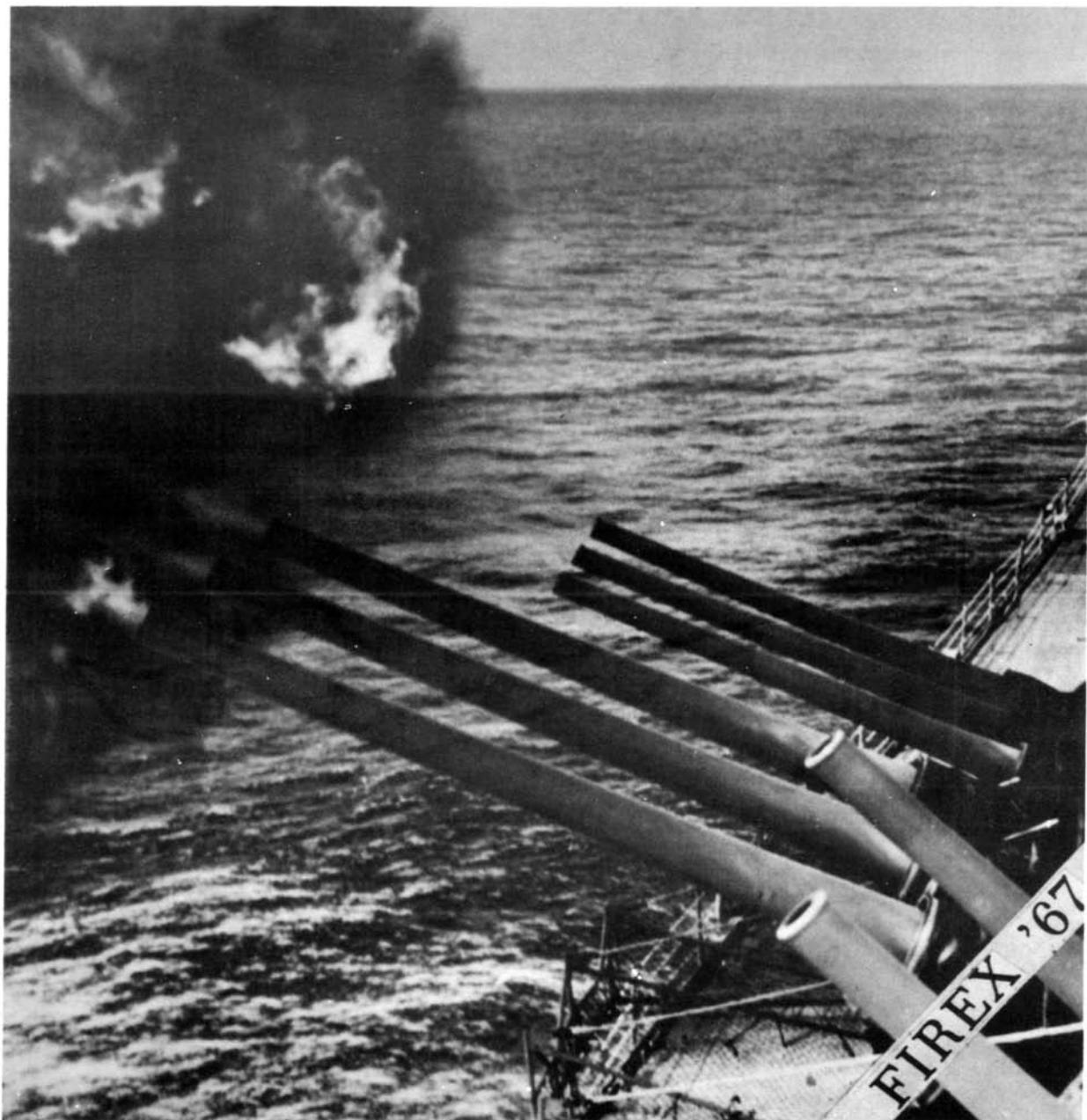


The Rapidfire

USS NEWPORT NEWS



MARCH 1967

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE by CAPT Lindsay C. McCarty

I am sure that each Newport Newsman is aware of the extensive effort taking place throughout the ship to improve our habitability and appearance. The men of Repair Division are taking a leading part in this, but many others are also putting in long, demanding hours. Funds too are being expended; our quarterly monetary allowance is taxed to the limit.

The most obvious projects are the renovation of the crew's barber shop, and the remodeling of the Ship's Store into a self-service establishment. Hatches, passageways, ladders, and decks are being refurbished. The Crew's Lounge and Library has been redecorated with new carpeting, furniture, and draperies for relaxation in off-duty hours. Though not yet evident but expected daily is the Soda Fountain overhaul; the theme here will be automatic units. Work soon to start will be installation of several large air conditioners on the Mess Decks; by summer, that area should be most pleasant. New crew lockers are ordered and I know that their arrival will be welcomed. The new background music system has been purchased and partly installed; initial comments seem favorable. Still pending is our request for a closed circuit TV system; this would be installed for both entertainment and schooling.

I am not sure, however, that all Newport Newsmen recognize the true importance or ultimate benefit that should result from these improvements. True, the ship should be a more comfortable and convenient duty station, but I do not consider this will produce a soft and dependent crew. Rather, I firmly believe that a crew will emerge even more proud than the flagship now boasts. And with this, I believe that the military smartness will increase---which, in turn, will reflect favorably through areas of both material and operational readiness. In other words, we will be more ready for any mission that may be given to us, in peace or in war. After all this is what is expected of Newport News.



COMMANDING OFFICER Lindsay C. McCarty accepts a drawing from SMSN William Fannin. The drawing of the ship, done in ink and water-color, was hung on number one mess deck.

Moral Side of the . . . NEWS

by Chaplain Walter "J" Schwartz, USN

After a hard day's work during last month's FIREX 67, the "still waters" on a late watch reminded at least one sailor on board of both calm and tranquility.

In a real sense, it is not too difficult to start wishing that life was always like "the still waters" he noticed. But for many of us, there are times when peace and quiet----at least according to our terms--seem hard to come by. And to make matters worse, we think, we are not always certain of what may lie ahead of us; and we become uneasy with the possibility that whatever it is, it has "just got to be something worse than the present."

It is natural, of course, that we should want a sense of calm and security. Our world seems very much in the mood to pay almost any price for it. But there is no permanent running away from uncertainty, and we cannot really hope to live a useful life without occasionally coming up against the "difficult." The Navy did not commission this ship just so that it could be around for merely pleasant cruises; it was also built for the conflicts which might prove necessary in preserving the peace.

Although there is no guarantee of safety and security, there can be a cer-

tainty of strength and courage to do our jobs, and to live with confidence no matter how disturbed or uncertain the world seems to be. In a real sense, it depends on our individual perspectives in life--about ourselves, about our fellow men, and about our God.

For one thing, a proper perspective ought to keep us from needless worry about little things. It didn't seem to matter to our Lord that the rain fell on the "righteous" and the "unrighteous" alike because in the long run, unrighteousness did not stand a ghost of a chance. And "good will" cannot be considered a failure just because certain forces on the international scene breed the gospel of hate--because hate, itself one day will die.

The tranquility of God is much more than this. It is an act of one's faith, whether he be Catholic or Jew or Protestant. There is no suggestion here of mere idleness or, what is even more unrealistic, of a Pollyanna-type of assurance that "things could get worse." Rather, it means to have enough calmness to face facts squarely and steadily, and having done this, to live an uncomplaining life in which God is still very much the Master.

THE RAPIDFIRE

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

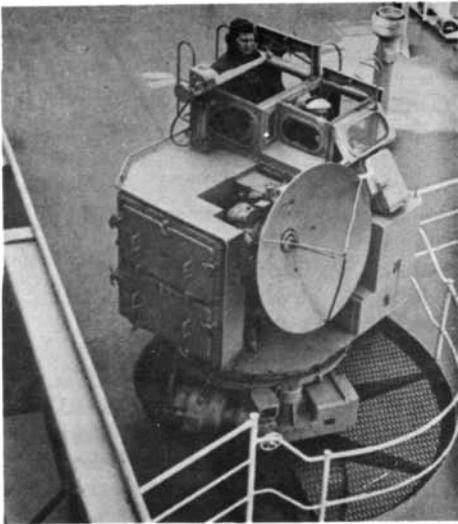
VICE ADMIRAL Bernard A. Clarey, USN
CAPTAIN Lindsay C. McCarty, USN
COMMANDER Robert T. Ruxton, Jr., USN
LIEUTENANT John C. Frederick, USNR
JO3 Jerry Bowles, USNR
JO1 Frank Castellucci, USN
SN David L. Block; SA Robert L. Mallory
PH2 Tom Ryals; PH3 Harry Doyle; SN Richard
Binner; SN Stan Elwood; SA Steve Casualt
LICS Adrian Human; LI3 Tom Hendricks; SN
Glen Sink; SN Wayne Mueller; SN Darrell
Marlett; SN Terry Roan; SN Clarence Fowler;
SN Bob Emriek

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FTGSN Peter Honsburger looks through optics inside the Mark 37 Director.



FTGSN Paul Sepp sitting inside the Mark 56 Director, which has control of the 3-inch anti-aircraft battery.



DIVISION OF THE MONTH



Members of Fox division at work in the main plotting room

FOX DIVISION

Although many divisions contributed to the "Well Done" we earned on our recent gunfire exercises at Culebra and Vieques, it is Fox Division that is always centrally responsible for the results of a Newport News gunfire shoot.

Fox Division is a skilled team of Fire Control Technicians whose job it is to insure that when our fire power is delivered, it is accurate and effective. The basic tool of an FT is his knowledge of modern electronics; his responsibilities, however, require the skills of an inter-communications technician, a radar technician, a machinist's mate, and a gunner's mate. He must possess these talents so that he can operate and repair the many computers, directors and radar systems that are so integral to the successful solution of the gunfire control problems. And, the FT must insure that the ship's guns are continually receiving information that will result in a successful shoot. During a fire mission, Fox Division teams in the directors and plotting rooms constantly make major and minor changes that will

effect the result of our fire on a target many miles away. It is their knowledge that will determine proper adjustments and equipment status to insure completion of a successful fire mission.

The cost of successful shooting, however, is constant work and training. Many liberty hours on the last cruise were spent gazing at the beautiful beaches of Nassau and St. Thomas—upside down—while working on the ship's radar systems. Much time can be spent in total frustration. Rumors were heard from Fox Division at one time that thought was being given to sending Sky I "down to Davy" to see what he could do with it.

Newport News is a member of a select and small group, the gun cruisers. She is unique because of her guns. For this reason the Fire Control components and systems are not unlike "life lines" for the Newport News. Their successful operation is vital to the successful existence of Newport News as a heavy gun cruiser. The work and attention of Fox Division will provide this vital requirement.



COLORFUL NATIVE acts like this fire-eating exhibition in St. Thomas provide interesting diversions.



ONE NATIVE band even brought entertainment aboard ship to the delight of all hands.

Holiday In The Sun



A SIDEWALK ARTIST in St. Thomas does a quick sketch of SN William Mercer of EX Division.

Who said sea duty was dull?

Following a fabulous four-day visit to Nassau in late January, Newport Newsmen spent a grueling week at sea conducting round-the-clock gunnery exercises. On February 6th, with all hands a little weary from the rigorous week of drill, the flagship dropped anchor off St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands; and to Newport Newsmen, the picturesque and serene Caribbean island offered the ideal mood and setting for relaxation.

Heading back to sea two days later Newport News qualified with a good score in gunfire support tests conducted off the island of Culebra. Having completed these, the Flagship cruised past historic El Mero Castle and moored in exciting San Juan on February 10th.

Although this was not the first visit to the Puerto Rican capital for many Newport Newsmen, all hands seemed to hit the beach with enthusiasm. And from the quaint, narrow streets of the old city to the splendor of its modern hotels, San Juan's charm again demonstrated why the city is regarded as the Caribbean's outstanding liberty port.



LICS ADRIAN HUMAN oversees the stripping of a page by SN Clarence Fowler.



SN Terry Roan and SN Bob Emrick work in the darkroom.

BASKETBALL SQUAD



Willie Durr (20), controls the tip, as Marvin Tidwell (4) looks on.

Depth Spells Success

The highly talented Newport News basketball team, has, thus far, lived up to all pre-season expectations. The team has displayed fine speed, rebounding ability and shooting, particularly from close range.

Enthusiastic coach, SN Luther Beattie, admits that his job is an easy one when you consider the personnel he has to work with. Indeed, one player has college experience and three team members received basketball honors in high school. LTJG. Rodney Hammonds played for Delta State College in Mississippi. Albert Tidwell made All-District in Earl- ington, Kentucky; CT2 W. A. Ellis won All-City laurels in Chicago, Ill.; and SN Perry Parnell is a former All-Stater from Michigan, noted for it's fine brand of school boy basketball.

The team's depth is evident to anyone that watches them play...Just ask their most ardent fan, Captain Lindsay C. McCarty. Beattie says he has no starting team as such. In fact, he plays the following ten men more or less equally during the course of a game: Centers--Durr and Thielen; Forwards--Hanna, Martinez, Prentice and Bridges; Guards-- Ellis, Tidwell, Hammonds and Cartwright. Other members of the team include: SN M.A. Mat- teson, RDSA H.V. Sims, SN F.J. Panzich and CYSN Robert Cross.

As we go to press, the team is play- ing it's final league game against the USS Northampton. A victory tonight will leave Newport News undisputed champions of the CRUDESANT league and will assure them a spot in the COMCRUDESANT play- offs. The team and their supporters are confident that they will win the overall championship this season. Certainly they have the ability and desire to go all the way. Their future success will de- pend greatly on the support they receive from you, their ship mates.

SEASON RECORD

USS Wright	W	58-55
USS Sierra	W	44-37
USS Shenandoah	W	66-42
USS Northampton	L	42-43
USS Sierra	W	59-55
USS Wright	W	49-37
USS Fort Snelling	W	56-50
USS Laffey	W	forfeit
USS Tidewater	W	49-37

LEADING SCORERS

SN A. M. Tidwell	9 ppg
SN C. J. Prentice	6 ppg
HM2 Jim Hanna	6 ppg



A strong bench and cheering section. From left; Prentice, Sims, Bridges, Cross, Parnell, Cartwright and LTJG Hammonds. Captain Lindsay C. McCarty and PFC T. E. Virgin seem to be enjoying the game.



Tidwell's jumper...He made it. Willie Durr (20), Howard Sims (13), James Hanna (21) and William Ellis (5) look on.



FOUR OF NEWPORT News' five first class Boatswain's Mates get together on the forecastle. From left: Hollis E. Ingram, William L. Bedwell, William D. Armentrout, and Grady Huff.



Boatswain's Mate First Class, Jack D. Wolfe, checks the anchor windlass.



Now Hear This!!

There are many individuals responsible for the effective operation of a Navy ship. Among the most important, however, are the first class Boatswain's Mates, who are responsible for the maintenance and successful operation of 85 per cent of the ship's spaces. And Newport News' five first class Boatswains are among the finest.

Grady Huff, leading petty officer of Fourth Division, has been aboard Newport News longer than any other enlisted man. Grady, a native of Thomson, Georgia, reported aboard in November of 1959. He served with a seaplane squadron and on the USS Monroeville, an attack transport, prior to reporting to Newport News.

Hollis E. Ingram, Third Division leading petty officer, has been aboard Newport News for six years. He served formerly aboard the cruisers St. Paul, Springfield, and Columbus and aboard the battleship Wisconsin. His home is in Norfolk.

William D. Armentrout, leading petty officer of the Sidecleaners Division has been aboard four years. His previous experience includes service aboard the cruiser Canberra and battleships Mississippi and Wisconsin.

Jack A. Wolfe, a native of Toledo, Ohio, is responsible for the starboard side of the main deck. He previously served on an ammunition ship, destroyer escorts and on an experimental craft. He has served on Newport News for a year and a half.

William L. Bedwell is the newest "boats" to join the ship. Aboard a little over a month, Bill is enjoying his first tour on a combatant ship in his 22 year Naval career. He is leading petty officer of First Division.

These are the men who supervise most of the maintenance of the ship, keep the boats running, and generally keep things "squared away." Rapidfire salutes the first class Boatswains Mates of Newport News.

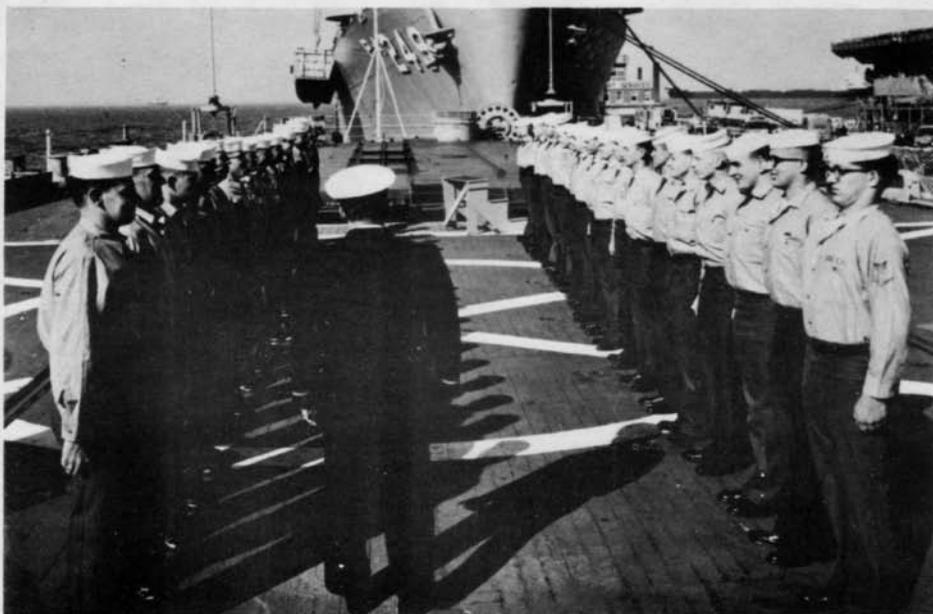


THREE NEW ENSIGNS recently reported aboard Newport News. From left: John R. Williams, 24, of Encino, California, a UCLA graduate; Robert M. Goff, 26, of Syracuse, New York, a graduate of Williams College and the Harvard University Law School; and Paul D. Morte, 24, from Marlboro, Mass., who graduated from Georgetown University.

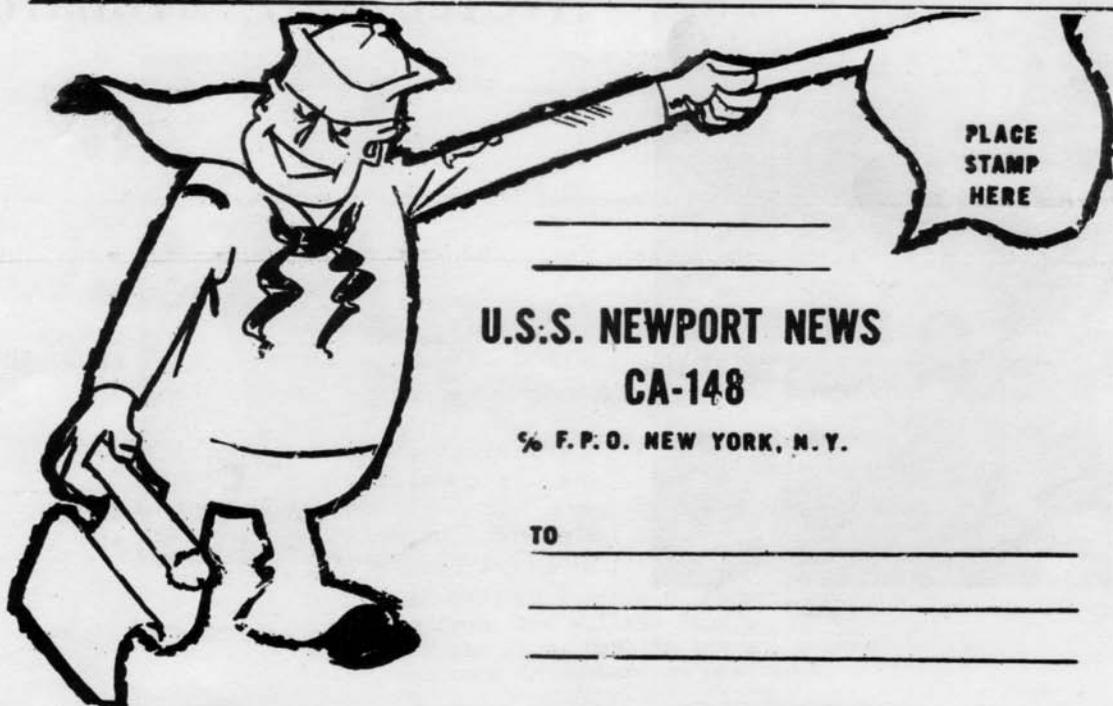
New Officers Welcomed Aboard



LTJG Robert J. Scherrer came to Newport News early last month. A native of The Bronx, N.Y., LTJG Scherrer was a Radarman Chief before his commissioning in 1965. Among his previous assignments are tours of duty in USS Essex CV-9 and USS Lloyd Thomas DDE 764.



THE MEN OF E Division stand tall during the Commanding Officer's Personnel Inspection on the fantail.



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