

USS REEVES (CG-24) FAMILYGRAM

28 September 1984

Dear Family and Friends,

As my last letter ended, we were pierside Yokosuka, preparing to get underway. We hauled in the lines on the 15th of August and set sail for Sasebo, a beautiful seaside city on the west coast of Japan. Our plans were to pull in on the 21st, but two severe storms, (Holly and June) forced us to remain at sea a little longer. For many crewmembers it was their first rough weather and they did just fine. We had been sailing in bathtub conditions since last February, and it was refreshing to have a change in weather.

We arrived (along with the other 5,000 or so sailors that comprise the USS MIDWAY CARRIER BATTLE GROUP) in SASEBO on the 23rd, and found it the perfect place for our inport mission: Rest and Relaxation! As I mentioned earlier, Sasebo is a beautiful city, and the locals really go all out to make us feel welcome. While there, many crewmembers took advantage of a spectacular tour through the city of NAGASAKI. A trip to the museum and a visit to the peace park gave us a first hand look at the horrors of war, and a better appreciation of our own Navy's peaceful mission.

CHAPLAIN MORGAN and his two able assistants, GUNNER'S MATE MISSILES THIRD HARRY IRVIN and DATA SYSTEMS THIRD JOHN PETERSON, made an initial visit to TENSHINRYO ORPHANAGE while in Sasebo. The purpose of the trip was to meet the staff, see the facilities, and assess the potential for future projects there. TENSHINRYO houses 77 children, mostly boys, from age 2 to 18. The orphanage is in a lovely new building and the project is fully funded by the local government. The children are well supplied with all the essentials. The proposal for our next visit will be a baseball game with the boys playing our softball team (if you didn't know, baseball is Japan's national sport!).

Pulling out on the 26th, our schedule picked up. Being Vanguard of the battle group, our responsibilities are great. The REEVES' mission includes all three phases of modern naval warfare: Anti-air, Anti-surface, and Anti-submarine. Along with our normal 'round the clock operations, the GUNNER'S MATES, FIRE CONTROL TECHS, and SONAR TECHS had their chance to shine when we fired both a TERRIER Anti-air missile and an Anti-submarine rocket in early September. Both shoots were highly successful, and demonstrated REEVES' diverse weapons capabilities. And of course we can't leave out the ENGINEERS. If it wasn't for their hard work in the ENGINE and FIRE ROOMS, we would never get underway at all. REEVES' sailors are a highly trained, highly capable team. Let no one doubt it.

After a brief but hectic stop in Yokosuka during the second week in September, we were underway again. This time we participated in a large exercise with the Japanese Navy. Our mission was to maintain the sea lines of communication between Japan and her economic allies. Our combined task force restored freedom of the seas despite persistent opposition of designated air, surface, and subsurface opponents. The Japanese make the entire coordination process easier by speaking English on the radio circuits. Most Japanese learn basic English in primary and secondary schools.

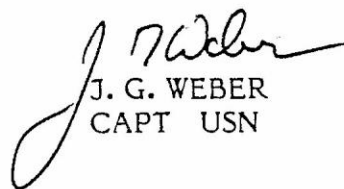
Thanks go to our FOOD SERVICE DIVISION, who prepared steak and shrimp dinner for the following crewmembers during a special day for them. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: ICFA ROBERT JACUK, GMT3 ROBERT CROUCH, SN MIKE THEIM, SMSN LOU CASTILLO, HT1 WILLIE HINSON, STG3 WILLIAM STERLING, FTG2 SCOTT KERR, FTGC JOHN MENDENHALL, EW3 HERSCHEL BROWN, GMM3 DALE ZINK, FTG3 DAVID ZENGULIS, MMFN RAYMOND BALINGIT, SN GERARDO DUPLAN, SN DAVID ULCH, BTFN IVORY ELIJAH, OS3 RICHARD SLUBAR, OS2 LEX KIRBY, SH3 OSCAR MONTENEGRO, EW3 KIM McCANN, EWSN CHRIS MENNEL, MAC DON PARRAMORE, QM2 DANIEL TALCOTT, SN DAVID KENDRICK, SN HAROLD MAGNUSON, SA GERALD KNAPPENBURGER, RMSN ENOCH SAVIOR, AND SK3 CHUCK CHAMBERLAIN. Plans are to make it a monthly event.

"VIDEO FEVER" hit the REEVES recently when the welfare and recreation committee sponsored a video contest, with the prizes being some of the best REEVES could offer: SPECIAL LIBERTY! Coming in first was worth 72 hours, second 48 hours, and third 24 hours. In video football, HULL TECHNICIAN SECOND SCOTTY LANE upset JOURNALIST SEAMAN DALE SNOWBERGER for first, and MACHINIST MATE FIRST CLINT DOUGHERTY took third. In Donkey Kong jr., OPERATIONS SPECIALIST THIRD RICHARD SLUBAR pulled a major upset over OPERATIONS SPECIALIST SEAMAN JORDAN HAM (who had the five all time high scores) for first, with FIREMAN VAUGHN REED placing third. Coordinated by OPERATIONS SPECIALIST SEAMAN MIKE STONE, GUNNER'S MATE MISSILES FIRST MICHAEL JOHNSON, and ENS. JOHN WILEY, the games were rated a success, and future contests are planned. The profits from the games go to our welfare and recreation fund, which helps pay for the off duty recreational activities of all crewmembers.

We received more new people last month, and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome them and their families to "The Only Cruiser In Town": STG3 REX McNUTT, RM2 JOHN WELLS, FTM3 RICHARD BROWN, TM2 DONALD HARVEY, STG3 KEITH FISHER, FTM3 RUSSEL REIGLE, MM3 ROMEO PEREZ, and SM3 CHESTER SMOTHERMAN.

We are finally headed for Yokosuka and a richly deserved rest. This has been a difficult but rewarding six weeks of underway operations with the Midway Battle Group. You may rest assured that your men are all in good health. Thank you for the kind notes and letters. Your words of inspiration are greatly appreciated by all.

Sincerely,



J. G. WEBER
CAPT USN