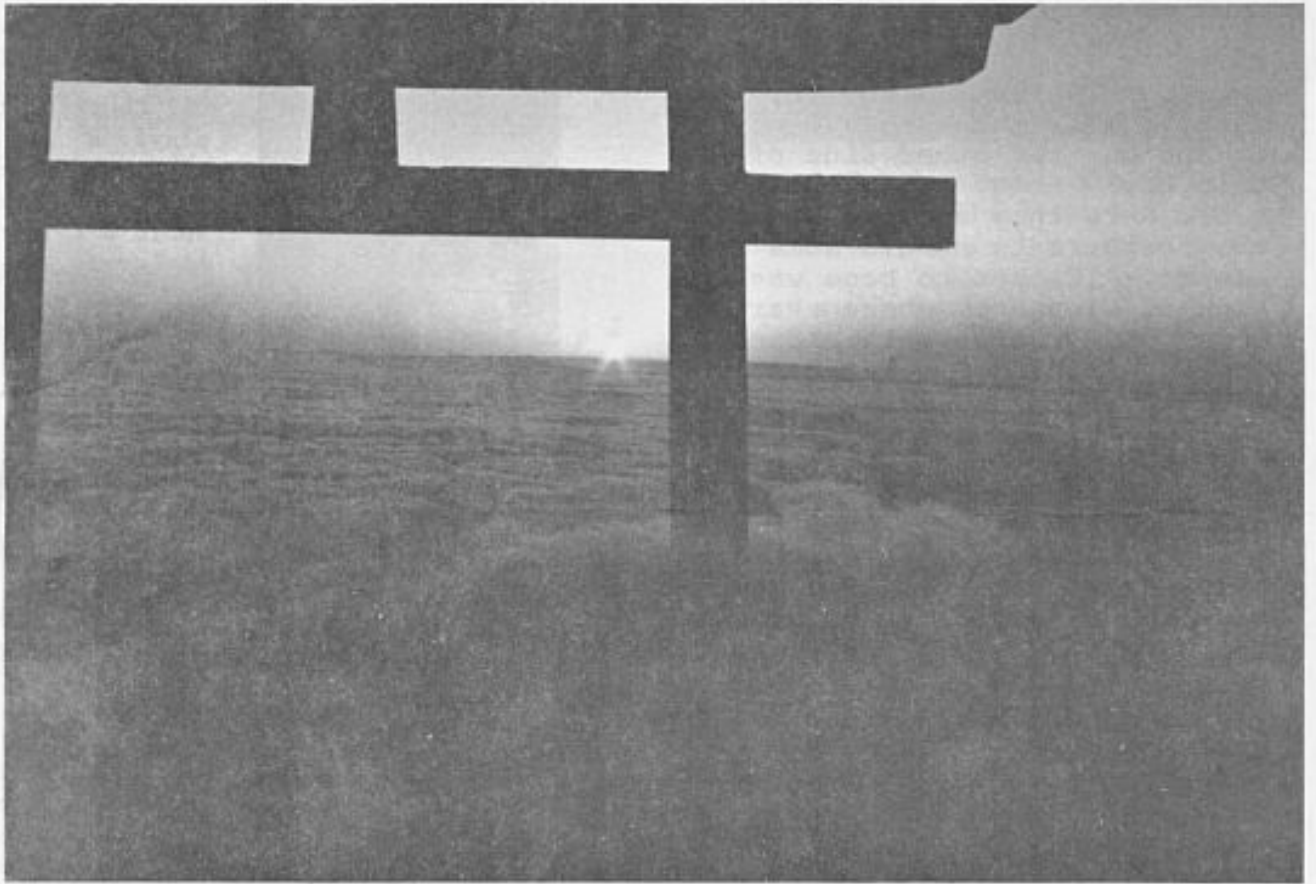


LEAHYGRAM VI



The rising sun of Japan makes its appearance far out on the horizon above the clouds, shining through a traditional torii gateway on top of Mount Fuji. (photo by GMMSN Jeff Timby)

November 14, 1978

Dear Leahy Family and Friends,

When the last LEAHYGRAM went to press, we had just arrived in the Republic of the Philippines. After our transit across the Pacific, we welcomed the three-week stay in Subic Bay, where we had an opportunity to resupply, and conduct maintenance.

After working hours, we had a chance to relax both off base and on. Some crewmembers went as far away as Manila and Cavite, located across the Bataan Peninsula and on the other side of Manila Bay; about a four-hour bus ride. Here they shopped, sampled the restaurants and did some site seeing. Closer to base was the town of Olongapo, where a variety of shops, restaurants and clubs were available. Special Services on base provided a variety of relaxing activities: the library, a miniature golf course, several restaurants and snack bars, a go-kart track, movie theatre, several exchanges for purchasing gifts and other items, a gymnasium, bowling alley, and others.

One problem we experienced, both while working and when on liberty, was the rain. LEAHY didn't experience much rain from January, 1976 when we arrived at our new homeport of San Diego, up to our departure for this Westpac 2½ years later. We more than

made up for lost time, though, during our stay at Subic Bay. During our three weeks there, more than 43 inches fell in the Subic area! In fact, more rain fell during the month of August than in any other month since they started keeping records in this area. July through September is the monsoon season in the area around the Philippine Islands, so we were caught right in the middle.



DS2 Chuck Smith plays a round of miniature golf in between Subic's torrential rain.



A street musician in Olongapo provides background music as (from left) FN Dan Day, EM1 Willard Lemon and EM3 Darrell Reich discuss their evening's activities.



FTMC Ron Hare uses one of the dozens of umbrellas that were bought by crewmen when we realized what sort of weather we were up against in Subic Bay. FTM3 Ron Stricklin (left) and GMSN Jeff Timby stand against the side of the aft missile house for protection from the rain.

On Saturday, August 19, we broke our work routine long enough to have a ship's picnic on Grande Island, in Subic Bay. Grande is run by the naval base Special Services and provides weekend cottages, swimming, scuba diving, tennis, picnic areas, baseball diamonds and other recreational facilities. We barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs and swam, played horseshoes and softball, or just relaxed, enjoying the break in routine. Needless to say, we had to contend with intermittent showers during the day.



SHSA Bob Talada stretches high for the football while SN Lewis Ricker provides photo coverage.



Gathering around a fresh supply of cold liquid refreshment are (from left) QM3 Walker Smith, BTCSTom Alfer, BT3 "Wolf" Lang, SN Terry Thompson, SN Rick Costantino and HTFA Greg Bowden.



OS2 Mike McTigue (right) makes a frisbee catch during the ship's picnic despite opposition by OSSN Mark Levi.



GMMSN Bill Zack tries for a ringer while GMMSN Mario Lopez (left) and GMMSN Jeff Timby look on.

Not only did we become very familiar with the deluge of rain while inport, but it also made itself known as we got underway. Four harbor tugs strained on our lines August 25 as we got underway, fighting against a wind that blew us back toward the pier. The combined power of the tugs and our own propulsion plant finally got us away from the pier and we headed south to wait out

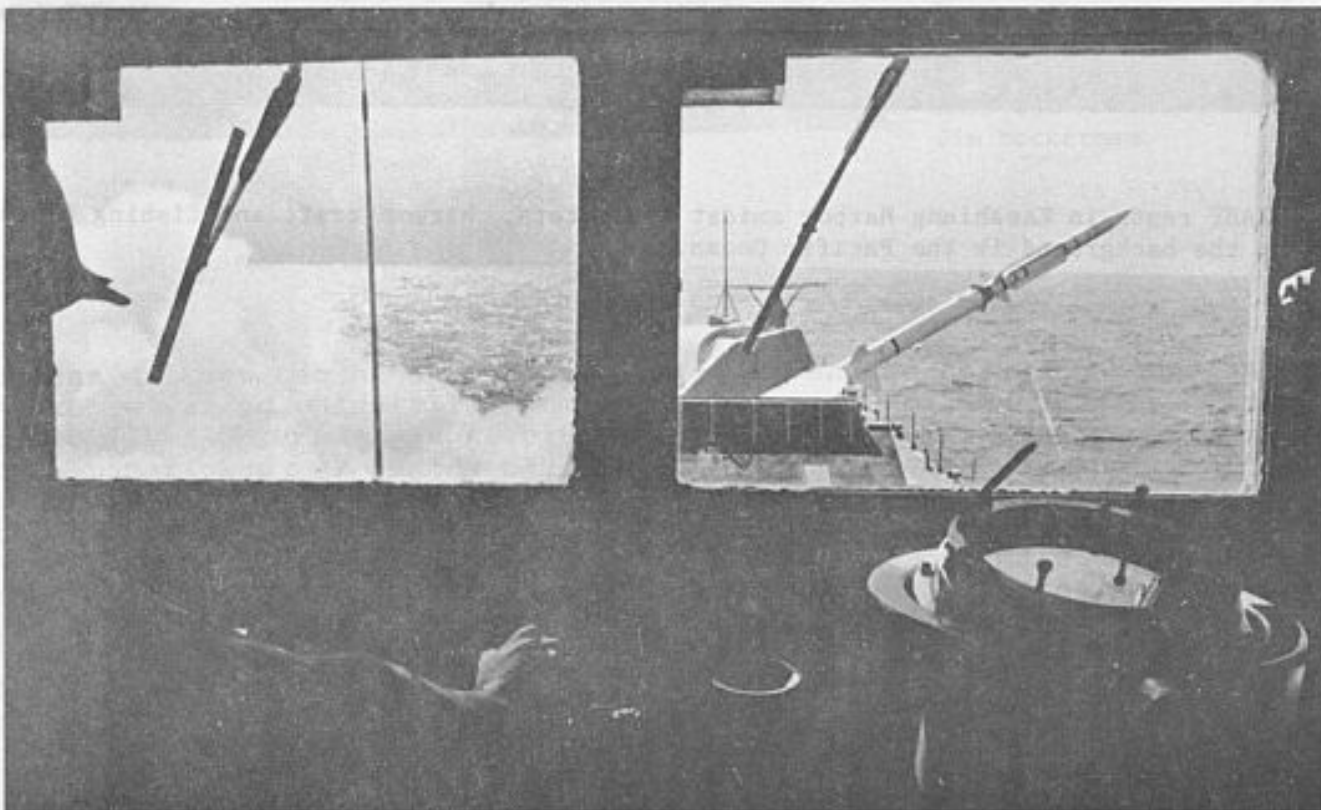
the storm, a byproduct of Typhoon Virginia. The following Monday, we returned to Subic to take on ammunition. Rear Admiral F.H. Miller, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Force, Seventh Fleet, came aboard and rode LEAHY for the next two days during Sinkex, a target-shooting exercise in which LEAHY and two other Navy ships shot guns and missiles at a target barge.

SN Rick Costantino, dressed in four weather gear, provides sound-powered phone coverage from the forecastle to the bridge during our departure from Subic in a driving rain. In the background is one of the three tugboats that helped us move away from the pier.





BM2 Leonard Bell (left) checks the clearance between our bow and the pier pilings while BMC Larry Davis shouts instructions to the men of the "special sea and anchor detail."



The Officer of the Deck looks on as a Terrier missile streaks skyward from the forward launcher. (photo by PH1 Randy Emmons of the Seventh Fleet Public Affairs Office)



LEAHY rests in Kaoshiung Harbor amidst freighters, harbor craft and fishing boats. In the background is the Pacific Ocean.

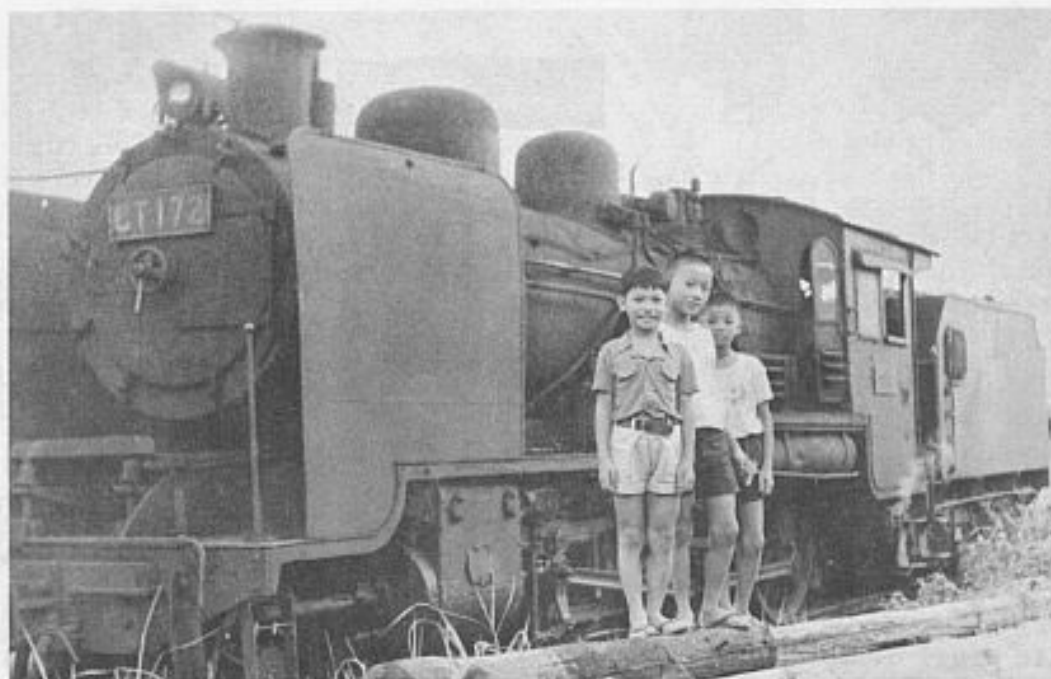
At the completion of the exercise, we returned to Subic long enough to disembark Rear Admiral Miller, then set a course for the Republic of China. We arrived in Taiwan the morning of August 31 and moored with two other U.S. Navy ships in the Chinese harbor city of Kaoshiung. Around us were a variety of large ocean-going freighters and oilers, in addition to quite a few ships of the Nationalist Chinese Navy. Scurrying about the harbor among

the large ships were an assortment of fishing boats, water taxis, junks and other small craft.

Kaoshiung is a bustling coastal city and after working hours we enjoyed the many shops, stores and restaurants lining its narrow crowded streets. The Chinese are a very friendly people and we engaged in many interesting conversations using a little bit of English, a little bit of Chinese and a lot of sign language.



Resting in a small temple patio overlooking the city of Kaoshiung are (from left) BT3 Rick Weaver, BTFN Jeff Krajnak (and his invisible rabbit, Bunny), MM2 John Kraft, MMFN Joe Mulcahy and MMFN Jim Mockerman.



Three Kaoshiung boys playing near the railroad yard took time to pose in front of something seldom seen in the United States anymore; a steam locomotive. They're the standard engine used on Taiwan railroads.

During our stay a local hospital and the Chinese Red Cross had a blood drive and quite a few of our crew took time off to walk over to where facilities had been set up to give blood.

Americans giving blood so that some Chinese may live; an example of international goodwill. OS3 Mike Parr (left) and SN Greg James are aided by nurses from the Chinese Red Cross.



Bicycles are used much more widely in Asia than in the United States, not only for pleasure but for carrying a wide variety of items. It's amazing how much the riders manage to pack on the backs of their two and three wheeled machines.





You may remember how we related in LEAHYGRAM V how SK2 Ed Gale was going to attempt to return to its rightful owner a racing pigeon that landed on LEAHY after being blown off course by Typhoon Virginia. Well, with the aid of various Navy offices in the Philippines and Taiwan, the owner was traced to a tiny coastal village about 40 miles north of Kaoshiung. Since the village is difficult to reach, Ed made arrangements to return the pigeon to the secretary of the Kaoshiung Pigeon Racing Association, who would take it to the owner.

Some things are universal.



SK2 Ed Gale looks on as a Chinese interpreter and the secretary of the Kaoshiung Pigeon Racing Association inspect the returned racer. Also looking on is the secretary's son. The exchange took place in front of the secretary's home on a small street in the heart of Kaoshiung.



After four days in Kaoshiung, LEAHY steamed under the vine-covered ruins of the ancient fort which stands above the narrow harbor entrance. We were underway to participate in Sharkhunt, a fleet antisubmarine exercise involving units of both the U.S. and Nationalist Chinese navies. During the exercise, we fired an antisubmarine rocket (ASROC) and an antisubmarine torpedo. LEAHY returned to Kaoshiung on September 7. We stayed in port for two days, then set out once again, across the East China Sea toward our new destination: Yokosuka, Japan.

We arrived in this combination naval base/shipyard on September 14. The next seven days were spent in taking on stores and checking over various pieces of equipment. We had a chance to shop and dine and do some sight-seeing in Yokosuka and the surrounding area.

MSSN George Britt oversees a work party bringing aboard stores.

Members of ASW (antisubmarine warfare) Division check over a retrieved torpedo. From left are GMG2 Carl Farmer, STGSN Chip Chupp, GMTSN Breck Crandall and SN Lou Dekorsi.



We got underway the evening of September 21 but while transiting the channel to the open sea, the ship struck a rock, causing damage to our hull. Our damage control parties, led by our hull technicians, controlled the flooding and two Navy harbor tugs helped us back to port. When we went into drydock a few mornings later to assess the damage, it became apparent we'd be in Yokosuka longer than originally anticipated. A target date of November 13 was set for completion of repairs.

While the Japanese yard workers set about working on our hull, we began taking advantage of this unexpected inport time, getting rid of the rust that had begun to accumulate in the rain at Subic Bay.

EW2 Gary Keener pauses while painting one of his division's compartments, a common sight around the ship while we were in Yokosuka.



Deck (1st) Division has been busy painting our topside decks and bulkheads. SN Milt Drummond adds the final touches of primer to one of our small boat winches.

(from left) SN Mike Mikkelson, SN "Buzz" Bacharach and SN "Bo" Gaeta begin putting away air hoses and chipping hammers after a day's work on the fantail.



However, we didn't limit all our extra effort to work. A prime advantage of being in the Navy is the travel opportunity and, in addition to the variety of activities Special Services on base offered, we also enjoyed the surrounding Japanese countryside. In addition to Yokosuka, we explored such sights as the temples and shrines of the ancient city of Kamakura, the bustle and excitement of Tokyo, one of the largest and most vibrant cities in the world, and various other cities, towns and rural areas on this largest of Japanese islands.

In late September, a group of 40 LEAHYMEN climbed Mount Fuji. As the Japanese winter approaches, the weather becomes markedly colder, and they had a chilly but awesome sight of sunup from the top of this famous peak.

FTM2 Dan Nicley (left) and FTM2 Will Lawson take a night stroll down one of Yokosuka's main streets.



A curious bystander looks on as LEAHYMEN trek up Mount Fuji.

How well LEAHYMEN perform their tasks was made apparent by our strong showing in extracurricular competition with other ships. On October 26, our Mess Specialists competed with several ships in a "bake-off" and returned to LEAHY with winning entries. SN Dan Abeita took first place for a cake he baked, MSSA Bob Gibbs won the blue ribbon for his pastry, and MS3 Dan Opalka's orange bread received honorable mention in its category.

LEAHY's boatswain's mates joined our bakers to bring honors to the ship when they entered a small boat race on Halloween. The course consisted of rowing 200 yards, then starting the engine and heading out into the choppy waters of the bay around a buoy and back to the finish by the pier. The crew of our motor whaleboat came in second out of five boats.



SN Dan Abeita and his cake await the decision of the judges.



Members of the boat crew were SA Terrence Farmer (left front of boat), SA Mark Talford (right front), EN3 Loyd Beard (left midships), BMSN Jeff Stalter (midships right), BMC Larry Davis (at the wheel), BM3 Bill Murray (left rear) and SNEli Curtis (right rear).

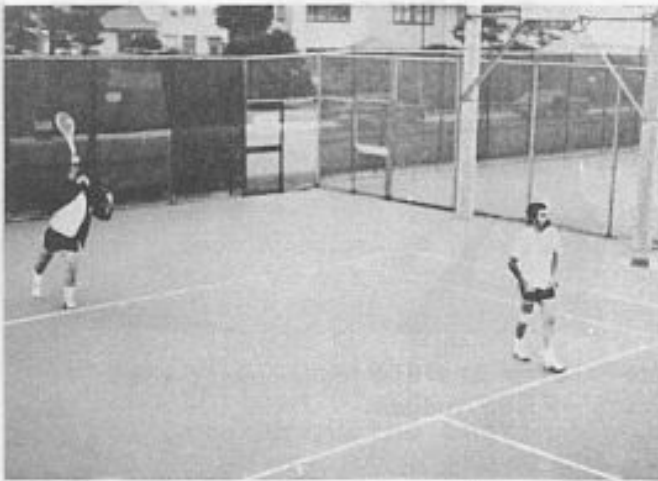


Members of LEAHY's Fuji mountain-climbing expedition wore warm clothing and spent the night in a hut partway up the peak.

Sports also kept us busy. In addition to tennis, handball, raquetball and other sports played on a day-to-day basis, the ship conducted tennis and raquetball tournaments. Divisional bowling teams were organized and competition took place several times a week at the fleet bowling alley.

The LEAHY Tigers, our softball team, played games with other ships in the area and are steadily establishing a winning reputation. Members of the softball team are:

GMM2 Smiley Baldus
 GMG3 Jim Bowman
 SN Rich Costantino
 GMG2 Joe Grosbier
 SN Ricky Hill
 SHSN Earl Huitt
 BT3 Everett Kelly
 QMSN Bob Kline
 YN3 Ken Klinge
 BT3 Rick Lang
 Ensign Bob Reeves
 SN Lew Ricker
 MMFN Jonas Smith
 SN Johnny Spells
 PNSN Mac Stelter
 GMMSN Jeff Timby
 SN Kim Woods



STGC Sal Adamski reaches high on his serve and HMI Steve Ciddio awaits the return during a late afternoon tennis match after working hours.

GMM3 Mark Chaney stretches for the ball while FTM3 Rich Biernacki darts in to assist during a game at Subic gymnasium.



Our basketball team also took advantage of the inport time to practice and play against other teams in the area. Members of the basketball team are:

FTM2 Darryl Bean
 FTM2 Wes Benjamin
 FTM3 Rich Biernacki
 SN Dewitt Calloway
 GMM3 Mark Chaney
 SN Bobby Cunningham
 SA Terrence Farmer
 SN Jim Guy
 SN Rick Hill
 FTM3 Darrell McGee
 FTM3 Jim Montgomery
 SA Johnny Spells
 TMSA Kim Woods
 IC2 Lynn Wortmann



FTM2 Jim Newell maneuvers toward the basket while FTM2 Darrell Bean (left) and SN Jim Guy position themselves for the rebound.



SN Nate Calloway moves downcourt during a game at the Yokosuka gym.



LEAHYMAN of the Month for August Pat Ridgel stands on the 05 level in front of one of the 55B missile directors, which direct the Terrier missiles to their targets.



YNSN Bob Katz, LEAHYMAN of the Month for September, is the Engineering yeoman.

Our bowlers, too, were busy. LEAHY kegglers included YN3 Ken Klinge, BT3 Rick Lang, FTM3 Herb Roberts, PNSN Mac Stelter and FTM3 Ed Wagner.

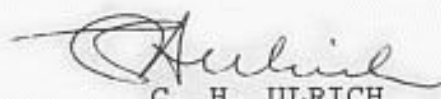
Ken, Herb and Mac, by the way, along with FTMC John Schiff and BTC John Griffith, played for the base semipro football teams, the Seahawks and Greyhawks.

Our soccer team got in their kicks against other teams. Members of the LEAHY soccer team include:

MMFN Randy Banks
IC3 Tom Blake
FTM3 Rick Biernacki
BMSA Dan Damico
Ensign Steve Gaskin
ICFN Del Hoffman
QMSN Greg James
IC2 Jim Latenser
ETR3 Mike Mount
MSSN Montague Pencil
BMSN Tony Schmidt
MMC Joe Shaffer
SN Chris Timby
GMM3 Jeff Timby
Lieutenant Reggie Ware
IC3 Les Wood
IC2 Lynn Wortmann

Just yesterday, we got underway again for various assignments and fleet exercises in the waters of the Western Pacific. We have reached the halfway point in our cruise and with a busy schedule ahead of us the remainder of our time in the Western Pacific should go by rapidly.

Until next time, the officers and crew join me in wishing you a happy holiday season.


C. H. ULRICH
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer