



THE USS LAFFEY (DD-724) is the second ship of the fleet to bear the name, the first (DD-489) being sunk in an engagement with two Japanese cruisers off Savo Island in 1942, receiving the Presidential Unit Citation for her gallant action.

LAFFEY (DD-724) was commissioned 6 February 1944 and was assigned to convoy duty in the North Atlantic. The morning of 6 June 1944 found her off the beaches of Normandy delivering pre-invasion gunfire support. Departing the assault area on 10 June, she received a message from the beach, "... will call on you again when we have another opportunity to plaster them". LAFFEY concluded her European operations in bombardment of the Cherbourg defenses receiving her first hit, a dud shell, from a German pillbox.

Having escorted a convoy to the United States, LAFFEY was refitted with new equipment, a new crew, and a new screen, the Pacific, via the Panama canal, arriving at Ulithi on 23 November after serving as convoy escort from Pearl Harbor. With other units of Desron 50, she reported to Leyte Gulf as a screening and gunfire support ship, patrolling the area and assisting in troop landings on Mindoro.

In January 1945 LAFFEY was in Lingayen Gulf as a part of the invasion group after which she acted as a screening ship for Task Force 58 making air strikes against Japan and embarking up Iwo Jima. Next came Okinawa with other units of Task Group 54 where she assisted in the capture of Kerama Retto.

While on Radar Picket Station One off Okinawa, LAFFEY was attacked by 22 aircraft within 79 minutes.

Between 0837 and 0946, she shot down nine enemy, was hit by eight suicide planes five of which carried bombs, was hit by four conventional bombs and by an American P4U Corsair. In the roar of battle with personnel casualties mounting to 103, the Commanding Officer sent a message, "... I will not abandon ship while a gun will fire". Six days later she turned eastward as a convoy escort, her remaining guns ready to fire. Entering the yards for repair, the Japanese surrendered before she could return to battle. LAFFEY was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Since World War II, LAFFEY has remained in the forefront of action. In 1951 she was engaged in Korea, a world cruise made 1954 memorable; 1956 saw her on the scene of the Suez crisis and, in 1961, she became the first escort for the new nuclear powered aircraft carrier ENTERPRISE. In 1962 she entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for modification to her present Fram II configuration, emerging from the yard in time to participate in the Cuban Quarantine. During the past decade she has operated with Task Group Alfa in the Atlantic Fleet and in the Persian Gulf, participating in extensive anti-submarine operations yet maintaining her proficiency in gunfire support and anti-air warfare thus displaying the flexibility which is the hallmark of the destroyer.

A brief rundown of the past two years affords an idea of LAFFEY'S "constantly on the move" activities.

On 12 June 1964, LAFFEY departed Norfolk for a Midshipman Training Cruise to the Mediterranean with ASW Group Four. She was back in Norfolk on 4

September after stops in several ports in Spain, France, and Italy.

January 1965 saw her again in Norfolk Naval Shipyard for overhaul followed by refresher training off Cuba in April. In June, she again departed Norfolk for a five month deployment to the Mediterranean and the Middle East. This cruise was highlighted by visits to such exotic ports as Mombasa, Kenya; Djibouti, French Somaliland; Aden; Assab, Ethiopia; Port Sudan, Sudan; Port Suez, United Arab Republic; Piraeus, Greece; Naples, Italy; Messina, Sicily; Valencia, Spain, and Palma, Majorca. LAFFEY again saw home on 6 November.

After spending the remainder of 1965 in Norfolk, LAFFEY left on 7 January for a month in Key West, Florida, acting as school ship for the Fleet Sonar School.

LAFFEY spent most of February in Norfolk but on 7 March again headed south, this time to the Caribbean and Operation Springboard, the annual Atlantic Fleet Training Exercise.

LAFFEY returned to Norfolk on 2 April 1966. After a week of intensive maintenance she began a series of anti-submarine exercises lasting until 1 July.

Back in Norfolk, she had another maintenance upkeep period in preparation for another deployment to the Mediterranean. On 22 July she was underway along with units of Desron 36.

After Inchope to the Sixth Fleet on 1 August, she proceeded to Italy. A three day stop at Ischia and a nine day visit to Naples was followed by training anchorage at Argostoli, Greece, where she remained until 5 September.

Four days later she arrived at Istanbul, Turkey, where she remained until 16 September. 29 September began a twelve day tender availability period in Valletta, Malta. Here, on 4 October, Commander G. H. Davis relieved Commander N. L. Kaufman as Commanding Officer of LAFFEY.

On 25 October, LAFFEY arrived in Beirut, Lebanon, for a seven day visit. While in Beirut, she presented 87 mattresses to orphanages and twenty-four cartons of textbooks to schools. The ship's combo provided entertainment at the opening of the Navy Canteen in Beirut as well as at the dedication of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Cultural Center there.

From Beirut, LAFFEY returned to Italy for a two day stop in Naples and a ten day visit in Genoa. From Genoa, LAFFEY proceeded to Barcelona, Spain, where a ceremony was held on board for the presentation to the Supply Department for the "E" for Excellence.

On 8 December, LAFFEY arrived in Gibraltar for turnover and Outchop from the Sixth Fleet. On the following day, LAFFEY and the other units of Desron 36 rendezvoused with the units of Desron 32 which were returning from Vietnam. On 17 December, the combined forces of Desron 36 and Desron 32 arrived in Norfolk.

The operational readiness of LAFFEY has been tested again and again under the most trying conditions in every major campaign since she joined the fleet over twenty-two years ago. She stands ready, as always, to serve again, whenever and wherever the Nation's need should arise.



# FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER

CDR. N.L. KAUFMAN USN

Commander Norman L. Kaufman, USN, a native of New York City, graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York in 1948. Following his graduation he served as a Ship's Officer in the U.S. Army Transport GENERAL EDWIN D. PATRICK until the latter part of 1949.

From January 1950 until June 1951 he was attached to USS LSM 398 of the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force. His duties included Operations Officer, First Lieutenant, and Navigator.

After an extensive period of duty under instruction at the Submarine School, New London, Connecticut and the Deep Sea Diving School, Washington, D.C., CDR KAUFMAN reported to the submarine rescue ship USS KITTIWAKE where he served from June 1952 until October 1954 as Rescue and Salvage Officer, Operations Officer, Navigator and completed his tour as Executive Officer.

His next tour of duty was with Cruiser-Destroyer Forces Pacific as Operations Officer and Navigator of USS BLUE (DD-744) which terminated in January 1957.

For the next ten months CDR KAUFMAN was a student in the General Line Curriculum at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. After successfully completing the course, he reported to the U.S. Naval Base, Newport, Rhode Island and served as Officer-in-Charge,

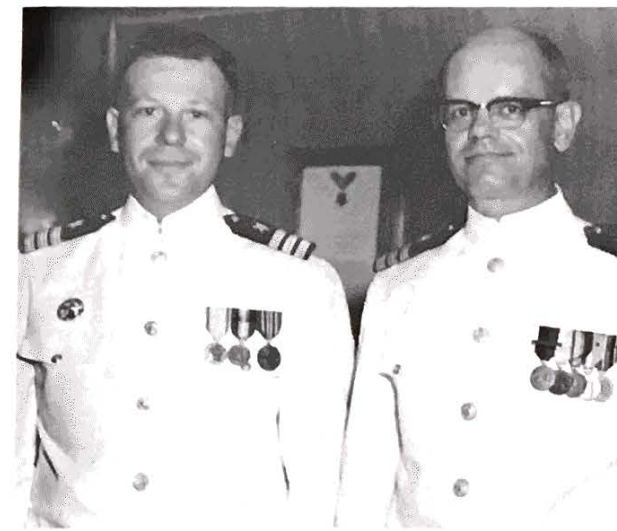
Service Craft with collateral duties as Engineer and Repair Officer.

Upon completion of his shore duty tour in January 1960 he was assigned temporary duty with Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-FOUR and served aboard USS MCCAFFERY (DD-860) until assignment in May 1960 to USS HALE (DD-642) where he served as Executive Officer and then as Officer-in-Charge after HALE was selected for transfer to the Colombian Navy as a part of the Military Assistance Program. In January 1961 HALE was commissioned as the Colombian Naval Destroyer "ANTIQUIA" and CDR KAUFMAN remained aboard as Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Naval Mobile Training Team. In May 1961 he reported to USS CALCATERRA as Commanding Officer. Upon departing CALCATERRA in October 1962, CDR KAUFMAN reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel for duty as Head, Mobilization Plans Section, Policy Division. He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia from August 1964 to January 1965. CDR KAUFMAN was piped aboard LAFFEY 12 February 1965 as her Commanding Officer.

CDR KAUFMAN and Mrs. KAUFMAN, the former Edith Ceisler of Forest Hills, New York, have three children: Ruth J., Judith M., and David L.



## CHANGE OF COMMAND





# PRESENT COMMANDING OFFICER

CDR G.H. DAVIS USN

Commander George H. Davis, USN, a native of Pulaski, New York graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York in 1948. Following his commissioning as Ensign, CDR Davis reported aboard the USS MANCHESTER (CL-83) for duty in the Engineering Department.

Shortly after the outbreak of Korean Hostilities, CDR Davis reported aboard the USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43), in which he served until 1952. In May 1952, CDR Davis received orders to Mine Counter Measures School at Yorktown, Virginia, in preparation for a two year tour aboard the USS PTARMIGAN (AM-376), a Steel Hulled Fleet Minesweeper. While on the PTARMIGAN, he served as Chief Engineer, Operations Officer, and finally as Executive Officer.

In December 1954, CDR Davis reported at the New York State Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, New York, where he served as an Instructor in Naval Science until December 1956.

His next tour of duty was as Training Officer, JUSMAAG, Thailand.

In May 1958, CDR Davis reported aboard the USS HALE (DD-642) as Operations Officer. His tour on the HALE included participation in the Lebanon Crisis, Formosa Patrol and a "Round The World Cruise".

Upon completion of his tour on the USS HALE, in June 1959 CDR Davis became Executive Officer aboard the USS CHARLES, R. WARE (DD-865). During this tour, WARE participated in the opening ceremonies of the St.

Lawrence Seaway and became one of the first four "Salt Water" Navy ships to visit all five Great Lakes.

CDR Davis reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in January 1961 for duty as Head, Disability Retirement Branch. He then attended the Command and Staff Course at the Naval War College from August 1963 to June 1964. Upon completion of War College, CDR Davis was transferred to duty on the Staff of Commander Seventh Fleet, where he served as Assistant Surface Operations Officer and Amphibious Warfare Officer. CDR Davis was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving on Seventh Fleet from July 1964 to August 1966.

In addition to the Navy Commendation Medal, CDR Davis holds the Navy Occupation Service Medal, China Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one star, Korean Service Medal with one star, Viet Nam Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Service Medal with one Star, United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. In addition, CDR Davis holds the World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal from the U.S. Merchant Marine.

CDR Davis reported aboard the USS LAFFEY (DD-724) for duty as Commanding Officer on 29 September 1966.

CDR Davis and Mrs. Davis, the former Jeanne Roode of Newburyport, Massachusetts now reside in Norfolk, Virginia.



This book is a partial history of USS LAFFEY (DD-724). It records in words and pictures, highlights of the actions and events encountered by LAFFEY personnel while deployed to the Mediterranean Sea from late July 1966 until mid-December 1966. In later years, as we again look through this book, we will see pictures of shipmates with which we served the ports we visited and some of the events in which we participated.

There is one thing that cannot be captured or recorded in a cruise book of this type, that is the warmth of the crew. To those of you who have not experienced shipboard life this includes the teamwork developed, the friendships formed and the satisfaction of participating in an evolution that has been well done. It is enjoying a cup of coffee together after many long and trying hours at battle stations during a complex fleet exercise or a long night replenishment operation. It also includes the poise of crew members developed by visiting foreign lands and people and by acting as unofficial ambassadors of the United States.

It was my privilege to take command of LAFFEY during the cruise. I'm sure my predecessor, Commander KAUFMAN, shares with me the pride in the accomplishments of LAFFEY and the crew during this cruise. I would like to dedicate this book to the LAFFEYMEN, who gave so willingly, worked so hard overcoming all obstacles while always remaining good and cheerful shipmates.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. DAVIS  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LCDR J.D. KEITH USN



LT J.M. Hanford  
OPERATIONS OFF.

Lieutenant Commander John D. Keith, USN, a native of Charleston, Maine graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy in 1954. Following his commissioning as Ensign, LCDR, Keith reported aboard the USS GREENWOOD (DE-679) in which he served as First Lieutenant and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer until December 1956.

In January 1957 LCDR Keith received orders to the Destroyer Force Atlantic Engineering School at Newport, Rhode Island, in preparation for a two year tour as Chief Engineer aboard the USS WITEK (DDE-848).

In January 1959, LCDR, Keith was transferred to duty on the Staff of Commander Service Force Atlantic Fleet, where he served as Personnel Plans Officer. In August 1959 LCDR, Keith received orders to the Enlisted Personnel Distribution Office

Atlantic Fleet. He served with both the Staff and the Personnel Distribution Office until reporting to the USS CANISTEO (AO-99) as Navigator and Operations Officer in November 1960.

Upon completion of his tour on the USS CANISTEO, in July 1962, LCDR Keith reported to the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California. He graduated in August 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Upon completion of Post Graduate School LCDR Keith was transferred to duty on the Staff of Commander Service Squadron TWO where he served as Operations and Plans Officer.

LCDR Keith holds the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the National Defense Medal.

LCDR Keith reported aboard the USS LAFFEY (DD-724) for duty as Executive Officer on 11 May 1966.

# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



LTJG R.W. Hardy  
CIC OFFICER



LTJG J.A. Davidson  
COMMUNICATIONS OFF.

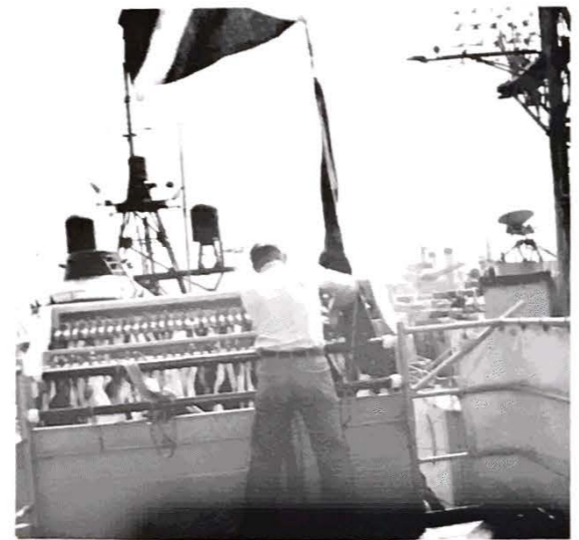
# OC DIVISION



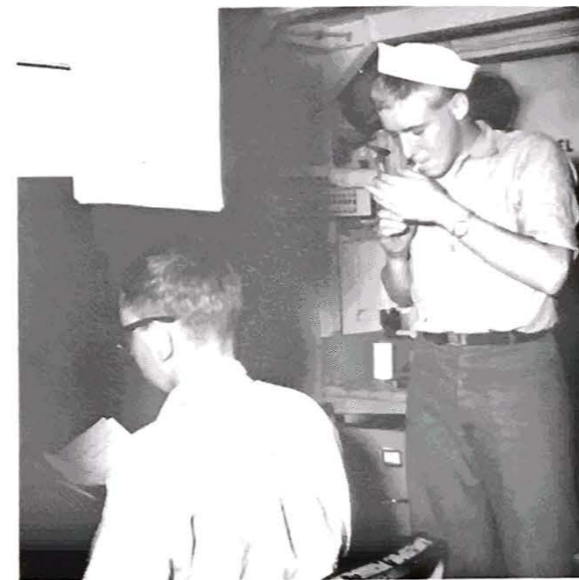
HMC B. Parker



QM1 W. Fawcett R.M.1 A. Hoelzen RM2 N. Mix



R.M.2 T. Noreen QM3 J. Andrew RM3 T. Radzevich



RMSN L. Aument RMSN J. Bryant RMSN F. Loomis



RMSN R. Bausher QMSN C. Beardsley SNB. Crusan



RM3 N. Snyder PN3 H. Tyson



SN H. Haynes SN J. Jeszeck



# OI DIVISION



ETR2 R. Hammond ETR2 T. McGrath



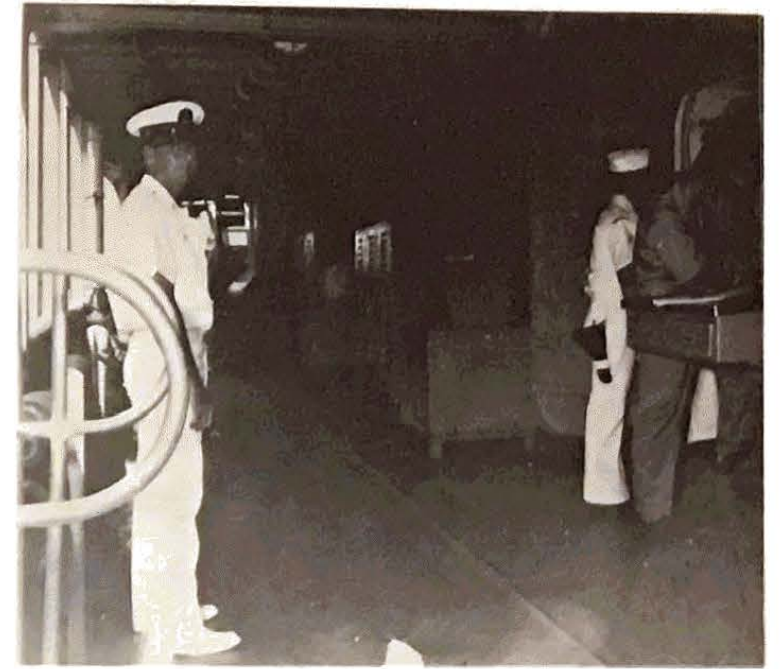
RD2 R. St. Clair RD2 D. Vogt



ETR3 W. Miles ETN3 J. Sokolski



RD3 R. Pries RDSN R. Barnes



RD3 W. Banks ETR3 G. Lemke



N3 G. McLaughlin RD3 J. Mergenthaler



RMSN C Lowrey RDSN P. Tortorice



RDSN J. Haag RDSN D. Strauch



WNOR to RHMS3



Check under the hood too!



LTJG A. J. Armstrong  
WEAPONS OFFICER

# WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

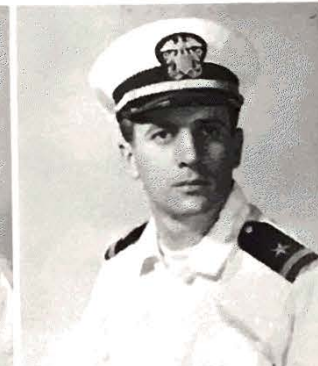
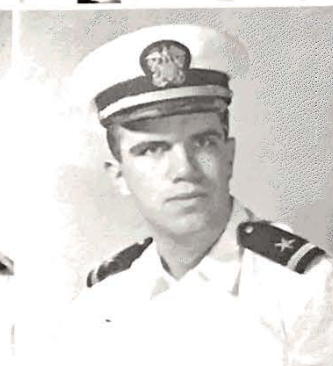
LTJG S. Zitin  
1ST LT/DASH OFF.

LTJG K.G. Kolsrber  
ASW OFFICER

LTJG C.E. Zettle  
2ND DIV./ASW OFF.

ENS G.R. Kamp  
FIRST LIEUTENANT

ENS R.W. Wessels  
2ND DIVISION OFF.



# FIRST DIVISION



BMC W. Lockett



BM3 J. Tuggle SN E. Blazewicz SN W. Greiner



SN C. Holmes SN R. Jones SN J. Lee



SN D. Marlowe SN C. McKeithan SN B. O'Connor



SN E. Ogden SN D. O'Neal SN T. Pegg



SN G. Saft SN J. Shepler SN B. St. Onge SN J. Torrey



SA J. Belhumeur SA E. Slauson SA R. Seck



SN O. Person SN S. Pope SN A. Quigley



SN O. Rivera SN F. Rudd SN R. Rudloff



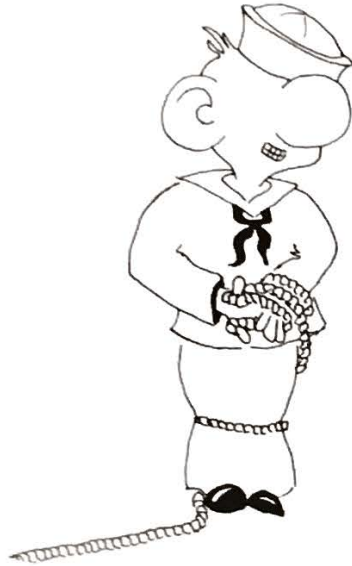


# SECOND DIVISION



GMGC R. Weaver

GMGC J. Padgett



GMG2 T. Knowlton

GMG3 D. Hash

FTG3 J. Mack

FTG3 J. Pipp

GMGSN M. Arbanas

FTGSN D. Biemann

FTGSN M. McCarthy



FTGSN R. Sadosky, FTGSN D. Shannon, FTGSN L. Stark, FTGSN D. Ward



SN G. Carroll

SN . Hodge

SN R. Roby

SN D. Tremain





ADJ1 R. Simone, ATN2 J. Schneder, ETR3 J. Simmerman



STG3 R. Bubb, STG3 G. Reed, STG3 W. Zajkowski



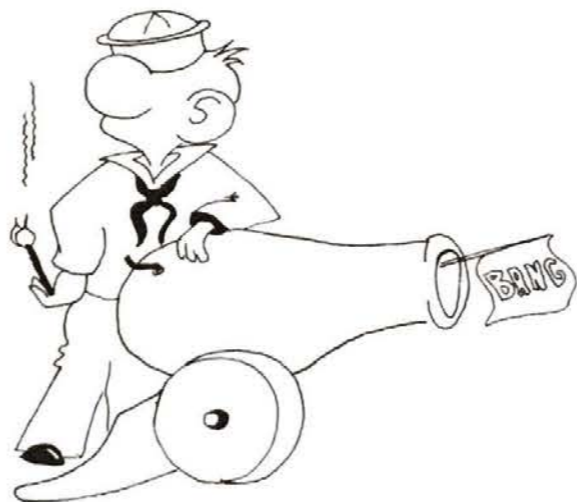
STGSN D. Dick, STGSN G. Evans



STGSN L. Winder, SN J. Keating



# THIRD DIVISION





Phantom of Valletta



Don't forget the green stamps today!



LT W.H. Graham  
ENGINEER OFFICER

# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



LTJG M.P. Pelletier  
MPA OFFICER



LTJG D.H. Shipley  
R DIVISION OFFICER



BT3 R. Cooper    BT3 D. Seeders    BT3 G. Sitter



BT3 L. Wesolowsk    BTFN W. Leibhart    FN L. Clarke



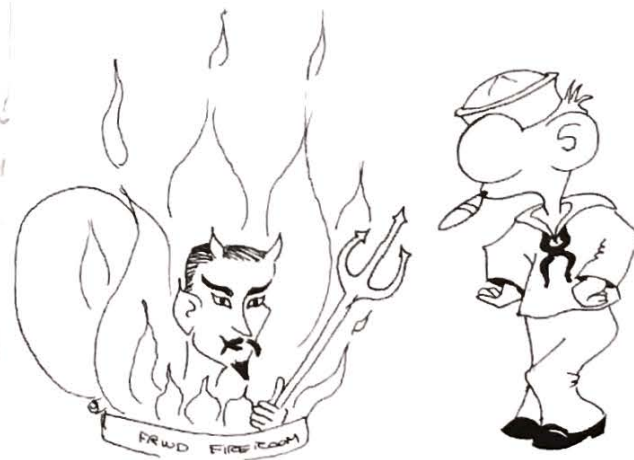
FN W. Ion    FN M. Rouch



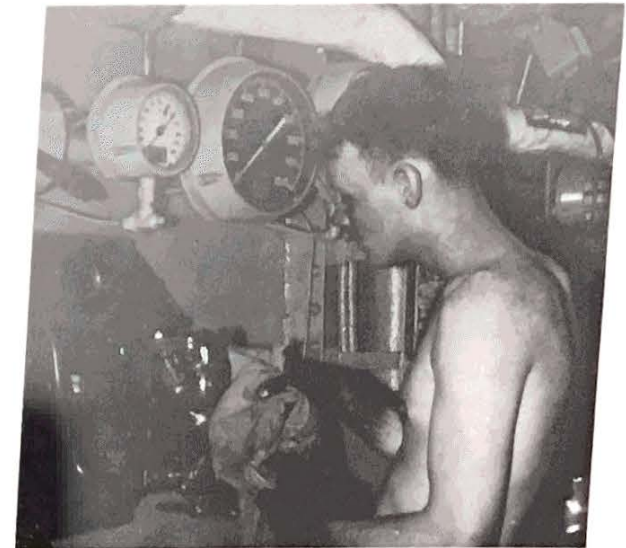
FA R. Benton    FA J. Golias    FA W. Messana



# B DIVISION



SOME ONE ASK FOR A LIGHT ?



# M DIVISION



MMCS E. Fletcher

MMC H. Sheppard



MM1 I. Price

MM2 R. Agent

MM2 J. Bordeaux



MM2 G. Sweet, MM2 C. Wood, MM3 R. Bonge, MM3 R. Dilley, MM3 D. Fowler, MM3 K. Maynard, MM3 J. Underwood



WEARING YOUR TIE AROUND  
THE LATHE AGAIN, EH?



MM3 T. Williams MMFN J. Hartman



FN D. Grinnell FN R. McKinney



FN T. Morici

FN M. Newman

FN W. Olson

FN T. Rispoli

FA H. Bode

FA C. Calderin

FA . Wangler





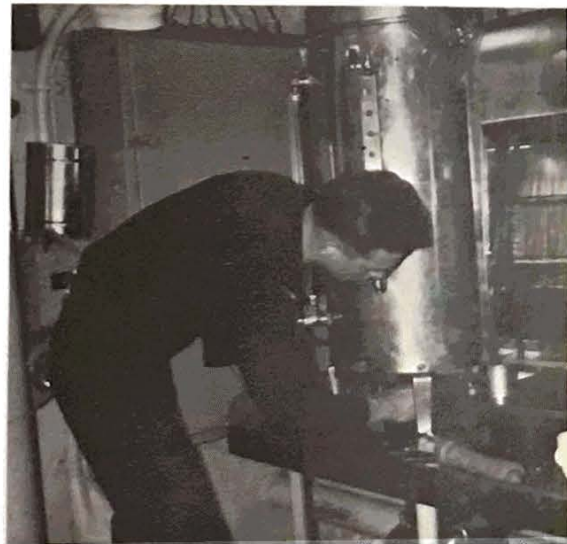
DC1 G. McGarvey, EM1 C. Underwood, EM2 H. Kauffman, EM2 E. Madison, EN2 J. Neathery, EM2 L. Osmond, EM2 L. Campbell



WHERE'S THE PLUMBER'S  
HELPER, OZ?



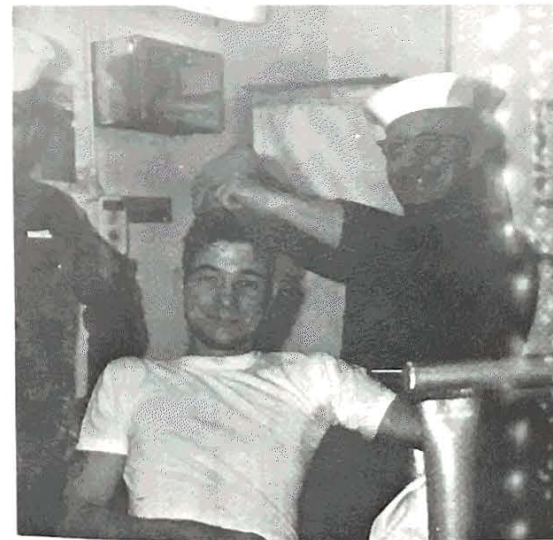
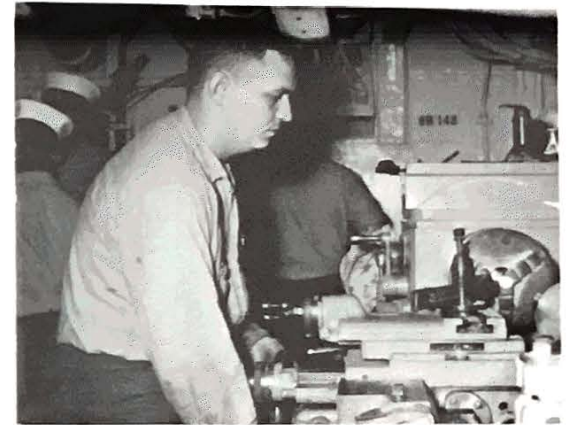
EM3 G. Laska, IC3 J. Ryder, SFR3 R. Styles



# R DIVISION



EMFN M. Morgan EMFN J. Tate FN W. Bird FN M. Chierico FN D. Courcy FN S. Petrus FN B. Rachal



FA T. Kaylor FN T. Llewellyn FA R. Negrola

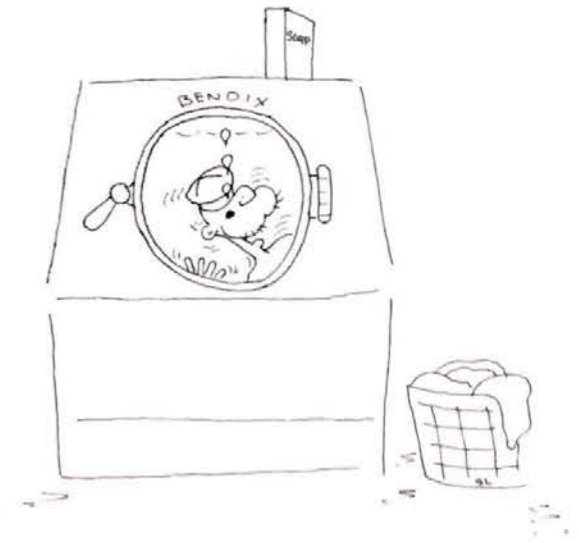


LTJG J.A. Giardina  
SUPPLY OFFICER

## SUPPLY DEPARTMENT



EARMUFFS ?

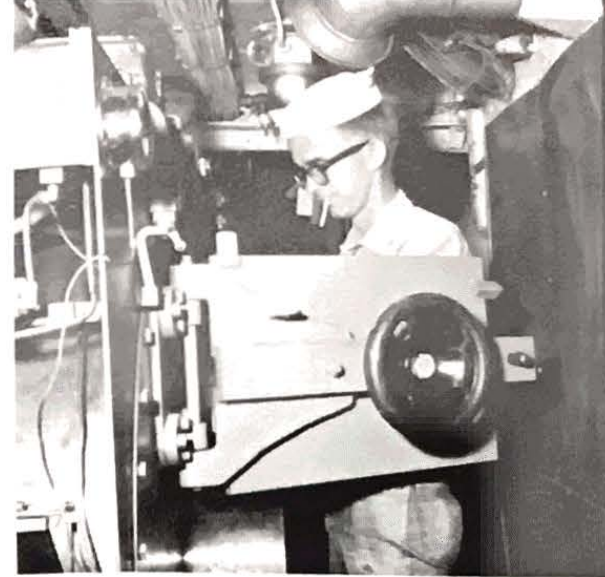


GLUG ?



SKC R. McComb

# S DIVISION



Bendig's button remover



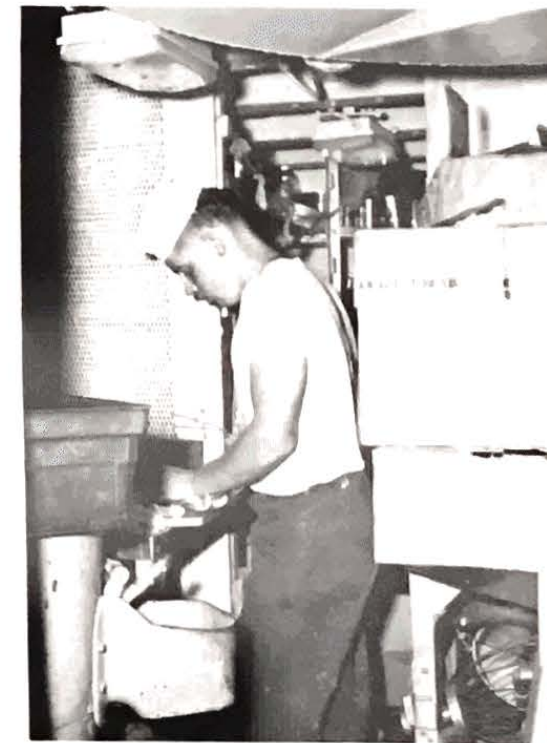
HIS!



CS2 W. Earley SK2 L. Tippet DK3 D. Downs DK3 J. Patterson SHSN M. Rodriguez SN F. Blocher SN H. Brittain



Fantail cook-out



Mid-rats



Best paid laundryman

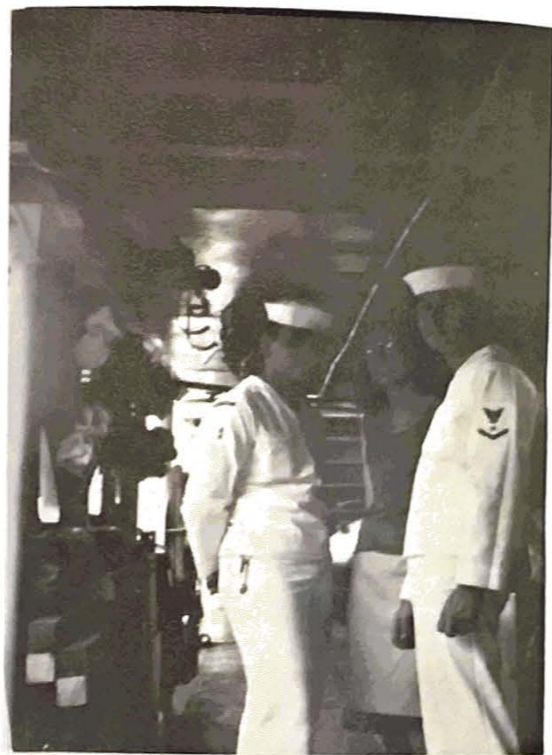


SN D. Day SN T. Dinko SN G. Lerer SN K. Lisberg SN P. Moon SN P. Smith TN E. Pacleb





# DEPARTURE



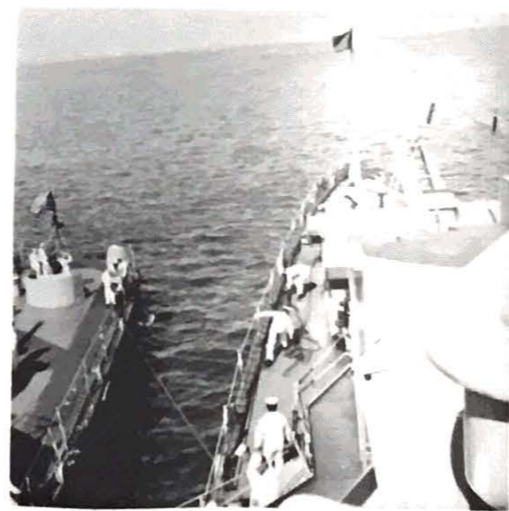
Pack your bags



Why?



I wonder how many will be here when we get back....



Come on down Mr. Davidson; the Captain's gone!



# NAPLES



Ambassadors of good will?



Piling!



Where's the San Francisco?



Trevi Fountain

# THE TOURS



Pompetti



Rome



Mobile Canteen



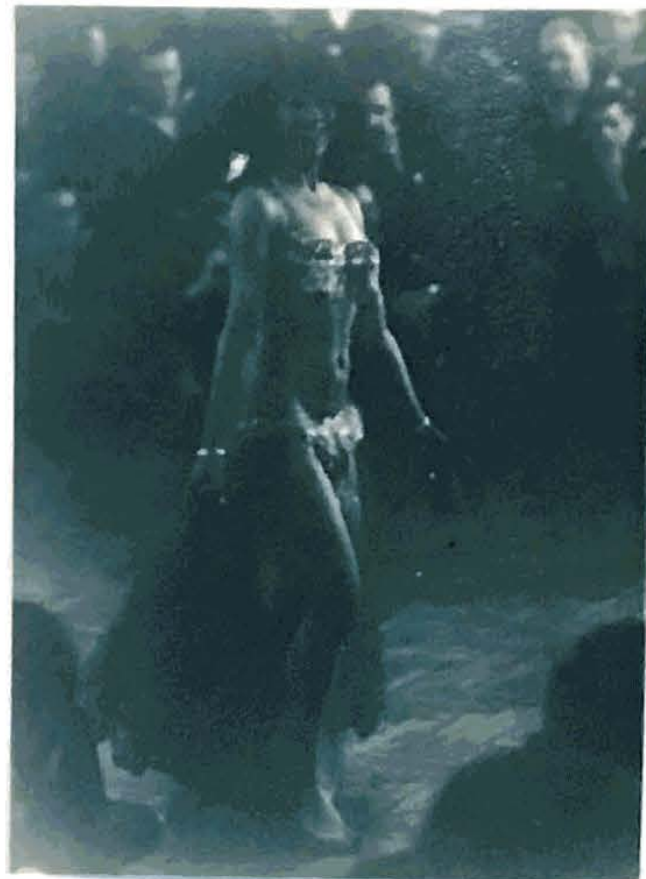
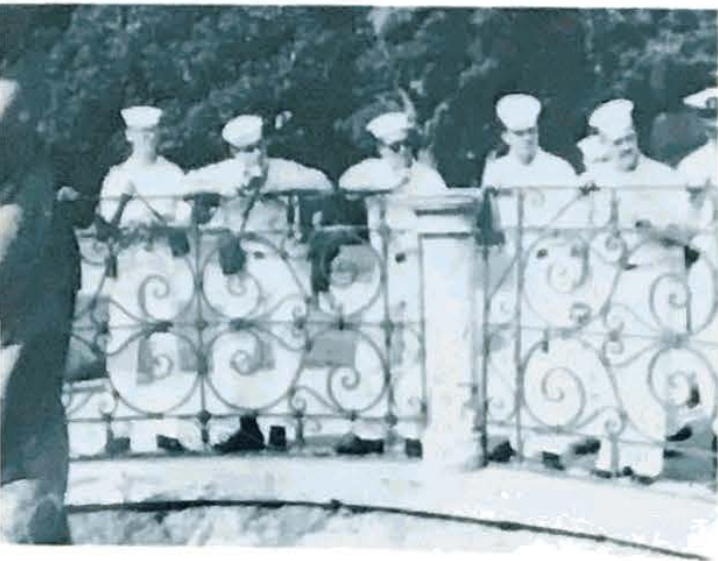
# FUN AT - - -



# ARGOSTOLI



# ISTANBUL



Drifty and the gang



When I make J.G.!



LAFHEY mess decks





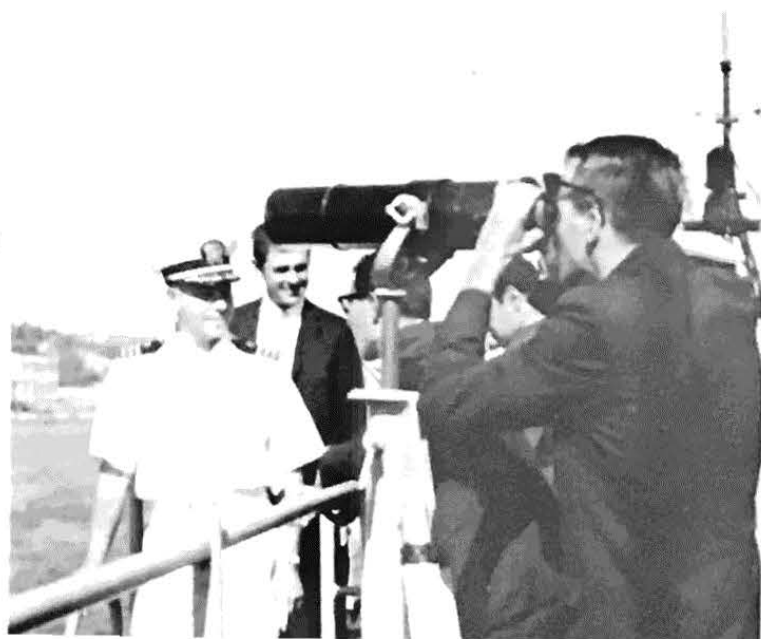
Smile girls



### AMERICAN FIELD STUDENTS ABOARD

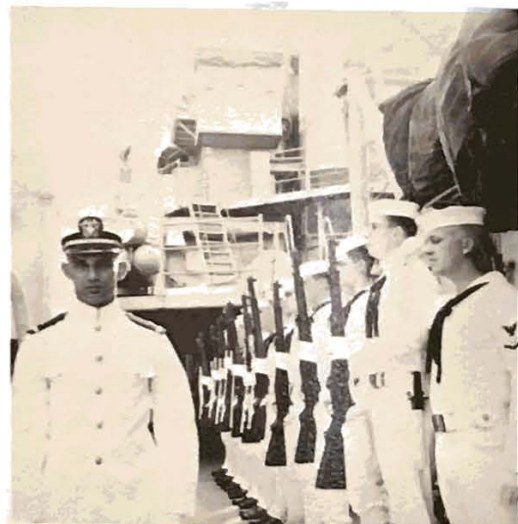


### CIVIC AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS ABOARD

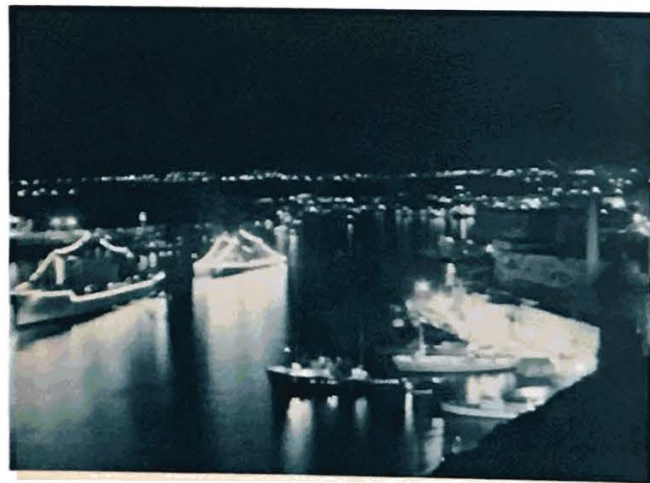
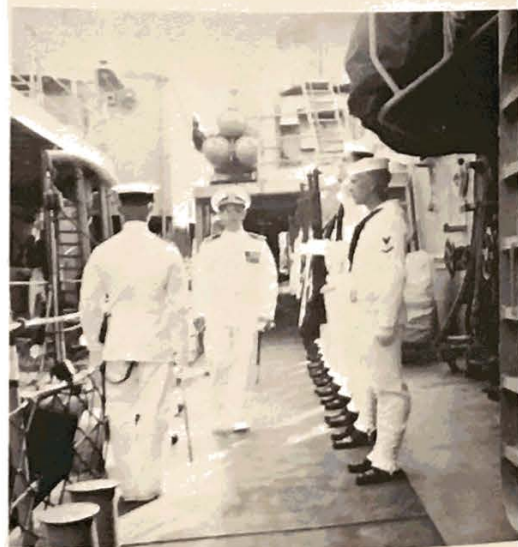




# MALTA



# INSPECTIONS



# BEACH PARTY



So what if they kick sand in my face!



Knights of the Round Table



Cook Striker

# BEIRUT



Good Luck!

Before

Brass arriving

After





PEOPLE TO PEOPLE - BEIRUT





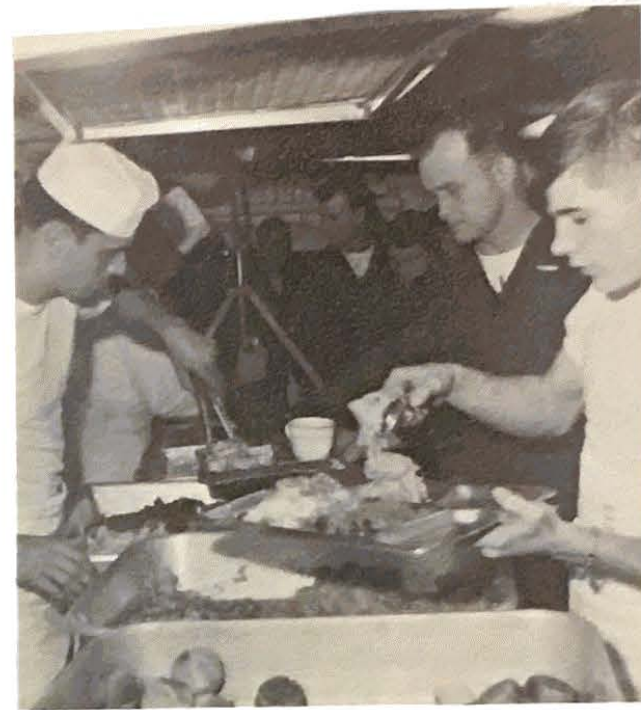
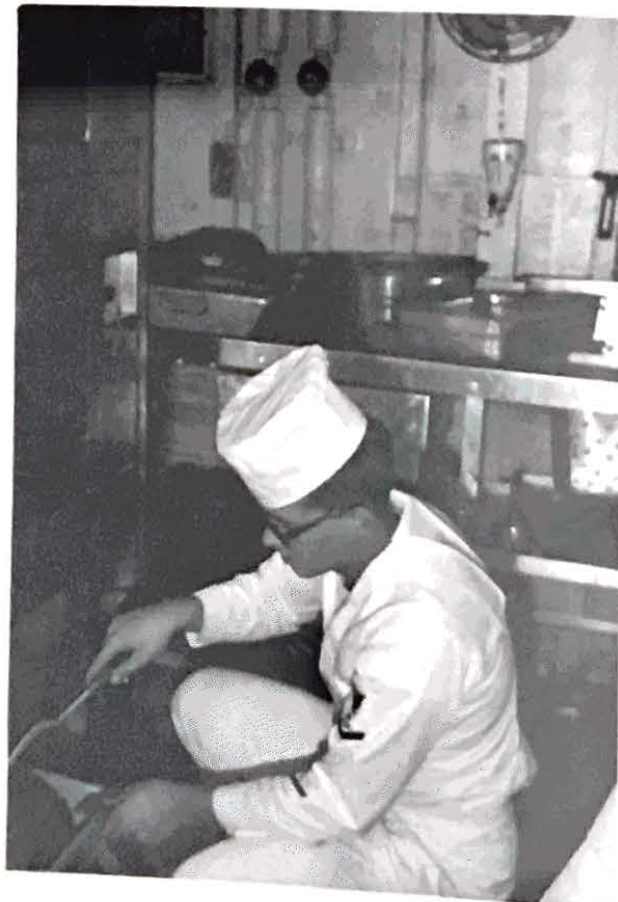


# ORPHANS PARTY





# THANKSGIVING IN GENOA



# VISITORS ABOARD





# BARCELONA



# COMDESRON 36 INSPECTION

I should have stayed in the Air Force.



Winner of greasy "E"

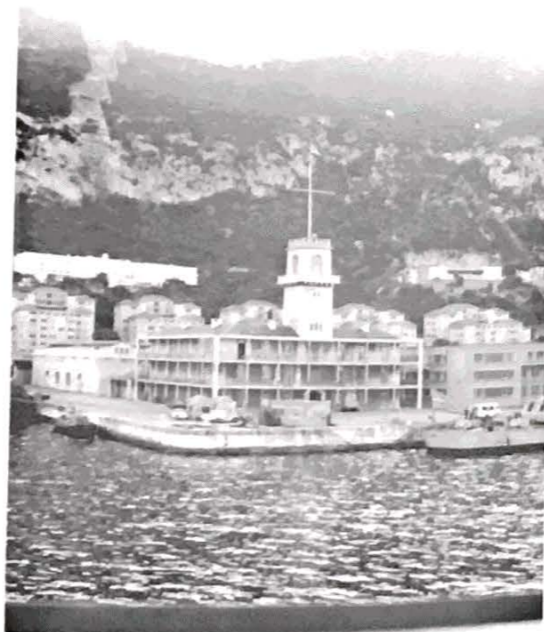


Did you hear a train?





# GIBRALTER



Sixth Fleet Champions  
 First row, left to right: Banks RD3, Mergenthaler RDSN,  
 McGarver DCL, Hash GMG3, Neathery EN2 Back:  
 Campbell EM3, Robinson RDSN, Sellers RD3, Tyson PN3,  
 Osmond EM 2.

# RECREATION

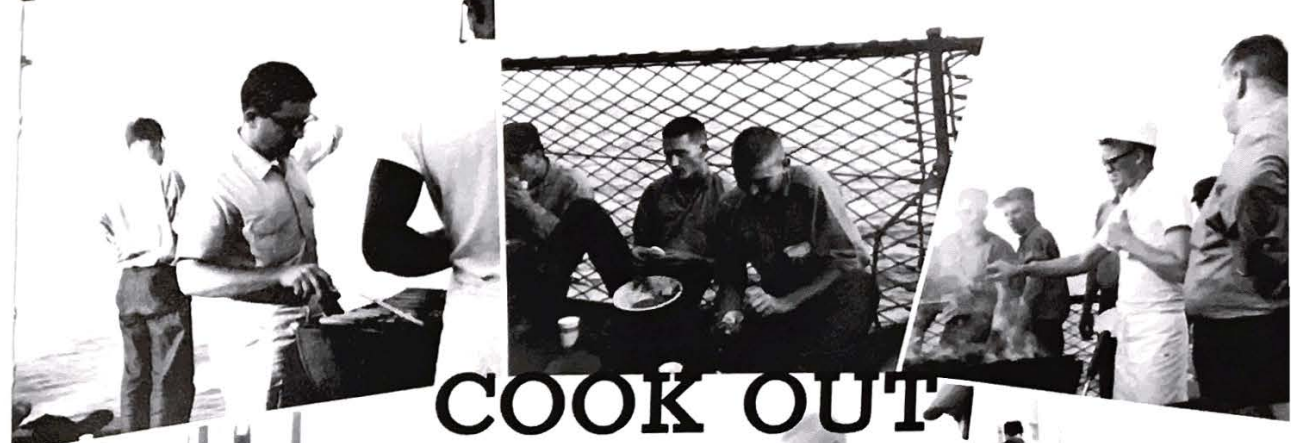
ALL IS NOT WORK



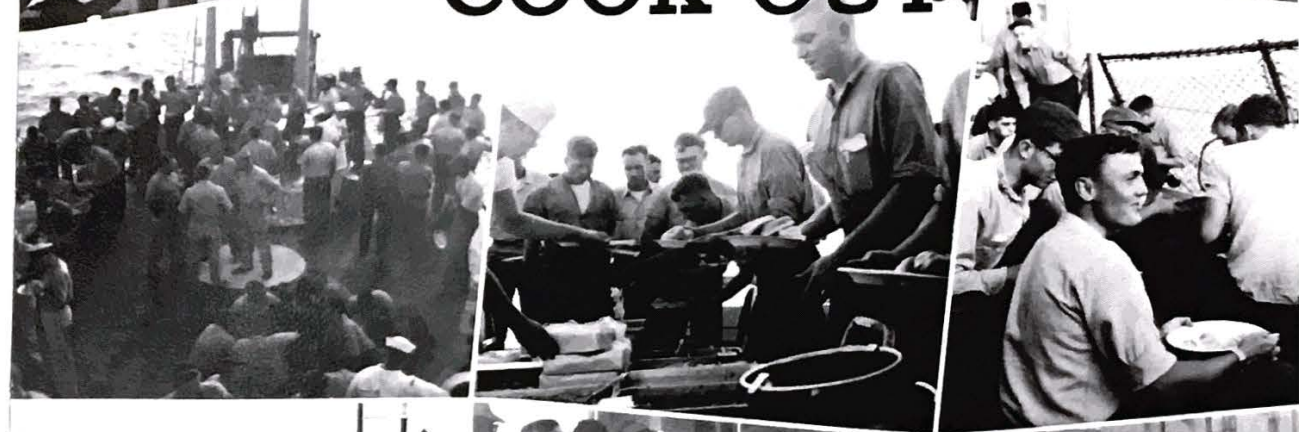
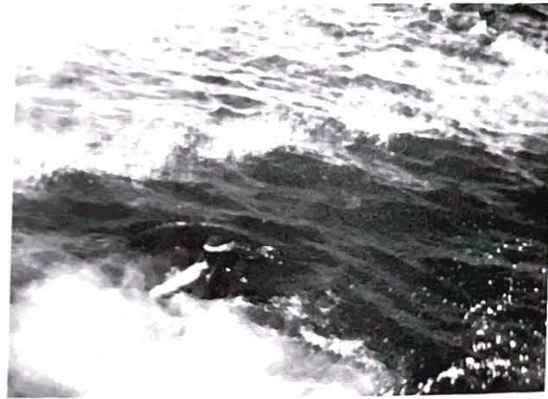
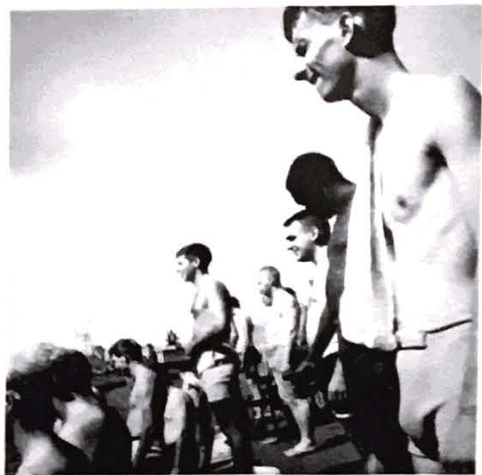
Sea Bat



Stop it, I want to see the Sea Bat



# COOK OUT



# SWIM CALL

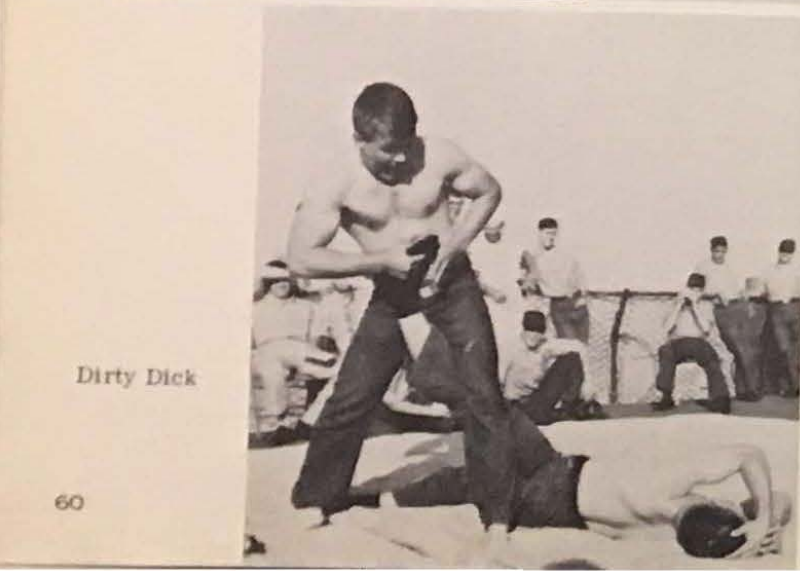
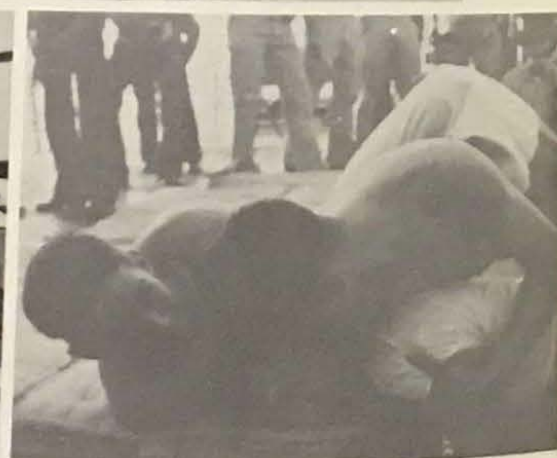


Just like a swift boat!

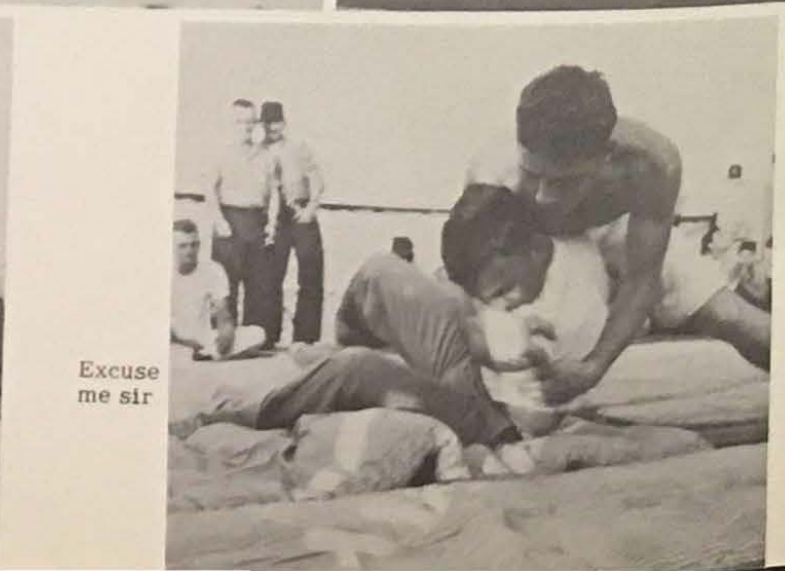




S  
M  
O  
K  
E  
R



Dirty Dick



Excuse me sir



Swiss Correspondent



Mt. Etna

# AT SEA



Bye Captain!



Away the motor Whaleboat!



38 knots - No smoke?



Mailman



Up



Down



Funeral



## REFUELING AND REPLENISHMENT

