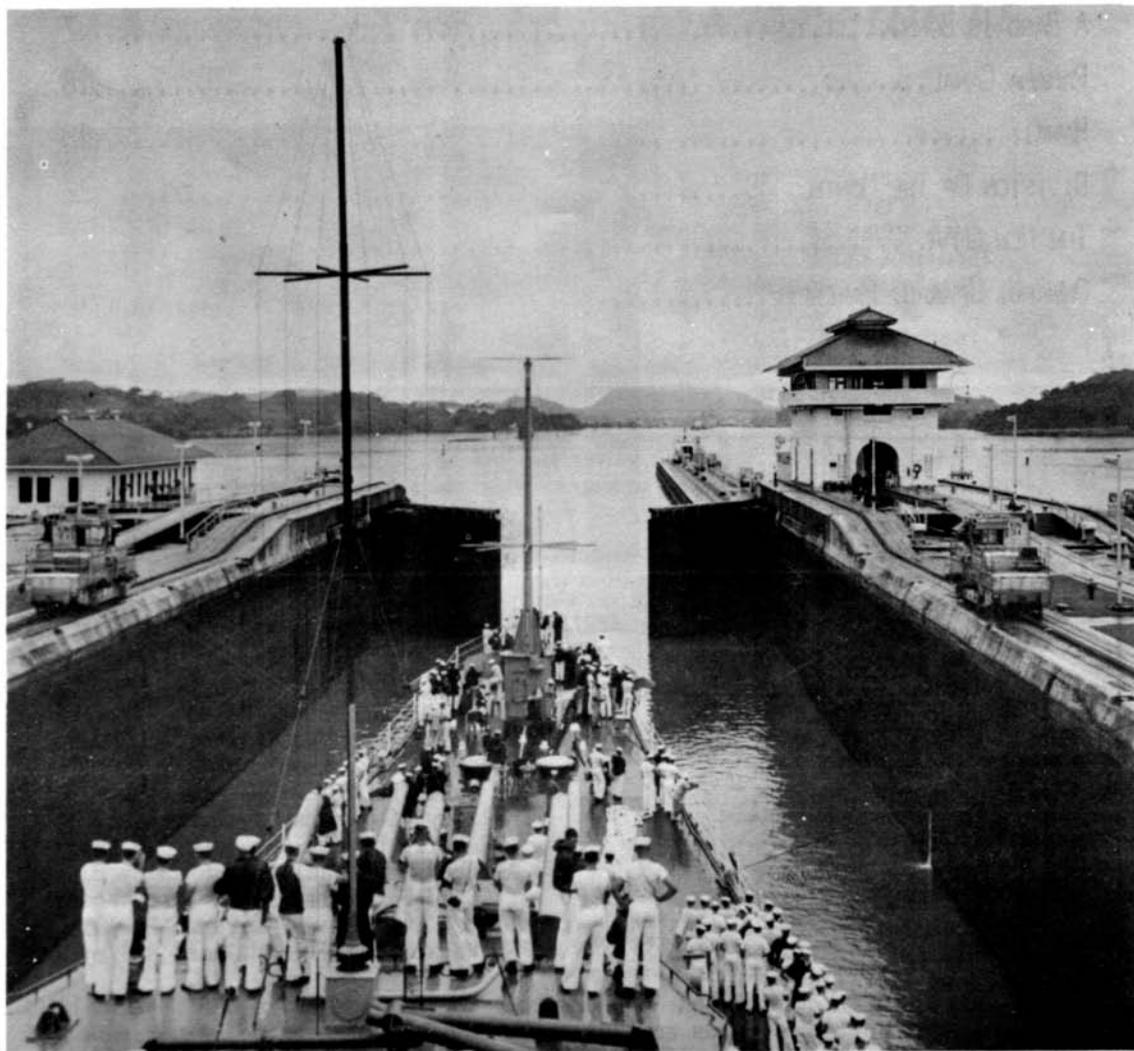


# The Rapidfire

*USS Newport News (CA-148)*



NEWPORT NEWS pushes her bow through the Panama Canal and closer to the great, blue waters of the Pacific. (story page 8)

SEPTEMBER 1967

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## THE RAPIDFIRE

### USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

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# VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

by CAPT Lindsay C. McCarty, USN

The transit through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific took approximately eight hours. It was an interesting day, and an enjoyable one too; more than that, it was a significant day and this could be sensed throughout the ship. Indeed, a change seemed to take place in the ship as the bow pushed into the Pacific waters; an awareness of the responsibilities ahead had its impact upon officers and crew.

For over 18 years, NEWPORT NEWS has served well in the Atlantic Fleet. Now for the first time, the ship would be tested in the Pacific environment, and, more significantly, in the far Western Pacific. Though these waters were thousands of miles and a month away as the ship departed Panama, the thought of the test must have been in the mind of most every man aboard. At least the performance has indicated so.

A new and vigorous attitude has permeated every area of the ship. An intense effort is noticeable in our gunnery drills and in our damage control practices; improvements are most apparent. Lectures are more meaningful, and the response to them more enthusiastic; every man wants to learn. Ship's work, always somewhat arduous, is tackled with speed and determination; truly, the ship has never looked better.

Those in the Atlantic Fleet are wishing us well in our most important mission. Those in the Pacific Fleet are welcoming our powerful armaments, for they are sorely needed. With continued interest and application, and with the determination of every man aboard, we will successfully fulfill our mission. Nothing less will be acceptable if we are to justify the trust and confidence always placed in NEWPORT NEWS.



#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The RAPIDFIRE has been published monthly since last January. In view of our particular operational commitments in the immediate future, we plan to have the next issue cover both October and November.

The December and January issues may be combined or issued separately. This decision will be announced at a later date.

# THE NEW CHAPEL IN NEWPORT NEWS



Traditionally, Navy Chaplains have sought to bring "God to men and men to God". The new Chapel in NEWPORT NEWS, "set apart" as a place of worship, helps Chaplain Walter "J" Schwartz, USN, realize both these objectives.

Assisted by three lay leaders, LTJG Joseph E. McMahon, USN, (Catholic); CAPT Karl H. Hutzler, USMC, (Protestant); and LT Dennis M. Agin, DC, (Jewish), Chaplain Schwartz has scheduled daily and Sunday Divine services. In addition, the Chapel in NEWPORT NEWS will remain open around the clock. Each man aboard will now have a place to go for prayer and private meditation for the duration of the cruise.

An excellent turnout participated in the first Sunday's services. The crew paid fitting tribute to the combined efforts of the many volunteers involved in

the relocation of the new Chapel. These willing workers feel that they are "...doing something for themselves and for the crew". The Chaplain's two yeomen, SN William C. Mercer and SN Robert F. Fahy, will maintain the upkeep and refurbishment of the Chapel. In future weeks, additional Chapel services will become necessary to accommodate the needs of all the men.

The Chaplain's office, located adjacent to the Chapel on the 01 level, starboard side, is also open to all crew members who need personal guidance or spiritual consolation.

The comprehensive, conscientious, and enthusiastic religious coverage now possible aboard NEWPORT NEWS should meet the needs of all the men. Future participation in the services conducted in the Chapel will be sufficient reward for a job well-done.



LCPL Robert Wesby, USMC, the Commanding Officer's orderly, reads Scripture at one of the daily Protestant services in the new Chapel in NEWPORT NEWS.

A relaxed atmosphere of food, drink, dance and merriment was afforded NEWPORT NEWSmen by the ship's party held at Norfolk's Golden Triangle Motor Hotel on August 30 and 31.

Even though on board ship the men live in relatively close company with each other, the diversified nature of shipboard duties often makes it difficult for individuals to get to know their shipmates as well as they would like. The party provided this opportunity.

NEWPORT NEWS, waiting in readiness for an extended deployment, had recently attained a full compliment of ship's personnel. For the next eight months, very few additions or deletions would be made to the present ship's roster. During the month of August the officers and men made good use of the opportunity to work as a stable unit to prepare the ship for the challenging days ahead. The hard work of all hands set the stage for the departure party--two nights of fun and much-needed relaxation.

The festivities spread over two evenings so that all duty sections could attend. Awaiting the guests, some of whom arrived by special buses from Pier 7, were four bars serving a variety of liquor and beer as well as some outstanding food. The guests also enjoyed a delicious buffet meal, consisting of seafood Newburg, rock cornish hen, chef's and shrimp salad and assorted vegetables.

Each female guest was greeted at the door with a beautiful corsage. The women then had their chance to dance and get a break from the typical Navy "sea stories" when the band began to play after the meal was completed. The band provided music in wide variety, from rock-'n-roll to polka, to suit everyone's taste. Captain and Mrs. McCarty put on a polka demonstration that many said, "...would have put Arthur and Katherine Murray to shame."

At the completion of the party, coffee was served and transportation back to the ship was provided to those who desired it. The contented expression on the faces of the returning men was a sure indication that a good time was had by all.

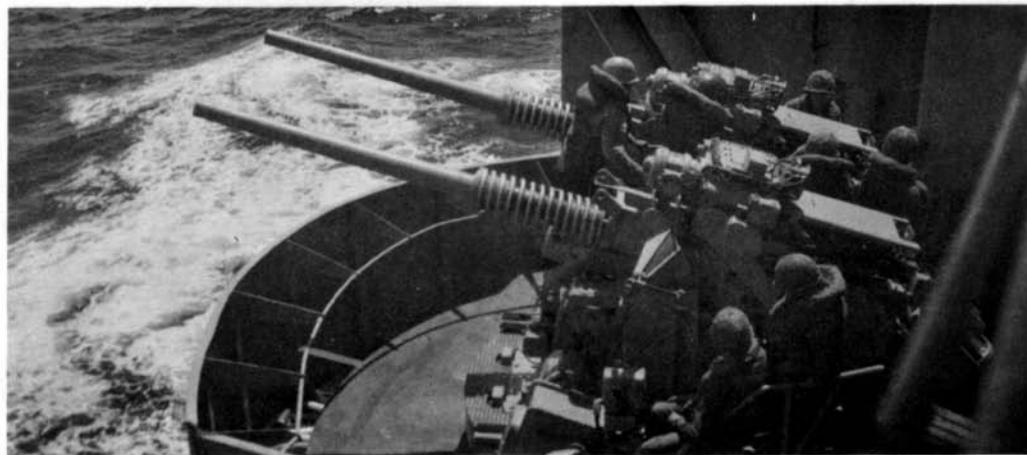


LTJG Stepanovich and date seem to be enjoying the music.

## THE SHIP'S PARTY



NEWPORT NEWSmen wait patiently in the "shot line".



Members of NEWPORT NEWS' Marine Detachment man Mount 33, a three inch anti-aircraft gun battery. The Marines have fired these guns several times during many general quarters drills.

## General Quarters

"Now this is a drill...all hands man your battle stations...general quarters...". These words, repeated daily this past month over the ship's loud speakers, constantly reminded the crew of NEWPORT NEWS of our most important, serious mission. As soon as general quarters was passed, each man immediately stopped his assigned work and hurried to his battle station as quickly as possible.

NEWPORT NEWS is undergoing some of the most extensive training in her history. The speed and efficiency of all hands in manning their battle stations cannot be overstressed. Constant drills, training and practice brought about the efficiency required to produce our highly unified fighting team.

The continued opportunity to drill at general quarters--at least once and often twice a day--is showing its worth. The entire crew, including many new men, have learned as second nature the art of manning their battle stations rapidly as they secured the ship's water-tight integrity. On the spot training has prepared the men well.

The unity of the crew, in the words of CAPTAIN Lindsay C. McCarty, "...has shown a marked improvement." The combat efficiency and unity of the crew cannot help but reach the high standards expected.

As time passes, and round the clock drilling increases, the question remains in the minds of all--how will the ship react? Not so much as a combat vessel, but as a group of men that have worked together to unite themselves in a single effort. Faced with a tremendous challenge and responsibility, NEWPORT NEWS must and will be ready to perform her mission.

# A BAND IS BORN

Have you heard "The Great Skates"? Officially known as The NEWPORT NEWS Ship's Band, they have recently become a part of the ship's life that is both welcome and enjoyable.

A month before NEWPORT NEWS deployed for the Pacific, the Commanding Officer directed that 1st LT Thomas M. Edwards, USMC, create a band to replace the Admiral's Second Fleet Band. Thus the search began for instruments and men to play them.

Eventually Mr. Edwards got together a group of men with musical experience. They came from various departments: Supply, Admin, Weapons and Engineering. All the men were willing and eager to work.

The initial problems which confronted the new band were finding enough time and the right place to practice. Both these problems were overcome, and now the band members' determination is paying off. Through many hours of long, hard practice, they have shown a great potential.

The band is divided into four main sections: trumpets, saxophones, trombones and rhythm. Much concentration has been placed on learning new material rapidly, and now the band plays a wide variety of sounds, such as: "Tijuana Brass", soul, blues, hard rock, folk and jazz. They also play many standards, including: "The Marine Hymn", "Anchors A-way", and "The Star-Spangled Banner". These tunes are normally played upon port entries and departures.

The band will normally be ready to play at any request. Playing engagements on the messdecks, in the wardroom and at fantail "smokers" are scheduled for the near future. In addition, while in foreign ports, the band hopes to stage many public appearances.

The men simply enjoy practicing and performing. The practice is done mainly on their own time and eventually their performances will demonstrate a true professional unity.



The Band entertains at the famous International Market Place in downtown Wai-kiki Beach, Hawaii.

Members of NEWPORT NEWS Ship's Band:

## TRUMPETS:

SN Fahy, EX  
SN Simmons, 4th  
FN Young, E  
EM3 Quigley, E

## SAXAPHONES:

SN Oliva, 7th  
SA Allan, FOX

SN Alford, 5th  
SN Krauth, OI  
SN Lang, 7th

## RHYTHM

ICFN Romano, E  
SN Inzer, B  
RD2 Talley, OI  
SN Kinkel, EX

SN Murray, 2nd  
SN Napolitano, OS  
SN O'Hara, 5th

## TROMBONES

SN Knowles, OI  
SN Norgaard, FOX  
FTGSN Cole, FOX

# PANAMA CANAL:

Gateway  
to  
the...

*Pacific*



From the Atlantic to the Pacific... USS NEWPORT NEWS made her first historic transit of the Panama Canal on Sunday, September 10, 1967.

The Panama Canal, kept in operation by the United States solely for the benefit of the world, presents a remarkable example of man's ingenuity. Opened for international use in 1914, the Canal basically consists of a series of three locks which elevate ships on the Atlantic side to the level of Gatun Lake--and then two sets of locks on the other side which lower ships to the Pacific Ocean. A simple concept, indeed; however, the construction of the Canal required many years and much effort.

Just after dawn, at the city of Cristobal near the entrance to the first lock, Mr. Charles Van Buren of the Panama Canal Information Office boarded NEWPORT NEWS to deliver an expert running commentary on our progress throughout the day.

Then with the first light of day, the ship proceeded up the Canal past the

first look at tropical jungle which thrives on either side of the Canal throughout much of the journey. The semi-tropical climate in the Canal Zone displays itself primarily in the many varieties of floral growth visible on the shore. The rich green grass and thick shrubbery presented a beautiful scene of tropical splendor.

The first set of three successive locks elevated the World's Largest Cruiser some 85 feet to the level of Gatun Lake. The process lasted almost an hour. Entering the lock chambers, some 1000 feet long and 100 feet wide, is something like entering a large roofless cavern. Electric locomotives or "mules" then pulled NEWPORT NEWS through the lock by connecting steel cables to the bow and stern of the ship.

The Panama Canal utilizes a simple law of physics in the elevation process--water seeks its own level. Slowly but surely, like the ride to the top of the first roller-coaster dip, the ship finally reached the higher water level of

the forward chamber.

While the ship was anchored in the fresh-water Gatun Lake, crewmembers, clad in swimsuits, gave NEWPORT NEWS a complete fresh-water washdown before proceeding to the other side.

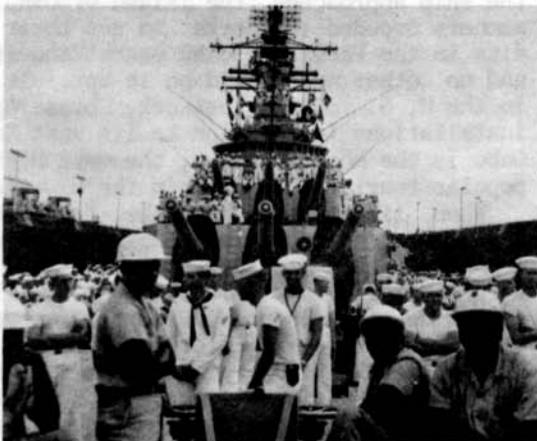
The slight rain, which was now falling, didn't dampen the spirits of most NEWPORT NEWSmen as the ship traversed the historic "big ditch". Several hundred men remained on deck to view the panorama of the Continental Divide and to snap pictures of the thick jungle growth. Many crewmembers stared in amazement at the huge masses of rock which were split into by thousands of tons of dynamite to create a canal through Panama.

Later, after passing through the Pedro Miguel Locks, the ship officially entered the Pacific side. She then continued course through the widening canal to the Rodman Naval Station for re-fueling and water replenishment. Liberty commenced here for the officers and crew not on duty.

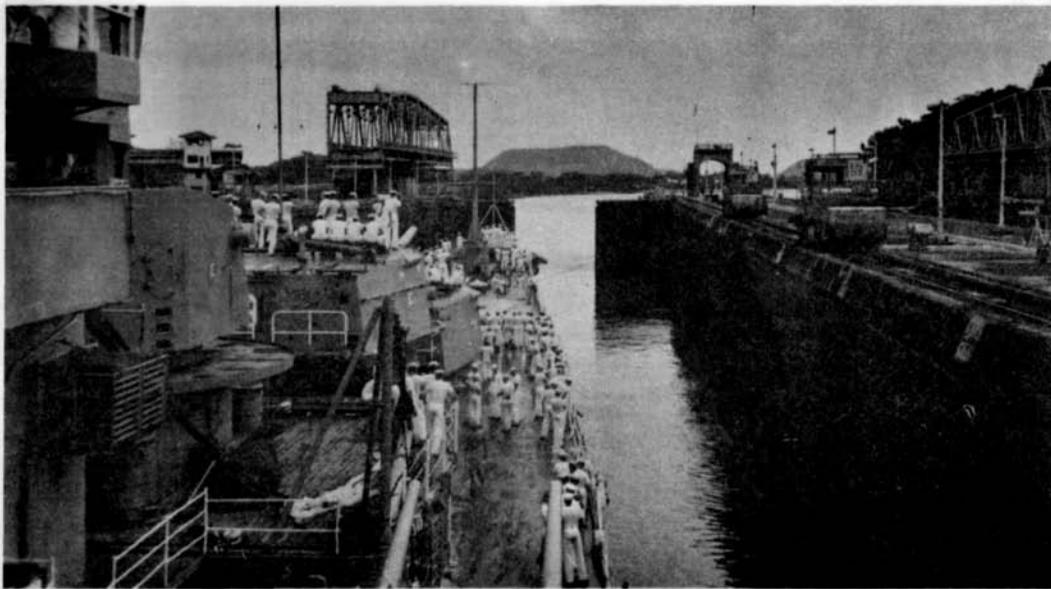
The following morning, NEWPORT NEWS departed Rodman to complete the remaining five miles of the Canal to the Paci-

fic Ocean where she then set a westward course to the Hawaiian Islands.

Many crewmembers acclaimed that passing through the Panama Canal is a beautiful trip and an exciting experience... the Canal is, in truth, a man-made wonder.



Several hundred crewmembers remained on deck throughout the transit.



Facing the final gates of the last lock chamber, NEWPORT NEWS nears the end of her Panama Canal transit. Ahead--the great, blue Pacific, waters never before coursed by CA-148.

Herman Melville once wrote a short story called "Las Encantadas"--"...the enchanted islands". Although Melville wasn't thinking about Hawaii at the time, you couldn't prove it by NEWPORT NEWSmen. From the first glimpse of Diamond Head, through four days of sightseeing and sun-worshiping, the officers and crew of NEWPORT NEWS all found one basic commodity in Hawaii--enchantment.

After 6000 miles and fifteen days of steaming from Norfolk, Virginia, the ship finally reached Pearl Harbor Naval Station on the morning of September 21. The excitement began near sunrise as the ship approached the island of Oahu. Many officers and crewmembers crowded the decks to get their first look at this "Paradise in the Pacific". Oahu means "the gathering place" in Hawaiian and no other name could be so apt. It is a highly strategic link in the U. S. defense network, boasting large Army and Air Force installations in addition to its vast Naval complex. Furthermore, Oahu is the most populous, the most highly developed, and the most popular tourist haven within the Hawaiian Islands.

When liberty commenced the first afternoon, the ship shortly became almost completely deserted except for the duty section. The crew wanted to know what made the 50th state tick, and they weren't wasting any time about it. At first most of the crew headed for downtown Honolulu and the famous Waikiki Beach, both only a short bus ride from Pearl Harbor.

The Waikiki Beach area features some of the best swimming and shopping facilities in the islands. NEWPORT NEWSmen took full advantage of the opportunity to shop for polynesian specialities, such as tiki figures and monkeypod wooden carvings. Several crewmembers purchased flower leis or mumuus to send to that "someone special" back home. Others just couldn't resist the wild surf of the blue Pacific--for them, a moonlight swim was the order of the night.



The shops on Kalakaua Avenue in downtown Waikiki Beach offer the shopper a fascinating assortment of polynesian specialities.

# H A W A I I



Downtown Honolulu and Waikiki feature some extravagant restaurants and unusual night-clubs. NEWPORT NEWSmen made their presence known at many spots throughout the island during their four day stay. For the less energetic, who didn't want to roam too far from home, there was a new, luxurious enlisted men's club located just minutes from the ship.

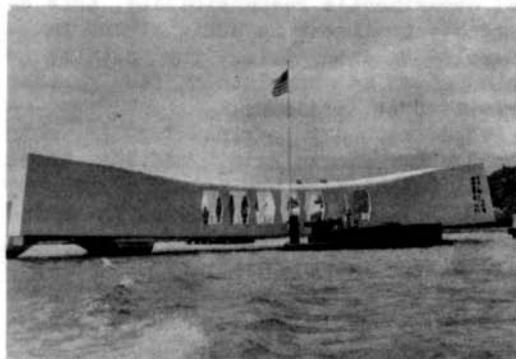
Most of the crew did all of their sightseeing on foot. This was the cheapest way and also a lot of fun. However, several men decided that the only way to really see Hawaii would be to rent a car and travel to the other side of the mountains for a look at "windward Oahu", ...and, what a look that was! They saw jagged cliffs and coral beaches; ancient ruins and modern suburbs; country towns sleeping in the sun and endless stretches of pineapple and sugar cane fields. They drove along one of the most impressive stretches of rocky coastline in the islands-- the black lava cliffs rush down to the sea to meet the surging Pacific. Those who took photographs captured the true scenic beauty of Hawaii at its best in spots like these.

The four day visit was also highlighted by beautiful, sunny weather that gave everyone a chance for some well deserved relaxation and fun in the sun. There were many who were content to just sit on the beach, listen to the surf and watch the islanders walk by in their brightly colored outfits.

Whatever each man did in Hawaii, he most likely had a wonderful time. The only regret was that the visit was so short; but certainly, the enchantment of Hawaii will long be remembered, fondly, by the officers and crew of NEWPORT NEWS.



The beauty of Waikiki Beach makes it a favorite stop for vacationers.



The Arizona Memorial stands stately in Pearl Harbor in memory of the USS ARIZONA, sunk during the Japanese invasion on December 7, 1941.



NEWPORT NEWSmen will long remember the scenic beauty of the Hawaiian Islands.

# Division of the Month

## "D" DIVISION



Each morning, right after sick call, at least ten men are given emergency treatment for severe toothaches or other dental problems in the dental office aboard NEWPORT NEWS. As part of the dental department's responsibility, this emergency treatment is administered immediately to stop pain. The patient is then given an appointment for further treatment as necessary.

Thus each day begins for Dr. John Canal, Dr. Dennis Agin, and the three dental technicians who maintain the busy schedule in our dental office. The maintenance and preservation of proper oral health for every member of the ship's company is indeed a complex and everlasting battle.



LT Dennis Agin replaces old filling in crewmember's tooth as part of his daily routine.

The dental office aboard NEWPORT NEWS is equipped with the most modern and newest professional equipment that the Navy has installed afloat. In fact, the NEWPORT NEWS was the first ship to be equipped with the new Ritter Modulating Unit. This device conveniently houses precise dental handpieces and instruments at the dentist's disposal. The newest advancement is the air turbine handpiece, which rotates at speeds up to 600,000 rpm while shooting an air-water mist to cool the tooth. This handpiece makes cutting teeth for cavity preparation an easy task. The patient has almost no sense of the tooth being cut or any sensation of pain normally associated with dental care.

Along with the two dental units and chairs, the office contains modern X-ray equipment, a developing room and a unique X-ray viewing box that was designed by a former NEWPORT NEWS dentist.

The office handles a wide variety of dental problems. Among these are treatments in root canal therapy, gum therapy, oral surgery, and preventive and restorative dentistry. As stated, the facilities are the best; but, equally important is the capability and devotion of our dental staff. Advanced training at the U.S. Naval Dental School at Bethesda, Maryland, correspondence courses and current dental publications keep



"D" Division aboard NEWPORT NEWS includes (from left); LCDR John Wayne Canal, DA Steve Pollard, DT3 Ernest D. McGuire, DN Clarence E. Izzett, and LT Dennis Michael Agin.

them abreast of new techniques and therapies.

The Navy Dental Corps has initiated a stannous fluoride program as a protection against tooth decay. DT3 Ernest McGuire conducts the stannous fluoride treatments while giving a lecture on proper oral hygiene every Saturday morning for at least 16 crew-members. This program is of significant value in the prevention of tooth decay, and is available to all personnel who desire it.

The duties of the dental technicians range from sterilizing and sharpening instruments to preparing and maintaining dental records. They are qualified to render dental first aid and perform oral prophylaxis treatments under the supervision of our dental officers. Before advancing in rate all these technicians must attend the Dental Technician A School for 12 weeks.

"D" Division may be small, but considering the professional services and dental insurance offered by its dedicated personnel, it ranks as an intricate and indispensable part of NEWPORT NEWS.



NEWPORT NEWSmen participate in the stannous fluoride program now available to all personnel.



New Chief Master-at-Arms, Chief John F. Smith and his staff.

## THE NEW C M A A

Proper behaviour and smart military appearance have remained the "uniform of the day", every day, aboard NEWPORT NEWS. Our new Chief Master-at-Arms has seen to this, personally. He is Master Chief Steam Propulsionist John F. Smith.

Chief Smith reported aboard last January, and worked with B Division before taking the CMAA helm early this month. Although new to his job, Chief Smith has already learned his duties well. Concerning this point, he commented, "I owe a great deal to my exceptional staff. I couldn't have a finer selection of men to work with and they have all given me wonderful assistance.

Chief Smith has initiated many improvements in constructing a rigid code of military standards aboard NEWPORT NEWS. He commands a just respect from the crew, who under his supervision, have not only squared away the ship but themselves as well.

A native of Pogooson, Virginia, Chief Smith has seen much sea duty in his climb to the Master Chief Steam Propulsionist rate. An SP is a combination of Boiler Tender and Machinist's Mate that can only be attained on the E-9 level.

Chief Smith stated: "I am proud to be a member of NEWPORT NEWS; and, having to deploy, I cannot think of a finer command under which to go."

Onward

Upward

Farewell



RMC Ronald Merservey receives congratulations from Captain McCarty after his reenlistment.

## I Gotta Crow



Captain McCarty recently presented advancement in rate certificates to the following personnel:

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| BLAIR, Robert R.      | DK3  |
| BOWEN, William H.     | MM3  |
| BRADWAY, Richard M.   | MM3  |
| BROWN, Peter          | MM3  |
| CASANURAN, Crisbon B. | SD3  |
| CRONIN, Dennis R.     | JO3  |
| DIEL, William         | FTG3 |

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| DOHERTY, Hugh J.       | MM3  |
| DOYLE, Harry           | PH2  |
| ENLOW, Harry A.        | GMG3 |
| FREDRICKS, Michael L.  | HM3  |
| GELINA, Charles T.     | MM3  |
| GONDARILA, M.          | SK3  |
| GRIFFITH, Michael A.   | GMG3 |
| HEAD, Gerald           | MM3  |
| HERRERA, Charles       | FTG3 |
| HUTCHINS, Frank        | MM3  |
| JEGELA, Robert A.      | BM3  |
| JOHNSON, Larry         | SHS3 |
| KITTRIDGE, James L.    | MM3  |
| KOCH, Marion D.        | SK3  |
| KONOPKA, Richard       | BM3  |
| KUNZE, Lee A.          | ETN3 |
| LOTH, Stephen A.       | FTG3 |
| MATA, Joseph           | FTG3 |
| MAYES, Arthur L.       | SD3  |
| McCLINTOCK, Thomas     | GMG3 |
| McCULLOUGH, Douglas K. | SHS3 |
| McGOWAN, Ronald        | GMG3 |
| MEINICKE, Gerald E.    | MM3  |
| MILLING, Doran         | ETN3 |
| MURDON, Frederick L.   | MM3  |
| OTTON, Terry L.        | FTG3 |
| PETERSON, Gary L.      | BM3  |
| PHILLIPS, Walter       | SFM3 |
| REYES, Francisco       | SD3  |
| SABITINO, Thomas A.    | MM3  |
| SADOWITZ, Michael J.   | PN3  |
| SAUER, Garry M.        | MM3  |
| SHEPPARD, William      | YN3  |
| SOVIA, Donray          | SHS3 |
| STEURER, Robert C.     | FTG3 |
| VENABLE, Larry C.      | BM2  |
| WILDE, John R.         | YN3  |
| WYMAN, Edward H.       | SFP3 |
| YOCH, Michael R.       | MM3  |



Staff Farewell: Commander Robert T. Ruxton Jr., USN, cuts the cake at a party held in the Wardroom aboard NEWPORT NEWS for the departing Second Fleet Staff personnel.



**U.S.S. NEWPORT NEWS**  
**CA-148**  
c/o F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96601

TO \_\_\_\_\_  
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