



**U. S. S. BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)**

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO  
LCC19:16:nn  
5750  
Ser. <sup>LCC</sup>  
21 MAR 1977

From: Commanding Officer, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

1976

- Encl: (1) Addendum No. 1 - Distinguished Visitors during  
Calendar Year 1976  
(2) Addendum No. 2 - Underway Replenishments and  
Vertical Replenishments during Calendar Year 1976  
(3) Addendum No. 3 - Ammunition expended during Calendar  
Year 1976  
(4) Familygrams produced during Calendar Year 1976  
(5) Portrait of Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN, Commanding  
Officer - 30 July 1976 to present  
(6) Official biography of Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is  
submitted for the period 1 January 1976 through 31 December 1976.

A. Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Captain  
William D. HART, USN, from 1 January 1976 through 30 July 1976.  
Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN, from 30 July 1976 through 31 December  
1976.

B. Summary of Operations: At the start of the year BLUE  
RIDGE was at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard in dry dock for  
modernization and upkeep. The ship was in dry dock until 19  
March 1976 when she was moved to Pier Six. The ship spent the  
entire month of April at Pier Six and the morning of 24 May put  
to sea for sea trials. BLUE RIDGE returned to Pier Six the  
following afternoon after completing various drills and a full  
power run.

On 3 June, Rear Admiral R. L. WALKER, Deputy Commander Surface  
Ships, Naval Sea Systems Command; Rear Admiral J. R. STEELE,  
USCG, Commandant of the 11th Coast Guard District, and Dr. Thomas  
CLARK, Mayor of Long Beach, California, visited the ship on an  
official call. There were also members of the Long Beach Chamber  
of Commerce attending.

British Consulate-General, Mr. Paul B. Thompson and Captain J. D. FISHER, RN, Commanding Officer of HMS GOLD ROVER; Commander C. H. D. PRIEST, RN, Commanding Officer of HMS PLYMOUTH; and Commander W.M.F. CHATTERTON-DIXON, RN, Commanding Officer of HMS BERWICK paid an official visit to BLUE RIDGE on 11 March 1976.

From the 8th to 10th and 15th to the 17th of June BLUE RIDGE underwent sea trials off the California Coast.

The ship hosted an Open House for personnel of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and their families on 19 June 1976.

Shortly after 0930 on 30 June 1976, BLUE RIDGE left the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for her home port of San Diego, California, arriving at Pier Six, U. S. Naval Station San Diego the afternoon of 2 July.

At 1920 the evening of 18 July 1976 a fire was reported in Vehicle Stowage. The fire quickly spread and was classified as "Out of Control" at 2046. Assistance from other ships and the Naval Station Fire Department was utilized and the fire was reported "Under Control" at 2105 and "Fire Out Throughout the Ship" at 2136. A number of BLUE RIDGE personnel and personnel from assisting ships and the Naval Station Fire Department were treated at the Balboa Naval Hospital for smoke inhalation. There were no major injuries during the two hour fire, and the ship was able to get underway the following morning for local operations. These lasted until 23 July. During this sea period various gun shoots and missile firing exercises were conducted off the Southern California Coast.

BLUE RIDGE received her fifth Commanding Officer, Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN, on 30 July 1976. He relieved Captain W. D. HART, USN, during ceremonies onboard the ship at Pier Six, U. S. Naval Station San Diego.

During the month of August the ship conducted local refresher training from the 2nd through the 13th and the 18th through 27th. BLUE RIDGE was underway for additional refresher training from the 7th through the 11th of September.

On 21 September Vice Admiral William St. GEORGE, Commander Surface Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, paid an official visit to the ship.

On 25 September 1976, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) left her home port of San Diego, California for her fourth deployment with the U. S. Seventh Fleet. During the transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the ship hosted five members of the San Diego Council Navy League. Arriving in Hawaii on 1 October, the ship left on the 3rd for Kwajalein Island, and arrived on the 10th. Here BLUE RIDGE became the Flagship for Rear Admiral James H. MORRIS, Commander, Amphibious Force, U. S. Seventh Fleet (CTF-76). The admiral and his staff transferred from the USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7) as the two ships rode at anchor. Departing Kwajalein on the 12th, BLUE RIDGE headed

South to participate in Operation Kangaroo Two off the Australian Coast. This was the largest multi-nation amphibious operation ever held in Australia, and consisted of ships, marines and aircraft from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. As flagship for CTF-76, BLUE RIDGE controlled the amphibious phase of the operation.

On 1 November BLUE RIDGE arrived in Sydney, Australia for a port visit, which lasted until 6 November. Until this time BLUE RIDGE had spent 42 days away from home port, with only eight days of liberty. BLUE RIDGE hosted several high ranking distinguished visitors onboard for a luncheon on 2 November. The visitors included H. E. Sir Roden Cutler, Governor General of New South Wales, the Honorable Neville Waran, Premier of New South Wales, the Right Honorable Alderman Leo Port, the Lord Mayor of Sydney, the Honorable Sir Eric Willis, Leader of the Opposition in New South Wales, the Honorable James Killen, Minister for Defense, Rear Admiral N. E. McDonald, RAN, Flag Officer commanding the East Australian Area, Major General D. B. Dunstan, Australian Army General Officer commanding the Field Force Command, Commodore W. J. Rourke, General Manager of the Garden Island Dockyard, and Mr. John R. Davis, Jr., Counsel General, American Consulate General.

During the ship's transit to White Beach, Okinawa, Japan, the overseas home port for BLUE RIDGE, the ship passed through the "Slot" off Guadalcanal, November 11. Here the crew was formed at quarters and a wreath was laid on the waters to commemorate those American sailors, marines, and airmen who died during the Battle of Guadalcanal in World War II. The ship arrived at White Beach on 19 November and remained there for the rest of the month.

On 2 December the ship sailed for Keelung, Taiwan. Embarked were a large number of dependents from the CTF-76 staff. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Keelung on 3 December for a four day port visit. BLUE RIDGE returned to White Beach, Okinawa on the 8th. Vice Admiral William St. GEORGE, Commander Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visited the ship on 9 December to present the Navy Unit Commendation to BLUE RIDGE and CTF-76 for their participation in Operations "Frequent Wind" and "Eagle Pull," the emergency evacuation of Saigon and Cambodia during the final days of the Vietnam War. He also presented Two Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals to the ship and staff for the same operations.

BLUE RIDGE left White Beach on 13 December 1976 for Pusan, Korea, arriving on the 15th. This, the third port visit of the cruise, lasted five days until the ship departed on the 20th. On 16 December the Honorable Park Young So, Mayor of Pusan; Lieutenant General Kim Young So, Republic of Korea Army, and Commodore Kim Ho You, Commander 2nd Republic of Korea Naval Sector Command paid an official call on the ship.

The ship returned to White Beach on 22 December and remained there for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

  
J. G. MCINTYRE

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT