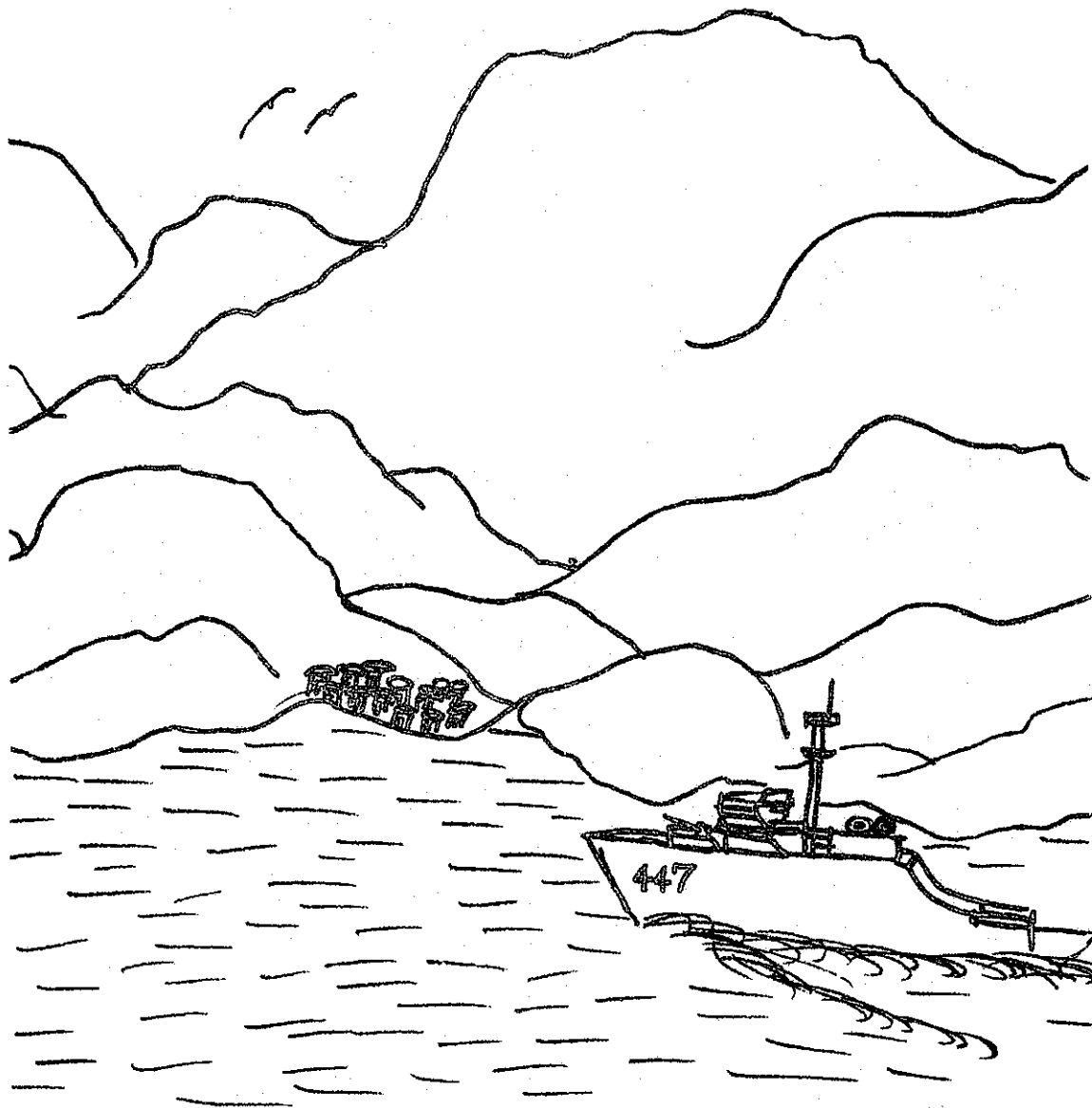


# GUIDE LINES



NEWSLETTER 3 - 61

20 August 1961

Dear Families and Friends of the GUIDE;

As we near our FIFTH month of deployment I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to bring you up-to-date on our latest activities.

My name is Norbert L. MORIARTY, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy. I had the good fortune to relieve Captain Hart on the 12th of July as Commanding Officer of this fine vessel and excellent crew. I am a native of Parsons, Kansas and began my Naval career in 1946 after graduation from the University of Notre Dame. My previous duty, before assuming command of the GUIDE, was Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Training Center, New Haven, Connecticut.

Before I took command of GUIDE, they were engaged in the transit from Sasebo, Japan to Hong Kong, British Crown Colony via the port of Kao-Siung (pronounced cow-shung), Taiwan. Enroute from Sasebo to Kao-Siung, one of our shipmates developed a case of severe abdominal pains that necessitated our leaving the division and proceeding on our own, at maximum speed, to the port of Keelung, Taiwan to transfer WILEY, RM2 to the U. S. Military Advisory Group Dispensary there. WILEY has since recovered completely and is doing fine. After rejoining the formation, GUIDE arrived at Kao-Siung on schedule.

Departing Kao-Siung on 6 July, GUIDE arrived in Hong Kong, B.C.C. on the 8th, and I joined them upon arrival.

The visit to Hong Kong is considered by most people, as the high point of the deployment. Besides being a "photographer's dream" for color and subjects, Hong Kong is also the shopper's paradise of the Far East. Items of every type and description are available and since Hong Kong is a duty free port, prices are quite reasonable.

The colony of Hong Kong itself has an area of 32 square miles with  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles of the ceded territory of Kowloon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  square miles of the island known as Stonecutters and the leased area called New Territories comprising some 355 square miles, making a total area of approximately 391 square miles. Hong Kong Island is very steep and rugged with Victoria Peak, the highest point, 1809 feet in height. The main business center, known as Victoria City, is located on the northern shore of the island. Between the island and Kowloon Peninsula is Hong Kong's famous harbor, with entrance from the east through a gap known as Lyemun Pass which is 500 ft. wide at the narrowest point and capable of taking steamers drawing up to 36 feet of water, even at low tide.

The ceded territory of Kowloon is flat - a range of steep hills, called Nine Dragons, from which the name Kowloon is derived separates the ceded area from the leased area of the New Territories. Most islands in the New territories group are waterless and uninhabited, but Lantau, Ping Chau, Lamma and Cheung Chau islands are the main fishing districts of the Colony.

Lying just south of the Tropic of Cancer, the Hong Kong climate is normally cool, with the seasons well marked. The water supply comes from 15 reservoirs, dependent on the rains of the South-West Monsoon, between May and September.

At the time Britain obtained Hong Kong, the population was about 2,000 Chinese, but today the figure exceeds 3½ million, including British subjects from the United Kingdom and other countries and about 30,000 non-Chinese aliens.

In addition to shopping and sightseeing (Several tours were arranged on both ship-wide and individual basis) the GUIDE was able to continue it's "People-to-People" program with the contribution of blood by crew members for use in the local hospitals. The British Red Cross Organization came on board and accepted donations from various members of the crew. In addition, we were graced by the presence of Officers and men of Her Majesty's Royal Navy at dinner and movie call. Some of us were given the pleasure of accompanying our new found friends on a cruise of the Royal Navy counterpart of the Free World's Mine Force.

It came as quite a disappointment when the Senior Officer Present in Hong Kong ordered all ships to sea to take evasive action to avoid the approaching Typhoon "Elsie". We had planned on two more days in that fascinating city but were in no mood to hang around just to see how tough "Elsie" might be. Some of these storms have the capacity of completely wrecking a ship, should she be caught unprepared. At noon on the 14th of July, we set sail for the south leaving behind many fond memories and friends, as well as quite a few new clothes that our tailors had not quite finished.

After "Elsie" had cleared, we turned north and steamed back to Kao-Siung, Taiwan for a combined U.S.-Republic of China mine exercise. The exercise was conducted off the east coast of Taiwan and demonstrated that Chinese and American Minesweepers could effectively clear minefields together, should that necessity ever arise in our struggle with Communism. It was our first minesweeping exercise since before deployment and GUIDE won the distinction of being acclaimed the "Best Minesweeper of the Operation" by the Officer in Tactical Command.

On 22 July we departed for Sasebo, Japan. Once again we were required to cross the path of a typhoon but managed to avoid her with only one day of rough weather and arrived in Sasebo on the 26th of July. During our period of upkeep in Sasebo, we were once again alerted for the purpose of avoiding typhoons, this time they were doubling up on us. "Helen" and "Ida" were both bearing in on us from the south carrying winds up to 100 miles per hour. All liberty was cancelled and the ship proceeded out into the middle of the harbor to the typhoon anchorage where we would be safe from the winds battering us against anything but water. We swung to and fro on a buoy and settled down to await the two young "ladies". Fortunately, "Helen" wore herself out when she hit a mass of land and diminished to nothing but a strong breeze with rain. "Ida" too was broken up by a land mass and gave us no trouble. We returned to the pier on 1 August and completed final preparations for the scheduled mine exercise and amphibious landing exercise in Korea.

Departing Sasebo on 5 August, after many delays and possible cancellations, we steamed overnight to P'ohang-dong, Korea for the combined EIGHTH U. S. Army landing exercise and mine exercise. The exercise was a complete success and the "doggies" were able to establish their beachhead without suffering any casualties from simulated mine explosions.

Upon return to Sasebo, GUIDE and the rest of Mine Division NINETY-THREE received a new "Boss". LCDR W. A. STEADLEY, USN was relieved as Commander Mine Division NINETY-THREE by Commander G. A. AUBERT, U. S. Navy in charge of command ceremonies held on board USS LEADER (MSO-490) on 12 August.

During our 2 day stay in Sasebo, we replenished our supplies of provisions and fuel and on 14 August we set sail for Subic Bay, Philippine Islands.

We arrived here in Subic yesterday, the 19th. Currently, we are re-stocking supplies for a 2 week "good will tour" of several small Philippine cities. News of our visit will be incorporated in our next copy of "Guide Lines"

The personnel situation has changed only slightly since our deployment. It was with regret that we transferred the following personnel:

MARAK, Charles A., EM2(P1), USN to Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Training Center, Springfield, Missouri for a normal tour of shore duty.

HUND, Wilbur P., EN3, USN, To Commanding Officer, U. S. S. WOODPECKER (MSC-209) at Sasebo, Japan for non-rotated duty within the Mine Force.

HICKMAN, Leslie W Jr., BT2, USN, To Commanding Officer, U. S. S. PREBLE (DLG-15) for duty with the Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet

We shall miss their familiar faces but wish them the best of luck and smooth sailing in their new duty stations.

Additions to our family include the following:

DELANDRAE, Terry R., SN, USN, from Commander Mine Division THIRTY-THREE at Sasebo. His Mother, Mrs Lucille Pressett resides in Columbia, Utah. Terry came over with us on our last deployment in 1959 and stayed on non-rotated duty until we returned this trip.

THOMPSON, Melvin R Jr., BT2, USN from U.S.S. PREBLE (DLG-15) whose wife, Lillian and 2 girls reside in Long Island, N.Y.

To these persons, we extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard" and our sincere hope that this tour of duty will prove to be most rewarding. To our new families, we extend our greetings and assign the task of aiding us in keeping your husband/son in a high state of good morale at all times by writing often and taking care of his interests while he is far away from home in the defense of our American way of life

Due to our rigorous operating schedule and attempts at dodging typhoons, we have had little opportunity to carry out our sports program. We did manage to beat out the LUCID in a softball game prior to leaving Sasebo and our softball record now stands at 1 win and no losses. It is our intention to "clean sweep" the rest of the competition and earn the "Commodore's Cup" for the year.

I'm sure that you at home are quite aware of the very serious Communist threat that we face today - particularly in Berlin at the present time, as well as the ever increasing tension in southeast Asia. As you probably know, President KENNEDY has asked Congress for approval to increase the military budget, call up the Reserve Armed Forces and to retain for a longer period of service, those men scheduled to be released to inactive duty. We must meet the Communist challenge and the only way to do this is with trained men and equipment - military force, if necessary. We of the GUIDE are ready to do our part to meet this challenge and are aware of the many requirements for personal sacrifice. As we receive more exact information concerning requirements and directives issued by the Navy Department, we will do our best to keep your Navy man on the GUIDE informed, as well as the dependents and friends at home. Please let me hear from you if you have any specific questions.

Once again, the following are some addresses that you may want or need during the remainder of our deployment.

American Red Cross  
U.S. Naval Station (Bldg 111)  
Long Beach 2, California  
PHONE: TE-2-3311, Ext 377 or 378

Navy Relief Society  
Long Beach Auxiliary  
U. S. Naval Station (Bldg 2)  
Long Beach 2, California  
PHONE: TE-2-3311, EXT 1362

Legal Aid Office  
U. S. Naval Station (Bldg 128)  
Long Beach 2, California  
PHONES: TE-2-3311, EXT 1200 or 1332

Force Chaplains Office  
Commander Mine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet  
U. S. Naval Station (Bldg 543)  
Long Beach 2, California  
PHONE: TE-2-3311, EXT 589 or 1554

Naval Station Dispensary  
Terminal Island  
U. S. Naval Station (Bldg 2)  
Long Beach 2, California  
PHONES: TE-3-3568, TE-3-6615, TE-3-6776 or TE-3-6828

Medicare Office  
U. S. Naval Station (Bldg 2)  
Long Beach 2, California  
PHONES - SAME AS DISPENSARY

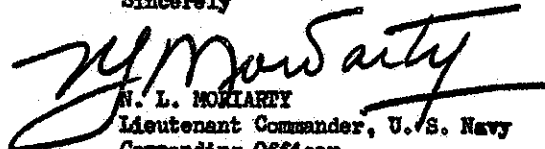
The ship's correct addresses are as follows:

For Mail	U. S. S. GUIDE (MSO-447) c/o Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California
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For Telegrams: U. S. S. GUIDE (MSO-447)  
c/o U. S. Naval Communications Station  
San Francisco, California

It is sincerely hoped that the information contained herein will be of some small help in keeping you informed of our current activities and aid you in understanding our reason for deployment. Each day brings us closer to our homes and loved ones. We are grateful for your outstanding record of keeping us informed and the priceless manner in which you have helped us to keep our morale high. You have been voted the "Families and Friends we'd most like to come home to."

Sincerely

  
N. L. MORIARTY  
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
U. S. S. GUIDE (MSO-447)