

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

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-0989), Washington **FEB 9 1976**
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 annexes A and B

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


J. R. DENNIS

Copy to:
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COMPHIBRON THREE

USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35)
Ship's History-1975

The beginning of 1975 found MONTICELLO in San Diego concluding a much needed post deployment stand-down period. Exhaustive preparations for MONTICELLO's regular overhaul, scheduled to commence in July, were started at this time. From 18-21 February, while in San Diego, MONTICELLO received a thorough INSURV inspection. From 28 February to 6 March, MONTICELLO visited San Francisco for training. During this period 136 crew members attended various schools on a daily basis.

During the weekend of 19-20 April, MONTICELLO acted as host visit ship at Broadway Pier, San Diego, representing the Amphibious Forces Afloat. Approximately two thousand visitors toured the MONTICELLO during the two days.

MONTICELLO supported the 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade in amphibious exercise "BELL BUSTER" (PHIBLEX/MABLEX 1-75) from 29 April to 7 May. This exercise was climaxed by a full-scale Marine beach assault at Camp Pendleton, California. Embarked on MONTICELLO was the Commander and staff of Regimental Landing Team 7 and, as Primary Control Ship, MONTICELLO co-ordinated and directed the ship-to-shore movement of the brigade.

Following the completion of "BELL BUSTER" on 8 May MONTICELLO sailed directly to Seal Beach, California. During an "all hands" evolution, ship's ammunition was off-loaded in preparation for the approaching regular overhaul. On 19 May, MONTICELLO arrived in Long Beach, California for a three-week pre-overhaul restricted availability at Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

On 3 July, MONTICELLO departed San Diego for Todd Shipbuilding Company, San Pedro, California; to commence phase one of an extensive 7-month overhaul. Dependents and guests of MONTICELLO crew members enjoyed a short dependents cruise on the transit from San Diego to Long Beach. MONTICELLO was drydocked for 30 days while at Todd, during which time the ship's underwater hull was completely sandblasted and recoated, as well as many other jobs associated with the drydocking.

On 11 August, Commander Jefferson R. DENNIS, Jr., USN, assumed command of MONTICELLO from Commander John J. FLYNN, USN, in a colorful ceremony on MONTICELLO's flight deck. Commodore M. J. TWITE, Jr., USN, Commander Amphibious Squadron THREE, was the main speaker at the ceremonies. A copy of the Change of Command brochure is included as Annex A.

On 2 September, the drydocking phase of overhaul completed, MONTICELLO moved to Bethlehem Steel Corporation, San Pedro, California, to commence the second, and final phase, of her overhaul. This phase included extensive maintenance work on the engineering plant and a complete modernization and renovation of the crew's mess decks and galley. The crew were messed and berthed at the Naval Support Activity, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Long Beach, California, during this period of the overhaul.

USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35)
Ship's History-1975 (Continued)

On 8 October, Vice Admiral Emmett H. TIDD, Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, congratulated the officers and men of MONTICELLO, by official letter for attaining a particularly high and significant reenlistment rate for both first term and career personnel during fiscal year 1975. A copy of this letter is included as Annex B.

The month of December 1975 found MONTICELLO's officers and crew working diligently towards final preparation for overhaul completion.