

U.S.S. MONTICELLO (LSD-35)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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Ser: 2 4

28 MAR 1978

From: Commanding Officer, USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington
Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Ship's History, forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) MONTICELLO Ship's History, Chronological
Narrative with Supportive Annex (A) and (B)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure one is
hereby submitted.



ANDREW J. CONKLIN

USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35)
SHIP'S HISTORY-1977

The beginning of 1977 found USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35) inport Hong Kong B.C.C. for a long awaited mid-deployment port visit and New Year celebration. During this inport period, the crew toured the mystical city of Hong Kong and a few celebrated with their dependents, who traveled from the United States to be with them.

Upon completing a most enjoyable port visit, MONTICELLO departed Hong Kong 3 January enroute the island of Guam for a scheduled restricted availability with Ship Repair Facility (SRF), Guam.

Arriving in Guam 10 January, MONTICELLO commenced the scheduled availability. MONTICELLO completed the repair period and departed 4 February enroute Naval Station, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Arriving in Subic Bay 9 February for an upkeep period until 15 February.

On 15 February, MONTICELLO departed Subic Bay for Pattaya Beach, Thailand, anchoring off Pattaya 19 February. Preparations were then completed for PHIBTRAEX 1-77 -- an amphibious assault exercise jointly conducted with the Royal Thailand Navy, commencing 23 February and ending 28 February.

Upon completion of PHIBTRAEX 1-77, MONTICELLO returned to Subic Bay, Philippines, arriving 6 March. MONTICELLO then rejoined Amphibious Squadron ONE in a rehearsal landing exercise for exercise LANDEX 2-77 on 15 March at the Zambales landing area. LANDEX 2-77 was concluded on 16 March, and MONTICELLO departed enroute Pusan, Korea, arriving in Pusan 20 March.

Concluding a 5 day port visit MONTICELLO departed Pusan 25 March to commence a 16-day operation code named "TEAM SPIRIT 77" near Pohang to be jointly conducted with the Republic of South Korea Navy. Under the direction of Commodore CONGDON, COMPHIBRON ONE, Operation "TEAM SPIRIT 77" was a well organized and executed exercise. During the actual landing, MONTICELLO was visited by Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Forces, Korea, and Commander Seventh Fleet. MONTICELLO celebrated her twentieth birthday 29 March during exercise "TEAM SPIRIT 77".

Enclosure (1)

MONTICELLO transited to Okinawa 9 April, anchoring at Buckner Bay, Okinawa on 12 April to offload troops and materials from Operation "TEAM SPIRIT 77". Upon completion of the offload, MONTICELLO departed Buckner Bay 14 April enroute Subic Bay for a 12-day upkeep period, arriving in Subic Bay 16 April.

MONTICELLO got underway from Subic for Naha, Okinawa and Buckner Bay 28 April. Eniwetok atoll was MONTICELLO's next stop on 4 May, leaving Okinawa 1 May, transporting restoration materials to the tiny atoll. MONTICELLO was anchored at Eniwetok briefly enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for a 14 May arrival.

MONTICELLO departed Pearl Harbor 15 May with eighteen male dependents onboard, ages ranging from 8 to 65 years old, participating in a command sponsored "Tiger Cruise (Annex A)". MONTICELLO arrived in San Diego 21 May to a enthusiastic crowd of dependents and friends. The arrival marked the end of a long and arduous eight month deployment.

Immediately upon return to San Diego, MONTICELLO was drydocked on 24 May for repairs to her steering system. MONTICELLO then commenced sea trials 7 June to evaluate the rudder and steering system.

On 10 June, Commander Andrew J. CONKLIN, USN, assumed command of MONTICELLO from Commander Jefferson R. DENNIS, Jr., USN, in a colorful ceremony on the flight deck of MONTICELLO. Captain R. N. CONGDON, Commander, Amphibious Squadron ONE, was the guest speaker at the ceremony. A copy of the Change of Command brochure is included as Annex B.

On 25 June, MONTICELLO got underway for a PHIBLEX operation, consisting of ship to shore movement at Camp Pendleton, California. MONTICELLO was administratively reassigned from Amphibious Squadron ONE to the operational control of Amphibious Squadron THREE on 1 July. Continuing inport maintenance and upkeep was accomplished between 3 July through 19 September in San Diego.

19 September found MONTICELLO enroute for San Francisco for an enjoyable port visit. The visit seemed too short, though, as MONTICELLO departed for San Diego 24 September, arriving 26 September.

Enclosure (1)

MONTICELLO departed San Diego 28 September enroute Marina Del Rey, where the ship served as Flagship for the Annual Ocean Power Boat Races. MONTICELLO departed Marina Del Rey 2 October, arriving in San Diego 3 October.

MONTICELLO was again underway 11 October for Refresher Training, where she underwent intensive battle proficiency training for two weeks. MONTICELLO returned to San Diego 15 October, and departed again 17 October for the final week of Refresher Training.

On 1 November MONTICELLO commenced amphibious assault refresher training. Training was completed 12 November.

MONTICELLO was one of three West Coast ships selected to be visited by the President's Commission on Military Compensation on November 15. A cross section of the crew was given the opportunity to discuss their opinions concerning military benefits with the commission. The commission members joined the crew on the messdecks for lunch where informal discussions concerning benefits continued. A wide range of topics were discussed, but the adequacy of pay, medical benefits and educational benefits were the major thrust of the conversations.

MONTICELLO commenced INSURV inspection 12 December, undergoing scrutiny by a team of INSURV inspectors. Examinations of material conditions continued for four days, with one day set aside for underway testing and evaluation. Upon completion of the INSURV inspection, MONTICELLO was declared fit for further naval service.

The remainder of the year found MONTICELLO in a well deserved holiday upkeep.

Enclosure (1)

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