



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS PONCE (LPD-15)  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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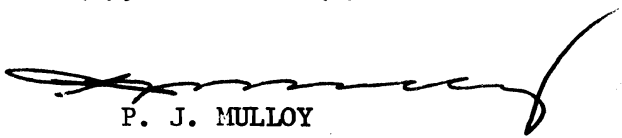
From: Commanding Officer, USS PONCE (LPD-15)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History (Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS PONCE (LPD-15) Command History 1975

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

  
P. J. MULLOY

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USS PONCE (LPD-15)

COMMAND HISTORY 1975

Enclosure (1)

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I. Command Organization

A. Commanding Officers

1. Captain D. L. Glunt  
15 May 1974 to 11 July 1975
2. Captain P. J. Mulloy  
11 July 1975 to present

B. Amphibious Squadron Assignment

1. Amphibious Squadron FOUR  
1 October 1973 to present

II. Chronological Summary of Operations for 1975

The arrival of the new year found PONCE as an element of the Sixth Fleet Amphibious Group with the Second Battalion, Eighth Marines, embarked. PONCE spent the Christmas season in Barcelona, Spain on a routine port visit/holiday leave period. On the 9th of January PONCE got underway and arrived at San Raphael, France for a port visit, 16 January through 18 January. Underway once again on 19 January, PONCE made several short port visits to pick up lifts of opportunity. She arrived in Athens 23 January, Soudha, Crete 24 January, Augusta Bay, Sicily 26 January, Naples 27 January, LaMadalena, Sardinia 28 January and arriving in Livorno, Italy on 29 January for a port visit. Getting underway on the 30th, PONCE arrived in Pian di Spille, Italy to participate in Amphibious Landing Exercise 7-75, 31 January through 6 February. In February, PONCE made two routine port visits to Toulon, France 8 to 9 February, and to Valencia, Spain 14 through 23 February. On the 24th PONCE arrived at Carboneras, Spain to participate in Amphibious Landing Exercise 8A-75, 24 to 28 February. During PHIBLEX 8A-75, Commander Sixth Fleet made a short visit to PONCE. PONCE's last port visit of her deployment was to Rota, Spain, 2 through 8 March. On 8 March 1975, PONCE got underway from Rota, and set her course for home, Norfolk, Virginia. After an uneventful eleven day crossing, the Second Battalion, Eighth Marines were offloaded in Morehead City, North Carolina, on the 19th. March 20th saw PONCE arrive in Norfolk. The month of April was spent in a post deployment, leave and upkeep status. On Saturday, the 24th of May, PONCE got underway to participate in operation "Solid Shield" (May 24 to 3 June) off the coast of North Carolina as an element of Task Group 124.5. When PONCE returned from Solid Shield, she went into a tender availability (4 - 14 June) in preparation for her INSURV inspection, which was held the week of 23 - 27 June. The most

significant event of July occurred on the eleventh, in which Captain Paul J. Mulloy relieved Captain D. L. Glunt as Commanding Officer of the USS PONCE. PONCE was again underway from the 16th to the 25th of July to participate in a composite training exercise at Onslow Bay, North Carolina. PONCE was again off Onslow Bay, August 4 to 8, to participate in a Reserve Marine Amphibious Unit Landing Exercise. The rest of August and the first half of September were spent preparing for a North Atlantic deployment. On the 26th of September, PONCE got underway, but due to a casualty in the number one main reduction gear, she was forced to return to Norfolk that afternoon. Repairs were effected by Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and PONCE got underway 0742, 28 September for Bremerhaven, West Germany with the USS FARRAGUT (DDG-37) in company. Embarked were elements of the Second Battalion, Sixth Marines. On the 4th of October, PONCE joined Task Group 21.6. After a fourteen day crossing, highlighted by unseasonably good weather and intensive training, PONCE arrived in Bremerhaven on the 11th. An immediate offload commenced, with units of the 36th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) moving inland to operate with other NATO forces participating in exercise "Reforger 75". PONCE remained in Bremerhaven 11 - 19 October, providing logistic support for the Marines ashore. The rest of October was taken up by two pleasant port visits. PONCE and USS ALBANY were the guests of the Royal Netherland Marines in Rotterdam, from the 22nd to the 25th of October. And the 27th to the 30th were spent in Le Havre, France. PONCE arrived in Plymouth, England on 31 October, and units of the 36th MAU offloaded to participate in Phase I of exercise "Triple Jubilee", with the Royal Marines. After a superb seven day port visit, PONCE departed Plymouth on the 7th of November and arrived at Arish Mell Bay on the 8th to conduct an amphibious landing which commenced phase II of exercise Triple Jubilee. The 10th to the 14th of November were spent operating out of Portland, England, conducting various exercises, including joint operations with units of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, and the Konlijk Marine. PONCE again found herself visiting Le Havre, from the 15th to the 18th of November. On 17 November Captain Paul J. Mulloy, USN, hosted a formal dinner party on board PONCE. Many of the guests were local dignitaries, including the Sub-prefect of the Le Havre Region. PONCE arrived in Dundee, Scotland on 20 November, and anchored at Buddon, in the Firth of Tay, on 22 November, to conduct amphibious exercises in conjunction with phase three of "Triple Jubilee". Throughout the above port visits many bi-centennial Navy celebrations were conducted with foreign guests as well as extensive hosting of crewmembers by European friends in a truly successful "goodwill" exchange. U. S. and Navy performance and image were commented upon most favorably by foreign dignitaries and other responsible officials. On the 26th of November PONCE got underway for Morehead

City, North Carolina. After steaming through the English Channel, PONCE rendezvoused with Task Group 21.6, and commenced "Transit Six Gun," conducting numerous operational and training exercises. The PONCE arrived in Morehead City on the 10th of December, and the men and equipment of the Second Battalion, Sixth Marines, and Medium Assault Helo Squadron 263, were offloaded. PONCE's own homecoming occurred the next day, December 11, at Pier 5, Norfolk Naval Station at 1030. The close of 1975 found PONCE, and her much-travelled crew members at home with their loved ones for the Christmas holiday.