
Change of Command Ceremony



U. S. S. MONTICELLO (LSD-35)

TWENTY-TWO JANUARY, NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE U. S. S. MONTICELLO (LSD-35)

The USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35) bears the name of the famous historic site, Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States. She is the third U. S. Naval ship to bear that name.

The armament, troop and equipment load capacity, and speed make it a top performer in the Amphibious Forces. Embracing a multitude of amphibious tasks, its versatility and efficiency cause this type ship to be very much in demand by the Fleet, Army, Marine Corps, and Sea Transportation Service.

The keel of the LSD-35 was laid at the Pascagoula, Miss. yard of Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp. on 6 June 1955. She was launched on 10 August 1956 and commissioned on 29 March 1957. Mrs. Harry R. Sheppard, wife of the Congressman from California, christened the ship. CAPT J. T. HODGSON, Jr., USN, was her first Commanding Officer.

After outfitting, the MONTICELLO trained at Norfolk, Va. and after a visit to Boston, Mass. sailed for the West Coast via the Panama Canal arriving in San Diego on 27 May 1957. She joined the Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet and commenced her shakedown training. The MONTICELLO was assigned to Amphibious Squadron FIVE and has been part of that Squadron ever since.

CAPT F. D. KELLOG relieved CAPT HODGSON on 5 October 1957. From this time until entering Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 6 October 1958 the MONTICELLO conducted special operations in the Clipperton Island area and participated in the Operation Hardtack at Eniwitok from 2 April until 1 September 1958.

On 28 November 1958, CAPT W. A. OVERTON, USN, relieved CAPT KELLOG as Commanding Officer.

After completion of overhaul, refresher training and amphibious operational training, the MONTICELLO's first real amphibious duty began. Since 3 April 1959 she has participated in the following major amphibious operations, serving as primary control vessel in all but one of them:

- 3-10 April — Operation "Big Land"
- 18 May - 3 June — Operation "Twin Peaks"
- 3-5 & 10-15 August — Midshipman Amphibious Training Exercise
- 24 August - 4 October — Operation "Clear Ridge" (Hawaii)
- 2 November - 10 December — Operation "Totem Pole" (Alaska)

Since 11 December 1959, the officers and crew have been enjoying a well earned leave and upkeep period in San Diego.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. OVERTON, U. S. NAVY

CAPT William A. OVERTON took command of the USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35) on 28 November 1958.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Captain OVERTON was raised in Southeast Kansas, his home town being Independence, Kansas. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1933, but returned to civilian life until October of 1940.

Prior to World War II, he saw duty at the Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the Mine Force, Atlantic & Submarine School, New London, Connecticut.

During World War II and until July 1948 he served in submarines. He saw service in the S-18, USS SKATE (SS-305), and commanded the USS CATFISH (SS-339). He completed thirteen War Patrols in submarines during World War II. Since the war he has had duty on Staff, Commandant, Third Naval District; Staff, Commander Submarine Force, Atlantic; Executive Officer of the USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148); Commanding Officer, USS TUTUILA (ARG-4); and as Director of Plans & Operations Division, U. S. Navy Hydrographic Office.

CAPT OVERTON was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Gold Star in lieu of a second Silver Star for submarine operations as well as the Navy Unit Commendation; various area medals and the China Service and Navy Occupation Service Medals.

Upon leaving the MONTICELLO, CAPT OVERTON will report for duty as Deputy Inspector General for Defense Atomic Support Agency at Albuquerque, New Mexico.



CAPTAIN IRA M. KING, U. S. NAVY

CAPT Ira M. KING, a native of Los Angeles, attended UCLA and was commissioned an ensign in 1940. Upon being commissioned he served in the USS PORTLAND, a heavy cruiser, until 1943. He attended submarine school at New London, Connecticut, and the remainder of World War II was spent in the USS DARTER, USS SALMON, and USS MENHADEN. At the close of the war Captain KING was commanding officer of the USS SARGO. Subsequently he served in the Submarine AMBERJACK, the first high speed snorkel submarine in the U. S. Navy. He was commanding officer of the destroyer USS THE SULLIVANS during the Korean War. After a tour in the Office of Naval Intelligence, he served as Surface Operations and Tactical Officer on the staff of Commander Carrier Division FOUR. The division flagship was the USS FORRESTAL.

Captain KING was most recently attached to the Staff of Commander Fleet Training Group, San Diego where he had been filling the billet of Group Operations Officer.

PROGRAM

Invocation Chaplain

Remarks & Reading of Orders Captain William A. Overton

Remarks & Reading of Orders Captain Ira M. King

Change of Command

Presentation of Commission Pennant Commander L. W. Lantrip

Benediction Chaplain

National Anthem Amphibious Force Band

