

Monday 14 November 1960

Our first day out and I'm really finding out how an LSD can roll. I threw up three times after dinner during the showing of Operation Petty Coat in the ward room. Fortunately I got my usual two-minute warning so there were no mishaps. Ship's soda fountain reported a marked decrease in sales shortly after dinner, so I guess I'm not the only one. We are traveling in station with the USS Paul Revere (APA 248) all the way to Okinawa, a trip of about 14 to 17 days. We left San Diego about 1230, our last night of Continental America for eight months. I am standing my watches as CIC Officer.

Tuesday 15 November

Stood the 04-08 watch in CIC and barfed four times in a period of about 60 minutes. Slept in until 1200 at which time I decided I was going to live. Started eating soda crackers to settle my stomach. Finally ate a few bites of liver for dinner followed by a chocolate sundae from the "Gedunk". It seemed to stay down I have my fingers crossed. Stood my watch in CIC from 2000-2400 without mishaps or a contact. Estimate we are about 600 miles from the US. Movie in the ward room was Man in a Net with Alan Ladd. No one got paid because Ens. Coalson can't get his safe open it seems a desk broke loose in the disbursing office and crashed into the money safe, jarring the tumblers.

Wednesday 16 November

Routine day, had the 12-16 watch in CIC, no contacts. Estimate we are about 950 mi. from San Diego. My eating habits are back to normal. Ens. Coalson had to borrow money by hi-line so that he could pay the crew, as he still can't open his safe. Shot some pictures of the PAUL REVERE during the transfer. Movie in the ward room was Never So Few with Frank Sinatra. These good movies can't last!

Thursday 17 November

Routine day. Had the 04-08 watch in CIC. Am trying to complete a course for Mr. Webber. Switched into a five section watch and stood a 1500-1800 as JOOD. Sea is almost like glass.

Friday 18 November

Stood the 08-12 as JOOD with Mr. Webber. He put me thru a maneuvering board drill and flag hoist identification exercise. Later we ran thru an ACP 175 drill with the PAUL REVERE. Passed the 900 page mark in War & Peace. Sea got rougher but so far I'm still eating. Wardroom movie was Wild & Innocent with Audie Murphy & Sandra Dee. Estimate we are about 1500 miles from San Diego.

Saturday 19 November

Had the 00-04. Dull watch as usual. Went thru a CIC drill at 1300. For the first time I kept up with everyone and got correct solutions. Mr. Webber gave me the "conn" for the first time and the 1800-2000. I kept the ship reasonably on station with the PAUL REVERE.

Sunday 20 November

Very beautiful out with calm sea. Had the 12-16 watch and had the “conn” the whole time. Had steak to order in the wardroom. Most of the ships officers got beat in the first round of the ships Cribbage, Acey Deucey & Pinochle tournaments. Wardroom movie was Pork Chop Hill with Gregory Peck. Mr. Webber and I took on the Captain and Mr. Van at bridge losing by 880 points due to some stupid bidding on my part.

Monday 21 November

Stood a drowsy 04-08 watch on three hours sleep. Had the “conn.” and managed to stay on station. Went thru another time zone and ship is rapidly approaching the 180th Meridian at 1300 the PAUL REVERE (APA 248) came along side to replenish us. Standard distance for such an operation is 120 ft. Our stern started swinging in a following sea and the rudder wouldn't answer the helm. The new C.O., Captain Bryan, had the “conn” when we collided on a parallel course. The Monticello suffered a small hole in the troop compartments and a bent gun tub on the port side. The Paul Revere suffered two demolished LCVP's, as a result we didn't refuel and will try again today. Stood the 20-24 watch again had the “conn”. Since we were guided it didn't involve any maneuvering on our part.

Tuesday 22 November

Routine day, worked on a correspondence course. At 1642 we crossed the 180th Meridian entered the realm of the Golden Dragon. Passed 105 miles north of Midway at 0430. Wardroom movie was Another Time, Another Place with Lana Turner.

Thursday 24 November

Skipped Wednesday. Spent my 22nd Thanksgiving out in the middle of a rough Pacific. Had the 08-12 along with the "conn". We are steaming on one boiler making a maximum 17Kts to conserve fuel. Dinner consisted of shrimp cocktail, Turkey, Ham and Pumpkin Pie. Everyone was in gay spirits. Had a matinee movie John Paul Jones with Bob Stack in WR. Am getting soft from inactivity and will soon have to find some sort of rolling sea exercises. We still have approximately six days of steaming.

Friday 25 November

Had the 00-04, a routine watch. Mr. Webber taught me how to "box" the compass. Finished up the 8th lesson in my correspondence course on Military Justice. Had the 18-20 watch and then played four rubbers of bridge with Schmidt, and the Bohatka brothers.

Saturday 26 November

Had Captain's personal inspection this morning as my division got an excellent. Interviewed the men in my 1st section. Stood the 12-16 watch working maneuvering board. Movie in WR was Darby O'Gill with Janet Munro. It made me awfully thirsty for a VO with water. Set clocks back another hour.

Sunday 27 November

Had the 04-08 watch with Mr. Shaw. Routine day had the 20-24 watch and "conned" the ship on station with the Paul Revere. WR movie was Wolf Larson with Barry Sullivan.

Monday 28 November

Routine day interviewed the first and second sections of my division. Stood the 16-18 watch and conned the ship. WR movie was Face of Fire with James Whitmore.

Tuesday 29 November

Had the 08-12 watch and conned the ship. Pay day today. Drew \$67.00, spent \$25.00 for WR mess bill and \$2.00 for the anchor pool. Officers training lecture today was on Naval Customs. Bob Wiltgens finally taught me how to play Acey Deucey. We are due to arrive in Okinawa tomorrow after being at sea for 15 ½ days. Instead of Buckner Bay we are going to Naha on the other end of the Island. Have the mid watch tonight and then have to get up at 0700 to replenish at sea.

Wednesday 30 November

Had the 00-04 and then had to get up at 0630 for replenishment at sea with the USS Hassayampa (AO 145). She refueled us on her port and the Paul Revere on her starboard. She is the “biggest and fastest dam tanker in the Pacific fleet.” Have to wait until tomorrow to enter port as they can’t take us at Naha until then. WR movie was Man of the West with Gary Cooper and Julie London. Stayed up and sang with Uke players Webber and Van.

Thursday 1 December

Entered Naha about 0900. Not a bad looking sight after 16 days at sea. Mr. Gee “waxed my ass” in the WR Acey Deucey tournament. Off loaded all Marines. WR movie was Hole in the Head with Frank Sinatra. Had the duty and couldn’t go ashore.

Friday 2 December

Had the 00-04 watch as the crew and officers came back from their first liberty in 17 days. Wow! right out of Mr. Roberts. Biggest offenders were in my division. Exec came back 17 minutes past his own curfew for officers 0200. Left Naha about 0800 for Buckner Bay about 30 miles around the Island. Anchored in Buckner about 1200 right ahead of the Thomaston (LSD-28). We are taking on a new group of Marines and their equipment. Went ashore around 1800 and hit the O club with Mr.'s Webber, Van, Shaw, Martin, Schmer & Deck. Started out with three fast Heinekens for .25 cents a piece. Played the slot machines for about two hours and then sat down to a steak dinner with champagne for \$2.00.

Took two cabs, went inland to a Japanese bar. At this point my memory became hazy. We drank Asahi beer with our Japanese companions. Midst, dancing and merriment. Got back to the ship – somehow – under the 0200 curfew.

Saturday 3 December

Dull hangover, but still alive. Ship is loading another group of Marines from an LCU in the well deck. Played bridge with the two Bohatkas and Schmidt until we were interrupted by the arrival of 2½ weeks mail. The mailman was ashore, so about seven of us cheerfully set about the task of sorting it by division for the ship's office. I got three letters from Vickie, my San Diego acquaintance, one from dad, one from my grandmother and one from Jim Russell. It sure is great to get mail! Went ashore with the group again. Drank VO and water. Saw Michiko again at the Princess Gardens. Also visited the Mikado, the "O" Club, and other places that I can't remember.

Sunday 4 December

Got underway for Subic Bay, Philippines about 1300. It is extremely windy and we are expected to hit the outskirts of Typhoon Ophelia. We have about 15 new officers in the wardroom from the Marines, boat group etc., that we will be carrying for the next two months. Had the 16-20 watch in CIC during which I am teaching myself Morse code by flash cards. My goal is to be able to read flashing light. WR movie was In Love & War with Dana Wynter, a real Marine "shit kicker" which was very appropriate.

Monday 5 December

Had the 08-12 watch and “conned” the ship traveling 2,000 just astern of the PAUL REVERE. Flitted away the rest of the day. WR movie was A Summer Place with Sandra Dee.

Tuesday 6 December

Had the 00-04 watch in CIC during which I spent reviewing my Morse Code flash cards. I have them memorized now, but still have to work for speed. Had interviews with the rest of my division to finish up my paperwork. Had the 16-18 watch with Mr. Gee up on the bridge and once again “conned the ship”. WR movie was, The Big Sleep with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

Wednesday 7 December

Had the 04-08 watch In CIC. Entered Subic around 0900 and moored to a pier about 1130. Very beautiful country with rising slopes but very hot. We aren't allowed to go off the base, because we are on a four hour standby. Very little to do on the base, but get bombed, which is what I did after chow. I call it “Pubic Subic”.

Thursday 8 December

Our second day in port and it sure was hot! Worked on my correspondence course. Off loaded the LCU and the LVT's in the afternoon. Went ashore to swim at the EM pool and had my first diving workout in about two months.

Friday 9 December

Had the duty all day and stood the 16-20 watch on the quarterdeck.

Saturday 10 December

We had personnel inspection in tropical whites in the morning and “first” division got an “outstanding”. Went to the Kalayan “O” Club in the afternoon where there is a beautiful pool and good diving board. Had a real good diving workout. Had about 10 VO’s and water with Stan Mumford, Jack Turner & Dutch. Later we had a lobster dinner at the Subic “O” Club where we met Mr. Webber who took us on a long spree thru the Philippine village of Olongapo. What a dump! Had to change our money into pesos. I went from VO to wine to San Miguel beer and made it back to the ship in spite of it.

Sunday 11 December

Played the organ for church services for the Monticello & Paul Revere. It was a rather amateurish performance, but not bad for a sinner. Played the Marine officers in a softball game in which they edged us 37-4. They got all the breaks! Had an excellent steak dinner on the ship and wound up the evening in a three hour BS session with Stan.

Monday 12 December

Routine day. Had the 12-16 watch on the quarterdeck. What a madhouse! The power was cut off three times the air conditioning along with it. Got off watch and immediately went swimming with Dave Martin & Bob Wiltgen. Showed them some of my dives. Got back to the ship to eat and the temperature in the WR was about 90° F. Captain Bryan approved my application for UDT, so I'll have to start training again.

Tuesday 13 December

Another routine day, finished off another correspondence course lesson. Hope to wind up the whole course in January. Went swimming again at Kalayan with Mr.'s Turner, Van, Martin, Schmer, Coalson, Bedford, Mumford, and the Chaplain. This Subic Bay is the hottest place I've ever been. Spent the evening chording music..

Wednesday 14 December

Ship was just about to go on holiday routine when we were ordered to get underway immediately at 1305. The ship was almost completely unloaded but we were able to reload everything in five hours. I had to drive into Olongapo to get one of my Boys who was shacked up. Sailed out of Subic just after sundown with the Paul Revere bound for ? I sneaked a look at a secret radio message which told us to proceed to South Vietnam at 2200 we rendezvoused with three destroyers – The Braine, the Ingersoll, and the Cogswell. The Captain then announced that Indo China was our destination due to arrive midnight tomorrow. It

seems the capitol of Laos fell to the left wing. All kinds of rumors are in the air! I haven't seen a newspaper in weeks, so I don't have the slightest idea where Laos is. At present we are steering 270°, 21Kts, in a condition of darken ship. WR movies was Indiscreet with Cary Grant, and Ingrid Bergman. I hope this is no more than another Lebanon.

Thursday 15 December

Heading south on a cs 230° destination still unknown. Had the 08-12 watch in CIC. Mr. Gee wouldn't let me relieve Al Newman on the bridge midway thru the watch. I almost told him to go to hell. Had a briefing in the WR about 1400, which was very general. Mr. Webber told us a nebulous account of the political situation in Laos putting it in terms of "good guys" and "bad guys". One of the missions of the Monticello in Westpac is to serve as a ready evacuation ship. The air is full of secret radio messages but no one seems to know for sure whether Vientiane, the capitol of Laos has fallen. If it has we have to be ready to evacuate 1,110 Americans, and foreign dignitaries from two spots in Laos – by force if necessary. The two closest evacuation spots that are known to be friendly are Bangkok, Thailand, and Saigon, French Indo China; the former being about 300 miles from the Laos border. We served as lifeguard ship while the Paul Revere refueled the Braine from 1600-1830. Had dinner with Captain Bryan in his cabin. He is one CO that seems to take an interest in his junior officers. WR movie was The Sound and the Fury with JoAnne Woodward & Yul Brunner.

Friday 16 December

Destination still unknown. Everyone has his own idea of where we're going. Had the 00-04 and the 16-20 still following the Paul Revere. Normal ship routine still goes on. Had material inspection, made hull reports, watched movies and read books. WR movie was Never Steal Anything Small with Shirley Jones & Jimmy Cagney. Started reading the Razors Edge.

Saturday 17 December

Does anyone know where we're going. Today we were headed straight North 000° T. I hope the communists are baffled as to the whereabouts of TG 76.5, because old 76.5 sure is. Had the 08-12 with Mr. Gee. Refueled the USS BRAINE about 130 & didn't get off watch until 1230. Practiced a little on the organ and sounded as lousy as ever. I ought to be great in Church services tomorrow – especially after standing a mid watch in CIC. WR movie was Diary of Ann Frank with Millie Perkins.

Sunday 18 December

Stood the mid in CIC and worked maneuvering board problems out of Dutton's. Played the organ at church services and stumbled thru that. The Marines showed a movie on the history of the war in Korea, which was good. Stood the watch (16-20) on the bridge as JOOD and the Captain helped me thru a CORPEN x-ray, which is a 180° turn in column. At times like this it sure is nice to have experience! According to the Department of Defense release "The MONTICELLO", PAUL REVERE, BENINGTON & LEXINGTON are operating in the Philippines – South

China Sea areas engaged in training exercises. That's nice to know. We have been steaming at 8Kts on reciprocal courses now for three days at about 10° N 110E. This, of course just happens to be about 100 or so miles due East of Saigon within easy steaming radius of any of three or four ports. WR movie was It Happened to Jane with Doris Day.

Monday 19 December

Routine day, destination unknown. Had the 08-12 in CIC. Refueled a little from USS PLATTE (AO-24). Sea was rough and we parted two lines slopping fuel oil all over the 1, 01, and 02 levels. The starboard ride looked like the Oklahoma oil fields. At one point we came within 80 feet of colliding with the PLATTE and I stood by with my camera like a vulture, waiting to record the event. It sure is a small world. 2nd Lt. Herm Van Velzer, an SAE from Miami U., is aboard the Monticello while Ltjg Tom Sullivan, another SAE, is on the USS BRAINE, which is part of our screen. I had my first fraternity coke date with Herm back in October of "56". Sullivan's dad was a fraternity brother of my Dad's and still is a close friend today. WR movie was A Farewell To Arms with Jennifer Jones. Very morbid. Our Christmas choir rehearsed and I accompanied on the organ. Oh well – we're bound to improve.

Tuesday 20 December

“Conned” the ship on the mid watch with Mr. Shaw. Ship is on course 030 making about 3Kts thru the water. Had the 16-20 watch in CIC and had an extra hour due to a time zone change. Learned that the USS Constellation blew up at her pier in New York. Christmas choir rehearsed.

Wednesday 21 December

Stood the 08-12 with Mr. Shaw on the bridge and “conned” the ship on station. For the last week now we’ve been at sea not knowing where we were going. It’s plain to see we won’t be in Hong Kong for Christmas. I guess we’re just going to go on steaming reciprocal courses in the vicinity of 10° N, 110° E indefinitely. This is what is known as being “available”. Christmas choir rehearsed down in DC Central and is sounding better. Lt. Rule, who sang in the Yale Glee Club, has taken over the direction and the improvement is noticeable. Read 80 pages of the Razor’s Edge and then stood the 20-24 in CIC.

Thursday 22 December

Stood the 12-16 on the bridge with Mr. Gee. As usual he was too shaky to let me have the “conn”, so I spend four hours taking stadimeter readings. Had a small fire in one of the Marine trucks on the super deck, but quick action by two crew members quickly extinguished it with CO₂. Some Marine diver left an oily rag under the hood which ignited by spontaneous combustion. Held GQ about 1500 at which time we learned that old TG 76.5 was setting course 060 for Subic Bay. As Dave

Martin put it “We’re heading for Olongapo and our loved ones”. I can taste the VO and water already. Christmas choir rehearsed in DC Central again and the program will be tomorrow night instead of Christmas Eve. The Captain doesn’t think too many of the crew will attend a Christmas Eve program since it will be the same day we arrive in port. Played bridge with 2nd Lt’s Rule, Pepper and Davis winning by 80 points.

Friday 23 December

Stood the 04-08 watch in CIC listening to music on the headphones. Had GQ at 0900 and fired five rounds from each gun to keep them in working order. Spent the afternoon reading and finished up the Razor’s Edge. We now have a Christmas tree in the wardroom but some how it doesn’t seem the same – especially with this case of sunburn on my face that I’ve got from standing three bridge watches the last nine days. We had our Christmas service at 1930 and I played the organ for the 10 numbers that we sang. The Captain read excerpts from the Christmas Story. The whole crew turned out and it was very impressive. Upon finishing I went up to the bridge for my watch “conning” the ship for the entire watch. It just occurred to me that today is Dad’s birthday, he is 56. This is the first time I’ve ever missed his birthday.

Saturday 24 December

Entered Subic Bay for Christmas around 1530. We are moored to Pier Alva, temperature around 95°F. I have the duty tonight and have to remain on the ship – which is just about deserted. Captain Medina USMC wrote a poem:

“Twas the night before Christmas
on the south China Seas.

Not a creature was stirring
except us and the Chinese.

We were stowed on two ships
without any beer,

The USS Monticello and the
PAUL REVERE.

The marine’s gear was loaded and
their trousers bloused up.

In case the Chinese tried to
“Laos” our friends up.

We ride on the sea “for the
blessed event.

In the hope that our presence
will make them repent.

The Navy Department calls it a
training cruise only.

While Radio Hanoi says we’re
aggressive and phony.

The protection of life and hope
for those caught.

Is prime in our purpose and is
what we’ve been taught.

Thus our families are missed and
snug in our homes.

There were many in Laos who have
only their moans.

So cheer up my lads and say a
prayer tonight.

That our presence will work and
save us a fight.

For when it's all over and our
homes are secure.

It will be only because we
were out on our tour.

So, next Christmas is ours, and
our gifts are from heaven.

In the knowledge that lives were
saved by the "gators" and 1/7.

Sunday 25 December

Christmas day in 95° heat. Played the organ for the service here and on the PAUL REVERE. Got a Christmas package from home consisting of my Recensio, a harmonica, numerous pocket books and an assortment of spread for crackers. Guess I'm going to learn to play the harmonica. It sure was great to receive this on Christmas day. Went to Olongapo for a night on the town with Dutch, Stan, and Lee Harris. We drank San Miguel beer at the Club Mormount where there is a cute vocalist.

Monday 26 December

Holiday routine. Went swimming at the Kalayan "O" Club and had my first diving workout in 13 days. My coordination was not real red hot however. Met a fellow named Chris Chrisholm who used to dive at Kings Point Maritime Academy who is pretty good. We agreed to work out together this coming Wednesday. Went into the club where there is a piano and played rag-time for about two hours. Dutch Schmer was there to listen and buy me VO. Went to the Subic "O" Club for a lobster dinner.

Tuesday 27 December

Went to Subic Point Exchange with Pete Bedford and cashed my \$200.00 clothing allowance check. I now have money for Hong Kong if we ever go there. Began my work out program for UDT next Aug.– 50 pushups, 50 sit ups and 20 gut busters.

Wednesday 28 December

Rope Yarn Wednesday. Went to Kalayan and played the piano for two hours. Then worked out on the boards. The fellow from Kings Point never showed up. Swam 150 yards breast and 200 yards side stroke. Started fooling around with my new harmonica and can already play “The Camptown Races”. Started reading From the Terrace by John O Hara – 980 pages.

Thursday 29 December

Conducted a sea bag inspection for my division and only two men had everything. Worked out again at Kalayan and swam 50 yards underwater. Am getting in better shape. Went to Fred Lyons and Bob Deck’s “wetting down” party to celebrate their making Ltjg’s. What a blast! Everyone was drinking “flaming hookers” – a mixture of ignited Crème de Mente, B&B and Cherry Herring. The Captain got down and did 29 pushups after swallowing his “hooker” Old “Pap” Harris even did 13. Then we went downstairs and played the piano. I got back to the ship a trifle high.

Friday 30 December

What a morning! Cut myself in the chin in four places while shaving, face looks like hamburger. Got a chance to visit Corregidor by helicopter, so I took off the whole day. Corregidor is without a doubt the most inspirational place I've ever seen. What hit me was the fact that the jungle has grown over almost all the barracks, batteries and roads. The only markings were a few flimsy cardboard signs. To see the Malinta Tunnel, Gen Wainwright's HQ's, was worth the trip in itself. How so many people could have held out there for five months is beyond belief. General MacArthur's old HQ now has a tree growing up thru the bomb hole made by a direct hit. Corregidor today, 19 years later, is deserted except for a handful of Philippine Marines who police the area.

Saturday 31 December

Had Captain's personal inspection today and my division got a GOOD but wasn't up to it usual excellence. Went to the Kalayan Pool in the afternoon. Had a good work out swimming 150 breast, 50 yards underwater and 250 side stroke. Heard on the radio that there was trouble in South Vietnam. We looked at each other and half smiled "Oh no, not on New Years Eve!" Dave Martin and I had a few drinks at Kalayan and then went to the Subic "O" Club for a huge steak dinner. About 10:30 p.m. while I was on my 6th VO and water the officers of the BENNINGTON were recalled to their ship. "Here it comes" we said, sure enough at 11:15 PM, 45 minutes before New Years, the officers of TG 76.5 were recalled.

Sunday 1 January. 1961

Happy God Damn, New Year! As we all crossed the gangway in our silly looking New Years hats, we were told we would be under way by 0400. This would be quite a job as 2/3 of the crew and Marines were ashore in Olongapo seeing in the New Year. The 10 LVT's were across the bay as was the LCU. We changed into Khaki's and started to work shifting and reloading cargo.

Slowly and steadily the crew came flittering back swearing at the tops of their lungs as they staggered up the brow. By 0200 I had all my division back on board. One man went running thru a passage, fell, broke his arm and had to be sent to the hospital. Another came back with a slight head concussion inflicted by the stick of the Shore Patrol. Maybe a drunken crew works better, but by 0230 we were fully loaded and ready to go. I went to the pad knowing I had the 08-12 watch in CIC. This watch consisted of three hung over radar men and one equally so officer. We are steaming in a Form E 1500 yards astern of the PAUL REVERE. While most American's spend New Years Day at their TV sets watching the Rose Bowl Game I sat at the surface search radar marking skunk "Juliet" with half-opened eyes. Thanks but no thanks.

Monday 2 January

Stood the mid on the bridge and “conned” the ship with no mishaps. According to radio reports the situation in Laos is grave as Russian planes are dropping supplies to the Leftists. There is supposed to be an emergency session of SEATO today. I wish I knew more about Laos, I feel so ignorant having been a History and Government Major in College. I didn’t even know where it was when I came into the Navy. Stood the 16-20 in CIC doing nothing. These alerts sure are messing up our scheduled trips to Hong Kong!

Tuesday 3 January

Had the 12-16 watch on the bridge. Signaled a strange unidentified floating buoy at which we fired at with 30 cal machine guns and finally sunk with 15 rounds of AP from our 3”/50’s. No further news today. Am getting better on the harmonica. Strained my left arm doing push ups last Saturday and still get a flash of pain when I make certain movements. I am still doing nightly 30 minute workouts however.

Wednesday 4 January

Stood the 08-12 in CIC as we went through approaching exercises with the Paul Revere. We are once again steaming reciprocal courses in the 10° N 110° E area. Had a graded man overboard exercise and two graded high line transfer exercises in which we exchanged personnel with the PAUL REVERE. The movies in the WR have been so lousy this week that I haven’t bothered attending any of them.

Thursday 5 January

“Conned” the ship on the 04-08. Had GQ about 0900. Had another small fire in the well deck that was put out instantaneously. Got the word that Saturday, we would steer for Hong Kong as originally planned.

Friday 6 January

Stood the Mid in CIC and could hardly stay awake. Luckily there were no contacts. Refueled from the USS Manatee (A058) without a mishap. Had the 20-24 out on the bridge and “conned” the ship. Every time I get a little bit more sure of myself.

00-04 It is New Years Eve, Captain Bryan’s ashore
while I’m O.O.D. on the 12 to 4.

For some must be ready, celebrating not mine.
Since the ship Monticello is on the front line.

Moored starboard side to, at Alava Quay
on the Isle of Luzon, in Subic Bay.

Since Philippine weather is capricious and heady
All lines are doubled; a wire forward to buoy twenty.

In number one boiler the fire is burning fine.
Numbers one and two generators sparking the line.
If the ship is ordered, to depart this fine day,
all Departments are ready to get under way.

The USS Bennington across the way
carries COMCARDIV one Five, S.O.P.A.
Other seventh fleet ships are also moored here.
Their quiet presence known leaving nothing to fear.

Whether the U.S. is involved in a Cold War or hot,
the gray "35" knows a duty she's got.
For prepared we must be and stay on our toes;
to defend our great county from all of its foes.

Now the New Year is here, Captain Bryan's aboard
and the first thing we know, the recall is heard.
Number two boiler's lit off, the ballast gang is set,
to take us down deep, so our boats we might get.

The lines to the pier are cast over the side
as low in the water the old "35" rides.
At about zero one, the LVT's appear,
as the crew comes aboard, most loaded with Cheer.

Now the Sea Detail is set, the ship free of the Pier
and the pilot and tugs are now with us here.
It's the landing ship dock that is underway
out to the ocean, upon which we should stay.

Our families are missed, from home we do toil
to clean out the vermin, on a strange foreign soil.
So friends you at home, bring in the New Year
because of our efforts ' 61 holds no fear.

Now on bended knees we offer a prayer,
to the Master above, in hope that he'll care.
For if, we hope not, trouble comes by and by
on the whole U.S. Navy, free men can rely.

R.E. Deck Jr.

LTJG USN

From the Deck Log USS Monticello 1 January 1961.

Saturday 7 January

Captain Bryan announced over the 1MC that our trip to Hong Kong had been cancelled. We are going instead to that mystic port of the Orient – Subic Bay. Had the 16-20 CIC had plotted along with the radar gang. My speed is almost up to theirs now, sometimes my recommendations turn out more accurate.

Sunday 8 January

Played the organ for church services. The Chaplain wanted me to go with him by high line over to the PAUL REVERE, but I had the 12-16 watch on the bridge during which I “conned” the ship. After dinner 2nd Lt.

Herb Rule and I took on 2nd Lt's Chuck Johnson and Dave Davis in bridge at 1/20 cents a point. We got completely clobbered in three rubber losing \$3.50 each. We'll get revenge!

Monday 9 January

Stood the 08-12 in CIC during which I worked on my correspondence course in UCMJ. I hope to wind it up this month. Three of my men went to Captain's Mast today for fighting with the shore Patrol on New Years Eve. Two got off, but the other got a special Court Martial. Passed the 400 page mark in From the Terrace.

Tuesday 10 January

Stood the 04-08 "conning" the ship with the not so quiet help of Mr. Gee. Father Gately delivered a "VD" lecture to the Deck Dept., which was pure fire and brimstone. Arrive Subic around 1000 and docked once again at pier Alava. Worked out at Kalayan and then had dinner and drinks at Subic "O" Club with Dutch Schmer,

Wednesday 11 January

Routine duty day, ship is almost deserted.

Thursday 12 January

Stood the 04-08 on the quarterdeck. Took off at noon and worked out at the gym doing exercises, running a half mile. Went to Kalayan in the afternoon for a good swim work out. Am slowly getting in condition. We leave next Tuesday for four days of ISE and put in the weekend at Manila.

Friday 13 January

Routine day, ran a half mile on my noon hour. Took another swim workout in the afternoon. One of my men put his fist thru a juke box at a bar in Olongapo and I had to represent him. The bar owner wanted 220 pesos (\$75.00) to replace the glass. Went to Olongapo City Hall which is an old dilapidated quonset hut and bargained with Mr. Gonzalez the juke box representative. We decided to replace the glass thru Special Services on the base at a cost of \$2.60. Tilton will have his liberty severed for the rest of the cruise. Without the help of the Armed Forces Police, Tilton would probably have had to pay the 220.00 pesos.

Saturday 14 January

Duty day. First Division got an excellent at Captain Personnel Inspection. Stayed aboard and finished up a lesson from my correspondence course on UCMJ.

Sunday 15 January

Stood the Mid-Watch on the quarterdeck and watched the drunks returning. No trouble however, played the organ for Church. After lunch, I went up to the Kalayan and worked out. Swam 250 yards breast, 400 yards sidestroke in 8 minutes. Had dinner and too many drinks at Subic "O" Club.

Monday 16 January

Routine work day, did some running on my noon hour and bought some souvenir water colors at the exchange.

Tuesday 17 January

Got underway for three days of ISE. We are planning to shoot for a gunnery "E" by Thursday. Both morning and afternoon we spent firing at the slave towed by aircraft with just fair results. As director officer in Sky 1 we had to iron out a lot of bugs between the mounts, radar, and the director. Anchored in Subic around 1700 and I stood the 2000-2400 watch on the bridge. WR movie was Don't Eat the Daisies with Doris Day.

Wednesday 18 January

Ship got underway at 0600 and I overslept. Mr. Webber had to send the messenger down for me. Conducted tracking and firing runs with the slave both in the morning and afternoon. Results were better, but I still don't think we'll get the "E" as we weren't scoring enough bursts. "Conned" the ship for about 30 minutes on the way into port where we again anchored out. WR movie was A Touch of Larceny with James Mason; without a doubt the best movie we've had on board!

Thursday 19 January

Held ISE in the morning but I missed out due to making the rounds of all the mounts with gunners mates for pre-firing checks. Held firing runs with the slave in the afternoon. We still aren't getting enough bursts to really score. We are heading into Manila tomorrow but are just steaming reciprocal courses tonight. Stood the 20-24 in CIC and worked on correspondence course.

Friday 20 January

Anchored in Manila Bay just outside of the break wall around 0900. Manila appears to be a quite busy commercial port. I have the duty and can't go ashore, but I'll have Saturday and Sunday ashore. Stood the 16-20 on the quarterdeck, which was uneventful. Watched TV on the Philippine stations. From first sight it appears that the performers are rhythmic but mostly imitative of American Rock and Roll stars, which I can do without.

Saturday 21 January

Went ashore with John Mathis. I had a Chinese lunch at the Golden Lotus which was excellent. Took a bus tour of the city seeing such sights as the Walled City, Fort Santiago, Santo Thomas University and the Malacanaang Palace – the seat of the Philippine Government. Most of the city was flattened by the japs and for most part there has been no planning for the rebuilding. The city just sprawled out and there is no rhyme or reason for the directions of the streets. Had dinner with the C.O., Mr. Webber, Foster and Dutch at the Hong Kong Restaurant after which we went to the Bayside, The Riviera and then went out to the Guadalajara Club with Herm Van Velzer for an hour of dancing and San Miguel beer. The latter was the best place to go and all I can say about Manila is it sure is expensive. I went thru 50 pesos and have nothing to show for it, but a San Miguel headache.

Sunday 22 January

Went to Sangley Point 'Air Station for an afternoon of swimming with CO, XO, Mr's. Webber, Snyder, Bishop and Father Gately. I swam and worked out while the CO, XO, and Mr. Webber played tennis. Later we went to the "O" Club and played liars dice. Wound up at the piano singing in great spirits. Maybe I'll wheedle a piano for the ship yet! Went to the house of Lou Driskell, a flyboy, and sang until 0230.

Monday 23 January

Stood the 12-16 watch on the quarterdeck. Left Manila Bay 1630. Stood the 20-24 watch on the bridge and conned the ship.

Tuesday 24 January

Fired gunnery shoots in the morning and we show improvement. Stood the 12-16 watch in CIC. Anchored in Subic for the night. Got a letter from Dave Whitman telling me that he has been accepted into OCS for March.

Wednesday 25 January

Got underway at 0730 and spent the morning firing for the battle efficiency "E" and we did fair but the results aren't in yet. Coming into Subic for the night Stan Manford, the ships boatmen let me take charge of dropping the anchor for the first time. Played poker for the first time with Mr's. Davis, Johnson, Rule and Van Velzer and lost \$2.00.

Thursday 26 January

Routine day. I had charge of bringing up the anchor. Ship spent the entire day matching compass repeaters. I conned the ship on the 20-24 watch.

Friday 27 January

Came into Subic early in the morning and moored to a buoy about 1,000 yards off the shore. We don't seem to rate a pier, this time as Captain Bryan (actually a commander) is quite junior. Went ashore at 1600 and did some running and went to the "O" club for happy hour and met Howie Eldridge, a brother Beta who graduated a year ahead of me at Miami. He is now an Assistant Engineering Officer on the BONEFISH (SS-582). Went back to the ship for chow and finished From the Terrace. I also completed the last lesson in my UCMJ correspondence course. WR movie was The Cossacks.

Saturday 28 January

Had Captains Personnel Inspection. Visited Howie Eldridge on the BONEFISH and got a guided tour of the sub. I had never been on a sub and found it to be quite interesting. Worked out at the Kalayan "O" Club swimming and playing the piano. Had a rather rowdy time with officers of the USS Monticello later in the evening. It seems the Captain and the Marine Colonel were shooting champagne corks across the room while we at the other table were singing some bawdy sea chanties.

Sunday 29 January

Played the organ for church services – but not too well. Saw a matinee in the WR – it was so lousy I can't remember the name. Slept in the sack the rest of the day. Stood the 20-24 watch on the quarterdeck. Seventh Fleets flag ship, the St. Paul, steamed in about 1500.

Monday 30 January

Routine work day, didn't go ashore.

Tuesday 31 January

Routine day. One of my best men is facing a special Court Martial for aggravated assault on a 1st class from the USS BENNER.

Wednesday 1 February

Routine day. Went ashore about 2200 for a few drinks. Have stopped working out for a few weeks until I can get rid of these headaches that occur when I do pushups or chin-ups.

Thursday 2 February

Routine work day. I now have a new room mate. He is Ens. Tom Machura from OCS and Dartmouth. His ambition is to be a writer and read Finnegan's Wake by James Joyce. He has been designated Asst. MPA.

Friday 3 February

Started offloading the vehicles for the Marines as we get a new BLT next week. At 1300 we got underway and moved to Alava Pier. The Marine BLT gave us a going away blast at the Subic O Club which ended all blasts. Only two men got thrown into the ocean, just one full Vodka bottle was heaved onto the lawn, glass breakage was limited to 35, and

the damage to the piano was minimal. Mr. Webber and Van brought their Ukes, so we had a regular little combo.

Saturday 4 February

Slept most of the day my duty day. Captain's Inspection was rather humorous as I was the only one in the Deck Dept. that made it,

Sunday 5 February

Stood an uneventful 04-08 watch on the quarterdeck. Played the organ for church services. Had dinner at the "O" Club with my roomie and three fellows off the ZELIA.

Monday 6 February

Routine Day.

Tuesday 7 February

Another Routine day.

Wednesday 8 February

Stood the mid-watch on the quarterdeck. First and second divisions had a beer blast out at Grande Island from 1300-1630. We played softball all afternoon and had no trouble. Everyone had a good time and wolfed down 11 cases of beer and four cases of pop. Didn't get the men back in time for chow, though Chief Boatwain "Doggy" Martin took us over on his LCU.

Thursday 9 February

Routine work day. Exec. Caught me reading in the TPL during work hours. Burned about six months of changes and NMC's out of the TPL in the incinerator some of which was classified. Found out later that some of the stuff had blown out the stack without being burned. I spent the rest of the afternoon combing the ship for little bits of paper. I hope I got it all up!

Friday 10 February

Routine day. Stood the 20-24 watch on the quarterdeck.

Saturday 11 February

Stood Captains Personnel Inspection and the division got GOOD. Went swimming at Kalayan in the afternoon and did a little diving. Had drinks and dinner with my roomie.

Sunday 12 February

Stayed aboard ship and recovered. Typed music.

Monday 13 February

Got underway at 0800 for two days of ISE. Spent the afternoon tracking sleeves. Got my orders for UDT next 21 July. I now have 5 ½ months to get in shape. I go to NAVPHIBSCOL in Coronado for temporary duty and then to UDT 12 for primary duty. Stood the 16-20 watch in CIC and on the bridge after we anchored.

Tuesday 14 February

Got underway early for another day of ISE. Conducted a surprise air attack exercise and I got my first sleeve from a Director and my personnel got a 'Well Done' from the CO. "Conned" the ship on 20-24 watch with Dave Martin.

Wednesday 15 February

Arrived Manila at 0800 but its my duty day stood the 12-16 watch on the quarterdeck with my roomie. WR movie was the Ten Commandments three hours forty-two minutes.

Thursday 16 February

Routine work day. Went into the Army Navy Club in the afternoon and had a few drinks. Later John Mathis and I went out to MAX's in Quezon City for steak dinners and "Forever Ambers".

Friday 17 February

Routine, try to look busy, workday. Stayed aboard and had dinner with the Captain and his guests the Driskells, whom we had met at Sangley Point on our last trip in. WR movie was The Best of Everything with Hope Lange.

Saturday 18 February

Stood the 08-12 on the quarterdeck with my roomie and got standby for the rest of the day and went shopping with Art Newman and Bob Deck. Bought a Barong Tagalog for 24 pesos in the Escolta Shopping District.

Now I can go native. Also visited Santo Thomas U., and other shopping districts. Had dinner with Art and the Captain at the Hong Kong Restaurant, eating with chop sticks am getting proficient as I can even eat rice with them. Art and I went on the town stopping at the Golden Cave, a most interesting House of ill-repute (we drank beer), the Carousel, Pasay City, and the Guadalajara Club. Got back to the ship about 0400.

Sunday 19 February

Went to Sangley to visit the Driskells along with the Captain, XO, Mrs. Webber, Van, Kranz, Mumford, and Martin. Started out with a few cool Heinekens and then went swimming while the other half played tennis. Later went bowling. Dave Martin, Stan Mumford and I took on the XO, Mr. Webber and Pone (Mrs. Driskell). Everyone had a better time as the San Miguel consumption increased and I had a 138, 107, 107. Wound up at the "O" Club playing the piano for two hours and missing dinner. No one felt any pain as we returned to the ship about 0100.

Monday 20 February

Underway for Zamboanga on the Island of Mindanao. Stood the 16-20 in CIC and on the bridge. Finished reading Lolita and started on A Bell for Adano. WR Movie was The Young Philadelphians with Paul Newman. Replenished from the GRAFFIAS (AF29) and refueled from the USS TOLOVANA (AO 64).

Tuesday 21 February

Stood the 08-12 on the bridge and in CIC alternating the JOOD watch with Dutch Schmer. WR movie was Raw Wind in Eden with Jeff Chandler- pretty stupid. Played bridge; my roomie and I against two Marine Lt's. We beat them by 1000 points scoring two small slams on the first 5 deals.

Wednesday 22 February

Washington's Birthday and I stood the Mid on the bridge. Arrived in Zamboanga about 0800. Doves of native boats came out to meet us and dive for coins. I was really surprised at the cleanliness and beauty of this place when Art Newman, Pappy Harris and I took a three hour tour of the area. Pasonanca Park is one of the loveliest places I've ever seen! We also visited various schools, a Moro Village and a Chinese Temple WR Movie was War and Peace with Audrey Hepburn.

Thursday 23 February

My duty day but I had no watches. This afternoon we received 230 visitors from the schools, of Zamboanga (pronounced ZAM-BWANGA). I showed a group of American Missionary children and parents around the ship. These people are amazing – devoting their entire lives work to Zamboanga. They are also extremely intelligent. WR Movie was Warlock with Henry Fonda. Took Al Newman for \$4.76 at Gin Rummy.

Friday 24 February

Went ashore with Fred Lyons and did some shopping. Rode around in the pony carts which are so numerous. Wound up by having dinner and too many San Miguel's at the Bayat Hotel.

Saturday 25 February

Attended a picnic for the officers of the ship at the Pasananca Park. The main course was barbecued pig, which was a little too greasy for me. They entertained us with some folk songs from Cebu plus dancing. Most of the girls can't dance R & R, but it was still great to dance with a good looking female. The girl I danced with was a law student and also a correspondent for the Manila Times – name of Virginia Fernando. Went shopping and wound up the day trying to teach Art Newman how to play bridge.

Sunday 26 February

Got underway at noon to steam back to Subic Bay. WR movie in the afternoon was The World, the Flesh and the Devil with Harry Bellefonte. Played bridge again. Stood the 20-24 watch in CIC and on the bridge where we rendezvoused with the Paul Revere at midnight.

Monday 27 February

Stood the 12-16 in CIC and on the bridge during a routine day.

Tuesday 28 February

Had the “conn” on the 04-08 watch on the bridge when we rendezvoused with the USS GRAFFIUS (AF-29) and received frozen provisions 0600. At 0800 we met the USS TOLOVANA (AO 64) refueled and at 1030 we met the USS POLLUX (AKS-4) with Captain Bryan at the “conn” we almost collided with her, coming in to a distance of 30 ft. before we drew away. We finally managed to get day provisions and break away.

We could have steamed into Subic but Captain Olson on the PAUL REVERE decided to stay out until tomorrow. Stood the 20-24 in CIC and on the bridge as we steamed back and forth across the entrance to Manila Bay. Very interesting watch! First the PAUL REVERE gave us a 180 turn when they meant a 180 corpen and didn't catch their error until halfway thru the turn. Later on I had the “conn” when a merchant ship heading in to Manila Bay crossed our stern at about 300 yards just about close enough to shake hands. Dave Martin, the OOD, had the signal bridge flash them the following message: “WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE?”

Wednesday 1 March

Steamed into Subic and moored at Rivera Point. I had the duty so I couldn't go ashore at 1300. Played Bridge all afternoon and lost. Mr. Greer (my boss and the ship's 1st Lt.) had his relief come aboard. He is Lt. Bill Shivley from Akron Ohio who comes from the USS ESTES (AGC-

12). Mr. Greer leaves to become XO on the notorious LST. WESTCHESTER COUNTY 1167.

Thursday 2 March

Stood the 04-08 on the quarterdeck. Started running again over at the gym and am still out of shape. Went over to the "O" Club about 2200 and rolled one ace to buy 17 rounds of drinks. We then rolled out the piano and had a gay spontaneous party. Jack Turner, the ships carpenter, poured beer into the piano and did not make a big hit with the club manager.

Friday 3 March

Routine day. Did some more running and a little tumbling. Had a few drinks at the "O" Club with Al Newman and Will Shivley after getting blitzed in Bridge. My brother Bob is 27 today.

Saturday 4 March

Stood Captain Personnel Inspection and 1st Division got an excellent. It's my duty day so I stayed aboard and played bridge all afternoon with two Marine officers and roomie, Tom. Stood the 20-24 on the quarterdeck and one drunk Marine challenged me as OOD to a fight. We threw him in the brig. Broke up the monotony though.

Sunday 5 March

Played the organ for Church Services here and on the PAUL REVERE. We have a new Chaplain, a Negro named Chambliss, who likes to preach “brotherhood-of-man” sermons. He’s not too popular with the Captain and the XO who are from Alabama and Florida, respectively. His religion is African Methodist. Spent the afternoon at Kalayan diving. Met John Chisholm off the USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20) who dove for the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. Wound up the evening playing bridge.

Monday 6 March

Got underway and steamed across the bay where we put ashore all the Marines and the ship’s landing party in a ship to shore exercise. We were back at pier by 1600 and I went ashore and did some running at the gym.

Tuesday 7 March

Went ashore and ran during noon hours. I am gradually increasing my distance. Stood the 16-20 watch on the quarterdeck and went over to the “O” Club with Al Newman afterwards.

Wednesday 8 March

Rope yarn Wednesday. Went swimming at Kalayan and went thru a diving workout on the three meter. My one and a half twisting back 1 and 1/2 left something to be desired. Everyone thought it was a clown dive. Played bridge with Bob Detombe, Captain Kane, and Tom Machura. Went to a PAUL REVERE/ MONTICELLO party in the evening and wound up with Geo Van and Wayne Greer.

Thursday 9 March

Routine day worked out at the gym.

Friday 10 March

Rear Admiral Roeder COMPHIBGRUWESTPAC came aboard with Captain King, our former C.O. to inspect the ship. I took many flash pictures of the inspecting party which should make good material for the cruise book. Worked out at the gym running a mile. Wound up the evening as shore patrol officer at the Fleet Landing from 2100-0200.

Saturday 11 March

Back loaded the LVT's and got underway for Hong Kong at 1015 – this time for real. Al Newman and I got our butts chewed out by the XO for not having our men look “military” during Special Sea Detail.

Sunday 12 March

Stood the midwatch and “conned” the ship as JOOD for Mr. Gee. Stood the 16-20 the same way and put the ship thru a CORPEN and a TURN maneuver.

Monday 13 March

Steered into Hong Kong along a beautiful approach channel. Too bad the weather is foggy. Moored about ½ a mile from Fenwick Pier about 1100 and Liberty commenced immediately. What did I do? I played bridge until 1500. Went ashore and discovered what fabulous prices Hong Kong has to offer on just about anything you want. I ordered a Shetland Tweed topcoat with lining for \$41.00 an \$80.00 buy in the U.S. The City itself is a blend of the very modern and the very old. Modern cars alongside rickshaws, Up to date office buildings by old walled forts and the latest Western styles contrasted with picturesque Chinese apparel. Went night clubbing in Kowloon got back at 0300.

Tuesday 14 March

Stood the duty and had the 08-12 watch on the quarterdeck. Played bridge all afternoon.

Wednesday 15 March

Went shopping all afternoon. Bought four dozen Spaulding Dot golf balls for \$20.00 and 100% cashmere sweater for \$20.00, and a set of Mikimoto cultured pearls for my mother for \$43.00 (a \$240.00 value in the U.S.). Jack Condor’s Bar on Queens Road Central seems to be the

place everyone congregates. They have a specialty called a “Black and Tan” (9/10 draught and 1/10 Mackeson’s Milk Stout) which I just loved. It lies just across the street from Fu Shing tailors where I ordered an additional Italian silk suit \$100.00 value for \$39.00. I also bought a pair of scotch grained sport shoes for \$9.00. Went nightclubbing at the Savoy in Kowloon and got back to the ship at 0400.

Thursday 16 March

Shopping again! Had second fittings on my coat and suit. Took a guided tour of the Island and snapped many pictures even though the weather was highly overcast. Visited Aberdeen, Repulse Bay, and the famous Tiger Balm Gardens. After years of searching I was able to obtain the music book of 1001 songs for Professional Use. This book sells for \$25.00 in the states to members of the Union. I got it for \$5.00. “Tiny” Wiltgen and I also priced musical instruments and found that the Tom Lee Piano Co. could furnish the ship with new trumpet, clarinet, sax, drums and piano for under \$700.00. We hope to sell this idea to the C.O. Went nightclubbing again this time at the Princess Gardens. Wound up with Kim Yen, a hostess who speaks 6 languages. These slit skirts are too much ! Got back to the ship at 0400.

Friday 17 March

My duty day thank God! I don’t have a watch either. Slept all morning (liberty commences daily at 1000) and played bridge all afternoon with

Mr. Webber, Ken Meneke and Tom Machura. WR movie was On the Beach with Gregory Peck.

Saturday 18 March

Had my final fittings on my coat and suit. The coat was perfect but the suit was much too tight, won't be ready until tomorrow. Took the Peak Train ride up to the top of the highest point on the Island. What a breathtaking view! It was too bad that the air was so hazy. The new band instruments arrived today and were put in the crew's library. After dinner I went down and played the organ and piano for about three hours. I was very satisfied with the piano and intend to spend many hours perfecting the songs I've accumulated.

Sunday 19 March

Picked up my coat and suit. The suit was still a trifle tight, but it looked so beautiful that I just had to accept it. I imagine I can get it altered back in the States. I checked the suit carefully to make sure that enough material was put into it so that it could be altered. Al Newman and I toured Hong Kong seeing the Peaks, Tiger Balm, and Jack Condor's. Wound up the evening getting took for \$60.00 HK when Kim Yen and her girl friend ditched us at a bar after they had our money. Oh well – a fool and his money are soon parted – only much faster in Hong Kong.

Monday 20 March

Got underway for Subic at 1300. I did not feel too well all morning due to the fact that I got back to the ship at 0400 after downing too many shots of C.C. the night before. Stood a 1 hr watch in CIC and “conned” the ship for 30 minutes during evening chow relief. I’m starting now to save my money for our return trip in May. I have a banjo and a hand carved ivory chess set all picked out for next time. WR movie was The Naked Maja with Ava Gardner.

Tuesday 21 March

Stood the 04-08 in CIC and on the bridge both plotting and “conning”. Am still tired from the week in Hong Kong. Played about two hours on the ships new piano before dinner. Stood the 20-24 watch in CIC and on the bridge. Just before I came on watch, we got orders to change course and head south for 10° N 110° E – our old stomping grounds off Saigon. There must be some more trouble in Laos, although I have not kept up with the situation this past week. At least they waited until we had been to Hong Kong! Most of us figured that the Communists would be quiet for a few months because of the approaching rainy season.

Wednesday 22 March

Steering behind the PAUL REVERE at 15K. No one is too excited as this is the third time we’ve been on these alerts. Stood the 12-16 in CIC working on a correspondence course. Played the piano while Art

Newman broke out his clarinet that he bought in Hong Kong. Although he is a little rusty we had a real good session. WR movie was The Vikings with Kirk Douglas.

Thursday 23 March

Stood the 04-08 watch in CIC and on the bridge. Just before I went off watch we got the word to increase speed to 20K and change course to 239° T. This looks it will take us around South Vietnam maybe to Bangkok. We also rendezvoused with the DD's INGERSOLL (DD 652) and STODDARD (DD-566). Received a radio message to proceed to Bangkok or rather to the mouth of a river 20 miles south. Around 1900 we observed four white flares on the horizon – the international distress signal. Captain Olson CT6 76.5 decided evidently that getting to Bangkok was more important and we proceeded on our base course, minutes later the ship on the radar screen disappeared. It has been 16 miles away on the approximate bearing of the flares. Stood the 20-24 in CIC and on the bridge. And all ships are completely darkened and are in condition of readiness 3. This means we are manning MTS 32 and 37 and Director 1. There is a fellow from supply up in CIC manning a target designation radar which no one but the FT-1 know how to use. Boy is the ship secure!

Friday 24 March

Stood the 12-16 in CIC and on the bridge. It sure is hot up there. I'll bet the temperature is over 95° F. Maybe the CO will break down and let us

put up the awnings. There is very little wind and the decks become so hot it's hard to walk on them. We are due to arrive at a point 100 miles South of Bangkok at 0300 on Saturday.

Saturday 25 March

Stood the 04-08 watch in CIC and on the bridge. Arrived at our point about 0600 and the heat continues. Our problem now is fuel and food as we are kind of off the beaten path. Stood the 20-24 watch in CIC and on the bridge. Observed numerous water snakes in these waters. It must be shallow.

Sunday 26 March

Played the organ for Church services and Capt. Bryan gave a better talk than I've heard from any Chaplain. Stood the 12-16 on CIC and on the bridge. Al Newman and I got together for a little jam session on clarinet and piano which didn't sound too bad on such tunes as Green Eyes, Frenesi and Honeysuckle Rose. WR movie was Some Come Running with Frank Sinatra.

Monday 27 March

Stood the 04-08 in CIC and on the bridge. We refueled without incident from USS GUADALUPE (AO 32). It's nice to know that this ship can get along without falling apart while the ships boatswain is on emergency leave. Big training program started again I wonder how long it will last this time? Went into a five section watch which gives me the old mid.

Like an idiot I stayed up and played bridge until 2330. WR movie was Attila with Anthony Quinn.

Tuesday 28 March

Conned the ship for four hours and got pretty sleepy. We learned that the plane of a diplomatic attaché was missing since 23rd of March. I wonder if it would have been the source of the distress signal we saw Thursday night? Stood the 20-24 and had the conn.

Wednesday 29 March

The ship's birthday. On 29th of March 1957 the USS MONTICELLO was commissioned at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula Mississippi and we still have 19 men aboard who were on the ship when it was commissioned. Replenished 30 loads from the USS VEGA (AF-59) in the rain, but still didn't get any mail. Met with the flagship USS ESTES (AGC-12) who sent over a helicopter to pick up our mail. Spencer BM3 got word that his father and uncle had been killed in an auto wreck; but he wouldn't get emergency leave because he doesn't qualify for it according to COMPHIBGRUWESTPAC's Op order. Captain Bryant got in a little hot water with the Admiral over this. Stood the 16-20 watch on the bridge conning the ship.

Thursday 30 March

Slow day still steering reciprocal courses. Stood the 12-16 on the bridge conning the ship. WR movie was TV's Untouchables with Bob Stack, better known as Cops & Wops or Guinea Gun Smoke. We have about five episodes on board.

Friday 31 March

Had the conn on the 08-12 while we steered by sinous cam. Had the conn also during chow relief when we almost collided with the Paul Revere. I had to order left full rudder to avoid her. Her cam was a little bit off from ours.

Saturday 1 April

April Fools Day and I had the 04-08 watch conning the ship. Stood personnel inspection and only 12 of my men could show up. From now on I'm laying down the law. Finished reading Desire Under the Elms, Strange Interlude, Mourning Becomes Electra, a book of plays by Eugene O'Neil.

Sunday 2 April Easter

Had the Old Mid on the bridge and in CIC. Mr. Gee is giving me more responsibility at the conn and lets me take the 180 Corpens. Played the organ for Church lay services given by CMDR Barnes, the XO. Stood the 20-24 on the bridge and in CIC, WR movie was Third Man on the Mountain with Janet Munro. It's rumored we'll be out here, off S. Vietnam, another two weeks.

Monday 3 April

Routine hot day. Stood the 16-20 in CIC and on the bridge “conning” as we steered by sinuous cam.

Tuesday 4 April

Stood the 12-16 on the bridge as we rendezvoused with the USS TOLOVANA (AO-64) which also carried 32 bags of our mail. This mail was just like a shot in the arm for morale. I received about eight letters and a card from Russell, my ex-roommate, which the entire WR enjoyed. WR movie was Count Your Blessings with Deborah Kerr.

Wednesday 5 April

Stood the 08-12 on the bridge “conning” the ship. It is, as usual, stifling hot with no let-up. The STOODARD & INGERSOLL departed for the States and we joined with the USS SPROSTON (DDE-577) and the USS NICHOLAS (DDE-449). We have now been to sea for 17 days without seeing land. This is the same amount of time it took to get over to Okinawa from the States.

Thursday 6 April

Stood the 04-08 in CIC working maneuvering board. Went to G.Q. at 0900.

Friday 7 April

Stood the mid in CIC and on the bridge. At least it's cool at night. Had Captain's Material Inspection in the afternoon; stood the 20-24 on the bridge conning the ship – a long day.

Saturday 8 April

Holiday routine. we are supposed to rendezvous with the USS CASTER (AKS-1) sometime. LTjg Dave Martin has invented a game called Hocker – a game similar to hockey using broomsticks and a softball. The playing field is on the 02 deck oft between MT's 35 and 36 with the ready service lockers as goals. So far the Marines hold a 7-0 advantage over the Navy, but they had to pay the price – Lt. Maddox had to have four stitches taken on his forehead after he crashed into a bulkhead. Stood the 16-20 conning the ship. Received an S.O.S. from a Panamanian merchant ship that was having a mutiny. We were set to go, but COMSERVENTH FLT ordered the CASTER to investigate instead.

Sunday 9 April

Played the organ for Lay Services. Ens. Coalson was giving an eloquent sermon on “The Adequate Christ” when the top of the pulpet collapsed – This did get everyone's attention, but old Pledge lost his train of thought. Finally met the Caster (AKS-1) and replenished. While doing so they had a sailor singing to a guitar accompaniment atop the 06 level into the bull horn. Not to be outdone we countered with our own four piece country singers “The Wing Wallers” from our signal bridge. This may

revolutionize replenishment at Sea operations! We then proceeded to serenade the USS TOLOVANA (AO-64) as we refueled from her WR movie was The Lady Takes a Flyer with Jeff Chandler & Lana Turner. Smear the XO in gin rummy the rest of the evening.

Monday 10 April

Stood the 08-12 conning the ship thru two 180 (degrees) Corpens and a lifeguard detail. Replenished from the USS VEGA (AF-59) and gave them a country music serenade in the process. We also got some mail from them and hi lined LTjg Bob Deck who had orders to the Fort Marian (LSD-22) and Chief Boatswain Cross who has been with us since we left for Hong Kong.

Tuesday 11 April

Stood the 04-08 on the bridge and in CIC. Still no word on returning to Subic. I'll bet a lot of people are wondering what happened to their Volkswagens. LTjg Meneke is putting out a daily paper in which he daily includes a fictitious news report about Prohibition being passed throughout the Philippines. The X.O. has fallen for it hook line and sinker, just about everyone else knows it's a phony.

Wednesdays 12 April

Stood the 00-04 in CIC and on the bridge conning. Holiday routine spent playing the piano. Have memorized about 10 new songs. Found out I have to give a five to seven minute speech on leadership next

Wednesday. What a subject! Stood the 20-24 on the bridge and in CIC. Word came in on the teletype that the Russians had put the first man into space and recovered him safely. This of course, makes great propaganda and gets a lot of people a lot more excited than they ought to be.

Thursday 13 April

Very routine day. Had G.Q. in the afternoon. Stood the 16-20 on the bridge and in CIC. WR movie was The Sun Also Rises with Tyrone Power and Ava Gardner. Meneke and I waxed Maddox and Machura by 3,000 points in three rubbers of Bridge making two small slams in the process.

Friday 14 April

Had G.Q. at 0830 and had a local surface shoot at smoke pots. The shoot went much better than expected. Stood the 12-16 on the bridge and in CIC.

Saturday 15 April

Stood the 08-12 on the bridge and in CIC, got paid again. As far as I am concerned we can stay out here until May when we're scheduled for Hong Kong once again. Played the piano for about three hours in the music room. Navigation day; shot the sun, took an LAN, solved stars by H0214.

[Sunday 16 April](#)

Stood the 04-08 and also shot morning stars such as VEGA & BETELGUESE plus JUPITER. Most of my LOPS came within six miles of the navigator's. Navigation is definitely one of the most absorbing interesting aspects of the Naval profession. Played the organ for Church services.

[Monday 17 April](#)

Stood the Mid conning the ship. It took me four hours to get on station behind the Peter Rabbit (PAUL REVERE), her RPM indicator is not working properly and her speed fluctuates. Working days are very routine and boring and hot. Mr. Webber is giving the officers lectures on instructing. Stood the 20-24 on the bridge and in CIC. WR movie was the Mouse That Roared with Peter Sellers – one of the best we've had.

[Tuesday 18 April](#)

Very routine day. Prepared my speech by rehearsing on the wing wall after dark. The Marines are trying to organize a wrestling team back on the helo deck. Their knowledge of the sport was just about nil and I was able to show them many of the rides and escapes I learned back in the 8th and 9th grade when I wrestled in Jr. High. It was amazing how much of it I had retained! I stood the 16-20 in CIC and on the bridge. WR movie was Hannibal with Victor "Ipana Smile" Mature - strictly elephant manure.

[Wednesday 19 April](#)

Our 30th day out of sight of land. Everyone has a different guess as to when we'll go back in. I guess the Laos question is not settled as of yet. We have also heard that a bunch of Rebels have invaded Castro's Cuba from the USA. It's about time. Gave my speech on leadership this morning. Started off by reading from a 15 ft. roll of paper on which I'd written a number of pious adjectives. This was my attention getting device and it worked except that the CO didn't seem impressed one way or the other. Stood the 12-16 on the bridge and in CIC during which I finished my correspondence course on the CIC officer. WR movie was Tom Thumb with Russ Tamblyn, an amusing fantasy.

Thursday 20 April

Our 31st and hottest day yet. Stood the 08-12 on the Bridge "conning" the ship. Spent the rest of the day filling out quarterly marks for my division.

Friday 21 April

Stood the Mid "conning" the ship. I am now standing watches with Stan Mumford the ships boatswain. Captain had his weekly material inspection. WR movie was the Enemy Below with Bob Mitchum and Cast Jurgens – quite good. Conned the ship on the 20-24 watch.

Saturday 22 April

Holiday routine "conned" the ship on the 16-20 watch. Played piano for two hours. WR movie was "Woman in White" with Sydney Greenstreet

– a real oldie. Great news after 33 days out here we finally got ordered to head back for Subic. I wonder what dry land looks and feels like?

Sunday 23 April

Played organ for Church Services. Had the “conn” on the 12-16 watch during which we refueled from the USS KAWASHIWI (AO146) who also brought out our mail. Mr. Webber let me “conn” the ship on turns (RPM) as we refueled. He even complemented me- something rare for him. Crew received word of advancement results. Boykins, one of my seamen, was rated BM-3. Two other seamen of mine passed the exam but didn’t get rated. My BM-1 flunked the test for Chief. 95% of the radiomen, radar men and signalmen got rated – these are critical rates and anyone who passes gets rated. WR movie was An Affair to Remember with Deborah Kerr & Cary Grant.

Monday 24 April

“Conned” the ship on the 08-12. Routine day. WR movie was For the First Time with Mario Lanza – the greatest tenor since Caruso. This was the third time I had seen this, Lanza’s last, picture. I enjoyed it as much as the first time.

Tuesday 25 April

Conned the ship on the 04-08 at 0800 we replenished 39 loads from the USS GRAFFIAS (AF-29) off Subic. At 1200 we entered Subic and moored at River Point after 36 days without sight of land. I have the duty but I

did manage to sneak off and pick up pictures, skivies and & sun glasses – all of which I was sadly in need.

Wednesday 26 April

Stood the 00-04 on the quarterdeck and all went well. The XO is giving the ship 1300 liberty for the rest of the week. Went ashore and ran 1200 yards without any strain after not having run for 46 days. This rope skipping must keep me in fairly good condition while here at sea. My weight was 158, which means I lost weight at sea – even with my daily Gedunk.

Thursday 27 April

1000- We got word to get underway again after 45 hours in port. I proceeded to the “O” Club and got “sloshed” on about seven fast “Buds” making it back in time to rack out for three hours before we cast off at 1600. What an exciting WESTPAC cruise!

Friday 28 April

Stood the 00-04 on the bridge “conning” the ship. Course 244 speed 20 knots. Routine work day. Stood the 20-24 on the bridge as we increased speed to 21 knots. We must be going around to Bangkok again.

Saturday 29 April

Routine day, Stood a five hour 16-20 watch as we changed to time zone GOLF. Ran into a fierce electrical storm around midnight. WR movie was the House on Haunted Hill with Vincent Price.

Sunday 30 April

Played the organ for Church services and then stood the 12-16 watch on the bridge.

Monday 1 May

Reached our destination in the Gulf of Siam about 11N° 103°E about 120 miles SE of Bangkok. Stood the 08-12 watch “conning” the ship.

Tuesday 2 May

Stood the 04-08 on the bridge . Very routine and very hot. Sighted land. Ko Chang Island and also Thailand and Cambodia.

Wednesday 3 May

Stood the 00-04 on the bridge as we steamed reciprocal courses. Captain Bryan started his new push toward a leadership program in which all division officers have to give a lecture each week on leadership. Stood the 20-24 watch on the bridge.

Thursday 4 May

Stood the 16-20 watch on the bridge and in after steering. Tomorrow the USA is attempting to put its first man into space at Cape Canaveral. He is Alan Shepard USN. They have postponed the attempt twice due to bad weather.

Friday 5 May

Stood the 12-16 watch on the bridge and in CIC. At 2400 we listened to the broadcast in the wardroom as CDM. Alan Shepard USN became the first American to travel into outer space. His trip took him up 130 miles on a journey of 15 minutes.

Saturday 6 May

Stood the 08-12 on the bridge and in CIC. WR movie was April Love with Pat “Goon” Boone.

Sunday 7 May

Stood the 04-08 and slept the rest of the day. We were later joined by the USS MORTON (DO 948) and USS WILTSIE (DO 76) which now make up our screen.

Monday 8 May

Stood the Mid in CIC and on the bridge “conning” the ship. Got two hours sleep and got up as we replenished from the USS GRAFFIAS (AF) at 0700 and refueled from the USS KAWISHIWI (AO 14) at 6000. In the midst of all this we ran into some squalls and I got a picture of a waterspout forming. WR movie was The Colonel and I with Danny Kaye and Curt Jurgen’s which was excellent. Stood the 20-24 on the bridge and at the helm thru two CORPEN turns.

Tuesday 9 May

Routine Day. Stood the 16-20 on the bridge. WR movie was Mardi Gras with Pat “Goon” Boone and Christine Carere.

Wednesday 10 May

Routine Day. We are now headed back for Subic to exchange Marine BLTs and I hope for a few days rest. I am working at a mad pace to complete these shipboard info courses necessary to qualify as O.O.D.

underway. Right now I'm about half done. WR movie was The Badlanders with Alan Ladd.

Thursday 11 May

Stood the 08-12 on the bridge "conning" the ship. Gave a leadership discussion with my division at 1300. I was worried about conducting such a program, but the men responded slowly at first and enthusiastically toward the end as gradually everyone was drawn into the discussion. WR movie was Goliath with Steve Reeves – ach!??

Friday 12 May

Stood the 04-08 on the bridge and in CIC. We are due to arrive in Subic tomorrow at 0800. The rumor is we'll offload our present embarked marines and immediately back load 3/9 and possibly be underway again by Sunday. Everyone hopes not. Today was our 14th straight day at sea and our 49th out of the last 51. WR movie was The Last Train From Gun Hill with Kirk Douglas.

Saturday 13 May

Stood the Mid in CIC and on the bridge. Got up at 0600 as Special Sea Detail was set. The rest of the day was spent offloading and back loading. Finally made it to the "O" Club around 0900 and even went into Olongapo to terrorize the natives. Ate at Papaguya's.

Sunday 14 May

Spent a quiet day aboard ship. Saw WR Movie which was Horrors of the Black Museum. Wayne Greer my old boss and ships 1st Lt. Came aboard. He is now XO on the controversial LST. WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1167). Bob Deck, our old CIC officer, came aboard also. This is the same fellow that spent 10 weeks at CIC school and another five at Air Control School. He is now Ships Boatswainj on the Fort Marian (LSD-22), Subic Bay is really crowded at the moment because all the ships that participated in the recent SEATO exercise Pony Express are here. This includes the APA's CALVERT, MAGOFFIN, AKA SKAGIT; AO's KAWISHIWI and GUADALUPE; LPH THETIS BAY; AR HECTOR; AD PRARIE; DESRON 11, LSD FORT MARIAN; and three LST's. Temperature is almost 98 degrees but since we are into the monsoon season the daily deluge cools it off slightly.

Monday 15 May

Got underway at 0800 to go out into the stream and load Marine ammo from the Fort Marian. This amounted to 38 tons and was an all day job. PAUL REVERE had to get underway from her mooring spot to make way for the SAINT PAUL (CA-73) due tomorrow. Her new mooring spot is along our starboard side. This only cost us 11 staunchions, 1 CO₂ lifeboat rack, and one officer stateroom; but I guess we're even now. I can look out my porthole and see her forecastle about 10' away. Ran a half mile to see if I could still run after 51 days.

Tuesday 16 May

Rained all day and crew was given early liberty at noon. VADM GRIFFEN, COMSEVENTHFLT, came aboard in the afternoon for an informal call. I tried to take some flash photos of the inspection, but my batteries were all dead. He was pleased with the condition of the ship and said so. All damage from the PAUL REVERE had been repaired.

Wednesday 17 May

Duty day. Sneaked over and worked out on my lunch hour and then stood the 16-20 watch on the quarterdeck. WR movie was The Bramble Bush with Barbara Rush.

Thursday 18 May

Got underway at 1030 for the stream to load another 30T of Marine ammo. It was extremely doubtful whether we would have magazine space for all of it. If we don't, then we will be classified as an AE and be forced to anchor way out in the stream. This of course would cancel any trip to Hong Kong. Thus the first part of the day was spend converting all possible space into ammo magazines. Paid \$27.00 for five rolls of color film.

Friday 19 May

Routine day in port. Worked out at the gym and ran down to the Kalayan turn off – almost a mile.

Saturday 20 May

Duty day and I stood the 12-16 on the quarterdeck. Beautiful day – the first without rain. WR movie as Compulsion With Orson Wells.

Sunday 21 May

Went to the Kalayan Swim Pool and got thoroughly sunburned. I forgot we are in the tropics.

Monday 22 May

Spent most of the day inside doing Gen. Info course. WR movie was Oceans 11 with Frank Sinatra and Clan.

Tuesday 23 May

Got changed into Duty Section 3 which doesn't give me duty until Thursday. Worked out at the gym and ran to Kalayan again. There is a typhoon Betty coming this way and there is a good chance we'll have to get underway to avoid her.

Wednesday 24 May

Got underway but just anchored to a buoy in the stream on a one hour standby. The WR matinee was The Fall of the House of Usher with Vincent Price. Finally at 1800 base liberty was granted.

Thursday 25 May

Still in the stream. Duty day as I stood the 12-16 watch again.

Friday 26 May

Routine day. WR officers took on the WR of the USS PICTOR (AF-54) in softball. We got caught in a drenching rain which made the field a sea of mud. In spite of these hardships we went ahead with the game and lost 12-7 but out drank them. I played left field and was up to my shins in mud, but after a few beers I was floating on air. In fact made several 40' slides thru the mud that seemed to entertain everyone.

Saturday 27 May

Stayed aboard and slept.

Sunday 28 May

Stood the 08-12 on the quarterdeck and worked on my Gen. Info. Courses.

Monday 29 May

Got underway and moved in alongside the PAUL REVERE (APA-248). Captain Bryan did a beautiful job in bringing us in I never realized how much skill it takes to maneuver 12,000 T. Played the Marine officers at softball and lost 12-9 giving up 6 runs in the last inning.

Tuesday May 30

Memorial Day. I worked out at the gym, in the pool and wound up playing in a softball game against the WR of the PICTOR again. This time we beat them 18-11. I got a double and then set some sort of record

by striking out four times. This was the first game in which I didn't drink any beer.

Wednesday 31 May

Duty day but I had no watch. Read and slept.

Thursday 1 June

Routine day. Beat the WR of the US EVANS in a softball game.

Friday 2 June

Routine day. Softball game rained out.

Saturday 3 June

Duty Day. Worked out at the gym on their new trampoline. WR movie was Huckleberry Finn with Archie Moore.

Sunday 4 June

Played organ for church services. In the afternoon the ship took some high swells and pushed in alongside the PAUL REVERE as the camels doubled up. We suffered some slight structural damage by the after brow. It took two M boats from the Paul Revere to pull us out from her so we could replace the camels – all in a torrential rain.

Monday 5 June

Routine day. Beat the ship's team from the USS EVANS () 15-14 as I got one hit and three walks in five times at bat. WR movie was Sunrise at Campabello with Ralph_Bellamy and Greer Garson.

Tuesday 6 June

Routine duty day.

Wednesday 7 June

Stood the 00-04 on the quarterdeck

Thursday 8 June

Got underway for the outer harbor to conduct a landing operation with the Marines. Tug lines parted in the bow and we narrowly missed the USS THETIS BAY (LPH-6). Assaulted Grande Island feebly and returned to the ship. Practiced anchoring in the afternoon. Mr. Webber let me get the ship underway to take her out of the harbor which I did without too much ado. Big operation is tomorrow.

Friday 9 June

Stood the mid watch on the bridge as we steamed off the entrance to Subic Bay. H Hour is at 0700 on Zambales Province. Served as boat officer from 0630 until 1300 and was completely cooked by the broiling sun, especially my lips. We did manage to land the first wave on time. Moved to Subic pier in the late afternoon. Fell dead asleep.

Saturday 10 June

Stood the Mid watch on the quarterdeck again, slept.

Sunday 11 June

Played the organ for Church services. My birthday, am 23 today and will celebrate with a few “cool ones” at the club. Met Bert Juardo, a former Philippine Olympic diver, at the Kalayan Club. He is there as a life guard for the summer and we’ll probably work out together in the next few weeks.

Monday 12 June

Duty day, stood the 20-24 on the quarterdeck. Graded an LCU exercise in the well.

Tuesday 13 June

Routine day. Finished up Phibpac General Information Course.

Wednesday 14 June

Routine morning swim at Kalyan and got sloshed on Rum and Coke at the “O” Club.

Thursday 15 June

Up at 0500 couldn’t sleep. Got underway at 0600 for ISSE. Shot a few practice sleeves in the afternoon. Director 31 working well.

Friday 16 June

Stood Mid on the bridge and had the conn. Fired competitive exercise and won four gunnery “E’s” plus an “E” for sky one (My director). These are the first “E”s the MONTICELLO has ever won; this at last makes me feel that I’m contributing. All mounts that got “E”s were controlled from sky one, the other four mounts failed.

Saturday 17 June

My relief came aboard. He is Ens Bob Corson from OCS and Notre Dame, a big heavy set fellow who seems real nice. Ran and then swan at Kalayan. WR movie was Can Can with Frank Sinatra and Shirley Maclaine and Juliet Prowse.

Sunday 18 June

Duty day. Stood the 16-20 watch on the quarterdeck.

Monday 19 June

Routine day.

Tuesday 20 June

Routine day.

Wednesday 21 June

Ran 1 ½ miles without too much strain. Stood the mid on the quarterdeck.

Thursday 22 June

Routine day.

Friday 23 June

Another routine ship's day. I really wish we would go out to sea instead of just sitting here. Ship is being pushed into the pier by heavy swells. The bigger posts have succeeded in denting and chipping the sides. At 1630 we got under way and moved about 20 yards out from the pier while the CBs constructed two long camels and secured them along the pressure points of the pier. This whole process took about four hours.

Saturday 24 June

Stood the 08-12 on the quarterdeck. It looks like the real rainy season is officially here. Nothing but rain the past three days.

Sunday 25 June

Rain. Played organ for Church services on mess deck.

Monday 26 June

Rained all day. Worked navigation problems all day.

Tuesday 27 June

Rain. WR movie was Operation Amsterdam with Eva Bartok. Ymmmm.

Wednesday 28 June

Worked out at the gym and managed to run 1 ½ miles without getting too wet. RAIN. Deck department party wound up in a brawl over at the “L” Club in town. Typical EM.

Thursday 29 June

RAIN. Shifted berths from Alava Pier over to Leyte Pier across the harbor by Cubi Pt Air Station. WR movie was the Grass is Greener with Deborah Kerr and Cary Grant.

Friday 30 June

RAIN. Passed the 300 page mark in Anthony Adverse. WR movie was Lets Make Love with Marilyn Monroe. We will probably depart for the US next Friday. I’m ready to leave this stinkin hole!

JULY FOURTH OPORDER

ANNEX A

- 0830 H Hour, Commence Operation Bloody Mary
- 0930 Martini
- 1000 Operation Purple Passion
- 1040 Depart "O" Club (Subic) for Olongapo
- 1100 Arrive Patching's Stand
- 1125 Depart Patching's Stand
- 1135 Arrive Tijuana
- 1155 Depart Tijuana – DISPERSE
- 1220 Reassemble at Economical
- 1225 Vote Prime Shows
- 1250 Depart Economical
- 1300 Arrive Swanky
- 1325 Transit – (5 minutes in Transit, 25 minutes at Base Club)
- Commence First Floor Show
- 2030 Raise Glasses on High' 1st 12 Hours
- 2031 1900 Dinner – Papaguya (Peach Pussee' and Tequila)

Saturday 1 July

RAIN First day of the Phil-Am Fiesta a Fiasco. WR movie was Let No Man Write My Epitaph with Burl Ives which was excellent. Attended a party at the "O" Club which was a complete flop. Saw Shirley MacLaine and Paul Newman from a distance.

Sunday 2 July

RAIN. Played bridge all afternoon.

Monday 3 July

Moved back to Alava Pier at 0600. Day is clear for a change, so will work out. Ran 1 ½ miles. USS ALAMO (LSD-33), our relief, crossed the 160°E line.

Tuesday 4 July

Stood the 04-08 on the quarterdeck. Our proposed OP order never materialized as the leaders didn't get back. Ran 1 ¾ miles as the weather was again fair. Had dinner at Papaguyas in Olongapo.

Wednesday 5 July

Got underway and moved out to Naval Aviation Pier on the other side of Cubi Pt. To unload ammo. The ALAMO is due in tonight and we will probably be on our way home by late Thursday. Returned to Alava Wharf late in the afternoon. ALAMO steamed in about 1800. Got sick from something I ate in Olongapo.

Thursday 6 July

Rain again. Won't sail until 1100 tomorrow. Have the Mid tonight.

Friday 7 July

Had the 00-04 watch on the quarterdeck with no trouble, but much rain. At 1100 we got underway with two tugs pulling on our bow. There was a 30kt wind pushing us into the pier. When the wire from one tug broke we very nearly collided with the ALAMO which was moored ahead of us. To avoid the ALAMO we had to go ahead 2/3 almost swamping the remaining tugs, we just got out of danger when a blinding rain squall hit reducing visibility to about 10 yards. Finally cleared Grande Island and headed home by great circle route. I am now OOD underway for section five and will stand my first watch as such tomorrow. WR Movie was The Mating Game with Debbie Reynolds and Tony Randall

Saturday 8 July

Assumed my first watch underway as OOD on the 00-04 and it sure felt good. Today makes one year of passage on the Monticello and was an appropriate time to qualify. Took the ship thru the Babuyan Channel of Northern Luzon as we finally hit clear weather. WR movie was The Journey with Deborah Kerr and Yul Bynner.

Sunday 9 July

Stood the 00-04 as OOD as we are now in open sea making 18.5 knots. No contacts. Played the organ for Lay services at 0900. Ran 1 ¼ miles in the well deck (about 10 laps). Stood the 20-24 as OOD.

Monday 10 July

We are settled once again into the at sea routine. Stood the 16-20 as OOD and then ran 1 ½ miles in well.

Tuesday 11 July

Stood 12-16 as OOD and ran 1 ¾ miles in well. We spent the mornings at training lectures on Rules of the Road.

Wednesday 12 July

Stood the 08-12 as OOD and ran two mile in the well.

Thursday 13 July

Stood the 04-08 as OOD and 14-16 down in the Forward Machinery room for training.

Friday 14 July

Had the 00-04 as OOD and we've finally hit some cold weather and for the first time since leaving San Diego I put on a long sleeved shirt. Stood the 20-24 as OOD as we ran into a fog and commenced sounding for signals.

Saturday 15 July

Fog and light rain, and much colder. Passing up around 42°N, 160°E on a great circle route. Stood the 18-20 as OOD. CO and Mr. Webber blitzed Ken Meneke and myself in bridge by 4500 points.

Sunday 16 July

Played the organ for lay services. Stood the 16-18 as OOD in a dense fog and heavy rain. Both radars have crapped out, so it could get hairy. Miles to San Diego 3,144. Miles to Subic Bay 3,467, miles steamed since 2000 yesterday 390.4.

Monday 17 July

Stood the 12-16 as OOD as fog cleared slightly. Very cold; wearing sweater and arctic jacket.

Monday 17 July:

Crossed International Date Line so we have two Mondays. Stood 08-12 as OOD. Spent most of my free time reading.

Tuesday 18 July

Stood 04-08 as OOD. Ran two miles in well.

Wednesday 19 July

Stood the mid as OOD but it was only three hours as we crossed time zone. Ran two and a half miles in well and then stood 20-24 as OOD.

No contacts weather is warmer. It looks like we're just going to make it to San Diego without refueling. We'll probably have about 7% left upon arrival. We're four hours behind PIM and I have a hunch the Captain will put on both boilers as we get closer to California.

Thursday 20 July

Ran 2 ½ miles in well and turned my ankle. Stood 18-20 as OOD. Played bridge until midnight.

Friday 21 July

Walking around on a swollen ankle. Stood 16-18 as OOD. Accompanied Mr. Webber on a Zone One material inspection of the topside spaces. Ships looks like a pleasure yacht the way she is painted and sparkling.

Saturday 22 July

Stood 12-16 as OOD. Watched a TV movie for fleet was Wagon Train and Riverboat both of which were imbecilic. It's really unbelievable how some of these writers can turn out such moronic drivel. At least we didn't have to watch the commercials.

Miles to San Diego Friday 21 July "61 – 950

Miles to Subic Bay Friday 21 July "61 – 5,651.5

Miles steamed since Thursday 20 July "61 – 413.

Sunday 23 July

Played the organ for Church Services and stood the 12-16 as OOD, finished reading Anthony Adverse (1048 pages) – finally! Mr. Webber finally qualified me as OOD underway and the Captain signed the letter

for my jacket. Tomorrow at 0700 we steam into San Diego Bay after eight months nine days away from the US. Yesterday we picked up radio broadcasts and today we got Maverick and 20th Century on TV; so we must be close. Even the advertising was welcome! I'll be OOD on the 04-08 tomorrow when we arrive.

Monday 24 July 1961

Stood the 04-08 as we first saw the lights of San Diego U. S. A. – a wonderful sight! Captain Bryan took the “conn” as we entered Inland Waters. Docked at Pier #6 Amidst cheers of about 300 dependents and the music of Sid Zeramby's Phibpac band. Home at last! I'd like a Milkshake.