 OGDEN officers and ladies attended PHIBRON NINE's first social.
- 30-31 Embarked Marines and equipment for deployment to WESTPAC.

### February

- 1 D-day. OGDEN sailed for WESTPAC with PRINCETON (LPH 5), MONTICELLO (LSD 35), OAK HILL (LSD 7) and SEMINOLE AKA-104. Embarked 9 LCM 6's of ACDIV 12 Detachment November.
- 9 Arrived at Pearl Harbor for WESTPAC briefing.
- 11 Departed Pearl Harbor westbound.
- 21 UNREP/VERTREP with USS MARS (AFS 1) enroute to Okinawa.
- 24 OGDEN notified by COMPHIBPAC of nomination as Amphibious Force representative in Ney Award competition.
- 26 Departed Okinawa after 3-day visit to off-load Marines and their equipment and to backload ammunition.
- 28 Arrived Subic Bay for two-week stay. Embarked Marine landing force..

### March

- 6 OGDEN relieved VANCOUVER in the Amphibious Ready Group.
- 20 OGDEN participated in her first combat operation - BEACON HILL 1- while operating as part of the Seventh Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group and Special Landing Force (ARG/SLF). A Battalion Landing Team of the First Battalion, Fourth Marines (BLT 1/4) was put ashore between the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and Cua Viet River.
- 29 Made 1,000th helicopter landing since being commissioned.

### April

- 6 Sailed from Cua Viet River for Okinawa via Subic Bay. Stayed in Subic 1 1/2 days due to Typhoon VIOLET.
- 10 Arrived Okinawa. Off-loaded BLT 3/4 for re-outfitting and embarked BLT 2/3. Tour of Okinawa conducted during four days there.
- 15-16 Participated in a practice landing exercise on Okinawa - called HILLTOP VII.
- 22 Commenced Operation BEACON STAR 16 miles south of the DMZ. The Search and destroy phase was designated BEACON STAR Phase ONE to distinguish it from the action inland at Khe Sanh (Hills 861 and 881) which was designated BEACON STAR Phase TWO.
- 29 Steak barbecue on the flight deck.

May  
19

Landed troops in Operation BELT TIGHT as a segment of a major push called Operation HICKORY just south of the DMZ.

29

Arrived Subic Bay for upkeep period.

June  
4

Entertained 40 children aboard from several elementary schools in Olongapo.

6

Presented a check from the ship to "Operation Schoolhouse", a plan to help deserving young people in the Philippines to obtain a High School education.

8

Departed Subic for Vietnam.

9

Navy Relief fund drive Carnival and steak dinner.

18

Began Operation BEACON TORCH, landing troops 28 miles southeast of DaNang. OGDEN served as the Primary Control Ship for operation.

19

2nd anniversary of commissioning of OGDEN observed. Approximately 175 Plankowners shared a cake on the mess deck.

22

The Under Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Charles F. BAIRD, visited the OGDEN. He was accompanied by Admirals HYLAND, VANNOY and LAROCQUE. A few days later we were visited by Admiral MOORER, the then Prospective CNO, and by Major General DUCHEIN, USMCR, the new president of the Navy league.

July  
2

Reembarked HLT 2/3.

4

Began Operation BEAVER TRACK, part of a search and clear operation within the DMZ. This operation ended 17 July.

20

Participated in Operation BEAR CHAIN in the same place where BEACON STAR occurred in April 1967. HLT 2/3 was backloaded 26 July.

27,28,29

HLT 2/3 and ship's company had R&R at China Beach in DaNang Harbor.

August  
1

Took part in Operation KANGAROO KICK, the 8th operation for OGDEN since arriving off the coast of Vietnam. Troops were landed 15 miles north of Hue. This operation terminated 4 August.

5

Arrived Subic Bay for six days upkeep.

7

Twenty volunteers painted one building of the Kalalake Elementary School in Olongapo.

9

OGDEN relieved by USS PAUL REVERE (APA 248).

11

Sailed for Okinawa to offload the Marine Landing Force reserve material. Two days required.

16

Sailed for Sasebo, Japan, arriving the 17th. Eight days here. Tours of Nagasaki and Unzen enjoyed. Eight two-shelf bookcases built by ship's carpenters and presented to the local World Missions for Children Orphanage.

26

Departed Sasebo for Subic Bay. One day there to pick up PHIBRON NINE boats and vehicles.

September

1 Arrived off Cua Viet River and embarked COMPHIBRON NINE and Staff for return to the United States.

3 Arrived Hong Kong for five days.

8 Sailed for Yokosuka, Japan.

12 Arrived Yokosuka -- delayed by Typhoon OPAL for two days. Left on the 15th.

18 Chopped from COMSEVENTHFLT to WESTPAC to COMFIRSTFLT in San Diego.

19 Crossed the International Date Line, had two Tuesdays.

22 Arrived Pearl Harbor for debriefing. One day here. Debarked PHIBRON NINE Staff to fly back to CONUS. California Highway Patrolman Albert T. SCOTT came aboard to lecture on legislation and highway safety during trip to CONUS.

28 Arrived San Diego having steamed 38,242 miles since 1 February 1967.

October

17 Annual Administrative/Material Inspection conducted (completed) by PHIBRON NINE.

30 Ship's Party at 1st and 2nd Class P. O. Club. Attendance - 265.

November

13 At sea for five days of independent ship operations.

16 Made 2,000th helicopter landing.

20 At sea for two days gunnery.

27 Departed San Diego to participate in Operation BLUE LOTUS, a large First Fleet exercise off the coast of California. Landed troops on "enemy" beaches on 4 December.

29 The Honorable Mr. DRIVER, Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, came aboard to observe BLUE LOTUS.

December

4 OGDEN ballasted for 500th time.

16 Christmas Party held aboard - 125 children attended. OGDEN was host to PHIBRON NINE Staff families.

OGDEN'S REENLISTMENT FOR 1967

NAME	RATE	DATE	REEN/ EXT	1st TERM	OTHER THAN 1st
	CS3	27 JAN 67	REEN	X	
	ETN2	24 MAR 67	REEN	X	
	ETR2	24 MAR 67	REEN	X	
	HM2	24 MAR 67	REEN		X
	BM1	6 MAY 67	REEN		X
	SK1	14 JUN 67	REEN		X
	SFP2	14 JUN 67	REEN		X
	RD2	18 JUL 67	REEN	X	
	RM2	24 JUL 67	REEN	X	
	HM2	14 AUG 67	REEN		X
	SHB3	18 SEP 67	REEN	X	
	RM1	18 SEP 67	REEN		X
	BT3	23 OCT 67	EXT	X	
	MM2	15 DEC 67	REEN		X

## BASIC NARRATIVE

New Year's Day 1967 found USS OGDEN (LPD 5), Captain R. L. DISE, USN, Commanding Officer, in her San Diego homeport preparing for deployment. January was the latter half of a two-month Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM) period. Large quantities of general supplies and ammunition were received aboard during this time, the latter load requiring a trip to the SEAL BEACH Ammunition Depot on 20 January. Families were not forgotten in the pre-deployment preparations. Successful ship and Amphibious Squadron NINE parties were held on 16 and 21 January. By 30 January OGDEN was ready to embark the 15th 155 MM Gun Battery of the Fleet Marine Force.

On 1 February the ship sailed for WESTPAC, embarking nine LCM-6's of Assault Craft Division 12 after clearing San Diego harbor. The trip to Hawaii was made in company with USS PRINCETON (LPH 5), USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35), USS OAK HILL (LSD 7) and USS SEMINOLE (AKA 104). OGDEN participated in various drills and exercises enroute and gained valuable experience steaming in merchant convoy formation. Gun crews sharpened their skills by firing at drone aircraft launched by a detachment aboard MONTICELLO.

A two-day stop at Pearl Harbor provided time for additional WESTPAC briefings while permitting the crew to enjoy some rest and sightseeing. On 11 February OGDEN sailed for Okinawa, being replenished by USS MARS (AFS 1) the night before reaching her destination. Forty-five tons of stores were transferred to OGDEN during this underway vertical replenishment.

While berthed at a White Beach pier in Okinawa, OGDEN off-loaded the artillery ammunition she had received at SEAL BEACH and replaced it with ammunition which would be needed by the Battalion Landing Teams the ship would carry into combat. Such transfers are always difficult, but no serious problems were encountered, and the ship got underway for Subic Bay, R. P., on 26 February.

Two days later OGDEN arrived in Subic Bay for two weeks of yard availability and upkeep. A great deal was accomplished in this time, and the ship's engineering and electronics personnel were generous in their praise of both the technical competence and devotion to duty by the Subic Ship Repair Facility workers. On 6 March OGDEN relieved USS VANCOUVER (LPD 2) while still in Subic Bay, joining PRINCETON and MONTICELLO to compose Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO. Captain R. L. COCHRANE, USN, Commodore of Amphibious Squadron SEVEN, assumed command of the ARG from the flagship PRINCETON. After embarking two companies of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines along with their supporting units, OGDEN sailed for Vietnam.

The five subsequent months of OGDEN's Vietnam operations serve as a textbook demonstration of the versatility of the LPD. On 20 March the embarked BLT went ashore by assault craft and helicopters as OGDEN took part in her first combat operation. Designated BEACON HILL I, this operation was a search and destroy mission between the Cua Viet River and the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Vietnam. For the next dozen days the ship remained in the area to support the BLT ashore. In spite of fog which created poor visibility conditions OGDEN logged 185 helicopter landings, including her 1,000th landing on 29 March.

Following the successful termination of BEACON HILL I the ship steamed to the Cua Viet River and on 3-5 April embarked BLT 3/4 for transport to Okinawa. Violet, the first of several typhoons encountered during the deployment, necessitated a two-day layover in Subic Bay. The ship arrived at Okinawa on 10 April and the troops were off-loaded the next day.

BLT 2/3 was embarked at Okinawa to replace BLT 3/4. These troops would operate from OGDEN until August. The majority of ACDIV 12 also remained aboard until OGDEN was relieved in the ARG in August. These troops and boats were put ashore during Operation HILLTOP VII, a practice landing on Okinawa on 15 and 16 April.

Only six days later BLT 2/3 went ashore sixteen miles south of the DMZ as part of Operation BEACON STAR, Phase I. This operation was successful in spite of the fact that the Operation Order was received only 36 hours before H-hour. Some communication problems were experienced during this operation, and lessons were learned in distinguishing between essential and non-essential cargo. The loss of experienced personnel through transfer and discharge is a perennial problem, but one that can be largely overcome by anticipating losses and training reliefs on board.

Phase II of BEACON STAR developed with the battles for possession of Hills 861 and 881 near Khe Sanh. OGDEN stood by in a supporting role as BLT 2/3 was transported by helicopter to this area. The hills were captured from the enemy and the troops "came home" on 11 and 12 May.

The tempo of operations forced cancellation of a trip to Subic Bay and on 19 May BLT 2/3 again went ashore, this time in the Operation BELT TIGHT phase of a larger effort designated Operation HICKORY. Once again a short lead time was used to make the fullest preparation possible, and the assault craft and helicopters reached the target zones as scheduled.

The ARG entered Subic Bay on 29 May for ten rainy days of much needed upkeep and liberty. On 4 June forty children from elementary schools in Olongapo came aboard for a tour of the ship, a cartoon show and lots of ice cream and cookies. The ARG departed Subic Bay for Vietnam on 8 June. PRINCETON was relieved by USS TRIPOLI (LPH 10) and Captain J. L. LOWENTROUT, USN, Commander of Amphibious Squadron NINE, assumed command of Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO.

The backloading of troops and repair of equipment off the coast of Vietnam climaxed in Operation BEACON TORCH on 18 June. During this complex operation OGDEN served both as the Primary Control Ship (PCS) and the Amphibious vehicle tracked (LVT) launch ship while remaining underway at 5 to 10 knots. One of OGDEN's attached units, an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT), conducted a beach survey in connection with this operation. A group of news media personnel went ashore with the Marine troops and tanks. On 22 June, while she was engaged in this operation, OGDEN was visited by the Undersecretary of the Navy, the Honorable Charles F. BAIRD, accompanied by Admirals HYLAND, VANNOY and LAROCHE. Several days later OGDEN was honored by the visit of Admiral MOORE and Major DUCHENIN, USMCR, president of the Navy league.

On 2 July BLT 2/3 was reembarked. On America's Independence Day these troops went ashore again as part of Operation BEAVER TRACK, an effort to find and destroy enemy installations in the DMZ. Once again OGDEN assumed simultaneous underway launch and PCS duties. Difficulties were encountered in the identification of some of the numerous ships in the area. Amphibious transports, logistic vessels,

naval gunfire support ships and high speed patrol craft all participated in the operation. OGDEN served as the primary casualty evacuation ship during the LPH underway replenishments. All troops were reembarked by 17 July.

Operation BEAR CHAIN took place on 20 July in the same area where Operation EMACON STAR, Phase I had occurred in April. BEAR CHAIN was another in the series of successful search and destroy missions conducted during these months. Navigation, often made difficult due to the lack of landmarks, was a lesser task in these now familiar waters.

By 26 July the troops were back on board and ready for a three-day rest and recuperation in DaNang Harbor. Each day one section of OGDEN's crew went ashore as guests of the Marines.

Operations were resumed when on 1 August BLT 2/3 went ashore in Operation KANGAROO KICK, a heliborne assault 15 miles north of Hue. A turnaway landing by the LVT's served as a diversionary measure while giving OGDEN's personnel experience in pre-dawn boat launching and control. The similarity of this operation to BEAR CHAIN and the relatively lengthy planning period helped to produce another smooth and successful operation.

When OGDEN steamed into Subic Bay on 5 August she had been at sea for 58 continuous days. The ten days available for upkeep was very short, even with the outstanding assistance of the Subic Ship Repair Facility. On 9 August in Subic Bay OGDEN was relieved by USS PAUL REVERE (APA 248). On 10 August BLT 2/3 was debarked for the last time during this deployment. When the debarking was completed OGDEN proceeded to Okinawa where she off-loaded ammunition and supplies on 13 August.

Sasebo, Japan was her destination when the ship departed Okinawa on 16 August. The crew enjoyed eight days of rest and recuperation in this southern Japanese city. Community relations were kept in mind as the ship's carpenters constructed eight bookcases to donate to the local World Missions for Children Orphanage. On 26 August OGDEN sailed south for two brief stops before heading for Hong Kong. At Subic Bay Amphibious Squadron NINE boats and vehicles were brought aboard and off the Cua Viet River Captain J. L. LOWENTROUT and his staff were embarked for transit to the United States.

OGDEN's personnel thoroughly enjoyed four days in Hong Kong in spite of the tense political situation which existed at the time. There were no incidents involving members of the crew.

On 8 August OGDEN left Hong Kong for the long trip back to San Diego. Typhoon OPAL forced a three-day layover in Yokosuka, Japan. While the ship was enroute to Hawaii the COMPHIBRON NINE Staff conducted a part of OGDEN's annual Administrative Inspection. The staff then debarked at Pearl Harbor to fly to CONUS. After the one day required for debriefing OGDEN steamed for home.

When the ship was berthed at the San Diego Naval Station on 28 September she had completed an eight-month deployment during which she steamed 38,200 miles, dropped anchor 65 times, received 24 underway replenishments, ballasted 366 times and made 1,220 helicopter landings.

October was spent in port taking care of necessary maintenance and allowing the ship's personnel as much leave as possible after the long absence from families. On 17 October the Administrative Inspection was completed with the ship receiving excellent to outstanding marks in most areas. On 30 October OGDEN held a highly successful homecoming party for the crew members and their guests.

November was given to regular repairs and upkeep along with refresher training. This training served also to indoctrinate many new men who had reported aboard for duty after the ship returned from WESTPAC. The week of 13 November was given to exercising the crew at General Quarters, gunnery and engineering drills. Just prior to Thanksgiving the ship conducted anti-torpedo boat and shore bombardment exercises. While poor visibility posed some problems during this underway training, the exercises were quite profitable.

On 27 November OGDEN went to sea for the last time in 1967. Her mission was to participate in Operation BLUE LOTUS, a massive First Fleet training exercise off the coast of Southern California. Many aspects of the exercise closely resembled the actual combat situations in which the ship had participated during her deployment. BLT 3/28 was embarked on 28 November while OGDEN was lying to off Del Mar, California, following which the ship rendezvoused with other units of the 45 ship - 7,000 troop force. The Amphibious Task Force conducted a diversionary landing at San Clemente Island and then steamed north for the actual assault landing at Camp Pendleton on 4 December. During BLUE LOTUS OGDEN hosted a special observer, the Honorable Randolph S. DRIVER, Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy for Manpower. A number of newsmen from western metropolitan newspapers also came aboard for a briefing by Rear Admiral F. W. VANNOY, USN, Commander of the Amphibious Task Force, and Brigadier General W. B. SAWYER, USMC, the embarked Marine Commander.

On 8 December OGDEN returned for upkeep and the holiday leave period. The loss of a large number of men through transfer and discharge and the liberal leave policy kept activity at a minimum during this period, but did not hinder a gala Christmas party on 16 December for children of the ship's company and the PHIBRON NINE Staff.

On 29 December Captain E. J. CARROLL, USN, prospective Commanding Officer of OGDEN, arrived on board and began relieving procedures.

The following are departmental summaries of highlights of the operations during 1967 and equipment and personnel problems encountered where applicable.