From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
To: Director of Naval History
Subj: Command History for 1969; submission of
Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12A
Encl: (1) Chronology for 1969
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes

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

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03 Apr 1984

[1969]
1969 USS OGDEN (LPD 5) Narrative

History of the USS OGDEN (LPD 5) for the year 1969

Commanded by:

E. J. CARROLL, Captain, USN 1 January - 3 March

J. W. HULIHAN, Captain, USN 3 March - 31 December

HOMEPORTED IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

MISSION

To transport and land Troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft or amphibian vehicles augmented by helicopter lift.
1. (C) 1969 began with the USS OGDEN (LPD-5) involved in combat support of Operation Swift Move II which had commenced during the month of December 1968. On the mornings of 1 and 2 January the ship entered Danang Harbor RVN for daily support operations. Due to the high sapper swimmer threat in Danang at that time, Ogden departed the harbor nightly for the "Barbara" operating areas. On the morning of 3 January, Ogden embarked the 3rd Platoon, "A" Company of the 5th Amtrac BN, off of the amtrac base near Marble Mountain, RVN.

2. (C) On the morning of 6 January, Ogden entered Danang Harbor to participate in the helicopter phase of a planned two day Amphibious Training Exercise. The full amphibious phase of the exercise scheduled for the 7th was cancelled early the morning of 7 January. From 7-11 January, Ogden entered Danang Harbor daily for planning and backload operations in preparation for Operation "Bold Mariner", which was to be the largest amphibious operation to date in the Vietnamese conflict. Embarked during those five days were the following units of BLT 3/26:

- "K" Company
- "M" Company
- "Det H&S" Company
- "W" Battery
- "Det 3rd Plt."
- "Det LSU"
- 3rd BN.
- 3rd BN.
- 3rd BN.
- 1st BN.
- 2nd Plt.
- 26th Marines
- 26th Marines
- 26th Marines
- 13th Marines
- 3rd Recon BN.
- 9th MAB

3. (C) On the evening of 11 January Ogden rendezvoused with TF 76 ships and formed an eight ship formation enroute to an area slightly south of Mui Batangan. On 12 Jan the ship engaged in deceptive maneuvers prior to the actual landings of the next day. That night the formation moved seaward off of Mui Batangan, RVN with all ships totally darkened and EMCON silence imposed on all radio circuits. Communications were established via Nancy beacons. "Bold Mariner" support operations continued from 13 January - 9 February.

4. (C) During the 23 day period from 13 January - 4 February Ogden maintained an active schedule of combat support missions. The normal routine consisted of closing the command post beach from the ship's oparea to facilitate boat and helo transfers of supplies and marine personnel which were needed ashore. Several times during this period OGDEN traveled north to Chu Lai.
needed marine supplies, and on 2 February, the ship made a high speed run to Danang for some much needed blood. In addition, a great many men of the Ogden donated their own blood in order to rebuild the dwindling supply. Indicative of the pace maintained during Operation "Bold Mariner" are the statistics of flight deck and well deck operations. During the month of January, Ogden landed a total of 338 aircraft, or approximately 36% of its yearly total and on 2 February the ship celebrated its 4000th helo landing. The well deck logged 133 separate ballast operations during the month of January, or approximately one third of the yearly total.

5. (C) On 5 February, Ogden commenced what was to become a five day backload/withdrawal upon the termination of Operation "Bold Mariner." During the five day period weather conditions became extremely bad. Boats were continually battered while beaching and entering the well deck. Backload operations were ceased over and over again while repair crews patched holes and made other repairs. On 9 February backload operations were finally completed and Operation "Bold Mariner" was brought to a close. Ogden joined in formation with the rest of Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO and headed north toward Danang.

6. (C) With Operation Bold Mariner completed, Ogden, in conjunction with the rest of ARG BRAVO, wasted no time before starting new activities. On 10 February, the assault phase and combat support of Operation Defiant Measure was commenced off of the RVN coast near Danang, and continued for the next six days. During the support phase of the operation, the ship entered Danang daily and offloaded all of the BLT personnel and equipment. OGDEN made its final departure of Danang Harbor, RVN for the 1968-69 Westpac cruise on 16 February 1969.

7. (U) The ship arrived in Subic Bay, Philippines terminating a 54 day line period on 18 February and remained there until 25 February. While there, the ship offloaded all of its L-Form, made preparations for the upcoming INSURV inspection and was officially relieved of its duties by the USS PAUL REVERE (LPA-248). On the night of 25 February, Ogden was underway for Yokosuska, Japan.

8. (U) On 2 March Ogden arrived in Yokosuska, and commenced an active and productive nine day import period. On the afternoon of 3 March Captain J. W. Hulihan relieved Captain E. J. Carroll, Jr. of command in a short ceremony in Upper Vehicle Stowage. Distinguished visitors included COMNAVFOR JAPAN, COMLANSHIPFLOT ONE, and COMPHIBRON NINE. In anticipation of the Ogden's upcoming yard overhaul period, a team of inspectors arrived on 6 March for an INSURV material inspection which continued through the 8th. All was not work however. Sight-seeing and shopping were high priority activities and on the nights of 8 and 9 March, the ship threw two highly successful parties at the Club Alliance.

9. (U) On 11 March the USS OGDEN commenced her long transit home via Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The time between those ports was occupied mainly by training sessions and lectures, post-deployment
administrative work, and coping with heavy seas. The 20-22 March stay in Pearl Harbor was brief but afforded enough time for the arrival customs inspection and general sight-seeing by all. On 22 March the ship was underway again for the last leg of the cruise; this time in company with the USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35) and four destroyers. On 24 March the crew of the Ogden rigged a close in fuel rig using the ship's B/A crane and delivered 51,210 gallons of NSFO to the USS HUNTINGTON (DD-781). Also during the five day transit to San Diego, lectures on driving safety and California state driving laws were given by a California State Highway patrolman who came aboard in Pearl Harbor.

10. (U) On 27 March 1969, Ogden arrived in San Diego, California, and commenced a leave and upkeep period which lasted through 26 April. In the meantime, however, the pre-overhaul inspection was held from 28 March-4 April, and the Annual Supply Inspection was held from 1-3 April. A grade of 88.2 was awarded for the supply inspection. Also in April, the Ogden Air Department was nominated for its second consecutive Air Excellence Award.

11. (C) On 27 April Ogden left San Diego for a short stop at NAVMAG SEAL BEACH on the 28th. All ammunition was removed from the ship prior to entering the Naval Shipyard at Long Beach. On the same day Ogden commenced her regular overhaul. The ship spent the first month pierside and moved into drydock on 3 June. There the ship remained until 26 July when it moved pierside once again. During the overhaul a great many changes and additions were made to Ogden— a partial list of the more important accomplishments follows:

a. The ship was equipped with a passive ECM capability.

b. Probe fueling rigs were installed.

c. A signal bridge complex was added above the new ECM shack top-side.

d. A greatly enhanced secure voice communications system was added.

e. The underwater hull was sandblasted and preserved.

f. General engineering repairs were made to boilers, main engines, and auxiliary machinery.

A COMPLETE LIST OF MAJOR WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE REGULAR OVERHAUL PERIOD FOLLOWS IN ANNEX ALFA, APPENDIX 2.

12. (U) August was commenced by tying together the loose ends remaining from overhaul jobs and testing the ship prior to leaving the shipyard. On 4 and 5 August, dock trials of engineering machinery were held. On 6, 14 and 15 August Ogden conducted sea trials, ECM calibration and radio antennae pattern determination.
On 16 August a pierside inclining experiment was held to determine a new set of ship's stability characteristics.

13. (C) USS OGDEN departed Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 18 August. On 19 August the ship took aboard its basic supply of ammunition at NAVMAG SEAL BEACH and returned to sea for ISE in preparation for Refresher Training. On the 25th of August, Ogden again went to sea for a week of ISE after spending the weekend in San Diego. The ISE period was cut short, however, when at approximately 2300 on the 25th a fire broke out in the ship's laundry. The fire rendered all laundry facilities inoperable. The next morning the ship returned to San Diego for fire rehabilitation and pierside training.

14. (U) On 2 September Ogden commenced a four week period of Refresher Training. The first week was import with three days pierside and two days moored out in the harbor. On 2 and 3 September members of FLETRAGRU SAN DIEGO came aboard and administered the training readiness evaluation inspection. A grade of SATISFACTORY was awarded.

15. (U) The underway portion of Refresher Training was conducted from 8-26 September in special operating areas off the coast of San Diego. Individual departmental grades were as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Control</td>
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<td>CIC</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Deck Seamanship</td>
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<td>92.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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OVERALL 87.61

16. (U) After a weekend of rest and preparation, Ogden commenced a one week period of condensed Amphibious Refresher Training off the coast of Camp Del Mar. The first day was spent conducting boat control and cargo handling exercises. The next three days were divided between LVT and helo assault operations. On Friday 3 October, a full scale, pre-dawn amphibious assault battle problem
was staged for which the ship was awarded a grade of 87.90. Following the landing, the ship returned to San Diego for upkeep and preparation for her WESTPAC deployment.

17. (U) In anticipation of the upcoming deployment October's schedule saw a great many readiness inspections. On the 7th the Commander Amphibious Squadron Nine held a Pre-Overseas Movement Inspection and OGDEN was awarded a SATISFACTORY. On 15-17 October the Annual Supply Inspection and Ney Award nomination inspections were held. The Supply Department received an 88.6 for the supply inspection but the ship was not nominated for the Ney Award. On 17 October the Force Medical Officer Inspection was held and the ship received a grade of 91 for an EXCELLENT. OGDEN received her Flight Deck Visual Landing Aids Certification on the same day. On the 23rd a damage control inspection was held and the ship was awarded a grade of EXCELLENT.

In spite of this heavy schedule of preparation the ship held a highly successful dinner-dance party at the Petty Officer 1 and 2 Club on the night of 20 October. In addition the ship's Petty Officer 3 and 2 lounge was completely renovated by voluntary labor during the month of October.

18. (U) The crew of OGDEN once again said good-bye to San Diego on 1 November 1969 and departed with the USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10) and the USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31) for WESTPAC by way of a brief fueling stop in Guam. On 7 November Commander Amphibious Squadron Nine held an Administrative Inspection aboard Ogdens, followed by a personnel inspection on the 8th. The ship received an overall grade of 90.89 for the Administrative inspection.

19. (U) A pleasant break in the routine of TRANSPAC steaming came on 18 November when a barbecue cookout was held on the flight deck at the end of an afternoon of holiday routine.

20. (C) On 20 November, Ogden arrived in Danang, RVN, embarked UDT Team 12, Det. E and commenced its participation in redeployment operation Keystone Cardinal. On 21 November the ship steamed north to Cua Viet, RVN where it backloaded elements of the 3rd Recon and 3rd Med Battalions through the 24th. Due to extremely bad sea and wind conditions, backload operations were ceased early the morning of 24 November. At noon the ship was underway for Okinawa via Subic Bay, Philippines where on the morning of 26 November ACU-1, Det ALFA was embarked.

21. (C) Oden spent the period between 28 November and 2 December in Ora Wan, Kin Wan and Buckner Bay, Okinawa. First we offloaded the "Keystone Cardinal" troops and supplies and then loaded L-Form and embarked units of BLT 2/9. Units of the new BLT aboard Ogdens included "G" and "H" companies, "W" Battery 212, a platoon of
22. (U) On 30 November, Ogden was nominated for its second consecutive Battle Efficiency Award for the ship's accomplishments in training, inspections, and day-to-day performance of her mission.

23. (U) On 2 December 1969, Ogden departed Okinawa enroute to Subic Bay for an upkeep and training period. That night the ship took a heavy roll causing an amtrac in Upper Vehicle Stowage to break loose while PVT. Donald L. GREGIER, USMC, 2551227 was gripping it down. PVT. GREGIER was crushed between two vehicles resulting in his death. This is the only fatality to occur aboard Ogden since its commissioning.

24. (C) OGDEN arrived in Subic Bay on 4 December for its first upkeep period since leaving CONUS. On 13 December the ship moved across the bay to the Zambales Training Area for a Ready Group "A" amphibious landing exercise. Troops were landed by LVT, Landing Craft, and helicopter. Upon withdrawal OGDEN moved to sea for the night and on the morning of the 14th held gunnery exercises before proceeding to the Danang, RVN area for ready operations.

25. (U) On 24 December, Ogden left the Danang area for the ship's second upkeep period. Christmas was celebrated onboard ship with Christmas Eve caroling on the mess decks, church services Christmas morning, and a special Christmas dinner in the afternoon.

26. (U) The Commander of Amphibious Squadron Nine provided a most fitting conclusion for a highly productive and successful year for the ship when he came aboard 31 December and presented OGDEN the Battle Efficiency Award in a brief ceremony on the flight deck. Ahead of OGDEN lay yet the major part of a diversified and interesting 1969-70 WESTPAC deployment.
1969 USS OGDEN (LPD-5) CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY

1-2 Entered Danang, Continued Backload
6 AMTRAEX Danang
9-12 Enter Danang and anchor daily for backload in preparation for Operation Bold Mariner
13 JAN-4 FEB Combat Support Operation Bold Mariner

FEBRUARY

2 4000th Helo landing
5-9 Backload/Withdrawal of Bold Mariner
10-16 Operation Defiant Measure
16 Underway for Subic Bay
18 Moored NAVFAG Subic, Offload L-Form, Shift Moorage to NAVBASE SUBIC
25 Underway for Yokosuka, Japan

MARCH

2 Inport Yokosuka
3 Change of command ceremony
6-8 INSURV Inspection
8-9 Ship's party at Club Alliance
11 Underway for CONUS
20-22 Inport Pearl Harbor
22 Underway
24 Deliver fuel to USS HUNTINGTON (DD-781)
27 Arrive San Diego
28 MAR-4 APR Pre-Overhaul inspections

APRIL

1-3 Annual Supply Inspection
3-8 Pre-yard conference
19 Ship's picnic at Admiral Baker Field
27 Underway for Seal Beach and Long Beach, California
30 Commenced regular overhaul

MAY

Continued Overhaul

JUNE

3 Entered Drydock - Continued overhaul

JULY

26 Undock
AUGUST

4-5 Dock Trials
6,14,15 Sea Trials
16 Inclining experiment
18 Underway
19 Load basic allowance of ammunition at NAVmag SEAL Beach
19-22 ISE in SOCal Operaes
22 Load aviation fuels
25 ISE SOCal Operaes
Fire in Laundry
26-28 Import San Diego for fire rehabilitation
29 Main engine test midstream

SEPTEMBER

2 Commence REFTRA
4 Shift to buoys
8 Commence 3 week of Mon-Fri at sea REFTRA
26 Final battle problem
Moored San Diego
29SEP-30CT Amphibious REFTRA off Camp Del Mar

OCTOBER

3 Amphibious landing battle problem
Moor San Diego
7 P.O.M. Inspection
15-17 Annual Supply Inspection and Ney Award Inspection
17 Force Medical Officer's Inspection
20 Ship's party at P.O. 1 & 2 Club
23 Damage Control Inspection
28 Dock trials
30

NOVEMBER

1 Underway for WESTPAC
7-8 Administration and Personnel Inspection
15 Fuel stop Guam
18 Flight deck cookout
20 Arrive Danang
21-24 Keystone Cardinal backload
24 Underway for Okinawa via Subic
26 Embark ACU in Subic
28-29 Offload Keystone Cardinal load at Kin Red, Okinawa
30NOV-1DEC Load L-Form
Commence backload of SLF at Buckner Bay, Okinawa
Load vehicles at Kin Red, Okinawa

DECEMBER

2 Load LVT's at Ora Wan, Okinawa
Underway for Subic
4-13 R.A.V. Subic Bay, R.P.I.
13 LANDEX at Zambales Training Area

Enclosure (1)
DECEMBER

14 Underway for Danang READY OPS
16-24 READY OPS off coast of R.V.N.
24 Enroute Subic
26 Arrive Subic, commence R.A.V.
31 Battle Efficiency Award Presentation

Enclosure (1)