

USS LEAHY (PLG-16)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

At Sea
8 April, 1974

Dear LEAHY Family and Friends,

It's hard to believe that a month has passed since my last writing, yet this fourth LEAHYGRAM of our Med Cruise '74 marks a month almost to the day. And, as I'm sure ~~you're~~ all aware, it also marks our homeward half of the cruise, something we've all been looking forward to with great anticipation.

Tomorrow brings to an end our latest at-sea period - 13 days of vigorous tactical training exercises with various units of the 6th Fleet. But before we look ahead, I'd like to share the last month's activities with you, and give you an idea of how - and where - your LEAHYMAN has been spending his time.

LEAHY arrived in Thessaloniki, Greece on March 13th, and, as I stood in the pilot house while we entered this port city steeped in history, I thought of the thousands of ships that sailed these same waters before LEAHY, back even before Alexander the Great sailed his Imperial Navy from here to invade the Persian Empire in Asia. I felt proud crossing these waters - proud that LEAHY and her crew would be added to the list of valiant ships and men that entered this port in pursuit of her mission of peace and the protection of all freedom-loving peoples. My pride certainly was justified during our visit, as LEAHYMEN joined with Greek citizens to paint the Thessaloniki YMCA and as many more donated blood so that others, unknown to them, might have the chance to live full lives and enjoy the peace we are constantly striving to maintain. Many of your LEAHYMEN enjoyed tours to historic sites that were once a center of the Byzantine Empire. And here in Thessaloniki many a LEAHYMAN found shopping a dream - myself included - with prices reputed to be some of the lowest in the Med. All in all, our five-day visit to Thessaloniki was one we'll not soon forget. Nor will Thessaloniki soon forget LEAHY, as we once again proved the U.S. Navy to be the finest ambassadors of goodwill afloat.

We left Greece with mixed emotions; sad that we were leaving behind many new friends, yet anxious and ready to perform the job we were meant to do. The 18th of March found us steaming toward our rendezvous with USS AMERICA and five full days of varied exercises, testing LEAHY's crew and equipment alike. As always LEAHY excelled in all we did (from ASW exercises to AAW) and by March 23rd we were more

than ready for our next port visit - the beautiful city of Istanbul, Crossroads of the Eastern World.

We passed through the Dardanelles and entered the Bosphorus on a foggy overcast morning, dropped anchor only 500 yards from Fleet Landing at Istanbul, and began four of the most interesting days of our cruise. LEAHY was honored almost immediately upon arrival with a personal visit by the American Consul General and ranking Turkish Officers. Liberty call found LEAHYMEN lined up on the quarterdeck, ready to cross the waters of the Bosphorus and meet this ancient, yet modern, city. In Istanbul we not only found exclusive hotels and shops designed by some of today's most innovative architects, we also found shops, homes and Mosques built centuries ago by the Ottoman Turks. Probably the biggest shopping treat was the Grand Covered Bazaar - 2 million square feet of shops under one roof. There, many a LEAHYMAN was introduced to the fine and ancient art of bargaining, as I'm sure you'll find out when he gets home. The Blue Mosque, an ancient Moslem church, was a high point on one of the many tours available to your LEAHYMAN. And many of us were treated to new dining experiences as we enjoyed dishes prepared in a style dating back thousands of years. But, as do all visits, ours to Istanbul drew quickly to its end and on March 27th we passed through the Dardanelles once again ready to perform our duties in the exceptional manner characteristic of our LEAHYMEN.

From March 28th until April 5th we went through a rigorous period of exercises with AMERICA and the other ships of our Task Group. Then on April 5th we began a two day exercise which included not only our own Task Group 60.1, but also Task Group 60.2 led by the USS FORRESTAL. Once again, LEAHY excelled in all she set out to do and LEAHYMEN put forth many long hours and much hard work to bring about our success. You can certainly be proud of your LEAHYMAN, as I am, for the job "well done" by all hands.

A high point of our last at-sea period came on April 3rd, when the entire Task Group celebrated People Day, a day set aside to recognize the Navy's continuing effort to promote Human Goals.

LEAHY fell quickly into the holiday routine, and by noon, on a beautiful Mediterranean day, the fantail was abuzz with activity. A boxing and wrestling "smoker" was the first order of the day, and the crew was entertained by many aspiring fighters. A bar-b-que followed and the crew enjoyed charcoal broiled hamburgers and hot dogs, along with potato salad, baked beans and cold drinks. During the bar-b-que a skeet shoot proved that many LEAHYMEN were certainly marksmen. The days activities were culminated by a Talent Show, and we found

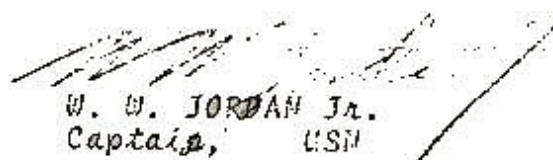
that LEAHVMEN are truly brave in the face of adversity as we were treated to some fine guitar playing and singing. April 3rd certainly was a People Day onboard LEAHY, and it served to remind us that everyday should be dedicated to Human Goals.

That brings us up-to-date and now, as I write this, we are steaming towards Naples, Italy for our Tender Availability period, twenty-five days of upkeep, replenishment and relaxation from the everyday life at sea. We are anxious to visit this beautiful city on the western coast of Italy, and expect to take full advantage of the numerous facilities at the NATO Base and Naval Support Activity there. Tours are plentiful in Italy, and I'm sure many a LEAHVMEN will be visiting such historic cities as Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Rome. And some LEAHY families will be visiting Naples to be with their men and LEAHY anxiously looks forward to those visits. COMSIXTHFLT has also allowed LEAHY to grant a limited number of crewmembers leave to travel to the U.S., and perhaps some of you will be reading this while your LEAHYMAN is with you. All in all, our Naples visit, which will last until May 3rd, will be a well-deserved and welcome rest for all hands. The next LEAHYGRAM should be filled with many of your LEAHYMAN's experiences in Naples.

In closing, I want to thank you whole-heartedly for your letters and constant support. Each LEAHYMAN awaits the piping of mail-call, and while we may sometimes have to wait an extra day or two for the mail, it is a God-send. Your pride and support for your LEAHYMAN makes him the fine effective man he is. And while he may not always have the time to write, I know his love and appreciation are there.

So, until next LEAHYGRAM, let me take this opportunity to wish you a blessed and happy Easter season and may God be with you

Sincerely,


W. W. JORDAN Jr.
Captain, USN