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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: 1972 Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12B of 20 May 1971

Encl: (1) Command Organization  
(2) Summary of Operations - 1972  
(3) Exercise Snowy Beach, end of exercise report  
(4) Exercise Exotic Dancer V, Final Exercise report  
(5) 1972 Highlights  
(6) Change of Command Ceremony booklets

1. In accordance with reference (a) the enclosed are submitted.

  
D. G. McCORMICK III  
CAPT USN

Copy to:  
COMPHIBLANT  
COMPHIBRON FOUR  
COMPHIBRON TEN

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Summary of Operations - 1972

1 January 1972 to 31 December 1972

- 1-4 JAN Inport Norfolk, Virginia. Load ship and L-FORM ammunition.
- 5 JAN Sea trials to determine effectiveness of December post shakedown availability repairs.
- 6-16JAN Inport Norfolk-preparation for cold weather exercise Snowy Beach.
- 17-19JAN Underway for Snowy Beach. Embarked are detachments from Mobile Mine Countermeasures (MOMCOM), HM-12 with four CH-53 helicopters, Combat Camera Group Atlantic, Seal Team TWO and EOD Group TWO.
- 20-21JAN TRENTON is at amphibious objective area, Reid State Park, Maine and begins sweep operations with CH-53's. Seal team inserted at POW camp inland.
- 22JAN D-Day. Amphibious assault units arrive and land. TRENTON continues sweep and mine recovery operations to evaluate effectiveness of CH-53's and sweep gear during cold weather.
- 23JAN Underway for Norfolk.
- 25JAN-3FEB Inport Norfolk-preparations for port visit to New Orleans, La.
- 4-8FEB Steaming in company with USS PONCE (LPD-15) to New Orleans.
- 9-15FEB Port visit New Orleans. Embarked are 600 ROTC and military participants of Mardi Gras 1972.
- 16-19FEB Steaming to Norfolk in company with USS PONCE (LPD-15). Arrive PM 20 Feb. Motor whale boat swept from davits during rough seas 120 miles SW of Cape Hatteras.
- 20-27FEB Inport Norfolk.
- 28FEB-3MAR Amphibious operational training, Onslow beach, N. C. Extensive helicopter and landing craft operations.
- 6-8MAR Underway for sea trials. Offload ship's and L-FORM ammunition in preparation for entering Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, Baltimore, M. D.
- 10-29MAR Shipyard period for repairs of deballast compressors, motor whale boat davits, crack in hull and number two engineroom (the Phantom vacuum).

28JUL Underway for Moorehead City, N.C. with COMPHIBRON FOUR embarked in USS IWO JIMA (LPD-2), USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113), USS PENSA-COLA (LSD-38), USS BOULDER (LST-1190) all of PHIBRON FOUR.

29JUL Onload of 34th Marine Amphibious Unit (34 MAU) at Moorehead City, N.C. Aboard TRENTON are (Bataillon Landing Team 3/2 (BLT3/2) CO of troops and headquarters (H&S) company, Mike Company, RECON Platoon and numerous operational and logistical support units and their equipment.

30JUL-9AUG Transit Atlantic. Numerous drills with PHIBRON FOUR and embarked marines. Weather calm and sunny.

10-12AUG Turnover Rota, Spain. TRENTON relieves USS RALEIGH (LPD-1). PHIBRON FOUR and 34 MAU become Task Force 61.

13-15AUG Amphibious Landing Exercise 1-73 at Carboneros, Spain. Consists of a simple turnaway landing. TRENTON provides assistant boat group commander (ABGC) and acts as alternate control ship in addition to debarking its marines and their equipment.

16-21AUG Port visit Valencia, Spain.

24AUG-2SEP PHIBLEX 2-73 at Timbakion, Crete-TRENTON's first full scale surface and air amphibious assault since commissioning.

5-9SEP Port visit Venice, Italy. Moored in the Grand Canal with USS IWO JIMA and USS BOULDER.

10-11SEP Landing exercise at Corle, Italy. TF 61 makes an overnight landing to evaluate the beach. First landing held at this beach by US Forces.

14SEP TRENTON has 2000th helicopter landing while inroute to Izmir.

16-17SEP NATO exercise Deep Furrow Conference-Izmir, Turkey. Besides TF 61 and other US Ships, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Great Britain are represented. Underway 17 SEP. for rehearsal landing at Timbakion.

19SEP Landing at Timbakion with TF 61 and Italian ships. Landing is supported by NATO aircraft.

20-22SEP Opposed transit to Alexandroupolis, Greece.

23-28SEP PHIBLEX 3-73. D-Day 23 Sep. with TF 61, Greek and Italian ships and NATO aircraft participating.

30SEP-5OCT Port visit Athens, Greece with TF 61.

Command Organization  
(Second Submission)

1. Commanding Officers:

- a. Captain Karl R. THIELE  
1 January 1972 - 13 December 1972
- b. Captain Daniel G. McCORMICK III  
13 December 1972 - 31 December 1972

2. Missions and Functions

a. Mine Countermeasures

(1) During cold weather fleet exercise Snowy Beach and again during joint military exercise Exotic Dancer V, TRENTON embarked detachments of Mobile Mine Countermeasures (MOMCOM) and HM-12 and 4 CH 53's to evaluate the feasibility of handling that number of aircraft, support equipment and mine countermeasures sweep gear aboard.

(2) Enclosures (3) and (4) indicated that it was entirely feasible for the LPD to operate and support four multi-purpose helicopters for extended period and it was so recommended.

(3) Enclosure (3) provides additional post exercise comments worthy of note concerning exercise Snowy Beach, the first fleet exercise in which TRENTON participated since being commissioned 6 March 1971.

b. "Hotel" services

(1) On a less operational note, during February, TRENTON was assigned a port visit to New Orleans, LA. during the Mardi Gras season. In addition to the excellent opportunity for the crewmembers to share in this pre-lenten celebration, TRENTON served as "Hotel" ship to over 600 members of 23 ROTC and military units from throughout the U. S. No significant problems were encountered thereby opening the door for future functions of this nature.

3. Composition of Command

a. On 1 January 1972 USS TRENTON (LPD-14) was administratively assigned to Amphibious Squadron FOUR.

b. Throughout 1972 TRENTON was under the administrative and operational control of Amphibious Squadron FOUR.

4. Homeport

- a. Norfolk, Virginia