

LEAHYGRAM VII



FEBRUARY 1979

Dear LEAHY Family and Friends,

It's good to be home. How many times have you and I said that when we pulled into the driveway or landed at the local airport? Well, that's how we aboard LEAHY feel now that we've returned to San Diego after a 7½-month cruise to the Western Pacific. LEAHY pulled alongside the pier at the San Diego Naval Station on February 19, greeted by a large exuberant crowd of family and friends. We've commenced a month-long "stand down" period, in which the men receive maximum rest and relaxation, so richly deserved after performing so well in completing every task given the ship during our deployment.

LEAHYGRAM VI was written just after we left Yokosuka, Japan on November 13. During our stay in Yokosuka, we experienced some delightfully crisp sunny autumn days and once underway, we got a taste of some real cold weather. Winter made itself very evident in the East China Sea, Korea Strait and Sea of Japan. Those men who stand topside watches as lookouts had to bundle up against the harsh winds and light snow that became a daily occurrence in those areas.

On November 23, we took a brief break from the rigorous at-sea routine to celebrate Thanksgiving both by religious services and a traditional turkey and ham dinner.

Yokosuka was 16 days behind us, a period of patrolling and various exercises conducted with other ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet, when we pulled into Sasebo, Japan the morning of November 30. Sasebo, located on the west coast of Kyushu Island, is the second largest city in Nagasaki Prefecture, with a population of over a quarter million. Sasebo was a sleepy harbor town

until 1883 when a lieutenant commander in the Japanese Navy conducted a survey of the harbor and recommended to the Emperor that it be developed into a naval base. The officer went on to become one of Japan's most famous heroes, Admiral Togo, and Sasebo became one of Japan's most important naval bases during the early 1900s and throughout World War II.

As usual, LEAHYMEN spread throughout the town and the surrounding area, sightseeing, shopping, meeting the local citizens, exploring, sampling the local cuisine and getting in a few softball and basketball games against other ships. Our softball team, coached by Radioman First Class Ray Latourette, showed the form that a few weeks later earned them the 7th Fleet (Division II) softball championship for the six-month period ending December 31.



Relaxing in the enlisted men's club on the Sasebo naval base are (from left) GMG3 Al Landry, GMMSN Mario Lopez, GMM3 Tony Mullinix, GMMSN Jim Vause, GMMSN Tony Dreiling and GMG2 Joe Grosbier.

Forty LEAHYMEN took a day-long tour of Nagasaki, located 60 miles south of Sasebo. Here they saw various shrines, temples and a tortoise-shell factory, took a cable car to the top of a mountain overlooking the city to have a Japanese lunch, and visited the park and nearby museum which are a memorial to those killed by the atomic bomb in 1945. Nagasaki today is a major center of heavy industry and those on the tour had a chance to see both the city itself and the varied Japanese countryside between Nagasaki and Sasebo.



HT3 Chuck Williams (left) and YN3 Bob Katz, some 20 miles southeast of Sasebo, view the three massive concrete radio towers from which the famous "Tora, Tora, Tora" message was sent to the Japanese fleet in 1941; their signal to attack Pearl Harbor.



Throughout Asia, we had a chance to barter over prices not only in the stores and markets but also with sidewalk vendors. Checking over the jewelry displayed on this Nagasaki side-street are (from left) OSSN Mark Levi, MMFN Herb Whitaker, YN3 Bob Katz and ENFN Sterling Fykes.



Many of us developed a taste for Japanese ice cream, which tastes like a homemade lemon/vanilla flavor. RMSN Bob Ferguson pays a vendor 10 yen for a cone.



Like tile-roofed blocks spilling down the steep slope, Japanese homes cling to the sides of a mountain. This was one of the views on our cablecar ride to a high peak overlooking Nagasaki.



Japan is filled with gardens and parks containing that delicate blend of trees, shrubbery, statues and flowers of which the people are so fond. During the tour to Nagasaki, FTM3 Jim Ewell took time to feed the goldfish in a large pond.



Next to the Hialea Army Compound in Pusan was a short street where most of the crew did much of their shopping during our stay. Ready for the bus or taxi back to the ship are (from left) MM2 Joe Jewell, MM3 Jim Mockerman and MM3 Joe Mulcahy (along with one of the younger local residents).

LEAHY departed Sasebo the morning of December 4 and headed toward a rendezvous with the USS Constellation. For the next eight days, our task group operated in and around the Korea Strait, making sorties into the Sea of Japan and East China Sea. You can realize how strategically important the Korea Strait is by looking at a map and noticing its proximity to Vladivostok, site of a major Russian naval base. The Korea Strait is a major avenue to and from Vladivostok.

Our next port of call, on December 13, was Pusan, the second-largest city in South Korea, with a population of more than two million. Located on the southeast coast of the Korean Peninsula, Pusan is a bustling port and in the early months of the Korean War was the center of the Allied defensive position against the North Koreans. Even today, the city has a weekly air raid drill, a midnight to 4:00 a.m. curfew and bunkers at various locations around the city; things that made us appreciate, that much more, the freedom and security so often taken for granted back home.

The traffic flow may look relatively serene here, but in actuality, the taxi drivers in Pusan were as wild as in Kaoshiung. Motorcyclists darted in and out among the larger vehicles and the busses often had riders literally hanging out the doors, they were packed in so tightly.





Take a bunch of curious Koreankids, add a sailor on liberty with his camera, and you're liable to come up with a photo something like this.

The Koreans are a happy, outgoing people, and the reminders of past periods of military tenseness were easily outweighed by the color and lively pace of the city. Once again, LEAHYMEN spread throughout an Asian city sight-seeing, meeting the local populace and shopping. Of course, bartering is the norm in most of the Asian areas we've visited, so part of the fun in shopping is dickering with the people in the markets, stores and stalls.

LEAHY was on her way again the morning of December 16, and for the next eight days patrolled the waters of the Korea Strait and its surrounding areas in company with Constellation and several other U.S. Navy ships. During this time, our missile and antisubmarine teams had a chance to perform when we fired a Terrier missile and an antisubmarine rocket (ASROC) in an exercise.



A popular item purchased during our cruise was the "Westpac jacket," decorated with a variety of dragons, maps, flags and various designs depicting our ports of call. Setting out to explore the area are (from left) BTFN Red Kidrick, BTFN Nate Nash and BTFN Ken Nelson.

On the evening of December 23, LEAHY arrived at the Naval Base in Subic Bay, Philippines for our holiday stand down. When we were here in July, every day we saw torrential rain, but winter months comprise a warm, dry season, so our Christmas celebration took place in balmy weather. Decorations throughout the ship put us in a festive spirit for our Christmas Day turkey and steak dinner. Our activities aboard ship were greatly enhanced by the nearby towns into which the crew thronged for the usual sight-seeing, parties and good times, since the Filipinos celebrate Christmas much as we do in the United States.



One compensation for those who had duty on Christmas was the meal. Of course, many crewmembers not in the duty section ate aboard before going "on the beach." Seated at the corner table are (from left) SN Terry Thompson, SN Mike Sanders and BMSN Jeff Stalter.



Just as you decorated your homes for the holidays, so we spruced up the ship a bit. Greeting returning crewmembers and guests onto the quarterdeck during this particular watch were the Officer of the Deck (left), RMC Phillip Story, and the Petty Officer of the Watch, ETR3 Julio Maldonado.

Various Christmas trees sprouted up around the ship in the weeks before Christmas. This one belonged to the electronics technicians: (from left) ETSN Mike Mount, ETR3 Mike Campbell, ETR3 Rick Broome, ETN2 Tom Fegette, ETN3 Steve Adamietz and ETN2 Joe Sanchez.





The ship's office had its own yule tree among the binders and volumes of instructions and regulations. (from left) YN3 Ken Klinge, YNC "Steve" Griffin and YN3 Mark McCaffrey



Relaxing in the wardroom on Christmas Day are (from left) LTJG Gregory Melnyk, ENS R.M. Reeves, LCDR Jim Gilbert, ENS Steven Gaskin, LCDR Dallas Betha, LT Mike Metskas, ENS Don Driskill, LTJG Steve Kazules and CDR J.C. Toland.



watching television--the local American Forces Television Service (AFTS) station--in the first class mess; (from left) BM1 Clifford Lee, FTMI Herb Roberts, GMT1 David McCurley, HMI Steve Ciddio, FTMI Ralph Sills, ICI Sidney Von Tersch and SH1 Jim Medlock



(from left) GMMSN Bill Zack, IC3 Lynn Wortman, GMMSN Jim Vause and IC3 Les Wood

LEAHY was underway again the morning of December 30, in a task group centered around the Constellation. We steamed to a point in the South China Sea south of Singapore and operated in that area for almost the entire month of January. New Year's Eve and Day were spent underway patrolling our assigned station in what we affectionately call the "Singapore MODLOC."

On January 9, LEAHY crossed the equator. A long-standing naval tradition makes much fanfare around "crossing the line." The day before crossing, the "polliwogs"--those crewmembers who had never crossed the equator--had a chance to do what they wished with the "shellbacks," those who had crossed the equator before. The following day gave the shellbacks an opportunity for revenge. "King Neptune," accompanied by "Davy Jones," "boarded" LEAHY and "held court." Various "punishments" were meted out to the polliwogs and, at the end of the day, their initiation had been completed and they became shellbacks.





The "polliwogs" bow in submission as "King Neptune" appears from his throne beneath the waves. Watchful "shell-backs" guard over the 'wogs. (photo by ETN3 Craig Clement)

The following LEAHYMEN have been recognized for their achievements since LEAHYGRAM VI.

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

HTFN Greg Bowden
HT3 Jim Chambers
STGSN Chip Chupp
GMTSN Breck Crandell
HTC Tom Gardner
MR2 Joe Hopwood
HTFA Jeffrey Johnston
FA Frank Mandell
HTFN Gonzalo Martinez
HT2 Claude Van Dusen
HT3 Chuck Williams
HT2 Frank Yontz
HTFN Gordon Zastoupil

ADVANCEMENTS

Chief Petty Officer

STGC Sal Adamski
SKC Marcelino Capile
GMMC Bob Deschamps
BTC Paul Scott
ICC Sidney Von Tersch

First Class Petty Officer

MM1 Mike Murphy
YN1 T.L. Roberts

Second Class Petty Officer

FTM2 Bill Barrett
GMG2 Jim Bowman
DS2 Chuck Brock
SK2 Richard Cornelius
SK2 Dewey Daniels
MM2 Dan Davis
GMM2 Keith Delles
DS2 David Devore
MS2 Buddy Gamba
GMG2 Joe Grosbier
MM2 Joe Jewell
BT2 Everett Kelley
FTM2 Paul Kratzer
EW2 David Kremer
FTM2 Danny Nicley
BT2 Cliff Nuckolls
OS2 Rob Offerdahl
MS2 Dean Opalka
BT2 Ed Pirkle
FTM2 Pat Ridgel
MM2 John Rogers
MM2 Conrado Santiago
FTM2 Ron Stricklin
HT2 Frank Yontz

Third Class Petty Officer

MS3 Daniel Abeita
GMM3 Jeff Ashmore
SM3 Mike Archer
HT3 Bill Beard
HT3 Greg Bowden
HT3 Jim Chambers
FTM3 Breck Crandell
GMM3 Anthony DePhillips
MS3 Jeff Dougall
EM3 Jim Fenton
OS3 Rusty Frazier
OS3 David Harvey
SH3 David Henderyx
BT3 Roger Hendrix
MM3 Robin Henson
SH3 Earl Huitt
GMM3 Jeff Joseph
YN3 Bob Katz
BT3 Jeff Krajnak
OS3 Jim Lalonde
GMG3 Al Landry
BT3 Rick Lang
GMM3 Mario Lopez
PC3 Wylie Manns
OS3 Milton Marshall
YN3 Mark McCaffrey
BT3 Shawn McCain
EM3 Jim Mendenhall
MM3 Jim Mockerman
EM3 Ron Monell
MM3 Tom Morin
MM3 Joe Mulcahy
GMM3 Tony Mullinix
SK3 Robert Phelps
SK3 Steven Queen
FTM3 P.J. Schaub
GMM3 Donald Seese
MS3 Ken Shapuite
BT2 Robert Stouder
MM3 David Streby
GMM3 Ed Sweatt
GMM3 Jeff Timby
SM3 Glen Tippin
BM3 Joel Trombley
IC3 Tommy Waymyers
HT3 Chuck Williams
EN3 Al Wittmer

LEAHYMEN of the Month

October, DS1 Billy Brown
November, FTM3 Will Lawson
December, MM2 John Rogers
PC3 Wylie Manns
January, BTFN Randy Werth

LEAHY entered Singapore Harbor the morning of January 15 for a few days of rest and relaxation. The name of Singapore comes from two Sanskrit words, "Singa Pura," which mean Lion City. For centuries, this 360-square mile island was influenced by various Malay Buddhist, Hindu, Javanese, Indian and Arab groups. Then, in 1819, Thomas Stamford Raffles set up a trading post and free port on the island, starting Singapore's years as a British colony. Complete independence was declared in 1965. Today, the republic is an exotic and unique blend of Malay, Indian, Chinese and British cultures.

We thoroughly enjoyed our four days of liberty in this port. Everything from batik, fresh squid and mahogany carvings to Malay silk, cane and wicker furniture and jewelry were sold in the various shops, markets and malls.

Singapore is a garden-like city with a multitude of graceful boulevards, serene parks and waterfront gardens. Since it's a multi-racial society, we had a wide range of restaurants from which to choose. And, even though almost everything was within walking distance of the boat landing, the taxis and trishaws (pedal-powered rickshaws) provided a pleasant alternative.



Singapore was the only port in which LEAHY anchored out instead of pulling alongside a pier. We were only one

of hundreds of ships in one of the largest and busiest ports in the world.

The city is an exotic blend of British colonial, Oriental and modern architecture.





walking down Armenian Street
near the city's Chinatown;
SK3 Danilo Angeles (left)
and SKSA Ramon Garcia



The canal boats of the city
are used for transporting
goods to market, carrying
passengers, and as floating
stores and houses.



Complementing the plush
department stores, small
shops, bazaars and malls
are such stall-lined
sidestreets as the Pasar
Malam, the Car Park food
stalls and Change Alley.

We were underway January 19, and when we steamed out of the harbor, we were on our 9,000 mile voyage home. After brief stopovers at Subic Bay for four days and at Guam for eight hours to refuel and give the crew a chance to do some shopping at the PX, we were on our way again to Pearl Harbor.

We arrived in "Pearl" the morning of February 11. After refueling, a bit more sightseeing, a final chance to shop and time to relax, we were underway the morning of February 13.

Our crew at this point had been swelled by 26 members, guests for the final leg of our voyage. A Navy program called Operation Tiger allows crewmembers to have male members of their family or friends aboard for the trip from Pearl Harbor to San Diego. Arrangements for LEAHY's Tiger Cruise were begun several months ago under the guidance of the ship's chaplain, LCDR Frank Taylor. Twenty six Tigers boarded the ship in Pearl Harbor, and during the next seven days saw firsthand what life is like aboard a Navy ship.

SN Jim Ziegler helps GMG2 Carl Farmer's son, Carl, steer the ship on the open sea.



Activities during those seven days included shipboard drills, training exercises, tours of the ship, evening bingo games, movies and an opportunity to visit with their host. The younger school-age Tigers were even provided two hours a day for study in order to prevent them from falling behind in school work.



PNSN Mac Stelter and his grandfather (left) and father, Howard and Merlyn Stelter



LCDR (Chaplain) Frank Taylor's son, Edward, tries his skill at a console in the Combat Information Center.



LEAHY's Tigers found out that being at sea is learning how to walk at an angle, bracing yourself in your rack at night to keep from falling off, and keeping one hand free to grab your coffee cup in case it starts sliding off the table. The horizon is not crooked behind LEAHY's commanding officer, C.H. Ulrich (left) and OSSN Mark Levi's father, Oscar. The ship is rolling.



DS2 Rick Deaner and his father, Richard, wait in line during our Saturday afternoon cookout.



OS2 Eric "Robbie" Robinson and his father, Charles



Listening to LCDR Jim Gilbert explain the forward fire room are (from left) BTFN Mark Brantley, Jesse Worley (LCDR Mike Worley's father), Keith Toland (CDR J.C. Toland's son), Sam Isler (who came aboard with CDR Toland's sons, Jay and Keith), David Hector (EW2 Bob Anderson's cousin), Richard Deaner (DS2 Rick Deaner's father) and Clifford Lee (BM1 Cliff Lee's son).



OSC "Bud" Saber finished making LEAHY's own flag in time for our homecoming. Holding the banner are BM1 Cliff Lee's two sons, Verlan (far left) and Clifford (middle right), CDR Toland's son, Keith (middle left), LCDR (Chaplain) Frank Taylor's son, Edward (front right), SM2 Ivan Colon (left rear) and SMSA Bill Dinwiddie (right rear).

And that brings me back to the beginning of my letter, and our arrival in San Diego. Having the Tigers aboard added to the enjoyment of the homecoming. In the months ahead, LEAHY will be undergoing various improvements, exams and short underway training periods in the Southern California operating areas. For right now we are just happy to be back home and look forward to our month of rest and relaxation with family and friends.

One final item. Your letters and packages played a tremendous role in keeping our morale up. For all of the cards, letters and "care packages" which helped brighten our days away from home, the crew of LEAHY joins me in saying "Thank you."



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



We were met and escorted by a number of small boats carrying various signs bearing greetings.



Coronado Bridge ahead--almost there

The long journey was finally completely over when the bosn's call sounded over the ship's PA system, followed by one simple but tremendously meaningful word: "Westpac."





LEAHY returned to port on Washington's Birthday. At 12:00 noon, as families and friends poured aboard and crewmembers made preparations to go ashore, we took time out to pay tribute to our nation's first president. The 21-gun salute that rumbled across the bay was both an honor to the man and, to us, a bit of an extra welcome home.



IC3 Les Woods decides it's nice to be home.



smiling parents, wide-eyed kid sisters and brothers, friends, girlfriends, refreshments set out throughout the ship, balloons, digging out the silk scarves from Hong Kong, the sweaters from South Korea, the mahogany carvings from the Philippines, preparing to set foot on the mainland U.S. for the first time in 7½ months



Relaxing and playing host in the chief petty officers' mess are OSC "Bud" Sabor (next to TV), BTC John Griffith (at right, wearing hat) and FTMC Bob Philbrook (at right).