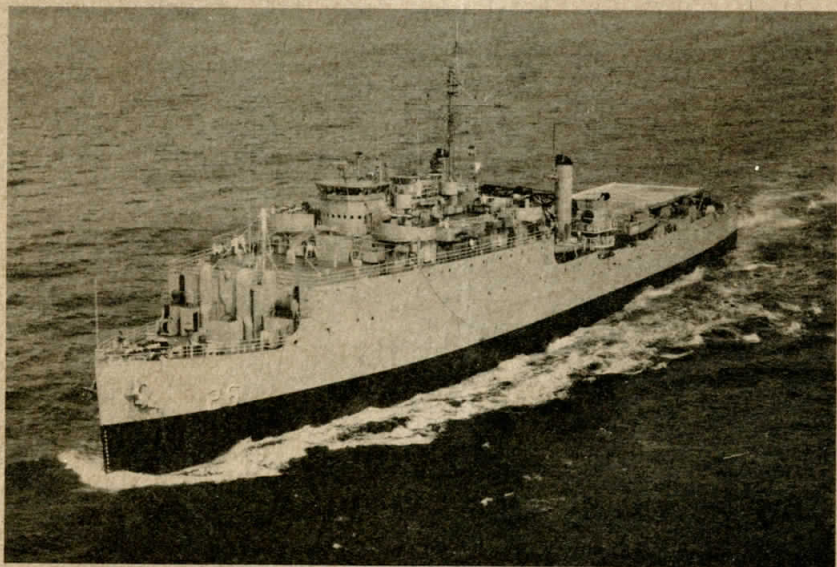


Contributed by Darryl Baker

Decommissioning

UNITED STATES SHIP TORTUGA (LSD-26)



ON BOARD

USS TORTUGA (LSD-26)

INACTIVATION SHIP MAINTENANCE FACILITY,
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY 26 JANUARY

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY
AT 10:00 O'CLOCK

DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

INVOCATION

Commander Bernard G. FILMYER, CHC, USNR

AWARDS PRESENTATION

**Commander Oscar J. VOGEL, U.S. NAVY
Commanding Officer**

REMARKS

**Commander Oscar J. VOGEL, U.S. NAVY
Commanding Officer**

DECOMMISSIONING

**Presentation of the USS TORTUGA (LSD-26)
to
Commanding Officer, Inactivation Ship Maintenance Facility
Vallejo**

BENEDICTION

Commander Bernard G. FILMYER, CHC, USNR

REFRESHMENTS

HISTORY OF USS TORTUGA (LSD-26)

U.S.S. TORTUGA was built at the U.S. Naval Shipyard, Boston, and commissioned on 8 June 1945. She joined the Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and served as part of the Mobile Support Force before being decommissioned in August 1947.

The first LSD to be recommissioned after the outbreak of Korean Hostilities, TORTUGA was reactivated at San Diego on 15 September 1950. (The LSD's proven capabilities in World War II dictated that they all be recommissioned for Korean service; this was true of no other type ship.) TORTUGA participated in the Inchon Landing in February 1951 and in various other fleet operations, including the 1953 prisoner-of-war exchange.

Now homeported in Long Beach, TORTUGA deploys regularly to the Western Pacific for duty with the U.S. Seventh Fleet. In recent years, the frequency of these deployments has increased in support of the Vietnamese action. TORTUGA and other LSD's have been instrumental in operational support in the Republic of Vietnam.

In August and September 1964, TORTUGA steamed in company with other ships of Amphibious Squadron Three for 58 days continuously near the Vietnamese coast, ready to land her embarked Marines and landing craft on a few hours' notice. In July 1965, the ship participated in landing operations at Danang, Republic of Vietnam. During the first half of 1966, TORTUGA was engaged in supporting river-patrol forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

On 1 July 1966, TORTUGA joined Amphibious Squadron Eleven, homeported in Long Beach, California.

On 21 July 1967, TORTUGA deployed to the Western Pacific under a new squadron organization and participated in an exercise amphibious landing in Hawaii, and two assault landings off the coast of South Vietnam.

On 30 January 1969, TORTUGA began her final WESTPAC deployment, which consisted of nearly 8 months of supporting Seventh Fleet Operations in the Vietnam Theater. After a brief RAV period in Yoko-

History of the USS TORTUGA (LSD-26) con't.

suka, Japan, TORTUGA continued on to Vietnamese waters where much time was spent transporting craft and equipment from the Philippines to the Republic of Vietnam and from one location to another along the coast of the combat zone. As a member of Amphibious Ready Group ALFA, the ship was assigned the vital role of Primary Control Ship during OPERATION DARING, REBEL, a highly successful ship-to-shore assault on Barrier Island. Other operations in which the ship played a dominant role were OPERATION EAGER PURSUIT III, OPERATION GAL-LANT LEADER and OPERATION SEAFLOAT.

During and just prior to departing the coastal combat zone, TORTUGA, as a member of Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO, participated in two KEYSTONE EAGLE troop withdrawal lifts, which marked the initiation of President Nixon's war de-escalation and Vietnamization Policy. Enroute to CONUS, the ship was privileged to be selected to transport the men of Charlie Battery, FIRST LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT MARINE BATTALION, FIRST MARINE AIR WING back home.

On this day, 26 January 1970, USS TORTUGA (LSD-26) is decommissioned at the inactivation Ship Maintenance Facility, Vallejo, California.

Medals, Ribbons and Battle Stars Earned By USS TORTUGA (LSD-26)

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

CHINA SERVICE MEDAL (1945 - 1957)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (Two Awards)

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL (Five Engagement Stars)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL (Four Engagement Stars)

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (Korean Conflict)

VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL





**ROLL CALL OF USS TORTUGA (LSD-26)
COMMANDING OFFICERS**



COMMISSIONED 8 JUNE 1945

LCDR RAYMOND G. BROWN, USNR

8 JUNE 1945—8 JUNE 1946

CDR THOMAS R. LANGLEY, USN

8 JUNE 1946—18 AUGUST 1947

DECOMMISSIONED 18 AUGUST 1947

RECOMMISSIONED 12 SEPTEMBER 1950

CDR KENNETH S. SHOOK, USN

12 SEPTEMBER 1950—22 AUGUST 1951

CDR ELOF W. HERMANSON, USN

22 AUGUST 1951—10 NOVEMBER 1952

CDR GEORGE M. WINNE, USN

10 NOVEMBER 1952—15 JANUARY 1954

CDR JAMES E. BRENNER, JR., USN

15 JANUARY 1954—27 DECEMBER 1954

LCDR VINCENT J. YOUNG, USN

27 DECEMBER 1954—5 JANUARY 1955

(Acting)

CDR CHARLIE C. BIGGERS, USN

5 JANUARY 1955—29 MARCH 1955

CDR SAMUEL B. PURDIE, USN

29 MARCH 1955—3 JULY 1956

CDR LANDON L. DAVIS, JR., USN

3 JULY 1956—23 NOVEMBER 1957

CDR WILLARD E. EDER, USN

23 NOVEMBER 1957—29 OCTOBER 1958

CDR MILTON J. SILVERMAN, USN

29 OCTOBER 1958—12 JANUARY 1960

CDR NELSON C. WALTON, USN

12 JANUARY 1960—24 FEBRUARY 1962

CDR GEORGE M. HAYES, USN

24 FEBRUARY 1962—15 AUGUST 1963

CDR HERBERT B. CANNON, USN

15 AUGUST 1963—10 OCTOBER 1964

CDR WOLF HEINBERG, USN

10 OCTOBER 1964—28 NOVEMBER 1966

CDR ROBERT W. BAUMAN, USN

28 NOVEMBER 1966—22 JULY 1968

CDR OSCAR J. VOGEL, USN

23 JULY 1968—JANUARY 1970

DECOMMISSIONED 26 JANUARY 1970



COMMANDER OSCAR J. VOGEL

After completion of a BS degree in Seamanship and Navigation from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1949, Commander Oscar J. Vogel spent the ensuing five years employed as both a Third and a Second Mate in the United States Merchant Marine.

Fostering a penchant in the fields of anti-submarine warfare and tactical communications, Commander Vogel entered the United States Navy in July 1955 and was assigned the billet of Operations Officer aboard the USS Kermit Roosevelt (ARG-16). A second tour as Operations Officer, this time on the USS Mississinewa (AO-144) was followed by General Line School in 1950.

Successive tours as Operations Officer of the USS ALFRED A. CUNNINGHAM (DD-752), Commanding Officer COMPHIBPAC Flag Allowance Unit/Officer-in-Charge COMPHIBPAC Career Information Team, and instruction at the Naval War College Command and Staff Course led to command of the USS TIOGA COUNTY (LST-1158) from June 1963 to May 1965. From June 1965 to June 1967, Commander Vogel was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Communications on the staff of Commander Amphibious Group ONE, homeported in Southeast Asia.

After being detached from this staff post, he was selected to attend the United States Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Upon completion of this academic tour, he requested and received orders which appointed him to the billet of Commanding Officer of the Landing Ship Dock TORTUGA (LSD-26).

Commander Oscar J. Vogel is married to the former Betty Ann Goss of Cambridge, Mass. They have five daughters, Karen, Diana, Sally, Susan and Gayle.



SHIP'S INSIGNIA

The basic colors of the design are traditional navy blue, gold and white. The upper two triangles symbolize the daytime and nighttime readiness of this unit to carry out its assigned mission over the surface of the sea. The lower triangle is a representation of TORTUGA's abbreviated name as used on the bow ramp of her LCVP. The tridents are traditional nautical symbols, and the motto "Semper Praesentis" signifies the quality of always being at hand, or always being present. The turtle is symbolic of both the amphibious nature of the ship and the meaning of the Spanish word "tortuga," which means "turtle."