



USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)

FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

LCC19/16:rm
5720
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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

1975

- Encl: (1) Addendum No. 1 - Distinguished Visitors during Calendar Year 1975
(2) Addendum No. 2 - Underway Replenishments and Vertical Replenishments during 1975
(3) Addendum No. 3 - Ammunition Expended in 1975
(4) Notable Firsts during 1975

1. In accordance with reference (a), subject report is submitted for the period 1 January 1975 through 31 December 1975.

a. Command Organization. Commanding Officer: Captain William D. HART, USN, through complete period of this report.

b. Summary of Operations. Moored at White Beach, Okinawa in January 1975, BLUE RIDGE had finished nearly half of her third Western Pacific area deployment. On 7 January the ship proceeded to Subic Bay in the Republic of the Philippines. BLUE RIDGE remained in Subic for a 12-day availability after which she sailed for the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Maximum allowable liberty was granted to crewmen during that 6-day visit. The ship left Hong Kong on 31 January and returned to the overseas homeport of Okinawa on 1 February. After ten days inport, BLUE RIDGE prepared for her next passage within WestPac. The ship proceeded to Keelung, Taiwan on 12 February and arrived at the Chinese Republic on 13 February. On this particular port call many families of BLUE RIDGE crewmen and of the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force Staff were invited to Keelung as guests. Families and crewmen returned to Okinawa with the ship on 19 February. After another short stay inport, BLUE RIDGE proceeded to the capitol city of Manila in the Philippines.

This visit was a prelude to operation "Sea Fox", a multi-nation SEATO exercise.

On 1 March, after a three-day visit to Manila, the ship sailed for the "Sea Fox" operating area. She remained on station for ten days with other ships of the Australian, English, Thai and Philippine Navies. BLUE RIDGE returned to Manila on 12 March for another three-day visit and then returned to Okinawa for the remainder of March.

Nearing the end of the deployment, BLUE RIDGE was suddenly ordered to proceed to and stand off the coast of South Vietnam. Leaving White Beach with three other amphibious vessels, BLUE RIDGE arrived in Vietnam on 3 April, ready to assist in refugee evacuations of that country. Moving along the coast, with Rear Admiral D. B. Whitmire embarked as the operational commander, BLUE RIDGE coordinated the evacuation effort.

On 15 April the ship proceeded to Subic Bay where additional supplies would be taken onboard. Arriving on 17 April and remaining inport less than 24 hours, the ship was ordered to return to Vietnam, where she would coordinate a 46-ship task force in executing the world's largest helicopter evacuation. With thousands of Americans Vietnamese and third-country nationals safely aboard the evacuation vessels, BLUE RIDGE sailed once again for Subic Bay.

Arriving in Subic on 5 May, crewmen prepared to transfer the staff of Commander, Amphibious Forces SEVENTH Fleet to the USS DENVER (LPD-9). When the transfer had been completed, and additional supplies brought aboard, BLUE RIDGE left on 7 May for San Diego, California. This departure would mark the last passage of this Western Pacific deployment. Exactly 15 days later the ship moored starboard side to Pier 6 in San Diego.

For the next four weeks, BLUE RIDGE remained inport. On 21 June the ship was underway again. For the next six days at sea BLUE RIDGE would play an important role in FLEETEX 2-75, the "Mobile Sea Range" concept testing exercise.

Completing the exercise, BLUE RIDGE returned to port on 27 June and remained there until 29 July when the ship returned to sea for local operations. These local operations included a gun shoot and missile firing exercise. The ship returned to port on 31 July but was underway again for most of the next day for a BLUE RIDGE Dependent's Cruise.

After the Dependent's Cruise, the ship remained inport San Diego until 24 September, at which time Navy scientists and technicians of the Naval Ship Engineering Center embarked in BLUE RIDGE before leaving port. The Navy civilians and BLUE RIDGE crewmen conducted and evaluated the results of a series of shock tests near San Clemente Island. Having completed the shock tests, BLUE RIDGE returned to San Diego

and remained there until 30 October 1975.

At that time the ship sailed for the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. BLUE RIDGE arrived on 31 October and on 1 November commenced a scheduled eight-month overhaul.

BLUE RIDGE remained in the shipyard for the remainder of 1975.



W. D. HART

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC
COMPHIBRON ONE

ADDENDUM NO. 1

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1975

- A. DATE - 6 FEB 1975
VISITOR - COMSERVGRU THREE
RADM JOHNSON
PURPOSE OF VISIT - OFFICIAL
- B. DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH SENT BLUE RIDGE TO VIETNAM,
MANY DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE WERE ONBOARD DURING THIS
MARCH THROUGH MAY PERIOD. THE MORE NOTABLE INCLUDE:

UNITED STATES' AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH VIETNAM-GRAHAM MARTIN
SOUTH VIETNAM'S VICE AIR MARSHAL NUGYEN KAO KY
COMMANDER, U.S. SEVENTH FLEET, VICE ADMIRAL STEELE, USN
- C. DATE - 24 JUNE 1975
VISITOR - VICE ADMIRAL DOYLE, COMMANDER, THIRD FLEET
PURPOSE OF VISIT - COMMANDER FOR PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE
CONCEPT EXERCISE
- D. DATE - 18 AUG 1975 & 21 AUG 1975
VISITOR - RADM ROGERS, COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC
PURPOSE OF VISIT - OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF BERTHING AND
MESSING FACILITIES
- E. DATE - 29 AUG 1975
VISITOR - CAPT R.N. CONGDON, COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS
SQUADRON ONE
PURPOSE OF VISIT - OFFICIAL PERSONNEL INSPECTION
- F. DATE - 1 JULY 1975
VISITOR - CAPT R.N. CONGDON, COMPHIBRON ONE
PURPOSE OF VISIT - OFFICIAL
- G. DATE - 28 OCT 1975
VISITOR - COMMANDER, LANDING FORCE TRAINING COMMAND
PURPOSE OF VISIT - OFFICIAL

ADDENDUM NO. 2

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENTS AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENTS FOR 1975

A. DATE - 9 JAN 1975

TYPE - UNREP & VERTREP

SHIP - USS MARS (FS-1)

B. DATE - 6 FEB 1975

TYPE - VERTREP

SHIP - VERTREP WAS ACCOMPLISHED FROM NAVY PIER AT
WHITE BEACH, OKINAWA VICE ANOTHER SHIP

C. DATE - 14 APR 1975

TYPE - VERTREP

SHIP - USS MARS (AFS-1)

D. DATE - 26 APR 1975

TYPE - VERTREP

SHIP - USS MARS (AFS-1)

ADDENDUM NO. 4

NOTABLE FIRSTS DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1975

A. DATE - 1 JULY 1975

EVENT - ██████████ SON OF LT ██████████, SHIP'S
NAVIGATOR, BAPTIZED ON BOARD

B. DATE - 25 & 26 SEP 1975

EVENT - BLUE RIDGE UNDERGOES SHOCK TEST AT SAN CLEMENTE
ISLAND

C. DATE - 1 NOV 1975

EVENT - COMMENCED FIRST REGULAR OVERHAUL AT LONG
BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD

ADDENDUM NO. 3

AMMUNITION EXPENDED IN CALENDAR YEAR 1975

- A. DATE - 22 JAN 1975
 - MOUNT 32 - 2 ROUNDS
- B. DATE - 2 MAR 1975
 - MOUNT 31 - 16 ROUNDS
- C. DATE - 3 MAR 1975
 - MOUNT 31 - 24 ROUNDS
- D. DATE - 4 MAR 1975
 - MOUNT 31 - 98 ROUNDS
 - MOUNT 32 - 58 ROUNDS
- E. DATE - 5 MAR 1975
 - MOUNT 31 - 58 ROUNDS
 - MOUNT 32 - 30 ROUNDS
- F. DATE - 18 MAY 1975
 - MOUNT 31 - 34 ROUNDS
- G. DATE - 29 JUL 1975
 - MOUNT 31 - 5 ROUNDS

MISSILES - SEA SPARROW III FIRED FROM BASIC POINT MISSILE
DEFENSE SYSTEM

- H. DATE - 3 AUG 1975
 - STARBOARD SIDE - 1 MISSILE
- I. DATE - 4 AUG 1975
 - PORT SIDE - 1 MISSILE