

U. S. S. MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST-1032)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

LST1032:LHS:rcp
5700
Ser: 67 416

21 SEP 1967

From: Commanding Officer, USS MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST 1032)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP - 09B91)

Subj: Ship's Command History of 1966; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV ltr OP-09B91SH/jw Ser 3304PO9B9 of 12 September 1967

Encl: (1) Ship's Command History of 1966

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


H. P. SEXTON, Jr.

HISTORICAL OF THE USS MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST-1032)

USS MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST 1032) is named for a county in eastern New Jersey. Originally the USS LST-1032, her name was assigned on 1 July 1955.

Monmouth County was formed in 1675. It is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the north by Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays. It's many coastal resorts include Asbury Park and Long Branch. The area of the county which is inland produces large truck, potato and fruit crops as well as poultry and dairy products. There is also manufacturing including rugs, textiles, clothing, clay products and chemicals.

USS MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST 1032) was built by the Boston Naval Shipyard. Her keel was laid 9 June 1944 and she was launched on 9 July 1944, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Jennie M. Kneeland, wife of a Master Mechanic of the building yard. The tank landing-ship was commissioned as USS LST-1032 on 1 August 1944, Lieutenant Jose M. Medina, USNR, in command.

MONMOUTH COUNTY departed Boston on 27 August 1944 for New York where she embarked military passengers for transport to the Pacific. She stood out of New York harbor on 8 September enroute in convoy by way of Guantanamo Bay, the Panama Canal, and San Diego for Pearl Harbor where she arrived on 22 October 1944. After amphibious warfare training in Hawaiian waters, she sailed by way of the Marshals and the Marianas with 159 men of the 4th Marine Division to take part in the assault and occupation of Iwo Jima. Supported by naval gunfire and air attacks, the Marines went ashore under a raking enemy fire on 19 February 1945. On the southside of Iwo Jima Island, MONMOUTH COUNTY was hit by shellfire which killed a Marine passenger and injured two men of her own crew along with six enlisted Marines. Fighting a heavy sea and frequently badgered by air attack and enemy shore artillery, she sent the last of her combatants and vehicles onto the beach by the night of 22 February and reached Saipan, Marianas Islands, on

28 February 1945. From there she was routed on to Okinawa where she arrived the initial day of invasion, 1 April 1945. She transported Marine Troops from attack transport ships to the beach for the next twelve days, then replenished and repaired at Ulithi, West Caroline Islands before sailing for Saipan, Marianas Islands. She left the last named port on 24 May 1945, loaded with tanks, bulldozers, 244 Marines and ten war dogs which were landed on Okinawa on 29 May 1945. During the next week she transported gasoline to Theya and Ie Shima Islands.

MONMOUTH COUNTY departed Okinawa on 10 June 1945 to serve as troop and munitions transport among various island bases in the Philippines, taking time out for two troop shuttle voyages to Okinawa and return. She stood out of Batangas Bay, Luzon, Philippine Islands on 20 August and entered Tokyo Bay on 15 September 1945. In the following weeks, she transported many occupation troops from Okinawa and the Philippines to ports of Japan. This duty came to an end on 19 November 1945 when she departed San Pedro Bay, Philippine Islands with 203 Army passengers for transport to Peleliu, Palau Island, thence with veteran passengers by way of Pearl Harbor for San Francisco where she anchored on 30 December 1945. She stood out of San Francisco Bay on 8 February 1946 and passed through the Panama Canal for New Orleans, thence to her new home port of Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia. She arrived in Little Creek on 15 April 1946 for duty with the Amphibious Force of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

The following years found MONMOUTH COUNTY taking part in amphibious forces operations that included full scale amphibious training assaults on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico and along the coast of North Carolina. In the summer months of 1951 and 1952 she was a part of the resupply expeditions for our defense bases in Greenland. After taking part in the large scale amphibious operations of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet along the coast of North Carolina

10 November 1954, she spent the winter months in operations out of Little Creek. She entered the New York Naval Shipyard for inactivation on 2 March 1955 and left New York on 2 May 1955 for the second phase of her inactivation in the Gibbs Corporation Shipyard of Jacksonville, Florida. Her name MONMOUTH COUNTY became effective on 1 July 1955 and she was placed out of commission in reserve on 14 October 1955.

In August 1961 MONMOUTH COUNTY was transferred from the Florida Group of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet to the Philadelphia Group. In March 1963 she was brought to Baltimore, Maryland to begin her re-activation process and in June of that year, was returned to her former homeport, Norfolk, Virginia, and became part of Reserve Landing Ship Tank Squadron TWO. As a unit of RESLSTRON TWO, MONMOUTH COUNTY provided shipboard training services for the Amphibious Operational Training Unit at Norfolk and various Naval Reserve units on the east coast until the fall of 1965 when she and all of RESLSTRON TWO were put into full service as Landing Ship Tank Squadron TWO and participated in the 1965 Dominican Republic crisis.

After leaving DOMREP, MONMOUTH COUNTY and her sister ships were overhauled in east coast shipyards and then in early 1966 were sent to the Western Pacific to aid the Vietnam war effort. MONMOUTH COUNTY was assigned to the Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and operated in and around Vietnam providing logistic support to the U. S. Army, Navy and Air Force as well as the Republic of Vietnam, and the Republic of Korea forces. MONMOUTH COUNTY delivered her cargoes of construction equipment, foodstuffs, and ammunition to units operating in areas from the Demilitarized Zone to the Mekong Delta region; along the coastline and far inland along the rivers.

LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS SINCE RECOMMISSIONING IN 1963

LT R. L. CARVER 1963
LT H.E. MINITER, Jr. 1964
LT C.W. CLARK, Jr. 1966
LT H.P. SEXTON, Jr. 1967

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SHIP'S RIBBONS

1. American Campaign Medal (3 Bronze Stars)
2. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (3 Bronze Stars)
3. Victory Medal (World War II)
4. Navy Occupation Service Medal
5. National Defense Service Medal (1 Bronze Star)
6. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Dominican Republic)
7. Vietnam Service Medal (1 Bronze Star)
8. Philippine Liberation Medal
9. Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation
10. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960 -)