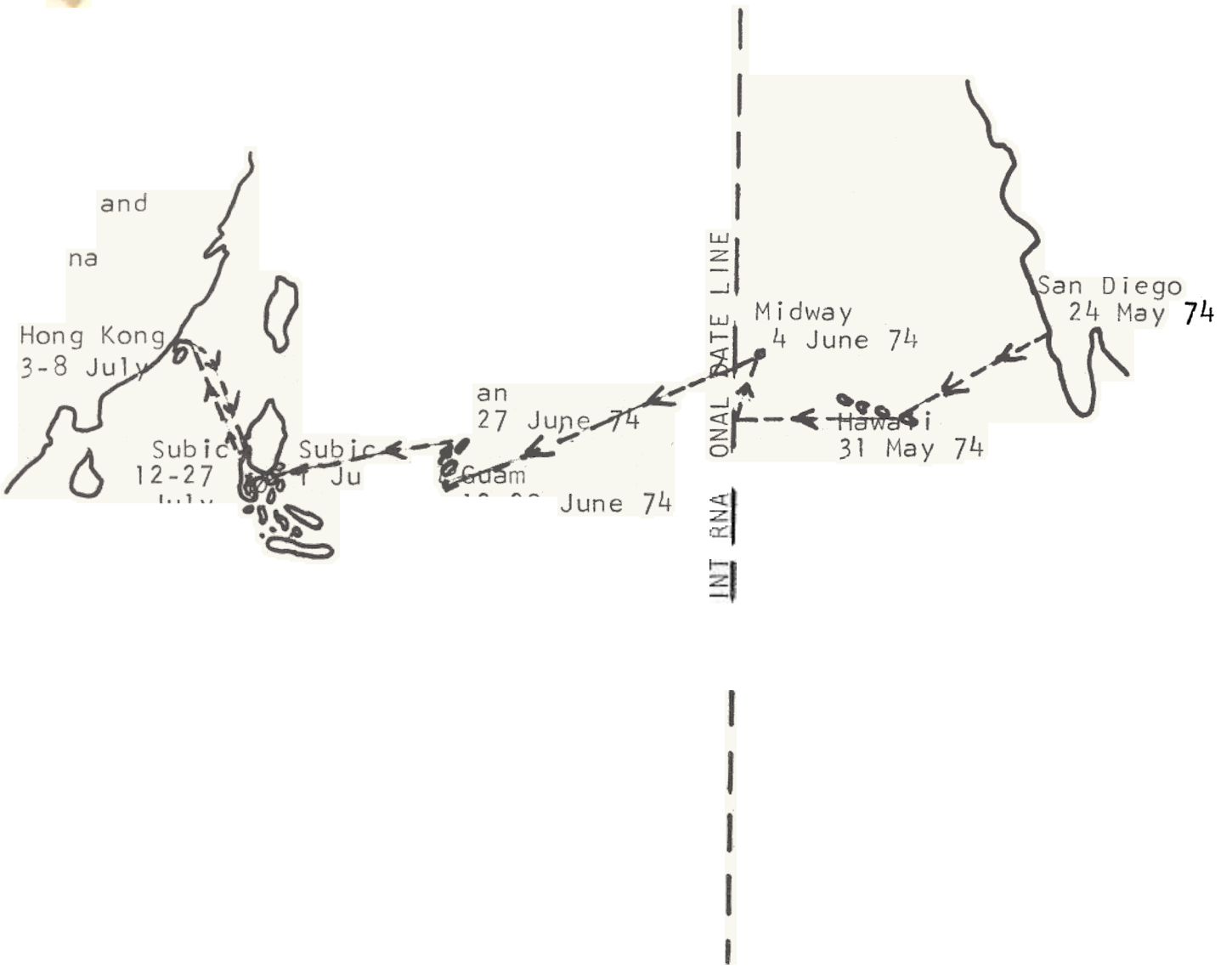


MONTICELLOGRAM



25 July 1974

Dear Families and Friends of MONTICELLO

MONTICELLO is presently in the port of Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines for our initial upkeep period since leaving San Diego. This upkeep period offers me the opportunity to update all of you on our many activities since the last Familygram of 29 April.

We departed San Diego as planned in the early afternoon of 24 May. After clearing the harbor, MONTICELLO joined up in formation with five other PHIBRON THREE ships. Our transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was relatively quiet with excellent weather prevailing. We busied ourselves through participation in numerous types of drills with the other in-company ships, thereby maintaining the professionalism we attained in our earlier refresher training (REFTRA) period. A highly successful bar-be-que was enjoyed by all on the mezzanine deck. The warm breezes and bright sunshine added to this first of many MONTICELLO picnics-at-sea.

Our arrival at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii marked the beginning of a busy twenty-four hours for many. There were last minute provisions and fuel not to mention the briefings and shopping for personal items to take care of. We also took on some additional passengers by way of three first class midshipmen from three different universities. All three midshipmen will complete their summer cruise on MONTICELLO her in Subic Bay and return to the States for the fall term. Early the next morning MONTICELLO was underway again enroute for Apra Harbor, Guam and the relieving of the USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31).

Our original arrival date of 11 June was delayed, however, due to an emergency medical situation on 6 June, one of our crew members developed a rather sudden case of appendicitis which necessitated immediate medical attention. Since sea conditions can rapidly change and an operation was evident, MONTICELLO diverted towards Midway Island which at the time was located about 500 miles away. Hurried arrangements were made with the Air Wing there and later the following day our man was picked up by a helicopter and flown to Midway Island and then rushed to Army Tripler General Hospital in Hawaii where a successful operation was performed.

On 12 June, MONTICELLO arrived at Apra Harbor, Guam where we relieved the POINT DEFIANCE and became a unit of the Amphibious Force, U. S. Seventh Fleet. Guam, by the way, is the largest island of the Marianas chain, located approximately 3,000 nautical miles westward of Hawaii. Our stay here lasted for eight days allowing for the assimilation of the extra equipment and approximately 200 marines gained with the turnover from POINT DEFIANCE.

It was also a busy planning time for a newly assigned 6-day operation involving a 100-mile trip northward to a small island by the name of TINIAN which some of you might recall as being the island where the

United States flew the Hiroshima atomic bomb from during World War II. Our mission was to transport vitally needed equipment there for use by the 700 inhabitants. The equipment included a water tank for use in the local fields, a jeep, sports equipment, tools, and 5,000 cinder blocks to be used in the construction of a town pavillion. MONTICELLO and her crew were warmly greeted by Tinian's populace upon arrival. We quickly set about to lending a helping hand to various tasks about the island. The embarked units contributed greatly through man and equipment power. The Beach Masters transported their bulldozer ashore and set about to clear away a large beach area near the town. The Assault Craft Unit departed the ship in the LCU (landing craft utility boat) and ventured over to nearby Saipan where they picked up and transported back the aforementioned cinder blocks. Many volunteers of the embarked marines and crew were divided into different work forces and busied ashore with many civic action projects, including the painting of Tinian's city hall, the screening and painting of the local school, and the clearing of jungle overgrowth in various spots. On our second day there the USMC band performed a concert for the work forces and the populace with a bar-be-que following plus movies in the pavillion. After three days of work, all the projects were completed. MONTICELLO then embarked eleven of the town officials and proceeded to the northern part of the island where an amphibious landing with LVT's (personnel carrying tanks) was held. Early the next morning we returned to our original anchorage to pick up the remaining equipment left in town. It was an extremely successful operation for us and personally rewarding to the many personnel who helped in the civic work in the town.

With our anchor weighed we pushed westward once again enroute to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. During the latter part of our transit the crew witnessed the passage through the San Bernardino Straits which is always interesting due to the many islands encountered in this area. The total passage lasts approximately 20 hours requiring good seamanship on everyone's part because of the ever close proximity of land.

Once through the straits, we topped off the fuel tanks by UNREPing (underway replenishing) with the USNS TALUGA off the island of Luzon. This was another highly successful shipboard evolution especially for the Deck Department who are more directly involved than any other department in this type of shipboard evolution.

On the night of 20 June we held a MONTICELLO Casino Night on the mess decks for our annual Navy Relief Drive. An air of Las Vegas prevailed throughout the evening with \$.25 maximum bets offered on a roulette table plus poker and black jack tables. 100 percent of the profit was given to the Navy Relief Fund, a major arm of help to those Navy personnel/families in financial need. The total input for the fund came to a little over \$300.00 for the evening and also provided the crew with some fun and excitement.

MONTICELLO arrived and departed from Subic Bay on 1 July after an eight-hour stay for a new marine detachment and equipment. Once outside of the harbor we joined the USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11) with Commodore TWITE

embarked and headed for HONG KONG. Arriving there on the 3rd of July, we all anxiously went ashore for the many excellent buys to be had at the China Fleet Club and also the outstanding restaurants and sightseeing tours offered. Also many of us were to be found at the top of Victoria Peak, Hong Kong's highest surrounding mountain which affords an outstanding panoramic view of the harbor and city.

Leaving Hong Kong on the 8th of July, we proceeded to join up once again with the USS NEW ORLEANS and continued our type training for the next four days. Included was our first gun shoot in quite some time which was executed in an excellent manner with MONTICELLO scoring many direct hits on a towed target.

Upon the completion of these maneuvers, we again pulled into Subic Bay which brings you up to the present. This being our first upkeep period finds us all busy correcting and cleaning up the ship and also working on equipment in need of repair.

Since leaving San Diego we have gained some new crew members, and I would like to say "Welcome aboard to MONTICELLO" to the following families and friends of:

ENC George M. ARINGE
SM1 Albert CHANCE
FN Manuel V. DURAN
EMFN Charles R. EHRET
BM2 Michael EVERIDGE
FR Christopher D. EVERSON
FTGC Richard FAUST
QM2 Jim S. GRAY
SN Dannie R. HENDRICK
SN Cecil E. IVEY
SA Jerry L. JONES

SN David W. LONG
RMC Richard D. LOTZ
BM2 Robert C. MATSON
SR George H. MOLDEN
BM3 Joseph F. SCHMIDT
SA Kenneth L. STEVENS
FTG2 Howard W. VIPPERMAN
FR Jeffrey J. WARD
GMG2 Charles M. WRIGHT
SH1 Richard WRIGHT

During our many underway days since leaving the States, we have had many individuals busily engaged in the after-hours college courses offered on board ship. Commencing upon our departure from San Diego, an embarked History Professor from CHAPMAN College instructed courses in Western Civilization and American History for college credit. I am happy to inform you that the following men successfully completed one or both of these courses thereby acquiring 3 or 6 college credits.

SH3 Gary E. BAKER
QM2 Thomas C. BELL
FTG3 Dennis P. BURTON
SN Keith CHATEAUNEUF
ETR3 Michael R. COLLINS
RMSN Robert P. CROFFORD
FTG3 Michael R. DILLEY
FTGSN George J. ESCOBEDO
MM3 Charles E. GLADDEN
QM2 Jim S. GRAY

MMC Rodger K. GUNTER
EN2 Anthony IALLONARDO
EMC Melvin S. JOHNSON
QM2 Carleton H. MACCONNELL
SN Michael MCWILLIAMS
PNSA Albert G. RUBIO
OSSN Michael TALLMADGE
SM2 Melvin J. TAYLOR
BMCS Gene W. WHITLEY

We will be continuing this program upon departure from Subic Bay by offering a couple of courses in English Composition and Literature with the hope of another successful turnout.

Congratulations are also in order to our recent selection of Signalman Seaman Craig A. BAIN as Sailor of the Month aboard the MONTICELLO. Seaman BAIN was recognized for having been a mainstay to this command for quite sometime now, putting forth on a continuous basis outstanding performance on our signal bridge. His eagerness to see any job through in a proficient way is known to all of us. During the past year Seaman BAIN contributed extra time of his own to collect empty cigarette packages towards the purchasing of blood for a hospitalized child with an extremely bad kidney ailment. This type of dedication displayed by BAIN both on and off the ship is highly commendable, providing an inspiration for his contemporaries to follow.

We recently were informed by message that the MONTICELLO placed second in the annual Captain NEY Memorial Award. This highly significant recognition was earned by our Supply Department for outstanding maintenance of standards and practices in the food handling and management area within the crews galley/mess decks. The competition for this annual award covers sanitation, preparation and management of the crews mess/galley on an all-Navy basis and is divided into two categories; afloat and ashore commands. Within the afloat commands there is a further breakdown by ship size; large, medium and small. MONTICELLO entered the competition in the medium size range. Selection was based on a series of inspections during the last several months by a highly critical staff of inspectors. A different inspection team was used each time to maximize the inspection effectiveness. Even though MONTICELLO finished in second place, the crew and myself recognize the outstanding efforts which have gone forth to achieve this honor. To be selected for the competition is worthy honor in itself.

As the second place finalist, MONTICELLO is entitled to send one of her commissaryman to Cornell University for a two week food management program. Commissaryman First Class MILLER has been selected for this attendance. MONTICELLO will also receive a plaque to add to the many congratulatory letters received thus far from CINCPACFLT, Admiral WIESNER; COMSEVENTHFLT, Vice Admiral STEELE; COMPHIBPAC, Vice Admiral SALZER; and COMPHIBRON THREE, Commodore TWITE. Once again I extend a hearty WELL DONE to our Supply Department personnel.

In closing, as you can see from the above, MONTICELLO is staying busy and is gaining much recognition for her hard work. We miss all of you at home and will communicate with you via another MONTICELLOGRAM in the near future.


J. J. FLYNN

NO. 1

JUNE

Dear Monticello Wife,

Just a line or two to say HELLO. As your Ombudsman, I am sending you some information which I received from our last PHIBPAC Enlisted Wives Council meeting. Enclosed is a newsletter from the Wives Council plus some information on CHAMPUS. Please read and keep it for reference.

The OMBUDSMAN for the USS Monticello is Clarice Peterson. My job is to be your representative and to help you with ANY PROBLEM you may have. As a representative in the PHIBPAC ENLISTED WIVES COUNCIL, I have been made aware of shortcuts and contacts to help you get in touch with the person or persons best qualified to help you. Names and numbers have been made available for any situation.

I hope in the coming months to send a letter to you with news, helpful hints, information which will benefit you.

DO YOU KNOW A MONTICELLO WIFE???? If you are new to the Navy or to San Diego, let us help each other. If you are interested in meeting some other wives from the Monticello, how about a picnic, or a get-together???? Let us know "I'm new and your help is needed, give me a hand." In May about a dozen wives got together and had coffee and a "gab fest". We can do more, what ideas do you have, do let me know. You will be contacted when and where the next meeting will be held.

NEWS FROM PHIBPAC

Anyone who is interested in the PHIBPAC Fall Craft Festival start thinking about it now. It is a chance to make extra money from your hobbies. The festival is to be held Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado (location to be announced later). There will be an area reserved for the Monticello families who wish to display and sell their crafts. Everyone is WELCOME. Some ideas are knitting, crocheted or needlepoint articles, ceramics, paintings or other sellable items. Sorry no baked goods due to health regulations. Please contact me if you are interested. 475-0835

PHIBPAC FAMILY CLINIC - located in Building 154, Naval Amphibious Base - will be open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Mondays through Thursdays, beginning June 3rd. With the exception of emergencies, the clinic works by appointments only, which may be made by calling 437-2981/2982/2983.

NAVY RELIEF is in need of teenage girls, 14-16 years, to v-lunteer to help with office work during the summer. Call Mrs. Edward LeMasters, 425-1295.

As ever

/s/ CLARICE PETERSON
WIVES OMBUDSMAN
USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35)
475-0835

PHIBPAC WIVES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Elaine Meyer and Helen Martz
Editors

Why borrow or save from a credit union? This and other questions were answered for us last month by Miss Lauren Theiss, a representative from the San Diego Naval Federal Credit Union.

As a non-profit organization, the SDNFCU ranks third largest in the world with more than 80,000 members. For the cost of only \$6 you can become a member, but you must join while in the "field of membership," Naval Training Center, Naval Station 32nd Street, or the Naval Amphibious Base. Naval and civilian employees at these locations are welcome. As long as a balance remains in your account you remain a life-time member even if you should leave the field of membership.

As a member of the SDNFCU you receive 5-3/4% interest on savings and all loans are 12% or less yearly. If your savings amount is the same or more than you want to borrow, you may obtain a share-secured loan at a lower interest rate. At the same time you are paying off your loan, you are still getting paid interest on your savings and receiving your free life insurance on your savings. This life insurance is given to all members dollar for dollar up to \$3,000. These benefits are provided to wives and children with separate membership accounts for the same amount of coverage.

There is also a "Dealer Referral Program" which allows members to purchase new cars, appliances, furniture, boats, and other goods and services at fleet discounts. It is to your advantage to look into these services for savings. For any further question or information, call your credit union or Miss Lauren Theiss at NTC, 233-8060.

Navy Relief can use teenage volunteers ages fourteen to sixteen this summer to work in the children's waiting rooms and for clerical work. This makes an excellent reference for future jobs.

If you have some time and would like to earn some pocket money, the San Diego Welfare Department can use you in its "homemaker service." This service provides to welfare recipients rides to doctors appointments, etc. and pays \$2 per hour. Call Mrs. Eula Hamman for information, 222-6213.

PHIBPAC Clinic--If you have recently called our PHIBPAC Clinic and had any problem getting an appointment or been told appointments can't be made at the time, ask for the person's name and rate and call your ombudswoman representative immediately to report it. There have been some problems recently with the personnel at the appointment desk and the only way to get this straightened out is to know where the problems exist.

Starting June 3, 1974, the hours at the PHIBPAC Clinic were extended from Monday thru Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No more Pap tests at the clinic, make your appointments with the regular dispensary or call the San Diego Health Clinic.

CHAMPUS -- Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services. This program shares the cost of treatment and other health benefits to authorized dependents and retired doctors and specialists care.

Craft Fair -- The PHIBPAC council will sponsor a craft fair entitled "Fall Craft Festival." It will be held on October 5, Saturday, on the Amphibious Base. All are welcome to participate, men and women. If you have a hobby or just enjoy making something that others might like to buy, keep busy during the summer getting items ready for our own Fall Craft Festival. All participants will sell their own goods and pocket their own money. If you would be interested in having a table at the festival call you ombudsman representative to let her know what you will sell. No baked goods, please.

NOTE: In order to comply with Navy Postal Regulations, it is necessary to identify clearly the Wives' Ombudsman Newsletters. Although the newsletters may discuss wives' clubs and other social events, the authority to use Navy franked envelopes stems from the Commanding Officer's selection of his Wives' Ombudsman. Her newsletter is a means of carrying out her official functions for the Commanding Officer. Therefore, the newsletter should be entitled "USS GREYSHIP NEWSLETTER" and the title "Wives' Ombudsman" at end below the signature line.