



USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)

FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

LCC19/16:rm  
5720  
Ser: 668  
6 OCT 1975

From: Commanding Officer, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)  
Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1); submission of  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 MAY 71 1974  
Encl: (1) Addendum No. 1 - Distinguished Visitors during  
Calendar Year 1974  
(2) Addendum No. 2 - Underway Replenishments and  
Vertical Replenishments for 1974  
(3) Addendum No. 3 - Ammunition Expended

1. In accordance with reference (a), subject report is submitted for the period 1 January 1974 through 31 December 1974.

a. Command Organization. Commanding Officer: (1) Captain James D. BUTLER, USN, 1 January 1974 - 19 September 1974; (2) Captain William D. HART, USN, 20 September 1974 - 31 December 1974.

b. Summary of Operations. The first five weeks of 1974 were spent at Naval Station, San Diego. On March 11, BLUE RIDGE began various training exercises along the coast of Southern California.

On 13 March, BLUE RIDGE proceeded North to San Francisco. The ship arrived at NAS Alameda on 15 March and remained at this port of call for eight days. Training exercises were again conducted on the return trip to San Diego. The two-day journey found BLUE RIDGE back in her homeport on 24 March. Later, the ship was selected to render a 21-gun salute, on July 4, in recognition of our National Independence. BLUE RIDGE left port again on 19 July for local operations and returned that same evening.

On 22 July, BLUE RIDGE set a course for the Pacific Missile Range in preparation to test fire our newly installed Basic Point Missile Defense System. It was successfully tested and BLUE RIDGE returned to San Diego on the 27th of July.

With our third Western Pacific deployment drawing closer, BLUE RIDGE left San Diego on 29 July with observers from the Fleet Training Group. After completing this period of Refresher Training, the ship returned to San Diego on 2 August.

Local operations were resumed on 5 August and the ship remained at sea until 8 August, except for mooring overnight at NAS North Island. BLUE RIDGE remained in port San Diego from 9 August to 4 September.

Additional preparation for deployment sent BLUE RIDGE on local operations once again from 5 to 12 September. The 3"X50 Caliber gun mounts were test fired with a shore bombardment on San Clemente Island.

On 8 and 9 October, the last at-sea period before the ship was to deploy, various training exercises were executed. These exercises would put the ship in final preparation for the trans-Pacific voyage.

Steaming in formation with DUBUQUE, VANCOUVER and THOMASTON, BLUE RIDGE left for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 18 October.

On 24 October 1974, the following burial at sea notation was entered in the ship's Deck Log: "The officers and men of the USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19), did scatter, at sea, the remains of Captain John Madden Wright, USN, (Ret.)." The ceremony took place 142 miles East of Honolulu, Hawaii.

As BLUE RIDGE entered Pearl Harbor on 25 October, honors were rendered to USS ARIZONA.

Yokosuka, Japan would be our first foreign port of call. Enroute to Yokosuka, BLUE RIDGE crossed the 180th Meridian and entered the domain of the Golden Dragon. When the ship arrived on 6 November, the Commander of Amphibious Forces SEVENTH Fleet, Rear Admiral D.B. Whitmire, USN, embarked BLUE RIDGE with his staff from the USS CLEVELAND. With COMPHIBFORCESEVENTHFLT aboard, BLUE RIDGE left Yokosuka for White Beach, Okinawa.

The ship arrived at her overseas homeport on 10 November. We remained at White Beach for 13 days then got underway for Subic Bay in the Republic of the Philippines. BLUE RIDGE spent two days in Subic Bay before participating in a joint U.S.-Philippine exercise, code-named "Bayanihan." As part of our community relations effort, BLUE RIDGE dispatched a Civic Action Team to the small town of Paluan. There, BLUE RIDGE crewmen repaired and painted the Town Hall and Public School. A medical team was also sent to provide medical and dental care to the residents. Before completing the operation, an important towing exercise was conducted. The rescue and salvage ship, RECLAIMER, towed this 19,000-ton ship, which was simulating a complete loss of power. The towing lasted for several miles.

BLUE RIDGE proceeded back to Subic Bay and arrived there on 10 December. BLUE RIDGE returned to White Beach, Okinawa on 21 December where she spent the remainder of calendar year 1974.



R. W. S. CHRISTENSON  
Acting

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC  
COMPHIBRON ONE

ADDENDUM NO. 1

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1974

A. DATE - 8 FEB 74

VISITORS - Rear Admiral WOODS, Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Forces, Pacific; Brigadier General McCULLOCH, Commander, Landing Force Training Command; Rear Admiral STOCKDALE, Commander, Anti-submarine Warfare, Pacific; Rear Admiral FROST, Commander, Submarine Group FIVE; Admiral WEISNER, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official

B. DATE - 19 FEB 74

VISITORS-- Secretary of the Navy; Commander, Amphibious Forces, Pacific; Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific; Commander, Submarine Group FIVE

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official

C. DATE - 25 FEB 74

VISITORS - Naval Attache of the Spanish Navy; Commanding Officer, JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO, Spanish Navy

PURPOSE - Official Tour

D. DATE - 15 MAR 74

VISITOR - Rear Admiral CARMODY, Commandant, TWELFTH Naval District

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official Tour

ADDENDUM NO.1 (Continued)

E. DATE - 24 MAR 74

VISITORS - Commander, Amphibious Group, Eastern Pacific;  
Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Forces, Pacific;  
Commander, Submarine Group FIVE

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official

F. DATE - 26 JUN 74

VISITORS - Ghana's Ambassador to the U.S.; Vice Admiral  
SALZER, Commander, Amphibious Forces, Pacific

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official Tour

G. DATE - 18 SEPT 74

VISITOR - Vice Admiral SALZER, Commander, Amphibious Forces,  
Pacific

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official inspection of ship prior to  
deployment

H. DATE - 30 SEPT 74

VISITORS - Sir Edward Ashmore, Her Majesty's First Sea Lord;  
Commandant, ELEVENTH Naval District; Commander,  
Amphibious Forces, Pacific

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official Tour

I. DATE - 7 NOV 74

VISITOR - Commander, Naval Forces, Japan

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official

J. DATE - 4 DEC 74

VISITOR - Philippine Secretary of Defense

PURPOSE OF VISIT - Official

Enclosure (1)

ADDENDUM NO. 2

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENTS AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENTS FOR 1974

A. DATE - 7 AUG 74

TYPE - \*UNREP

SHIP - USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)

\*Two UNREPS were accomplished with CAMDEN this date.

B. DATE - 8 AUG 74

TYPE - UNREP

SHIP - USS GUADALUPE (AO-32)

C. DATE - 21 OCT 74

TYPE - UNREP (Training Exercise)

SHIP - USS THOMASTON (LSD-28)

D. DATE - 9 NOV 74

TYPE - VERTREP

SHIP - USS MARS (FS-1)

E. DATE - 9 NOV 74

TYPE - UNREP

SHIP - USS PASSUMPSIC

F. DATE - 30 NOV 74

TYPE - UNREP

SHIP - USS TOLOVANA (AO-64)

G. DATE - 1 DEC 74

TYPE - VERTREP

SHIP - USS MARS (FS-1)

H. DATE - 7 DEC 74

TYPE - UNREP

SHIP - USS TOLOVANA (AO-64)

Enclosure (2)

ADDENDUM NO. 3

AMMUNITION EXPENDED

- A. DATE - 13 MAR 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 50 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 46 rounds
- B. DATE - 19 APR 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 10 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 10 rounds
- C. DATE - 7 AUG 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 48 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 42 rounds
- D. DATE - 7 SEP 74  
- MOUNT 32 - 10 rounds
- E. DATE - 9 OCT 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 25 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 25 rounds
- F. DATE - 23 OCT 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 6 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 6 rounds
- G. DATE - 26 OCT 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 6 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 25 rounds
- H. DATE - 29 OCT 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 10 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 10 rounds
- I. DATE - 22 NOV 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 76 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 56 rounds
- J. DATE - 3 DEC 74  
- MOUNT 31 - 17 rounds  
- MOUNT 32 - 3 rounds