

THE CRUISE IN PERSPECTIVE



The cruise of the GEARING to the Mediterranean and the Middle East has meant a lot of different things to a lot of people.

To the strategists in the Pentagon it meant that our readiness and defenses in the Eastern hemisphere would be maintained, to our allies it meant the arrival of an old and welcome friend, to the merchants waiting on the pier in every port it meant money...but to most of the men on board it meant a lot of hard work, and most of all, being away from home.

This is not to say that we did not enjoy the cruise. Much to the contrary. It is to say that the American bluejacket does not like to give up his ingrained American habits. He likes to take a bit of America with him wherever he goes, as evidenced by the perpetual search for American hamburgers and beer in every foreign port. A summary of the findings of this search is presented later in the book as a roll of honor of certain establishments which have had an appeal to our kind. Sydney Clark or Duncan Hines might have been honored, but we liked the places. Yet then again we are not connoisseurs, we are Americans who would like to let it be known that we like to be seen as we are, not as someone else would like us to be seen. As a result our image presented was a real one and in return the people we met dropped the glossy facade usually reserved for tourists and we made friends, many of them. This was the purpose of our cruise.

Ponta Del Gada, Azores

15-17 August

Ponta del Gada was our first landfall after a six day crossing. Our four squadron ships put in, primarily to refuel for the thousand miles left to Gibraltar, but there was time for a couple of days of liberty too.

The sleepy town came awake for the Navy. Many took the tour of the island up the the nearby volcano while others did some early Christmas shopping for the fine Portuguese merchandise available. At any rate it was but a teaser for some of the fine liberty ports soon to come.



Coming through the breakwater



Azores residents were as curious about us as we were about them.



Hot house pineapples make their liquers famous.



BACK IN THE MED AGAIN....



...and the last of the frequent mail calls.



Jimmy Luk and his number one son were the first official visitors at Pollensa Bay.



BECUNA helped many GEARING sailors to become honorary wearers of the dolphins.



In the dark of the night of 19 August the Rock of Gibraltar passed silently to the north of us and we were in the Med, and ready to commence some hectic operations that were reminiscent of the last Med cruise. After "turnover" at Pollensa Bay, Mallorca with the destroyer INGRAM, we became a working unit of the SIXTH Fleet, and we did work.

Anti-submarine warfare operations with the conventional submarines BECUNA and SEA OWL enabled many of us to dive with the "enemy" as passengers and get an idea of how they evade us (they didn't).

After a brief stop at Naples in preparation for the Middle East tour we transited the Strait of Messina and operated with the British aircraft carrier HMS EAGLE, destroyer HMS DEFENDER, and American nuclear submarine HADDO and conventional submarine SEA ROBIN in Operation Quickdraw I-66. After learning the English language all over again and a fresh oil washdown through the courtesy of tanker HMS TIDESURGE we headed 090 and independently for the first time in the cruise for Beirut, Lebanon.

Royal Navy taxi ride.

Beirut, Lebanon

7-10 September



Beirut, Lebanon—playground of the rich of the Middle East is best described as an eastern Riviera. There were hundreds of hotels with thousands of rooms with not enough people to fill them.

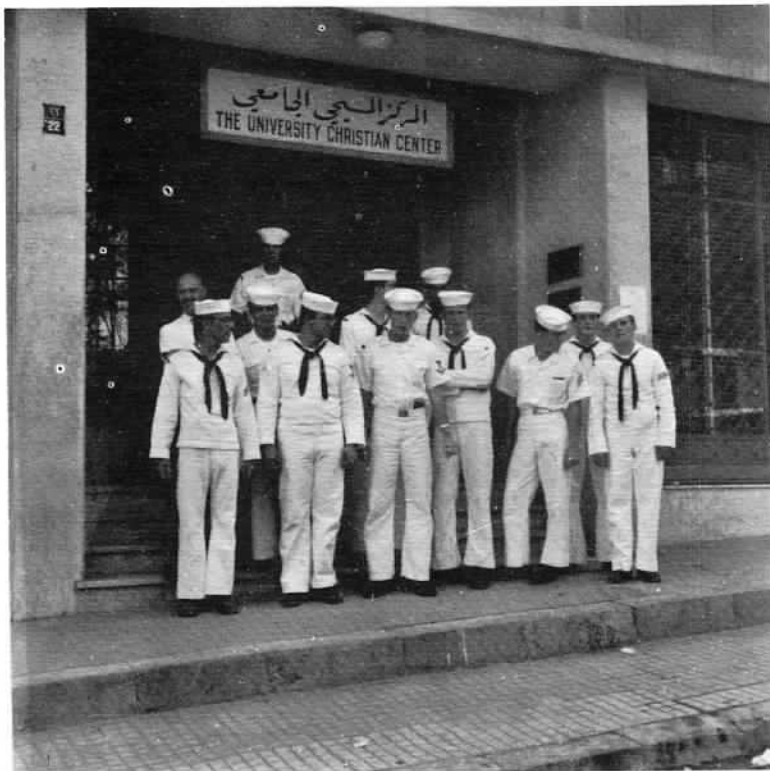
The town was a nightmare of narrow streets and wild taxi rides yet a goldmine in bargains in the multitude of Indian, Chinese and Arab shops where you could spend plenty of Piastres if you wanted. A cocktail in the Hotel Phoenicia cost you your life and you bet your life at the Casino du Liban about 10 kilometers up the coast after seeing a floor show rivaling the best Paris has to offer.

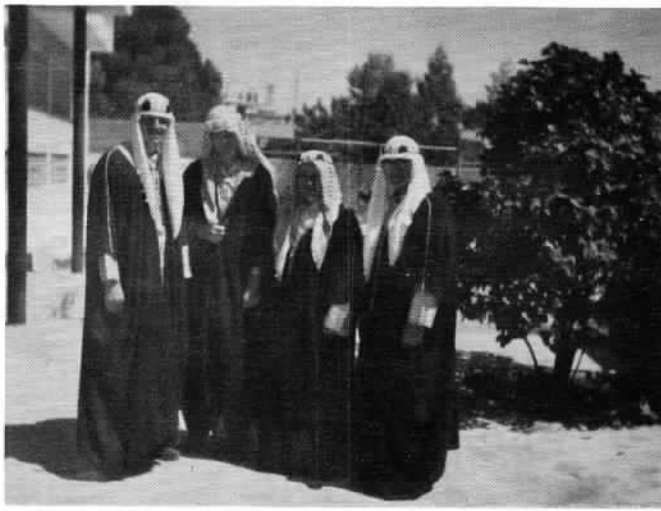
Lebanese visitors flocked to the ship for guided tours as we distributed Project Handclasp Encyclopedias and school books to local schools.

The four days there were a revelation which heightened the mystery of the Middle East which was yet to come.

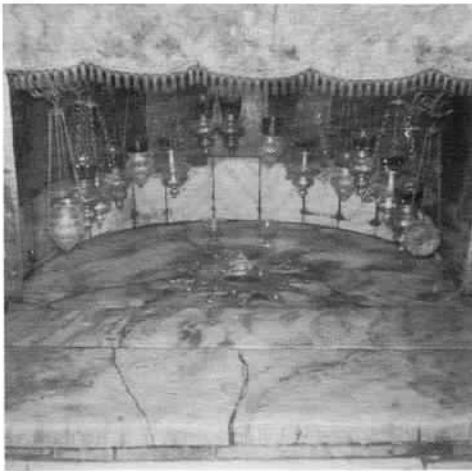


Project HANDCLASP school books went to the Damour School of Culture.

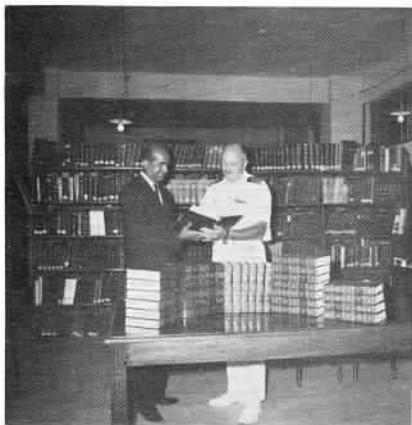
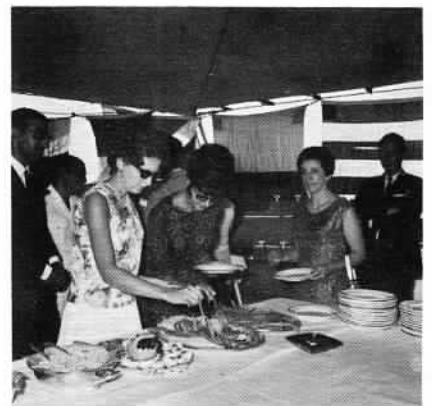
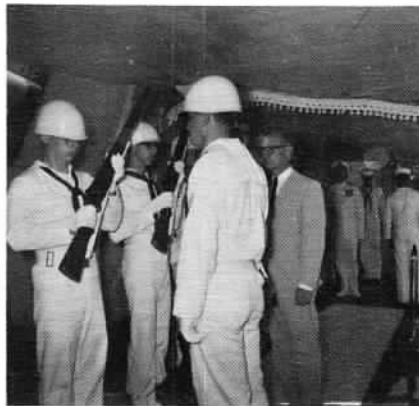




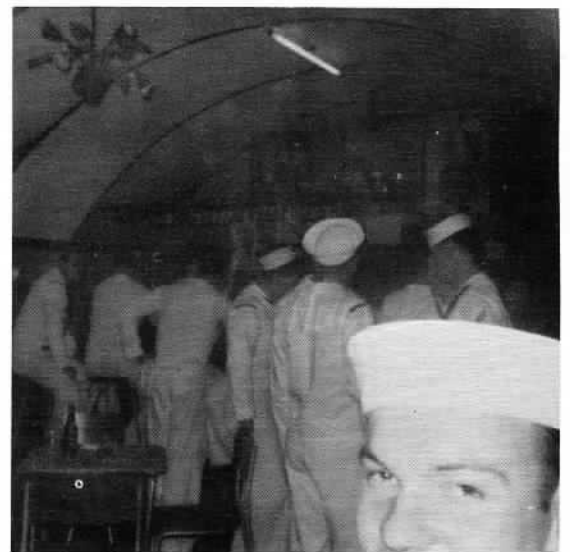
GEARING pilgrims Dodson, Moore, Poore and Handschke at Jerusalem.



To be remembered a lifetime, the birthplace of Christ was seen by men on the tour to the Holy Land.



An encyclopedia Americana—gift of the American people.



**A Four Day Break and the Galloping
Gearing is off to *Parts Unknown*.**



EVERY SIX WEEKS

**ANOTHER
GREAT
AMERICAN**

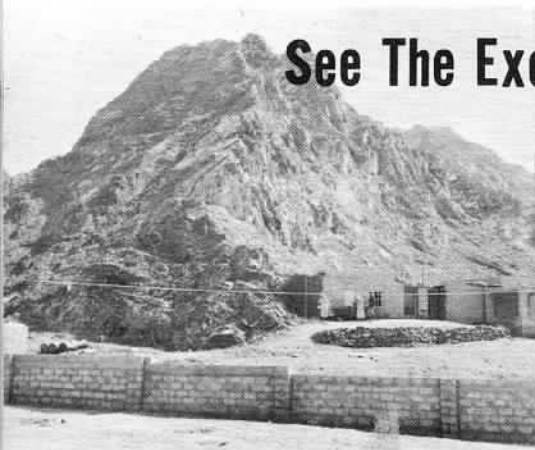


**PRESIDENT
(JOHNSON)
LINER**

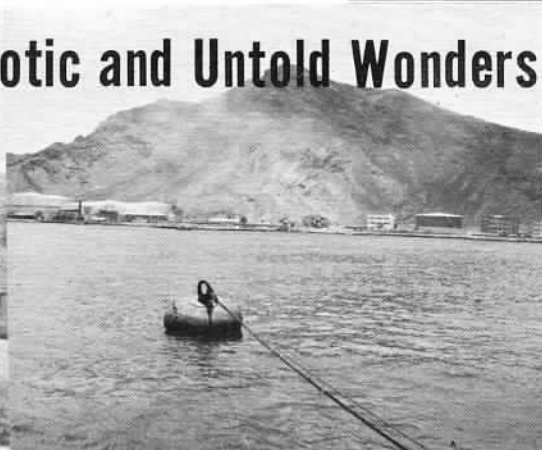
**SAILS TO THE
MIDDLE EAST**



See The Exotic and Untold Wonders of



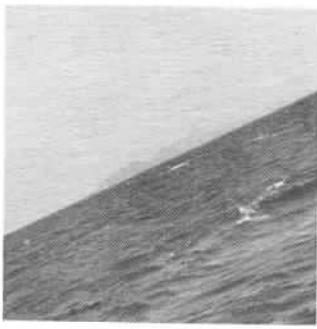
Muscat



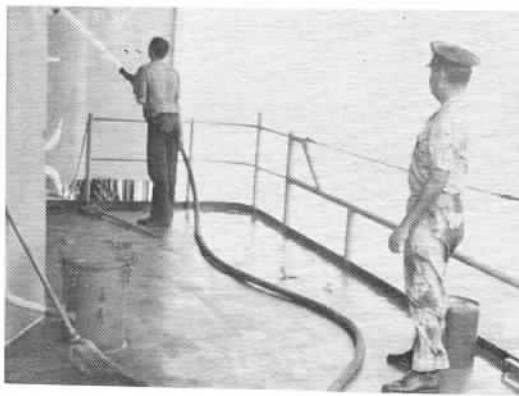
Aden



and Massawa



Built in stabilizers provide the smoothest of sailing.



A romp around the promenade deck will assure you of our spotless housekeeping.



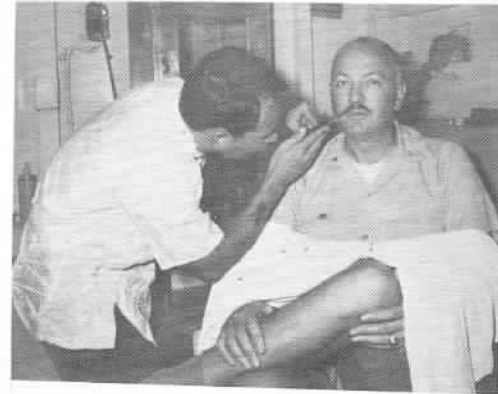
Fast transportation awaits your arrival in port.



Rare delicacies...



prepared by masters of the culinary art will be cooked to your personal tastes.



Skilled professionals are ready to cater to your every whim.



You and your loved ones will enjoy the wide variety of deck sports.



Enjoy the feel of dressing up again.

Our courteous and efficient staff is anxiously waiting to serve you.



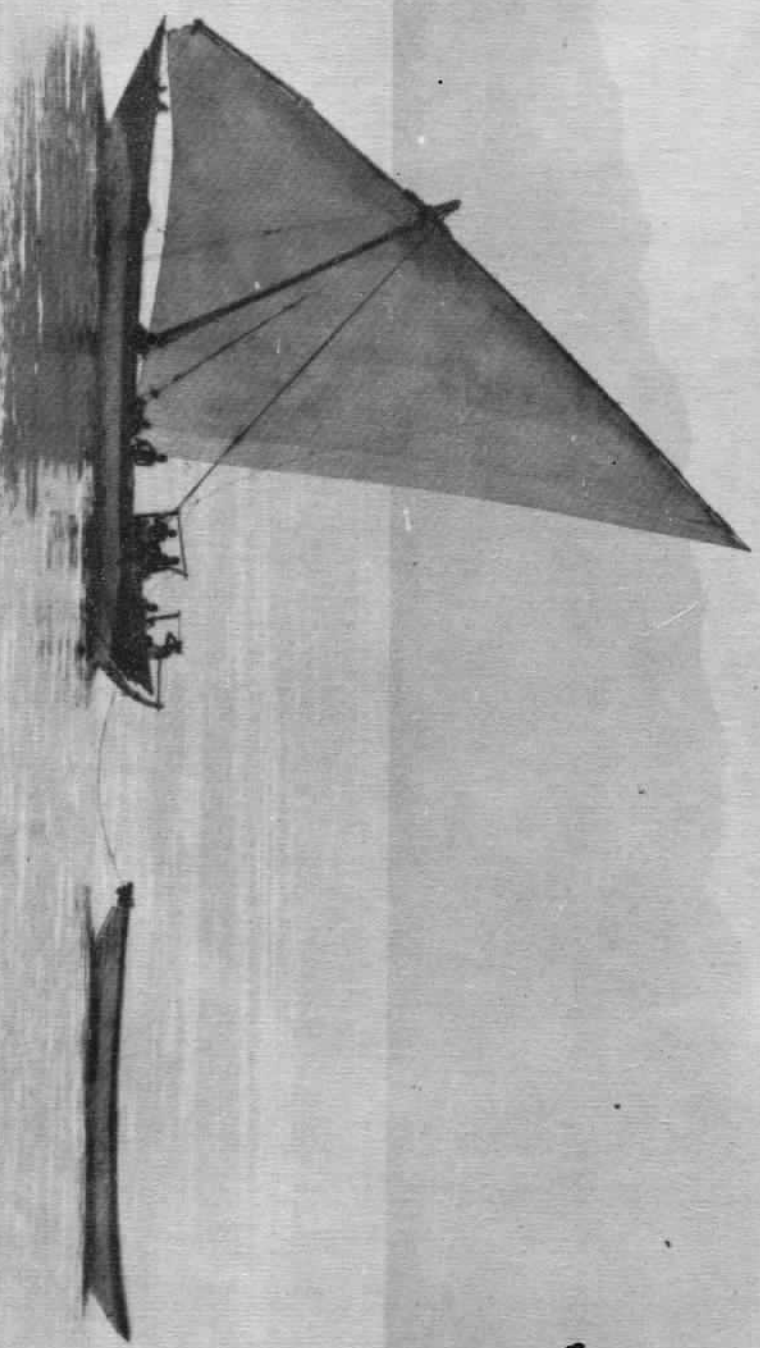
See your travel agent if he doesn't see you first.

The Suez Canal transit made it plain that for the first time we were within the boundaries of a nation whose interests are not closely aligned with ours. We were being watched. But our own appearance in the best of tradition was that of self-respect, conviction, and perfection.

The two day transit saw us leading a convoy of almost 30 merchant ships through the canal. The first leg of the trip was at night with a huge headlight and pilot to guide the way to Great Bitter Lake where we anchored for the northbound convoy to pass in the morning. Then a 20 mile run to Port Suez where the USS LAFLEY was anxiously awaiting our arrival for turnover to the Middle East Force.

It was then when we entered the Red Sea when we donned our modified tropical khakis—short pants, short sleeve shirts, and ball caps. The temperature soared to over one hundred degrees in the day and nights were spent sleeping topside.

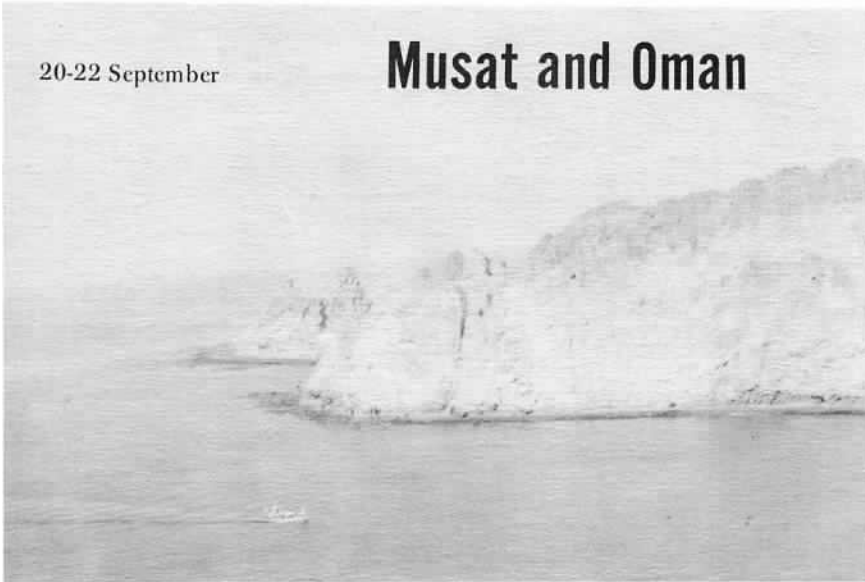
After a brief fuel stop in the terrorist torn city of Aden (where we did not leave the ship) for the Arabian Sea and the city of Muscat, the Sultanate of Muscat-Oman.



Musat Sultanate o

20-22 September

Musat and Oman



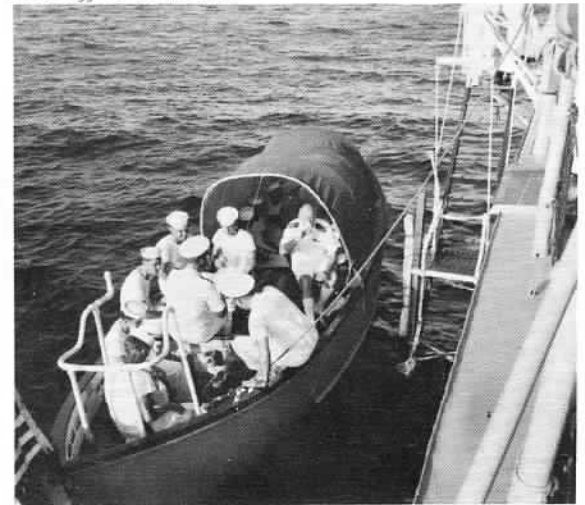
Our interrupted stay in Muscat was easily the most fascinating of the cruise. Liberty was restricted to a nearby beach, reached only by the motor whaleboat. Those who were able to see the town of Muscat found the following: One or two trees, much rock, several thousand people, one paved road, and no restaurants, taverns or stores. At night the citizens must make their way about the town with a candle lantern for no flashlights are permitted; the gates are closed at 2200.

The motor whaleboat liberty on the first day was the biggest hit of all though, and much appreciated was the chance to stretch our legs on the beach.

We left Muscat on short notice on the second morning, headed for a station off Karachi, Pakistan where we would wait for the next two weeks, ready to head in and evacuate American citizens from that city if the need arose during the tense moments between India and Pakistan. As the tension eased we were off to Bahrain.



The Sultan's armed guard paraded for the Commanding Officer.



Whaleboat liberty provided a refreshing view on life.



20 cases of beer consumed at one beach party.





HMS NUBIAN



RAF Parachute jump show.

The British made Bahrain the place to remember. We didn't even have to leave the Naval Base HMS JUFAIR in order to have a good time. The Senior Ratings Club, the Junior Ratings Club, the Army Club Bar and the Crypt, all air conditioned and well stocked made for three happy weekends.

While soundly whipped in soccer, we got the edge in baseball and basketball. Two ship's parties by the pool enabled many men to go swimming whether they wanted to or not.

During the mid week we operated in the Persian Gulf with the destroyer HMS NUBIAN at ASW games and while in port we spliced the main brace many times with her crew across the pier.

In town a sharp bargainer could pick up gold and silver at Hong Kong prices.

BAHRAIN, PERSIAN GULF

4-6 October
8-11 October
14-16 October

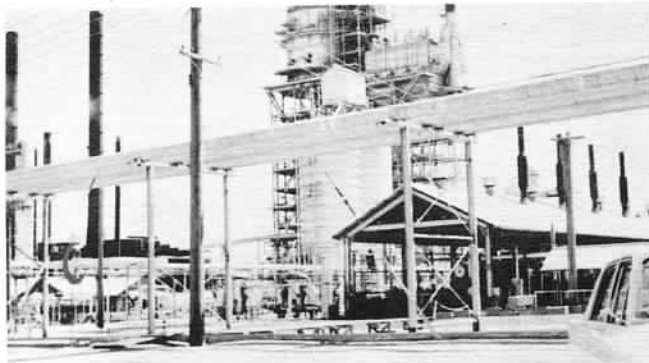


Luncheon on foc'sle for NUBIAN senior ratings.





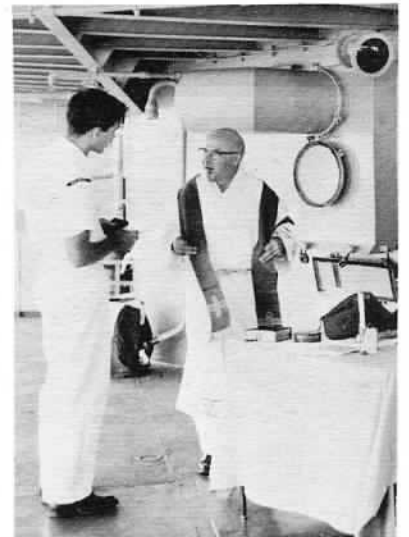
A plaque for the Army Club.



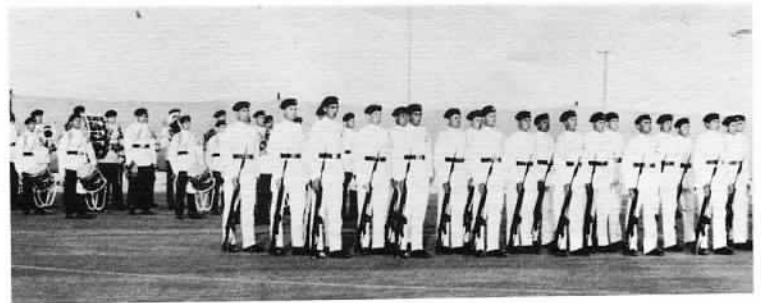
1/4 the worlds oil supply lay beneath our feet.



Adept line handlers.



Church services on the torpedo deck.



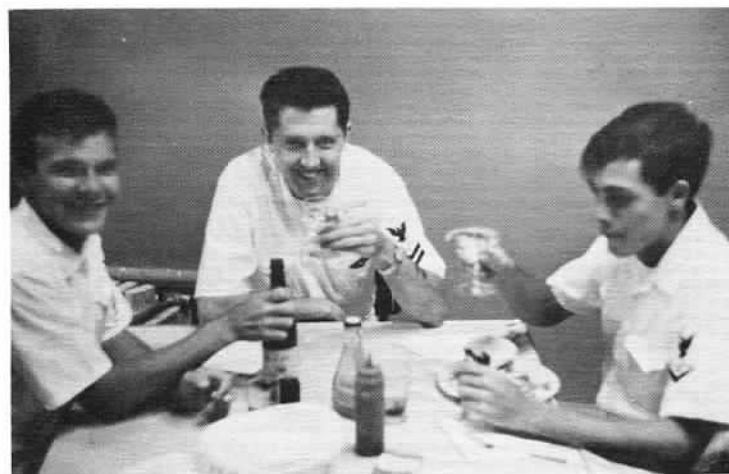
Military tattoo presented by the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment Group.



Mylenki, TM3 hit the machine on the right for \$135.00.

MASSAWA, ETHIOPIA

23-28 October



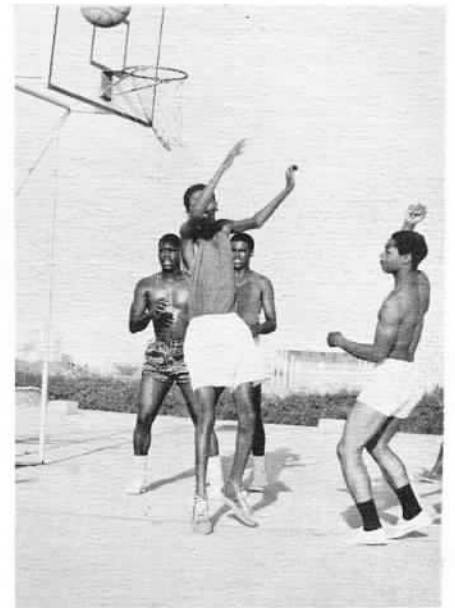
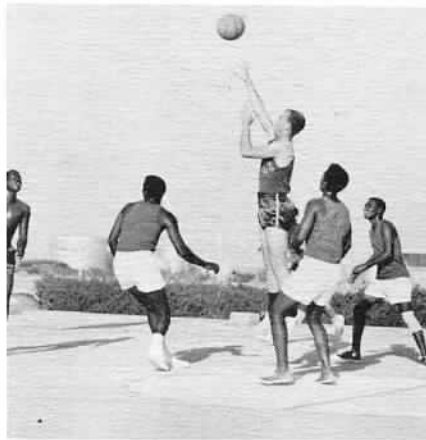
Massawa, Eritria, Ethiopia, found us as the guests of the Ethiopian Navy on several occasions.

In a certain game of basketball they beat us but otherwise were great hosts. The U.S. Army was also a great host. The Oasis Club in Massawa supplied the best American food this side of the Bluebird in Naples.

A tour to Asmara required many GEARING sailors to brave the threat of bandits on the route into the mountains. The Trocadero provided many memorable nights.



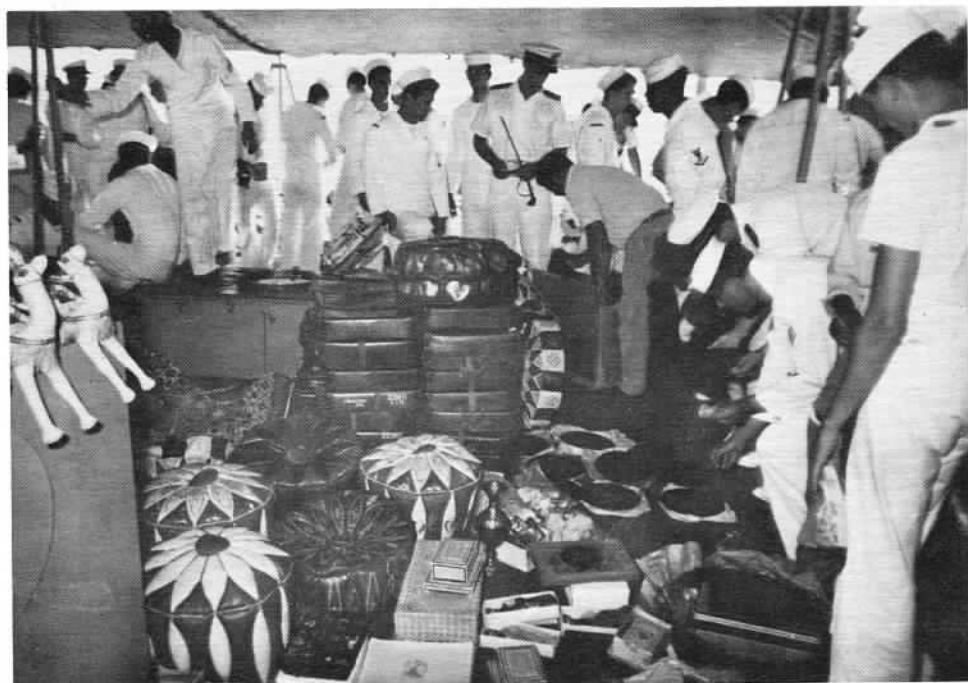
Guest for a tour.



Champion B-Ball team loses to Ethiopians.



Infamous party on the pier.



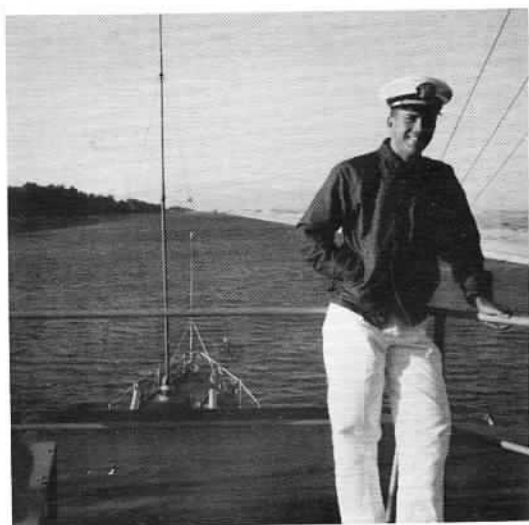
Pandemonium at Port Suez.



From camel saddles to luggage the prices dropped as sunset approached.



Northbound once again, the ship passed this monument signaling the start of the Suez Canal on 1 November.



Days were cold as we headed north. We shifted to blues in Port Said and secured the ship for rough seas.

NAPLES, ITALY

23-26 August
5-17 November



Luigi, the barber, provides service with atmosphere.



We lost our hearts in the San Francisco.

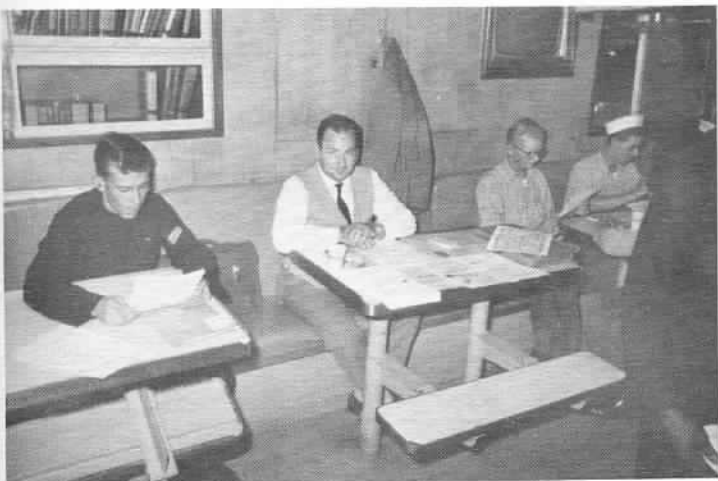


After a quick fuel stop in Souda Bay Crete we reached Naples for a tender period on 5 November. For the next 12 days Naples was like a paradise to sailors who are not known for their praise of the city. But we hadn't been near a city like that since Beirut.

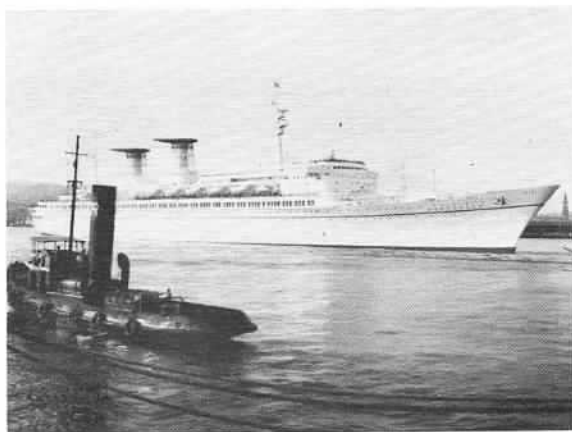
Tours to Rome, Capri, Mount Vesuvius, and Pompeii, capped off the return to liberty ports as we know them.



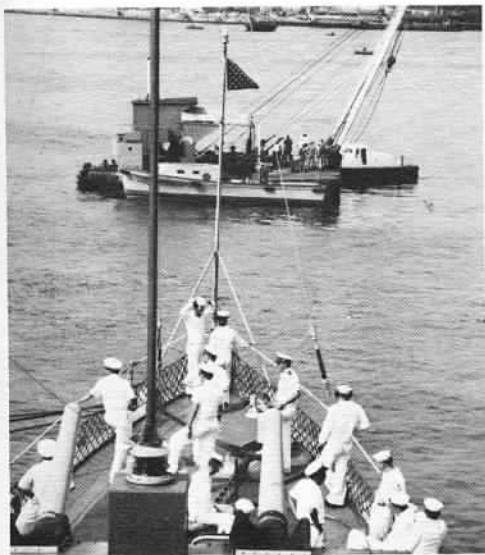
Bargain basement on the messdecks.



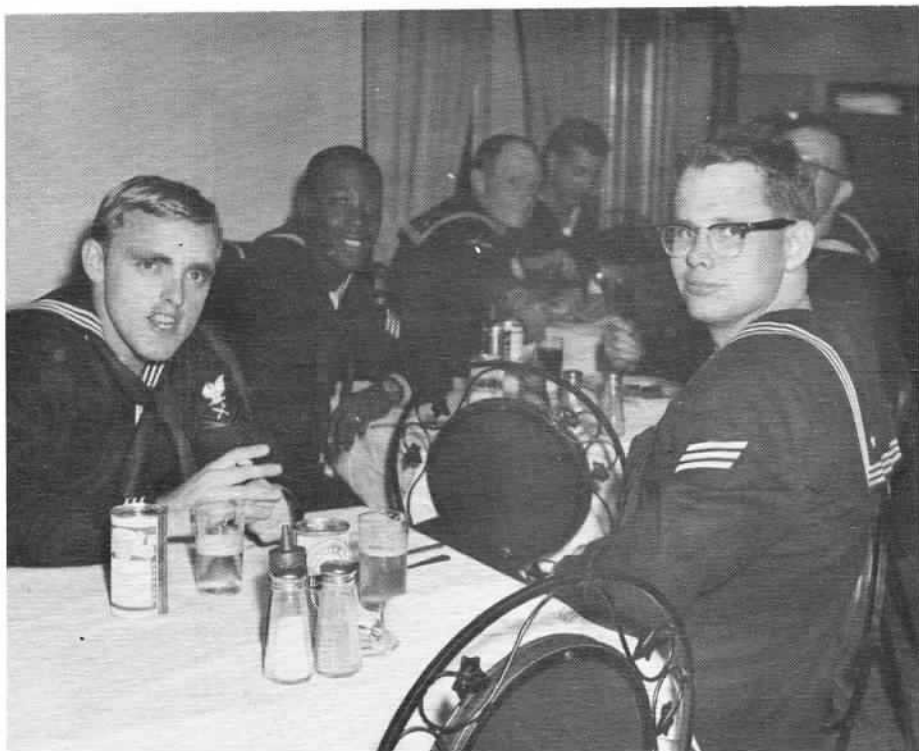
Professor Venturi at Italian class.



The RAFFAELLO departs for New York.



Italian crane works to clear our fouled anchor 26 August.



American chow at the Bluebird.



Prince Rainier and Princess Grace arrive at the Opera.



Monaco was easily the most spectacular port of the cruise.

Rivalling with the British cruiser HMS TIGER for attention during the celebration of Monaco's National Day, we gave more than 300 citizens a tour of the ship, ferrying by motor whaleboat.

The Captain and Executive Officer were guests of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace at the opera and at a state dinner at the palace the next day.

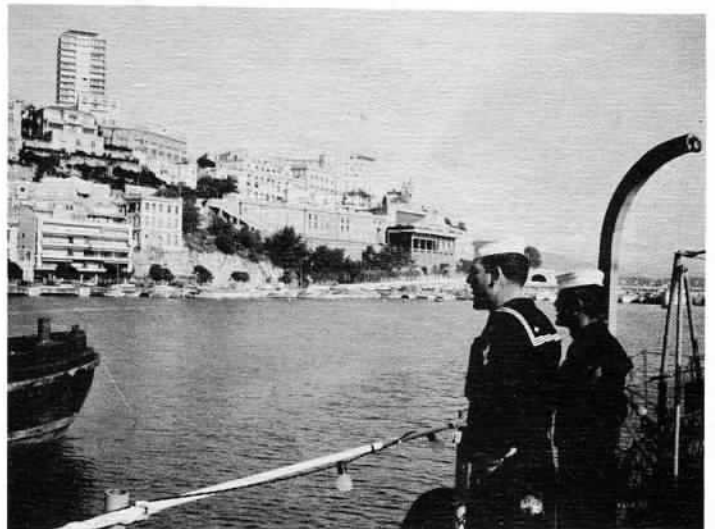
While the parade of our honor guard was washed out by rain, the party for them given by the palace guards wasn't and the international soccer game between France and Monaco (won by Monaco) capped off the occasion.

The big hangout was the carnival along the waterfront, but many men still got to see the towns along the Riviera such as Nice, Cannes, and Golf Juan.

The big on board event was the fashion show and display and sale of women's wear.

**M
O
N
A
C
O**

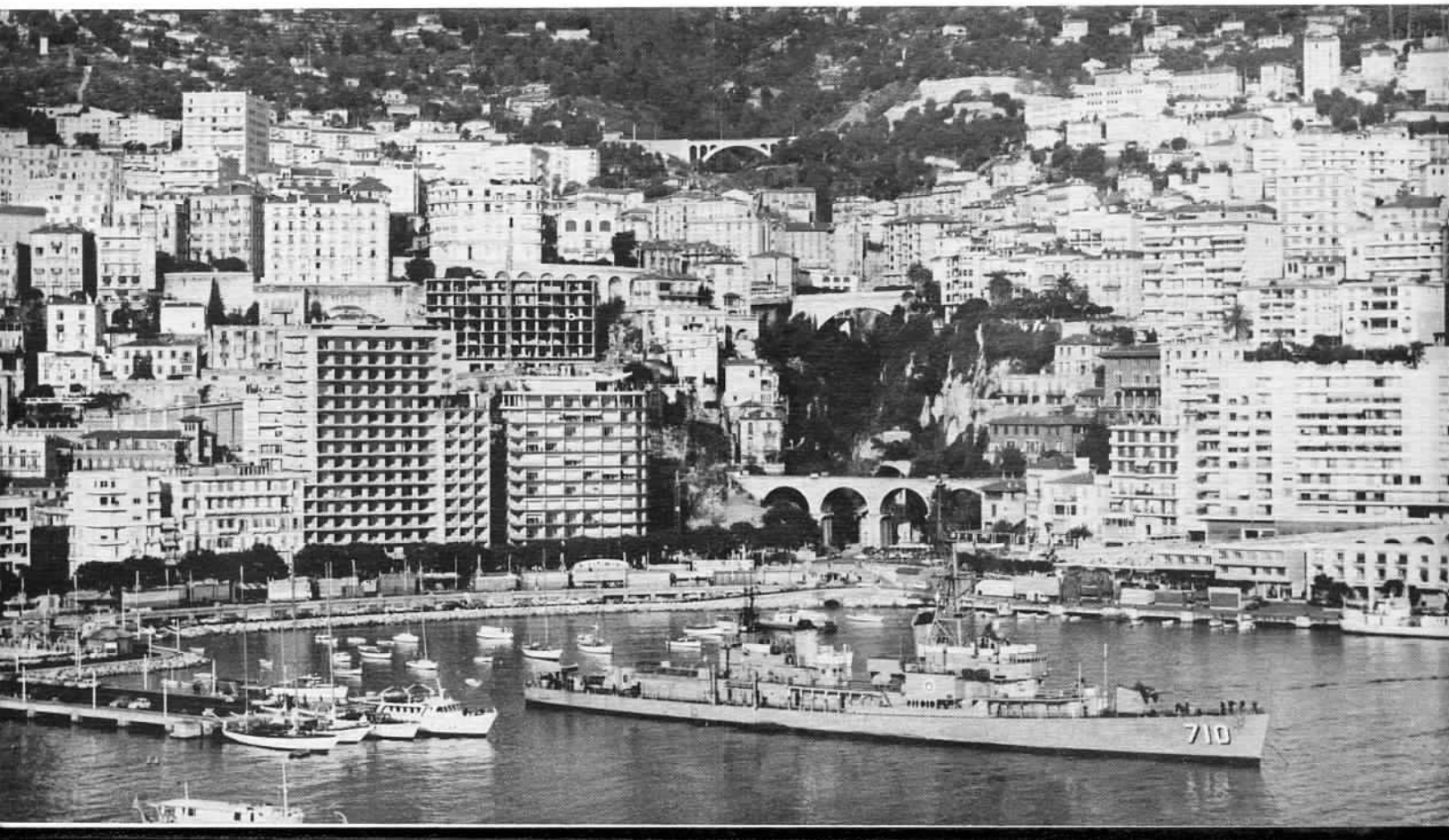
18-22
Nov.





Steaming through the breakwater. Casino of Monte Carlo is left of center.

Anchored in a four day festival of color and light.





An extraordinary fireworks display surrounded the ship.



then there was the Fashion Show...



Indra



and

Christina



warmed up an



otherwise chilly day





Yes, he's one of ours.

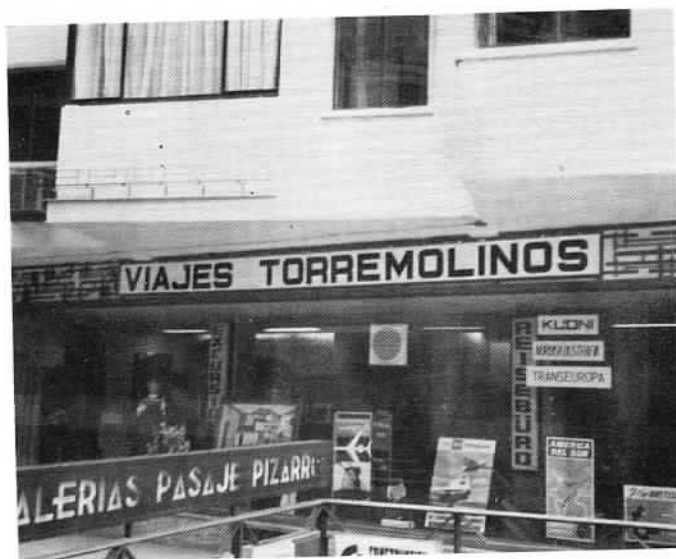
MALAGA and TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN

24-27 November



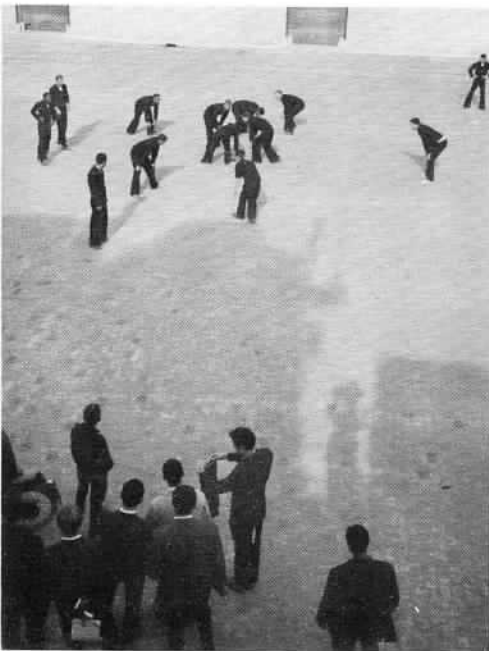
Ship divisional parties were the key entertainment at Malaga, Spain. The Swedish inhabited vacationland on the Costa del Sol about 60 miles from Gibraltar was the most westernized town, especially the beach resort of Torremolinos about 5 miles to the west where the majority of the crowd went. Atilas Bar, the El Grotto, and the Pit were the center of activity.

A tour which offered in the brochure, "wine, bullfighting, and 'ole'" was a new experience. Nearly a half a dozen GEARING sailors were trampled and nearly gored by the "baby" bulls after partaking of the wine and the 'ole.





THANKSGIVING 1965

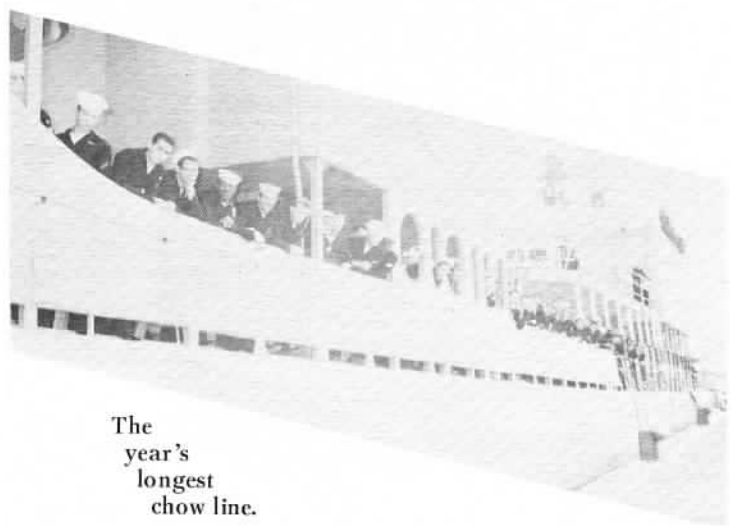


Pre-Turkey football game witnessed by curious Spainiards.





Several American guests brightened the scene.



The year's longest chow line.





PALMA, MALLORCA

1-5 December



A bit of the old channel fever had set in when we reached Palma. We had begun operating with other U.S. Sixth Fleet units and the pride of independence had worn off.

Tours to the hinterlands of Mallorca offered a look at the Spanish country life, but most men preferred to stick to the town and buy Christmas gifts and think about the upcoming leave to be taken in Newport.



The USS Gearing Stamp of Approval

A Bachelor's Guide to Popular Pubs of Med

and Middle East

BEIRUT LEBANON:

Phoenicia Hotel
Kit Kat Club
St. George Hotel
Casino Du Liban
American Bar

BAHRAIN, PERSIAN GULF:

Malcolm Club
Army Club Bar
HMS Nubian Et Al
Senior Ratings Club
Junior Ratings Club
The Crypt-thanks to Mr. Pillai

MASSAWA, ETHIOPIA:

The Trocadero-regards to Zodie
Oasis Club-thanks to U. S. Army
The Four Floors

ASMARA, ETHIOPIA:

N.C.O. Club
Mocambo Bar

NAPLES, ITALY:

The River Bar
El Sombrero & Piano Bar

-thanks to Mario

El Morracco
The Lowenbrau
The Den
Grottino Romano
BlueBird-regards to Mary
San Fransisco Bar-regards to Diamond
Cactus Club-regards to Suzie

MONACO:

Rozies-regards to Rosie
Shore Patrol Headquarters-regards to Whiskey

MALAGA & TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN:

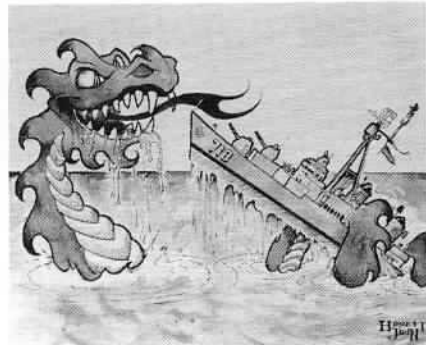
The Pit
Mikes Bar
Bossanova
Top Ten
El Grotto-regards to Sandy
Atilas Bar

PALMA, MALLORCA:

Jimmies
Bar Mary's
Mam's Bar
El Patio
El Rodeo-regards to Vera

Sailors at Work and

Play, A Random Sample...

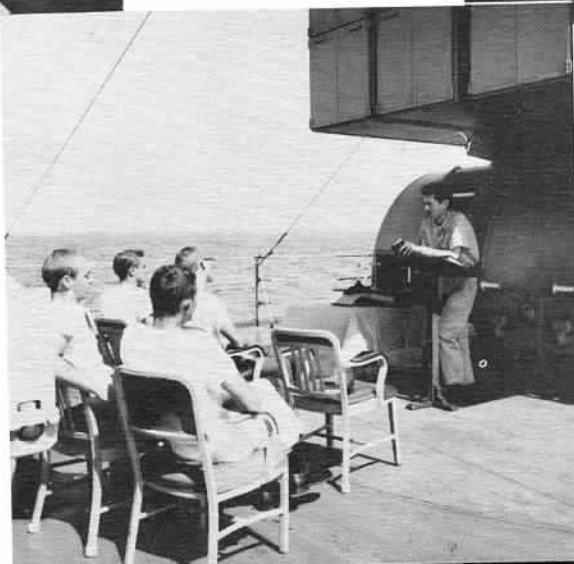


"Snee snakes" very prevalent in Middle East waters.





ASW Operations.



Church call on the ASROC deck.



Operations "E" painted on in Naples.



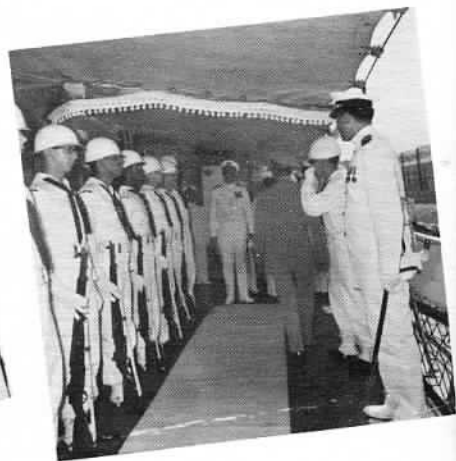
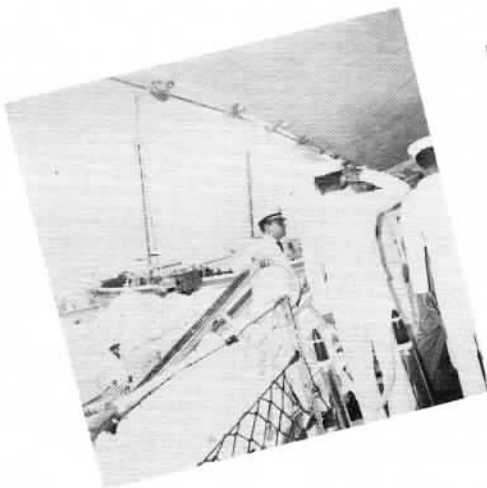
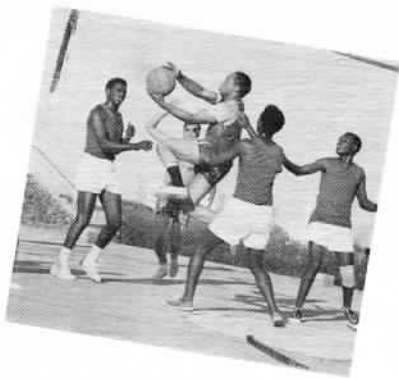
Stromboli.



ET's found that friendly air search radar antenna eats med lights.



First attempt at astern refueling was complete success.



You say you want special pay?



What's it worth to you.



Destroyer Navy Sunday routine.

Atlantic
Ocean

Azores
Ponta
Del Gada

Spain

France

MONACO

Italy

CORSICA

SARDINIA

ADRIATIC

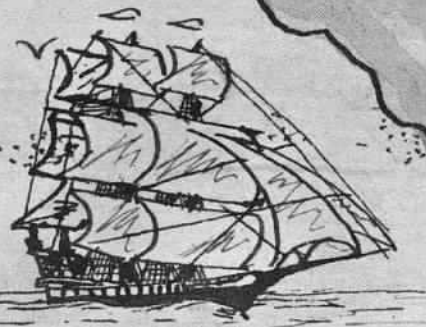
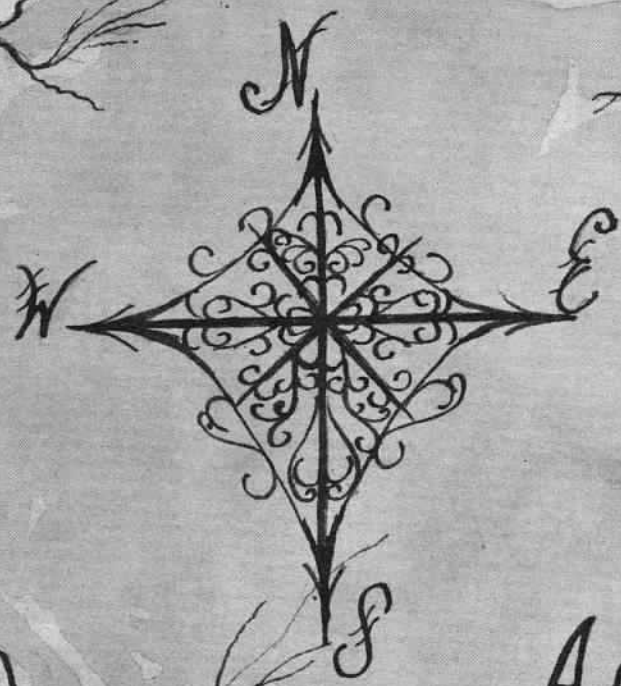
Rome
Napoli

PALMA
(MAIORCA)

Mediterranean
Sicily
Sea

Africa

Mediterranean





• Moscow

Black Sea

Turkey

Caspian Sea

Aral Sea

Greece

Crete

Beirut

Port Said
Port Suez

Suez Canal

Persian Gulf
Bahrain

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan

KARACHI

MUSCAT

Arabian Sea

Massawa
Asmara
Ethiopia

Aden

Gulf of Aden

Indian Ocean

PORTS OF CALL
USS GEARING
Mediterranean & Middle East Cruise
1965