



**DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY
USS ELDORADO
LCC-11**

25 August 1944 - 16 November 1972



DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

INVOCATION

COMMANDER DONALD P. KINGSLEY, CHC, U. S. NAVY
CHAPLAIN, USS ELDORADO (LCC-11)

REMARKS BY

COMMANDING OFFICER, USS ELDORADO (LCC-11)
CAPTAIN WALTER W. CORT, U. S. NAVY

DECOMMISSIONING

ACCEPTANCE OF SHIP BY
CAPTAIN HOLLIS T. RODGERS, COMMANDING OFFICER
NAVAL INACTIVE SHIP MAINTENANCE
FACILITY, SAN DIEGO

BENEDICTION

The USS ELDORADO (LCC-11) was launched on October 26, 1943 in Wilmington North Carolina, as the merchant ship S.S. MONSOON. The S.S. MONSOON never saw the sea, for on February 1, 1944, she was transferred to the United States Navy, converted to an Amphibious Command Ship, and on August 25, 1944, commissioned the USS ELDORADO (AGC-11)

On January 10, 1945 the ELDORADO became the Flagship for Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet and remained so throughout the remainder of World War II. As Flagship she participated in the amphibious invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

From the end of hostilities on September 2, 1945, until commencement of the Korean Campaign, the ELDORADO made sev- trips to the Western Pacific acting as flagship for the Commander Naval Forces Western Pacific.

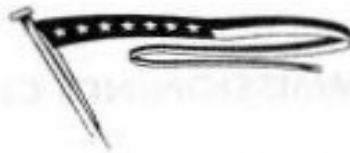
In September, 1950, the ELDORADO, with Commander Amphib- ious Group THREE and his staff embarked, participated in the final stages of the invasion at Inchon, Korea as a stand- by flagship. Altogether the ELDORADO remained in Inchon Harbor 148 days, serving as coordinating ship for the unload- ing phase of the invasion. It was during this period that the first pictures of the Kaesong Talks were transmitted to the outside world from the ELDORADO.

In October, 1952, the ELDORADO became flagship for Com- mander Amphibious Group ONE, and participated in Operation Big Switch -- the transportation of the Chinese and North Korean POW's from the prison camps to Inchon for repatriation.

From the end of the Korean War until the Vietnam conflict ELDORADO rotated between Stateside and the Western Pacific acting as flagship for various forces and fleet commanders, and participated in several amphibious exercises. This ro- tation was interrupted in 1956 and 1957 by logistic support operations for air defense early warning stations, and in 1962 by a deployment to the Carribean during the Cuban Crisis.

Since the begining of the Vietnam conflict, the ELDORADO has been deployed at least part of every year, participating in operations off the Republic of Vietnam. In 1967 the ship's performance in twelve amphibious operations in Vietnam earned Meritorious Unit Commendation, the first ship to be so honored in the Vietnam campaign. She has also been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for her performance in Operation Bold Mariner off Vietnam in 1969. Her decorations are ample proof of her value and effectiveness to the Navy.

In 1969 the ELDORADO was redesignated LCC-11. This change had nothing to do with altering her mission, and she still performed the duties of a communications flagship, until her decommissioning on November 16, 1972.



COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain J.R. Wallace	Aug 1944 - June 1945
Captain M.J. Tichenor	June 1945 - Sept 1947
Captain R.E. Elliott	Sept 1947 - March 1950
Captain J.B. Stefanac	March 1950 - March 1951
Captain S.W. Heald	March 1951 - March 1952
Captain F.T. Sloat	March 1952 - Feb 1953
Captain H.N. Coffin	Feb 1953 - Feb 1954
Captain R.C. Peden	Feb 1954 - Sept 1955
Captain T.S. Webb	Sept 1955 - Oct 1956
Captain T.W. Hogan	Oct 1956 - Oct 1957
Captain C.B. Jackson	Oct 1957 - Dec 1958
Captain E.B. Rittenhouse	Dec 1958 - Nov 1959
Captain B.D. Wood, Jr.	Nov 1959 - Dec 1960
Captain V.H. Wilot	Dec 1960 - Dec 1961
Captain P.W. Crouch	Dec 1961 - Dec 1962
Captain J.F. Ruder	Dec 1962 - July 1964
Captain J.L. Nichols	July 1964 - June 1965
Captain P.E. Pugh	June 1965 - May 1966
Captain R.B. Pond	May 1966 - Aug 1967
Captain R.E. Fowler, Jr.	Aug 1967 - Oct 1968
Captain C.F. Wahl	Oct 1968 - Sept 1969
Captain E.R. Williams	Sept 1969 - Jan 1971
Captain W.W. Cort	Jan 1971 - Nov 1972