

1 August 1970

Dear Friends,

Even though there were only the normal 31 days in the month of July, it has seemed to be the longest month in my four months stationed here on the island. As is my custom, I will try to bring you, the families and friends of crew members of the Coast Guard Loran Station at Gesashi, Okinawa, up to date on what we are doing a third of the way around the world.

July started off quickly for us, with Typhoon OLGA making herself felt, almost as growing pains for the new month. Winds and rain began on the First, and built until the Fourth, when the eye passed about 50 miles west of Okinawa. "Typhoon" is the term used in the Pacific Ocean near China to identify what is scientifically called a tropical cyclone. Other terms indicating the same type of storm are the baguios in the Philippines, the cyclone in India, and the hurricane in the Atlantic and Pacific waters near Mexico, Central America, and Australia. Typhoon OLGA was gentle with us, dying down as she neared us, and so, passed causing no damage. Hopefully, any others that develop during the season (July through October) will be as considerate.

In my letters to date, I have failed to keep you informed in a subject which is important to all of us - in service or civilian life. The subject is promotion or advancement. The Coast Guard enlisted ratings, or pay grades, are similar to all other services in that they range from a beginning E-1, or recruit, through E-9, the highest enlisted rating possible. E-1 through E-3 pay grades are considered non-rated steps, as the man has not yet chosen a specialty. E-4 through E-6 ratings are designated as third class, second class, and first class petty officers respectively. E-7 through E-9 are chief petty officer ratings, E-7 being designated as chief petty officer, E-8 as senior chief petty officer, and E-9 as master chief petty officer. All petty officers (E-4 through E-9) work in a chosen field, and advancement in that field is accomplished through a combination of performance in the specialty, resident schools, correspondence courses, service-wide exams, and leadership.

Since I assumed command, 4 months ago, it has been my pleasure and privilege to promote 5 station personnel to higher pay grades. Buddy EATON was advanced from FA (Fireman Apprentice, E-2) to FN (Fireman, E-3). (Here a note of some help: If a man intends to go into an engineering specialty, he will become a fireman in recruit training. Personnel going into specialties other than engineering will become seamen.) Bob "Otis" MURDOCK advanced from SNTT (E-3) to TT3, (Telephone Technician, third class petty officer). Bill LAKIN made the same advancement, from SNET to ET3 (Electronics Technician)

as did Monte OWNBEY, from FNEN to EN3 (Engineman). Dick AUBE was the fifth member of the crew to climb the promotion ladder, going from ET3 (E-4) to ET2 (E-5) a second class petty officer. I am happily certain that I will have more advancement announcements in the future.

Personnel turn-over for the month of July was quite light in comparison with what it has been in past months, with only 3 new arrivals and 2 departures. SA Lindon CARMENCKE arrived from recruit training in time to help prepare the station for Typhoon OLGA, and SAEW Rodney DARWIN was on one of the first planes to land on the island after OLGA departed. Leaving that same day, SN Dick PERRIZO is on his way to Damage Controlman School at Governors Island, New York. The morning of the 8th brought about the arrival of the new executive officer, CWO Lowell ANDREWS, from the Coast Guard Air Station, Brooklyn, hectic relief procedures, and the departure of our then past exec, CWO Darrell COLLIER, who will be stationed at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D. C.

In keeping with the traditions of the Coast Guard, we were able to render assistance to a person in need in a rather unusual manner this month. One of the Okinawan hospitals close to our station depleted its supply of type B+ blood and required more for an emergency operation. We responded 100% when SA Lindon CARMENCKE donated a pint of his blood, as he was the only member of the crew with the necessary blood type. Others in the crew offered but were respectfully declined as hospital supplies were sufficient in all other types.

That just about wraps up the news for the month of July 1970, organized and originating from the Coast Guard Loran Station, situated just outside the little village of Gesashi, Okinawa, overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean. I will be back again next month, same time, same station, to once again bring you news from the Far East. Until then, good night Chet.

Sincerely,

David H. LYON, LTJG, USCG
Commanding Officer