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Ser 179
1 March 1974

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) List of Distinguished Visitors
(2) Congratulatory Messages
(3) Chronology of USS DUBUQUE'S Movements During Period
1 JAN 73 to 31 DEC 1973
(4) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer
(5) Ship's PAO Pamphlet

1. (U) In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) through (5) and information following is submitted.

2. (C) Basic History

a. Command Organization

(1) During the period 1 January-31 December 1973, USS DUBUQUE served as a unit of Amphibious Squadron ONE, Task Force Seventy Eight, and the Seventh Fleet. The ship was commanded during this time by Captain Cecil J. KEMPF, USN,

(2) Designation of Units Assigned. The following units were embarked in USS DUBUQUE during deployment to the Western Pacific from 1 January-19 August 1973:

- HMA 369, MAG 36, First Marine Aircraft Wing; 1-28 January
- TACRON 13, Detachment CHARLIE; 1-28 January
- Amphibious Squadron ONE: 5 February-26 July
- Mobile Mine Countermeasures Detachment ALPHA; 1 February
21 July
- Assualt Craft Unit ONE, WESTPAC Detachment ALPHA;
1 February-21 July
- HM 12, Detachment ALPHA; 1 February-20 July
- Beachmaster Unit ONE; 15 June-21 July
- HMH463, MAG 24, Detachment ALPHA, First Marine Brigade;
21 July-9 August.

Classified by Assistant Vice Chief of Naval Operations/
Director of Naval Administration

Subject to GDS of E.O. 11652 automatically
downgraded at two year intervals
Declassify on 31 December 1980

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Distinguished Vistors

- 18 January - Admiral B. A. CLAREY, USN, Commander in Chief
U. S. Pacific Fleet.
- 18 January - Vice Admiral D. W. COOPER, USN, Commander
Task Force 77.
- 2 February, 4 February, 7 March, 20 July - Rear Admiral
W. D. TOOLE, USN, Commander Amphibious Force,
U. S. Pacific Fleet.
- 5 February - Vice Admiral James HOLLOWAY, USN, Commander
Seventh Fleet.
- 25 February, 11 March, 3, 8, 17 April, 23 May - Rear Admiral
B. McCAULEY, USN, Commander Mine Warfare Force,
Task Force 78.
- 3 March - Rear Admiral H. W. GREER, USN, Deputy Chief of
Staff for Operations and Plans, CINCPACFLT.
- 27 March - Mr. Wesley KUHRT, President, Sikorsky Aircraft
Company.
- 11, 12, 14, 25 July - Rear Admiral A. W. PRICE, Jr., USN
Commander Amphibious Group ONE.
- 7 November - Rear Admiral R. G. ROGERSON, USN, COMNAVINSWAR/
PHIBGRUPEASTPAC.

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Enclosure (1)

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Congratulatory Messages

From Commander Mine Warfare Force, 28 February:

I was particularly pleased with the outstanding professional response and performance of all hands today in carrying out our unannounced sortie from Haiphong. All ships were underway within fifteen minutes of first notification except TAWASA. TAWASA is deserving of special praise as she was able to recover three of four anchors of a four-point moor and buoy the fourth anchor. TAWASA was soon to join the formation having completed a masterful unmooring evolution that brings envy to the eye of the most experienced seaman. The pilots and aircrewmembers from HMM 165 embarked in HUEY side number three zero and zero five are to be commended for their most important missions flown during extremely low visibility. The outstanding abilities of these pilots and aircrews were the difference between disaster and a most successful sortie. Of special note was the performance of the pilots and aircrew of the CH-46 side number zero five who picked up eleven souls from Cat Bi Airfield. I am confident you will remain in the memories of the eleven-man liaison team for many years to come. To all hands, well done.

From Commander Mine Warfare Force, 17 April:

The performance of DUBUQUE and OGDEN in supporting the mission of END SWEEP has been outstanding in all respects. You have survived the arduous first phase of this operation through dedicated professionalism, positive attitudes, and outstanding airmanship, as well as seamanship. Your efforts are more worthy of rest and recreation offered in Hong Kong. I will look forward to your expeditious return to our most important mission. Well done.

From Commander Mine Warfare Force, 20 July:

Warm congratulations to the officers and men of END SWEEP on successfully completing the first airborne/surface mine countermeasures operation in the history of warfare. Well done.

From Chief of Naval Operations, 21 July:

The successful completion of the mine countermeasure operations in North Vietnam waters is a splendid tribute to the expertise and steadfastness of the mine force, mine warfare community, and the units that supported the mine clearing forces. In molding the diverse units into a proficient command as history's first integrated airborne and surface mine countermeasures task force to sweep live minefields, your officers and men performed admirably.

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The MSOs proved again the adage of wooden ships and iron men with their long transits and sustained operations on the line. The airborne units proved the concepts and tactics for airborne mine countermeasures in the most complex environment under the most sustained and arduous conditions. The flight deck, surface MCM support and salvage units were indispensable to the success of the operation. The salvage operations, the unfamiliarity and hazards of handling sweep equipment while servicing and operating large helos in high tempo sustained operations are recognized and appreciated. The risks taken, the hard work done, and the skills attained by all hands reflect each individual's pride in his own capabilities and his personal commitment and determination to do the job to the best of his ability. Your task force can take great pride in being a force for peace. Please pass to all hands my thanks for an outstanding performance of duty.

From Commander Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet, 31 July:
As DUBUQUE steams homeward for a much deserved rest, I wish to take the opportunity to express my admiration for your deployment achievements. Throughout these past months in WESTPAC, DUBUQUE has steamed many miles and accomplished many diverse missions. It is significant that in all cases these missions were accomplished in a highly professional, thoroughly competent manner. The crew of DUBUQUE can be justly proud of their record and I trust that your voyage home be a smooth one. Well Done.

From Commander Mine Warfare Force, 1 August:
Your superb performance in the unfamiliar roles of supply/support ship for MSOs and DMCM platform leave nothing to be desired. Your unblemished record of flight safety despite the many hours at flight quarters and a crowded flight deck is indeed enviable. Your flight deck and well deck crews would be credit to any ship. I extend a personal well done for the professionalism displayed by each member of your crew and wish you a safe and speedy return to your loved ones.

From Commander Seventh Fleet, 1 August:
As you depart from Seventh Fleet to return home ending a nine month deployment, I wish to congratulate you on your successful completion of a demanding WESTPAC tour. Your deployment encompassed amphibious operations off the Republic of Vietnam. You were the last of the amphibious ships to conduct the unique MARHUK operations to interdict the movement of supplies into North Vietnam. Your contributions to the mission of Seventh Fleet have been outstanding and the source of pride to all. Well done. Best wishes for a smooth journey home and a well deserved reunion with families and friends.

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From Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, 1 August:
To Captain KEMPF, the officers and enlisted men of DUBUQUE your current transit marks the final phase of an unusually long and demanding deployment. I am aware of your participation in amphibious evolutions in support of the efforts in Southeast Asia and I also appreciate the many days you have spent at sea during operation END SWEEP. Your performance has been noteworthy and has contributed greatly to the success of Task Force 76 and Task Force 78 operations. For your untiring and persevering performance of duty you have my admiration and respect. Best wishes for a rapid return home and a warm reunion with your loved ones. Enjoy your well deserved rest. Well done.

From Commander Amphibious Force Pacific, 4 August:
Most hearty welcome home to the officers and men of DUBUQUE after your lengthy and most successful deployment with the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific. Warmest wishes for a well deserved reunion with your loved ones.

From Commander in Chief, Pacific, 5 August:
Congratulations upon completion of a unique WESTPAC deployment. All hands can take great pride in their individual and collective efforts that contributed heavily to the successful culmination of operation END SWEEP. Well done and welcome home.

From Commander Third Fleet, 18 August:
Your prompt and professional assistance provided to Coast Guard helo on emergency medivac mission on 15 August is in keeping with the customs and highest traditions of seafaring men. Your performance is gratefully acknowledged.

From Commander Eleventh Coast Guard District, 17 August:
I wish to extend my appreciation for your prompt and professional response in answering our request to assist in the medical evacuation from the M/V JARILLA. The cooperation received from the USS DUBUQUE in diverting from her mission to provide navigation and refueling services for our Coast Guard helicopter was outstanding in all respects. Especially noteworthy were the rapid turn around times the DUBUQUE provided the helicopter. The assistance and support rendered by your ship was essential to the successful accomplishment of this outstanding rescue mission. The dedication and professionalism displayed was in the highest tradition of the United States Navy.

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From Commander Fleet Air Surveillance, 16 August:
For the second time in twelve months "Beaver" has spoiled the DUBUQUE'S homecoming. On 3 August 1972 and again on 15 August 1973 DUBUQUE, enroute home-port, was diverted to assist the Coast Guard in rescue of civilian personnel. Please express my regrets to the officers, men and families of your fine ship for delaying their homecoming and explain that the diverts are made because "those that can do get more to do." Your prompt response and capable handling of these emergencies is greatly appreciated.

From Commanding Officer Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, 21 September:
I wish to commend all hands for excellent preparation for off-load (of LFORM) and cooperation in execution of safe and record-setting time of three hours vice normal six hours. Well done.

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CHRONOLOGY OF USS DUBUQUE'S MOVEMENTS
DURING PERIOD OF 1 JANUARY 1973 TO 31 DECEMBER 1973

01 JAN

Moored port side to Rivera Wharf, Berths 9 and 10, Subic Bay.

06 JAN 0803 Underway for special operations off North Vietnam; MARHUK at Hon La anchorage.

20 JAN 0810 Anchored Subic Bay in anchorage E 16.

0850 Underway.

0858 Anchored Subic Bay in anchorage E 16.

22 JAN

0829 Underway for Rivera Pier.

1117 Moored starboard side to Rivera Wharf, Berths 11 and 12.

26 JAN

1600 Underway for Okinawa.

28 JAN

1918 Anchored in anchorage AV in Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

2330 Underway for Subic Bay.

31 JAN

0826 Anchored in anchorage G 4 Subic Bay.

1630 Underway for Alava Pier

1728 Moored at Alava Pier starboard side to Berths 7 & 8.

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0753 Underway for anchorage.

0831 Anchored in anchorage D 15 Subic Bay.

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09 FEB

1757 Underway.

1845 Moored portside to USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7) at Rivera Wharf, Berths 7 and 8.

12 FEB

1313 Underway.

1442 Moored portside to USS OGDEN (LPD-5) at Rivera Wharf, Berths 7 and 8.

16 FEB

0715 Underway.

0811 Moored portside to Rivera Wharf, Berths 7 and 8.

20 FEB

1044 Underway for sea trials.

1515 Moored starboard side to Rivera Wharf, Berths 9 and 10, Subic Bay.

21 FEB

0700 Underway for operation ENDSWEEP.

23 FEB

1257 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-1A in Haiphong Roadstead.

25 FEB

1030 Underway for USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1187).

1503 Anchored in vicinity of USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1187).

1630 Underway for anchorage.

2035 Anchored in anchorage L-C-1A as before.

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26 FEB

1730 Underway for refueling with USS TALUGA.

27 FEB

0924 Anchored in 1-C-1A as before.

28 FEB

0915 Underway for sea in company with USS BOLSTER,
USS CHOWANOC, USS TAWASA, AND USS JOHN KING.

04 MAR

0731 Anchored in Anchorage 1-C-1A in Haiphong Roadstead
as before.

1400 Underway for replenishment by USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7).

1834 Anchored as before.

08 MAR

1825 Underway for refueling by USS CACAPON (AO-52).

09 MAR

0615 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 in Haiphong Roadstead.

13 MAR

2151 Underway for replenishment by USS NIAGARA FALLS.

14 MAR

0723 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 as before.

17 MAR

2253 Underway for rescue mission of USS ENHANCE MSO 437.

18 MAR

0058 Anchored in anchorage 2-C-1 in Haiphong Roadstead.

1050 Underway to deliver crew of USS ENHANCE to USS
NIAGARA FALLS.

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19 MAR

0612 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 Haiphong Roadstead.

26 MAR

2147 Underway for replenishment by USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4).

27 MAR

0728 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 as before.

28 MAR

1644 Underway for refueling by USS TALUGA (AO-64).

2215 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 as before.

05 APR

1825 Underway.

2110 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 in Haiphong Roadstead.

12 APR

1600 Underway.

1635 Anchored as before.

1850 Underway for refueling by USS NAVASOTA (AO-106).

13 APR

0629 Anchored in anchorage 1-C-3 as before.

17 APR

0539 Underway for Hong Kong.

19 APR

0835 Moored to Bouy Two, Hong Kong harbor.

24 APR

0800 Underway for Subic Bay.

25 APR

1757 Anchored in anchorage E 25 Subic Bay

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1621 Underway.

1651 Moored port side to USS SHASTA (AE-38) at Alava Pier.

30 APR

1120 Underway cold iron.

1132 Moored port side to Alava Pier.

15 MAY

0800 Underway for gunnery exercise.

18 MAY

0854 Moored port side to Pier 15, Berth 4, Manila.

21 MAY

1919 Underway.

1955 Anchored in anchorage C 12 Subic Bay.

26 MAY

1732 Underway.

1816 Moored port side to Rivera Wharf, Berths 11 and 12 Subic Bay.

29 MAY

1310 Underway for Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

01 JUN

0803 Anchored mouth of Kaohsiung harbor.

0954 Underway for pier.

1055 Moored starboard side to Pier 17, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

05 JUN

0841 Underway for Subic Bay.

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07 JUN
0723 Anchored in anchorage E 19 Subic Bay.

08 JUN
0801 Underway for gunnery exercises.

09 JUN
1435 Anchored in anchorage E 29 Subic Bay.

11 JUN
0627 Underway for independent steaming exercises.

13 JUN
0731 Moored port side to USS PEORIA at Alava Pier
Subic Bay.

16 JUN
0806 Underway for END SWEEP operations in Gulf of Tonkin.

18 JUN
2122 Anchored in Haiphong Roadstead North Vietnam.

19 JUN
1345 Underway for refueling.
2315 Anchored as before.

25 JUN
1544 Underway.
2125 Anchored as before.

26 JUN
1550 Underway for Hon La anchorage.

28 JUN
1305 Anchored in Hon La anchorage North Vietnam.

30 JUN
1630 Underway.

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01 JUL

0653 Anchored in Hon La anchorage North Vietnam.

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02 JUL

1919 Underway.

03 JUL

0700 Anchored in Hon La anchorage.

05 JUL

0731 Underway.

1958 Anchored in Hon Matt anchorage North Vietnam.

06 JUL

0724 Underway for refueling by USS NAVASOTA.

06 JUL

0544 Underway to evade Typhoon Anita.

09 JUL

1210 Anchored in Hon La anchorage North Vietnam.

10 JUL

1224 Underway.

1302 Anchored in Hon La anchorage.

2000 Underway for Hon Matt anchorage.

11 JUL

0748 Anchored in Hon Matt anchorage North Vietnam.

15 JUL

0729 Underway to refuel from USS TALUGA.

1328 Anchored in Hon Matt anchorage.

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1933 Underway for Subic Bay.

20 JUL

2123 Moored port side to Alava Pier, Berths 7 and 8
Subic Bay.

28 JUL

1800 Underway for Pearl Harbor.

09 AUG

0857 Moored starboard side to Berth Kilo, Naval Supply
Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

10 AUG

0800 Underway for San Diego, California.

16 AUG

1826 Moored port side to, Pier Six, Naval Station,
San Diego.

21 AUG

0809 Underway cold iron to shift berths.

0820 Moored outboard USS MOBILE (LKA-115), port side to
Pier Six.

27 AUG

1011 Underway cold iron to shift berths.

1044 Moored port side to USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35) at
Pier Eight.

31 AUG

1032 Underway cold iron to shift berths.

1103 Moored port side to Pier Six.

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18 SEP

1613 Underway for Seal Beach, California.

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19 SEP

0732 Moored at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA.

1154 Underway for local operations.

21 SEP

0926 Moored port side to Pier Eight, San Diego.

01 NOV

1321 Underway cold iron for Pier Three.

1445 Moored Pier Three port side to.

14 DEC

0758 Underway for sea trials in local operating areas.

1025 Anchored to test windlass.

1125 Underway as before.

1843 Moored port side to USS DURHAM, Pier Six, San Diego.

18 DEC

0818 Underway cold iron to shift to pierside.

0900 Moored starboard side to Pier Three.

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b. Summary of Operations

As the new year began, DUBUQUE was moored to Rivera Wharf in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. On 6 January the ship got underway to return to Hon La anchorage off the coast of North Vietnam to resume MARHUK operations. Helicopter gunships of HMA 369 were being used to intercept supplies being sent into North Vietnam. This continued from 8 January until the evening of the 16th. At that time, a message was received ordering the ship to return immediately to Subic Bay. On the way back to Subic Bay, Admiral B. A. CLAREY, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet visited the ship. By the morning of 20 January, DUBUQUE was anchored in Subic Bay where we remained until the 26th. The ship's schedule had called for a visit to Hong Kong, but this was cancelled when orders were received to proceed to Okinawa. DUBUQUE arrived in Buckner Bay, Okinawa on Sunday evening 28 January and off-loaded HMA 369 and TACRON 13. Immediately afterwards, the ship made the return trip to Subic Bay where we arrived on 31 January. It was at this time assigned to CTF 78.

For the next three weeks (with the exception of sea trials on 20 February) the ship remained in Subic Bay where preparations were in progress for Operation ENDSWEEP, the first airborne mine clearing operation in history. At this time Mobile Mine Countermeasures Detachment ALPHA and HM 12 Detachment ALPHA embarked in DUBUQUE. Amphibious Squadron ONE also embarked on 5 February. On 21 February, we were on our way to Haiphong harbor along with other ships of Task Force 78 (USS CLEVELAND, USS OGDEN, USS INCHON, and USS NEW ORLEANS).

In the early afternoon of 23 February, DUBUQUE dropped anchor in Haiphong roadstead for what was to be almost two months of mine clearing operations. On the 25th the ship got underway to deliver supplies to the USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY which was anchored nearby, and on the 26th DUBUQUE was refueled by the USS TALUGA.

Task Force 78 got underway on the morning of 28 February as negotiations with the North Vietnamese broke down. DUBUQUE left in company with USS BOLSTER, USS CHOWANOC, USS TAWASA, and the destroyer JOHN KING. By the morning of 4 March, the Task Force was back on station and the minesweeping continued.

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The same day DUBUQUE returned to the Haiphong roadstead, the ship got underway for replenishment by the USS SAN JOSE (AFS7) and returned to anchorage that evening. On 8 March DUBUQUE was refueled by the USS CACAPON (AO52). DUBUQUE received replenishment from USS NIAGRA FALLS on 13 March, USS WHITE PLAINS on 26 March and refueled from USS MARIAS (AO57) on 19 March, USS TALUGA (AO64) on 28 March, and USS NAVOSOTA (AO106) on 12 April. Besides those periods, the only time the ship left anchorage was the night of 17 March when the ship was called upon to assist USS ENHANCE (MS0437) which was reported on fire. DUBUQUE arrived on scene and picked up most of the crew which was then transferred to USS NIAGRA FALLS on the morning of 18 March.

At first light on 17 April, the Task Force left the anchorage at Haiphong and proceeded to Hong Kong for rest and relaxation. On the morning of 19 April, DUBUQUE moored to Bouy Two in Hong Kong harbor where we remained until 0800 24 April. The next afternoon, 25 April, the ship was back in Subic Bay and remained there until 15 May. After conducting gunnery exercises in the local area the ship arrived in Manila on 18 May. DUBUQUE was open for public visiting on 19 and 20 May. Before leaving on 21 May, twelve hundred people from Manila had visited. That same afternoon the ship was back in Subic Bay. We remained in Subic until the 29th when we got underway for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. On 1 June the ship moored at Berth 17 in Kaohsiung and remained there for a four day visit. The morning of 5 June the ship was underway again for Subic Bay and arrived there on 7 June. On the 8th gunnery exercises were held, and on the 11th independent steaming exercises were carried out in the Subic operations area. In between those times, DUBUQUE was anchored in Subic Bay.

Word was received on 16 June to return to Haiphong roadstead. DUBUQUE arrived back on station on 18 June and remained there until the 26th when we moved south to the Hon La anchorage. On 5 July the Task Force moved farther south to the Hon Matt area, and DUBUQUE was underway the next day to refuel from USS NAVASOTA. After anchoring in Hon Matt anchorage later in the day, the ship left early on the morning of 7 July to evade Typhoon Anita. On 8 July, the eye of the storm passed within 20 miles of DUBUQUE, but no significant damages resulted. After going south to an area off DaNang, South Vietnam, the ship was back in the Hon La anchorage by 9 July where it remained until the next day when it returned to Hon Matt. Finally, on 18 July, Task Force 78 pulled out late in the evening and headed for Subic Bay.

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After a week's upkeep in Subic (from 20 to 28 July) DUBUQUE was ordered to proceed to Pearl Harbor. DUBUQUE outchopped from CTF 78 on 24 July. The ship got underway at 1800 on 28 July and by 1500 on the afternoon of the 29th we had cleared the San Bernardino Straits and set course for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. DUBUQUE outchopped from Seventh Fleet on 4 August. HMH 463, Detachment ALPHA was embarked aboard DUBUQUE for the trip to Pearl. DUBUQUE arrived in Pearl Harbor on 9 August.

Six civilian male dependents joined the ship at Pearl for the transit to San Diego. The ship left Pearl Harbor on the morning of 10 August. Approximately 250 miles west of San Diego, DUBUQUE received a message to assist the Coast Guard in removing a critically ill man from the Norwegian Motor Vessel JARILLA two hundred miles to the south. At about 1200 on 15 August, the ship diverted in that direction. At 1600 a Coast Guard HH3F helicopter arrived on the ship for refueling. It took off immediately for the remaining portion of its flight. The helicopter returned to DUBUQUE for more fuel around 2030 and then flew on to San Diego. DUBUQUE then set course for San Diego, arriving there the next day, 16 August, at 1800.

The ship remained in port at the Naval Station, San Diego until 19 September when we sailed for Seal Beach to off-load Marine Landing Force material. After completing the off-load in record time, the ship engaged in local operations off the coast of Southern California. It was at this time that the 5,000th helicopter landing was made on DUBUQUE.

An INSURV inspection was conducted from 1 through 4 October. The ship remained in port until 14 December when it went to sea for one day in order to test equipment in preparation for an overhaul scheduled to commence in January 1974.


R. W. McLain, Jr.

Copy to:
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COMPHIBPAC
COMPHIBRON ONE

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