



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS PONCE (LPD-15)
FPO NEW YORK 09582

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From: Commanding Officer, USS PONCE (LPD-15)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington,
D.C. 20374

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is forwarded.


EMORY R. ZIMMER

USS PONCE (LPD-15) COMMAND HISTORY - 1982

USS PONCE (LPD-15) began the year moored to the pier at the Naval Station, Norfolk, VA under the operational control of CTG 22.5, administrative control of COMPHIBRON SIX and tasked as CTG 22.5.5.

January

The month of January was busy with workups for the up coming deployment. These included wet well operations in the Chesapeake Bay with Assault Craft Unit 2 on 5-6 January, work-up with USS GUADALCANAL, USS FORT SNELLING, USS SHREVEPORT and USS SUMTER in the VACAPES OPAREAS from 11-15 January and then underway enroute to Moorehead City, N.C. on 27 January to load Marine equipment and personnel. On 29 January, Marine Amphibious Unit 36 had been loaded and we were underway for exercise Alloy Express.

February

The month of February found the PONCE enroute to Portsmouth, U.K.. On 2 February 1982 a collision occurred with USS FORT SNELLING that caused minor damage to the port side, mainly to the accommodation ladder and the flight deck catwalk, while conducting a towing exercise. On 10 February 1982, PONCE arrived in Portsmouth, U.K. for a port visit until 15 February 1982, at which time she got underway for Sorreisa Norway to off-load the embarked Marines. This occurred on 20 February 1982. On 21 February 1982, PONCE was enroute to Tromso, Norway for a port visit from 22-28 February 1982. Underway again on the 28 of February, PONCE anchored off Sorreisa, Norway on March for the embarkation of our Marine Units.

March

March found the PONCE enroute Leksivik, Norway for a rehearsal landing in preparation for a D-Day landing at Lillesgona, Norway on 10 March. The transit to Lillesgona was conducted as an enterleads transit, a first for the Amphibious Group. The landing was cancelled due to bad weather and the PONCE proceeded to Byerkvir, Norway for a liberty port visit commencing of 11 March 1982. On 19 March, PONCE was again underway enroute Portsmouth, U.K. for an equipment wash down that occurred 25-29 March 1982. On 29 March, PONCE was enroute for a port visit from 30 March - 2 April, in Amsterdam Netherlands.

April

April began with a shift in operational control to CTU 22.2.3 on the first and underway for home on the second. PONCE arrived in Moorehead City, N.C. On 14 April for the debarkation of the Marine Amphibious Unit 36 and home in Norfolk, VA on 15 April.

May

The month of May was spent as a port deployment upkeep period with the exception of full weapon off load at Yorktown, VA during the period of 24 -26 May.

Enclosure (1)

June

On 1 June PONCE departed Norfolk enroute to Brooklyn, NY arrive on 2 June 1982. On 22 June 1982 PONCE entered dry dock. This marked the commencement of a regular overhaul that would finish the year with PONCE moored to pier "J" at the Coastal Dry Dock Corporation, Brooklyn, NY.

Other important events during the year were as follows at Coastal Dry Dock Corporation Brooklyn, NY:

- 30 June 1982 - Commander Thomas Chandler was relieved by Commander Milton R. Long, JR. as Executive Officer.
- 10 July 1982 - PONCE marked its eleventh year as a commissioned vessel with a baseball game and picnic along with a cake cutting ceremony.
- 3 December 1982 - In ceremonies in the well deck, Captain Daniel P. March was relieved as commanding officer by Captain Emory P. Zimmer.
- 10 December 1982 - PONCE was floated out of Dry dock and tied up to pier "J" at Coastal Dry Dock Corporation, Brooklyn NY where she remained through the year's end.