



USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO 96628

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Ser 497

28 April 1983

From: Commanding Officer, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington,
DC 20374

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

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Distinguished visitors during the calendar year 1982
(2) Underway Replenishments and Vertical Replenishments
during calendar year 1982
(3) Ammunition expended during calendar year 1982
(4) Portrait of CAPT W. C. FRANCIS, USN
(5) Officer Biography of CAPT W. C. FRANCIS, USN
(6) Family Grams produced during calendar year 1982
(7) Official Welcome Aboard Brochure used during calendar year 1982

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following Command History is submitted for the period 1 January 1982 through 31 December 1982.

(a) Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Captain John D. CHAMBERLAIN, USN, from 1 January 1982 through 23 July 1982. Captain William C. FRANCIS, USN, from 23 July through 31 December 1982.

(b) Summary of Operations: BLUE RIDGE, in her capacity as flagship of Commander SEVENTH Fleet, started the new year in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. On 7 January, after spending three weeks in port for leave and upkeep, the ship got underway en route to Manila, RP, arriving on 12 January. On 16 January, BLUE RIDGE embarked various officials and guests for a half-day cruise to Subic Bay, RP, where she remained nine days for upkeep. The ship got underway on 26 January for Surabaya, Indonesia. While en route, the ship conducted "Crossing the Line" ceremonies on the 28th. She crossed the equator at 0214, 29 January at longitude 119-07.0 minutes East. On 31 January the ship moored starboard side to Madura Quay, Surabaya, ID, for a two-day port visit. The ship left Surabaya on 2 February for Sydney, Australia, transiting via the Java Sea, Flores Ombai-Wetar Strait, Arafura Sea, Torres Strait and the inner route of the Great Barrier Reef, and moored starboard side to Woolloomooloo pier on 13 February. On the fourteenth, general visiting was held, with more than 10,000 people taking advantage of the opportunity. The eighteenth of February found BLUE RIDGE en route to Guam, MI, via the Coral Sea and Solomon Sea, through the Caroline and Mariana Island chains. The ship conducted a Surface Ship Radiated Noise Measurement (SSRNM) Survey on 26 February and then moored starboard side to the fuel pier, Inner Apra Harbor the following day. On 01 March, BLUE RIDGE was again underway, headed to Yokosuka, Japan. The ship was in port 04-17 March for leave and upkeep, getting underway for Okinawa on the eighteenth. She arrived at White Beach, Okinawa, Japan on 20 March, mooring starboard side to the West Navy Pier to embark CTF-76 and CTF-79 staffs for Exercise TEAM SPIRIT 82. The ship shifted to anchorage "AV" on the twenty-first. On 22 March, BLUE RIDGE sortied from

Buckner Bay in company with the ships of Amphibious Squadron ONE and various escorts. Task Force 76 conducted a rehearsal landing at Okinawa prior to proceeding to Pohang, KS, for embarkation of ROKN liaison personnel and various pre-sail briefings. On 26 March the Task Force sortied from Pohang en route to the Amphibious Operating Area. BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USNS MISPELLION (TAO-105) and a vertical replenishment with USS MARS (AFS-1) on 27 March. The Task Force arrived at the exercise area on 28 March for D-Day, with BLUE RIDGE operating in a 10 mile square operating area. From 29 March to 4 April, the ship was at anchor in the vicinity of the assault beach. On 5 April the ship got underway, detached from Task Force 76, and proceeded to Inchon, KS, anchoring in anchorage E-4 on 6 April. The ship left Inchon on 10 April, enroute Okinawa, Japan. BLUE RIDGE moored starboard side to the West Navy pier on the afternoon of 12 April to debark CTF-76 and CTF-79 staffs, getting underway again that afternoon en route to Naha, Okinawa, Japan. The ship moored starboard side to berths one and two, Naha Harbor on 13 April for a two-day visit. BLUE RIDGE departed on 15 April for Yokosuka Japan, arriving on 17 April. On 16 April the ship received notification that it had been awarded the Battle Efficiency Excellence award for COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC ships. The ship remained in Yokosuka through 2 May for a well deserved leave/upkeep period. On 3 May, BLUE RIDGE again got underway, this time en route to the vicinity of Iwo Jima for READEX 82, a three carrier battle group exercise in which the ship participated from 5 May to 9 May, when she detached to proceed to Subic Bay, RP, The ship moored starboard side to Alava Wharf on 13 May for a leave and upkeep period which lasted through 21 May. On 22 May, the ship got underway for Exercise TANGENT FLASH 82, an amphibious exercise conducted at Dingalan Bay, RP, in conjunction with units of Amphibious Squadron SEVEN and various units of the Philippine Navy. Exercise TANGENT FLASH was completed on 29 May and BLUE RIDGE departed Dingalan Bay en route to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. The ship anchored in the vicinity of Pattaya Beach on 5 June for a port visit which lasted through 09 June. On 10 June, the ship got underway for Hong Kong, BCC, arriving on 15 June for a six-day visit. The ship departed Hong Kong on 21 June for Yokosuka, Japan. The ship arrived in Yokosuka on 26 June and began an eight-week Selected Restricted Availability. The highlight of the in port period was the Change of Command ceremony held on 23 July in which Capt William C. FRANCIS, USN, relieved Capt John D. CHAMBERLAIN, USN, as Commanding Officer of BLUE RIDGE.

On 19 August, the ship got underway for sea trials, returning to Yokosuka on the following day. On 21 August, the ship got underway for Sister Ship Operation 82, joining rendezvous with JDS SHIRANE (DDH-143) on 22 August. The ships arrived in Otaru, Japan on 27 August for a three-day port visit. General ship visiting was held on 29 August, with more than 5,000 people touring the ship. BLUE RIDGE and SHIRANE got underway on 30 August for Maizuru, Japan. The ships anchored in Maizuru Harbor, Japan, on 01 September. A sister-ship picnic was held ashore on 3 September for the crewmembers of both ships. The ships got underway on 4 September, with SHIRANE detaching on the morning of 5 September, and BLUE RIDGE proceeding into the port of Sasebo, Japan, and mooring starboard side to berth number 6, India Basin, Fleet Activities, Sasebo, JA. The ship departed on 09 September en route to Yokosuka, arriving 13 September after being delayed one day due to the passage of Typhoon JUDY. The ship remained in Yokosuka for the remainder of the month for leave and upkeep.

On 1 October, BLUE RIDGE departed Yokosuka, joining rendezvous with the USS MIDWAY (CV-43) and USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) battle groups for dual carrier battle group operations in the Sea of Japan. The ship detached on 7 October and moored starboard side to pier 8, Pusan, KS, the following day for a four-day port visit. The ship departed on 12 October en route to Yokosuka, Japan, arriving on 15 October for a 10-day leave and upkeep. BLUE RIDGE got underway for Okinawa, Japan on 25 October and on 27 October moored starboard side to East Navy Pier, White Beach, Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan, to embark CTF-76 and CTF-79 staffs. Upon completion of the embarkation, BLUE RIDGE got underway and proceeded to an OPAREA east of Okinawa for a Command Post Exercise (CPX) held 27 to 30 October. On 31 October, CTF-79 staff debarked by helicopter and the ship departed the OPAREA for Subic Bay, RP. The ship anchored briefly in Triboa Bay, RP, on 3 November for an ammunition offload, then shifted to Alava Wharf, Subic Bay, RP, for a short upkeep and port visit. On 08 November, the ship got underway for Hong Kong, BCC, in company with USNS CATAWBA (T-ATF-168). While en route, BLUE RIDGE conducted a scheduled Operational Propulsion Plant Recertification Examination (OPPRE) on 8/9 November and successfully passed all requirements of the examination. CATAWBA was detached on the 10th and the ship moored starboard side to the North Arm, HMS TAMAR, the following day. On 16 November the ship got underway, stopped briefly at Buckner Bay, Okinawa, on 18 November to offload CTF-76 staff, and then proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan. BLUE RIDGE moored at Yokosuka on 21 November starboard side to Berth number 8, where she remained throughout the remainder of 1982 for leave and SRA 3-83.

W. C. Francis
W. C. FRANCIS

Distinguished Visitors During Calendar Year 1982

- 12 January The Honorable Juan Ponce ENRILE--Minister of National Defense,
Republic of the Philippines.
- 02 February RADM Rudolf KASENDA--Commander, Indonesian Fleet
- 15 February Sir Laurence STREET, KCMG, K, STJ--Lieutenant Governor, New South
Wales, AS
- 27 February The Honorable Paul M. CALVO--Governor of Guam
- 14 April The Honorable Junji NISHIME--Governor of Okinawa
- 10 August The Honorable John F. LEHMAN Jr.--Secretary of the Navy
- 27 August VADM Osuke FUKAI--Commander JMSDF Escort Force
- 12 November RADM Vasco Be Almeida E COSTA--Governor of Macao

Enclosure (1)

Underway Replenishments and Vertical Replenishments During Calendar Year 1982

Date: 27 March 1982
Type: UNREP (Fuel) (Station 1)
Ship: USNS MISPILLION (TAO-105)

Date: 27 March 1982
Type: VERTREP (Stores)
Ship: USS MARS (AFS-1)

Date: 04 October 1982
Type: UNREP (Stores)(Station 1)
Ship: USS SHASTA (AE-33)

Date: 04 October 1982
Type: VERTREP (Stores)
Ship: USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1)

Date: 04 October 1982
Type: Unrep (Fuel)(Station 4)
Ship: USNS HASSAYAMPA (TAO-145)

Date: 06 October 1982
Type: UNREP (Fuel)(Station 1 and 7)
Ship: USS SACRAMENTO (AOF-1)

Enclosure (2)