

USS LEAHY (DLG-16)
Fleet Post Office
New York 09501

At Sea
22 June 1974

Dear LEAHY Family and Friends,

As you read this, our final LEAHYGRAM of "Med Cruise 74", your LEAHY-MAN is less than a week away from his arrival at the D & S Piers in Norfolk. I know this is a time you, and we aboard LEAHY, have been looking forward to for many months, and I promise you our homecoming will be a memorable event for all. More about that later.

Since last month's PICTOGRAM, LEAHY and her crew worked hard preparing for our annual Administrative Inspection but also found the time to enjoy some of the most memorable port visits yet.

On May 25th, we steamed into the harbor at Mykonos, Greece, a tiny resort island some 90 miles Southeast of Athens. Apprehensive at first, LEAHYMEN began exploring the winding streets and sandy beaches. What we found were small, inexpensive shops, friendly people and beautiful hills and beaches. Many a LEAHYMAN was saddened when, after only 3 days, we headed out to sea again.

But those same sad faces were soon to light up again, because late in the afternoon on the 27th we entered historic Rhodes and our liberty boats began shuttling through the channel once overseen by the great Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. In Rhodes, as in Mykonos, we found friendly people, beautiful beaches and an all around restful, enjoyable five day visit.

We left Rhodes on May 31st and spent the next five days in operations with AMERICA. During this time we worked hard on daily ship's maintenance and Anti-Air Warfare & Anti-Submarine Warfare operations. By June 6th we were more than ready for our next visit - Marmaris, Turkey.

Marmaris is a tiny port in Southern Turkey, inhabited by about 4,000 people - until the tourist season begins. Then, 40,000 people pour into the winding streets for daily shopping and enjoying the beaches and beautiful scenery. On June 8th, we enjoyed a Ship's picnic, and a great time was had by all, as we swam, played softball, volleyball, football and had a gigantic bar-b-que. It was quite a success and something we will all remember.

On the 9th we headed out to sea for more operational exercises and our final preparations for the Administrative Inspection. Then, on June 12th, we pulled into Palma de Mallorca, a beautiful big city on the Spanish Island of Mallorca. Here, tours were the order of the day, and many a LEAHYMAN saw his first bullfight - reported by many to be a unique experience. Many of us, myself included, enjoyed typical Spanish

hospitality and warmth at a Fiesta and Barbeque, held in a 14th Century rancho. Here we feasted on Bar-b-que chicken and pork, delicious Spanish Sangria and Red and White wines and the delightful dinner music of a group of roving minstrels. Following the meal - the Fiesta. No one - not even the most timid - could escape from dancing to the popular Spanish and English tunes that were performed. The Fiesta was truly an enjoyable evening.

Many of us also took advantage of the many shops in Palma and added to our collections of souvenirs. Many new friends were made and LEAHY-MEN left their usual good-impressions on the people of Palma during our all-to-short five day stay there.

On June 18th, the day after a very successful Administrative Inspection by inspectors from the USS LUCE, we left Palma to begin the last leg of our Med Cruise '74 - transit to Rota and outchop! Tomorrow - after operating with the AMERICA for three days, we pull into Rota to begin turnover with our relief and then, on June 24th we begin our transit of the Atlantic with our final port visit scheduled for July 3rd - Norfolk, Virginia and home!

We have appointed a special Homecoming Committee to take care of entertaining our family and friends during our first few hours alongside the D & S Piers. Refreshments will be served to all on the mess decks and some very special TV programs are now being produced for your viewing pleasure upon our arrival. You will all be welcome onboard while the customs officials clear the ship. This procedure sometimes takes several hours, however we are doing all we can to reduce the time to an absolute minimum. I will be sending a special message to both the Officers and Enlisted Wives Clubs informing you of our exact arrival time at D & S Piers.

Captain Alexander Sinclair presently attached to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations has been ordered to report and relieve me as Commanding Officer. I expect to be relieved on 31 July 1974 and then report to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces as a student. Needless to say, I regret the prospect of leaving such a fine ship, crew and family.

Needless to say, we are all anxiously awaiting that day we have all been dreaming about these six months. I want to take this final opportunity to thank you all for your unswerving and faithful support to your LEAHYMAN and only wish I could personally say "Thank You" to each and every one of you. As you know, these extended cruises are not easy and being away from loved ones for this long is harder still. Yet your love and support always managed to transcend the many miles and months, and was a constant support to your LEAHYMAN. Let me close by saying "Thank you all for your job "well done" - we have all been blessed by your love and support.

Sincerely,



W. W. JORDAN, Jr
Captain, United States Navy
Commanding Officer