

# Prairie, Collett Take Part in Japan Festival

The USS *Prairie*(AD15) and USS *Collett*(DD730) participated in the 25th annual Black Ship Festival at Shimoda, Japan.

The festival commemorates the arrival of Commodore Oliver H. Perry in Japan 110 years ago. The historic event is considered the opening of Japan to foreign commerce.

The CruDesPac ships put in at Shimoda on May 16. *Prairie* fired an 11-gun salute beginning the three-day festival and Mayor Fumio Tonooka of Shimoda called on the *Prairie* and *Collett* skippers Capt. Kenneth Steen and Cmdr. W.W. Bischof, respectively.

*Collett's* 20th commissioning anniversary also fell on the first day of the festival and Mayor Tonooka was invited to cut a ceremonial cake in the ship's wardroom when he boarded.

## A Historical City

Shimoda is a fishing community with a population of about 30,000. It was there that negotiations were begun on the Treaty of Trade and Amity between Japan and the United States in 1856.

On the second day of the festival, Rear Adm. Walter H. Price, ComNavForJapan, and his wife lead a festival parade of American and Japanese dignitaries and marching units. The parade wound up to the city's Black Ship Memorial Park, where Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira made a speech citing Japanese and American collaboration for peace.



Mayor Fumio Tonooka of Shimoda, Japan and Cmdr. W.W. Bischof, commanding officer of the USS *Collett*(DD730), cut *Collett's* 20th anniversary cake on May 16 aboard the ship at the Black Ship port. The anniversary fell on the first day of this year's Black Ship festival.

Peace doves were released in a final gesture for continued good relations between Japan and the United States and improved relations throughout the world.

On the last of the three festival days, the *Prairie* softball team was beaten in a goodwill game with the Shimoda All-stars, 10-8.

General visiting was held during the festival with ships shuttling guests to the anchorages.