



U.S.S. WALDRON DD-699
MED. CRUISE - 1961

U.S.S. WALDRON

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE
NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE



HISTORY OF THE SHIP

On the 26th of March 1944, at the yards of the Federal Shipbuilding Company, Kearney, New Jersey, a new destroyer slipped from the building ways into the murky waters of the Passaic River. She was named Waldron in honor of a naval officer who had given his life for his country in World War II. The officer: Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron, Commander of Torpedo Squadron Eight.

Under the guiding hand of Commander George E. Peckham, Waldron was assigned to Division 123, Destroyer Squadron 62. Upon completion of shakedown training she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet, becoming a part of Vice Admiral "Marc" Mitscher's famed Task Force 58 and received her baptism of fire in the initial strikes against the island of Formosa in January 1945. Later, moving into the Tokyo Bay area, Waldron rammed and sank a Japanese picket boat. The ship received but minor damage. In the memorable August of that year Waldron steamed alongside U.S.S. Missouri into Tokyo Bay to accept the unconditional surrender of Japan. The name Waldron had again proved to be an unsurmountable barrier in the plan of Japanese conquest.

Peacetime brought quietness and a more leisurely pace to the Navy and Waldron. Homeported in New Orleans in 1947 and 1948 her time was spent in training reserves--an important task in the peacetime Navy. In 1949 Waldron rejoined the active fleet and completed a series of intensive fleet operations as well as a good-will tour with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Decommissioned in June 1950, she remained on the inactive list for ten months before returning to duty under Commander J.C. Shaw. From then, until 1953, she completed a standard schedule of overhauls, refresher training, Middle cruises, fleet operations, and deployments to the Med.

In November of 1953 Waldron commenced a complete change of pace and scene; a round-the-world cruise. Old timers will remember the great ports: Panama, San Diego, Honolulu, Midway, Yokosuka, Singapore, Ceylon, Suez, and Barcelona. Remember the skippers? Commanders Cunningham and Wilsie. Waldron came home on the fourth of June 1954, entering Norfolk just a little over seven months after departure.

Norfolk was glad to see her and this time DD 699 became a part of Destroyer Division 222, her home unit ever since. Again there was the never ending round of overhauls, refresher training, fleet exercises, reserve and middle cruises, as well as Med deployments but always there were new places to see, new shipmates to serve with, new skippers (Commanders Benitz, Mason, and Cummings) to guide her, Waldron was on the spot for the Suez Canal controversy in 1957 and a part of Task Force 47, the first Inland Sea Cruise, in 1959. Many old friends and shipmates dropped in to see her when she stopped at places like Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Toledo, and Montreal.

In 1960 Waldron won her first Battle Efficiency Award in a very close race with her sister ship Ault. In 1961, under Commander Van Pelt, she repeated her performance and added the hash mark to her "E" as well as qualifying for the engineering and three gunnery "E"s. 1962 found the Waldron keeping a quiet vigil in the Red Sea and it was early March before she returned home to Norfolk.

COMMANDING OFFICER



CDR W.V. Van Pelt USN

It is with a great deal of pride that I take this opportunity to express to all hands my pleasure in having had command of the Waldron prior to and during her deployment in the Mediterranean with the Sixth Fleet. Prior to this cruise the Waldron was awarded the coveted "E" for the second year running, an achievement in which you may all take a great measure of pride.

Once again the Waldron was called upon to take her place in the front line of our nation's Power for Peace forces. Our presence in Mediterranean waters was living proof and assurance to our many friends in the surrounding lands of America's friendship, support, and concern for their well-being and for world peace. It was our privilege to share in this vigil and to visit among the peoples of six nations during our six months tour.

We as destroyermen have witnessed the versatility of today's destroyer force. Whether it be as a support ship with an amphibious landing, a screening unit for a logistic force, an active participant of a complex air defense force, or as a single unit patrolling the waters of the Red Sea our usefulness, purpose, and capabilities were clearly evident.

With the passing years we of the Waldron can recall the many gratifying experiences of this cruise and point with pride to the fact that we were a member of this proud ship, USS WALDRON DD-699.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



LCDR J.W. Cahill USN

DEPARTMENT HEADS



LT. R. A. Berger
USN
Gunnery



LT G.M. Valodin
USN
Engineering



LTJG C.R. Peele
USN
Operations



ENS H.K. Fahrenthold
USNR
Supply

DIVISION OFFICERS



LTJG T.J. Beatty
USN
1st Division



ENS H.J. Bower, Jr.
USN
2nd Division



LTJG G.W. Davis, V
USN
F Division



LT C.E. Adams, Jr.
USNR
M Division



LTJG W.I. Zangwill
USN
B Division



ENS D.L. Talley USN
R Division



LTJG D.W. Kemble
USNR
OE Division



LTJG C.R. Huntington
USN
OI Division



LTJG L.E. Lowden
USNR
OC Division

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS



G.B. Adams, SKC
USN



A. Carter, SMCA
USN



L.E. Coultas, BTCA
USN



J. Holubs, FTC
USN



C.D. Moncrief, GMGC
USN



R.W. Schott, YNCA
USN



T.D. Thornton, MMCA
USN



FIRST ROW: Ware, Lweis, Hagy. SECOND ROW: Zambo, Kodatt, Kelling, Brown, Garcia, N.E. Nelson, Fiel, Schmidt, Kuzak, Simunovitch, Brackman, ~~Frost~~ HUNT

FIRST DIVISION



FIRST ROW: Canupp, Rainwaters. SECOND ROW: Podles, Hillsboro, Honeyman, Green, Briening, Haines, Cotter, Couch, Snyder, Doreflein, Hurdas, Rednour.



FIRST ROW: Lowery, Hotchkiss, Chief Moncrief, Norman. SECOND ROW: Bieglow, Lee, Strum, O'Brien, Harper, Chesler, Hornberger, Bruce, Eller, Orr, Hopp.

SECOND DIVISION



That's enough posing, Hornberger. Turn to!

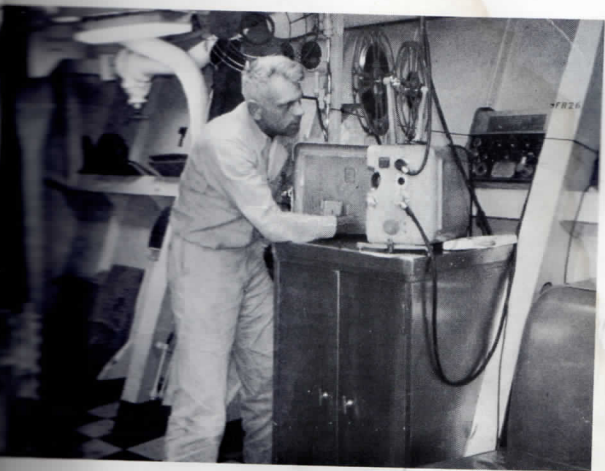


No, I don't believe Norman can get through here.

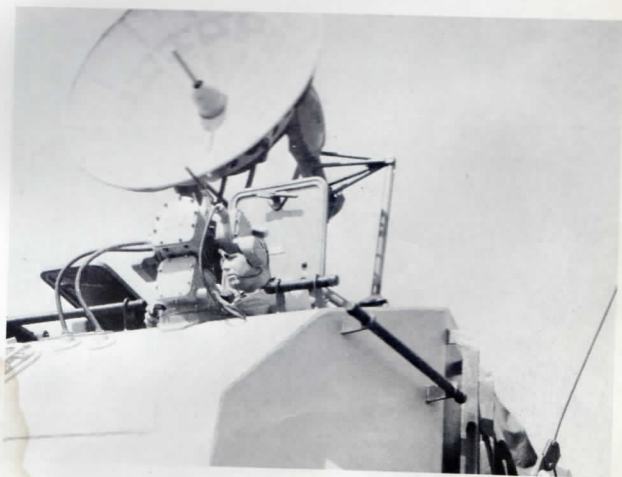


FIRST ROW: Chief Holubs, Kirby, ENS Persons. SECOND ROW: Schreiber, Lydia, Hays, Taylor, Mollohan, Hiepp, Fromviller, Caraway, Harris, White, Altadonna.

F DIVISION



This beats working on the director.



Just point it, Mr. Bower. We'll make it work.



FIRST ROW: Wesley, Miller, Newcomb, Hicks, M.D. Johnson, H.J. Smith. SECOND ROW: Woods, D.O. Edmunds, Biederman, Wilkie, Tucker, Dallison, Trevett, Ratliff, Schiller, Richards, Furry.

M DIVISION



Pappy Ludwig and his boys.



One cigar means one more knot!

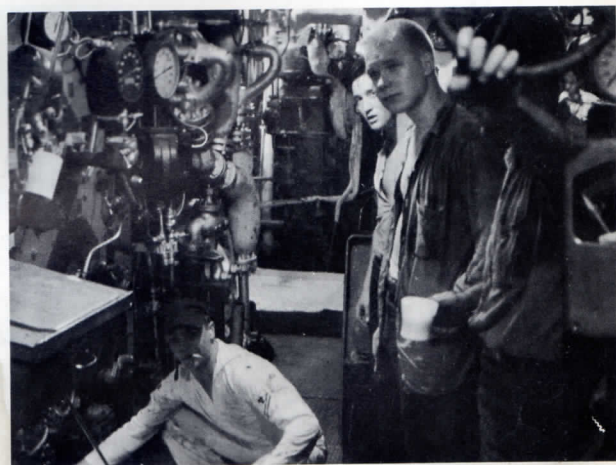


FIRST ROW: LTJG Zangwill, M.L. Richardson, Chief Coultas, Rollins, Forshee. SECOND ROW: Robbs, Grubb, Shelby, Robison, Wilkinson, Pack, Buelterman, Payne, Kachnovitz, Douglas, Haywood, Goerlitz, Ferguson.

B DIVISION



The Navy's handsomest fireroom gang.



Who said to wear whites?



FIRST ROW: Chief Thornton, V.A. Edmonds, Potts, Nichols, W.A. Sanders, Thomas, Matter. SECOND ROW: Cole, Stommel, Spangler, Kozub, D'Ambrosio, R.L. Smith, Martin, McIntyre, Fleck, R.C. Raschig, Hurst, Ingle, A.A. Raschig, O.J. Sanders, Gatlin, J.W. Johnson.

R DIVISION



Edmonds puts another hole in the side of the ship.



Pretty dark for the electrical shop.



FIRST ROW: Robinson, Mahoney. SECOND ROW: Pike, D.L. Smith, Perry, Ward, Shaffer, Huebsch, Mattson, Lyons, Owens.

OE DIVISION



It won't be like this on sub-marines.

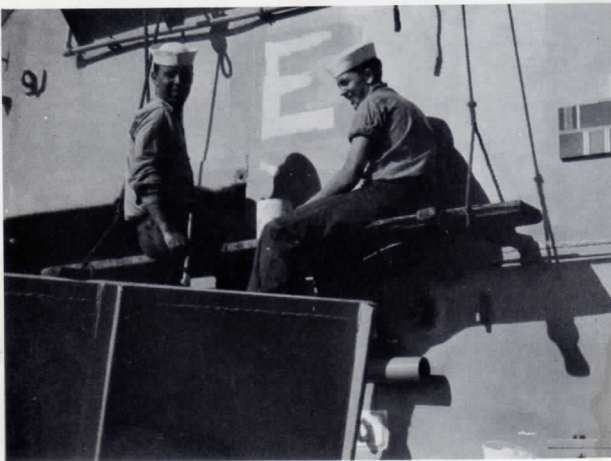


I think there are beans in this one, Roby.



FIRST ROW: Tennant, Gagnon, Morton, Mazarella. SECOND ROW: Keith, Justice, Morris, Lesizza, N.H. Mitchell, Davis.

OI DIVISION



Learning a trade.



OK. Who made THAT coffee?



FIRST ROW: Fetter, Archambeault, Uren, Mixon, R. Jones, McKnight, Mers. SECOND ROW: Chief Carter, Soares, Royce, Followell, Molt, Hoskins, Gagliano, LTJG Lowden.

OC DIVISION



"Iron Man" Jones pushes money orders.



I told you the Chief could read those flags.



FIRST ROW: Chief Schott, Sellers. SECOND ROW: Kiely, McElwee, M.G. Bailey, Holland.

OX DIVISION



I think I see light, Sarge.



Not so loud, Bailey. Chief's on the other side

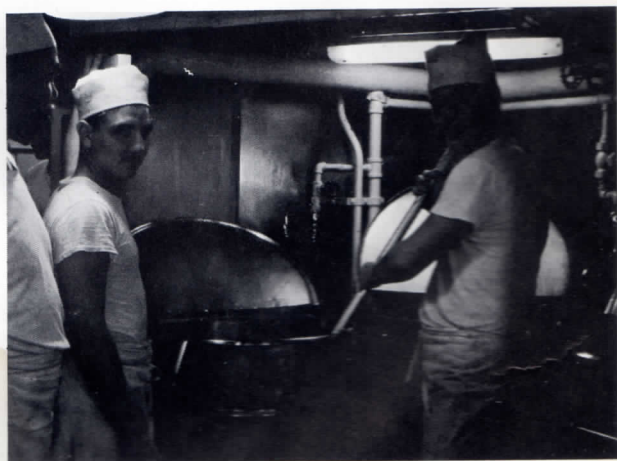


FIRST ROW: Stowers, Page, Schetrompf, P. Bailey, Street, Mock. **SECOND ROW:** Chief Adams, C. L. Nelson, Mackin, Knight, Steck, H. I. Mitchell, H. L. Richardson, McClaskey, Golden, Gilbert, R. L. Jones.

S DIVISION



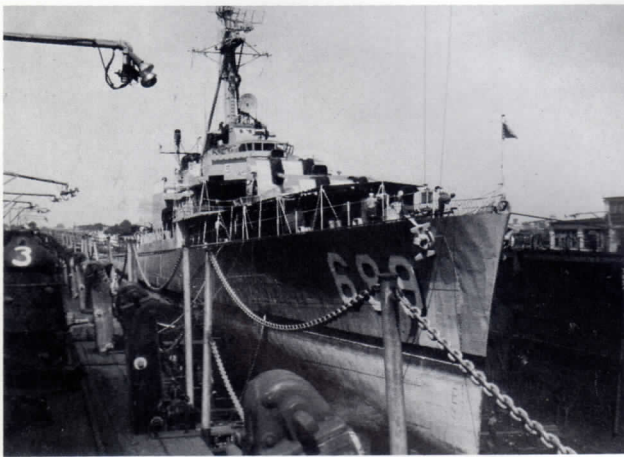
Stowers rouses out the steaks.



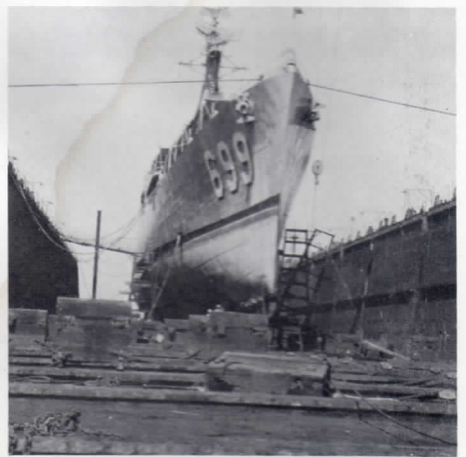
They're going to call it stew.

OFF FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Early August was supposed to see Waldron DD-699 sail with Destroyer Squadron 22 for a tour with the Sixth Fleet. Sonar difficulties kept her home however and we sadly waved goodbye to Ault, Haynesworth, and Weeks as we slowly wended our way up the Elizabeth River to the yards of the Norfolk Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. For a whole month we sat in the heat and clouds of sand in South Norfolk.



"E"s on the bottom?



Who said she was flat?

In the ninth of September we made it. Leaving wives and sweethearts on the pier, we headed out into the Atlantic with the units of the "Second to None" Squadron--DESRON TWO. Crossing was a period of great preparations.

PLENTY OF GUNNERY . . .



We're ready.



The big noise!



Now we've gotta clean 'em.



What do they save these for?

PLUS A LOT OF JUST PLAIN WORK . . .



As soon as we paint this Mr. Zangwill will back into it.



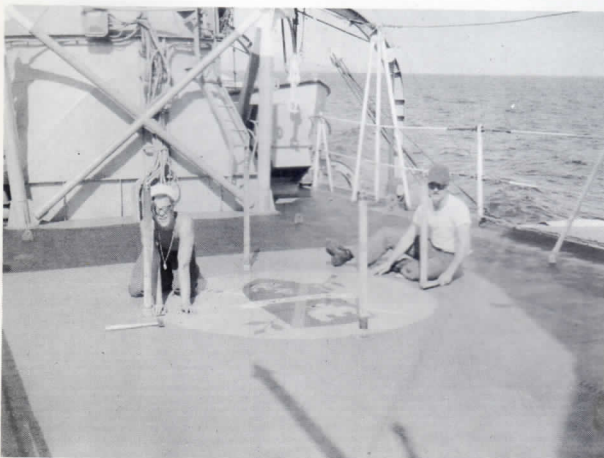
It didn't move. We'd better paint it.



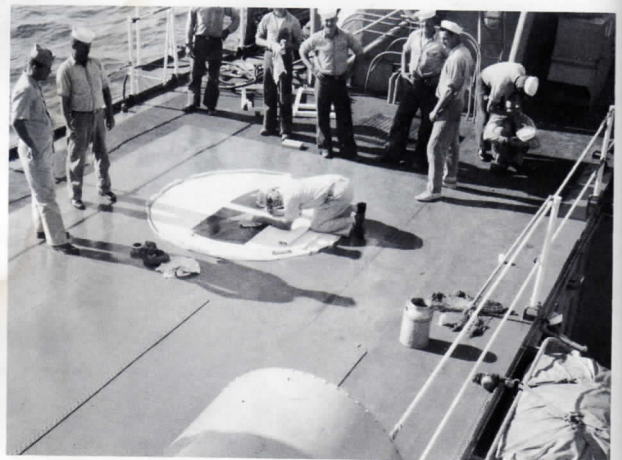
KEILING
Hazy, master arteest!



If Mother could only see me now.



Who's idea was this, anyway?



I think Mecca is in the other direction.

AND EATING . . .



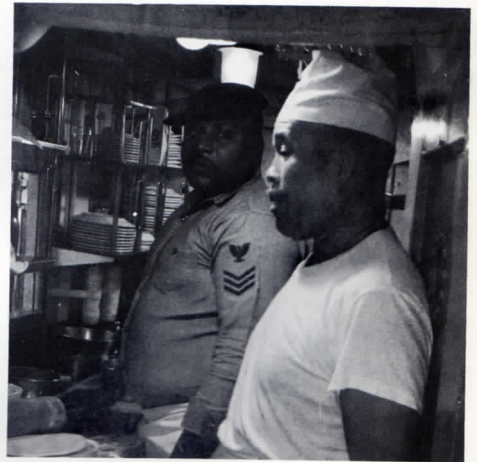
All those smiling faces.



Some ate more than others.



The Good Humor man.



Italian night in the wardroom



The Skipper samples Christmas dinner.

Sometimes we ate outside . . .

FANTAIL COOKOUT . . .



Hope they fix that range soon!



Just like the Salvation Army.



SOME RESTED . . .

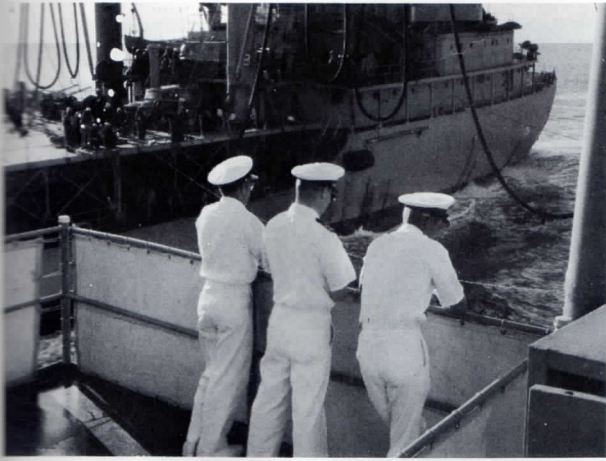


On his way to an emergency.



But Chief, we worked all night.

ALWAYS PLENTY OF SUPERVISION . . .



OK. Now you growl, Chief.



Boatswain Mate type smiles.



You mean we have to WAX it!



SERVICE AT ALL TIMES . . .



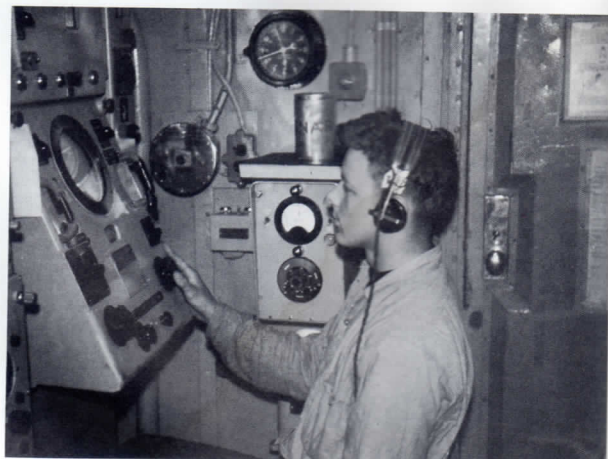
You can get a haircut,



Have a letter typed,



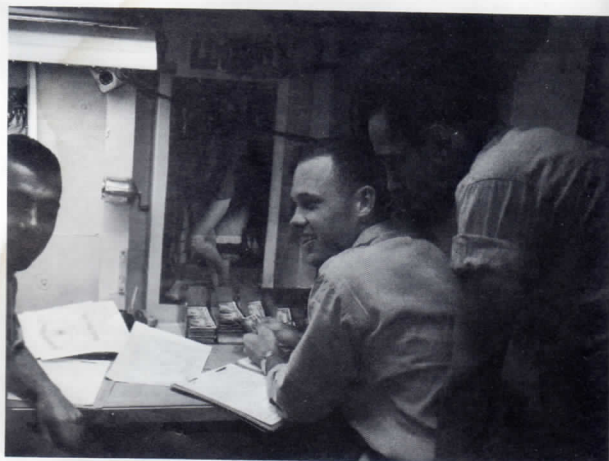
Send a message,



Find a submarine,



Get your shirt washed,



Or get paid.

INCLUDING STREET'S FLEA MARKET



Just like Aden.



Our time in the Med was not all work. Starting with Suda Bay, Crete, we visited a great number of ports. Antalya, Turkey; Golfe Juan, France; Savona, Genoa, LaSpezia, and Naples, Italy; Piraeus, Greece; and through the Suez Canal to the exotic ports of Africa and the Middle East: Massawa, Eritrea; Aden; Bahrain; Manama; Umm Said; and Djibouti, French Somaliland.

The highlight of our Rivera stay was a real live fashion show on the O1 deck. Models, Bikinis, and a lot of strained eyeballs.





OH WELL — BACK TO WORK . . .

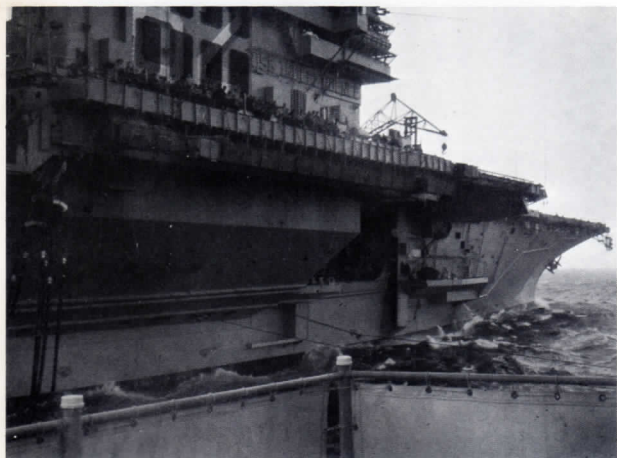
Sometimes it was fueling. We did a lot of this and, on some rare occasions, we fueled during daylight hours.



We take a long drink.



Sometimes we went formal.

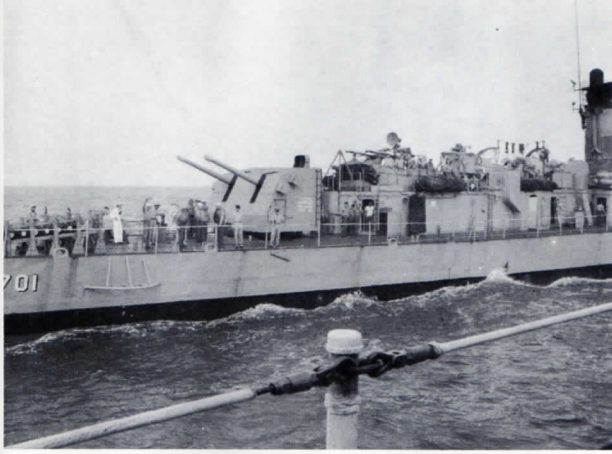


Those carriers are big!



Othertimes we got wet.

HI-LINE TOO . . .



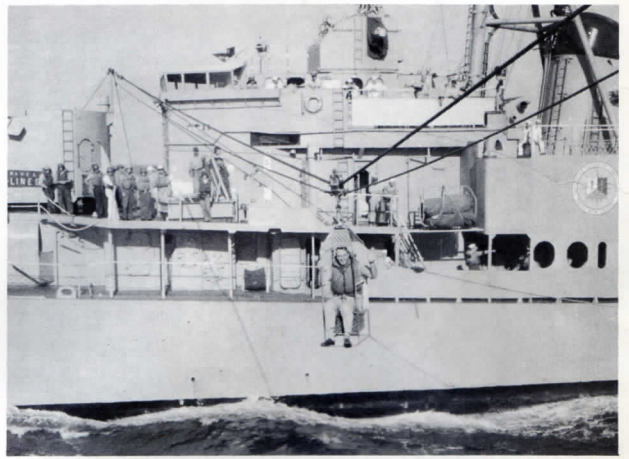
Approaching the Weeks.



All aboard!



Out, and . . .



Away!

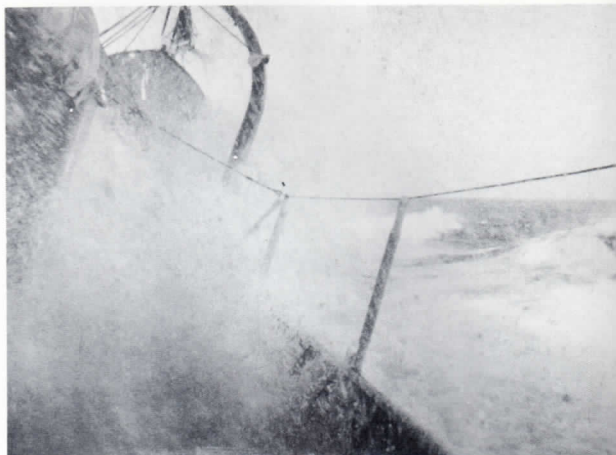
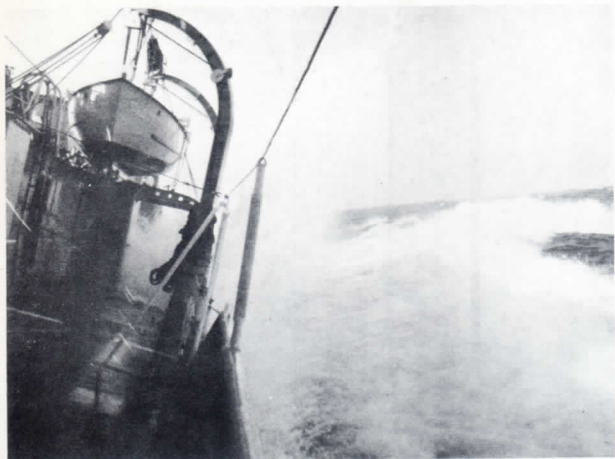


Where did this white one come from?



Hey! It's one of ours.

SOMETIMES IT GOT ROUGH . . .



WE HAD TO TURN TO . . .



The Commodore for encouragement.



The Chaplain for a word to the Man upstairs.



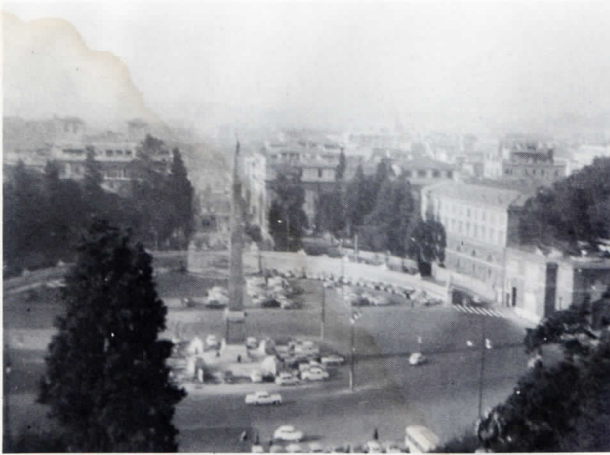
WE DID GO ON LIBERTY . . .



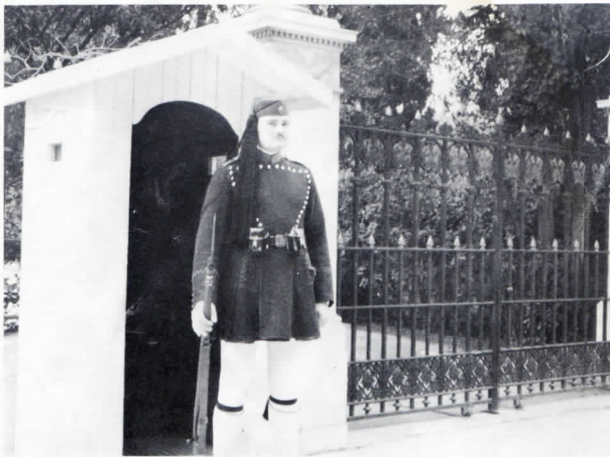
The colosseum in Rome.



Michelangelo's Moses.



Rome, Italy.



Embassy guard, Athens.



Bravo at Mussolini Square.

AND CHECKED THE LOCAL SIGHTS . . .



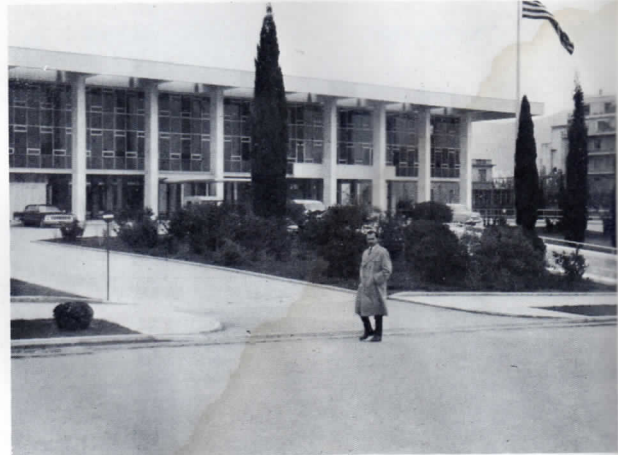
It must have been some party.



Needs a paint job.



Tourists.

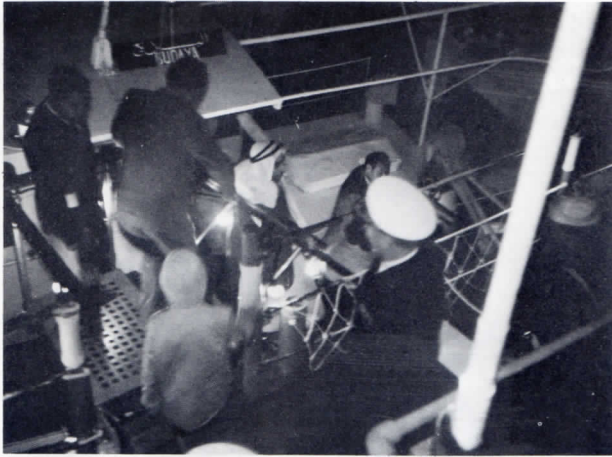


U. S. Embassy, Athens.



There were other sights to see too!

AND ENTERTAINED . . .



Guests depart at Baharain.



The smiling host.



Honors for the French Commandant, Bjibouti.

AND BOUGHT SOUVENIRS.

