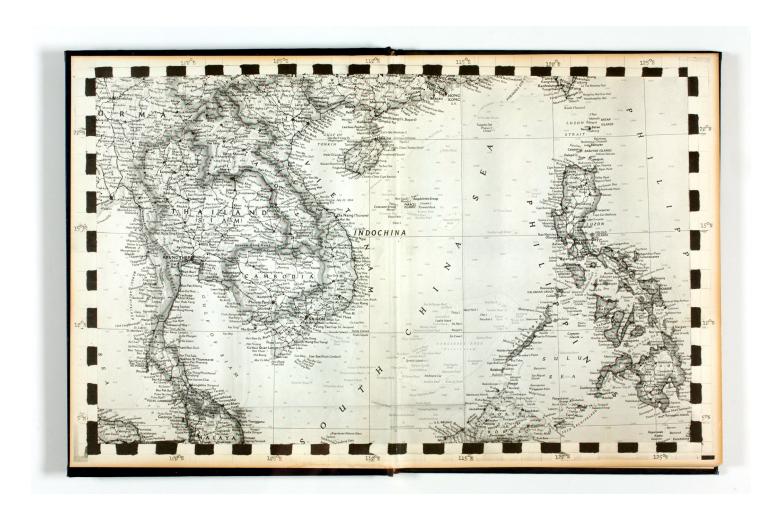




## USS DIACHENKO APD-123

WESTERN PACIFIC CRUISE 27 APRIL TO 17 DECEMBER 1965

#### NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION MEDAL





#### THE "CHENK"

Although seldom called a thing of beauty, the 306 foor, 1650 ton Diachenko is the "can do" ship of the amphiblous fleet. Her speed, shallow draft, weapons systems and personnel give her the capability to fulfill numerous missions more efficiently than any other type of ship the Navy has. The book says her missions are: (1) to approach the beach objective at high speed, launch and radar control boats

carrying an Underwater Demolition
Team or a Marine Reconnaissance
Team to the beach; and (2) to serve
as Primary Control Ship during an
amphibious assualt. At one time or
another during the cruise she was successfully used for hydrographic survey,
salvage, junk command, gun fire
support, formation screening, towing
and cargo carrying.

She was constructed in Quincy, Massachusetts during the summer of 1944 to become the USS Alex M. Diachenko (DE-690). But because of the increase need for beach reconnaissance the ship was altered slightly, and on 8 December 1944 was commissioned as the USS Diachenko (APD-123), a member of the United States Amphibious Fleet in the Pacific.

After World War Two she got a well deserved but brief rest. Diachenko was again called upon for action in the Korean Campaign. When she returned home she was proudly wearing Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Medal with six stars. After several years alternately in the First and Seventh Fleets, Diachenko was decommissioned in June of 1959 becoming part of the Pacific Reserve Fleet in San Diego. But two years later it was decided that Diachenko was again needed in the fleet. Re-activated during the fall of 1961. Diachenko was recommissioned on 4 November 1961 at San Diego and was attached to Amphibious Squadron Seven home ported in Long

Beach. From that time until the fall of 1963 she operated in the Eastern Pacific with trips to San Francisco and Portland. From September 1963 until April 1964 the Diachenko made her first post commissing WESTPAC cruise.

After the seven months in WESTPAC, the ship needed upkeep. In the fall of 1964 she went in the shipyard in San Francisco. During this major yard period propulsion machinery was overhauled, boat engines were rebuilt and the hull was painted. With the yard period behind, the emphasis was now on training.

The Diachenko completed Refresher Training early in 1965. In February 1965, Operation Silver Lance, an amphibious training exercise, finished a long period of intensive training. Although the hours of training were often long and boring, the investment was returned many times over in the effective manner in which the "Chenk" was able to execute the various missions she was assigned in WESTPAC '65.



#### THE CAPTAIN

Lieutenant Commander Donald M. Metzler, USN, was born October 12, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois. After attending elementary school and North Park Academy in Chicago, he entered Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, graduating in 1949.

Upon commissioning at Officer Candidate School in 1953, LCDR Metzler was assigned to the staff, Commander Mine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and subsequently attended Combat Information Center School. Glenview, Illinois in 1954.

Upon completion of the course, he was assigned to the USS FORRESTAL pre-commissioning detail and was on board for duty as £1c. Watch Officer when that Assistant workstate was the workstate of the course of the co

In 1957 he became Operations Officer aboard the USSWALDRON (DD-699), leaving in 1959 for a course of instruction at the General Line School, Upon graduation in May 1960 he was assisted Auty as Assistant Radar-Project Officer on the Staff Commander Norfolk Test and Evaluation For Staff Commander Operations of Commandia (Commandia) (Commandia

LCDR METZLER relieved LCDRE, L. SAUL, USN as Commanding Officer of the USS Diachenko on 16 April 1965.

#### THE "EXEC"

Lieutenant Daniel L. Hendrickson USW was born May 30, 1937, in york Pennsylvania. After attending elementary and high school in York he entered the University of Pennsylvania under the NROTC Regula Midshipman Program. He was graduate from the University School of Mechanica Engineering and was commissioned i

His initial assignment was to the USS HOLLISTER (DD 788) where he served as DCA and MPA until March 1961.

In the spring and summer of 1961 he completed the Underwater Demolition Training Course at the U.S. Naval Amphibious School Coronado, California and was subsequently assigned to UDT-12.

was subsequently assigned to UUT-12. He served with UUT-12 as a Platoon Commander, training officer and intelligence officer until January 1963. During this period he particlapted in a six month WESTPAC deployment during which time he underwent Airborne training with U.S. Army FIRST Special Forces in Oklawa and was part to 10 CUIS A in late 1962.

From January 1963 to June 1965 he component commander and operations officer at SEAL Team ONE. Duting this tour he attended the Special Forces School at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and deployed to South Vietnam for seven months as

LT HENDRICKSON became Executive Officer of DIACHENKO in July 1965.







#### **OFFICERS**





R. E. Crellin Operations Officer Huntington Beach, Calif. S. D. Guthrie Engineer Officer San Bernardino, Calif.





G. D. Giller First Lieutenant Long Beach, Calif. C. B. Harris Supply Officer Fairfield, Conn.







R. W. Easton Damage Control Assistant Los Angeles, Calif. P. H. Sobel Communications Officer Chicago, III.





D. C. Brown Main Propulsion Assistant San Francisco, Calif.









Ist DIVISION



Contact on the horizon

Ist Division is responsible for most of the exterior of the ship. They paint the sides and the decks. They operate the four boats which the ship carries. They handle lines during special se a detail. Underway, the helm and the leehelm are manned by 1st Division. The boatswaim mate is the senior rate in the Navy and no wonder-considering the vast amount o knowledge required to make



M. L. Williams Boatswain Mate Chief Alomas, Colorado



P. A. Fletcher Boatswain Mate



T. C. Browne Boatswain Mate 2 Rochester, New York



H. L. Weedman Boatswain Mate 3



D. M. Rasso Jr. Boatswain Mate



Jerry E. McClea Boatswain Mate



Seaman Lynwood, Californ



Seaman Victorville, California



A. M. Sato Seaman Ontario, Oregon



Marlin J. Pierson Seaman



James F. Thiele Seaman North Tonawand



W. H. Larsen Seaman



Seaman Galveston, Texas



J. G. Hayman Seaman

10







Shelby D. Noble Seaman Vicksburg, Mississippi



Dan Robertson Seaman Apprentice Searcy, Ark.





Gail H. Skinner Seaman Grand River, Ohio



Eugene R. Worms Seaman Brainerd, Minnesota





Eugene Oliver Seaman Apprentice Savannah, Georgia





Roy T. Hubbard Seaman Camden, New Jersey



Thomas L. Hitchcock Seaman Apprentice Pasadena, California



Marion R. Dowd Seaman Amarillo, Texas



Michael W. Naughtin Seaman Boise, Idaho













2nd DIVISION



It's good to be on this side of Mount 5

2nd Division means gunnory. They are responsible for the operational readiness and the big 5 inch mount, related fire control systems and for the efficiency of the gun crews. The gunners mates also maintain the other anti-submarine equipment. A wast amount of technical knowledge is required



C. T. Evans Gunner's Mate 1 Council Bluffs, low



Matthew J. Suceci Sonarman 2



Sonarman 2 Fairbanks, Alaska



John Jumars Fire Control Technician Wilmington, Del.



P. L. Cowan Sonarman 2 Oklahoma City, Okla.



Robert H. Elde Gunner's'Mate Flint Mich.



Torpedoman 3 Excelsior Minn.



Clyde E. Stan Seaman



Robert Fenn Seaman Warner Robins, G



James R. Rasmussen Seaman Downey, Calif.



E. C. Webster Seaman



Richard Porfilis Seaman





## **OPERATIONS**















Daniel J. Rhoten Radioman 2 New York, New York







James L., Hillman Radioman 2 Baldwin Park, California



























Thomas M. Shepherd Seaman Quincy, Calif.











Is it KRLA?



Activity on the beach







This wiring diagram is very complex

CPA close aboard to por





Mail Call

Chronometers wound and compared





How's it going, Doc?

School Call



More typing





## "B" DIVISION

























David L. Dustin Fireman Merced, Calif.

































"E" DIVISION



Our switchboard

E stands for electricity, E provision is responsible for all electrical equipment aboard from a burnt-our light bulb or a short in the miles of electrical cable to the two 6000 horsepower main propulsion motors which drive the ship? To propellers. E Division also propellers. E Division also propellers are the ship of the control of th



Wendell N. Haines Chief Electrician Mate



Neil A. Jurgena Electrician Mate 1



Elmer V. Fernande Electrician Mate 2



Fernandez Robert Allen D Mate 2 Internal Comm



m M. Alston rician Mate 2



Dennis Paul Osborno Electrician Mate 2



Richard J. Fullawa Electrician Mate 3



Charles D. Wesc Electrician Mate Piqua Ohio



John Federovitch Internal Communication



Electrician Mate 3 Broken Arrow, Okl



David J. Murray Electrician Mate 3



Fireman Wilmington, Cal



Carl L. Yunke Fireman



Joseph A. Smith Fireman



Roger L. Heim Fireman



James D. McGrath Fireman Apprentice



The Gyro checks out Of



Let me have your hourly









Constant painting keeps the engine rooms looking sharp.





"M" DIVISION



Chief Smith

M Division is responsible for the ships turbines, conservation and numerous pumps. The the freeroom and convert is nearly to the ship's main turbine. The turbine then drives a generator which produces electricity for the ship's main motors. Despite the nature of their work M Division manages to maintain whal has been called the cleanest spaces aboard ship-the engine



J. W. Dockwiewicz Machinist Mate 1 Savreville, N. J.



D. L. Cortinas Machinist Mate 2 Long Beach, Calif.



James Stilwo Machinist M Fort Wayne



James Bro Machinist



Earl F. Debold Machinist Mate



Harrison H. Fish Machinist Mate 3



J. E. Little Machinist Mat



M. D. Slater Fireman Panama City, F



Michael J. Williams Fireman



Thomas E. Kuehn Fireman



James Zdonczy Fireman



Willie H. Maddox Fireman Scottdale Georgi



Dennis A. DeBot Fireman



William C. Gree Fireman



Fireman Waycross, Ga



John A. Lynch Fireman Apprentic New York, New Yo

.



## "R" DIVISION



W. Earl Everett Machinist Mate Chie St. Louis, Mo.



C. W. Adams Shipfitter 1



William M. Giles Damage Controlman Drury Mo.



James S. Havens Machinist Mate : Goshen, Ind.



William A. Cline Fireman Favetteville, Penna



B. W. Wadswort Fireman



Larry D. Feigt Fireman



M. A. Cable Engineman



Anthony Tyrone Triche Fireman



Gerald B. Brown Fireman Apprentic



Leroy F. Sigur Jr.



Lyle R. Speaker Shipfitter 3 Burlingame, Ca



R. G. Marsha



James H. Farris Fireman Shelby, N. C.



Charles C. Young



Leonard E. Clark Fireman Grand Rapids, Mi



John Hendrickson Fireman Danville, III.



Henry Scott Fireman Apprentic



Lawrence B. Humphi



'Hand me the eraser!



A new idea for the mess



A free moment.



Making fresh wate



It's a big ocean



The boat davits must be inspected.



Some paper work





## SUPPLY

























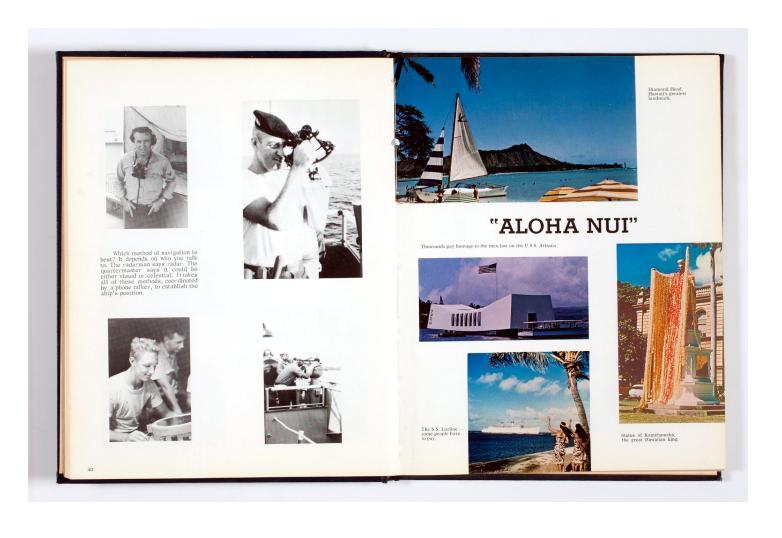






Michael Connolly Seaman Apprentice St. Paul, Minn.







Going along side, it looks like they are ready.







#### REFUELING



UNDERWAY

On the bridge, the Officer of the Deck receives word that the refueling derail is stationed. He then begins to the fueling ship. The belmsman must watch his course carefully as the ship begins to close to within 120 feet of the other ship.



Ready to start pumping.





A busy port . . .



. . . for the ships of the powerful Seventh Fleet.





SUBIC BAY

Subic Bay is a natural
harbor thirty miles north of
Manila Bay on the western
coast of Lizon in the Philippine Islands, Subic Bay has
for many years but the present U.S. Naval Station was
not established until after the
Second World War.
The Second World War.
There is a large ship
has made Subic Bay one of
the United States's most
important bases overseas.
There is a large ship
repair facility at Subic Bay.
The busiest in the world due
to the large amount of work
required to keep the ships
of the Seventh Fleet in operating condition.

The busiest in the world due
to the large amount of work
required to keep the ships
of the Seventh Fleet in operating condition.

The passing of the ship
to the ship of the ship
to the ship

#### OLONGOPO



PO City is out there.



It beats walking.







## PHILIPPINE

The Diachenko's first assignment after arriving overseas was to conduct a joint reconnaissance exercise with the Philippine Underwater Operation Unit; similar toour Underwater Demolition Team. The UOU came aboard and the exercise began.





The first objective was the beach off the small town of San Jose De Buena Vista on the Island of Panay. San Jose De Buena Vista was an important Japanese air base during the Second World War. The town itself is a small fishing village. The people were very friendly and received us warmly at a party the

#### **EXERCISE**





The third objective was the beach off San Fernando on Lingayer Gulf. The UOU and UDT ran severa exercises in addition to the beach survey. Again the work was completed in about half of the time allotted, so swim call was held of the fantail.

The second objective was the beach off the town of Dagupan on Lingayen Gulf on the island of Luzon Lingayen Gulf was the scene of great naval battle during the invasio of Luzon in 1944. The survey was done in half the time allotted, sethe crew held a beach party. The party was enjoyable to say the least





Tours are always informative.



Rush Hour



#### **MANILA**



The old walled city.

Upon completion of the combined reconnaissance exercise, Diachenko was given permission to spend three days in Manila. After a brief stop in Subic Bay for food, the ship proceeded south to Manila, the capitol of the Philippines.

Manila has long been important in the history of the Philippines. In the late 19th century a man named Rizal wrote of the Spanish injustice to the Philippine people. Although Rizal was imprisoned and executed in Manila, his writings caused the people to revolt against the Spanish

Before the Second World War, Manila served as General MacAuthur's headquarters, The island of Corrigador at the mout of Manila Bay was the scene or a courageous battle which delayed the expansion of the Japanese empire some six months. By the second courage of the second was a second to be second to second to be second to second to be second to second to be second to second to be second to be

Today, Manila is a beautiful city similar to most big American cities. The city is currently trying to eliminate slums and establish a good education system for their children.

During our brief stay in Manila, a great many members of the crew toured the city learning about the city and the people who lived there.



The memorial cemetery



The Rizal Momument





#### SHIP'S PARTY







As the cruise neared completion, the crew decided to have a ship's party. Many hours of preparation were spent to give a party we would all remember. The crew rented a night club for two nights, complete with food, drink and entertainment.





The highlight of the party was a knife thrower who provided suspense and enter-tainment as he demonstrated his prowess.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and is anxious to have another one soon.

50





"Set condition one alfa on the boat deck." As soon as this word is passed a large percentage of the crewing the state of the sta











#### **PERSONNEL** INSPECTION

"The crew must look sharp if they want to get much liberty in Hong Kong," the Captain said, would be an inspection. All hands began looking their uniforms over the find and repair any discrepancies. They shined their shoes see themselves in the reflection. Belt buckles were polished with see themselves in the reflection. Belt buckles were polished with the control of the control



A few last minute instructions.





If there is a discrepancy he is going to find it.



"M Divisi

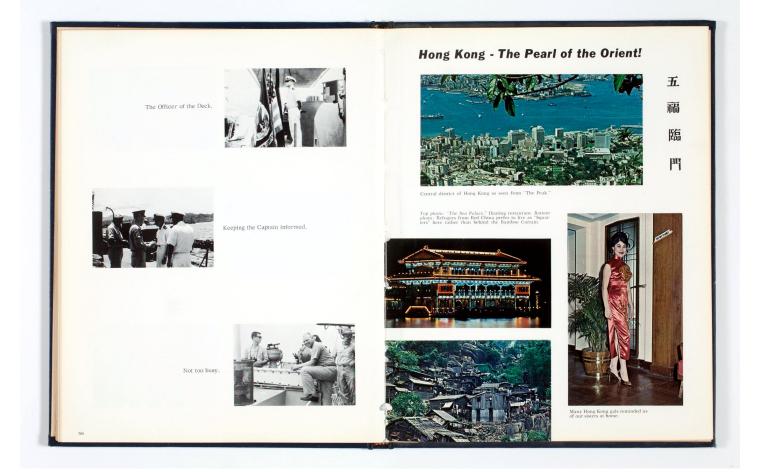
"M Division, 19 men assigned, all present Sir."

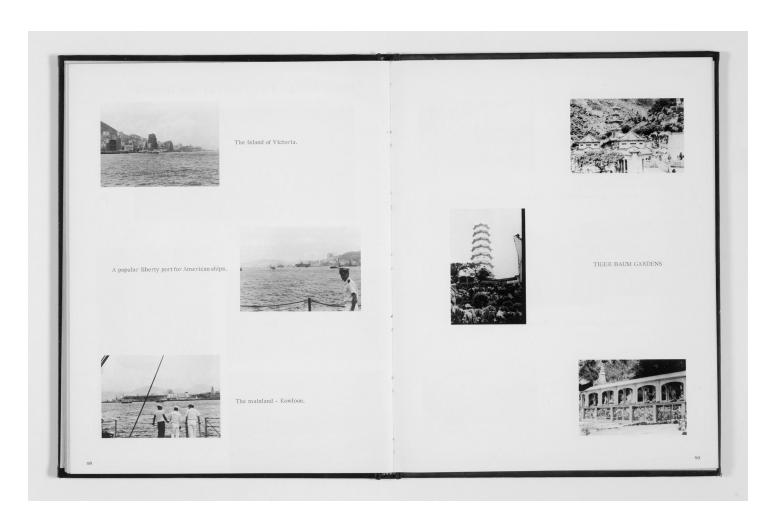


The mess cooks look good.

Did someone forget to get his hair cut?











Hong Kong is as metropolitan as many large American cities.



A group of apartment buildings for escaped refugees from Red China.







It's not all liberty.



The "Chenk" got her sides painted.



Aberdeen, the fishing village on Victoria.



60







PEOPLE





## USS DIACHENKO (APD 123) c/o Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California

PLAN OF THE DAY

# "NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE SHIP" BROWNE. RM2

DUTY MAA: BROWNE, BM2
DUTY YN: WILMOTH, PN2
SUNRISE: 0628

Carry out the Standard Weekday Plan of the Day at sea as outlined Appendix "A" of the Ship's Organization and Regulations Manual, except:

the Ship's Organization and Regulations Manual, except:

0700 Reveille.
0700 Reveille.
0701 Reveille.
0701 Reveille.
0702 Reveille.
0703 Pipe the crew to breakfast. Watch reliefs to head of mess line.
0703 Pipe the crew to breakfast. Watch reliefs to head of mess line.
0800 Set the Combat Anchor detail.
0830 Secure the messiline. Secure the Combat Anchor detail. Set Condition 1A on the boat deck. Commence E-5 Advancement in rating exams on the mess.
0900 Turn to, commence ship's work.
1210 Fipe the crew to dinner.
1200 Secure the messiline.
1200 Secure th

#### NOTES

1. The ship will anchor this morning at  $\mbox{\sc An}$  Hoa Bay and is expected to complete survey operations before noon. Tomorrow morning we will anchor at DaNang.

2. During General Quarters all gun mounts will be initially manned by Ship's personnel. If rargets are available within the range of 40MM mounts UTI and Marines will be given a chance to OUT SHOOT Ship's Company. All Personnel will be the selection of the selec

#### CAPTAIN'S CORNER

1. A well done to the crew for yesterdays operations.

2. A year ago today the United States launched its first retallatory air strike against North Vietnamese military bases. During the raid 25 patrol craft and 90% of the Vihn Oil depot were reported destroyed.

3. The war starts today with METZLER'S MAFIA on a V.C. turkey shoot.

D. L. HENDRICKSON, LT, USN Executive Officer







QUARTERS

A day aboard ship begins with quarters, usually at 1745. All hands assemble













#### **VIET NAM**

The war is in Viet Nam. During the eight month cruise the Diachenkowas called on many times to perform various tasks off the coast of Viet Nam.

In June, July and August, at the beginning of the United States manpower buildup program the Diachenko directed all her efforts surveying important beaches up and down the coast. The ship would approach the beach and establish liaison withour forces in the area. Then UDT would enter the water, form a swimmer line, and proceed down the beach, taking soundings by lead-lines as they went. The ship's boat would take soundings with the lead-lines, remaining ever ready to provide fire support in case a withdrawal was necessary. The ses surveys provided Command with some vital information required to decide on an objective beach.

Late in June, the Dlachenko surveyed the then deserted beach at Qui Nhon. By the end of October, the last time the Dlachenko saw Qui Nhon, there were more than thirty ships anchored in the harbor. Late in July the Dlachenko conducted a survey at Chu Lai, which would later be used as a staging area for amphibious assaults against the Viet Cong. Almost the entire month of August was spent surveying beaches; Cap St. Jacques, Phan Rang Bay and Phan Thiet, Just to name a few.

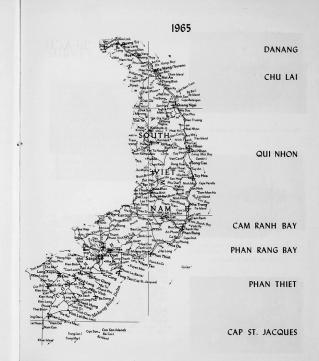
Early in September, the Diachenko took part in her first amphibious assault against the Viet Cong. Operation Piranha hit a Viet Cong stronghold just south of Chu Lai, The Diachenko made her way towards the beach under cover of darkness. She disembarkedher UDT personnel who then surveyed the water just off the objective beach. After completing the survey, the frogmen returned to the ship and made their report. Surf conditions, type of sand on the beach, the slope of the bottom and much more seemingly unimportant information must be accurately known if the amphibious assault is going to be successful.

ious assault is going to be successful. After Piranha, the Diachenko took part in Operation Dageer Thrust. The concept of Dagger Thrust, like Piranha, was a fast-moving, hard-hitting strike force centered around Maines embarked abourd ships of the amphibious task group. Using this concept, a target area could be selected, searched and cleared within a matter of days. Such an operation might take weeks or even months, using old assault concepts. The Diachenko's mission on Dagger Thrust, as it was in Piranha; support UDT operations, naval gunfire support, and junk command.

Early in November the Diachenko took part in Operation Blue Marlin, which was similar to both Piranha and Dagger Thrust.

similar to both Piranha and Dagger Thrust.

The hours off the coast of Viet Nam were long, hard and often frustrating, but despite the work load the Diachenko fulfilled every operational assignment she was given. This achievement brought a nomination for the Navy Unit Commendation Medal from the Commander of the Amphiblous Porce, U.S. Pacific Fleet. This outstanding record could only have been attained with the Diachenko's CAN DO spirit.





The Marines prepare to go ashore.



While the Mark 4 stands by.



#### **BEACH**



The local junk force watches.

During the eight months cruise, the Diachenko was called on eight times to conduct beach surveys. The beach survey is designed to collect as much information about the target beach as possible. This information provides Command with concrete facts which might make the difference between the succession.

The Underwater Demolition Team load their boat and proceed toward the beach. When they enter the water, the frogmen form a swimmer line, At a given signal each man in the line measures the depth of the water, using the sounding line attached to his wrist. He then records this sounding on a plastic clare be carries with him.

The swimmers are then picked up and the data from the plastic slates is transposed to a large scale chart. The UDT also photographs significant landmarks and objects in the area. The ship's boats also take soundings to add to the data obtained by the UDT.

#### **SURVEY**

UDT prepares to drop swimmers.



The Force Reconnaissance Marine. land on the beach about the same tim the UDT are forming their swimmer line The Marines investigate the hinterland examine the slope of the terrain, type o soil, the amount and type of foliage an many other items that would go unnotice by the untrained eye.

When the Marines return to the ship they also compile the data obtained, and add it to the map. Command then has a complete picture of the objective beach. They can accurately determine what landthey can accurately determine what landbe able to cross the hinterland without getting stuck, and what type of currents and wave conditions might be expected. If the beach is used for a landing which is opposed by the enemy, the beach sur-





It has been a long day and it's good thead home.





A small fishing willage . . .



# QUI NHON



Is fortified . . .

This once quiet fishing village is of major importance to the war effort. The natural harbor located there, made an ideal location for an American stronghold. The large American compound located on the beach was once the summer palace of Madame Nhu. The compound was bombed Talchento was in West Pac., Qui Nhon became a major supply center, complete with extensive hospital facilities. At the present time Qui Nhon serves as a staging area for ground forces, and as a rest center for forces returning from the field. The harbor is fall of merchantmen loaded





# anded at Chu Lai to secure a stronghold, within a matter of a few short weeks the ase was established. In addition to normal wildings and equipment, the CeeBees contracted a portable affield canable of hand-

The area around Chu Lai had a large concentration of Viet Cong and was the site of several large battles, and amphibious

In early August the Marines made contact with the Viet Cong just south of Chu Lai during Operation Starlight. That encounter which lasted four days resulted in the destruction of a Viet Cong regiment. By the end of August Chu Lai was being used as: staging area for amphibious operations such as Piranha Daveer Thrust, and Blue Marlin

Early in August the Dachenko was carled upon to conduct an extensive survey of the river mouth at the northern boundary of the base. Thus survey took three days. The findings of the survey proved last LSTs coulbe used to supply the Marine Base at Chu Lai



# CHU LAI



This Manier have been an sixfield to



Children watch . .

As a merchant offers his goods to serviceman.



The French influence is clearly visible.



Danang is one base for our high speed patrol boats.



## **DANANG**

Danang, once called Tourane, is a coastal seaport of major importance. During colonial days the French realized the value of Tourane as a seaport and the French influence can still be seen in the buildings of the city.

In March of 1965, the 9th Marine Brigade landed at Danang. They secured the area and began to establish the second largest American base in Viet Nam. From this Air Base American and South Vietnamese aircraft canstrike targets on either side of the 1955 demarkation line between North and South Viet

The Navy has established a large Supply Depot at Danang which will helps maintain the high leve of operational readiness required

## CAM RANH BAY

The harbor at Cam Ranh Bay has been called one of the perfect natural harbors in the world. During the Second World War a Russian fleet successfully hid from a Japanese fleet in this natural harbor.

In July, 1965 Army Engineers started to develop Cam Ranh Bay into a modern, efficient harbor, which, when completed, will be as large as the harbor at Charleston, South Carolina. The development of the major seaport will relieve some of the convestion at Saivon.



The Captain and Supply Officer go ashore .



The "Chenk" gets a day of rest in Cam Ranh Bay.



. . . While other members of the crew have a beach party.







 ${\rm A}$  5-inch shell splashs during shore bombardment.



Iwo Jima (LPH-2) during flight operations.



## **AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT**

The convoy ready to land the troops.

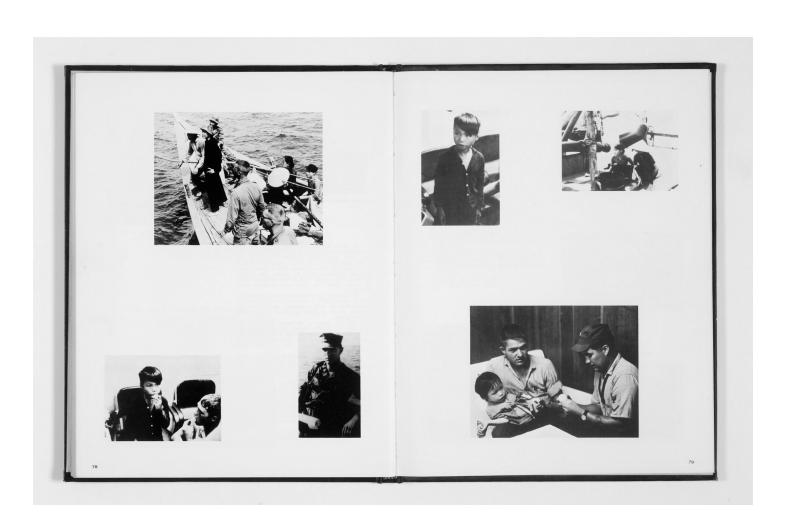


On three occasions during the cruise, the Diachenio was called upon to take part in a search and a many almous assault. The purpose of these assaults was to locate concentrations of Viet Cong and destroy them, then withdraw until another objective could be found. The mobile striking force could land troops within a matter of hours after Viet Cong had revealed their pool Diachenko's mission during these operations was to control UDT swimmers who would collect information on surf conditions, underwater obstacles, beach gradient and other facts needed by command.

The control of the cont

Helos with supplies head for the beach.







A tour of the city . . .



. . . reveals an old fashion shipyard

and a modern gas station.



# BANGKOK

Bangkok, the capitol of Thailand, islocated on the Mea Nam Chao Phraya River twenty miles from the Gulf of Siam. The Diachenko was fortunate enough to spend one week in this fabulous city. Like most other large cities in Asia, Bangkok offers its guest many flee goods. That silk, precious stones, brass ware, wood carvings and many other items were carefully examined in order to determine which one of the bargains would be bought.

Besides the treasures offered by the merchants, the crew had a week to get to know a little about the Thai people. Although only a small percentage of the population speaks English, it seemed as if everyone was anxious peak with Americans. The Thai people have a great admiration for the Americans; in man becomers, the two countries are outle similar expensers the two countries are outle similar.

The Thai people are very proud of the fact that they have never been colonized; unlike the other countries in Asia. The government or Thailand is run by the Prime Minister will the advice of a cabinet; in that respect it is similar to the government of the United States The Thai people follow their King who is the figure beard of the Thai government.



In addition to having a strong government, Thalland has a strong growing economy. The harbor at Bangkok is always full and the mouth of the river leading to Bangkok is jammed with ships an xlous to unloaded by a strong sale of the river and the river and

port. In all and its one of the most into port. In all and its one of the most me, and a leavage of her natural resources and prosperous economy she is a natural target for the militant forces of the Communist World. In late 1955 there were several outbreaks of the provinces. Thailand and the United States are concerned about these outbreaks and are determined to prevent Thailand from becoming another Viet-Thailand from becoming another Viet-

The Diachenko was fortunate in deed to be able to spend a week is Thailand seeing and talking with the Thai people. With this experience the crew will be more aware of the importance of the role the United State plays in Southeast Asia.





Does this beat school



A floating market





The Buddhist temples are decorated with small pieces of mosaic tile.



Buddhist monks dress in colorful garb.





This Buddha weighs 16 tons. It is made of solid gold,



## THE ROYAL BARGES

The Festival of the Royal Barges is a colorful religious coremby seek as a colorful religious careen by the seek as the beginning of a religious season of fast and gift giving. Some twenty boats propelled by men in colorful traditional That costumes, carry the King of Thailand down the river to a Buddhist monastery. The King gets the monastery where he offers a gift to the Buddhist monks. The monks accept the gift and thank the King, The King returns to his barge and returns to the pladee. In the weeks following the festival, people and returns to the pladee. In the weeks following the festival, people and returns to the pladee. In the weeks following the festival, people and returns to the plade. The buddhist monks.

The day of the Festival is declared a holiday. The entire Royal family, the military in full dress uniform and thousands of Thais Ilme the banks of the river to see their King. De Dachenko was very fortunate to have the opportunity to see this pageant.





The King comes down the river.



The royal guard awaits the King's arrival.





While Diachenko was in Bangkok, the Royal Thai Navy went out of their way to make us feel at home. Before the ship departed the Captain decided to have a party for the delegation from the Royal Thai Navy.



The party was a great success as the wardroom found the officers of the Royal Thai Navy most interesting. There was a lot of shop talk and apparently the Royal Thai Navy has problems similar to the U.S. Navy.





The highlight of the party was the presentation of the ship's plaque to an Admiral of the Royal Thai Navy. The Captain, in a short speech, said that the hospitality of the Thais was greatly appreciated. The Admiral was quite pleused and said her was been to be a considerable of the ship of the ship of the ship of the ship of the ship's company felt the same way.



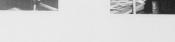
84













Field day in the engineering spaces.



Pay records keep this man busy

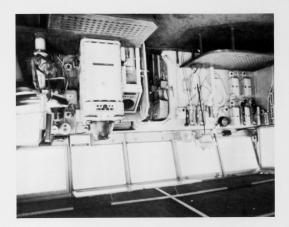
96



The hands could not move fast enough



once the Diachenko had started for CONUS.



During the eight month cruise, a member of the crew spent 1872 hours on watch, either on the bridge or down in one of the engineering holes.

The ship covered 37,454 miles, equivilant to one and a half times around the world. In order to cover this distance the ship consumed about one and a half million gallons of Navy Special Fuel of the order of the or



#### **CALENDAR**

```
27 April - 5 May
5 May - 7 May
7 May -23 May
                                     Underway for Pearl Harbor
Pearl Harbor --- Liberty
                                     Underway for Subic Bay
23 May
28 May
               -28 May
-31 May
                                     Subic Bay, P. I. --- Upkeep
Underway for Okinawa
                                     Okinawa --- Marine Raider School
 31 May
               - 2 June
  2 June
5 June
               - 5 June
- 7 June
                                     Underway for Subic Bay
On load Phillipine and U.S. UDT Personnel
                                    Underway for San Jose de Buena Vista, P.I.
San Jose de Buena Vista, Panay, P.I. - Beach Survey
  7 June
               = 8 June
10 June
               -11 June
                                     Underway for Subic Bay
                                     Subic Bay --- Replenishment
Underway for Dagupan, Luzon
                 11 June
               -12 June
                                    Dagupan, Luzon --- Beach Survey
Underway for San Fernando, Luzon
San Fernando --- Beach Survey
12 June -15 June
15 June
16 June -17 June
                  17 June
                                     Underway for Subic Bay --- Liberty
                                     Underway for Manila, Luzon
18 June -21 June
                                    Manila --- Liberty
                                    Underway for Subic Bay
Subic Bay --- Upkeep
Underway for Qui Nhon, Viet Nam
                 21 June
21 June -24 June
24 June - 26 June
26 June -30 June
30 June - 2 July
                                    Qui Nhon --- Beach Survey
Underway for Subic Bay, P.I.
                                    Subic Bay --- Upkeep --- Typhoon
Underway for Cap St. Jacques, Viet Nam
 2 July -17 July
17 July
19 July
               -19 July
-22 July
                                    Cap St. Jacques --- Beach Survey
22 July
23 July
              -23 July
-25 July
                                    Underway for Danang, Viet Nam
Danang
25 July -27 July
                                    Underway for Subic Bay
                                   Subic Bay --- Eight Hour Standby
Underway for Chu Lai, Viet Nam
Chu Lai --- Beach Survey
Underway for Hong Kong, B.C.C.
27 July
              - 1 August
t - 3 August
  1 August
  3 August - 5 August
5 August - 9 August
9 August -16 August
                                    Hong Kong --- Liberty
                                   Inoig Rong --- Liberty
Underway for Phan Rang Bay, Viet Nam
Phan Rang Bay --- Beach Survey
Underway for Cam Ranh Bay --- Harbor Survey
16 August -19 August
19 August -23 August
               23 August
23 August -24 August Underway for Sung de Dang
```

```
24 August -25 August Sung de Dang --- Beach Survey
 25 August
25 August -26 August
                                     Underway for Cam Ranh Bay for Replenishment
Underway for Qui Nhon
 26 August -30 August
30 August -31 August
                                     Qui Nhon --- Beach Survey
Underway for Danang
 31 August - 2 Sept.
                                     Started for Subic Bay but returned to Danang before
                                     reaching Subic Bay
Underway for Chu Lai
 2 Sept. - 3 Sept.
3 Sept. - 6 Sept.
7 Sept. -10 Sept.
10 Sept. -12 Sept.
                                    Chu Lai --- Rehearsal for Operation Piranha
Cap Barganan --- Operation Piranha
Underway for Subic Bay
 12 Sept. -20 Sept.
                                     Subic Bay --- Unkeen
20 Sept. -22 Sept.
22 Sept. -23 Sept.
                                      Underway for Chu Lai
                                     Chu Lai --- Rehearsal for Operation Dagger Thrust
23 Sept. - 2 Oct.
2 Oct. - 4 Oct.
                                     Operation Dagger Thrust
Steaming toward Indonesia
  4 Oct. - 6 Oct.
6 Oct. - 8 Oct.
                                     Underway for Phan Thiet Viet Nam
                                     Phan Thiet --- Beach Survey
Underway for Subic Bay
   8 Oct. -10 Oct.
                                     Subic Bay --- Upkeep
Underway for Bangkok
Bangkok --- Liberty
 10 Oct.
               -14 Oct.
14 Oct.
18 Oct.
                -18 Oct.
               -22 Oct.
23 Oct. -28 Oct.
28 Oct. - 1 Nov.
1 Nov. - 2 Nov.
                                    Underway for Chu Lai, Viet Nam
Chu Lai --- Beach Survey
Underway for Phan Rang Bay
  2 Nov. - 4 Nov.
4 Nov. - 5 Nov.
                                     Phan Rang --- Beach Survey
Underway for Chu Lai
                                     Chu Lai --- Operation Blue Marlin
  5 Nov. -16 Nov.
                                    Chu Lai --- Operation Blue Marlin
Underway for Subic Bay
Subic Bay --- Relieved
Underway for Yokosuka, Japan
Yokosuka, Japan --- Liberty --- Upkeep
16 Nov. -18 Nov.
18 Nov. -20 Nov.
20 Nov. -25 Nov.
25 Nov. -30 Nov.
30 Nov. - 9 Dec.
                                     Underway for Pearl Harbor
9 Dec. -11 Dec.
11 Dec. -17 Dec.
                                    Pearl Harbor --- Liberty
THE LONGEST SIX DAYS OF THE CRUISE!
```

94

