



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS PONCE (LPD-15)  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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From: Commanding Officer, USS PONCE (LPD 15)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B  
(b) CNO ltr Ser 09BH/2138 dated 17 Jul 79

1978

Encl: (1) USS PONCE (LPD 15) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a) and as requested by reference (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*W. G. Moir*  
W. G. MOIR  
By direction

USS PONCE (LPD 15)

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COMMAND HISTORY

With the ringing in of the new year PONCE, the Proud Lion, gallantly rests upon her blocks while in drydock at Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Chester, Pennsylvania, braving the snow and winds of a winter blizzard. Half of the crew are enjoying a holiday leave period while a detail from the duty section shovels a path from APL 45, to the dining hall.

On 14 January PONCE was moved out of drydock to Pier TWO at Sun Ship until 19 April when she was once again moved to drydock until she was moved back to Pier TWO on 2 May.

On 26 May PONCE received fuel and lit fires in Number TWO Boiler on 14 June. Beginning on 8 September PONCE had a three day fast cruise in anticipation of Sea Trials the following week. At 1256 hours on 14 September PONCE was underway down the Delaware River for Sea Trials. It had been almost 14 months since PONCE's arrival at Sun Shipbuilding and the five hour sea and anchor detail was a welcome relief from a reary depressing shipyard. On 15 September PONCE returned to Sun Ship for further repairs and on 27 September she once again was underway for sea trials returning to Sun Ship on 29 September. On 5 October PONCE left Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company and arrived at the Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA on 6 October. A period of upkeep followed and on 3 November PONCE moved to Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va to refuel.

Enclosure (1)

On 15 November PONCE anchored and took on ammunition, later that night she weighed anchor and set sail for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba arriving there on the morning of 22 November. From 23 November until 12 December PONCE conducted refresher training daily, except for a two day visit to Montego Bay, Jamaica on 1 and 2 December. On 12 December PONCE had satisfactorily completed training and weighed anchor and set sail for St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and arrived there on the morning of 14 December. After three days of excellent liberty PONCE weighed anchor on the morning of 17 November and proceeded to NOB Norfolk. On 21 December PONCE arrived at NOB Norfolk and was moored there until the years end.