

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
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Primary sources:

- * A History of the USS Calvert (APA-32), David B. Cullen
- * Calversion editions, published by John Cole
- * USS Calvert's Personnel Diaries, when available from the National Archives Catalog (online)
- * USS Calvert's Deck Log Books, when available from the National Archives Catalog (online)

Notes:

- * Times: All times are in "24-hour" time. For example, 0000 is midnight, 0400 is 4am, ... 1200 is noon, 2000 is 8pm ..., and so on.
- * When possible the details are corroborated, and in some cases corrected, by official Navy records.

Introduction

This document is a chronologically ordered set of historical research notes for the period January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1959.

Chronological highlights for this period include:

- * 1955
 - * Upkeep and local operations, January and February.
 - * Fifth Far East Cruise - March 31, 1955 - September 30th, 1955.
 - * San Diego area, October.
 - * Joint Navy and Marine exercises near Camp Pendleton, November.
 - * Upkeep, leave, and personnel advancement training December.

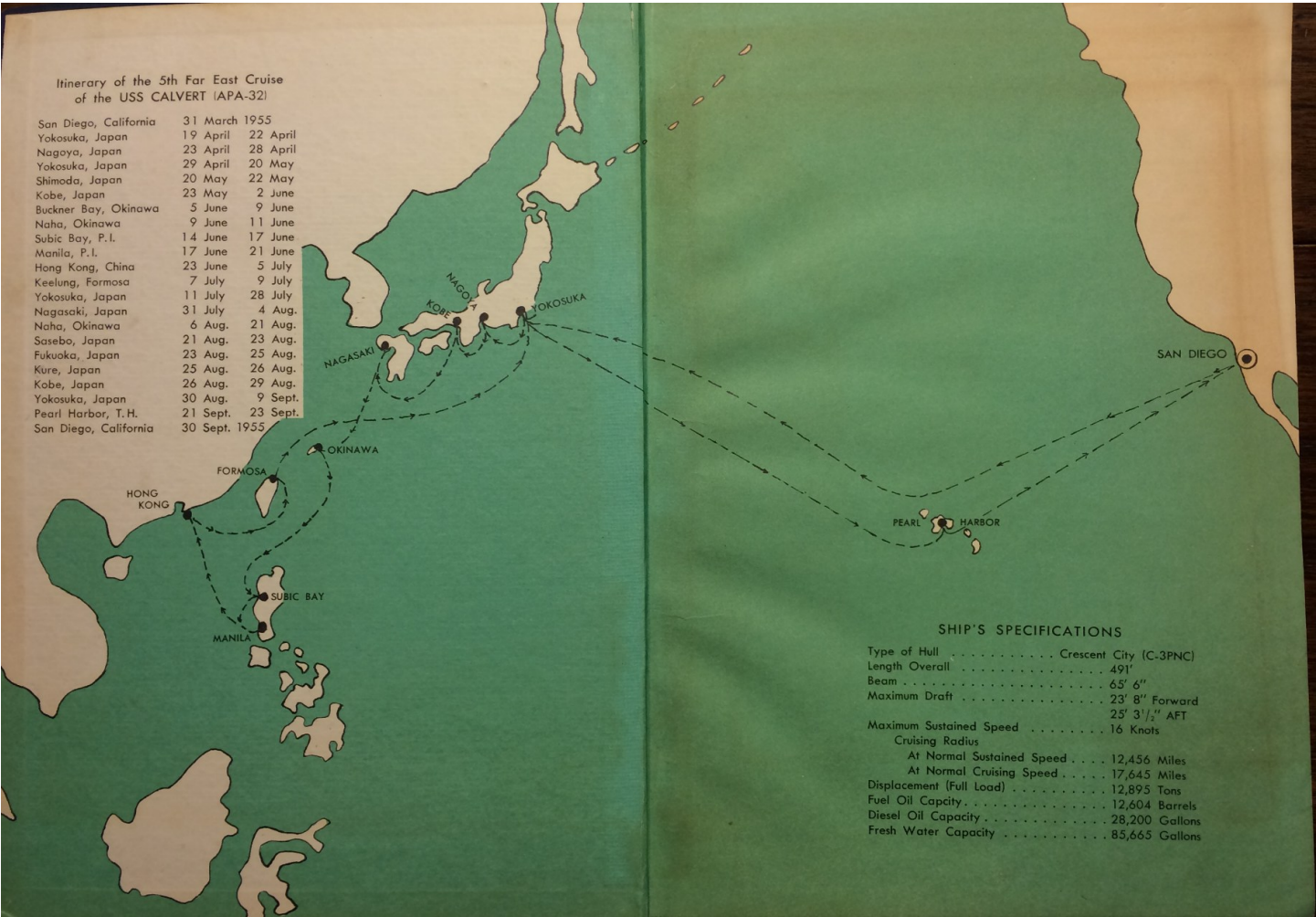
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1955	January & February		San Diego area (presumed)	The Calvert and crew underwent a routine schedule of leave, unkeep and local operations.	Cullen, Page 22
1955	March	12		Captain Adolph J Peterson, USN, relieved Captain Frederick V.H. Hilles, USN, as Commanding Officer.	Cullen, Page 22

Fifth Far East Cruise - March 31, 1955 - September 30th, 1955

See related photos and itinerary in the Calvert's 1955 Far East Cruise Book at: <http://www.usscalvert.com/crew/1955-far-east-cruise-book/>



Source: The USS Calvert's 5th Far East Cruise Book
Online:
<http://www.usscalvert.com/crew/1955-far-east-cruise-book/>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1955	March 31 to April 19		Steaming from San Diego to Yokosuka, Japan	1) On March 31, 1955, the Calvert departed San Diego and began the 19 day journey across the Pacific to Yokosuka, Japan. For some men this was a new experience, while for others it was the repetition of a past experience, but all hands aboard were happy to set foot on solid ground when we arrived in Yokosuka on the 19th day of April. 2) We deployed to the Far East and became Amphibious Group, Western Pacific. The trip across included a very pleasant stop at Honolulu and a pretty stiff storm just before Japan. A reserve convoy commodore and his staff of four rode with us, conducting simulated convoy exercises on the way, using merchant ship signals -- whistle, strings of lights on the mast and special flag hoists. It was warm weather by the time of our arrival in Yokosuka, and the troops ashore were wearing skaki, instead of our more comfortable whites and short sleeve shirts.	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Calversion Vol 9, P7 - Kemp Tolley
1955	April	19 - 22	Yokosuka, Japan	1) Yokosuka was the home port of our ship while operating in the Far East. It ranked at the top of the list of favorite 'liberty' ports among the crew with an advantage displayed by its easy accessibility to Tokyo, (an hour and a quarter by train), Yokohama (less than an hour's time), and Beppu (about an hour). The crowded shopping areas, the marquees of the cabaret sections and the stateside atmosphere of the finest Enlisted Men's Club know to men-of-warriors combine to make Yokosuka. "This is the fabulous Enlisted Men's Club at Yokosuka, the largest, most colorful whitehat's club in the world! Navymen say it has more variety than Paree, more variety than Ziegfield! A full meal will cost you less than a bowl of Bowery beans and for less than five bucks you can take your pick of a variety of entertainment. The club boasts a theater, dining room, snack bar, dance hall and several bars."	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	April	23-28	Nagoya, Japan	"A brief visit to Nagoya, Japan."	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Cullen, Page 22
1955	April 29 to May 20		Yokosuka, Japan		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
Black Ship Festival, Shimoda					
1) Shimoda, Japan - May 20-22 - To commemorate this historic event, and to pay homage to those pioneers who played the important part in opening Japan to the world, the first Black Ship Festival was held in 1934 under the auspices of those interested. It served to enhance the friendly relations between the United States and Japan.					
Shimoda: A hill enclosed fishing port (of about, then, 8,000 population) located on the southern tip of the IZU peninsula. It is a small industrial town primarily dependent on it's fishing industry. It is the best on the peninsula.					
1955	May	20-22	Shimoda, Japan	2) Black Ship Festival The Black Ships of the past have returned to the shores of Yokosuka, Japan, and once again Commodore Perry is greeted by the people as he was 102 years ago. This is the 1955 Black Ship Festival, a celebration in commemoration of the arrival of Perry's fleet in 1853. U.S. Navymen and citizens of Yokosuka donned costumes of that day and reenacted the historic event. The week's activities included a parade through the city with colorful floats depicting highlights in Yokosuka's history, and the Naval Station band and Marine drum and bugle corps. The Japanese dressed in the colorful costumes of the past and Miss Fleet Activities and Miss Yokosuka added to the beauty of the event. The festival's name is derived from the Japanese description of Perry's four vessels. When they first saw the dark silhouettes of the ships anchored in Tokyo Bay, they referred to them as "Black Ships."	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) All Hands, September 1955 - Number 463 - Black Ship Festival - P15 https://books.google.com/books?id=iKngzC24-yAC&pg=RA8-PA15&lpg=RA8-PA15&dq=black+ship+festival+1955



Decorations for Black Ship Festival
Shimoda, Japan



Navy Band by Hatch #4, Shimoda, Japan

Al Bradbury collection
Online:
<https://www.usscalvert.com/2016/04/10/al-bradbury-rdm-53-56-54-far-east-cruise-photographs/>

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1955	May	20-22	Shimoda, Japan	The Calvert entertained approximately 3,000 men, women and school children by conducting them on a tour of the ship. This aided in promoting a successful Black Ship Festival in 1955.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
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Personnel helping to direct children are L to R: C.H. Hahn, L.A. Copeland, Chief Hansen, and H.F. Hatherill.



USS Calvert envelope cachet stamp, Black Ship Festival, and cover cancellation.

Acquired on eBay, July 18, 2024

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1955	May 23 to June 2		Kobe, Japan	2) Returning to Kobe on 24 May, the Calvert embarked units of the 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division and proceeded to Kinmu Wan, Okinawa	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Cullen, Page 22
1955	June	2 - 5	Kobe to Okinawa		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
				Naha, Okinawa	
1955	June	5	Naha, Okinawa	 Okinawa as it looked to us when we arrived at Naha, the capital, on June 5th 1955.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
				Navmarlex 1-1955 Exercise, Okinawa	
1955	June	5 - 9	Naha, Okinawa & Kinmu Wan, Buckner Bay, Okinawa	2) On 3-7 June, Navmarlex 1-1955 (Navy-Marine assault landing exercise) was conducted. 3) TACRON 12 Det. "A" - "Airdales" on an APA may be a strange sight to the "Web Feet" but the amphibians can't go anywhere without them. The four aviators and four non-aviator officers, plus their crew of fourteen men, had the responsibility of planning for and controlling all air support in the objective area for the two landing exercises in which the Calvert was Flagship on this cruise. The TACRON detachment, functioning as COMPHIBRON's air staff, ran the air section of Joint Ops and proved they were first-rate sailors throughout their tour aboard. The TACRON twelve Detachment "A", was the first to be so deployed on an APA for a full WESTPAC cruise. They fit in with the crew and were really glad to have served aboard the Calvert.	1, 3) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Cullen, Page 22

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Swim call, Okinawa					
1955	June	9 - 11	Naha, Okinawa		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book Photograph: Al Bradbury collection Online: https://www.usscalvert.com/2016/04/10/al-bradbury-rdm-53-56-54-far-east-cruise-photographs/
1955	June	12 - 14	Okinawa to Subic Bay		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
Liberty and recreation, Subic Bay, P.I.					
1955	June	15 - 17	Subic Bay, P.I.	We moored to buoy No 14 Subic Bay Harbor, Philippine Island on June 15th (just after NAVMARLEX 1-55 operation at Okinawa) for two days of liberty and recreation. There were few complaints from the crew, as we all look forward to those good old days of R&R. The Naval reservation, the town of Olongapo, and outlying villages with a population of (then) 20,000 make up Subic Bay. The main source of livelihood among the local inhabitants is employment within the Naval establishment.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	June	17 - 21	Manila Bay, P.I.	1) On June 17th we left Subic Bay and within a few hours, crossed Manila Bay and were moored to pier three in Manila, the Capital and Republic of the Philippines' only large city. As most visitors, we got the impression of being in a small city, but actually Manila in general is a huge unplanned city and mixture of old and new, Western and Oriental. Also, being superimposed upon and intermingled with the old Filipino parts of the city are architectural styles and other vestiges of nearly 400 years of Spanish Domination, 50 years of American Rule and a modern Filipino Post War Veneer. Most Filipinos in Manila wear western style clothes and almost all speak English.	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book

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 Eclipse at Noon Manila, Philippines  The Eclipse at Noon, Manila, Philippines AI Bradbury collection Online: https://www.usscalvert.com/2016/04/10/al-bradbury-rdm-53-56-54-far-east-cruise-photographs/					
1955	June 23 to July 5		Hong Kong, China & Kowloon, China	A trip to Hong Kong marks the High Point of a cruise in the Far East. After eleven days of rest and recreation, it all had to come to and end. For a large part of the Calvert crew this will be the last visit to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. We set sail for Keelung, Formosa, and are on our way to another new port and many new and interesting sights.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	July	7 - 9	Keelung, Formosa	Yes, we were here - Keelung, Formosa - one of three natural harbors on the island, is formed by a deep indentation in the coast line and protected from tropical storms by a rugged mountain chain. The ships in the harbor are abundant with the yields of the surrounding countryside; tea and pinapples from the tree covered slopes, rice and sugar from the lowlands and ordinary vegetables and tropical fruit from all over. In the ships, on the streets, and in the fields there's a hum of activity as the people of Formosa work to keep their freedom.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	July	11 - 28	Yokosuka, Japan	2) Korean War "ends" - The fighting ended on 27 July 1953, when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War
1955	July	28	To Naha, Okinawa, via Nagasaki	On 28 July 1955, the Calvert sailed, via Nagasaki to Naha, Okinawa	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	July 31 to Aug 4		Nagasaki, Japan		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1955	August	4-5	Nagasaki to Okinawa		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
NAVARLEX 1-55 Exercise, Okinawa					
1955	August	6 - 21	Naha, Okinawa Buckner Bay - anchorage	1) NAVARLEX 1-55 was the second operation we held in Okinawa and was similar to the first (i.e., Navmarlex 1-1955 above, early June) except the participants were different. This time it was the Army instead of the Marines. The operation (exercise) was completed with the same smoothness and effectiveness as the preceeding one. Being the largest such operation (exercise) held on Okinawa since World War 2, a lot of work went into the execution of it and the crew highly deserved the "Well Done" given to them by the Squadron Commander. 2) Embarked were units of the Army's 75th Regimental Combat team. Conducted Navarlex 1-55 at Kinmu Wan on 13-18 August.	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Cullen, Page 22
1955	August	21	Okinawa to Sasebo		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	August	21 - 23	Sasebo, Japan		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	August	23 - 25	Fukuoka, Japan	1) On our return to Yokosuka following the second exercise, we stopped briefly at Sasebo, Fukuoka and Kure. 2) The Calvert transited the Strait of Shimonoseki and the Inland Sea enroute to Yokosuka. 3) Note: "The Kanmon Straits or the Straits of Shimonoseki is the stretch of water separating Honshu and Kyushu, two of Japan's four main islands."	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Cullen, Page 22 3) Google
1955	August	25 - 26	Kure, Japan		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	August	26 - 29	Kobe, Japan		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	August 30 to September 9		Yokosuka, Japan		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	September	9	Yokosuka, Japan to San Diego	2) On 9 September 1955 sailed for San Diego.	1) 1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) Cullen, Page 22
1955	September	21 - 23	Pearl Harbor, T.H.		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
1955	September	24 - 30	Underway to San Diego, CA		1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book
End of the Calvert's Fifth Far East Cruise					

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				San Diego	
1955	September	30	San Diego	1) It was a foggy, gloomy day as the Calvert slowly moved into San Diego Bay on the morning of September 30th. But the spirits of the men aboard were bright with anticipation, for this was the long awaited day of homecoming - the return to family and friends after an absence of six months. Though the Cruise was very enjoyable, it did seem wonderful to be home again. 2) <u>8 Ships Due Today From Far East Duty</u> Home Port Awaits Biggest Contingent Of Amphibious Vessels In Several Months Six-month tour of Far Eastern duty will be completed by eight Amphibious Force ships when they arrive at their home port here today. They will comprise the biggest contingent of amphibious vessels to return in several months. Scheduled to dock at 9:30am: USS Calvert, Pier 2, Naval Station. The USS Calvert is the flagship of Amphibious Squadron Five. She will be carrying Captain Kemp Tolley, squadron commander.	1955 - 5th Far East Cruise Book 2) San Diego Union, September 30 (Friday), 1955, p.b-1
1955	October		San Diego (presumed)	Details are not known for the month of October.	
				Pactralex 56L Exercise, Camp Pendleton	
1955	November	7 - 18?	Camp Pendleton	In November, with units of the 3rd Marine Division embarked, the Calvert participated in Pactralex 56L at Camp Pendleton. 2) 7 Nov to 18 Nov: The 1st Marine Division (—) supported by the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (—) combined with naval personnel for participation in a major fleet training exercise (PACTRAEX 56L) at Camp Pendleton, California to provide specialized training for commands of the Pacific Fleet. Landings on 15 November were 'opposed' by Force Troops Marines stationed at 29 Palms, California.	Cullen, Page 22 2) A Chronology of the United States Marine Corps, 1947-1964, Volume III, 1971, Pg 32
Late November to December 31, 1955			San Diego	The Calvert went into a period of leave and upkeep status: Late-November 1955 to Mid-January 1956	Cullen, Page 22
End of research notes for the period January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1955.					

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