



USS OGDEN (LPD-5)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

LPD5/01:cs
5720

Ser **134**

18 MAR 1975

From: Commanding Officer
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1974; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology for calendar year 1974
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes

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


W. F. SAUBERS

Copy to:
COMPHIBPAC
COMPHIBRON THREE
CHINFO

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)

1974 CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY

01-31 Inport San Diego

FEBRUARY

01-21 Inport San Diego

22-23 Underway in local OPAREAS undergoing sea trials

23-24 Inport San Diego

25-27 Underway in local OPAREAS for training

27-28 Anchored in Coronado Roads/Underway in local OPAREAS

MARCH

01-11 Inport San Diego

11-15 Underway in local OPAREAS for REFTRA

16-17 Anchored in San Diego Bay

18-21 Underway in local OPAREAS for REFTRA

22-24 Inport San Diego

25-26 Anchored in Coronado Roads

26-27 Underway in route Camp Pendleton amphibious areas

27-28 Anchored and underway in Camp Pendleton amphibious
OPAREAS

28-31 Inport San Diego

APRIL

01-21 Inport San Diego

22 Underway in local OPAREAS Conduction training.

22-30 Inport San Diego.

MAY

- 01-17 Inport San Diego
- 17 Underway in local OPAREAS for training, Dependents Cruise
- 17-24 Inport San Diego
- 24 Underway enroute Pearl Harbor, commenced WESTPAC deployment
- 31 Arrived Pearl Harbor

JUNE

- 01-16 Underway enroute Subic Bay/COMPHIBRON THREE embarked
- 05 Crossed 180th Meridian
- 16 Arrived Subic Bay/COMPHIBRON THREE Disembarked
- 16-30 Inport Subic Bay
- 30 Underway enroute Okinawa

JULY

- 02 Arrived Okinawa/Departed Okinawa enroute Subic Bay
- 05 Arrived Subic Bay
- 05-07 Inport Subic Bay
- 07-09 Underway enroute Hong Kong
- 09-13 Moored in Naval Anchorage Hong Kong
- 13-15 Underway enroute Subic Bay
- 15-19 Inport Subic Bay
- 19-21 Underway evading Typhoon Ivey
- 21-27 Inport Subic Bay
- 27-29 Underway in local OPAREAS for training
- 30 Inport Subic Bay
- 31 Underway enroute San Fernando, R.P.

AUGUST

01-03 Inport San Fernando, R. P.
03-05 Underway enroute Keelung, Taiwan
05-10 Inport Keelung Taiwan
10-11 Underway enroute Okinawa
11 Arrived Okinawa
12-15 Underway enroute Subic Bay
15-21 Inport Subic Bay
21-31 Underway participating in Operation Pagasa III

SEPTEMBER

01 Enroute Subic Bay
01-10 Inport Subic Bay
10-12 Underway enroute Hong Kong
12-16 Inport Hong Kong/Anchored in Naval Anchorage
16-19 Underway enroute Manila
19-25 Inport Manila
25-28 Underway in Subic OPAREAS for training
28-30 Inport Subic Bay

OCTOBER

01-16 Inport Subic Bay
09 Capt W. F. SAUBERS, USN releived Capt. R. N. CONGDON, USN
as Commanding Officer
16-21 Underway enroute Singapore
21-25 Inport Singapore at ANZUK Naval Base
25-30 Underway enroute Subic Bay
30-31 Inport Subic Bay

NOVEMBER

01-05 Inport Subic Bay

05-09 Underway for Okinawa/COMPHIBRON THREE embarked

09 Arrived Okinawa/Loaded retrograde shipment/Disembarked
COMPHIBRON THREE

10-22 Underway enroute Pearl Harbor

22 Arrived Pearl Harbor

23-30 Underway enroute San Diego

30 Arrived San Diego/Commenced Standdown

DECEMBER

01-31 Inport San Diego

USS OGDEN (LPD-5)
1974

Narrative History for the USS OGDEN (LPD-5) for the year 1974.

COMMANDED BY:

R. N. CONGDON, Captain, U.S. NAVY 01 January - 09 October
W. F. SAUBERS, Captain, U.S. NAVY 09 October - 31 December

HOMEPORT:

San Diego, California

ASSIGNED TO:

Amphibious Squadron THREE

MISSION:

The mission of USS OGDEN (LPD-5) is to transport and land troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft, amphibious vehicles, and helicopter lift.

NARRATIVE:

On 1 January 1974, the ship was moored in San Diego, California continuing a routine period of upkeep. The ship remained at pier 8 for the entire month with no notable events occurring.

OGDEN made comprehensive preparations for getting underway during the first three weeks of February. On 22 February OGDEN was underway for training and shakedown in local southern California operating areas. The ship anchored off Silver Strand in the early afternoon and returned to U.S. Naval Station, San Diego later that day. OGDEN was underway again on 25 February to conduct training with particular emphasis on exercises that would be experienced during the refresher training period scheduled for the next month. USS GUADALUPE (AO-32) provided OGDEN with underway replenishment services the evening of 26 February. The ship anchored in Coronado Roads on 27 February and remained there conducting boat control exercises until the following evening when it got underway for night steaming in the local operating areas.

OGDEN began March with a full battle problem general quarters drill, an evolution the ship was to encounter numerous times during the rest of the month. The ship moored at U.S. Naval Station, San Diego later that day. During the week of 4 March OGDEN received its annual NWA and a Maintenance and Material Management inspection. On 11 March refresher training commenced with the ship

getting underway for local operating areas and remaining underway for the duration of the week. The ship returned to a berth at U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, Friday afternoon and the crew enjoyed a brief rest over the weekend. Monday, 18 March began the final week of the regular portion of refresher training. The ship was underway from Monday morning through Thursday night when it moored to buoys in San Diego Bay. The final Battle Problem was conducted after the ship got underway early Friday afternoon. OGDEN returned to a berth at U.S. Naval Station, San Diego early Friday evening. Amphibious Refresher Training commenced on Monday, 25 March. The ship spent Monday and Tuesday anchored in Coronado Roads and underway in local operating areas. On Wednesday, 27 March, OGDEN proceeded to the amphibious exercise area off Camp Pendelton. Wednesday and Thursday the ship conducted LVT and Boat Landing Operations while both anchored and underway. A material casualty Thursday morning necessitated the curtailment of amphibious refresher training. The ship returned to San Diego later that evening and spent the remainder of the month in port.

Routine maintenance and upkeep were conducted in port San Diego, from 1 April through 21 April. On Monday, 22 April the ship got underway for Coronado Roads and anchored there to conduct Amphibious Exercises. OGDEN returned to San Diego Wednesday, 24 April, remaining in port for the rest of the month.

OGDEN was fast approaching the final preparations for deployment when May began. The period of 1-16 May was spent in port for correcting minor deficiencies and receiving the various supplies and stores the ship would require for the initial transit to WEST-PAC. On 17 May the ship got underway for one day for a brief shakedown and also to provide the dependents and guests onboard some insight to the ship's operations. OGDEN completed final preparations for deployment in San Diego from 18-23 May and then sailed for Pearl Harbor on the 24th. Ships in company included USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7), USS RACINE (LST-1191), USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35), USS SAN BERNARDINO (LST-1189), and USS TULARE (LKA-112). OGDEN and the other ships in the formation conducted various exercises while enroute Pearl Harbor, including gunnery exercises on 28 and 29 May. The task group arrived at Pearl Harbor the morning of 31 May and began replenishing for the long trip to Subic Bay. COMPHIBRON THREE and his staff transferred to OGDEN from USS CLEVELAND for the transit to Subic Bay.

OGDEN's departure from Pearl Harbor on 1 June was not without incident. Shortly after the ship took departure from the harbor a member of the crew leaped off the flight deck. He was quickly retrieved by the ship's motor whaleboat and the transit to Subic Bay was continued. USS RACINE was steaming in company; the other ships having departed for Australia to participate in Exercise KANGAROO 1. The ship crossed the international dateline on 4 June. Frequent drills and exercises continued to be the main order of business during the long transit to Subic Bay.

On 9 June, OGDEN officially transferred from THIRD FLEET to SEVENTH FLEET. The evening of 14 June the ship entered the San Bernadino Strait on its final leg to Subic Bay. The morning of 16 June, COMPHIBRON THREE and his staff disembarked by helicopter prior to OGDEN's arrival at Subic later that morning. Monday 17 June, COMPHIBFOR SEVENTHFLT visited the ship. Early that evening a small class alpha fire was extinguished in a berthing compartment. No injuries or significant damage was sustained. OGDEN remained in Subic Bay for upkeep until Sunday, 30 June when she got underway en-route Okinawa, Japan.

The ship arrived at Buckner Bay, Okinawa on 2 July and departed on the same day for Subic Bay. The Fourth of July was celebrated by the crew with a picnic on the flight deck and entertainment was provided by ship's force as the ship steamed down the western flank of Luzon. Heavy rain, with visability limited to several hundred yards at times, greeted the ship as she arrived back at Subic on 5 July. On 7 July OGDEN departed for Hong Kong arriving there on 9 July for a four day visit. Saturday, 13 July found the ship on its way back to Subic Bay where it arrived on 15 July. Typhoon Ivey interrupted everyone's plans and forced a general sortie from Subic in which OGDEN participated on Saturday, 20 July. IVEY passed quickly and the ship returned to Subic Bay the following morning. OGDEN got underway with USS New Orleans (LPH-11) on 27 July for training in Subic operating areas. On 29 July, the ship returned to Subic for repairs to a minor engineering casualty and then departed for a rendezvous with USS NEW ORLEANS, USS MONTICELLO, and USS FRESNO. OGDEN returned to Subic Bay 30 July upon completion of the underway training period. The following day the ship left Subic Bay for San Fernando, Luzon. Just after passing Grande Island on the way out of the bay, two members of the crew departed the ship without authorization. They were quickly returned by the ship's motor whaleboat and the ship continued on to San Fernando arriving there the following morning.

On 1 August, the ship received a most warm and friendly welcome by various civic groups from the community. A demonstration of local and provincial dances was presented on the pier including participation by ship's officers. Later during the visit the mayor and commanding officer exchanged the key to the city and a ship's plaque. Two tons of Project Handclasp material were presented to the local hospital before the ship left on 3 August bound for Keelung, Taiwan. Though many members of the crew were hindered by extremely loose bowels brought on by drinking the local water in San Fernando, the ship arrived at Keelung on 5 August. On Tuesday 6 August VADM SALZER, COMPHIBPAC visited the ship. OGDEN departed Taiwan on 10 August enroute Okinawa in company with USS NEW ORLEANS, USS MONTICELLO

and USS FRESNO. Buckner Bay was reached on 11 August and the departed with USS MONTICELLO and USS FRESNO in company enroute Subic Bay on 12 August. On 14 August, the ship conducted underway replenishment with USNS TALUGA. The following day, OGDEN moored again in Subic Bay. From 20 August until the end of the month, the ship participated in Exercise PAGASA III with other units of the U.S. SEVENTH FLEET off the northern coast of Panay, Republic of the Philippines. OGDEN recorded her eight thousandth accident free helicopter landing during the exercise on 24 August. On 26 and 30 August OGDEN conducted underway replenishment with USS WABASH (AOR-5).

OGDEN moored in Subic Bay on 1 September and remained inport until 10 September when she departed for her second visit to Hong Kong. The ship arrived on 12 September and departed on 16 September in company with USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10) and USS FRESNO bound for Manila. While enroute, the ship was provided with underway replenishment services by USS SACRAMENTO (AOE1) on 18 September. OGDEN arrived at Manila on 19 September and the crew spent a pleasant though damp week touring the city and surrounding countryside before the ship departed on 24 September. The next three days involved exercises with USS TRIPOLI, USS FRESNO, and USS WADDELL (DLG-24) in Subic operating areas before entering Subic Bay on 28 September. During the final two days of the month the ship was at anchor in the bay conducting training.

OGDEN conducted routine upkeep and maintenance inport from 1-15 October. On 9 October, Captain W.F. SAUBERS, USN relieved Captain R. N. CONGDON, USN as commanding officer. Singapore was the ships next destination when departure was taken from Subic Bay on 16 October in company with USS TRIPOLI. Both ships moored at the ANZUK Naval Base on the northern coast of the island, on Monday, 21 October. The ship's softball team defeated the island's national championship team in a cordial game held downtown on 23 October. The following day, the OGDEN hosted various units of the New Zealand and Singapore armed forces for comprehensive tours of the ship including displays of the embarked Marine equipment and capabilities. USS TRIPOLI and OGDEN departed for Subic Bay on 25 October. The equator was not crossed on the return transit due to operational commitments. USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7) provided underway replenishment services for OGDEN on the night of 28 October. The ship arrived in Subic Bay on 30 October for its last inport period there during the deployment. That evening, the Secretary of the Navy visited the ship and presented the Engineering Department with the "Golden Snipe" award.

OGDEN spent the first four days in November completing preparations for the long transit back to San Diego. On 5 November the ship cleared Subic Bay for the final time and headed for OKINAWA to take on a load of retrograde material and vehicles. COMPHIBRON THREE and his staff were embarked and USS FRESNO was steaming in company. The ships took an unusual route to OKINAWA

by moving southeast through the San Bernadino Straits in order to avoid a typhoon passing across the Philippine Sea. On 9 November the ships arrived at Buckner Bay after a morning vertical replenishment with USS MARS (AFS-1). COMPHIBRON THREE and his staff transferred to USS CLEVELAND the same day. OGDEN and USS CLEVELAND departed OKINAWA on 10 November bound for Pearl Harbor. The ship transferred from SEVENTHFLEET to THIRDFLEET on 15 November and crossed the international dateline on 18 November. USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148) provided underway replenishment services on 21 November. Pearl Harbor was reached on 22 November after an arduous trip that had seen the ship experience eighteen foot seas for most of the passage. OGDEN departed Pearl Harbor the following day in company with USS CLEVELAND on the final leg of the deployment. San Diego was reached on 30 November and the ship remained moored at the Naval Station in a post-deployment stand-down rest for the year.