

U.S.S. MONTICELLO (LSD-35)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

LSD35:03:tr

5750

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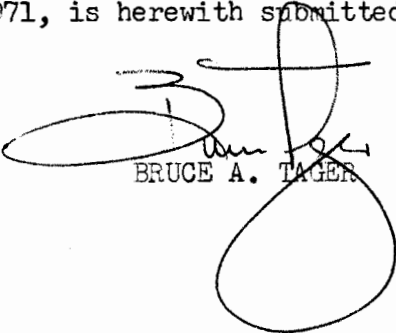
From: Commanding Officer, USS MONTICELLO (LSD35)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 09B9)

Subj: Command History; submission of (OPNAV REPORT 5750.1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of events
(2) Command History, 1 January 1971 thru 31 December 1971
(3) Picture of Commander Bruce A. TAGER, USN
(4) Change-of-Command ceremony pamphlet, Captain SPANGENBERG
relieved by Commander TAGER
(5) Officer directory as of 1 December 1971
(6) Enlisted roster as of 1 February 1972

1. The Command History of USS MONTICELLO (LSD35), covering the period 1 January 1971 to 31 December 1971, is herewith submitted in accordance with reference (a).



BRUCE A. TAGER

CHRONOLOGICAL LOG

1 Jan - 3 Feb IPT U.S. Naval Station, San Diego.
4 Feb - 4 Feb ISE SOCAL.
5 Feb - 7 Feb IPT U.S. Naval Station, San Diego.
8 Feb - 8 Feb Transit to Port Hueneme.
9 Feb - 9 Feb IPT Port Hueneme.
9 Feb - 14 Feb Transit to Pearl Harbor.
14 Feb - 14 Feb IPT Pearl Harbor.
20 Feb Crossed Equator at Longitude 180°.
14 Feb - 27 Feb Transit to Sydney, Australia.
27 Feb - 4 Mar IPT Sydney, Australia.
4 Mar - 9 Mar Transit to Perth, Australia.
9 Mar - 12 Mar IPT Perth, Australia.
12 Mar - 19 Mar Transit to Diego Garcia Biot.
19 Mar - 21 Mar IPT Diego Garcia Biot.
21 Mar - 27 Mar Transit to Singapore.
27 Mar - 27 Mar IPT Singapore.
27 Mar - 29 Mar Transit to Vung Tau, RVN.
29 Mar - 29 Mar IPT Vung Tau, RVN.
29 Mar - 30 Mar Transit to Danang, RVN.
30 Mar - 30 Mar IPT Danang, RVN.
30 Mar - 1 Apr Transit to Hong Kong, BCC.
1 Apr - 8 Apr IPT Hong Kong, BCC.
8 Apr - 10 Apr Transit to Okinawa (Buckner Bay).

Enclosure (1)

10 Apr - 10 Apr IPT Okinawa (Buckner Bay).
10 Apr - 19 Apr Transit to Pearl Harbor.
19 Apr - 20 Apr IPT Pearl Harbor.
20 Apr - 25 Apr Transit to Port Hueneme.
25 Apr - 25 Apr IPT Port Hueneme.
25 Apr - 26 Apr Transit to San Diego.
26 Apr - 9 Jun IPT San Diego.
9 Jun - 14 Jun Transit to Pearl Harbor.
14 Jun - 17 Jun IPT Pearl Harbor.
17 Jun - 18 Jun Transit to Hilo, Hawaii.
18 Jun - 21 Jun IPT Hilo, Hawaii.
21 Jun - 26 Jun Transit to San Diego.
26 Jun - 9 Aug IPT San Diego.
9 Aug - 13 Aug SOCIAL OPAREAS 28-33.
13 Aug - 16 Aug IPT San Diego.
16 Aug - 19 Aug Transit to Bremerton, Washington
19 Aug - 20 Aug IPT Bremerton.
20 Aug - 25 Aug Transit to Pearl Harbor.
25 Aug - 28 Aug IPT Pearl Harbor.
28 Aug - 28 Aug Transit to Kailua Bay.
28 Aug - 28 Aug Anchored in Kailua Bay.
28 Aug - 3 Sep Transit to San Diego.
3 Sep - 9 Sep IPT San Diego.

9 Sep - 17 Sep	SOCAL OP AREAS (ROPEVAL 3-71)
17 Sep - 27 Sep	IPT San Diego.
27 Sep - 27 Sep	Transit to Port Hueneme.
27 Sep - 27 Sep	IPT Port Hueneme.
27 Sep - 3 Oct	Transit to Pearl Harbor.
3 Oct - 3 Oct	IPT Pearl Harbor.
3 Oct - 11 Oct	Transit to Nukualofa, Tonga Island.
6 Oct	Crossed Equator Longitude 165°.
11 Oct - 11 Oct	IPT Nukualofa, Tonga Island.
11 Oct - 16 Oct	Transit to Sydney, Australia.
16 Oct - 21 Oct	IPT Sydney, Australia.
21 Oct - 26 Oct	Transit to Perth/Fremantle, Australia.
26 Oct - 30 Oct	IPT Fremantle, Australia.
30 Oct - 5 Nov	Transit to Diego Garcia Biot.
5 Nov - 9 Nov	IPT Diego Garcia Biot.
9 Nov - 15 Nov	Transit to Singapore.
15 Nov - 17 Nov	IPT Singapore.
17 Nov - 18 Nov	Transit to Vung Tau, RVN.
18 Nov - 19 Nov	IPT Vung Tau, RVN.
19 Nov - 22 Nov	Transit to Hong Kong, BCC.
22 Nov - 27 Nov	IPT Hong Kong, BCC.
27 Nov - 1 Dec	Transit to Yokosuka.
1 Dec - 6 Dec	IPT Yokosuka.

6 Dec - 13 Dec Transit to Pearl Harbor.
13 Dec - 14 Dec IPT Pearl Harbor.
14 Dec - 19 Dec Transit to Port Hueneme.
19 Dec - 19 Dec IPT Port Hueneme.
19 Dec - 20 Dec Transit San Diego.
20 Dec - 31 Dec IPT San Diego.
21 Dec Captain W. SPANGENBERG, JR. relieved by
Commander BRUCE A. TAGER, USN.

Enclosure (1)

COMMAND HISTORY 1 JAN - 31 DEC 1971

The officers and men of MONTICELLO covered many miles during 1971. Beginning in February 1971, the MONTICELLO made the first of her two cruises to Diego Garcia. The route included crossing the equator at longitude 180, stops in Sydney and Perth Australia, Diego Garcia, Singapore, Vung Tau and Da Nang RVN, Hong Kong, Okinawa, Pearl Harbor, and, on 26 April 1971, San Diego. MONTICELLO supported the initial landing of supplies and equipment on Diego Garcia and, on the return trip to San Diego, supported the Marine withdrawal from Viet Nam by moving vast quantities of men and material from Vung Tau and Da Nang to Okinawa, Pear Harbor, and Port Hueneme.

On the 30th of May a Fleet Reserve Association Memorial Day water service was held on board in honor of those men who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

On 9 June, loaded YGN 82 to transport to Hawaii. Off-loaded YGN 82, marines and equipment on 14 June. Continued on for brief stop in Hilo, then returned to San Diego.

19 July commenced removal of flight deck in preparation to lift YFNX 25 from Bremerton to Pearl Harbor. On 19 August YFNX 25 was loaded, and MONTICELLO arrived in Pearl Harbor 25 August.

26 August commenced loading Marines and equipment in preparation for ROPEVAL 3-71. 28 August completed LVT battalion loadout in Kailua Bay. Rendezvoused with USS FRESNO and returned in company to San Diego.

8-17 September participated in ROPEVAL 3-71 which was climaxed by a full scale amphibious assault on the beaches of Camp Pendleton. The entire week provided the crew with an opportunity to display their combat readiness and to brush up on those tactical skills which are needed to provide the Amphibious Forces with the highest operational capabilities.

The week of 18 September was a busy in-port period with much on and off loading in preparation for the second Diego Garcia trip. By the time the loading was completed, an entire concrete factory was stowed in the well deck and super deck. The plant was to be used by the Seabees on Diego Garcia to construct permanent buildings, roads, and runways.

The ship arrived in Pearl Harbor on 3 October and was met with a pleasant task; MONTICELLO was appointed honorary ambassador by the State of Hawaii and asked to deliver a bookmobile to the Island Kingdom of Tonga.

Enclosure (2)

MONTICELLO was the first U.S. Naval vessel in many years to enter the harbor of Naha, and the crew was provided a rare opportunity to visit an island paradise. The bookmobile was graciously received by the Deputy Prime Minister who expressed his gratitude to the people of Hawaii and the crew of MONTICELLO for the gift.

While in port Sydney, 16-21 October, MONTICELLO sponsored a reception at the U.S. Trade Center for the Australian-American Association, Royal Australian Navy, and distinguished guests in recognition of the hospitality shown of this and the previous visit in February. During this in port period approximately 1000 Australians took the opportunity to visit a United States warship. The ship found herself in similar circumstances throughout her stay in Australia.

On 27 October, Navy Day was celebrated in Fremantle by placing wreaths at the Australian War Memorial in memory of Fremantle based U.S. Submariners lost in WWII. The fifth through the ninth of November was spent in port Diego Garcia. The off loading of all construction equipment was completed expeditiously and the ship had time enough to provide drydock facilities for the repair and maintenance of 3 LCM 8's.

On 15 November, MONTICELLO conducted an in-rep (Inport Replenishment) with USS SAN JOSE consisting of supplies bound for USS TUTUILA in country Viet Nam. MONTICELLO off loaded the cargo in Vung Tau, Viet Nam, and on loaded various construction equipment, jeeps, trucks, and 3 amphibious river patrol craft on the night of the 18th.

The visit of MONTICELLO in both Hong Kong and Yokosuka were without incident. The Prospective Commanding Officer (CDR Bruce A. TAGER, USN) was embarked at Pearl Harbor when the ship made a brief stop for fuel on the 14th of December. MONTICELLO returned to CONUS on the 20th of December and the Change of Command ceremony was held on board on the 21st of December. The ceremony in which CDR TAGER relieved CAPT SPANGENBERG was attended by COMPHIBPAC, VADM N.C. JOHNSON, COMPHIBRON THREE, CAPT T.H. WILDER, and other high ranking officers.

The year ended with MONTICELLO in her home port with her crew celebrating the Christmas holidays with their families; a memorable end for a memorable year.