



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) ✓
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96628-3300

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
Ser 00/481
23 May 86

1985

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 1985
(2) Ammunition expended during calendar year 1985
(3) Portrait of Captain Thomas D. Paulsen, USN
(4) Official Biography of Captain Thomas D. Paulsen, USN
(5) Portrait of Captain John H. Heidt, USN
(6) Official Biography of Captain John H. Heidt, USN
(7) Change of Command Ceremony Brochure, 19 Nov 85
(8) Official Welcome Aboard Brochure used during calendar year 1985
(9) List of Distinguished Visitors during calendar year 1985
(10) Protocol Brochure used during calendar year 1985
(11) UPDATE magazines produced during calendar year 1985

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history for the period 1 January 1985 through 31 December 1985 is submitted:

a. Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Captain Thomas D. Paulsen from 1 January 1985 to 18 November 1985. Captain John H. Heidt from 19 November 1985 to 31 December 1985.

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 11 January 1985, underway for sea trials after work during SRA 85-7. After completing sea trials in Sagami Wan, BLUE RIDGE returned to Yokosuka that evening. On 21 January, after completion of SRA 85-7, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Arriving on 27 January, BLUE RIDGE moored at Alava Wharf for a two week upkeep. During this period, BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-85 Third Quarter Scheduling Conference from 4 to 8 February. On 10 February, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Manila, Republic of the Philippines, with more than 450 Philippine and U.S. civilian and military guests. The ship arrived that same afternoon in Manila South Harbor for a three day port visit. On 14 February, the ship was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan, and later that day refueled from USNS PASSUMPSIC (T-AO-107). Arriving on 17 February, BLUE RIDGE moored briefly at White Beach, Buckner Bay, to embark CTF-76 and CTF-79 with their respective staffs and then was underway for the Okinawa operating

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areas. From 17 to 20 February, 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 for the larger Team Spirit '85 exercise scheduled for later that year. The ship pulled into Buckner Bay on 20 February to debark CTF-76 and CTF-79 and their staffs, and began a short transit to Yokosuka, Japan. Late on 22 February, the ship arrived in Yokosuka, Japan for a 16 day upkeep period. On 11 March, the ship was underway and on 13 March arrived at Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. BLUE RIDGE embarked CTF-76 and CTF-79 and their respective staffs for Team Spirit '85, a major amphibious exercise to be conducted in the vicinity of Pohang, Republic of Korea. On 13 March, the ship conducted Team Spirit '85 rehearsals with various other U.S. Navy units involved in the exercise and conducted an underway refueling with USNS MISPELLION (T-AO-106) on 15 March. On 17 March, BLUE RIDGE and various U.S. Navy and ROK Navy ships anchored in Pohang Harbor, Republic of Korea to conduct a pre-sail conference. On 18 March, all ships were underway transiting to the exercise area near Tok Sok Ri, Republic of Korea, with U.S. Navy and ROK Navy ships following separate tracks. BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USNS MISPELLION (T-AO-106) on 21 March. BLUE RIDGE was involved in the exercise from 20 March to 27 March. On 24 March, BLUE RIDGE participated in a towing exercise with USS ST LOUIS (LKA-116). On 27 March, BLUE RIDGE conducted a CONREP with USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7) receiving stores. On 27 March, the ship was detached and she proceeded to Pusan, Republic of Korea for a three day port visit, arriving on 28 March. On 31 March, the ship got underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. After debarking CTF-76 and CTF-79 and their respective staffs on 2 April, the ship proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan. However, on 3 April BLUE RIDGE was diverted to conduct surveillance operations against a seven ship Soviet Task Force in the Philippine Sea led by the Russian Anti-Submarine Helicopter Cruiser NOVOROSSIYSK (CVHG-18). BLUE RIDGE arrived in Yokosuka, Japan in the early hours of 7 April for a fifteen day upkeep. From 15 to 19 April, BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet scheduling conference. On 22 April, the ship was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. BLUE RIDGE moored on 24 April to embark CTF-76 and CTF-79 and their respective staffs and proceeded the same day for a port visit to Hong Kong, B.C.C. BLUE RIDGE moored at HMS TAMAR, Hong Kong, B.C.C. for a six day port visit on 28 April. On 4 May, BLUE RIDGE was underway for a port visit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USNS HASSAYAMPA (T-AO-145) on 6 May. On 10 May, the ship anchored off Pattaya Beach, Thailand for a five day port visit. On 15 May, the ship was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. On 16 May, the ship rescued 19 Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea, 110 NM southeast of the coast of Vietnam. BLUE RIDGE moored at Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan on 21 May and debarked all

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refugees along with CTF-76 and CTF-79 and their respective staffs. BLUE RIDGE got underway that same day enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. The ship arrived on 23 May for SRA 85-8, a ten week restricted availability.

During SRA 85-8 BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-86 First Quarter Scheduling Conference from 8 to 12 July. The ship conducted a fast cruise 22 and 23 July. Fleet Training Group Western Pacific held a Training Readiness Evaluation 29 July to 2 August. SRA 85-8 ended 2 August with BLUE RIDGE ready for sea 3 and 4 August. The ship was underway 5 August for Phase I Interim REFTRA with the JMSDF units SHIRANE (DDH-143) and MARAKUMO for a sistership cruise. All units arrived inport Kure, Japan on 8 August for a port visit. On 10 August all units were underway for Kagoshima, Japan arriving 12 August for a port visit. While inport Kagoshima, Japan a reception was held aboard SHIRANE (DDH-143) for Commander SEVENTH Fleet and USS BLUE RIDGE. All units were underway 13 August enroute to Sasebo, Japan arriving for a port visit 14 and 15 August. BLUE RIDGE was underway 16 August for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan arriving 18 August, embarking CTF-76 and CTF-79 with their respective staffs and was underway for Yokosuka, Japan. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Yokosuka 20 August debarking Fleet Training Group Western Pacific concluding Phase I Interim Refresher Training and commencing an upkeep period and exercise ULCHI Focus Lens, both ending 2 September. The ship was underway enroute Buckner Bay, arriving 5 September and debarking CTF-76 and CTF-79 and their staffs. The ship was underway enroute Phuket, Thailand 5 September, arriving and anchoring 15 September for a five day visit. On 20 September BLUE RIDGE was underway for Penang, Malaysia arriving 21 September for a three day visit. BLUE RIDGE departed Penang 24 September for Singapore, mooring port side to Ocean Terminal Pier, 26 September. BLUE RIDGE conducted an eight day port visit in Singapore and was underway 3 October for ANNUALEX '85. While underway to the ANNUALEX operation area COMSEVENTHFLT hosted a visit by the Sultan of Brunei on board BLUE RIDGE operating off the coast of Brunei on 5 October. BLUE RIDGE joined with combined elements of CTG 70.1 on 10 October for ANNUALEX '85, a USN/JMSDF combined exercise in interoperability and defense of Japan's sea lines of communication. Upon completion of ANNUALEX '85 off the eastern coast of Japan BLUE RIDGE proceeded to Chinhae, Korea for a brief stop on 18 October to conduct Navy to Navy talks with our Korean counterparts.

The BLUE RIDGE was underway on 19 October for an independent transit to Manila, R.P. On 22 October off Poro Point, R.P. the ship successfully fired a Basic Point Defense Missile (BPDMS). The ship moored in Manila Bay on 23 October for a port visit to Manila during which a reception was held on board for Philippine dignitaries and VIP's. BLUE RIDGE was underway on 26 October for a VIP guest cruise to Subic Bay, R.P. During the six hour cruise to Subic Bay the COMSEVENTHFLT Band and Marine Drill Team as well as a local Filipino band entertained the guests and VIP's on the

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main deck. Arriving in Subic Bay on the afternoon of 26 October BLUE RIDGE commenced an upkeep period. The second quarter Fiscal Year '86 SEVENTH Fleet scheduling conference was held on board from 28 October through 1 November while inport Subic Bay. On 2 November, BLUE RIDGE started the final phase of refresher training and was underway for the Subic Opareas. Returning to Subic Bay late afternoon of 2 November, BLUE RIDGE was again underway on the morning of 3 November for more refresher training drills and returned to Subic Bay late afternoon on 3 November. BLUE RIDGE was again underway on the morning of 4 November for the Subic Opareas and conducted more drills throughout the day and night. On the morning of 5 November in the Subic Opareas BLUE RIDGE was dead in the water conducting a major conflagration drill. USS FRANCIS HAMMOND under the control of Fleet Training Group WESTPAC was acting as assist ship. While coming alongside to help put out simulated fires USS FRANCIS HAMMOND impacted BLUE RIDGE's port sponsor deck causing minor damage and no casualties on BLUE RIDGE, CO, FRANCIS HAMMOND was injured. The exercise was terminated and both ships returned to Subic Bay on 5 November. BLUE RIDGE repaired her damage enroute Subic Bay.

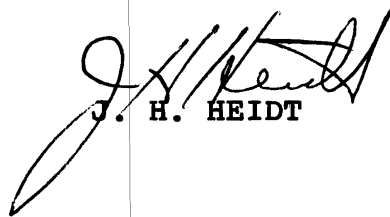
BLUE RIDGE was underway on 6 November enroute Cebu, R.P. for a port visit. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Cebu, R.P. on the morning of 8 November and conducted a three day port visit during which luncheons and receptions were held for local dignataries. BLUE RIDGE was underway on the morning of 11 November enroute Hong Kong, B.C.C.

BLUE RIDGE moored at HMS TAMAR in Hong Kong on the morning of 14 November for a six day port visit. BLUE RIDGE also celebrated it's 15th birthday on 14 November. On 17 November BLUE RIDGE participated in HMS TAMAR's Hong Kong Navy Day hosting over 15,000 local residents on board for a ship tour. On 19 November another significant event took place as Captain Thomas D. Paulsen was relieved as Commanding Officer by Captain John H. Heidt in a colorful ceremony on the main deck. Vice Admiral Paul F. McCarthy, Jr., COMSEVENTHFLT, was the guest speaker at the change of command attended by many local dignataries from Hong Kong.

BLUE RIDGE was underway from Hong Kong on 20 November enroute Okinawa, Japan. BLUE RIDGE entered Buckner Bay for a brief stop on 22 November to embark CTF-76 and CTF-79 to conduct a MAF level CPX in the vicinity of Okinawa. The CPX was conducted on 22 November through 24 November to exercise the command and control capability of CTF-76 and CTF-79 in preparation for exercise Team Spirit '86. Following a brief stop in Buckner Bay on 25 November to debark CTF-76 and CTF-79 BLUE RIDGE was underway for it's homeport of Yokosuka, Japan.

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BLUE RIDGE arrived home in Yokosuka, Japan on 27 November and commenced a restricted availability, SRA 86-9. BLUE RIDGE remained in homeport throughout the rest of the year allowing the crew to spend the holidays with family and friends.



J. H. HEIDT

**UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENTS AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENTS
DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1985**

14 FEB 85	W/USNS PASSUMPSIC	(FAS) Fueling at Sea
15 MAR 85	W/USNS MISPELLION	(FAS) Fueling at Sea
21 MAR 85	W/USNS MISPELLION	(FAS) Fueling at Sea
27 MAR 85	W/USS SAN JOSE	(RAS) Replenishment at Sea
6 MAY 85	W/USNS HASSAYAMPA	(FAS) Fueling at Sea
21 MAY 85	W/USNS KILAUEA	VERT-REP
3 SEP 85	W/USNS NAVASOTA	(FAS)*
3 SEP 85	W/USNS NAVASOTA	(FAS)* *4 Separate evolutions
3 SEP 85	W/USNS NAVASOTA	(RAS)* 2 Day - 2 Night
3 SEP 85	W/USNS NAVASOTA	(RAS)*
8 SEP 85	W/USNS HASAYAMPA	(FAS) Fueling at Sea
11 AUG 85	W/JMSDF SHIRANE	Personnel High Line - Send
11 AUG 85	W/JMSDF SHIRANE	Personnel High Line - Receive
11 OCT 85	W/USNS MISPELLION	(FAS) Fueling at Sea
13 OCT 85	W/USNS KILAUEA	VERT-REP
13 OCT 85	W/USNS KILAUEA	(RAS) Replenishment at Sea
14 OCT 85	W/USNS MISPELLION	(FAS) Fueling at Sea

AMMUNITION EXPENDED DURING CALENDER YEAR 1985

<u>NALC</u>	<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
C306	HE-IR, NFL, RF 3"/50	19
C347	HC, HE-PD, FL, RF 3"/50	162
C348	HC, HE-PD, NFL, RF 3"/50	280
ZW92	RIM-7-E-5 BPDMS	1