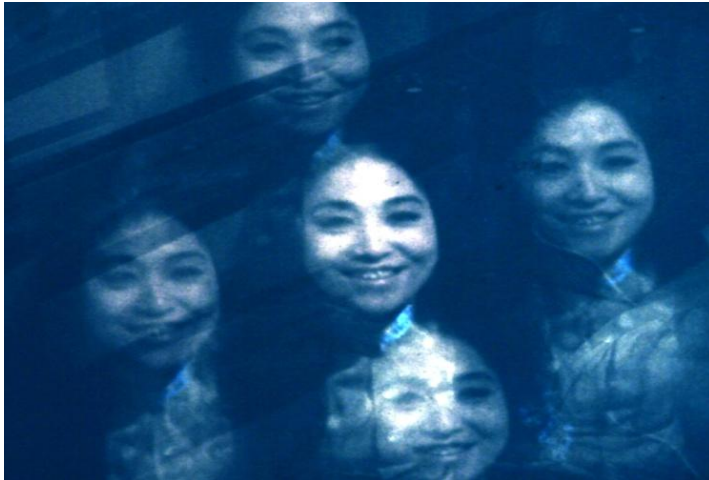




Modern Day Honcho



The best time to find quiet and some peace of mind was when I could spend time at my apartment that had been obtained by another sailor while I was away at Postal Clerk School. We split the rent and shared the place with his girlfriend, "Yoko", (what a coincidence, another girl named Yoko) who also kept house and cooked and cleaned for us.



**Yoko was a quiet, gracious addition to the household.**

My walk to the apartment began with a taxi ride from the ship's pier to the main gate. (I would later buy another bike at the Navy exchange for \$37.50 to use to get home). After leaving the base I turned right and walked for a few blocks before turning left and started the one mile hike up a crowded winding road that soon followed the mountainous coastline to the apartment.





Much of the walk began along store lined streets, temples and schools and progressed ever upward towards a maze of crowded apartments and houses. The streets were filled with autos and the side of the road was cluttered with bicyclists, pedestrians, scooters and motorcycles squeezed among the parked vehicles.





The pungent smell of drying seaweed along the way would form a distasteful knot in my stomach when I thought about those who would make it part of tonight's dinner. Old women would squat in the gutter and pee while storefronts hawked fish of every description that

were always covered in flies. Occasionally I would stop at the liquor dispenser near my home and pay 80 yen for a half pint of Suntory whiskey to wash the smell away.



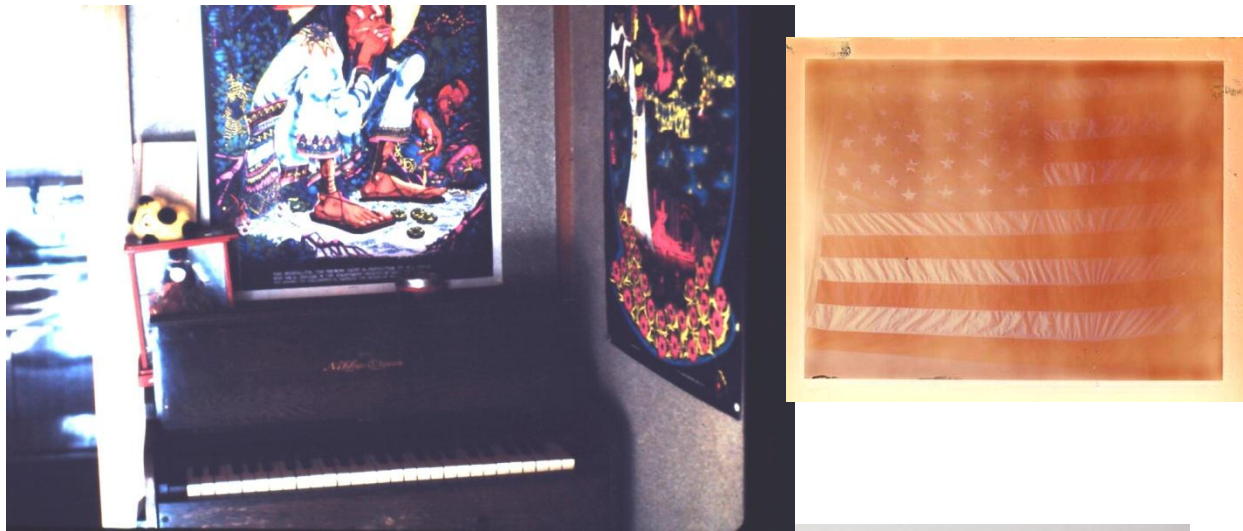
Who needs a Coke machine when you have one of these every few blocks ! (Pictured here is a modern version of the old battered red colored “Coke” type liquor machine located near my apartment)



Soon I would enter the rabbit warren of apartments and snake my way through the maze to my humble home..



The average apartment in Yokosuka was usually 500 sq. ft. or less at the time. My place was a little smaller and consisted of an upstairs unit with a rectangle shaped living room and one window overlooking the street. There was a small sink separated by a paper wall at one end of the living room which represented our kitchen space. There was a tiny bedroom to the side which was occupied by Jack and Yoko while I usually crashed on one of the many large futons that lined the walls. These would be folded up and used as chairs during the daytime. The walls were lined with 60's psychedelic posters and a large American Navy battle flag that had been "borrowed" from the ship. There was no insulation in the walls and in true Japanese tradition you had to take off your shoes before walking on the floor. The place had no central air or heating and while this all sounds bad we enjoyed our little "Mansion" as often as possible.



**My window view. The Ocean is just up the hill to the left.**

**September 16, 1972** Quang Tri City is recaptured by South Vietnamese troops.

**September 22-24, 1972** En route from Yokosuka, Japan to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. I am looking forward to a greasy cheeseburger and a San Miguel beer at the old Spanish gate.



**September 25-27, 1972** Liberty and a missile exchange at Subic Bay.



MANILA (UPI) 1-28-72—In the Philippines, businessmen

do it, congressmen do it . . . even educated educators do it.

Carry guns. It's unnerving.

Carrying guns in the Philippines

became a way of life during

World War II when guerrilla

fighters roamed the islands.

Subsequent operations of Communist dissidents

plus law and order problems have kept

holsters in place—usually on the

lower back between the kidneys.

Guns worn there are hidden by the long Filipino shirts worn outside the trousers. Distressed at the Philippine reputation and worried by numerous shooting incidents. Liberal Party senator-elect Edgar Ilarde thinks it is time Filipinos put their guns away. "I think you will agree with me that one need only to look around to see that our country is fast becoming a territory of gun-toters, reminiscent of America's wild west where every irresponsible Tom, Dick and Harry can carry a gun which, at the slightest provocation, is used to kill or maim," Senator Ilarde said.

## Marcos Seeks Gun Law

MANILA (UPI)—President Ferdinand E. Marcos Wednesday sent to Congress the immediate action proposed laws to curb widespread criminality which he says is the most urgent Philippine problem.

The proposals include the imposition of stiffer penalties for illegal possession of firearms and use of opinion and where prohibited signs and legislation to check rising incidence of car robbery.

Another proposal would require members of the armed forces to carry a gun which is the firearms they are carrying.

Marcos, explaining the need for heavier penalties for illegal possession of firearms, said that those who carried firearms in one of the most important factors of national peace and order. He said this represents the problem of lawlessness and corruption, rampant gambling, embezzlement, political terrorism and criminality.

Marcos also mentioned a Philippine Constabulary (national police) report saying there are more than 10,000 loose or unlicensed firearms in the Philippines today, many of them equipped with fully automatic.

The widespread use of drugs, the president said, is particularly "serious because the victims include students, unions, and young women, many of whom because of the drugs, are forced to live a life of shame, misery and criminality."

A bill was introduced in the Philippine Senate Tuesday which, if approved, would provide the death penalty for manufacturers and sellers of dangerous drugs. Under the existing law, drug offenders could receive only a maximum term of six years imprisonment.

Marcos, in his "state of the nation" address Monday, said the most urgent problem of the Philippines today is lawlessness. He expressed determination that the challenge to public authority posed by criminal and lawless elements will be met this year and the next with all the power and resources of government.

## 40G Gem Theft in R.P.

MANILA (UPI)—The wife of the chairman of the board of the Bayan Village Stores was robbed of 400,000 worth of jewelry Wednesday during a stopover in Manila, airport police reported.

The security coordinator at International Manila International Airport said Mrs. Irwin Bickson complained that someone opened a black leather bag containing the jewelry while she was checking in at a temporary counter of Philippine Airlines at a restaurant near the airport. Temporary facilities were set up around the airport area after the terminal was destroyed by fire Saturday.

**Postal Losses Revealed**  
MANILA (UPI)—A total of 1,121 registered airmail letters and parcels were destroyed by the fire which swept the Manila International Airport on Monday Saturday, acting Postmaster General Pedro Galbanan, announced Wednesday.

## Philippine Crime Linked to Weapons

# Land of Fastest Guns in the East

By PATRICK J. KILLEN  
MANILA (UPI)—In the Philippines, businessmen do it, congressmen do it . . . even educated educators do it. Carry guns.

A few years ago, my friend Artur, an amiable Australian, introduced a Filipino in a Manila bar. In no time at all, Artur was looking with some anxiety at a 45 caliber pistol.

The incident ended without bloodshed but had a certain sobering influence on Artur. To this day, he remembers Manila as the slottiest and of a gun hoard.

Carrying guns in the Philippines became a way of life during World War II when guerrilla fighters roamed the islands. Subsequent operations of Communist dissidents plus law and order problems have kept holsters in place—usually on the lower back between the kidneys. Guns worn there are hidden by the long Filipino shirts worn outside the trousers.

Distressed at the Philippine reputation and worried by numerous shooting incidents, Liberal Party senator-elect Edgar Ilarde thinks it is time Filipinos put their guns away.

Ilarde, elected in last November's opposition election, has announced plans to introduce legislation early in the coming year to curb the carrying of guns and providing stiff penalties for violators.

"Statistics show," Ilarde told UPI, "that firearms are used in a high percentage of our crimes. I think it is time Filipinos put their guns away. It is a billion of gun-layers."

Ilarde said that in the past he had been "drifted" there will be no exception. He even admitted policeman and members of law enforcement forces required to leave their firearms at home.

At present, a Filipino resident needs only a license approved by his mayor and police chief to buy firearms. Licenses are restricted to still only 22 caliber weapons and shotguns, and he must obtain a special permit to carry guns.

But Ilarde said, authorities have been lax in issuing permits and there are plenty of well-armed or "loose" firearms available.

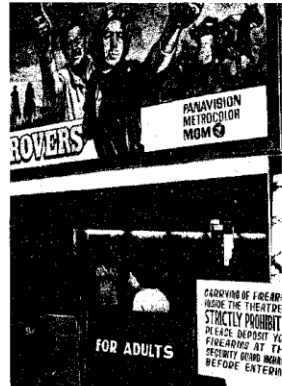
**Bad Nudes For Voters**  
MANILA (UPI)—The village election in San Simon was suspended after members of a barbers' association sent out drunk and began roaming around in the nude, the Philippine News Service (PNS) reported Wednesday.

PNS said the members of the barbers' association were placed under investigation for terrorizing residents of the village in Pangasinan Province, 40 miles north of Manila, during the Jan. 25 local election.

The report said the men went around the village on election eve "drunk and naked" and intimidating the people to vote for their candidate. The elections were held for Jan. 25.

**Airport Toll Rises**  
MANILA (AP)—Two more bodies have been recovered from the partial Manila International Airport main terminal building, raising to 11 the number of fatalities from Saturday's fire, Col. Evaristo Hernandez, deputy director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) reported Wednesday.

Damage to the terminal building and facilities was placed at \$1.5 million by authorities. Efforts are under way for renovation of the terminal building. Philippine officials said earlier that a "heavy blow" because of the fire. Local homes, they added, are currently being plagued by cancellations as tourists are being diverted from Manila due to the loss of airport facilities.



A sign of the times in Manila asks visitors and patrons to desist from carrying guns in public places. Such signs are commonplace in theaters, restaurants, offices, shops and other establishments.

kill or maim," the senator said. Ilarde pointed out that the carrying of guns is only prohibited 30 days before and 30 days after elections, and the crime situation is relatively improved during that period.

Many Filipinos agree with Ilarde but might not see widespread, particularly by those who feel strongly they should carry a gun which, at the slightest provocation, is used to



A man with a pistol in his belt leaves a Manila gun shop. There are 15 legal gun shops in Manila which sell a wide variety of firearms ranging from pistols and shotguns to semi-automatic weapons. (AP Photos)

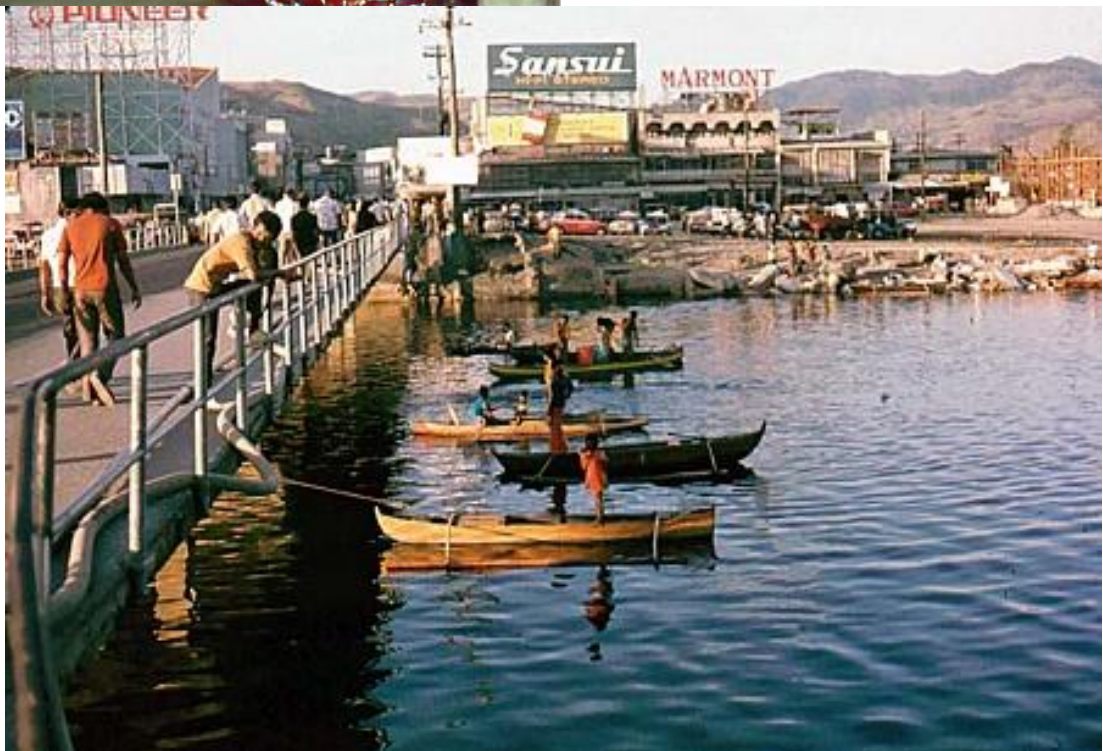




Main Bridge into town – Ladies Diving for coins.



Money bought you anything in this outlaw city.



**September 28, 1972** Out to sea. Returning to the Vietnam combat zone.

**September 29-30., 1972** Initiate naval gunfire support, (NGFS) off the coast of Vietnam



Arrived at the gun line to provide Naval Gunfire Support near the DMZ in support of Republic of Vietnam Marine Units.. The ship joined its fellow navy vessels as a member of task force TG 75.9 (formerly TU 70.8.9). Compared to the earlier heavy gun line activity, the next few months resulted in a less intense schedule of gunfire support, rearming, refueling and replenishing.

All total, from April through September 1972, the combined cruiser-destroyer group fired over 111,000 rounds. Besides destroying vehicles, artillery, tanks, coastal logistical craft and PT boats, the naval barrage killed an estimated 2,000 NVA soldiers. By mid-1972, Navy personnel assigned in-country in Vietnam only numbered 2,340 -- after peaking at 39,265 in October 1968.



My least favorite work party was the VERTRAPS, (Vertical Replenishments) operations conducted by using helicopters to bring supplies to the ship while stationed on the gun line. Large cargo nets were used to drop food and supplies on to the rear fantail of the ship. A small group of sailors would then rush out to the receiving area before the next helicopter made its drop and grab a heavy box or a bag of supplies and rush back to a safe distance to hand it to the crewman at the start line.

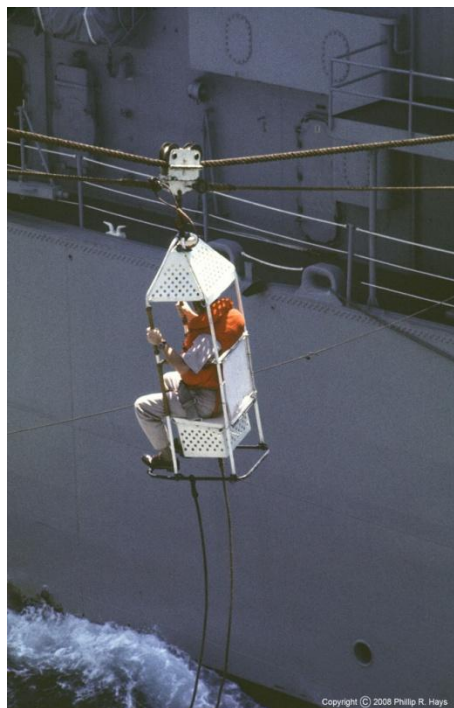


Supplies would then be handed over man to man as they snaked along the ship to finally end at the appropriate storage compartment . Handling heavy cargo in this manner would go on for hours and was exhausting work.



Another standard , “at sea”, maneuver involved transporting Navy personnel from ship to ship through the use of a “Highline” transfer. **The "skivvy wavers" (signalmen) sent signal flags aloft to initiate the highline transfer. Then the participating ships maneuvered alongside. For these transfers it was common to have a trailing ship on station behind to pick up the person being transferred in case the highline equipment failed.**

First a shot line was sent to the other ship. They tied the transfer line to it and we hauled it aboard. Unlike UNREPS transfers, which used steel wire and winches, highline transfers always used manila rope. Manila did not stretch and was easier to handle, and that was important because the lines were always pulled by hand.



The transfer line was steadied by a gang of men pulling on it, while crews on both ships hauled on the lines that pulled the bos'un's chair between the ships. The reason for manhandling the lines was to maintain an even strain as the ships rolled and try to keep the chair from swinging wildly. If the lines were fastened to the ships and pulled with winches it would be much harder to control. To understand the problem, place a paper clip in the middle of a length of string and then suddenly pull the string tight. Notice how the clip spins rapidly around the string? We didn't want to do that to someone in the chair. We really didn't want to do it if that someone was the Admiral!

**October 1-13, 1972** Continued Naval Gunfire Support in the Vietnam combat zone. .  
Received hostile fire from shore batteries.

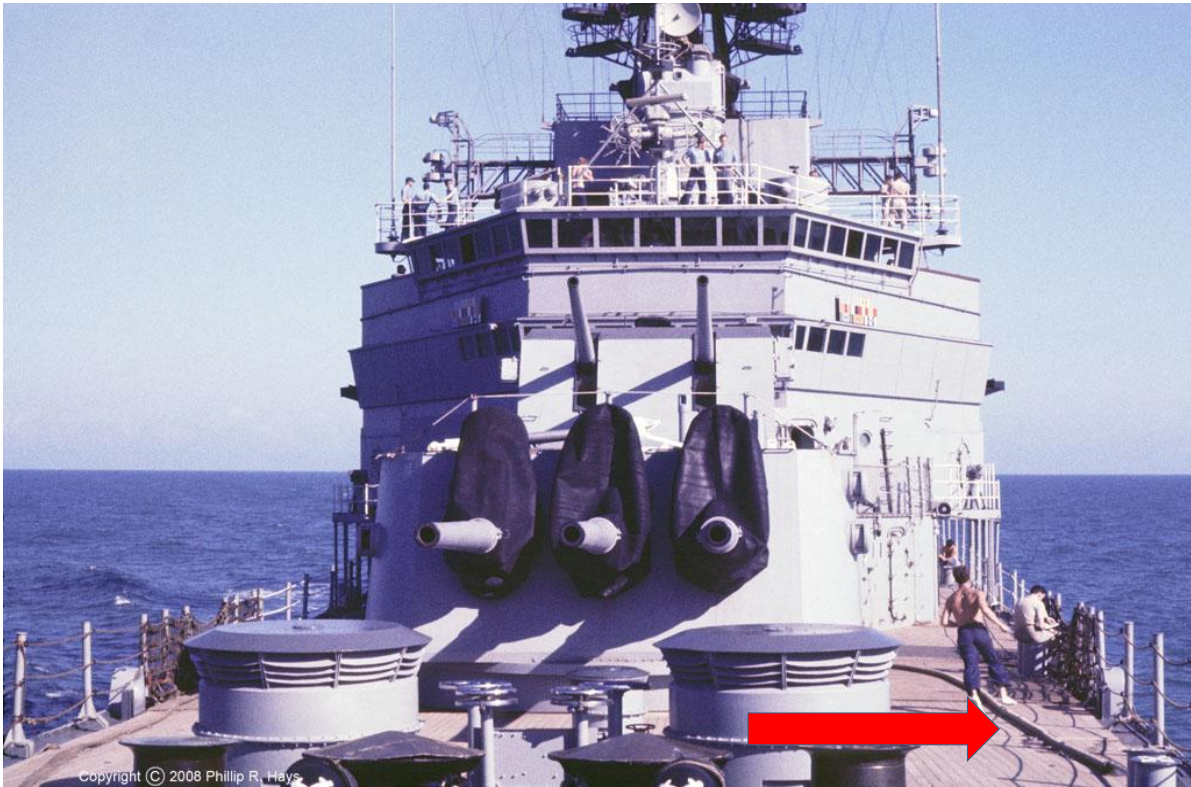


While we were there it was common for North Vietnamese "fishing" boats to accompany us. They reported our activities to shore. The "spy" boats were pretty easy to distinguish from ordinary fishing boats by the 60 foot whip antennas they carried. Early in the war these were called WBLTs, or "wiblets" for water-born logistics targets, and the Navy used them for target practice. However, by the time I was on board they were off limits, so we usually had quite an entourage. These boats tried to maneuver into position ahead of us while we were engaged in UNREPS to disrupt these operations. They were a minor nuisance.





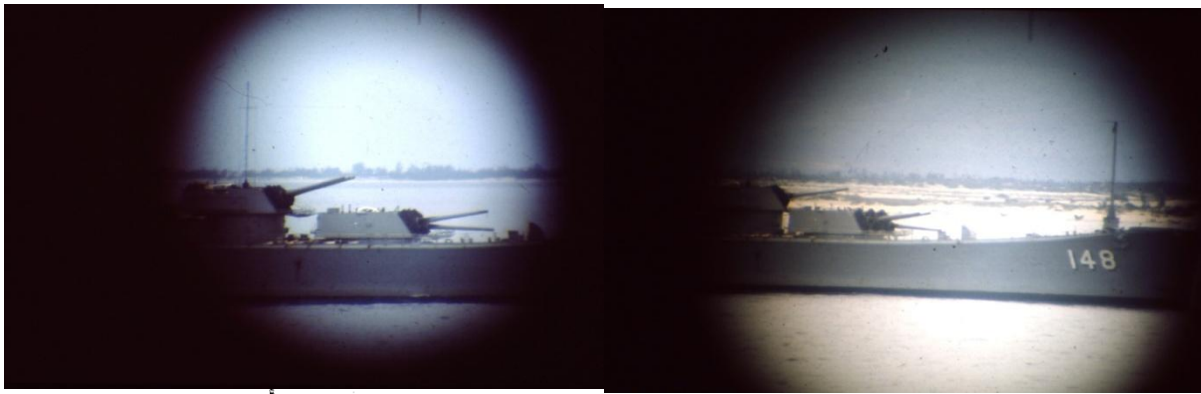
Notice the charged fire hoses on deck. These were ready in case of a "hot gun." When the guns fired they got very hot. If we had a misfire, where the powder charge failed to go off, the projectile inside the barrel might "cook off" and explode if it got too hot. This would destroy the gun and probably the turret. When we had a hot gun the turret was evacuated and a running fire hose was shoved into the barrel and another was trained on the outside to cool things down. It was a pretty tense situation until the gun was cool.



Early one Sunday morning, (1AM, 10-2-72), I was again awakened to the sound of battle stations or "General Quarters". I stumbled from my rack half asleep and pulled on my pants, clamped my shirt between my teeth and grabbed my boots. I raced to my station deep below the ship in the forward ammo magazine and stood



by to load powder onto the ammo elevators. But nothing happened. No gunfire or hard maneuvers occurred and all was quiet. No information was given out over the loudspeaker which wasn't unusual. We lost another night's sleep as we stood by, waiting and wondering what was going on. Several hours later rumors began circulating down from the crews above decks that a large explosion had occurred on the nearby cruiser USS Newport News and that several sailors had been killed. We later learned that an explosion had ripped through the center barrel of Gun Turret #2 and killed 19 sailors. Another crewman died three days later. Some were killed in the explosion while others died of smoke inhalation. An eight inch projectile jammed inside the center barrel as it was being fired. The powder casing behind the projectile fired inside the barrel, causing an explosion which had no place to go but back into the gunner's compartment.



# BLAST RIPS CRUISER OFF VIET, 19 KILLED

STARS AND STRIPES  
 AN AUTHORIZED UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE U.S. NAVY FORCES OF THE PACIFIC COMMAND  
 10c

Vol. 28, No. 275 Monday, Oct. 2, 1972



With a bipartisan group of congressmen watching, President Nixon signs a historic agreement...

## Nixon Signs Accord to Limit N-Arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon today signed a historic agreement with Soviet leaders limiting the two superpowers' offensive nuclear armaments for five years.

"This is not an agreement which guarantees there will be no war," the white executive said. "This is a historic agreement that will limit now and we hope later, reduce the

SAIGON (AP) — An explosion ripped through a gun turret on the U.S. 7th Fleet's heavy cruiser Newport News early Sunday, killing 19 sailors and injuring ten, the Navy announced.

The world's largest gun cruiser was operating just below the demilitarized zone in an area some 10 miles north-northwest of Quang Tri City, firing against North Vietnamese positions, the Navy said. The explosion occurred at about 1 a.m. Saigon time.

"Extent of the damage is not known but it apparently was confined to the gun turret," the 7th Fleet said in a brief statement. "Cause of the accident is under investigation."

The 21,000-ton Newport News is based in Norfolk, Va., and was sent to Vietnam under the year as part of a U.S. naval buildup in counter North Vietnam's offensives in South Vietnam. It has operated against Communist targets in both North and South Vietnam, and led two raids on the major port of Haiphong earlier.

The cruiser's main battery consists of three turrets. Each turret has two 8-inch guns. The secondary gun batteries are made up of 16 dual purpose five-inch guns and four three-inch guns.

The Newport News normally cruised in the 2nd Fleet off the U.S. Atlantic coast, arrived in Vietnam last May 11. Its first combat firing mission took place the same day, a raid on the port of Haiphong.

On Aug. 27 the Newport News led another raid on Haiphong port, and the 6th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. James L. (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

## Ulster Violence Surges

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — A bomb, wrecked a downtown Belfast pub packed with Roman Catholics Saturday night. Separate shooting incidents claimed both military and civilian lives, the British army said.

An army spokesman said one person died and 20 were injured, two seriously, when the bomb went off outside O'Connell's Bar.

Earlier, a sniper killed a British soldier on foot patrol in the Roman Catholic Anderson area, a spokesman said. Three police officers in an exchange of fire in the "Catholic" Lanyon Falls district.

The deaths hoisted to 107 the number of persons killed in three years of violence between majority Protestants and minority Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland.

The army said that after the (Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

## Alert Police Nab Bather

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — A police patrol car that a 21-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y., long-haired man was driving down Fountain Square early Sunday morning nabbed the man in the scene.

The driver, Steven Savage, was pulled from the roadway and charged with causing damage to the fountain. Police were unable to say what damage she caused.

She was taken to a jail to await trial Tuesday in Hamilton County Municipal Court.

SAIGON CAP, 10-2-72) — An explosion ripped through a gun turret on the U.S. 7th Fleet's heavy cruiser Newport News early Sunday, killing 19 sailors and injuring ten, the Navy announced. The world's largest gun cruiser was operating just below the demilitarized Zone in an area some 13 miles north-northeast of Quang Tri City, firing against North Vietnamese positions, the Navy said.

The explosion occurred about 1 a.m. Saigon time. "Extent of the damage is not known but it apparently was restricted to the gun turret," the 7th Fleet said in a brief statement. "Cause of the accident is under investigation." The 21,000-ton Newport News is based in Norfolk, Va., and was sent to Vietnam earlier this year as part of a U.S. naval buildup to counter North Vietnam's offensive in South Vietnam. It has operated against Communist targets in both North and South Vietnam, and led two raids on the major port of Haiphong earlier. The cruiser's main battery consists of three turrets. Each turret has three rapid firing eight-inch guns. The secondary gun batteries are made up of 12 dual purpose five-inch guns and four three-inch guns.

Pro Grid Scores.

**Packers Upset  
Cowboys, 16-13**

Vol. 28, No. 276 Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1972

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
AN APPROVED JOURNAL PUBLICATION  
FOR THE U.S. ARMY FORCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMAND

Baltimore	17	Miami	16
Buffalo	0	Minnesota	14
Cleveland	27	Houston	26
Cincinnati	6	N.Y. Jets	20
Green Bay	16	Pittsburgh	25
Dallas	13	St. Louis	19
Detroit	38	San Diego	17
Chicago	24	Oakland	17
Kansas City	45	San Francisco	37
Denver	24	New Orleans	2
Atlanta	31	New England	24
Los Angeles	3	Washington	23

**Blast Still a Mystery  
Crippled Cruiser  
Heads for Subic**



SAIGON (AP) — The Newport News, the world's largest heavy cruiser, steamed toward the Subic Bay base in the Philippines Sunday carrying the bodies of 19 sailors killed in the worst American naval disaster this year. Ten other men were injured.

The Navy announced that an investigation had been launched to determine the cause of an explosion in an eight-inch gun turret on the cruiser in the blue sea off the northern coast of South Vietnam and started from sleep hours of the 21,000-ton cruiser shortly after midnight.

The Navy said the extent of the damage was not known, but it apparently was confined to the gun turret, and three sailors were killed, three wounded, eight ashore. It neither said it would appear that damage was extensive since it is expected that at least one of the eight-inch guns would be salvaged and returned to the ship, but it said that the damage to the turret would be shipped cross-country to the Philippines.

Sanitarians said first reports indicated that one of the injured were not in critical condition and were transferred to a 200-bed hospital. A 24th man who was critically injured was flown to Da Nang, then later transferred to a ship to be treated in the Philippines.

The cruiser steamed at 11 a.m. Sunday from the 7th Fleet base at Subic Bay, where it was in port since its arrival in the week-long port visit to the Philippines (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

**Gear Snaps, 727 Crashes  
JDL Chief Jailed in Israel; Says Mafia Will Fight Arabs**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A United Air Lines jet crashed 18 miles west of San Francisco Sunday when its landing gear collapsed, causing an emergency landing, forcing an emergency evacuation and leaving 10 people injured.

The aircraft was headed for major airports, a spokesman said, and several later were also injured.

There were 13 passengers on the plane. A Boeing 727 from the Los Angeles area was also on the ground.

When the landing gear collapsed, the plane veered and hit a runway ditch at the intersection of two runways, then rolled over and burst into flames, according to witnesses, who also said the plane burst into flames through the office building's structure.

Police then took Kahane to the San Francisco Police station for an emergency hearing. The jet, carrying 88 persons, crashed on the runway at San Francisco International Airport.

A police spokesman said Kahane was held up to 10 hours for interrogations without a rest order.

A police spokesman said an investigation is under way to determine the cause of the crash. The police are trying to build a case

active reaction against us by the mafia, as our leader."

Kahane reportedly had spent time in jail and avoided the police for his anti "mafia" campaign. He said he was "public opinion" in with the "mafia" who immigrated to Israel a few years before he came to America, California, he said. Kahane said he had been arrested and held in jail for a few days. Kahane said he had been arrested and held in jail for a few days. Kahane said he had been arrested and held in jail for a few days.



During gunfire operations there was a lot of waiting for "Charley" (the Viet Cong) to give us something to shoot at. Occasionally a Huey would bring a spotter aboard from shore to discuss pending operations and the opportunity for gunfire support. Sometimes the helos would bring war correspondents to film the action.



One morning while we were orbiting Point Alpha at the DMZ between North and South Vietnam a helo brought a bunch of war correspondents to the ship to get pictures of the Okie Boat in action. We didn't fire the guns unless we had a target to shoot at, so we all waited for one to come along. After several hours of nothing happening we called the spotters on shore to see if there was anything we could shoot at. They didn't have any targets. After another hour or so we called back and asked them to find a place for us to shoot so the newspapers could get some pictures. They picked a spot in the jungle and we fired a few rounds. After that we had dinner and the reporters left. A few days later there was a big story in Stars and Stripes about a big NVN invasion over the DMZ and a description of one of the biggest actions of the war.

