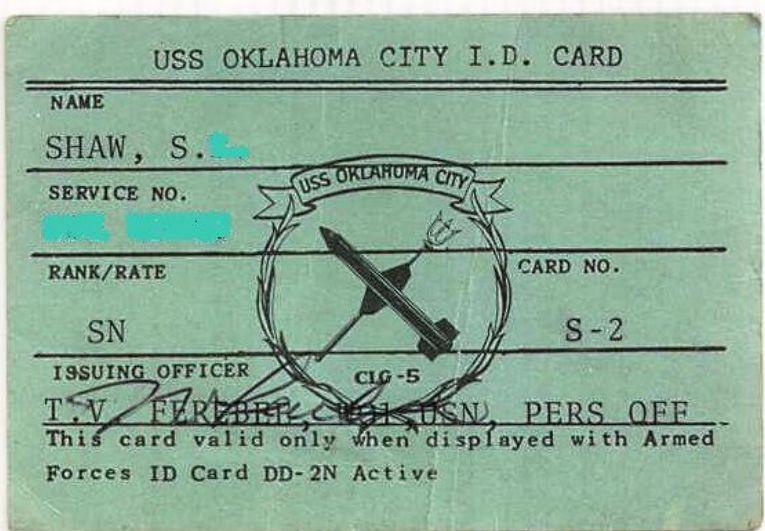


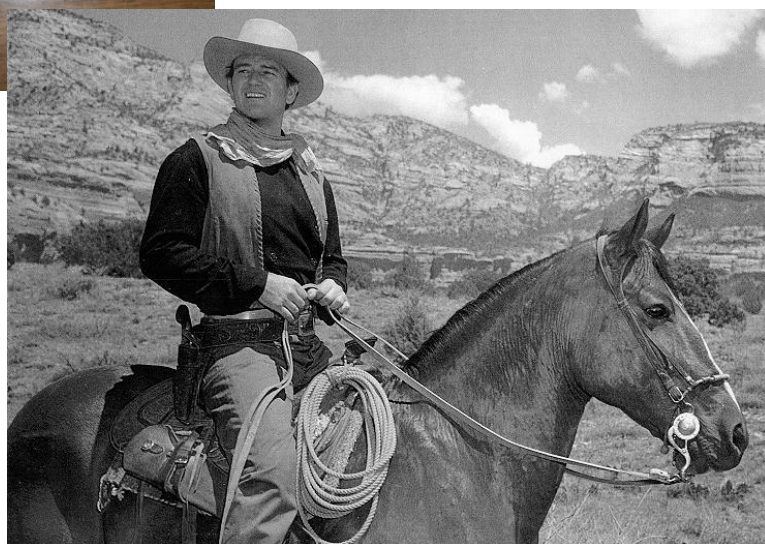
In addition to ordinary work we would also exercise at emergency drills to keep the crew in a state of readiness. General Quarters drills let us know how fast we could get ready for combat. Fire drills tested the condition of our fire fighting equipment, as well as the men themselves. Emergency in the missile house drills practiced the procedures for getting damage control crews into the restricted nuclear weapons spaces. Here the motor whaleboat is being launched during a man overboard drill. If "practice makes perfect" we should have been pretty damned good!



Life at sea is not all work and no play. When not on duty we had some time to relax. Some guys liked to get suntans. Officers used "teak beach" on the foc'sle and enlisted men took in the rays on the fantail.



After dinner, sailors and officers would find their favorite spots to gather and “shoot the shit” or wander off in the hope of finding a private spot to sit and have a smoke. I would usually opt for that quiet spot somewhere alone where I could watch the sea or read a paperback book. Oh yes, I also smoked at sea. I grew fond of Tiparillo Menthol cigars but never was able to inhale them much. I just enjoyed the routine of smoking and even later took up the pipe aboard my stateside ships. When the weather was bad I would go below and sit on the crowded mess deck floor and watch movies projected on a sheet. I remember the John Wayne movies the most because they always had such spectacular western scenery it always left me home sick and thinking of the States..



One of the more popular duties was showing the flag in a foreign port . Sometimes our visits to ports of call were for recreation, and others were diplomatic visits. Usually, the ship would be decked out in its finest trim. Many times we were given space at a pier instead of having to anchor out and motor in to port on small boats. Since we were the flagship, we often were given a special berth such as this location where we tied up to in Hong Kong..





**In some ports we held an open ship and allowed visitors to come aboard. For these occasions we ran out the TSAM trainer missiles and placed sign boards around the ship to explain the exhibits. Many thousands of people might visit the ship in an afternoon. On other occasions the locals came aboard and performed for the ship's company. This dance troop from Taiwan set up a stage on the fantail and put on quite a show.**



Sometimes while at sea the Captain would throw a party for the crew. The mess decks would put together all the fixin's for a barbeque and we had a cookout on the fantail. The Seventh Fleet band set up by the missile launcher and everyone not on watch gathered 'round for food and entertainment. Sometimes a boxing ring was set up for what, in Navy terms, is called a "smoker."



When the sea was calm and the mild tropic breeze came up in the evening I would sit outside on the deck and watch another of the many spectacular sunsets that can only be found at sea. Beautiful rays of sun bounced off the ocean waves or flickered between the thickening clouds and slowly sank over the horizon in glowing shades of yellow, orange, red and purple. At dusk the flying fish would leap from the sea like a herd of miniature horses while your mind wandered off, thinking about all the life teeming just below your ship. After dark one could see the green phosphorus in the water, glowing and foaming in ghostly swirls. As the ship streaked thru the water under a black and endless sky, the wind would stiffen and sweep away the dark clouds to reveal an endless panorama of stars.

I would find my favorite constellation, "*Orion the Hunter*" and think of Stateside, knowing the same stars had passed above my home just twelve hours ago. Those particular stars left me feeling so close to home, while their own distance revealed the true depth of how far away and alone I was.



# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND YOURSELF MISSING SEA DUTY!

Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the door with a curtain.

Four hours after you go to sleep, have your spouse whip open the curtain shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble, "Sorry, wrong rack."

When you take showers, make sure you shut off the water while soaping.

Every time there is a thunderstorm, go sit in a wobbly Rocking chair and rock as hard as you can until you're nauseous.

Put lube oil and urine in your humidifier instead of water and set it to high.

Alternate your thermostat between 85 and 52 degrees, regardless of the season.

Throw a dark towel in with your laundry, wash on hot with bleach so that all your skivvies become an even gray.

Have your spouse run out of the entree whenever something good is served for dinner.

Have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one.

Leave lawn mower running in your living-room to simulate noise levels.

Have the paper boy give you a haircut.

Make up your family menu a month ahead of time without looking in your food cabinets or refrigerator. Then, regardless of what's planned, serve canned ravioli, cold cuts and rice 4 out of every seven days.

Set your alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can, then run out into the yard and breakout the garden hose and yell at the top of your voice, "Number one hose manned and ready."

Once a month take every major appliance, power tool and motor completely apart and then put them back together. Keep

detailed records.

Use 18 scoops of coffee per pot and allow it to sit 5 or 6 hours before drinking.

Invite at least 85 people you don't really like to come visit for a couple months.

Have a fluorescent lamp installed on the bottom of your coffee table and lie under it to read books.

Tape safety warnings and operating instructions on every appliance, power tool, door, sink, step, and window throughout your house.

Nail boards 1 foot from the top or bottom of all the doorways in your home so that you either trip or hit your head every time you pass through one.

Also every so often, roust your family out of bed and yell "security alert." Make the younger family members stand perfectly still in the hallway while the older members stand guard at the door and/or search the attic for burglars.

Go into the kitchen and sweep all the pots, pans and dishes of the counter onto the floor, then yell at your spouse for not having the place "stowed for sea."

Put on a set of head phones (Don't plug them in) and stand by the stove, say to no one in particular, "Stove manned and ready." Stand there for four hours, then again say, to no one in particular, "Stove secured," roll up headphone cord and put away.

Stencil every door in your house with the name of the room it leads to and its "tack" number.

Install an intercom system throughout your house. Every 15 minutes, loudly announce meaningless facts and events, "Dinner is being served at this time." "Mom is going next door."

Ring a bell every half hour. Blow a whistle for 3 minutes before each meal.

Run all piping and wiring in your house on the outside of the drywall. Once a week, pump 10 inches of nasty, crappie water into your basement, pump it out, clean up and paint the floor deck gray.

On Monday, Wednesday and Fridays turn your water temperature up to 200 degrees then down to 10 degrees on all

other days.

Raise your bed to within 36 inches of the ceiling.

Have a recording set to go off every day at 5 A.M. with a loud whistle, then yelling, "Reveille, Reveille, Reveille. All hands heave out and trice up".

Eat the raunchiest food you can find for three days straight, then lock the bathroom door for 12 hours, and hang a sign on it that reads "SECURED - contact OA DIV at X-3053."

Submit a written request form to your father-in-law, asking if it's OK for you to leave the house before 3 P.M.

Sit in your car and let it run for 4 hours before going anywhere. This is to ensure your engine is properly "lit off."

Empty all the garbage bins and sweep all floors and driveways 3 times a day, whether they need it or not.

Repaint your entire house once a month.

Cook all your food blindfolded, groping for any spice and seasoning you can get your hands on. Now, chow down! You have 5 minutes.

Spend \$20,000 on a new satellite system for your tv but only watch CNN and the weather channel.

Attempt to spend 5 years working for McDonald's, while not getting promoted.

"Needle gun" the aluminum siding on your house after your neighbors have gone to bed.

Have someone yell, over your intercom system, randomly, in the middle of the night, "The house is under attack, General Quarters, General Quarters. All hands, man your battle stations."

Post a menu on the refrigerator door informing your family that you are having steak for dinner (or other favorite food). Then, make them wait in line for at least an hour. When you finally get to the kitchen, tell them that you are out of steak but you have dried ham or soggy hot dogs. Repeat daily until they don't pay attention to the menu and just ask for hot dogs.

In the middle of January, place a podium at the end of your driveway. Have your family stand watches at the podium in 4 hour shifts. Remove podium and secure watch when the weather



warms up.

Lock yourself and your family in your house for 6 weeks. Then, tell them that at the end of the 6 weeks, you're going to take them to Disneyland. Announce this several times a day. Then, at the end of 6 weeks, tell them that the Disneyland trip has been canceled due to E-cert work ups and that they can't leave the house for at least another week.

Now, you old salts can get "underway" any time and the rest of you can enjoy the true romances of shipboard life.

*Thanks to shipmate **Steven Dawid** 71-74 for this feature.*

**November 27-29, 1971** Arrived at Naval Station, Subic Bay, in the Philippines.

Ahhh....Subic bay.. a true deep water sailor's port. A bit of the Wild West in the Far East. The U.S. Naval Base in Subic Bay was a major ship-repair, supply, and rest and recreation facility located in the region of Zambales, Philippines. It was the largest U.S. Navy installation in the Pacific. The Vietnam War placed a tremendous workload on Subic Bay. The base became the service station and supermarket for the U.S. Seventh Fleet after the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964.



This base has a rich and interesting historical heritage. In the 17th Century, Spanish naval forces began to use Subic Bay to safeguard their holdings in the Philippines. Folklore says that the nearby city of Olongapo was named as a result of a Chinese sailor who arrived at Subic and wished to trade with the natives for porcelain, silk and trinkets. As he sailed past Grande Island, a storm blew up, and he began to pray for deliverance. "Orong"...he said, meaning "Return" and "Apo" meaning "Gods". The story goes that said together the words sounded like "Olong-apo", since there is no "r" in Chinese.

Because this area had such a well-deserved reputation for violence, I prefer another of the many stories that account for Olongapo's founding.

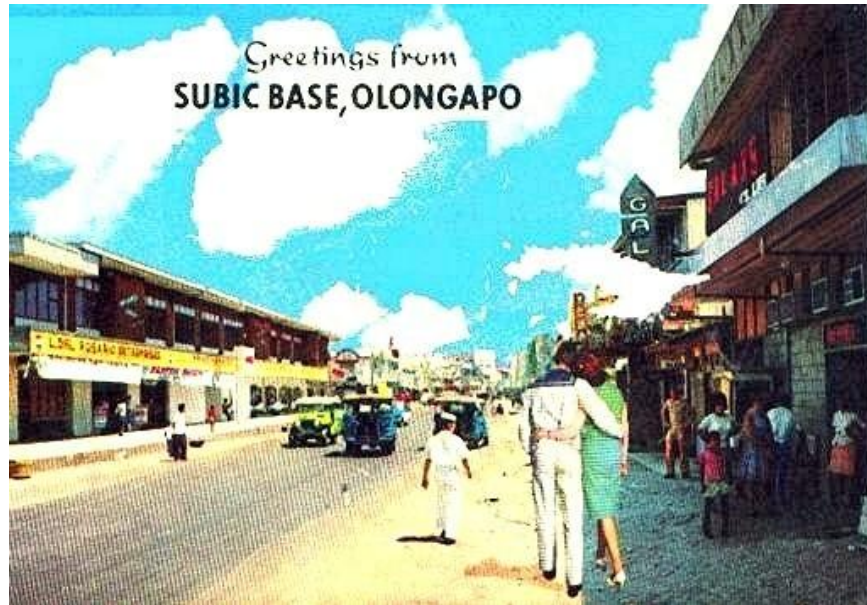


*“Once upon a time in the area where Olongapo is now situated, there was a leader, an old man, famous for his love and care for his tribe. This leader was known as APO. He was intelligent, good and just. He favored no one and treated everyone fairly, that was why he was loved by all. His name became known to all. Any dispute and conflict he resolved with due fairness and justice. He inspired goodwill and nurtured hope in his people to combat sufferings brought about by calamities. However, because of his greatness, evil men with the bad intention of conquering his tribe and became envious of him. “*



*“One morning, the village was awaked by the news that the Apo was taken by unscrupulous tribesman. The villagers searched for Apo in the forest and mountains for several days but in vain. Then one day, the village was taken by surprise when a boy returning from the forest, claimed that he found the head of the Apo at the foot of the mountain. They soon learned that Apo was killed by his abductors, who cut his head off in order to cast fear among the villagers. But instead of being frightened, the village became enraged because of the hideous things done to their beloved head. The villagers punished the culprits and in order to cherish and emulate the example of leadership shown to them by the Apo, they called their village "ULONGAPO" (Head of the Leader). Thus the locality bears its name and became OLONGAPO. This is the legend of OLONGAPO.”*

The Spanish held the area for over a century until the Spanish fleet's defeat by the U.S. Navy and Admiral Dewey sailed into Manila Bay in 1898. As soon as the Americans took possession of Subic Bay, they found the place strategically important for food and fuel for the fleet. The Americans maintained friendly relations with the locals and the population grew as Filipino civilians moved into the Olongapo area to take advantage of the opportunities thus created. The town became the pride of Zambales province, but the only access was from the sea. No roads penetrated the high inaccessible mountains that ringed the bay.



In 1932, the road through Zig Zag Pass was completed and the city of Olongapo was connected to the rest of the country. The growth of the town continued, despite a temporary move of most of the naval facilities to Cavite Navy Yard. By 1941, the population of Olongapo had increased to 15,000 souls.



The sudden bombing of Pearl Harbor and the invasion of the Philippines by the Japanese brought a swift end to the good times in Olongapo. Only a few American personnel were present at Subic Bay when the Japanese attacked. The small force could not withstand the air attacks so they moved to strategic positions of defense and to areas where their services were badly needed. After a week, the resources of the defenders were exhausted. The townspeople evacuated to the mountains leaving behind them the ruins of the Naval base and the town, which was burned to the ground. The people adopted a "scorched-earth" policy as the Japanese advanced rapidly.

In the latter part of 1942, the Japanese Imperial forces occupied Olongapo and began clearing the ruins of the once beautiful town. The few remaining houses were occupied by the Japanese soldiers. The fall of Bataan on April 9 and Corregidor on May 7, 1942 diminished the last hope of the Filipinos. American and Filipino defenders who surrendered unconditionally. This placed the country under the iron rule of the Japanese, except in some regions where underground resistance movements were

organized. Most of the people retreated deeper into the mountains and lived on whatever they could and whatever they'd saved in the way of clothing and provisions. They were exposed to the elements and attacked by disease and malnutrition. They resorted to eating "bojo" roots and leaves that caused the death of many. Beri-beri and malaria took many lives. Some Filipinos worked for the Japanese Navy at Subic out of



desperation, earning a few liters of rice for a day's work or they were paid in "mickey mouse" money. Others worked for the Japanese out of fear of being suspected as guerillas, which would mean certain death.

An anti-Japanese resistance movement was formed in the nearby hills around Capt. E. S. Johnson, who had lost a son and a brother to the Japanese. All those who were identified as belonging to the resistance were sentenced to be shot on sight by the Japanese. Johnson and a few comrades were captured due to the treachery of one of his men, but while awaiting execution, they escaped from prison and returned to the hills. They then harassed the Japanese forces whenever they could and then returned to the mountains at night.



Finally, on the morning of January 29, 1945, the people of Olongapo awoke to find hundreds of American planes in the sky. The Japanese forces got into their trucks and headed for Zig Zag Pass. None of the townspeople dared come out for fear the retreating Japanese would shoot every Filipino they could find on sight. Hours later, Subic Bay filled with American vessels, and the American troops landed without resistance. Zig Zag Pass was the site of a bloody battle between Japanese and American forces, as the American liberation troops pursued the fleeing Japanese and the Japanese made their last stand. Zambales guerillas fought alongside the American forces to victory.

As soon as the enemy left, the Americans recognized the plight of the people of Olongapo and began to help them in all possible ways. Employment boomed and by 1946, there were 10,000 Filipinos employed in various Naval activities. Stores were reopened, roads rebuilt and housing projects initiated and the city and Naval Base were on the way to becoming the economic and military force it continued to be through the 1990's.

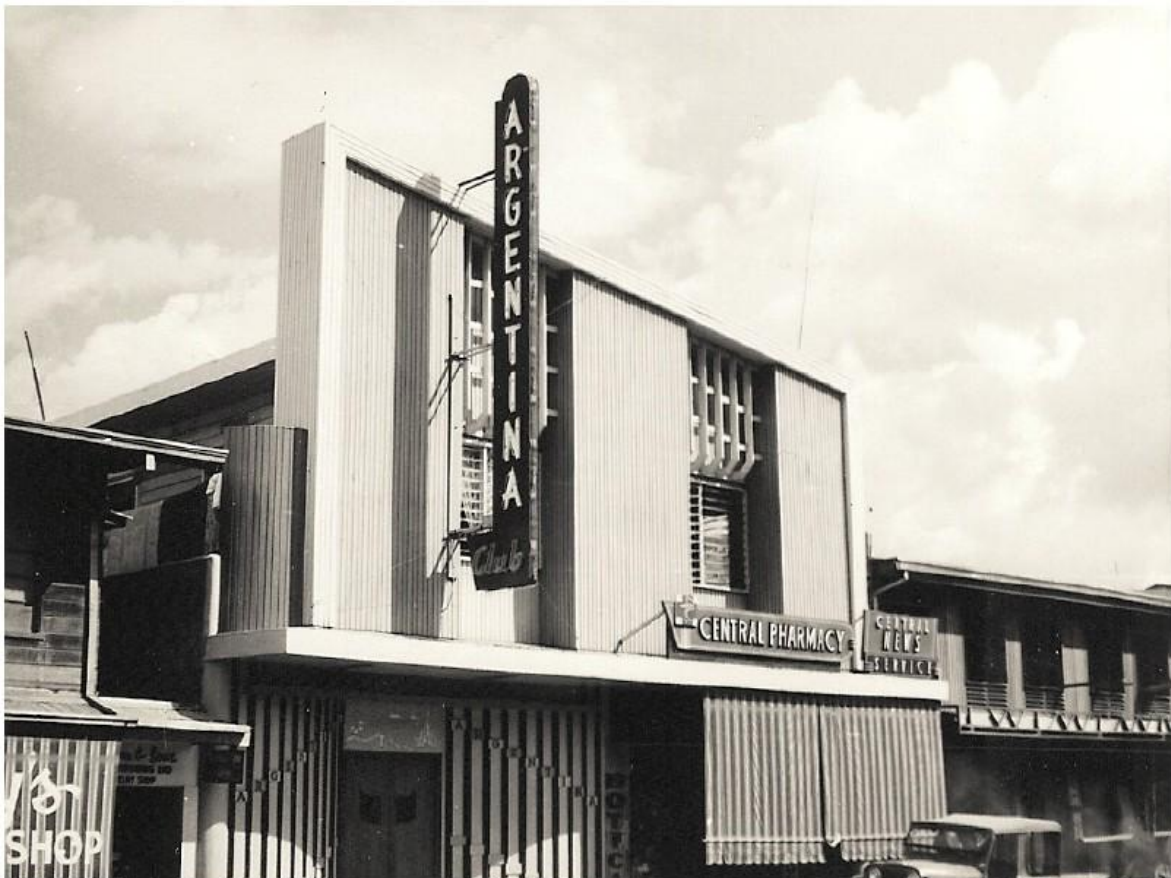


During the time of my visits to the area, The U.S. Naval Base ,Subic Bay, Philippines was one of the largest U.S. military bases in the world, and was a very popular Rest and Recreation (R&R) liberty port for U.S. Sailors and Marines until its closing in 1992. For many U.S. service members throughout the years, Subic Bay, and the neighboring city of Olongapo, was considered the best liberty port in the world, owing in most part to Olongapo's countless bars and young women eager to meet American servicemen.

There was a club for every taste and at least five pretty women for every sailor, who were all were fond of saying, *"I love you no shit."*



**We visited Subic Bay in the Philippines quite often. It was the closest supply depot and repair yard to the Gulf of Tonkin. Outside the navy base was the town of Olongapo. Perhaps the best way to introduce Olongapo is to say it made Tijuana look like the Vatican. You could find anything you wanted, and a lot more, in Olongapo.**



As you crossed the bridge leading from the base across the Olongapo River there were young girls dressed in very little waiting in boats below. Sailors tossed coins for them to dive after and when they surfaced little was left to the imagination through the wet cloth. Olongapo was like something out of a spaghetti western, with lots of saloons, people walking around with guns, and occasional shoot outs in the streets. It was a rough place and you needed to keep on your toes.



## **Marine Found Dead in R.P.**

**SUBIC BAY NB, R.P. (S&S)**

*— A Marine was found dead in a hotel room in Olongapo City, just outside this base, at 1 p.m. Tuesday, a base official said Wednesday.*

*The cause and time of death were unknown, according to the spokesman. An autopsy was scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.*

*The name of the Marine, who was found in the New Yorker Hotel, has been withheld pending notification of next of kin, according to the spokesman.*





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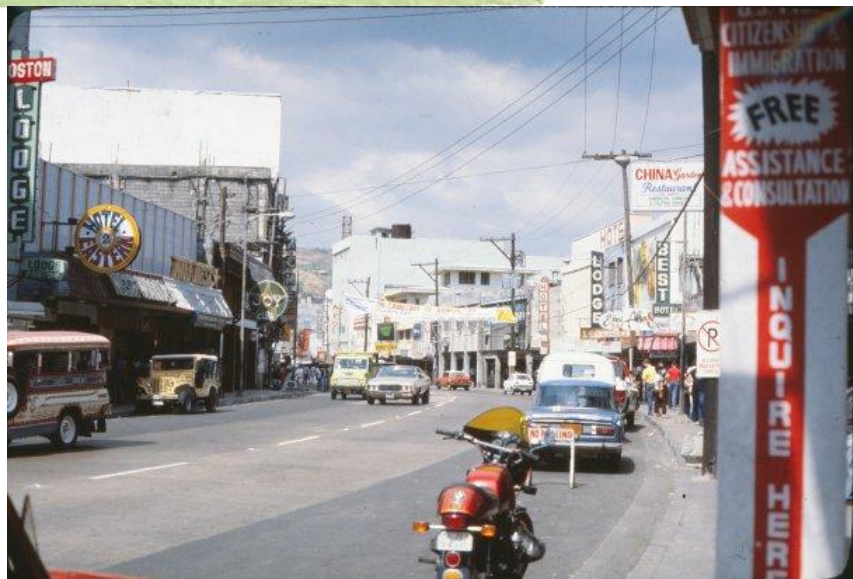
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The streets bustled with gaudily painted "jeepnies" - vintage WWII jeeps left behind after the war and modified into tiny busses. Children pushed through the crowds on the sidewalks propositioning sailors with "Hey sailor! You want to buy some gum? How about



my sister?" If you were wearing a ring or a watch with a stretch band you would soon be amazed with the precision that a kid running by could slip it off your hand and then duck into a dark alley before you realized what was happening. You didn't follow into those alleys if you wanted to walk back to the ship. The Navy lost more sailors in The Po than were lost in Vietnam. The main street was lined with bar after bar. Most had pretty good bands and dance floors where a fellow could dance with a "hostess." There was no shortage of bar girls who were happy to talk with sailors who bought them "champagne" cocktails (actually soda or tea). They hustled drinks for the sailors and provided entertainment, often involving progressively less clothing as the night wore on.

## STARS AND STRIPES

### Crime Up 91% in 8 Years

**MANILA (AP) , 2-1-72** — *The volume of crime in the Philippines doubled in eight years from 25,861 reported incidents to 48,554, according to Philippine Constabulary (national police) statistics released Sunday. The report noted that the 91.4 percent rise from 1964 to 1971 only represented about two thirds of the total crime picture, since most crimes, especially in the troubled provinces of central and northern Luzon and in Mindanao, were never reported.*

**November, 30 1971** Depart Subic Bay and set sail for Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. En route the ship received a call of distress and proceeded to rescue a group of 30 Taiwanese fishermen whose four fishing boats had foundered on Scarborough Shoals in a storm with heavy seas. After steaming at high speed into heavy seas near perilous shoal water with poor navigation aids, the OKLAHOMA CITY launched COMSEVENTHFLT's helicopter and six survivors were recovered from the wreckage of their boats and brought back to the ship. Air Force helicopters eventually delivered all 29 survivors to Manila. Rescue completed, the ship proceeded to Yankee Station.



Although I had yet to fire an actual shot at the shores of Vietnam, the direct support provided by the flagship of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet towards active combat in the Republic of Vietnam since I had come aboard qualified me to receive the Vietnam Service Medal. However, it would be many months later before I was authorized to wear the award and its accompanying campaign star.

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award which was created in 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson. The medal is issued to recognize military service during the Vietnam War and is authorized to service members in every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces,

The Vietnam Service Medal is presented to any service member who regularly served for one, or more, days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations in

the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos between the dates of November 15, 1961 to March 28, 1973, and from April 29, 1975 to April 30, 1975.

United States Navy vessels operating in Vietnamese waters qualify for the Vietnam Service Medal provided that the naval vessel was engaged in direct support of Vietnam combat operations.



Reverse

This date also ends the 15<sup>th</sup> formal U.S. military campaign of the Vietnam War called "Consolidation I" which ran from 1 July, 1971 to 30 Nov. 1971. Service during this campaign entitled me to wear my first of three bronze campaign stars on the ribbon portion my Vietnam Service Medal. The Department of Defense established thirty military campaigns during the Vietnam War. Some campaigns apply to all of the military services while others are specific to a particular branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. For those service members participating in one or more campaigns, a service star for each campaign is authorized on the Vietnam Service Medal.



**CONSOLIDATION I CAMPAIGN** - This period witnessed additional progress in the Vietnamization program which included turning over the ground war to South Vietnam troops, sustaining the withdrawal of U.S. troops, but also continuing, U.S. air and naval strikes on enemy targets. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced completion of Phase I of Vietnamization on August 11, 1971 which meant that the U.S. relinquished all ground combat responsibilities to the Republic of Vietnam. The participation of U.S. forces in ground combat operations had not ceased completely. U.S. maneuver battalions were still conducting missions. U.S. troop strengths decreased during Consolidation I. American battle deaths for July 1971 were 66, the lowest monthly figure since May 1967. By early November, U.S. troop totals dropped to 191,000, the lowest level since December 1965. In early November, President Nixon announced that American troops had reverted to a defensive role in Vietnam.

**Dec. 1-2, 1971** Arrive on Yankee Station in Gulf of Tonkin.

We normally didn't spend much time at Yankee Station, an area in the Gulf about 100 miles offshore. This is where the carriers hung out, providing air cover for bombing raids into the north and support for ground forces in the south. The Okie Boat (call sign "Fireball") did venture there once in a while so the Commander of Seventh Fleet could visit the carriers. While at Yankee Station, the Oklahoma City usually maneuvered to stay out of the way of the carriers which were almost always conducting flight operations.



I suspect our short stay in the combat zone was just for the opportunity to engage in a few hours of naval gunfire support which qualified the crew to obtain their extra monthly payment of \$65 for hazardous duty, or combat pay before returning to Japan.





**Dec. 3-5, 1971** En route to Yokosuka, Japan. Yokosuka, was the *Oklahoma City's* home port while I was aboard. Unlike other ships that would sail from the United States to the orient for six month cruises, the Okie Boat remained in Asia as a forward deployed vessel. The ship was home ported in Yokosuka from 1968 to 1979





