



USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)

FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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

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

1978

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

- Encl: (1) Addendum No. 1 -- Distinguished Visitors during Calendar Year 1978
(2) Addendum No. 2 -- Underway Replenishments and Vertical Replenishments during Calendar Year 1978
(3) Addendum No. 3 -- Ammunition Expended during Calendar Year 1978
(4) Familygrams produced during Calendar Year 1978
(5) Portait of Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN, Commanding Officer, 1 January to 17 June 1978
(6) Official Biography of Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN
(7) Portait of Captain D. L. CARLSON, USN, Commanding Officer, 17 June to 31 December 1978
(8) Official Biography of Captain D. L. CARLSON, USN
(9) Official Welcome Aboard Brochures used during Calendar Year 1978

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is submitted for the period of 1 January 1978 through 31 December 1978.

a. COMMAND ORGANIZATION: Commanding Officer: Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN, 1 January through 17 June 1978; Captain D. L. CARLSON, USN, 17 June through 31 December 1978.

b. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS: BLUE RIDGE began 1978 moored at Pier Six, Naval Station, San Diego, California. Rear Admiral R. A. PADDOCK, USN, Commander Amphibious Group Eastern Pacific broke his flag on 5 January and the ship departed for Acapulco, Mexico for a goodwill visit. The ship arrived 9 January and anchored in Acapulco Bay. The visit was coordinated through the Defense Attache Office of the U. S. Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico. Departing Acapulco on 12 January, the ship steamed for San Diego. Two special guests of the Navy and two Navy League members made the return trip with BLUE RIDGE. The ship arrived at the Naval Station, San Diego on 16 January.

The ship departed San Diego for READIEX 2-78 (Exercise Varsity Lance) on 23 January with Rear Admiral R. A. PADDOCK (COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC), Brigadier General W. R. MALONEY (Fifth MAB), Captain W. SPRUNK, Jr. (COMPHIBRON ONE) and Captain P. E. TREGAY, Jr (COMDESRON FIVE) embarked. BLUE

RIDGE served as flagship in the exercise which lasted until 2 February. She then returned to San Diego.

BLUE RIDGE entered a Planned Restricted Availability Period (PRAV) on 4 February. During this six week period, BLUE RIDGE had major work performed by members of the Development and Training Center/Fleet Maintenance and Assistance Group (DATC/FMAG), several civilian contractors and members of the crew. Some of the major accomplishments of the PRAV were the overhaul of the ship's boilers and the installation of three new industrial sized washing machines. Due to the bulk and size of the washers, it was necessary to cut a large opening in the starboard side of the ship to accommodate installation. Also included in the overhaul was updating of complex electronic equipment and general painting and cleaning.

From 22 March to 24 March and again from 27 March to 31 March, the ship conducted sea trials and training in the Southern California operating area.

In April the ship was underway for local operations from the 4th through the 7th and the 20th through the 21st with assistance from Fleet Training Group San Diego. The ship also spent the 25th of April underway with members of the Board of Inspection and Survey embarked.

BLUE RIDGE officers and men donated 139 pints of blood to the Navy Regional Medical Center, Balboa Hospital, on 2 May. The ship departed San Diego on 8 May, with one Guest of the Navy aboard, for training operations and a visit to San Francisco, California. BLUE RIDGE moored to Pier 45 at the San Francisco Embarcadero on 12 May for a ten day stay. During this time a large percentage of the crew attended various damage control and repair locker training courses at the Treasure Island Fleet Training Group facilities. BLUE RIDGE also served as a guest ship for Armed Forces Day festivities. The ship held a "mini open house" on 13 and 14 May. Visiting was held between 1300-1600 and 1,894 people toured the ship on those days. The following weekend 3,166 more people toured the ship. On one of the tours an elderly woman suffered an injury when she fell down a ladder and sprained her ankle. She was immediately taken to the Medical Department Sick Bay and treated. This was the first injury to occur in the history of BLUE RIDGE port visits. Fortunately she was pleased with the excellent care given her by the ship's Medical Department personnel and no unfavorable publicity or legal suits ensued. The ship departed San Francisco on 22 May returning to the Naval Station, San Diego two days later. While in San Diego, twenty-eight Midshipmen from the U. S. Naval Academy embarked for their two week summer cruise indoctrination aboard BLUE RIDGE.

June was one of the more busy, but enjoyable, months for BLUE RIDGE. The ship got underway 1 June with 49 male dependents and guests of crewmembers (Tigers) aboard for Fleet Exercise READIEX 3-78. This exercise included a Mobile Sea Range missile firing exercise. Rear Admiral PADDOCK, COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC, was embarked for the READIEX. BLUE RIDGE's operational performance during the exercise brought many kudos for her crew and the Tigers were given an opportunity to see their sponsors in operational situations that few non-Navy personnel actually witness. The Tigers were also briefed thoroughly on the operation and mission of BLUE RIDGE and given ship wide tours.

On 8 June BLUE RIDGE steamed 100 miles up the Columbia and Willamette Rivers as the flagship for the "mini Navy fleet" participating in the 1978 Portland Rose Festival. As part of the Rose Festival fleet, BLUE RIDGE embarked over 220 guests from the Pacific Northwest at Astoria, Oregon to make the 8-hour trip upriver to Portland. On the same day the ship moored at Terminal #1 in Portland. General visiting was conducted during BLUE RIDGE's stay in Portland and approximately 1,500 people toured the ship. Vice Admiral W. R. ST. GEORGE, Commander U. S. Naval Surface Forces Pacific Fleet, broke his flag on BLUE RIDGE as the senior U. S. Navy officer present. As flagship, BLUE RIDGE hosted a number of official functions in connection with the Rose Festival. These included the Rose Queen Breakfast and the Navy Knighting Ceremony, the latter being held on the ship's Flight Deck. The Oregon State Governor's Breakfast was another official function held aboard BLUE RIDGE. While in Portland many positive Navy-civilian relationships were developed that benefited Navy Recruiting efforts and the crewmembers of all ships present. One of the special programs that BLUE RIDGE participated in was "Dial-A-Sailor". Under this program, BLUE RIDGE sailors made contact with local residents and joined them for such events as family dinners, picnics, parties and various other aspects of the Rose Festival activities.

BLUE RIDGE bid farewell to the City of Portland on 13 June and with 192 guests of the Navy-Marine Corp team in Portland embarked, steamed down the Willamette and Columbia Rivers to Astoria.

Here the guests were put ashore after enjoying this scenic cruise. Six guests of the Navy stayed aboard BLUE RIDGE for the return transit to Naval Station, San Diego.

BLUE RIDGE arrived in San Diego on 16 June and held a Change of Command ceremony on the ship's main deck on 17 June. The ship's company was assembled and over 200 guests were present on that Saturday morning as Captain D. L. CARLSON, USN, relieved Captain J. G. McINTYRE, USN. He became BLUE RIDGE's sixth Commanding Officer. Captain J. T. WILLIAMS, Chief of Staff, was the guest speaker and official representative for COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC.

Duty Section Five celebrated the 4th of July aboard BLUE RIDGE and the ship was in full dress for the 202nd birthday of the United States. Early the next afternoon the ship got underway for local operations in the Southern California area and returned to Naval Station, San Diego on the 7th. Three days later BLUE RIDGE was underway for READIEX 4-78, Operation Varsity Cleanex. Rear Admiral R. A. PADDOCK, COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC, was embarked for the eight day exercise.

BLUE RIDGE started finalizing preparations for her deployment to the Western Pacific upon her return to Naval Station, San Diego on 18 July. In conjunction with OPERATION HANDCLASP, BLUE RIDGE onloaded 45 pallets (approximately 10,000 pounds) of goods and materials for distribution in Hong Kong and Okinawa. The goods that were onloaded would be for distribution to charitable organizations in ports visited by members of the U. S. SEVENTH Fleet in the Western Pacific.

The ship departed on its sixth Western Pacific deployment on 3 August with two guests of the Navy aboard. Arriving in Pearl Harbor on 13 August, BLUE RIDGE crewmembers enjoyed their last American liberty port and made final

preparations for deployment. Stores were unloaded and various members of the crew attended pre-deployment briefings at CINCPACFLT Headquarters. Admiral D. C. DAVIS, Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, made an official visit to BLUE RIDGE prior to the ship getting underway on 15 August. BLUE RIDGE was the first ship the new fleet commander visited since he assumed command of the Pacific Fleet.

BLUE RIDGE moored at White Beach, Okinawa on 28 August and Rear Admiral D. S. JONES, Commander Amphibious Forces, U. S. SEVENTH Fleet, broke his flag aboard BLUE RIDGE the next day. An inport Vertical Replenishment was conducted between the underway USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) and the moored BLUE RIDGE. Additionally, Vice Admiral S. R. FOLEY, Jr., Commander U. S. SEVENTH Fleet, made an unofficial visit to the ship via helicopter on the 29th.

Brigadier General W. H. RICE, Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade, made an official visit to BLUE RIDGE on August 30th.

September 1st, BLUE RIDGE departed Okinawa with Rear Admiral D. S. JONES, COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT, embarked for the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. The crew spent the Labor Day weekend anchored in Hong Kong Bay. Captain R. W. MOLAND, Royal Navy, Captain of the Port of Hong Kong, paid an official visit to Rear Admiral JONES on Labor Day.

Departing Hong Kong for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines on 9 September, BLUE RIDGE arrived the 11th and moored at the Ship Repair Facility (SRF) for minor work. During the ship's 10-day inport restricted availability period work was performed on the antenna systems and propulsion machinery. The ship departed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa on the 21st of September.

The ship anchored in Buckner on 27 September and was underway the next day to participate in the SEVENTH Fleet exercise READIEX 1-78. Rear Admiral JONES was again embarked.

BLUE RIDGE moored at her "home-away-from-home" at White Beach Okinawa again on 6 October. The ship embarked 72 officers and 192 enlisted personnel for participation in the Sea-the-World IV Cruise. The cruise, organized by COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT, was designed to give members of other U. S. Armed Services and Okinawa based sailors a chance to taste the rigors of life aboard a Navy ship as well as a chance to see parts of the Far East. With the 264 new "BLUE RIDGERS" aboard, the ship got underway 7 October for Keelung, Taiwan and moored there two days later. After a brief stay, tropical storm Ora forced BLUE RIDGE to make an emergency sortie from Keelung on 11 October and weather the storm at sea. The heavy seas created by the storm gave Sea-the-World Cruise members a turbulent ride, but fortunately, all weathered it successfully.

The crew, staff and cruisemembers onboard BLUE RIDGE celebrated the Navy's 203rd birthday at sea with a cake cutting ceremony on the mess decks on 13 October. Rear Admiral D. S. JONES and Captain D. L. CARLSON officiated at the ceremonies and all hands enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

After Tropical Storm Ora passed Okinawa, BLUE RIDGE moored at White Beach, Okinawa on 15 October and debarked the Sea-the-World participants.

BLUE RIDGE got underway for Pearl Harbor and the conclusion of her sixth Western Pacific deployment on 17 October and steamed until 28 October when the ship moored at Hotel Pier, Naval Station, Pearl Harbor. Departing Pearl Harbor on 30 October, BLUE RIDGE embarked 68 Tigers for the return trip to San Diego. Once again dependents and guests of crewmembers saw their sponsors in action and discovered the intricacies of a U. S. Navy ship's operation and mission. The Tigers were treated to Halloween at sea and various aspects of Navy seamanship.

BLUE RIDGE arrived in San Diego and made her entrance under the Coronado-San Diego Bay bridge on 6 November to a greeting by harbor tugs and the Navy Band waiting on the pier at the Naval Station. One of the most welcomed sights of the three-month WESTPAC trip was the 500 BLUE RIDGE dependents and friends waiting for the ship's arrival.

The ship entered a post WESTPAC stand down period allowing many crewmembers time to enjoy the comforts of home and families. On 14 November BLUE RIDGE celebrated her eighth birthday with a cake cutting ceremony on the Mess Decks. Rear Admiral R. A. PADDOCK broke his flag aboard BLUE RIDGE and joined Captain D. L. CARLSON in the official celebration.

The first wedding in the history of BLUE RIDGE was performed on the 16th of November when SN [REDACTED] of the ship's Deck Department, 4th Division married [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] the ship's Chaplain, joined the couple in matrimony.

Rear Admiral P. E. FERRELL, Chief of Navy Dental, Washington, DC, made an unofficial visit and tour of BLUE RIDGE on 28 November. He was accompanied by 40 deans of dental colleges that were in San Diego for a national dental conference.

December 4th BLUE RIDGE got underway for READIEX 1-79. The exercise was conducted in the Southern California operating area and Rear Admiral R. A. PADDOCK was embarked for the READIEX. BLUE RIDGE hosted several VIP's and senior officers during the exercise. Included on the list were Vice Admiral K. R. MCKEE, COMTHIRDFLT, Vice Admiral W. L. McDONALD, COM-SECONDFLT, and U. S. Representative Bob WILSON from California. Over 25,000 Navy and Marine Corps personnel participated in the operation involving over 100 ships and aircraft. As part of the Amphibious exercise, Rear Admiral R. A. PADDOCK lowered his flag aboard BLUE RIDGE and broke it aboard USS DENVER (LPD-9).

BLUE RIDGE moored at Naval Station, San Diego on December 13th where she remained for the remainder of 1978.



D. L. CARLSON

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CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC
COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC

ADDENDUM NO. 1

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1978

a. DATE: 5 January - 9 January 1978

VISITOR: Mr. Paul D. Penton
Mr. Daniel E. McPherson
Mr. George W. Baccus
Mr. Lewis E. O'Brien

Purpose of visit: Guests of the Navy

b. DATE: 12 January - 16 January 1978

VISITOR: Mr. Jack C. Currock
Mr. Max F. Sewell

Purpose of visit: Guests of the Navy

c. DATE: 12 January - 16 January 1978

VISITOR: Mr. Judson R. Grosvenor
Mr. William P. Hanson

Purpose of visit: Navy League guests

d. DATE: 8 May - 12 May 1978

VISITOR: Mr. Richard E. Morris

Purpose of Visit: Guest of the Navy

e. DATE: 13 JUNE - 16 JUNE 1978

Visitor: Mr. Arland C. Walker
Mr. James H. Myers
Mr. R. Ralph Davis
Mr. Charles H. Hulse
Mr. David S. Hirsch
Mr. Rod P. Tiahrt

Purpose of visit: Guests of the Navy/sponsored by:
Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Portland, OR

f. DATE: 3 August - 13 August 1978

VISITOR: Mr. Charles Booth
Mr. Robert Hirsch

Purpose of visit: Guests of the Navy

ENCLOSURE (1)

- g. DATE: 15 August 1978
VISITOR: ADM D. C. DAVIS, CINCPACFLT
Purpose of visit: Official
- h. DATE: 30 August 1978
VISITOR: BGEN W. H. RICE, NINTHMAB
Purpose of visit: Official
- i. DATE: 4 September 1978
VISITOR: CAPT R. W. MOLAND, Royal Navy, Captain of the port of
Hong Kong, BCC
Purpose of visit: Official
- j. DATE: 28 November 1978
VISITOR: RADM P. E. FERRELL, Chief of Navy Dental
40 Dental College Deans
Purpose of visit: Unofficial tour
- k. DATE: 8 December - 12 December 1978
VISITOR: CONGRESSMAN Bob WILSON
VADM K. R. McKEE, COMTHIRDFLT
VADM W. L. McDONALD, COMSECONDFLT
Purpose of visit: Unofficial in conjunction with THIRDFLT Operation
READIEX 1-79

ADDENDUM No. 2

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENTS AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENT DURING
CALENDAR YEAR 1978

DATE: 21 MARCH 1978
SHIP: USS WICHITA (AOR-1)

DATE: 4 APRIL 1978
SHIP: USS TALUGA

DATE: 3 JUNE 1978
SHIP: USS KANSAS CITY (AOR-3)

DATE: 6 JUNE 1978
SHIP: USS WICHITA (AOR-1)

DATE: 28 AUGUST 1978
SHIP: USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 1978
SHIP: USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3)

ENCLOSURE (2)

ADDENDUM No. 3

AMMUNITION EXPENDED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1978

MOUNT 31 (Left gun)

12 JAN 78	5 rounds
28 MAR 78	4 rounds
28 MAR 78	4 rounds
6 JUL 78	4 rounds
18 JUL 78	6 rounds
25 AUG 78	3 rounds
25 OCT 78	10 rounds

TOTAL ROUNDS : 36

MOUNT 32 (Left gun)

12 JAN 78	10 rounds
28 MAR 78	4 rounds
18 JUL 78	6 rounds
25 AUG 78	10 rounds
27 AUG 78	5 rounds
25 OCT 78	10 rounds

TOTAL ROUNDS: 45

MOUNT 31 (Right gun)

12 JAN 78	5 rounds
28 MAR 78	6 rounds
28 MAR 78	6 rounds
29 MAR 78	12 rounds
6 JUL 78	7 rounds
18 JUL 78	4 rounds
25 AUG 78	12 rounds
27 AUG 78	10 rounds
25 OCT 78	10 rounds

TOTAL ROUNDS: 72

MOUNT 32 (Right gun)

28 MAR 78	6 rounds
28 MAR 78	3 rounds
29 MAR 78	12 rounds
18 JUL 78	5 rounds
25 AUG 78	10 rounds
27 AUG 78	5 rounds
25 OCT 78	10 rounds

TOTAL ROUNDS: 51

GRAND TOTAL ROUNDS EXPENDED: 204

ENCLOSURE (3)