

Welcome Aboard



**U.S.S. GRANT COUNTY
(LST-1174)**

U.S.S. GRANT COUNTY (LST-1174)

On behalf of the officers and men of GRANT COUNTY I extend to you my warmest welcome, and I sincerely hope your stay with us will be both pleasant and informative.

The LST is unique in that it is designed to transport troops and equipment to the objective area and offload them directly onto the enemy beach, eliminating the complicated pre- 'H' hour transfer. The LST in which you are now embarked is of the 1173 class. This class embodies many improvements, over the older, smaller LST's, in order to better carry out all phases of the assigned mission. For example, we have a greater load capacity, are capable of greater speed, and can offer the troops more comfort with our air-conditioning plant thereby disembarking a more refreshed and battle-ready fighting unit.

During the past several years GRANT COUNTY has operated with distinction in the Atlantic Fleet and in the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, and we are proud to be serving aboard her. In her 12 years with the fleet she has proved that the 1173 class LST is a vital part of the modern Amphibious Force.

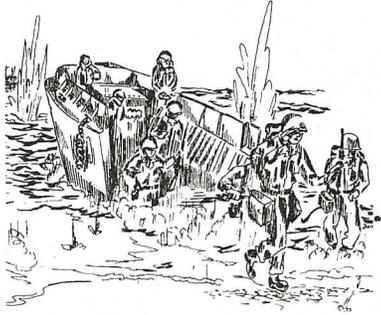
Feel free to ask any questions about our ship. The crew and I will be happy to tell you about GRANT COUNTY.

AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE

Amphibious warfare isn't new.

The earliest amphibious task force was probably a fleet of dugout canoes and rafts that transported a band of prehistoric "marines" along a coast to attack an enemy village.

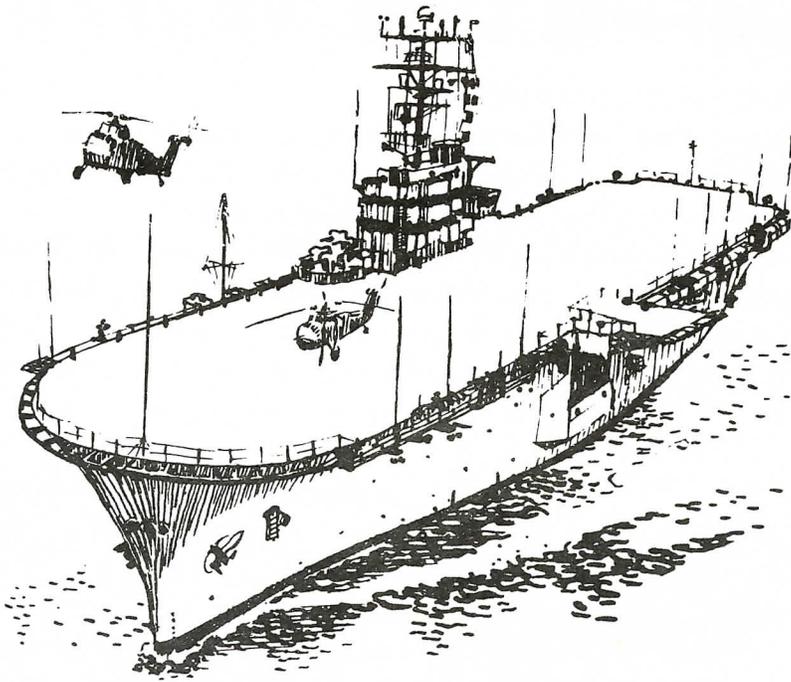
A modern amphibious operation, with landings on hostile shores, is launched from the sea by naval and landing forces in ships and landing craft. Its aims may be to prosecute further combat operations, obtain sites for bases, or deny areas or facilities to the enemy.



This highly specialized type of warfare came into its own during World War II. The war's global nature was a major factor. To be successful in modern war, forces must fight offensively; war must be carried to and fought on enemy soil. Because two-thirds of the earth is covered by water, amphibious operations are vital.

Early experiments helped give America its World War II amphibious capabilities. The Navy and the Marine Corps held basic amphibious exercises, including experiments with specially designed landing craft and vehicles, as early as 1923. Ten years later, when the Fleet Marine Force was formed to specialize in amphibious operations, the Navy began a major effort toward the design and construction of amphibious ships and craft.

During the 25-year lull between World Wars I and II, the United States developed the doctrine, organization, tactics, and techniques necessary for success in amphibious warfare. The Navy and Marine Corps, in addition to actually conducting landing operations, established a workable doctrine for both troop and naval components of an amphibious attack force.



The planning and training begun by the Navy and Marine Corps in the early thirties paid off in World War II. In fact, every major drive made by U.S. Forces in the war was started with an amphibious assault, beginning with Guadalcanal in 1942 and ending with Okinawa in 1945.

By the end of the war, America had the most powerful amphibious warfare capability in the world. She has never lost this lead.

Modern amphibious operations are quite different from their historical predecessors. First of all, naval forces in a modern amphibious operation have an important combat role as well as a transportation role. Gunfire from Navy ships and carrier aircraft substantially reduce enemy defenses before the first troops ever land.

Secondly, troops that engage in modern amphibious operations are highly trained for just that role.

Marines of the Fleet Marine Force are not merely soldiers transported to their battleground by ship. They are as much at home aboard Navy ships as ashore.

They know how to fight using gun and missile power from Navy ships and air power from carrier aircraft to help them take their objectives.

Groups such as the "Frogmen" of the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams and the "Seabees" of the Amphibious Construction Battalions are highly trained in skills unique to amphibious warfare.

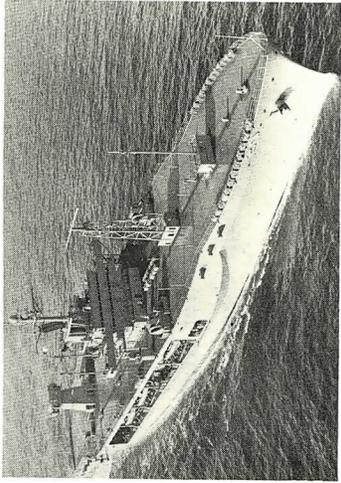
Lastly, ships, landing craft and weapons have been developed especially for amphibious operations. Landing ships that purposely run aground, unload troops and equipment, then free themselves and return to the sea; helicopter carriers designed to carry Marines to the beach, then send them behind enemy lines by helicopters; tracked landing vehicles that move through water, then over the beach and deep inland before discharging troops — all are part of the modern amphibious arsenal.

Faster, larger and more versatile ships will continue to replace older ships as the Navy continues to modernize. Besides a greater capability for amphibious warfare, the new ships also afford better living and working conditions for their crews and embarked Marines. New landing craft, helicopters and other equipment also will reach the Fleet and enable amphibious forces to better penetrate hostile areas, land combat-ready troops, and provide the support necessary for victory.

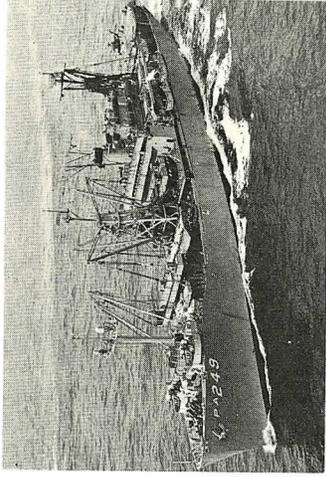


The 7 Types Of Ships Of The Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force

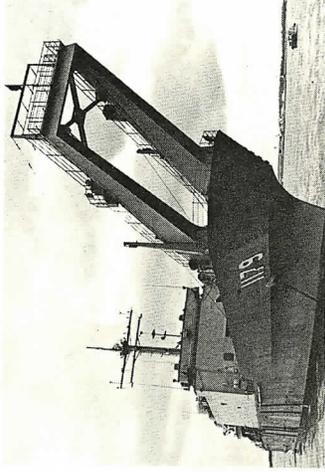
USS MOUNT WHITNEY
(LCC-20)
Amphibious Command
Ship



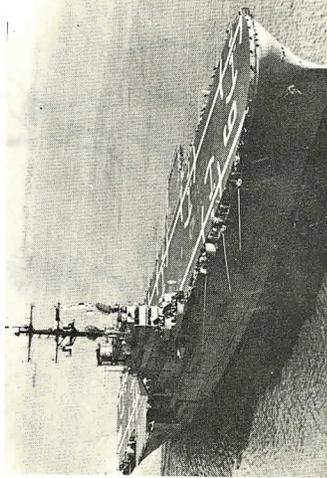
USS FRANCIS MARION
(LPA-249)
Amphibious Transport



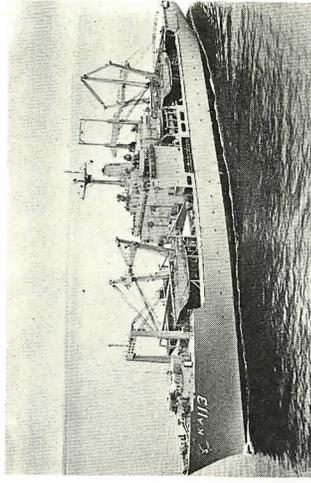
USS NEWPORT
(LST-1179)
Tank Landing Ship



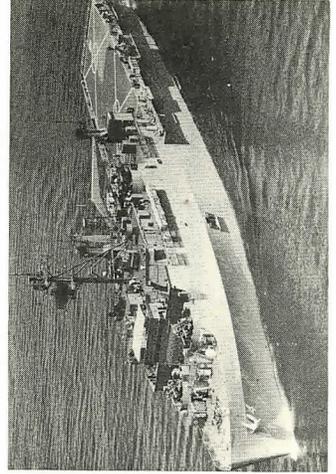
USS GUAM
(LPH-9)
Amphibious Assault
Ship



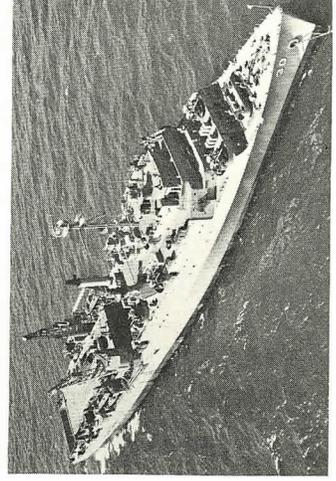
USS CHARLESTON
(LKA-113)
Amphibious Cargo
Ship



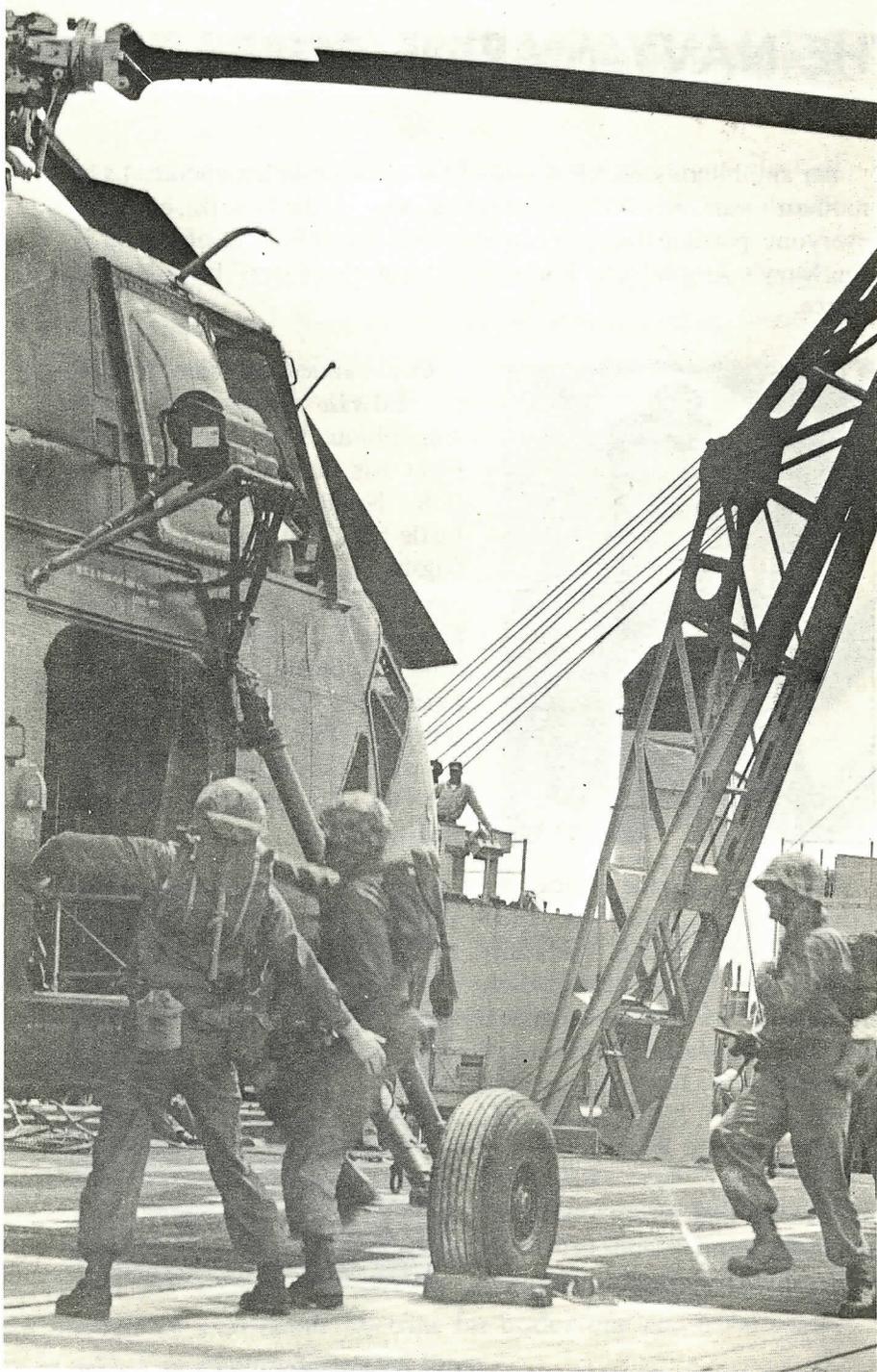
USS AUSTIN
(LPD-4)
Amphibious Transport
Dock



USS FORT SNELLING
(LSD-30)
Dock Landing Ship







THE NAVY-MARINE CORPS TEAM

An amphibious assault is one of the most complex operations in modern warfare. Success requires expert teamwork between everyone participating. The ideal team for this kind of action is the Navy's Amphibious Force, and the Marine Corps' Fleet Marine Force.



Commanded by Vice Admiral C. Edwin Bell, USN, the Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet has its headquarters at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, at Norfolk, Va. His flagship is the USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20). Over 12,000 men in about 35 ships and nearly 30 other commands comprise the Force. One squadron of various types of ships regularly deploys to the Caribbean — another serves on station in the Mediterranean.

The Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, commanded by Lieutenant General Earl E. Anderson, USMC, also has its headquarters at Norfolk. Its principal elements are the 2nd Marine Division and Force Troops, both stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, located at Cherry Point, N.C. Embarked Marine landing forces, consisting of both ground and helicopter units, are customarily deployed.



—Grant County Statistics—

USS GRANT COUNTY is a Landing Ship Tank of the LST 1173 class built in Avondale, Louisiana. Her keel was laid March 15, 1956 and she was launched October 12 of that year. Her name was chosen in honor of all the Grant counties in the United States. Counties with the name of Grant are found in Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. GRANT COUNTY was commissioned December 17, 1957 at the U.S. Naval Station, New Orleans, Louisiana and the following January she reported for duty to Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

GRANT COUNTY is 442 feet long, displaces 7800 tons fully loaded, and can exceed 17 knots with her six Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines.

Since the primary mission of the LST is to transport and land troops, supplies and equipment, of first importance is our load capacity. GRANT COUNTY is equipped to carry a full complement of 630 troops, along with a ship's complement of 170 sailors. She can carry 500 tons of "dry landing" vehicles onto a beach, and over 1500 tons of "wet landing" vehicles to be beached by the pontoon causeways carried on her sides. GRANT COUNTY has the capability of launching and recovering all of the Navy's small and medium helicopters. For defense and support of disembarking troops, she has three 3"/50 dual purpose twin gun mounts. In the event of an atomic attack, GRANT COUNTY could completely decontaminate herself through the cleansing effect of a complete water washdown rig. These are but a few of the assets which make the 1173 class LST an effective unit in the modern Amphibious Navy.

