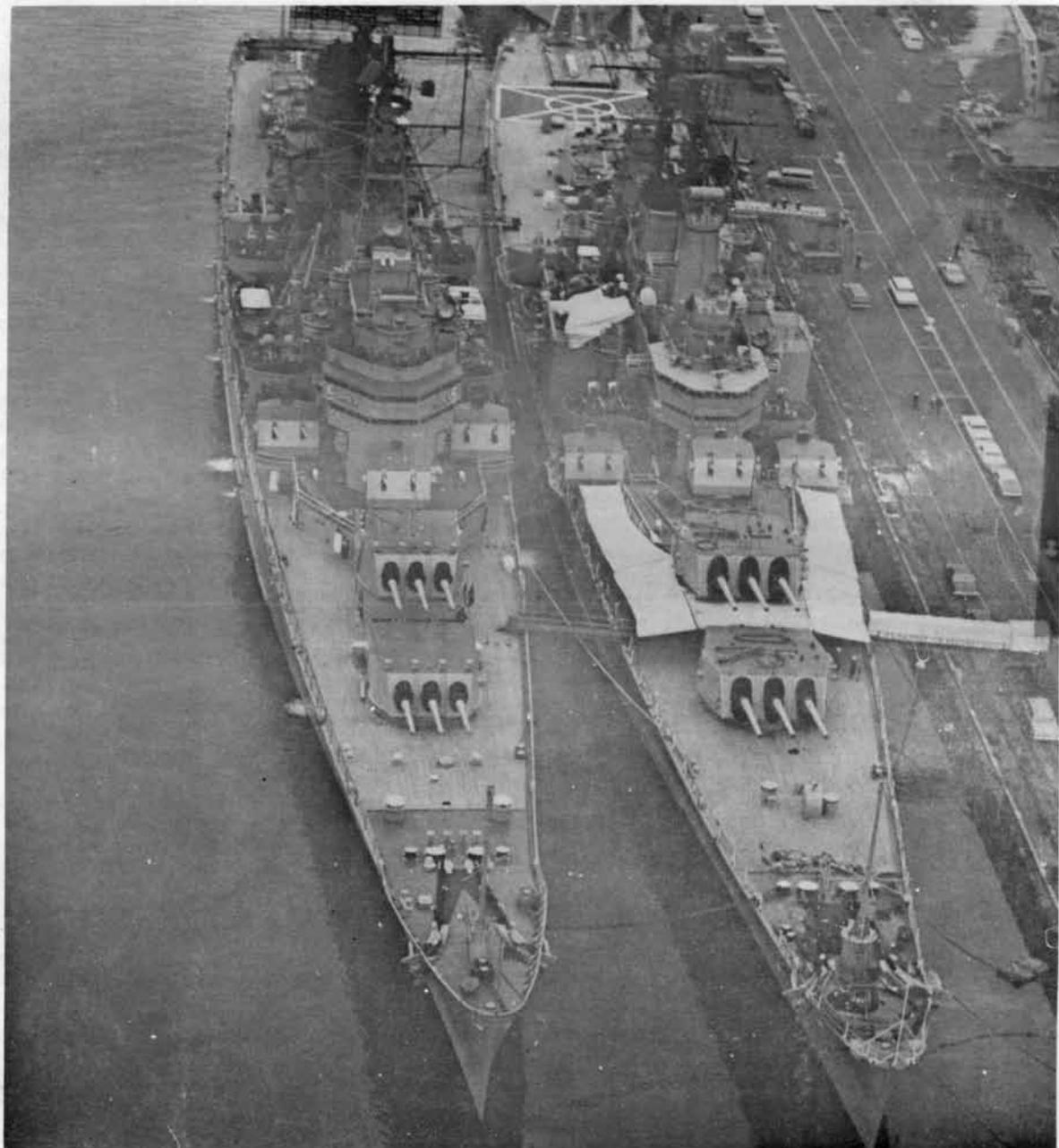


The Rapidfire



"IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR"

JANUARY 1967

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

by CAPT Lindsay C. McCarty

The year 1966 was good to USS Newport News. I will not review the accomplishments and experiences; they are well known, and this Flagship enhanced her splendid reputation. We face 1967 confident indeed, but there cannot help to be some question, even some concern, in the mind of every man aboard as to what 1967 will hold for us as individuals and as a ship.

Of primary interest is the operational schedule of Newport News. As I have stated earlier the pattern of operations is expected to parallel that experienced in 1966. There will be short training cruises to the Caribbean and there will be training operations off the East Coast, as well as visits to East Coast cities. I hope also for a short European cruise later in the year, but as of now this is not firmly scheduled. Homeport time in Norfolk will be an important consideration; we will have a lot of it scheduled as been the case in the past.

I believe all Newport Newsmen and their families know by now that one of my actions is to keep you fully informed as to what we are doing or will do, and in so far as is feasible, the "why" behind it. This will continue in personal talks and in my letters. Additionally we are going to publish this newspaper, "The Rapidfire", on a monthly basis. I hope this will improve the dissemination of information within the command.

"The Rapidfire", however is not intended to be the voice of the Commanding Officer. As this month's editorial states, it is to be the voice of the officers and men in the ship. I want to feature the activity of the crew pictorially and in writing. I want members of the crew to write feature articles about their accomplishments and their skills. I want the product to be one that we are proud of; one which will be mailed by you to your family and friends. Your support in this project is requested. I assure you if we are successful in publishing a good newspaper it will contribute to the feeling of pride and spirit in all echelons of this command.



THE RAPIDFIRE

USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148) FLAGSHIP FOR COMMANDER SECOND FLEET
Fleet Post Office, New York, New York 09501

COMMANDER SECOND FLEET
COMMANDING OFFICER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
ADVISOR
EDITOR

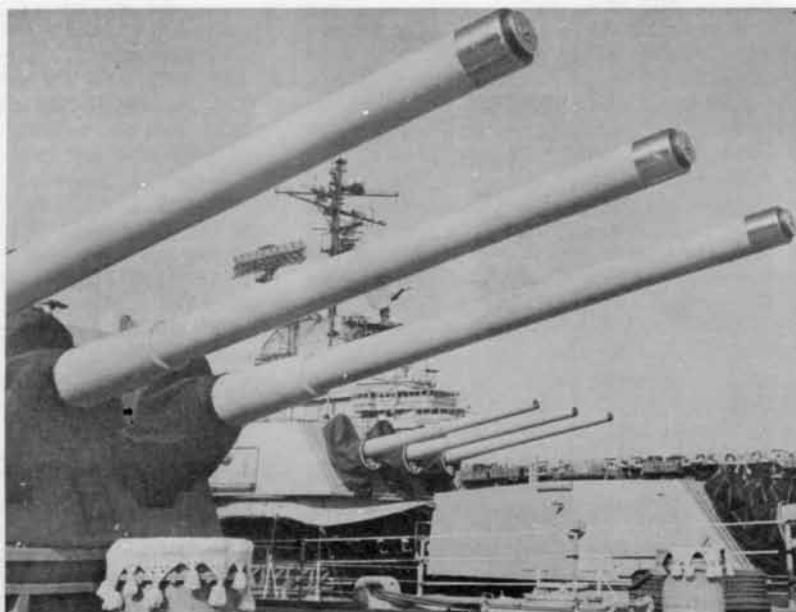
VICE ADMIRAL Bernard A. Clarey, USN
CAPTAIN Lindsay C. McCarty, USN
COMMANDER Robert T. Ruxton, Jr., USN
LIEUTENANT John C. Frederick, USNR
JOL Frank Castellucci, USN
SN Clement Ruggeri, USNR

STAFF J03 Jerry Bowles; SN David L. Block; SN Robert L. Mallory
PHOTOGRAPHERS PH3 Harry Doyle; SN Richard Binner; SN Stanley Elwood
LITHOGRAPHERS LIC Adrian Human; LI3 Thomas Hendricks; SN Glen Sink;
SN Charles Ross; SN Wayne Mueller; SN Darrell Marlett.

The RAPIDFIRE is published and printed monthly on board USS Newport News with non-appropriated funds and distributed free of charge to personnel of the USS Newport News in compliance with NAVEXOS P-35. All photographs appearing in this publication are official U.S. Navy photos, unless otherwise noted.

The RAPIDFIRE is not an official Navy publication and its contents do not necessarily express the opinions of the Commanding Officer.

FIREPOWER ON DISPLAY



FRONT COVER & ABOVE: The USS Boston (CAG-1), left, and USS Newport News (CA-148) at Norfolk, Virginia, just prior to getting underway for Lantflex '66 in late November.

Moral Side of the . . . NEWS

by Chaplain Walter "J" Schwartz, USN

4

". . . and now 1967."

The proclamation of the Christmas story has reminded us again of God's promise of peace for all men of good will, and a new year "has dawned" for each of us to use in becoming an instrument of this peace which will set men free.

In the retelling of the Christmas promise and in the good intentions of beginning a new log by making New Year's resolutions, we run the age-old risk of becoming so preoccupied with the events that the call to do something or be somebody goes unheeded. Sometimes world events, because they are as current as the morning headlines, overshadow our lives to the point that both the Christmas promise and the opportunities of a new year are lost to us.

A good example occurred more than 150 years ago at the beginning of 1809. In Europe, this was a year half-way between Trafalgar and Waterloo. Napoleon was on the march and everyone thought that this was all that mattered. Everyone was thinking of battles, but in that very year of 1809, The controlling hand of God was at work in a quiet and unusual way.

Babies were being born that year who were to influence the world far more than the battles of 1809. Darwin was born in England, and Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky. Chopin and Mendelssohn were born in Poland and Germany. Gladstone was born in Liverpool and Alfred Tennyson in a parsonage in Somersby.

Yet, of course, the news said nothing of them. All the world could think about in 1809 was Napoleon. But in the long run, these babies of 1809 would influence the world far more than Napoleon.

Someone once said that "when a wrong wants righting, or a work wants doing, or a truth wants preaching, God sends a baby in the world to do it." Perhaps that baby has grown up as we approach 1967, and God merely takes possession of the person. Perhaps, unexpectedly, we find ourselves made chairman of the committee to do something, to heed the call to do our own part to insure that all men may live with peace in freedom. Greater miracles have happened.

We have been given a new log, and the entries we make in it this year should not be limited to the good "resolutions" of the New Year.

"When I was Seventeen

it was a very good year," so go the words of a contemporary song made popular by Frank Sinatra. For Newport News, soon to celebrate her eighteenth birthday as a commissioned warship of the United States, 1966 was a good year, indeed.

Early January of 1966 found Newport News at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, completing a grueling underway refresher training period that immediately followed our yard period. Other highlights of the year were: The return of Second Fleet, Glove Hitch, Straight Laced, a new Commander Second Fleet and a new Captain for Newport News. It was a busy year, productive, and marked by long hours of hard work and training. Though turnover was great, the job got done. It was a year for Newport Newsmen to be proud of.

Beginning with this issue and continuing every month, the RAPIDFIRE will attempt to chronicle for Newport Newsmen and their families, the events of the coming year. We hope to give to all readers a true account of life aboard the world's largest heavy cruiser.

Your criticism and suggestions are encouraged. Anyone who wishes to pick up an extra copy or give vent to a helping idea should feel free to stop by the Public Affairs Office and do so. We'll look forward to seeing you in the months ahead.

MARINE CORPS CELEBRATES

191st Birthday

The Marine Detachment held the traditional cake cutting ceremony aboard the Newport News on November 10, to celebrate the 191st birthday of the Marine Corps.

Chaplain Schwartz gave the invocation and Captain Hutzler, the Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment, read the birthday message which was prescribed on November 1, 1921 by John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Vice Admiral Clarey, the guest of honor, addressed the Marines and Captain McCarty gave a brief address. Captain Hutzler cut the cake, giving the first pieces to Sergeant Major Furuseth, the oldest Marine in the detachment, and to Private First Class Stapleton, the youngest. All Marines of the detachment, and invited guests, joined for coffee and cake to conclude the event.



Captain Hutzler gives birthday address.



Vice Admiral Clarey, center, and Captain McCarty, left, look on as Captain Hutzler performs the traditional cake cutting ceremony.

DIVISION OF THE MONTH

NAN DIVISION



LCDR Noel Petree, ship's Navigator, and QM3 Larry J. McKinney give celestial navigation a workout.



Correcting and updating charts is a constant process as QM3 Paul C. Benich demonstrates.



"Right 10 degrees rudder." The helmsman, QMSN Harry R. Gorman responds to orders from the Officer of the Deck.

The quartermaster's of the NAN Division are responsible, under the Navigator, for the safe navigation of the ship. This role is quite a responsibility in itself. But there are many ins and outs to the job of NAN Division personnel. They man sea detail stations in after steering and in the pilot house. They are responsible to see that the ship's gyros and compasses are operating properly. Underway, they hold an hourly weather check. The ship's Loran is also in their province.

In port, the quartermasters can be seen in the chart house, making corrections to one or more of the 2,000 charts maintained by them. Stop by the chart house and pick up one of the hundred-odd publications dealing with all facets of navigation. HO-214, Tables of Computed Altitude and Azimuth is among the more fascinating volumes to be found there.



Football Team Wins Cruiser Title

"A fine team effort", is the way Ensign Jerry Raymond, player-coach of the NEWPORT NEWS championship football team, described the 1966 season. The team turned in a 6-1-0 record on their road to the Cruiser Championship. The Cruiser League was made up of teams representing all the cruisers and tenders in the Norfolk area.

Upon winning the Cruiser Championship, the Newport Newsmen competed in the COMCRUDESANT Championship—a best 2 of 3 series against the USS New (DD-818). In reality, the NEW team proved to be an All-star team from the Norfolk based destroyer squadron. In spite of this, the final game was a squeaker, with the talented "tin can" all-stars coming out on the long end of the score.

The team actually started preparing for the season during the North Atlantic Cruise, when 42 crewmembers signed up. However, only 15 players showed up consistently for practices during the early weeks of the season. These 15 players brought two trophies to the ship, and the entire crew can take pride in the manner they represented the ship.

The fans that came out to the games were treated to an exciting brand of football, sporting a well balanced attack. The team was grateful for the support they received and hope more Newport Newsmen and their families will come out and cheer, not only the football team, but all of our athletic teams. The team was especially grateful for the support that Captain McCarty gave them throughout the season.

Basketball season is already underway and NEWPORT NEWS is fielding its finest team in many years, according to coach LTJG Rodney Hammonds. All of our athletic teams are sponsored by Special Services, which supplies the teams with equipment and uniforms. At the present, they are striving to get a standard uniform for each team.

Anyone who feels they would like to try out for one of the many teams should contact LT. Liacopoulos, the ship's Special Services Officer. The ship has organized teams in the following sports: football, basketball, baseball, soccer, bowling, golf and volleyball.

LANTFLEX



Vice Admiral Bernard A. Clarey, Captain Lindsay C. McCarty and Second Fleet Staff members discuss a Lantflex operation. From left to right are: Captain McCarty; Captain Robert W. Windsor, Chief of Staff; Colonel George W. E. Daughtry, Fleet Marine Officer; Vice Admiral Clarey, and Captain Jack L. Evans, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.



The USS Diamond Head prepares to highline ammunition to the USS Newport News during a replenishment phase of Lantflex.

X

66



Vice Admiral Clarey visited many ships participating in Lantflex and addressed the men. He is shown here on the mine sweeper USS Ability.

The ships of the fleet bombarded the shore; the carrier-based planes strafed and bombed the beach; the Marines landed at dawn; the island was invaded. Iwo Jima? The Mariannas? Inchon?

No!

The year was 1966, the target was the tiny Caribbean island of Vieques, the purpose was LANTFLEX '66, and the result was a powerful and convincing display of the Atlantic Fleet's continual readiness for war.

LANTFLEX '66 was a fleet operation of huge proportions, and at its hub was Newport News. Throughout the exercise, from its early planning stages, through the invasion of Vieques, to the final fleet maneuvers on the cruise back to Norfolk, Second Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Bernard A. Clarey and his staff plotted and directed the operation from on board Newport News.

The Atlantic Command scheduled LANTFLEX '66 to test and sharpen the operating effectiveness of fleet forces in all aspects of Naval warfare. This was accomplished. Missile shoots, mine and anti-submarine warfare surveillance, carrier striking force operations, sea blockage, underway stores replenishment maneuvers, and anti-sea infiltration operations were all successfully conducted as integral parts of LANTFLEX '66 and demonstrated the versatile capabilities of a modern fleet.

And the invasion of Vieques, as the crux of LANTFLEX '66, was an example of effective coordination between the fleet's sea, air, and land components, and served to caution any potential enemy that there is, indeed, a devastating striking force in the Atlantic.

LANTFLEX 66

VIEQUES INVADED



"D Day Vieques." Marines and equipment land on Vieques Island.

Children's Christmas Party



The children enjoyed a featured magic show.



Captain McCarty addresses guests,



Dear Santa, I want . . . to get away.

Caroling, a delightful magic show, and gifts galore from (who else?) Santa Claus were the highlights of the 1966 Newport News Children's Christmas Party held Sunday afternoon, December 18th. In addition to entertaining over 300 youngsters of Newport Newsmen, the annual festive gathering hosted more than 100 children of USS Columbus' crew members. The joint party was planned because Columbus spent Christmas, away from home in the Mediterranean.

Many persons were responsible for the party's organization and success, but none more so than Chaplain Walter "J" Schwartz who was advisor and coordinator of the entire affair. Much credit and gratitude must be given to the Christmas Party Committee, headed by Chief Postal Clerk William L. Bussey, which did a superb job in organizing and conducting the party.

And, of course, a special note of thanks must go to the star of the afternoon—Santa Claus. Many of the Newport Newsmen present were pleasantly startled to discover that jolly old St Nick's secret identity was Newport News' Chief Master-at-Arms, Senior Chief Quartermaster Jack H. Butler, who, on occasion is not always associated with festivity.

REENLISTMENTS
&
ADVANCEMENTS

ONWARD & UPWARD



Newly-promoted Chief Warrant Officer Robert Miller receives congratulations from Captain McCarty.



Vice Admiral Bernard A. Clarey, Commander U.S. Second Fleet, congratulates YN1 Roger M. Busche on the occasion of the latter's reenlistment.



Captain McCarty officiates the reenlistment of RM1 William D. Hicks, while his wife looks on.



YN3 Lynn M. Lylla takes his reenlistment oath from the U.S. Second Fleet Chief of Staff Captain Robert W. Windsor, Jr., while his wife looks on.

MR2 Gustavo Segovia, Jr., accepts plaque from Captain McCarty during his reenlistment ceremony. Ship's personnel officer, W-1 Forest R. Nester observes the proceedings.



TN Silvestre Talaban is administered the reenlistment oath by Captain Lindsay C. McCarty.



GMG3 Harvey Sanders, Jr., reenlisted for six years. The swearing in ceremony took place in the captain's lobby.



Master Chief Fire Control Technician Leroy N. Primus retired to the fleet reserve after 26 years of service.

LOOKING BACK...

FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CREW RECALL SOME MEMORIES OF THE PAST YEAR



DT1 McBride
Dental

"I believe the North Atlantic cruise was the highlight of 1966 for me. I enjoyed comparing the European way of life with ours in the States. I would say that it made me appreciate the advantages we have in America more than ever before."



LIC Human
Print Shop

"When I look back on 1966, two things will stand out in my mind. I sense that there has been a tremendous improvement in the morale of the crew in the past four months and feel this attitude will prevail during this new year. I also thought the Ft. Lauderdale cruise was one of the finest ever. I thought Ft. Lauderdale was one of the best liberty ports I have had the pleasure to visit."



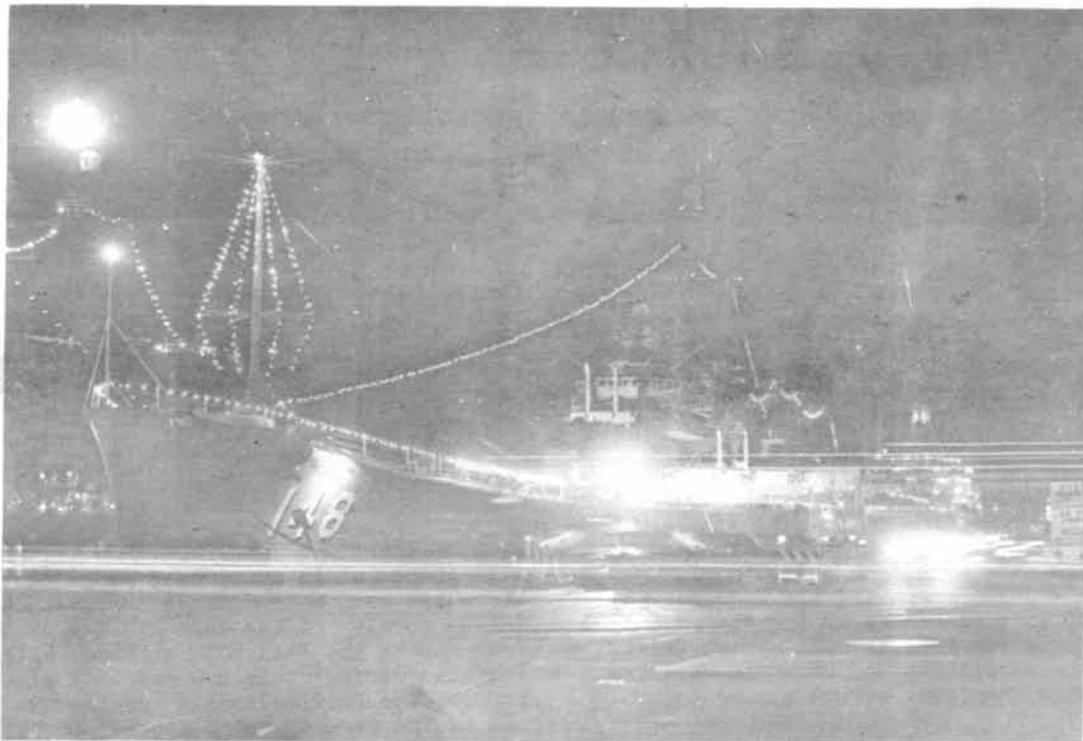
PC3 Lyon
Post Office

"The only thing that will stand out in my mind will be the parcel post that confronted all of us in the Post Office when we returned from LANTFLEX."



SN Davis
4th Division

"I will remember 1966 as a good year for the NEWPORT NEWS football players. I believe we represented the ship well when we won the Cruiser competition and finished a close second in the final COMCRUDESANT championship."



Newport News at Yuletide

photo by SA C. Casault



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

U.S.S. NEWPORT NEWS
CA-148

% F.P.O. NEW YORK, N.Y.

TO