



USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO 96628

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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)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Underway Replenishments and Vertical Replenishments
during calendar year 1983
(2) Ammunition expended during calendar year 1983
(3) Portrait of Captain William C. FRANCIS, USN
(4) Official Biography of Captain William C. FRANCIS, USN
(5) Familygrams produced during calendar year 1983
(6) Official Welcome Aboard Brochure used during calendar
year 1983
(7) Commander SEVENTH Fleet Change of Command Brochure
(8) List of Distinguished Visitors during calendar year
1983

NOT
RETURNED

1983

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history for the period 1 January 1983 through 31 December 1983 is submitted.

a. Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Captain William C. FRANCIS from 1 January 1983 through 31 December 1983.

b. Summary of Operations: BLUE RIDGE, in her role as flagship for Commander SEVENTH Fleet, began the new year in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. On 7 January, she got underway for sea trials upon completion of SRA 83-3, anchoring briefly in anchorage A-12 to onload a telemetry BPDMS missile. After completing the sea trials in Sagami Wan, BLUE RIDGE returned to Yokosuka that evening. On 10 January, BLUE RIDGE again got underway, this time enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Arriving on 13 January, BLUE RIDGE moored briefly to embark CTF 76 and CTF 79 with their respective staffs, and then got underway for the Okinawa operating areas. From 13 to 16 January, the ship conducted a Marine Amphibious Force Command Post Exercise (CPX) which exercised all areas of the ship's command and control capabilities, and served as a warm-up exercise for the larger TEAM SPIRIT 83 Exercise scheduled for later in the year. On 16 January BLUE RIDGE pulled into Buckner Bay to debark CTF 76, CTF 79 and their staffs, and then began a short transit to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The ship arrived in Subic Bay on 19

January and began a nine day upkeep. During this period, BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-83 Third Quarter Scheduling Conference from 24 to 28 January. On 27 January, a command inspection was conducted by Commander Naval Surface Group, Western Pacific. The ship passed all areas inspected. When BLUE RIDGE got underway on 29 January enroute to Manila, Republic of the Philippines, more than 400 Philippine and U.S. civilian and military guests were embarked on a guest cruise. The highlight of the cruise was an air power demonstration provided by VC-5 from Cubi Point Naval Air Station. The ship moored in Manila South Harbor that same afternoon. On 30 January, general visiting was conducted and 5,644 people toured BLUE RIDGE.

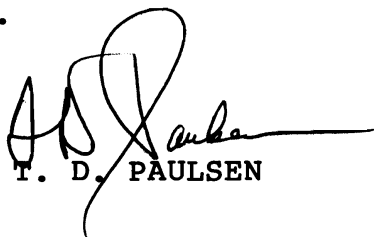
On 1 February, the ship got underway enroute to Penang, Malaysia. While enroute, numerous exercises and drills of opportunity were conducted with the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) battle group on 4 February. After an uneventful transit of the Singapore and Malacca Straits, BLUE RIDGE anchored in Penang harbor on 6 February. On 9 February, the ship got underway for Singapore and moored at the World Trade Center the next day. On 13 February, general visiting was again conducted with 3,839 people touring the ship. On the 14th, BLUE RIDGE departed Singapore for Yokosuka. The ship transited to the equator, crossing that evening at 1952 at Longitude 105-34E. The next day, "Crossing the Line" ceremonies were conducted to cleanse the ship of slimy pollywogs. On 17 February, the ship joined rendezvous with USNS NAVASOTA (T-AO 106) and conducted underway refueling. On the 18th, while off Poro Point Missile Range, BLUE RIDGE fired the telemetry BPDMS missile loaded in January at a towed target, scoring a hit. The ship continued on to Yokosuka, arriving on 22 February for a short six day upkeep. On 1 March, the ship got underway, and on 3 March arrived at Buckner Bay, where she remained until the morning of the fifth. While in port, CTF 76, CTF 79 and their staffs embarked for TEAM SPIRIT 83, a major amphibious exercise to be conducted in the vicinity of Pohang, Republic of Korea. BLUE RIDGE got underway with various other units involved in the exercise and conducted rehearsal landings and formation steaming in the vicinity of Okinawa and while enroute to Pohang. On 9 March, underway refueling was conducted with USNS PASSUMPSIC (T-AO 107). The following afternoon, all ships involved in the exercise anchored in Pohang harbor to conduct pre-sail conferences. On the afternoon of the 11th, all ships got underway for transit to the exercise area near Tok Sok Ri, with the U.S. ships and ROKN ships following separate tracks. BLUE RIDGE was involved with the exercise from 12-20 March. On 19 March, an underway replenishment with USS CIMARRON (AO-177) and a vertical replenishment with USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) was conducted. On 20 March, BLUE RIDGE was detached, and transited to Inchon, KS,

anchoring in the outer harbor on 23 March. Following a three day port visit, the ship got underway for Kagoshima, Japan. BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with the USNS MISPILLION (T-AO 105) on 27 March and arrived on the 28th. Upon arrival, CTF 76 and CTF 79 staffs were cross-decked to USS DENVER (LPD-9) via a Utility Landing Craft (LCU) for further transfer to Okinawa. BLUE RIDGE got underway on 30 March and arrived the next evening in Yokosuka, where she remained until 25 April for an extended leave and upkeep period. From 18 to 22 April, the ship hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-83 Fourth Quarter Scheduling Conference. On 21 April, CTF 75 and staff embarked in BLUE RIDGE in preparation for READEX 83. After getting underway on 25 April, the ship anchored briefly in anchorage A-12 for an ammunition onload before proceeding to Okinawa, Japan. On 27 April, the ship moored briefly to embark CTF 76, CTF 79 and their staffs to conduct a Marine Amphibious Brigade CPX. The ship operated in the Okinawa area 27-28 April, and then debarked CTF 76, CTF 79 and their staffs prior to transiting to the vicinity of the Tsushima Straits to rendezvous with Canadian, Australian and U.S. naval units to form the Orange Forces for READEX 83. The exercise was conducted in the vicinity of Che-Ju Do from 1-4 May. On 2 May, an underway replenishment was conducted with HMCS PROVIDER (AO-508). After transferring CTF 75 and staff to USS STERETT (CG-31), BLUE RIDGE proceeded to Yokosuka, arriving the morning of 7 May, and immediately began making preparations for the Commander SEVENTH Fleet Change of Command ceremony. On 9 May, VADM James R. HOGG, USN, relieved VADM M. Staser HOLCOMB in ceremonies held on BLUE RIDGE.

On 12 May, BLUE RIDGE got underway for Subic Bay, RP. On 16 May, an underway replenishment and highline transfer was conducted with USNS NAVASOTA (T-AO 106), and BLUE RIDGE arrived in Subic Bay on the 17th for a five day upkeep. The ship anchored near Nabasan Wharf to onload ammunition. She got underway on the 22nd and arrived in Hong Kong on the 24th. On 25 May, visiting was held for British Forces personnel in Hong Kong; 847 people visited the ship. At approximately 0130 on 27 May, a class "A" fire was discovered in a dry stores storeroom on the fifth deck. The fire was quickly contained by the ship's in port duty fire party with damage limited to the storeroom and its contents. On 31 May, the ship got underway for Okinawa, arriving on 3 June. Upon arrival, CTF 76, CTF 79 and their staffs embarked for exercise VALIANT BLITZ 83-3. This amphibious exercise was conducted from 4-12 June in the vicinity of Okinawa in company with other U.S. amphibious units. On 11 June, an underway replenishment was conducted with USNS NAVASOTA (T-AO 106). The ship moored briefly in Buckner Bay to debark CTF 76, CTF 79 and their staffs, and then proceeded to Yokosuka, arriving on 15 June. The next day the ship began SRA 83-4, which lasted

until 24 July. On 3 July, general visiting was conducted and 6,360 people visited the ship. From 18-22 July, the ship hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-84 First Quarter Scheduling Conference. BLUE RIDGE got underway on 25 and 26 July to conduct extensive sea trials in Sagami Wan. On the way into port on 26 July, the ship anchored in anchorage A-12 for exercise purposes prior to mooring pier side. The ship then remained in port through 1 August. On 2 August, BLUE RIDGE got underway for a Sister Ship Cruise with JDS SHIRANE (DDH-143) and USS TOWERS (DDG-9). On 2 and 3 August, Anti-submarine exercises were conducted by the three ships, a Japanese submarine and U.S. and Japanese P-3Cs. After detaching USS TOWERS on 3 August, BLUE RIDGE and SHIRANE conducted port visits in Beppu, (5-6 August), Kure (8-10 August), and Sasebo (12-16 August). On 17 August, the ships got underway and headed toward Yokosuka. On 19 August BLUE RIDGE pulled into Yokosuka and JDS SHIRANE remained at sea to conduct additional exercises. From 19 August through 5 September, the ship remained in Yokosuka for leave and upkeep. On 6 September, the ship got underway for Pusan, KS. She arrived on 9 September and remained for three days. On 12 September BLUE RIDGE got underway again and pulled into Chinhae, KS that afternoon for two days of Navy to Navy talks. The ship departed Chinhae on 14 September enroute Phattaya Beach, Thailand. On 16 September, the ship made a brief stop for fuel at Buckner Bay, Okinawa that turned into an all day affair when the ship was required to shift berths from the Navy Pier to the Army Pier due to a casualty to the Navy Pier fuel system. On 20 September, the ship suffered a ruptured tube in 1B boiler and was forced to cancel the scheduled visit to Thailand and proceed to Subic Bay, RP to effect repairs. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Subic Bay on 22 September. On 25 September with repairs complete, the ship got underway for Singapore, but shortly after leaving port, a second ruptured tube casualty to 1B boiler required the ship to return to Subic Bay for further repairs. Examination later showed the ruptured tube was a different tube from the one which ruptured the first time. BLUE RIDGE remained in Subic Bay until 10 October, when she got underway for four days of independent ships exercises in the South China Sea. On 12 October, the ship fired a telemetry BPDMS missile at the Poro Point Missile Range. This firing was unsuccessful due to the missile going ballistic. The ship returned to Subic Bay on the afternoon of the 13th for a nine day upkeep period. On 14-15 October, the SEVENTH Fleet FY-84 Second Quarter Scheduling Conference was conducted on board. On 23 October, the ship got underway and joined rendezvous with USS ELLIOTT (DD 967) and USNS KILAUEA (T-AE 26). The ships transited the San Bernardino Straits enroute Guam for BATTLE WEEK 84-1. On 24 October, after clearing the straits, an underway rearm/replenishment was conducted with USNS KILAUEA, and then she was detached to proceed to Guam. On 26 October, USS ELLIOT was

detached to proceed ahead to act as a targeting platform for BATTLE WEEK 84-1 in which BLUE RIDGE again played an Orange Force role. On 31 October, an underway replenishment was conducted with USNS HASSAYAMPA (T-AO 145). The exercise was completed on 1 November, and BLUE RIDGE pulled into Guam the next morning. On 5 November, the ship got underway for Hong Kong, delaying the transit for a few hours to run the Guam Acoustic Range Facility. On 9 November, while passing through Babayuan Channel, the ship embarked two USMC CH-53 helicopters for an opportune lift back to Japan. These were in addition to the embarked HC-1 Det 6 SH-3 COMSEVENTHFLT helicopter. The ship conducted a four day port visit to Hong Kong from 11 to 15 November. While underway for Yokosuka from 16 to 20 November, the ship conducted Engineering Mobile Team Training Phase One in preparation for OPPRE scheduled for April 1984. After arriving in Yokosuka on 20 November, BLUE RIDGE spent the remainder of the year in port conducting SRA 84-5. During the SRA, the ship received visits from General John W. VESSEY, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on 26 November 1983, and Admiral James D. WATKINS, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, on 17 December 1983.



T. D. PAULSEN

AMMUNITION EXPENDED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1983

MOUNT 31 LEFT GUN

01 FEB 18 rounds
 18 FEB 55 rounds
 26 APR 5 rounds
 17 MAY 5 rounds
 02 AUG 14 rounds
 17 AUG 10 rounds
 10 OCT 5 rounds
 27 OCT 21 rounds

 Total 73 rounds

MOUNT 32 LEFT GUN

01 FEB 12 rounds
 17 FEB 1 round
 21 FEB 5 rounds
 26 APR 5 rounds
 17 MAY 6 rounds
 13 JUN 9 rounds
 02 AUG 12 rounds
 17 AUG 8 rounds
 10 OCT 5 rounds
 11 oct 5 rounds
 27 OCT 6 rounds

 Total 74 rounds

MISSILES

10 FEB STBD Cell #8
 12 OCT PORT Cell #4

SRBOC

None

MOUNT 31 RIGHT GUN

17 JAN 10 rounds
 10 FEB 18 rounds
 18 FEB 5 rounds
 26 APR 5 rounds
 17 MAY 5 rounds
 02 AUG 6 rounds
 17 AUG 10 rounds
 10 OCT 5 rounds
 27 OCT 11 rounds

 Total 75 rounds

MOUNT 32 RIGHT GUN

17 JAN 1 round
 01 FEB 2 rounds
 03 FEB 3 rounds
 17 FEB 5 rounds
 21 FEB 5 rounds
 26 APR 6 rounds
 17 MAY 6 rounds
 13 JUN 9 rounds
 02 AUG 11 rounds
 17 AUG 8 rounds
 10 OCT 5 rounds
 11 OCT 5 rounds
 27 OCT 6 rounds

 Total 71 rounds

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENTS AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENTS
CONDUCTED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1983

17 February 1983
USNS NAVASOTA (T-AO 106)
Fuel UNREP

9 March 1983
USNS PASSUMPSIC (T-AO 107)
Fuel UNREP

19 March 1983
USS CIMARRON (AO-177)
Fuel UNREP

19 March 1983
USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4)
Stores VERTREP

27 March 1983
USNS MISPELLON (T-AO 105)
Fuel UNREP

2 May 1983
HMCS PROVIDER (AO-508)
Fuel UNREP

16 May 1983
USNS NAVASOTA (T-AO 106)
Fuel UNREP/Highline Transfer

11 June 1983
USNS NAVASOTA (T-AO 106)
Fuel UNREP

24 October 1983
USNS KILAUEA (T-AE 26)
Ammunition UNREP

31 October 1983
USNS HASSAYAMPA (T-AO 145)
Fuel UNREP

Enclosure (1)