

1 December 1970

Dear Friends,

Another month has gone by here at the Coast Guard Loran Station located just outside the village of Gesashi, Okinawa, and once again I will try to condense that time into a short letter to tell you, the family and friends of this crew, what we did during the month of November 1970.

November passed through at a very fast rate, leaving the station a little breathless, but possibly in better shape. During the first part of the month, I travelled to Fuchu, Japan, to our section office for a Commanding Officer's Conference. There I was able to pick up little ideas from other stations that will hopefully be instigated on this unit as improvements. Two areas that have already changed as a result of that conference are the sprouting of beards and a physical exercise period every day.

Back on the station, our combination tennis court and basketball court received the final touches of re-surfacing, providing us with another consumer of spare time. However, spare time was lessened by preparations for an inspection by the Fourteenth District Chief of Staff, Captain GOULD. In his inspection report, the captain stated, "The appearance of personnel at inspection was very good. Materiel inspection was also very good. It is a happy station." A fitting tribute to the men that work very hard to make this one of the best, if not the best, unit in the Coast Guard.

We also hosted other, unofficial, visitors this month. A group of about 60 or 70 Cub Scouts and fathers utilized our beach as an overnight camping area, and got the "cook's tour" of the station. An added, unexpected, adventure for them was a tour of a helicopter, compliments of a Marine Corps crew that landed at our station just before the visitors left. Two Navy chaplains dropped in on the last Sunday of the month to hold an informal worship service, and after partaking of one of our famously delicious meals, promised to come back as often as possible. Probably the most successful and enjoyable event of the month was the Thanksgiving celebration. We invited the Okinawan personnel that work on the station and their families to share in the festivities. The company was very much enjoyed, and they all seemed to have a good time, indicative of the true meaning of Thanksgiving as started by the Pilgrims.

One evening during the month, we had a different type of visitor - two ships. As the Pacific Ocean is right in our front yard, a passing ship is not unusual. This particular evening, however, two ships, approximately 175 to 200 feet in length, anchored about 1 - 2 miles off the point of land on which the station is situated. As darkness descended, we decided to try to signal the ships and just pass the time with them. Our improvised signal light, a search light for source and the bottom of a beer case box for flasher, sent out plain language, an abbreviated plain language, and international code signals to no avail. However, for awhile we were certain that a weak light was being used to return the signal. Getting out the field glasses and a telescope, we finally identified our phantom communicator as a

fixed light on the ship with part of the rigging between it and us. The gentle sea motion had caused the light to disappear and re-appear from behind the line, giving an impression of dots and dashes.

Personnel turnover on the station was rather lopsided, six people arriving and only one person departing. BMCM Donald HORSLEY came to us from the USCGC MALLOW, a buoy tender out of Guam. ET1 Larry BILSKI, ET3 Edison COLIO, Jr., and SNET Quentin MUHLY all came from school at Governors Island, where the first had been an instructor and the second and third had been students. SA Phillip O'BRYANT and SA Norman BIR are seeing this as their first duty assignment in the Coast Guard. Our lone departee, SN Kenny JONES, now has the good fortune to be assigned to duty in his home town, New Orleans. Promotions continue on the station with FA Jesse MIRELES making Fireman, and SA Lindon CARMENCKE making Seaman. Although he is no longer stationed here, we would like to congratulate Tim CHESSER on his marriage, and the newlyweds happiness and success for the future. And, Tim, I'm sorry that I had to turn down all 38 requests to attend your wedding on the East Coast.

The condensation has lost some by its brevity, but I am sure that when your man is returned to you after his tour is finished here, he will be able to fill in the blanks and then some. In closing, we would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

Sincerely yours,

David H. LYON, LTJG, USCG  
Commanding Officer