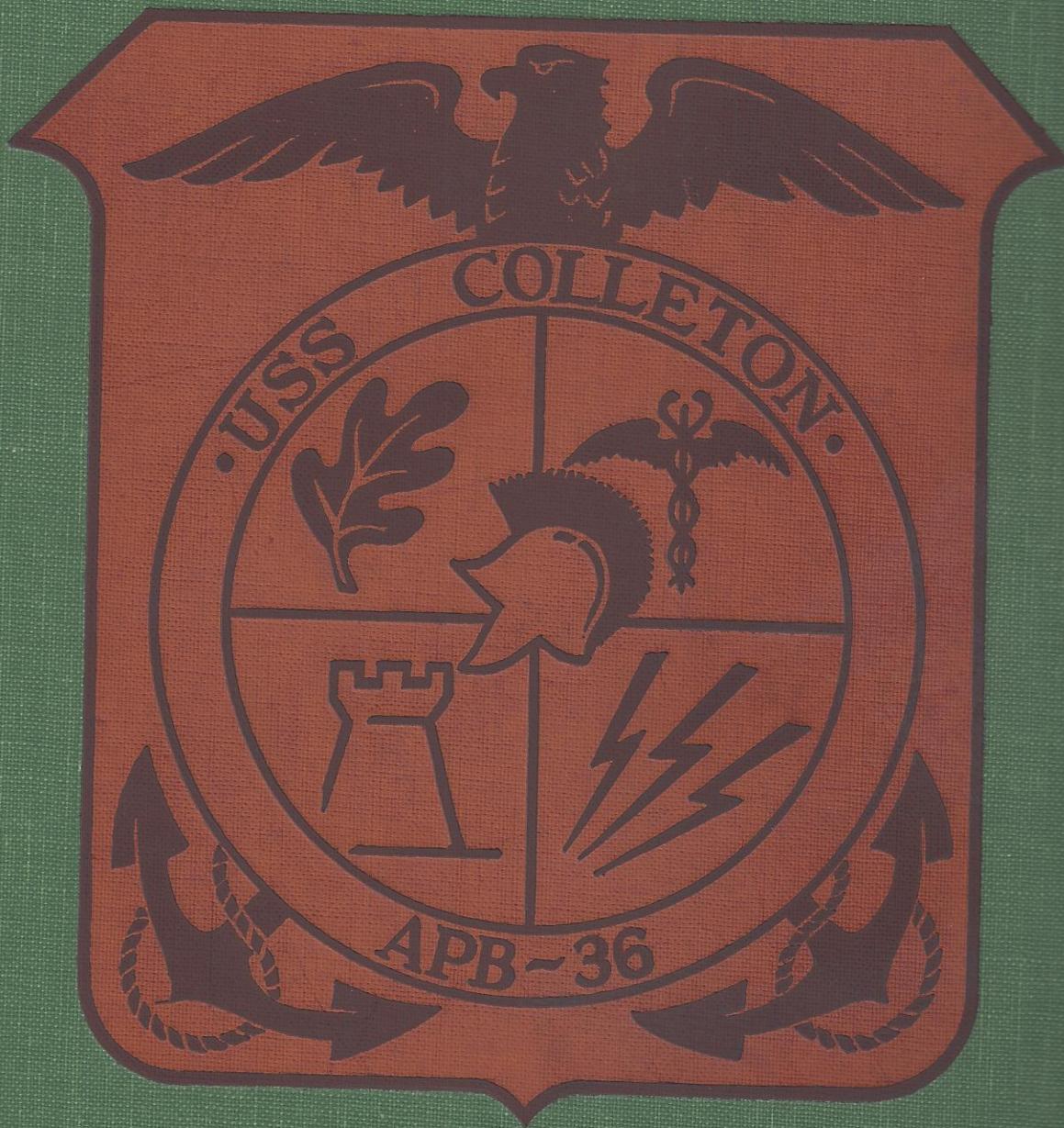


COMMISSIONED
28 JANUARY 1967



UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

CHINA

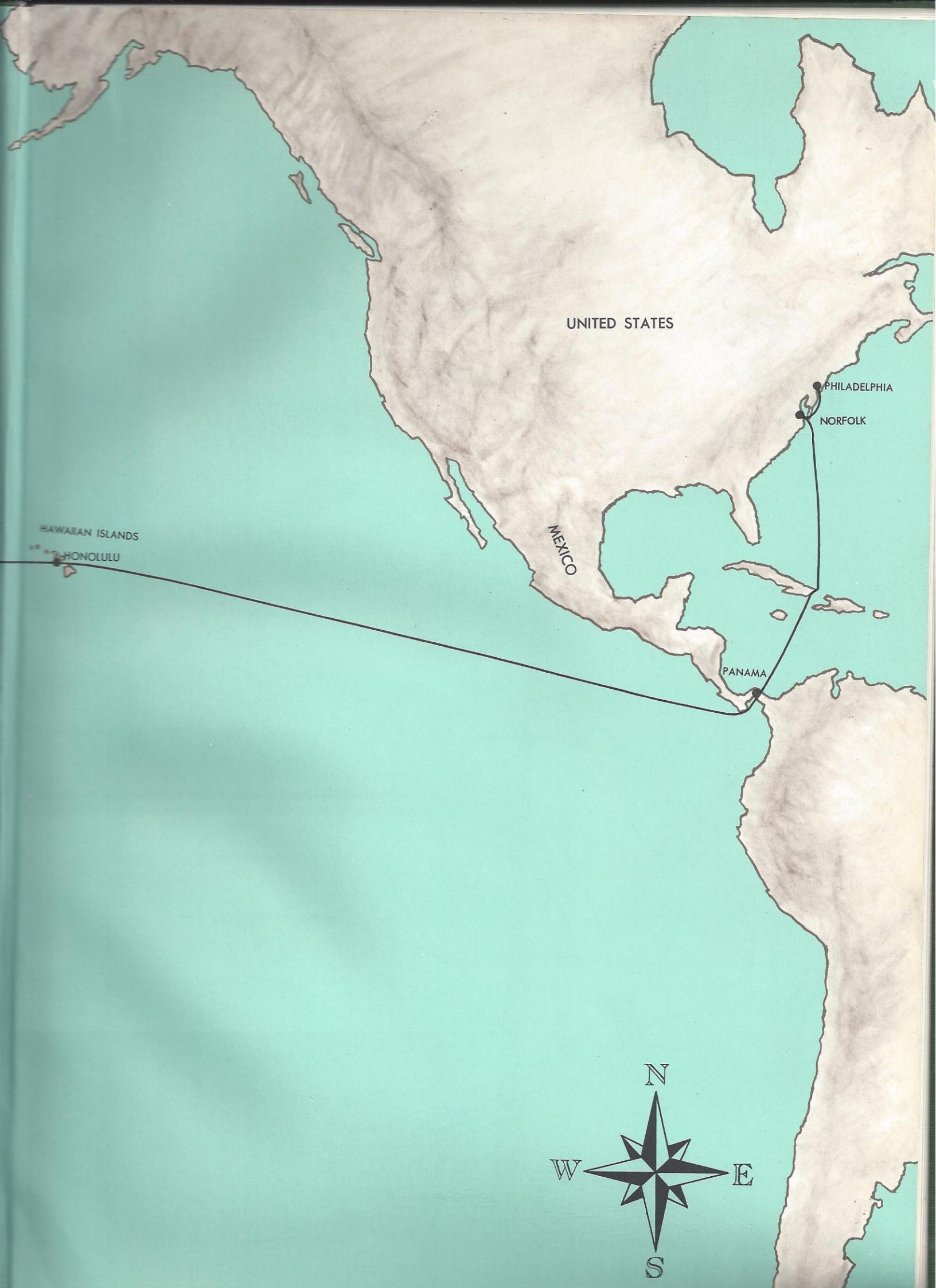
JAPAN

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

VIETNAM
SAIGON
VUNG TAU

SOUTH CHINA
SEA

PHILIPPINE
ISLANDS



UNITED STATES

PHILADELPHIA

NORFOLK

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

HONOLULU

MEXICO

PANAMA



OUR MASCOT



SNOOPY

36



WELCOME ABOARD !!

The USS COLLETON (APB-36) has been specially designed and extensively remodelled to serve the needs of the United States Army as a command and control center as well as a floating home.

COLLETON's keel was laid on 9 June 1945. She was launched on 30 July 1945 and completed in September 1946. With the end of World War II, she was placed in mothballs and served as a barracks in Boston.

The concept of Riverine Warfare in the Mekong Delta renewed the need for COLLETON. Having a shallow draft and flat bottom, she is well suited for the river environment, and after extensive conversion, she was commissioned at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 28 January 1967. The result of this conversion is a vessel which is a secure fortress, a communications and operations center and most of all, a HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

F R Banbury

F. R. BANBURY
COMMANDING OFFICER



Floyd R. Banbury
Lieutenant Commander

THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Commander Floyd R. Banbury, was born 17 March 1925 in Knox County, Ohio. He graduated from Danville High School and attended Ohio University prior to entering the United States Navy in May 1943. After graduating from the Radio Material School, Treasure Island, California, he was ordered to duty instructing at the Radio Technician School, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois.

Lieutenant Commander Banbury advanced to Chief Electronics Technician in January 1946 and reported as a member of the commissioning crew of the USS BUCK (DD-761). Following duty in USS BUCK, he served in USS JOHN A. BOLE (DD-759), USS SIERRA (AD-18) and in USS PIEDMONT (AD-17), the latter in Tsingtao, China, shortly before Tsingtao was occupied by the Chinese Communists.

In 1949 Lieutenant Commander Banbury was ordered to duty instructing at the Advanced Undersea Weapons School, Key West, Florida. He served in USS TOLEDO (CA-133) in 1952 and 1953 during two deployments to the Korean area then returned to the Advanced Undersea Weapons School where he made a major revision to the three month basic electronics section of the school.

After graduating sixth in his class at Officers Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island, in September 1955, Lieutenant Commander Banbury was ordered to USS WORCESTER (CL-144) and served as a junior officer of a deck division, then F Division Officer and First Lieutenant. The USS WORCESTER made two deployments with the Seventh Fleet before he was ordered to the five-term college program at Ohio State University in July 1958. Upon graduation in June 1960 and a course of instruction in the General Line School, Monterey, California, he was ordered to USS McKEAN (DDR-784) as Operations Officer for another deployment to the Western Pacific.

Lieutenant Commander Banbury reported on board USS TILLS (DE-748) at Portland, Maine, in July 1962 as Officer-in-Charge and was concurrently the Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Training Center from April to August 1964. In August 1964 he was ordered to the staff Commander Service Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia, and served as Assistant Electronics Officer then Electronic Data Processing Officer.



MESSAGE TO "ALL HANDS"

Only a complete reiteration of history could explain the role you in the COLLETON have contributed to the free world.

The contagious disease of communism which runs rampant in poverty torn countries respects only armed might. Countries have repeatedly been duped by the false precepts and promises of communism after they have been bludgeoned into submission. No country has willingly accepted communism, not even the Russian people.

The protection of our liberty and freedom is a perpetual responsibility. The earlier and the farther from our homes we commence our protective effort, the more secure we shall remain.

The sacrifices you have made is proof enough that our way of life is more desirable than what you have witnessed during this tour of duty. The time and effort you have expended in fulfilling our mission is an extremely cheap premium for the insurance of freedom.

To the men in the COLLETON, I extend a most hearty well done; you have met every challenge and have made the Mobile Riverine Force concept a success beyond expectations.

JR Banbury



LTJG William A. Slover
Executive Officer

Executive Officer

LTJG William A. Slover is a 1959 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Honolulu, Hawaii. He attended Bullis Preparatory School in Silver Spring, Maryland prior to entering the United States Naval Academy in 1960. After being graduated from the Academy in 1964, he was assigned to the USS JOHN KING (DDG-3).

He served as Electrical Officer, Main Propulsion Assistant, and Gunnery Assistant from July, 1964 until October, 1966. LTJG Slover reported to Commandant, Fourth Naval District as Prospective Weapons Officer of USS COLLETON. In June, 1967, he relieved LT Paul S. Tompkins as Executive Officer of COLLETON. LTJG Slover is the son of Commander (retired) and Mrs. Jay A. Slover of McLean, Virginia.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

MEDICAL



LT Horace B. Dansby III
Baylor University
M.D. 1965

DENTAL



LT Raymond H. Bischeid
Creighton University
D.D.S. 1966

SUPPLY



LT Donald E. Krehely
U.S. Naval Academy
B.S. 1962

ENGINEERING



LTJO William H. Skidmore
Adams State College
B.A. 1962

ELECTRONIC MATERIAL
OFFICER



LTJG Michael G. Petersen
Loyola University
B.S. 1965

FIRST LIEUTENANT



ENS Charles A. Thompson
San Jose State
B.A. 1966

WEAPONS



LTJG Herbert C. Spillman
Indiana University
B.A. 1965

D O
I F
V F
I I
S C
I E
O R
N S

DISBURSING OFFICER



ENS William M. Hannan
University of Southern California
B.S.B.A. 1966

OPERATIONS



LTJG Charles A. Corey
Boston College
B.S. 1965

COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER



ENS Dreighton H. Rosier
Louisiana State University
B.S. 1965

DAMAGE CONTROL
ASSISTANT



ENS John M. McConnell
Furman University
B.S. 1966

OFFICERS WHO HAVE DEPARTED



LT Paul S. Tompkins
U.S. Naval Academy
B.S. 1962



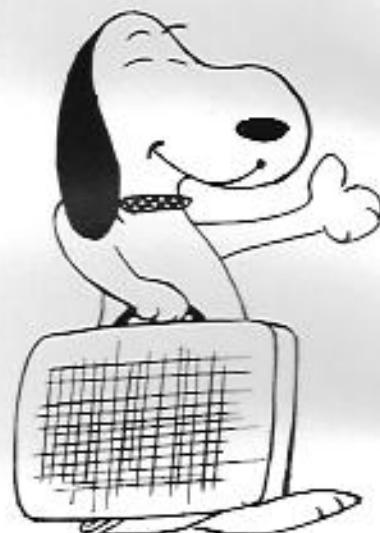
ENS Lloyd F. Coley
University of North Carolina
B.S. 1965



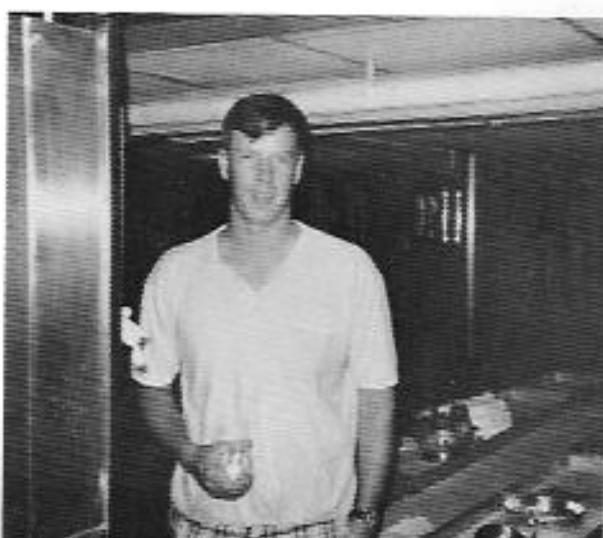
LTJG John E. Sargent
Villanova University



ENS Joseph L. Moore
University of North Carolina
B.S. 1965



WARDROOM



Got Any Jim Beam?



He'll eat what we cooked and like it!!



Officer's Call—Officer's Call



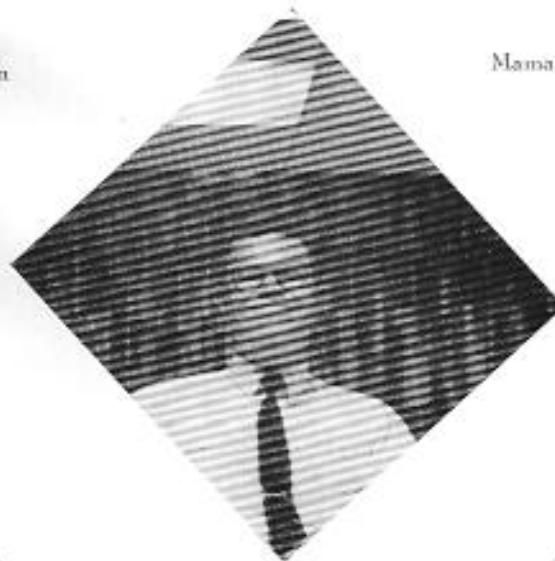
The last supper



Top of the morning, gentlemen



Mama said there'd be days like this!!



I like it!!



Officer's shower call



It's about those headaches
I keep getting

CHIEFS



Gerald L. Hoyt
Boatswain Mate Chief
First Division



William B. Kinder
Gunner's Mate Chief
Third Division



Donald J. Boyer
Engineman Chief
A & M Division

THE ROOM OF EXPERIENCE

The Chief's Quarters in the USS COLLETON is typical of CPO Quarters throughout the Navy. In the COLLETON we have six CPO's with a total service of one hundred and twenty years. This constitutes an average of twenty years of experience and dedication to the Navy and country. Aboard the COLLETON over half our CPO's are, in addition to being the senior enlisted man in their respective divisions, carrying the title and responsibility of Division Officer. Also aboard the COLLETON we have a proud distinction of our Commanding Officer being an ex-CPO. The Navy is justifiably proud of all its sailors, but especially so of its CPO's. No matter where you serve or travel in the Navy—the word from Admiral to Seaman when in trouble on the job or the beach is "GO SEE THE CHIEF".



Julius Beacham
Radioman Chief
Communications Division



David C. Elosee
Commissaryman Chief
Supply



Donald D. Ford
Engineman Chief
Engineering



Good-morning Vietnam !!!



Larry, Curley and Moe



Trick or Treat?



Who stole the fold-out?

THE CREW

Abrams, J.H.	SN	Epling, J.D.	HM 3
Allen, F.E.	HMC	Ersch, S.R.	EN 3
Allen, F.E.	RMSN	Esters, J.J.	BM 2
Anchetta, J.D.	DK 1	Everson, T.R.	BM 3
Ayers, D.E.	HM 3	Fast, E.J.	ETR 2
Barnes, W.E.	GMGSN	Ferdinandsen, J.L.	BM 1
Beacham, J.D.	RMC	Flitsch, R.J.	BM 3
Bennett, H.E.	CS 3	Ford, D.D.	ENC
Biscardi, A.T.	SK 3	Fry, C.F.	HM 2
Bogart, W.N.	GMG 1	Galvez, J.C.	TN
Boldin, R.J., Jr.	SN	Georgon, R.L.	MR 2
Borton, W.H.	SN	Gibbs, J.	SD 1
Boulette, W.H.	BT 1	Giordano, J.A.	BMSN
Bowman, F.M., Jr.	YN 2	Griego, G.J.	SFP 3
Boyaner, D.M.	SN	Grzelak, J.W.	ICFN
Boyer, D.J.	ENC	Hampton, S.R.	ETNSN
Bridge, E.A.	SFP 3	Hanafin, J.F.	SD 3
Brewer, J.R.	SN	Harkins, S.H.	EN 2
Brooks, J.W., Jr.	SN	Harris, R.E.	QM 1
Bumgarner, B.R.	EN 1	Harrison, R.E.	CYNSA
Calloway, R.E.	BM 1	Himes, D.L.	BMSN
Campbell, H.M.	FN	Hogan, M.P.	RM 3
Cannon, R.L.	BMSN	Hoyt, G.L.	BMC
Carson, G.E.	SFP 1	Hunt, T.J.	SN
Cary, P.T.	CS 3	Jackson, W.A.	CYN 3
Cephas, L.D.	SH 1	Johnson, R.W.	HM 3
Childs, B.G.	SR	Jones, A.L.	GMG 2
Claridad, F.M.	SD 1	Jones, G.	SA
Coe, P.K.	DC 1	Jones, R.L.	BM 3
Coleman, J.M.	SM 1	Joyce, I.G.	GMG 1
Cook, G.M.	HM 3	Jund, G.J., Jr.	ET 1
Cooke, C.E.	SK 3	Karlitskie, F.H.	SN
Condon, C.M.	PN 3	Kearney, E.	GMG 1
Craycraft, O.T.	EM 3	Keene, T.B.	RM 2
Cripe, C.E.	YN 3	Keller, J.W.	SN
Crystal, V.L.	BM 3	Kerr, L.K.	EN 3
Datres, R.G.	CS 3	Kinder, W.B.	GMGC
Deffendoll, M.B.	SN	Knutson, H.M.	BTFN
Delos Santos, E.	SN	Kozak, L.A.	RM 2
Domizio, J.M.	SM 3	Lawrence, J.A.	BT 3
Dougherty, D.D.	ENFN	Lee, S.G.	SK 3
Elecess, D.C.	CSC	Lucas, R.F.	ET 1
Ellis, J.P.	EN 1	Mackin, C.E.	SN

Manville, T.P.	ME 3	Shepherd, D.E.	FA
McCray, K.R.	SMSN	Simmonds, D.H.	FN
Menn, J.E.	RM 1	Skinner, G.A.	MM 2
Messer, J.M.	EN 1	Smith, J.E.	SFP 2
Meyenberg, H.E.	EN 3	Spears, G.D.	MM 2
Mickler, C.W.	ETN 3	Spieler, B.A.	ETNSN
Minor, L.L.	SH 3	Spongberg, D.O.	ETR 3
Mitchell, D.E.	SFPFA	Stewart, D.B.	ENFA
Moore, D.M.	SFP 3	Stoops, L.E.	EM 3
Murphy, P.M.	SN	Story, C.L.	SHC
Nisonger, E.A.	ETN 3	Strange, C.E.	ETN 2
Oldham, L.	BM 2	Strassle, D.L.	EN 1
Ondracek, R.F.	SN	Suarez, W.F.	GMG 3
Oney, P.R.	IC 1	Tamuzza, A.J.	SN
Pacheco, B.L.	PC 3	Taylor, H.E.	SH 2
Page, R.	EMC	Teltow, J.B.	SN
Pape, J.H.	SN	Terry, E.E., Jr.	HM 1
Parker, K.E.	RMSN	Thomsen, R.H.	BM 3
Peek, B.L.	DT 2	Troutman, J.W.	BM 3
Petta, T.J.	RD 2	Torres, G.C.	SD 3
Pietz, W.G.	SN	Tweedt, W.R.	RM 2
Potter, K.L.	ETN 3	Tyler, C.L.	SN
Rapp, E.W.	YN 3	Upchurch, R.W.	EN 3
Reed, J.J.	IC 3	Versluis, D.L.	RMSN
Reynolds, K.C.	BM 1	Vispo, H.M.	TN
Richardson, T.J.	BM 3	Walker, E.	SK 1
Richenberg, P.W.	QM 3	Walker, J.R.	BM 3
Rockhill, R.A.	FN	Wallace, E.M.	SN
Rogers, R.C.	EN 3	Washburn, H.B., Jr.	CS 1
Ross, C.T.	RMSN	Watson, M.J.	RM 2
Rovner, M.F.	YN 3	Weber, H.U.	RM 1
Rudd, J.A.	SH 3	White, O.J.	CS 2
Ryan, E.L.	EN 3	Whitehurst, V.L.	SN
Sarka, R.E.	EN 1	Williams, L.L.	PN 2
Sarmiento, V.I.	SD 3	Williams, V.F.	SN
Seabolt, V.L.	RD 1	Willingham, R.A.	QM 3
Seaman, B.M.	SN	Woida, P.C.	IC 3
Sellers, W.P.	EM 1	Wood, D.G.	RD 3
Schultz, N.J.	EN 3	Young, J.D.	SN
Scott, T.D.	FTG 3	Young, R.J.	YN 3
Shea, E.C.	SKC	Zimmerman, E.L.	EN 1
Shaw, C.W.	GMG 2		

C.I. SCHOOL

COLLETON'S history began last fall when the officers and men made preparations for the hazardous activities to be faced daily in Vietnam by attending Counter Insurgency School for three weeks.

Films, lectures, slides and demonstrations constituted the initial week of intensive training by competent instructors, many of whom had acted as military advisors on previous tours of duty in Vietnam.

Week number two was devoted entirely to detailed instruction and experience with nearly all of the Navy's small arms.

The final five days gave the students a chance to put their class room studies to practical use. Armed with a handful of potatoes and onions to garnish a half rabbit stew, the units, eight to ten men strong, were escorted to the dense forests of Virginia.

Throughout the first three days, the elements participated in compass marches, fashioned lean-toes with wire and a prayer, set traps for wild game and chattered continually of the steak to be honored in celebration after the ordeal.

The final task was to successfully complete three designated check-points at a given hour. The exhausted men pushed through bramble, bogs, thickets and swamps, praying their compasses had made sincere judgements in guiding them through the frosted mire.

Eventually all the elements were captured by the instructors (guised as the enemy), and were led away to the concentration camp. The "bad guys" then sent the group of shrunken stomachs through a series of interrogations, punctuated by sadistic flayings and physical tortures. In addition to the question and answer periods the Sergeant Major, Commanding Officer of the compound, staged various "fun and recreation" hours in which he mocked the skivvie-clad crowd.

The last recreation period became a sing-along when someone braved his thoughts out loud, "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

"Have that pig thrown in the mud pit", raged the Sergeant, "we're gonna sing the . . . Star Spangled Banner." Tears swelled in many eyes for the most trying week of our lives was completed.

That night the men called over their week's misfortunes, as everyone had their version of "how I fell off the log" or "when they slipped on the bank," stopping only to refill their mouths with more "C" rations.

I guess some of us were exceptionally tired, while others longed for a shower and a shave. Everyone agreed, however, they were proud to be Americans . . .



Fashioning a lean to



Completed shelter



Half rabbit stew anyone?

PRECOMMISSIONING



28 JANUARY 1967



TRAVEL LOG

On the frozen, pale blue morning of January 28, 1967 the USS COLLETON was commissioned among much clacking of teeth and knocking of knees. Assigned to join units of the U.S. Pacific Fleet operating in South Vietnam. The schedule called for the ship to get underway from the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on February second. However, the ship's greatly anticipated departure was delayed because of the multitudinous problems involved in taking aboard the enormous quantity of stores and spare parts required for the forth-coming voyage—largely the result of the self-perpetuating chaos indigenous to the highly accelerated modification and refitting process.

The problems were solved through much diligence and drudgery on the part of officers and men and she was finally ready to get underway on February 6, 1967.

Despite the delay COLLETON departed on the slate grey afternoon of February sixth, amid a medium but pleasant snowfall and threateningly high winds. She proceeded down the Delaware River that memorable night fitfully rolling from side to side, finally anchoring in Hampton Roads, Norfolk, Virginia for a week of training. However, because of a boiler explosion on the morning of the eighth, the ship was further delayed in its excursion. After effecting repairs in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and taking advantage of the available abbreviated training, COLLETON departed the Norfolk area on March eighth, outwardbound for the Panama Canal.

The principal question in the minds of her officers and men was her yet untested seaworthiness. As each day passed the crew gained more confidence in the ship and in their ability to sail her. Through this period of critical acceptance COLLETON proceeded at the tortoise like pace of ten knots to the Caribbean and Panama, arriving on the fifteenth of March, making the transit to the Pacific side on the same day.

The canal transit was uneventful for the ship, but the crew enjoyed it immensely, especially the camera bugs (you can always tell a reserve because he's wearing a camera). COLLETON arrived at the Naval Base at Rodman, at the Pacific entrance to the canal in the very early hours of the sixteenth of March. In the morning the crew was given five hours liberty to take in Panama City and the local atmosphere. At three o'clock that afternoon, after her brief, but well deserved encounter with "TERRA FIRMA", COLLETON was again underway, this time for the Pearl of the Pacific, Hawaii.

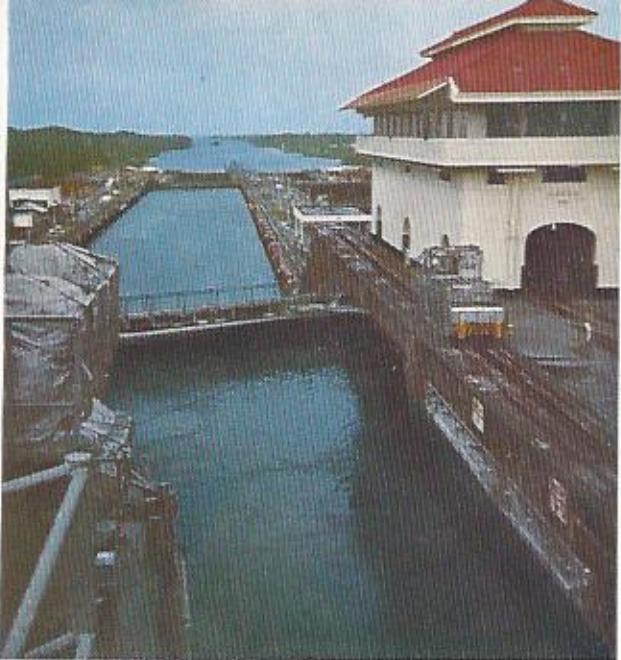
Having passed the Ides of March in good shape, except for a minor casualty to the port anchor encountered while getting underway from Rodman, (it's not an easy life), the ship settled down to the normal underway routine, hopeful and secure in the knowledge that she enjoyed the apparent good will of Poseidon. Gods or no, she encountered no sea nymphs on this part of her passage, only whales and albatross—a sore disappointment to all hands.

COLLETON arrived in Pearl Harbor, however, still in good shape and freshly painted on April fourth, everyone gleefully expectant with four days of good liberty in prospect. As it turned out, everyone was correct in their well-founded expectations. Hawaii was magnificent. Everyone took advantage of the beaches, night spots, tourism and entertainment. It was a pleasure packed four days that was undoubtedly the high spot in COLLETON's voyage from the Quaker City to the lush, green MeKong.

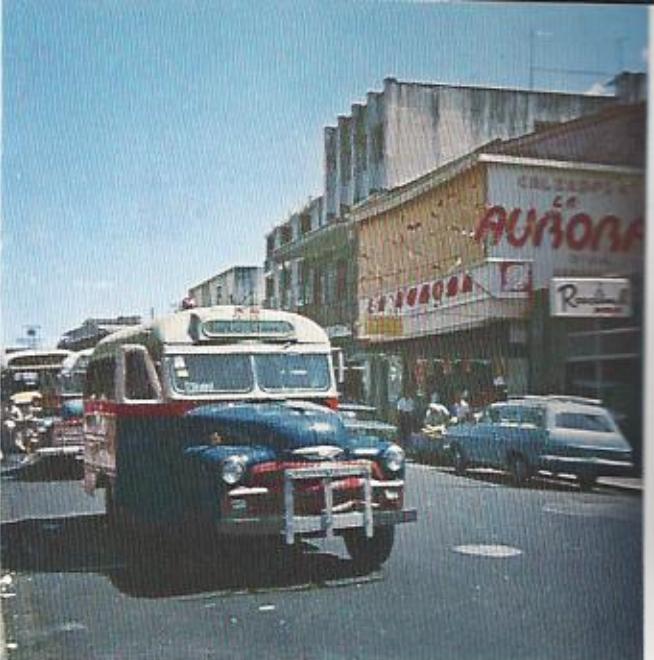
Again on the morning of April eighth COLLETON got underway leaving the last glimpse of American soil slowly receding on the horizon. The ship was overcome by fairly heavy seas and high winds that afternoon about sixty miles out of Pearl. Due to the ship's violent rolling, the Executive Officer, LT. Tompkins, sustained a severe head injury while performing his navigational duties in the Pilot House. He was evacuated to Pearl Harbor later that afternoon by a dramatic helicopter pick-up.

The XO was retrieved by helicopter, no worse for wear, while the ship was transiting Calavite Passage in the Philippine Islands, on the twenty-eighth of April. Four days later, on May second, COLLETON anchored in Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam, ready to take her place in River Assault Flotilla One.

COLLETON was in Vung Tau for a month, training and preparing for her missions and tasks on the immediate horizon. After being painted green and upon embarking the River Assault Squadrons of the Flotilla and a battalion of U.S. Army Infantry, she was ready to deploy. On June first she got underway for Dong Tam, deep in the Delta, along with other units of the Flotilla. After months of hard labor, tender care, monotony, boredom and uncertain expectations she was finally operating on her assigned mission.



Locks in the Panama Canal



Panama City



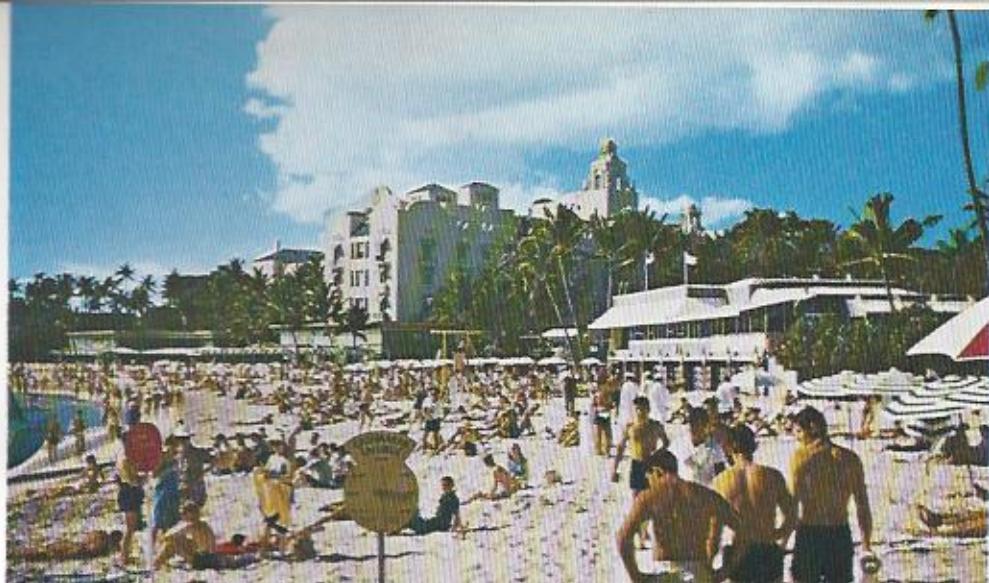
Sunset in the Pacific



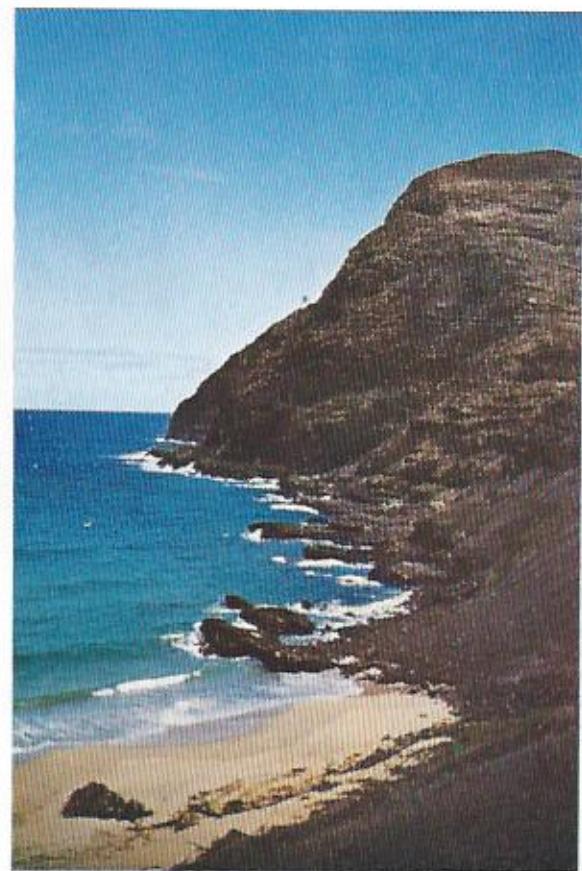
Arizona Monument



Officer's Call before Personnel Inspection



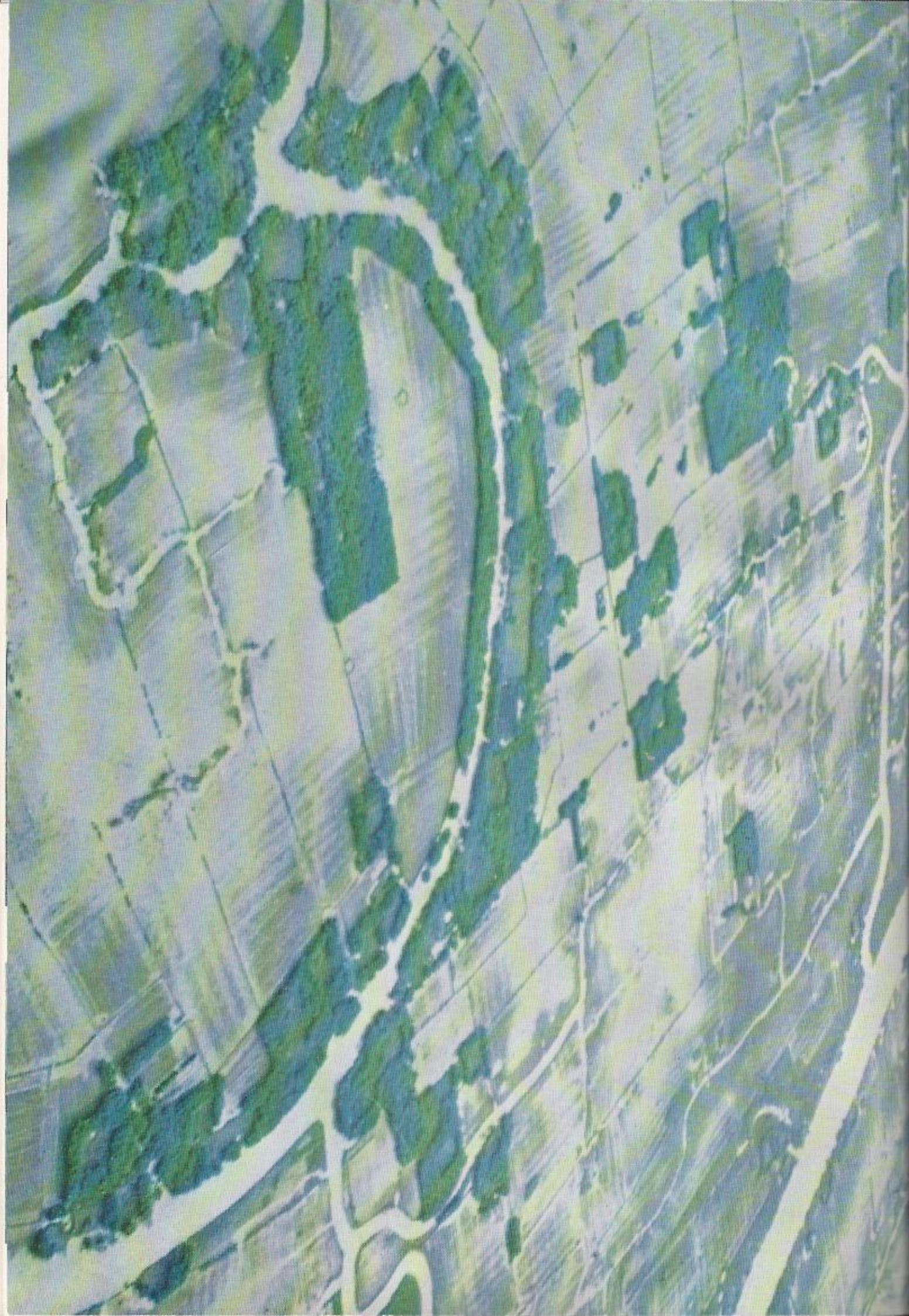
Waikiki Beach



Makapuu Point



Beard Contest



MEKONG DELTA



Enjoying the noon meal



Rice paddies along Cua Tieu



Mud paddies



Woman chewing Betel Nut



Drying fish in Vung Tau



Santa Claus

VUNG TAU



Delong Pier



View from Nui Nho



Back Beach



Buddha



Market Street



LIBERTY CALL



LIFE ABOARD COLLETON



General Quarters



Another direct hit



OOPS! Wrong Ship!!



Helo Ops



Entertainment on the mess decks



Beer party on the pontoon



Cruise Book??? Ha, not me!!!



And then little red ridinghood...



Sorry, no job order, no work



Ambition



A hole in the head



The neighborhood is not what it used to be



Just like playing the organ



Best tipper I've got!!



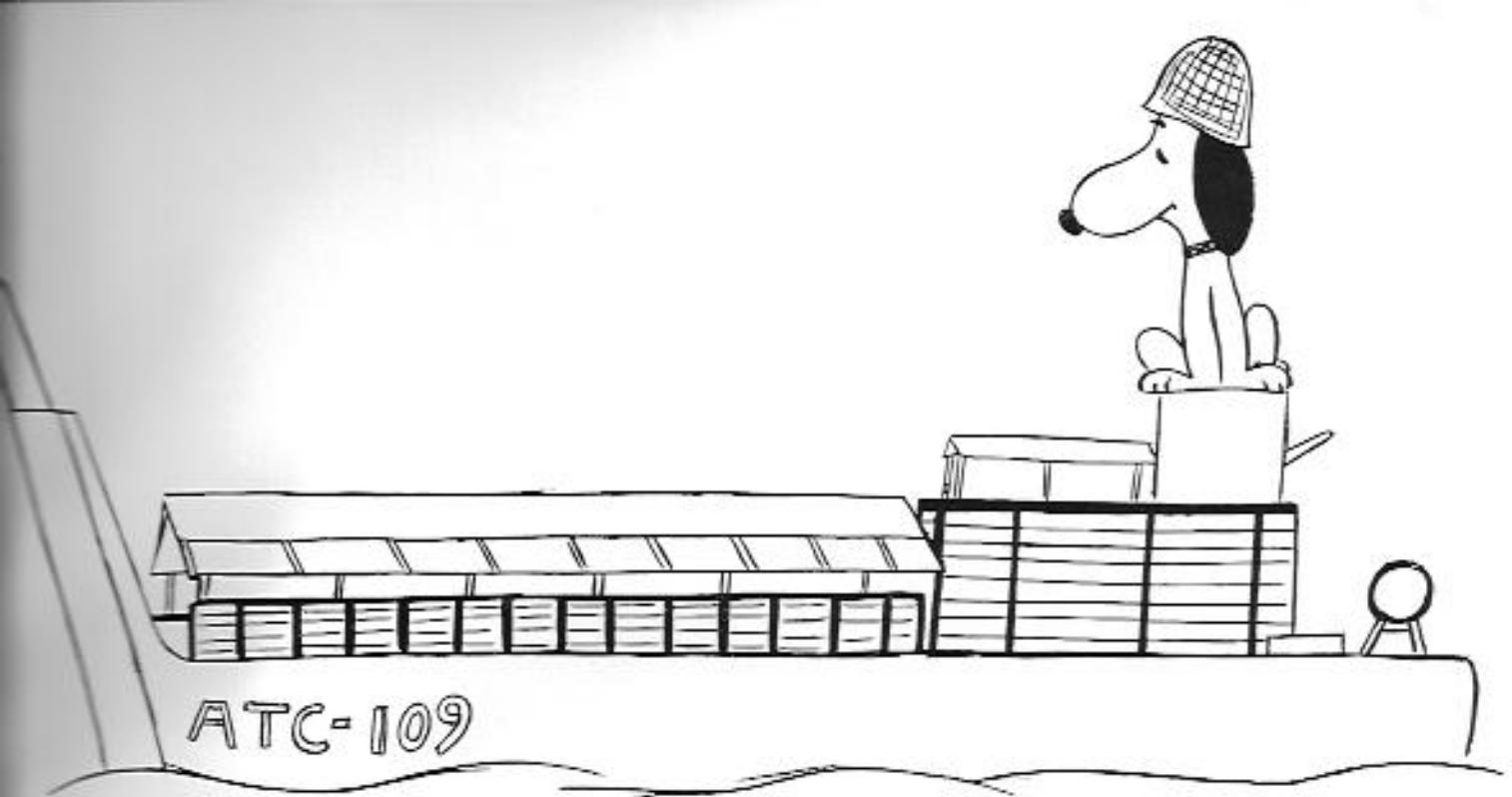
Catholic Services



Chow down



Pay-day stakes



Shortly after the arrival of the COLLETON in the country of Vietnam, debarkations become a way of life with the men of the COLLETON. Early morning breakfasts, mustering of troops in the number two mess deck, loading of boats under darkened ship condition, flight operations, resupply, and troops returning, sometimes with V.C. suspects, became characteristic of a typical Mobile Riverine operation.

The success of any operation depends on the coordination of many intricate units and how well each unit performs these functions. The men of the COLLETON had their role to play. Seldom did they play the heroes role but it was always a vital one. Creditable it was, how the men of the COLLETON could perform their essential function with the efficiency and durability that they did, for it certainly wasn't the number of V.C. killed or captured, it wasn't the great stories that they could send home and it wasn't the abundance of recognition for their work that kept them going.

It was the pride of the men working together as a team with the maturity of mind to know and realize that their job was an important one and one of the very first links in that chain to success.



DEBARKATION





V.C. SUSPECTS



RESUPPLY



EMBARKATION



RECOGNITION OF THE WOUNDED



IN MEMORIAM OF THE DEAD

1 ST DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: SN B.A. Spieler, SN A.J. Tamuzza, SA J.W. Brooks, Jr., SN V.L. Crystal, SN T.J. Richardson, SN R.L. Jones, SN M.F. Rovner, BM3 J.R. Walker, SN W.J. Grace, Jr., SN J.A. Giordano. MIDDLE—LEFT TO RIGHT: SN W.H. Borton, SN R.L. Cannon, SN F.H. Karlitskie, SA V.L. Whitehurst, Jr., SN T.R. Everson, SN W.G. Pietsch, BM3 R.J. Flitsch, SN R.J. Boldin, Jr., BM2 J.L. Ferdinandsen, BM2 K. Reynolds, BM1 R.E. Calloway. UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: BM3 J.J. Esters, SN E.M. Wallace, SN D.L. Himes, BM3 L. Oldham, BM3 J.W. Troutman, SN R.H. Thomsen.

If you've ever met a person with a bent forefinger—He must be a Boatswainmate. You'll hardly ever find one on the COLLETON without their cup of coffee. In between rounds, their job is the external upkeep of the ship.

Day or night there's a "Deck Ape" up and around doing something; either standing watch, splicing line or rope, painting, causing hate and discontent, malingering, complaining about transfer dates, talking about shipping for 20 or drinking coffee.

However, when it comes down to having the most squared-away ship in River Flotilla One, First Division insists on having COLLETON "Numero Uno." Never have so many Boatswainmates been stationed on so small a ship and get along so well. Teamwork is the answer to any successful firm, and buddy WE ARE TIGHT!



Hey, there's a mouse in the Magnetic Compass



You think—NO HANGING



Hey, don't cut that line!



No, it's not raining, I'm
wearing it for my health



I've always sucked my thumb;
don't ask me why



Career designated



Ship-over line



Which hatch are you all dogging down?

3RD DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: FTG3 T.D. Scott, GMGI E. Kearney, GMG2 W.N. Bogart, GMG3 W.E. Suarez, GMG2 A.L. Jones, SN J.D. Young, GMG2 C.W. Shaw. UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: SN B.M. Seaman, SN P.M. Murphy, SN R.F. Ondracek, SN J.H. Pape, SN W.E. Barnes.

Better known as the "Gun Gang", Third Division takes care of all the ship's weapons. The personnel in the division come from two Navy ratings: Gunner's Mates and Fire Control Technician. The Gunners take care of the maintainence on the ship's guns, which include the two Quad 40MM Mounts, two 3"50 Mounts, eighteen Machine Guns and numerous small arms. Their job also involves the care of the magazines where the ammunition is stored.

The Fire Control Technician's (of which we only have one) job is the maintainence of the equipment that aims the larger weapons. This includes the two gun directors for the 40MM guns, the telescope sights on the 3"50 guns and the night vision sights used with the 50 Caliber machine guns.

To sum it up, if "Charlie" ever was to test our ship's fire power, the "Gun Gang" would give him the full treatment!!



Hey Boggie, We gonna shoot today?



Never mind . . . Never mind



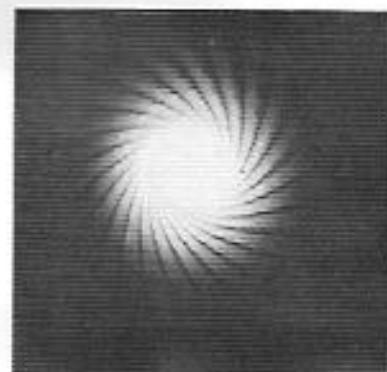
We didn't have any trouble getting it out!



Hmm, now let's see . . . the book says . . .



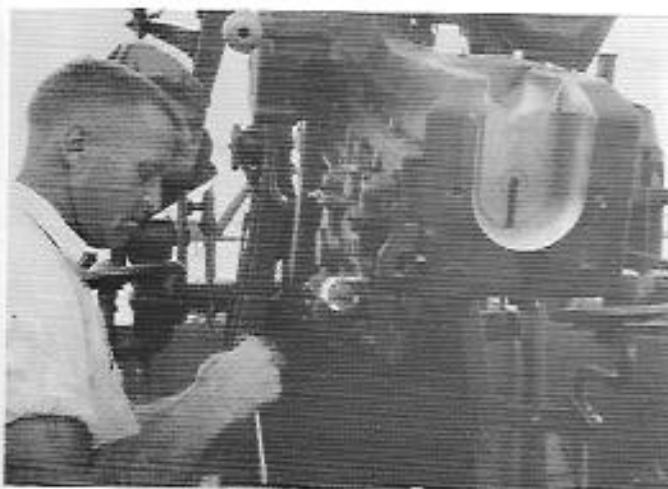
Who put the ice cream in it?



Bore clear, no casualties



The Gunner



Hope they haven't put the fuse back yet



Come on Barry, push a little!

"R" DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: FN D.M. Moore, DC2 P.K. Coe, SFP2 J.E. Smith, FN E.A. Bridge, FN G.J. Griego

If anything has sprung a leak, be it hatches, heads, or water-tight patches, Repair Division is on call to fix it anytime, day or night. The division's daily routine includes welding, checking the ship's fire fighting equipment and contributing to the general maintenance of the ship's security.

The men of "R" Division are also instructors, for they are in charge of the Damage Control Parties throughout the ship. It's of the utmost importance to have a well trained team, for their effectiveness during a crisis would mean life or death to the ship. COLLETON is truly very fortunate to have such a well qualified team as "R" Division.



A rare moment at the shop



At last! I'll see who the phantom burner is.



A double-barreled beer mug???



Don't cut your hose!!



Well, maybe a pair of binoculars!!!



It's like this, Mr. Cronkite . . .



It's all downhill
after the first twenty



I'll fry that mosquito



Pennies from heaven

"A" & "M" DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: FN J.A. Lawrence, Jr., BT2 W.H. Boulette, EN2 S.H. Harkins, ENC D.J. Boyer, FA M.E. Shepherd, MR2 R.L. Georgon, EN1 E.L. Zimmerman. UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: EN3 H.E. Meyenburg, EN2 D.L. Strassle, EN3 R.W. Upchurch, MM3 G.D. Spears, FN N.J. Schultz.



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: EN2 J.M. Messer, EN1 J.P. Ellis, EN3 E.L. Ryan, FN R.C. Rogers, FN R.A. Rockhill, ENFN D.D. Dougherty, FN S.R. Ersch. UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: ENFN D.B. Stewart, EN3 L.K. Kerr, SN E.W. Rapp, EN1 R.E. Sarka, EN1 B.R. Bumgarner, FN D.H. Simmonds.

"A" & "M" Division of COLLETON has the primary responsibility of operating and maintaining the main engines and auxiliary diesel generators. There are fourteen enlisted men assigned to this division. All commitments have been made, all orders for engine speeds have been met. The top quality personnel have proven themselves time and again in their assignment to the confined machinery spaces. Without this effort COLLETON could not efficiently have met the requirements necessary in a ship of this type. Only top quality personnel who are reliable, dependable, trustworthy, untiring and believers in working as a team qualify as members of "A" & "M" Division.



Captain decorating Upchurch



And this one cuts the fuel supply!



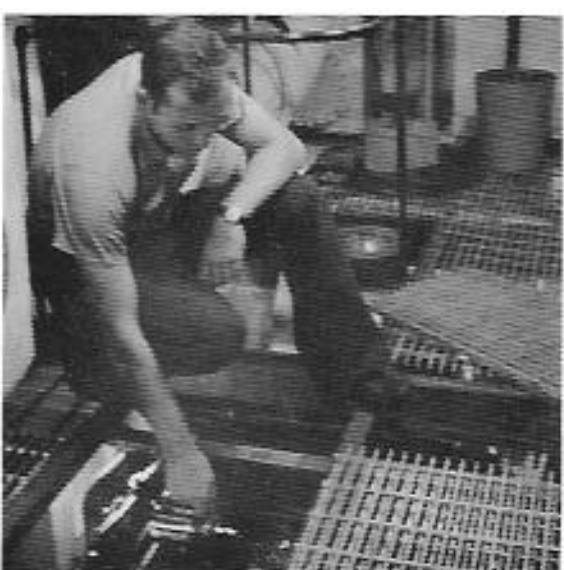
Have you seen Jane or Cheeto?



I just look mean.



On the next episode of Superman . . .



Mr. Skidmore? Mr. Skidmore???

"E" DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: EM2 W.P. Sellers, EM3 O.T. Craycraft, ICFN P.C. Woida, EM3 L.E. Stoops, ICFN J.J. Read, FA J.W. Grzelak, EMI R. Page.

The electricians are responsible for the supply of lighting and electrical power throughout the ship and occasionally the lack of it. They include the interior communications ratings responsible for telephones, alarm circuits, and navigational aids such as the gyro compass (no sir! that simply cannot be. The stars must have moved).

With only nine men, while manning two watch stations, providing mess cooks, compartment cleaners, and manning working parties, little manpower is available for maintenance during the working day. However, this division has willingly adopted the Policy of "On call — Anywhere, anytime." They have been known to leave a winning poker hand just to make minor repairs such as to restore power to the steering gear or repair the chief engineer's electric shaver, to name a few, and I'm sure there are many unreported acts showing extreme dedication to duty.



Our courteous well trained personnel
are waiting to serve you



Call the duty electrician, Jack, I'm
too short to answer a trouble call



Wow! I just saw the full page fold out
in this month's agricultural Journal



Just 10 minutes and I've taught
them our customs already



All the comforts of home



When the kids see this, Hopalong Cassidy shirts
will go out of style



I bought this book, see "Surfing" for
\$1.98.



You think I look good now—you should
have seen me during the depression

"OE" DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: RD2 V.L. Seabolt, ETN2 C.E. Strange, ET1 G.J. Jund Jr., ETN3 E.A. Nisonger, RD2 T.J. Pelta, RD3 D.G. Wood, ETNSN D.O. Sponberg. UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: ETNSN K.L. Potter, ETN2 R.F. Lucas, SN C.W. Mickler, ETNSN S.R. Hampton, SN J.B. Teltow, SN J.H. Abrams.

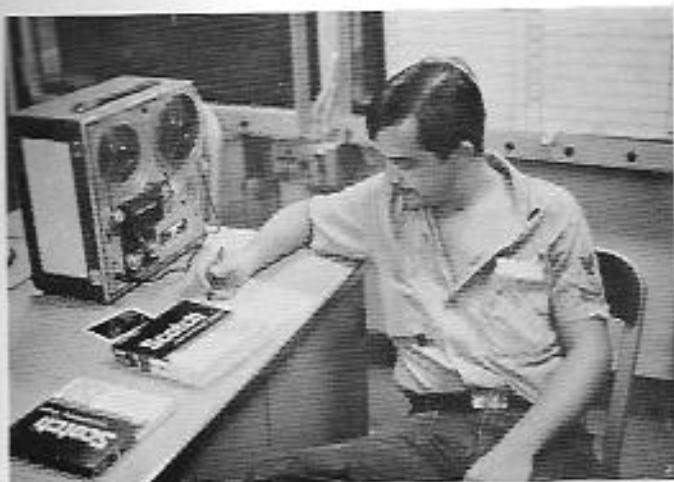
Our division is comprised of eight ET's, four radarmen, and one postal clerk. We have the responsibility of the pick-up and delivery of mail; the task of controlling the radio communications between the river assault boats and their home base; the colossal task of tuning, calibration and repair of this vital nerve center. We're the ones behind the scenes that keep the operations running in the vast Mekong Delta. We are part of a complex team maintaining the highest traditions of the naval service.



Work? Who are you trying to kid?



"Captain, the radio just passed away!"



Dear Mr. President, about these adverse conditions
on board this ship . . .



One for you, one for me



You say they have an elephant
on the pontoon?



There's got to be another way
off besides the quarterdeck



I'll work on that transmitter,
soon as I finish my course



For our next number, "Three Blind Mice . . ."



I could just throw up!

"OC" DIVISION



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: RM2 J.E. Menn, RM2 W.R. Tweedt, RM3 T.B. Keene, SM3 J.M. Domizio, RM3 P.M. Hogan, QM3 P.W. Richenburg, QM3 R.A. Willingham. UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: CYN3 W.A. Jackson, RMSN K.E. Parker, Jr., RMSN F.E. Allen, RMC J.D. Beacham, SMSN K.R. McCray, CYNSA R.E. Harrison, QM1 R.E. Harris, SM2 J.M. Coleman.

The Communications Division monopolizes the sending and receiving of information between the COLLETON and the outside world. "OC" Division talks with the world in a variety of ways ranging from utilization of sophisticated electronic equipment to simple semaphore flags. Through codes, frequency plans and infrared flashing light, sensitive information is jealousy guarded from would be eavesdroppers. Only the enemy could question "OC" Division's boast of being the voice of the ship.



What do you mean—knock off the profanity?



What are you in for?



Where did that bum boat get a 12 inch searchlight?



To start: first pull the choke out.



Alright, who bid Mr. Rosier?



Western Union is across the hall,



That typewriter cleaner doesn't taste bad!!

SUPPLY



LOWER—LEFT TO RIGHT: CS3 P.T. Cary, TN J.F. Hanafin, SH2 H.E. Taylor, SK2 E. Walker, CS1 D.C. Eleess, CS1 H.B. Washburn, Jr., SH1 L.D. Cephas, Jr., CS3 O.J. White, DK1 J.D. Anchetta, SN C.L. Tyler UPPER—LEFT TO RIGHT: TN H.M. Vispo, SN C.E. Mackin, SN T.J. Huat, SD1 J. Gibbs, SHSN J.A. Rudd, CS3 H.E. Bennett, SK3 S.G. Lee, SK1 E.C. Shea, TN J.C. Galvez, SN E. Delos Santos.

Storekeepers, ship's servicemen, cooks, stewards, and disbursing clerks comprise the most important department on the ship.

Logistics or supply is the most important function in any combat or combat ready organization because you can't do it unless you have it to do it with. The supply department is a service department with the motto "We aim to please."

We supply all of the people attached to the ship with laundry service, food, spare parts, money, haircuts, and places to spend the money we pay you. Whenever something goes wrong, we are the ones to call.

Packbone of the ship-food, pay, laundry, spare parts, haircuts, toilet articles, luxury items and sundries.



What's a few flies in the...



A dash of salt...



Seven hundred and two dollars short!!!



That'll teach you to turn your back on a division officer.



Hazel, after you make the beds . . .



And this is cell number . . .



Two and two makes what???



I can't think of where those eight cases of beer went to.

"X" DIVISION



Shipping over? Checking on your rotation date? Or did you just drop by to chew the fat? Whatever the occasion, there are five friendly men who will adjust to everyone's whim in the Ship's Office.

PN2 Larry "Willie" Williams spearheads the Yo-Yo Gang in the ship's Admin center. Willie and PN3 Mel Condon handle all personnel matters—a mighty big job with 170 enlisted men aboard—PLUS the attached squadron.

YN2 Fred Bowman is senior yeoman aboard, working 0800-1600 everyday maintaining officer's records while acting as Captain's Yeoman.

YN3 "King Richard" Young types nearly all of the outgoing correspondence, handling the majority of classified material while maintaining ID cards and liberty cards. (What liberty??!) All legal matters, including disciplinary cases are left to YN3 "Clampit" Cripe. When Clyde isn't attending judicial goings-on, he files, logs and routes all incoming official mail.

Working directly for the Executive Officer, the quintuplet comprises the smallest division on the ship, yet accomplishes more than a department twice its size.



YN3 Cripe stopping by the office for encouragement during his mess cooking tour.



PN2 Williams scouting around the for possible reenlistment prospect.



Seems YN2 Bowman is having bug trouble with his attempt for the beard contest.



YN3 Young contemplating a career with the Jungle Forces in Vietnam.



YN3 Condon reviewing the most likely route for escape if attacked.



"War is hell."

"H" DIVISION



FRONT ROW: (l. to R) Ayers HM3, Epling HM2, Johnson HM3, Fry HM2
BACK ROW: (l. to R) Terry HM1, Peek DT2, Deffendoll SN, Cook HM3

The mission of the Medical Department of the USS COLLETON is to provide medical and dental care for all Naval and Army personnel stationed aboard. To carry out these duties, the ship is equipped with a twenty-bed sick bay, an operating room with two operating tables, a medical laboratory and a pharmacy. Next door to the sick bay, there is a dental office which is equipped with all the tools required to provide modern dental care.

Naval personnel assigned to "H" division include one Navy Medical Officer, one Dentist, one operating room technician, one laboratory technician, and one dental technician. Seven Naval hospital corpsmen are assigned to manage the sick bay and care for patients.

In an average month the medical section of "H" Division sees and treats over 1300 Army and Navy personnel as out-patients. In addition we fill over 1200 prescriptions, perform over 500 laboratory tests, and take 75 X-rays. We admit an average of 26 to 30 patients to our ward each month as in-patients.

The other half, of the "H" division team, the Dental Department, also keeps busy. The Dentist and his assistant do on the average of 225 dental examinations, fill 200 teeth, extract another 10 teeth, and take 200 dental X-rays monthly. The Dentist and his assistant have spent much of their spare time participating in the DENTCAP program, which involves providing dental care to friendly Vietnamese civilians.



"Where he is"



"Where he should be"

THE BOSS



Earnin' my combat pay!



"There there, now, this won't hurt a bit!!!



"Just a little oversized"



O.J.T. The best school in the Navy!



"Just a hard workin' boy!"



MEDCAP (Dr. Dansby)



MEDCAP



DENTCAP (Dr. Eischeid)



MEDCAP Children

LADY OF THE DELTA

Lady of the Rivers.
How you reassured us,
comforted us,
strengthened us
when death girdle dabout us.

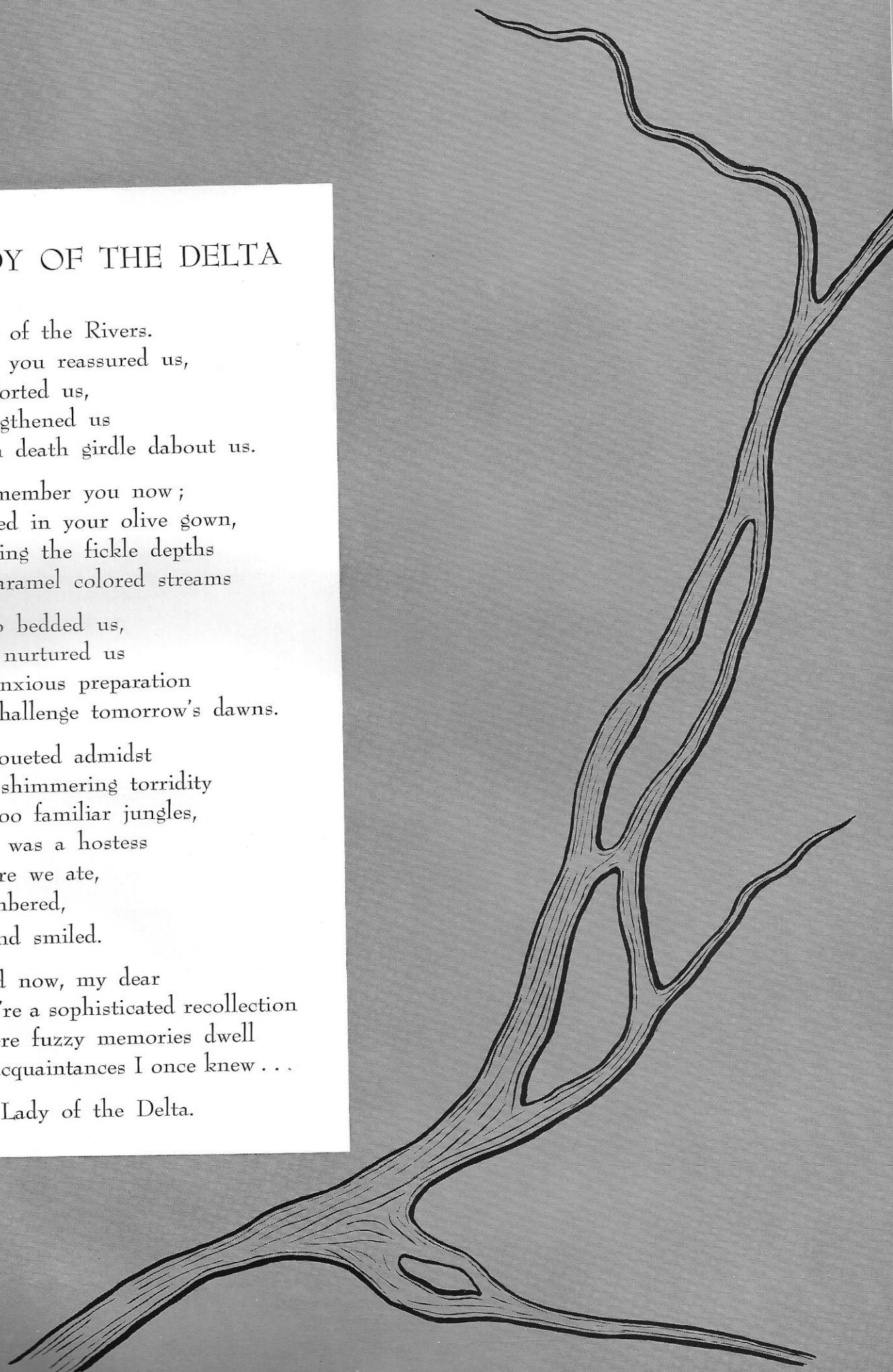
I remember you now ;
draped in your olive gown,
probing the fickle depths
of caramel colored streams

Who bedded us,
and nurtured us
in anxious preparation
to challenge tomorrow's dawns.

Silhouetted amidst
the shimmering torridity
of too familiar jungles,
She was a hostess
where we ate,
slumbered,
—and smiled.

And now, my dear
you're a sophisticated recollection
where fuzzy memories dwell
of acquaintances I once knew . . .

. . . Lady of the Delta.



MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

281600Z JAN 67

FM: USS COLLETON
TO: CINCPACFLT/COMPHIBPAC/CINCLANTFLT
INFO: CNO/COMRIVFLOT ONE
UNCLAS

REPORTING FOR DUTY

1. USS COLLETON COMMISSIONED 281556Z JAN AND REPORTS FOR DUTY TO CINC LANTFLT AND ONWARD ROUTING TO CINCPACFLT.

022245Z FEB 67

FM: COMPHIBLANT
TO: USS COLLETON
UNCLAS

1. WHEN RFS ON OR ABOUT 5 FEB UNDERWAY INDEPENDENTLY PROCEED LCREEK TO ARRIVE ABOUT 7 FEB.
2. UPON ARRIVAL CHOP COMPHIBRALANT FOR PLANNING AND ON 13 FEB FOR OPERATIONS IN CONNECTION RFS TRAINING.

061400Z FEB 67

FM: USS BENEWAH
TO: USS COLLETON
UNCLAS

1. DELAYING SAILING DUE TO WEATHER. WILL GET UNDERWAY AT 1500 IF WEATHER PERMITS.

091623Z FEB 67

FM: NAVHOSP PTSVA
TO: USS COLLETON
UNCLASS

1. EN1 HARKINS ADMITTED THIS HOSP 080430R DIAG: 2ND AND 3RD DEGREE BURNS OF HANDS, KNEES, AND FACE.
2. PNT ALLEGEDLY INJURED WHEN BOILER BLEW UP ON BOARD APB-36.
3. EST PD HOSP UNDER 30 DAYS.

281507Z FEB 67

FM: USS COLLETON
TO: COMPHIBLANT
UNCLAS

1. ORIG CHOPS FOR OPERATIONS TO COMPHIBLANT.

011940Z MAR 67

FM: COMPHIBLANT
TO: USS COLLETON
UNCLAS

1. WHEN RFS ON OR ABOUT 7 MAR UNDERWAY FOR CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE TO ARRIVE ABOUT 16 MAR.
2. UPON ARRIVAL CRISTOVAL CHOP TO CINCPACFLT. REPORT TO COMFIRSTFLT FOR OPCON AND ONWARD ROUTING AND TO COMPHIBPAC FOR DUTY.

082042Z MAR 67

FM: COMPHIBLANT
TO: USS COLLETON
UNCLAS

UPON YOUR DEPARTURE FOR THE PACIFIC FLEET AND WITH THE CHALLENGING TASKS WHICH LAY AHEAD, YOU HAVE OUR BEST WISHES FOR A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND REWARDING TOUR OF DUTY. GOD SPEED AND SMOOTH SAILING. RADM DUNCAN.

102150Z MAR 67

FM: COMPHIBLANT
TO: NAVSHIPYD NORVA
INFO: USS COLLETON
UNCLAS

USS COLLETON BOILER REPAIRS AND DIESEL ENG REPLACEMENT

1. THE TIMELY MANNER IN WHICH COLLETON REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED SO AS TO PERMIT HER TO DEPLOY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE WAS APPRECIATED.
RADM DUNCAN.

152015Z MAR 67

FM: USS COLLETON
TO: CINCPACFLT
INFO: COMRIVFLOT ONE
UNCLAS

1. ARR CRISTOBAL 151900Z. ORIG CHOPS TO CINCPACFLT.
2. ORIG REPORTS FOR DUTY TO COMPHIBPAC AND FOR OPCON AND ROUTING TO COMFIRSTFLT.

161912Z MAR 67

FM: CINCPACFLT
TO: USS COLLETON
INFO: COMPHIBPAC
UNCLAS

WELCOME TO THE PACIFIC FLEET. THE RETURN OF THE COLLETON TO ACTIVE DUTY MARKS THE VITAL NEED OF THE FLEET FOR THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT WHICH YOU CAN PROVIDE. YOUR EMPLOYMENT IN THE MONTHS TO COME WILL BE UNIQUE, IMPORTANT AND CHALLENGING. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US. ADMIRAL ROY L. JOHNSON.

231606Z MAR 67

FM: USS COLLETON
TO: COMPHIBPAC
INFO: COMRIVFLOT ONE
UNCLAS

1. DUE TO FAVORABLE WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS ETA PEARL 4 APR AT SOA OF 10 KNOTS WITH TWELVE HRS SET ASIDE FOR OOD AND ENG TRAINING. MAX SPEED THIS CMD 11.2 KTS.
2. REQUEST SCHEDULE TO ARRIVE AND DEPART PEARL ON 4 AND 7 APR RESPECTIVELY.

092055Z APR 67

FM: USS COLLETON
TO: NAVSTA PEARL
UNCLAS

HAVE INJURED MAN ABOARD WITH HEAD INJURY. REQ HELO PICKUP MAN. AM RETURNING FROM POSIT 21-39N 161-37W AT 0800Z SPEED 10 KNOTS. REQ HELO BRING RIG TO PICK UP MAN AS HEAVY SEAS PREVENT HELO LANDING.

110116Z APR 67

FM: NAVMEDADMIN TRIPLEX GEN HOSP
TO: SECNAV
INFO: USS COLLETON
UNCLAS

CASE LT PAUL S. TOMPKINS, USN

1. COND GOOD, PROG GOOD.
2. MBR ARRIVED THIS ACTIVITY 9 APR 67.
3. ATTENDING MEDICAL OFFICER ADVISES CONDITION NO LONGER CONSIDERED SERIOUS.
4. DIAG: SKULL FRACTURE. ANTICIPATE RELEASE FROM HOSPITAL APPROX 3 DAYS.

180909Z APR 67

FM: USS COLLETON
TO: COMSERVPAC/NAVSTA SUBIC
UNCLAS

REQ DELIVERY MAIL AND XO, LT P.S. TOMPKINS, USN, CALAVITE PASSAGE ETA 1000I, 29 APR.

302359Z APR 67

FM: COMRIVFLOT ONE
TO: USS COLLETON

UNCLAS

ADJUST SOA TO ARRIVE VUNG TAU AFTER FIRST LIGHT 2 MAY 67.

060950Z MAY 67

FM: COMRIVFLOT ONE
TO: USS COLLETON

UNCLAS

1. MY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MANNER IN WHICH ALL HANDS TURNED TO IN MAKING READY COLLETON FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS.
2. THE EXPRESSION QUOTE TURNED GREEN UNQUOTE IS CERTAINLY APPLICABLE AND NEVER HAVE I SEEN A CHIP CHANGE COLOR SO QUICKLY.
3. I AM MOST PLEASED TO HAVE ALL OF YOU WITH US AS A MAJOR UNIT OF OUR FORCE. WE FACE ADVENTUROUS TIMES AND IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE SUCH A CAPABLE SHIP AS COLLETON.
4. I WILL BE OVER SOON TO WELCOME YOU OFFICIALLY.

300438Z JUL 67

FM: USS HOLMES COUNTY
TO: USS COLLETON

UNCLAS

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO COME ALONGSIDE AS YOUR PEOPLE ARE READY AND ORGANIZED TO OFF LOAD.

060325 AUG 67

FM: COASTAL GROUPS 32/33
TO: THIRD CZ ADV

INFO: USS COLLETON/USS BENEWAH/USS TUTUILA

UNCLAS

1. CG 32/33 COMPLETED A WELL ORGANIZED, SUCCESSFUL MEDCAP/DENTCAP/PSYWAR OPERATION AT 060320Z VIC Y2428525. MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY USS TUTUILA AND USS COLLETON SERVED TO DISPLAY OUR HIGHEST DEGREE OF PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES. 150 MEDICAL AND 70 DENTAL CASES WERE TREATED. MEDICAL SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY USS BENEWAH WERE WELL RECEIVED AND UTILIZED.
2. SENIOR ADVISOR CG 32/33 EXPRESSES SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED.

180700Z AUG 67

FM: CTF 117
TO: TF 117

UNCLAS

THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL UNITS DURING SORTIE FROM VUNG TAU, TRANSIT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MRB ANCHORAGE TODAY WAS OUTSTANDING IN ALL RESPECTS AND DESERVING OF A HEARTY WELL DONE. THE LATTER IS TENDERED HEREWITH. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

140510Z SEP 67

FM: COMRIVFLOT ONE
TO: USS COLLETON

INFO: CO 3-60, 9TH INF DIV

UNCLAS

RESTORE COMBAT SUPPORT SHED. MAKE WATERTIGHT FOR COMMODORE'S INSPECTION TOMORROW.

230038Z SEP 67

FM: CTF 117
TO: TF 117

UNCLAS

OPERATION CORONADO V

1. THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE MEN OF THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE IN THE ACTION OF 12-16 SEPTEMBER IN THE CAM SON SECRET ZONE, VIETNAM IS NOTED WITH GREAT PLEASURE. THEIR COURAGEOUS, PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE.
2. I AM PROUD OF ALL HANDS WHO TOOK PART IN THE OPERATION. WELL DONE.
RADM VETH SENDS.

101005Z OCT 67

FM: CTF 117
TO: TF 117

UNCLAS

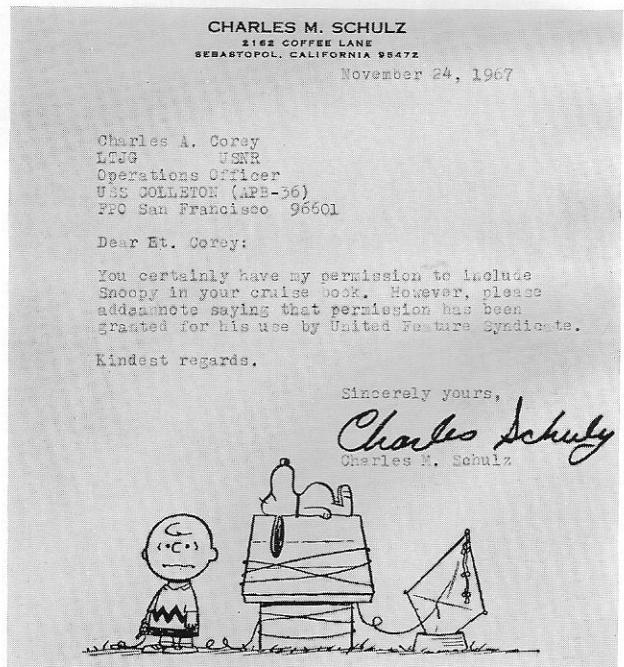
TEN OCTOBER TRANSIT

1. A WELL DESERVED WELL DONE TO TF 117 FOR OUR FIRST TASK FORCE NIGHT DELTA TRANSIT.
2. REMEMBER WHAT YOU DID FOR FROM NOW ON MOST IF NOT ALL TRANSITS WILL BE MADE AT NIGHT.

CRUISE BOOK COMMITTEE

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AND A HEARTY THANKS TO ALL HANDS FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN DONATING PICTURES AND ARTICLES.



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CAMBODIA
SOUTH VIETNAM

MEKONG RIV.

MEKONG RIV.

VINH LONG

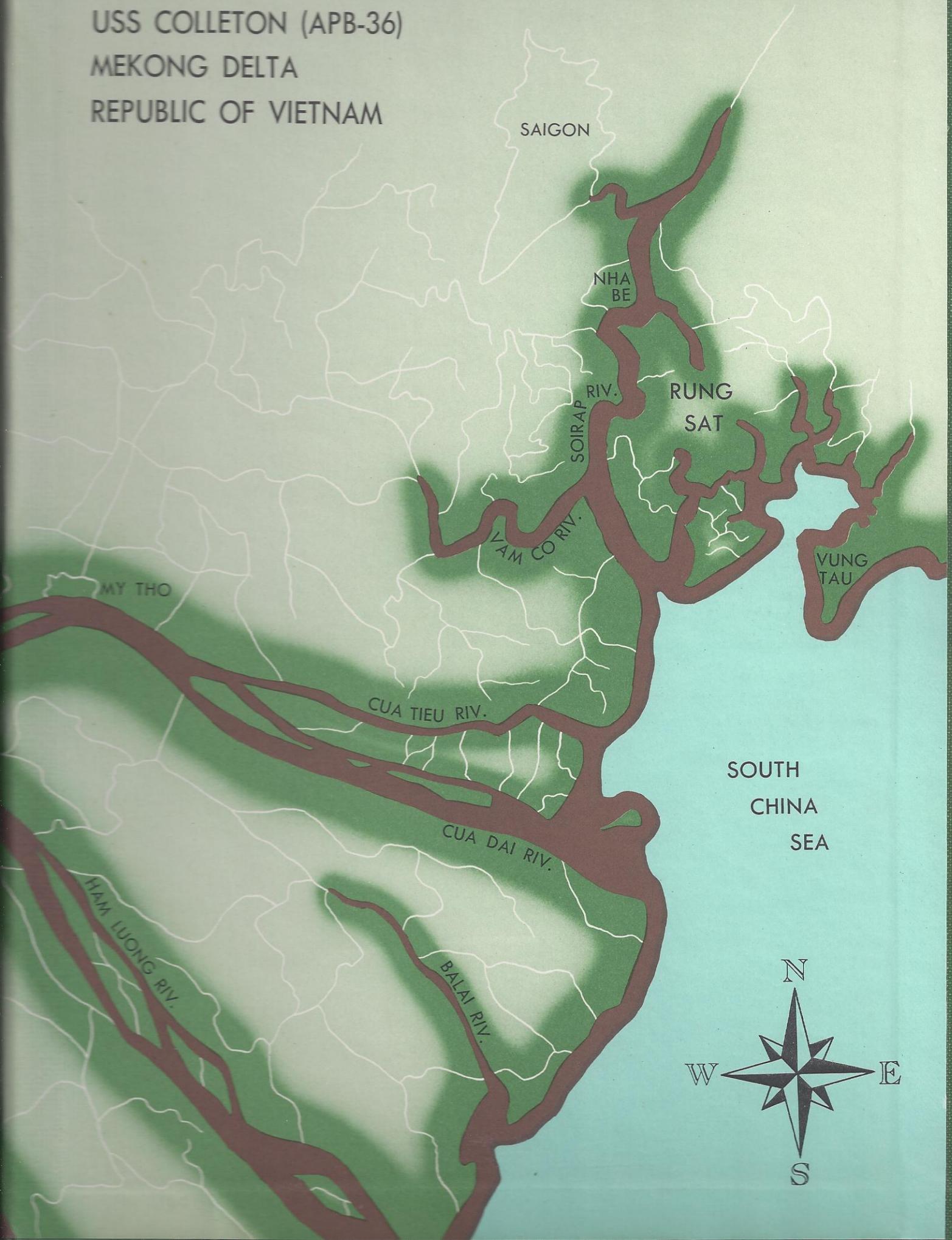
HAU GIANG RIV.

CO CHIEN RIV.

CAN THO

DON TAI

OPERATION AREA OF THE
USS COLLETON (APB-36)
MEKONG DELTA
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM



USS COLLETON APB-36 28 JANUARY 1967