

# USS Annapolis



Dear ANNAPOLIS Family,

We have reached the familiar shores of Subic Bay, Philippines once again, closing out one of the most eventful patrols and "R&R" periods in ANNAPOLIS history. During the last two months the ship completed a successful upkeep period in Yokosuka, Japan, thirty days of patrol on "the line" in Vietnam waters, seven days of "R&R" in Perth, Australia, and a semi-official visit to the unique Naval Communications Station at Northwest Cape, Australia.

During our twenty-one day stay in Yokosuka, Japan, ANNA underwent a successful INSURV Inspection. A team of Naval specialists inspected the ship thoroughly from bow to stern and from keel to signal bridge to determine ANNAPOLIS' operational readiness. The inspection was tedious, to say the least, but was an overwhelming success due to the tremendous effort put forth by all hands in addition to their tackling the usual full work load for the in-port period.

Chaplain Fitzsimmons and numerous volunteers took time out from their liberty hours to help our friends at the Kai-fu-Gakuen School for mentally retarded children in Yokosuka. It was my pleasure to visit the school and receive the personal thanks of Dr. Kusajima, Director of Kai-fu-Gakuen, for the unselfish labor and charitable funds given by the crew during our stay in Yokosuka. It was a humbling and heart warming event that made me again feel very proud to be part of the "ANNAPOLIS Team".

Also, while we were in Yokosuka, it was our pleasure and honor to show ANNA to 200 members of the pro-American Japan Society. After refreshments on our boat deck Admiral Hasagawa (Ret), President of the society, made a short speech in which he commended the entire crew for their gracious hospitality.

May 5th saw ANNA underway for the 17th Patrol, ship-shape and ready to continue the vital mission she performs. Our mission - - to provide fleet broadcasts and inter-area relay circuits for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications. ANNAPOLIS makes the "Voice of Command" heard throughout the South China Sea.

Our mission could never be performed without your men. It is for this reason I like to give credit to the men of our different departments who each, in their own way, contribute to the functioning of our ship and are a vital part of the team effort. In each Familygram I try to point out the efforts of a different department; this one will highlight the Supply Department.

The Supply Department, the third largest department aboard, makes ANNAPOLIS a comfortable "home" in every way possible. The five divisions, totaling 148 enlisted men and three officers, under the supervision of LCDR F. N. NEWCOMB, have the task of providing supply and logistics support for the ship.

The Stores Division (S-1), under the watchful eyes of LT H. FURNISS, SKCS BLAIR, and SKC ISRAEL, handles all our requisitions, for items ranging from paper clips to electron tubes. S-1 Division made 2200 issues during the 17th Patrol totaling \$31,000.

Food Services Division (S-2) is supervised by our "masters of cuisine" LTJG J. S. MAY and CSCM NORTON. The hard-working cooks prepare approximately a ton of food and serve 2500 individual meals daily. S-2 Division received 97 tons of fresh and stable provisions while underway from various supply ships during our last patrol.

During our patrols it is always necessary for ANNA to rendezvous with various Seventh Fleet support ships in order that we may sustain our operations at sea. During the last patrol we had the unique experience of replenishing underway (UNREP) and vertically replenishing (VERTREP) simultaneously with USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1), which was another "ANNA First". SACRAMENTO is capable of fuel transfer, high-line transfer, and providing supplies by helicopter (VERTREP) while underway. This operation caused the Deck, Engineering, and Supply Departments to be extremely busy to say the least.

WO-1 CONTI, SHCS FRÉIL, and SHC HOLZMEISTER head up the Ship Services Division (S-3), which operates the Ship's Store, the ANNA Soda Fountain, Clothing Store, Barber Shop, Laundry, Tailor Shop and the ship's vending machines. The 17th Patrol credited S-3 Division with \$35,000 in sales (among them 44,000 cans of soda pop and 480 gallons of ice-cream). Our Barber Shop gave 2000 haircuts and the laundry washed 50,000 pounds of clothing.

Disbursing Division (S-4), headed by ENS D. DAY and DK1 CADELINA, pays us approximately \$100,000 each pay period. Along with regular pay days, the division ably manages a 10% savings plan available to all hands, computes our allotments, and pays us our travel claims.

SDC ILOG works closely with "two hatted" ENS DAY, who is also the Steward Division (S-5) Officer, to provide meals for the officers' wardroom. It is also S-5 Division's responsibility to maintain all spaces in "Officers' Country".

LCDR NEWCOMB is due to depart ANNA soon for duty at NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island. He leaves us plans for a new "walk-in" Ship's Store which will be constructed in September.

In addition to our regular mission of handling the fleet message "traffic", ANNAPOLIS is responsible for providing technical communications assistance when it is needed. A dramatic example of this during the 17th Patrol was our help to USS BLANDY (DD 943), flagship of COMDESRON 2, which was experiencing communications problems. BLANDY was out of touch with its destroyer group and would have had to return to port and away from its vital mission of providing gunfire support for troops on the beach, if communications could not be restored within 12 hours. ANNA

sailors RMCB BASTEDO and ETN2 MARTIN were transferred to BLANDY by boat to restore communications. BLANDY's communications gear was made operational well within the deadline! In appreciation for the help provided, ANNAPOLIS received the 5" shell casing of BLANDY's 3000th round fired at a Viet Cong assembly area along with appropriate plaques from the grateful Commodore. (See picture #1)

Following the Naval tradition of having a "Captain's breakaway flag" to be flown after replenishments at sea, BM2 WARREN and BM3 HYDEN composed and manufactured a flag which represents the ANNA answer to any challenge (see picture #2). If I may translate for you: WACKER'S ICHI BAN (Japanese for "Number One") HACKERS--WACKER'S NUMBER ONE HACKERS can do any job, no matter what the odds. Believe it, they can too! I am proud to have my name in the flag, but let it be known here and now that it is your men that do the job.

No ANNAPOLIS patrol would be complete without the usual vigorous athletic programs. The 17th Patrol "Old Fashioned" wrestling and boxing smoker was thrilling and spirited as the heavyweights, and some of the lightweights, strained the ropes of our ring in tag-team wrestling, boxing and collegiate style wrestling.

Participation was at a peak for the patrol's basketball tournament. Sixteen teams were formed into port and starboard leagues. The Basketball Championship was between the ASSOCIATIONS and the CHOPPERS who played heads-up ball for the patrol honors. The ASSOCIATIONS were the victors, winning over the CHOPPERS by a score of 55-47. Team members for the ASSOCIATIONS during the 17th Patrol were: SK3 SIMMONS, RM2 COPELAND, FN MURPHY, SN EVANS, SN COONEY, and SN BOGGS.

The CHERRY O's upset the Volleyball Tournament, as they pulled themselves up from underdog standings and took the championship against the HAS BEENS. The CHERRY O's were comprised of WO-1 "Big O" A. OLSHEFSKI, YN3 R. MILLER, YN3 JOHNSON, SN THURLOW, SN D. MILLER and myself. The CHERRY O's triumphed, despite being handicapped by having me on their side, over 11 other teams to grab the 17th Patrol Volleyball Championship.

LTJG M. F. VALENTI produced another "Hoot'n'anna" for the 17th Patrol. The musically inclined men on board put on a fine show to an attentive audience on the boat deck. Folk Singer SN McDUGAL, trumpet player HM3 SCOTT, and two new singing groups, the EXCEPTIONS and PHEASANT'S PEASANTS, were among the highlights of this very enjoyable evening. The ship's combo, the SALTY DAWGS, made the "Hoot'n'anna" a special success and we eagerly await another show next patrol.

The patrol also saw the introduction of "Jam Sessions" on ANNAPOLIS. LTJG R.P. ROY provided full programs of music and entertainment for these events. BT1 "Shoes" ALEXANDER dazzled onlookers with tap dancing and the SALTY DAWGS accompanied numerous singers. ANNA's new quartet, the EXCEPTIONS, were also on hand to sing their own close harmony arrangements of popular tunes. Our ANNAPOLIS shows may never get on Broadway, but they are invaluable to us as a delightful break in our demanding ship-board routine.

Our 17th Patrol came to a close on June 11 when we set our course for Perth, Australia. Our course from Vietnam to Australia took us across the equator which set the stage for the traditional Shellback Initiation Ceremony. It is a long-followed practice for vessels crossing the equator to have Shellbacks (men who have previously crossed the equator) initiate the Pollywogs (men who have not crossed the equator) into the Ancient Order of the Deep.

Over 540 Pollywogs assembled on the antenna deck for their turn to be initiated. The initiation route consisted of a salt-water washdown and visits to the Royal Judge and Royal Court (see pictures #3 and #4). The Royal Dentist checked teeth with hot sauce; the Royal Barber gave appropriate haircuts; and the Royal Undertaker made sure that all Pollywogs fit into his coffin filled with "ripe sullage". To finalize the ceremony, the then "slimy" Pollywogs were dunked in the Royal Pool of refreshing salt water and emerged as "trusty" Shellbacks.

The initiation ceremony was a lot of fun for all, perhaps more so for Shellbacks than Pollywogs. It was certainly a memorable experience and one of the finest initiations I have seen.

We entered the port of Fremantle, Australia, on June 21st for a seven day "R&R" visit to Perth (see picture #5). ANNA cut a stately figure as she steamed up the Swan River with a very proud crew "manning the rails". The SALTY DAWGS provided music for the occasion from the bridge. After mooring, the combo put on a special show for television cameramen and reporters on the antenna deck. Our arrival in Australia made newspaper headlines, radio news spots, in addition to full TV coverage.

The Australians were extremely cordial hosts and ANNAPOLIS sailors took advantage of the numerous invitations to social and sports events in addition to going on tours throughout the beautiful parks and countryside surrounding Perth (see picture #6). In an attempt to repay the gracious Australians for their hospitality, ANNAPOLIS was open for general visiting during our stay. Approximately 7000 visitors toured the ship during this period. (see picture #7). I am convinced that this visit confirmed and strengthened the traditional bonds of friendship and common goals of the United States and Australia during this period of international tension. You would have been proud of your boys as "Ambassadors Abroad". Their conduct was magnificent. The comments made to me by Australians everywhere complimenting the crew made me proud to be their Commanding Officer and made us all proud to be Americans. The seven days went by all too rapidly and it wasn't long before we were underway for Northwest Cape.

Our semi-official visit to Northwest Cape, site of a new and modern Naval Communications Station, was for only one day. The facility was commissioned in September, 1967, and stands as a technical marvel on twenty-nine square miles of remote Australian sheep property and "outback". Of most interest at Northwest Cape was the tallest of thirteen Very Low Frequency radio towers which reaches upwards 1200 feet and is the highest man-made structure in the Southern Hemisphere. (see picture #8). Our

visit was another "ANNA first" as we were the first U.S. warship to visit Exmouth Gulf since World War II and the first to visit Northwest Cape since its commissioning.

Northwest Cape sailors were quick to show us that we were out of shape after our "R&R" in Perth as they defeated us on the baseball diamond, the basketball court, and the bowling alleys. Despite losing the events, a good time was had by all. As we left Australia we took along many fond memories of Perth and Northwest Cape.

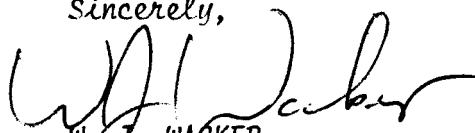
In the course of our transit to and from Australia, we passed through many interesting and historical waters that took us back to World War II, as well as passing by many islands and land masses that we have all heard about and read about. Leaving the South China Sea and entering Java Sea, we passed Borneo and then through the Gaspar Straits which are flanked by Sumatra and Java. After passage through the Sunda Straits, we entered the Indian Ocean. I might add, as we passed through the Sunda Straits we were able to view the famous volcano Krakatoa which erupted so fiercely in 1889, its tremors felt in London and its ashes spread as far West as New York City. In the Indian Ocean we passed by Christmas Island West and then on to Australia.

Enroute from Exmouth Gulf to the Philippines we navigated through the Lombok Strait past the beautiful island of Bali. The Makassar Straits, with Borneo to the West and Celebes to the East, took us into the Celebes Sea from which we approached the Sibutu Passage and the Sulu Sea to the Philippines. The cruise to Australia took us a total of 21 interesting days at sea -- a rewarding experience after the arduous 17th Patrol.

Work begins anew for us here in Subic Bay as we prepare for another patrol. We are all glad to see the patrols come and go, as we all miss our loved ones and anxiously await the time when we can come home. Our mail service continues to be excellent and it is a great consolation to know that our families are well and safe; so keep those letters coming.

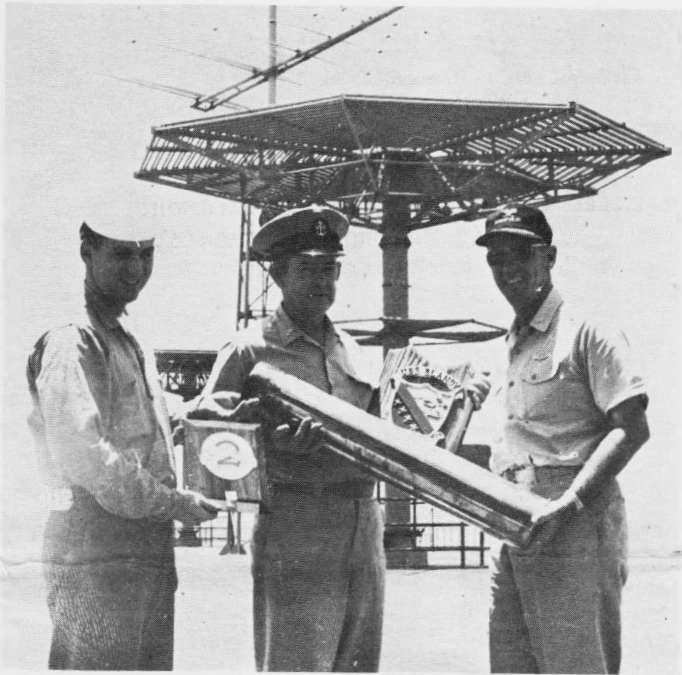
God be with you, as He is with our ship.

Sincerely,



W. J. WACKER  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commanding Officer





**ETN 2 MARTIN, RMCM BASTIDO AND MYSELF WITH AWARD FROM USS BLANDY  
1.**



**BM3 HYDEN AND BM2 WARREN PROUDLY PRESENT NEW ANNA FLAG  
2.**



**SHELLBACK INITIATION**

**3.**



**A "SLIMY" POLLYWOG MEETS THE ROYAL BABY**

**4.**



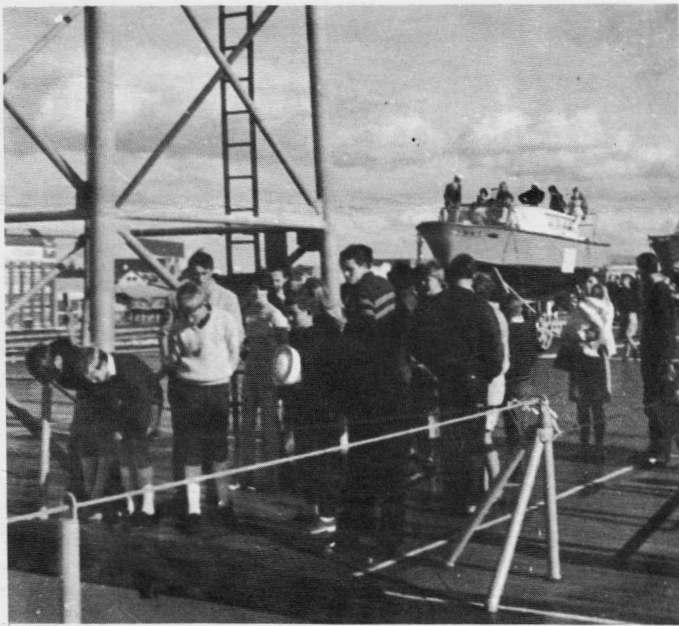
**NARROWS BRIDGE, PERTH**

**5.**



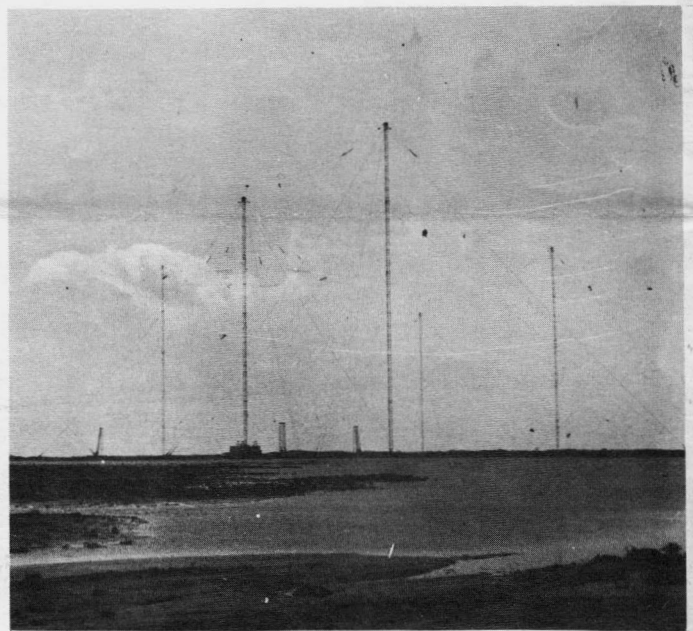
**TOBRUK MONUMENT  
KINGS PARK, PERTH**

**6.**



**AUSTRALIAN VISITORS TAKE  
A LOOK AT ANNA**

**7.**



**VERY LOW FREQUENCY  
TOWERS, NORTHWEST CAPE**

**8.**