

May 26th 2009

11:42:53 AM

What is your name?

James W. Lee, YNC, USN (Ret.)

What year's were you aboard?

5 Feb 1958 to 21 Mar 1958. 22 Mar 1958 to 5 Feb 1960 USS Des Moines (CA-134).

What division did you serve in?

YN1 Admial's Writer.

How did you find this Web Site?

Interenet

Where are you from?

Clinton, MD

Do you have any comments?

Looking for Flag Personnel YN1 Leander

E. Amburgey, TSGT John J. Espirito USMC, YN2 Ralph H. Harvey, YNC John J. Hull, YNI George R. McClain, SK2 James Prior. Ship's Company X Division YN1 George J. Good.

I lived on Boulevard Tzarawich in Nice with my wife Ada and son Jimmy. On 10 Jul 1958 I rode a bus to Villefranche and as I got near to the harbor I couldn't see the ship because of the morning fog. When I arrived at the waterfront the ship wasn't in sight and no one told me she had hauled off to Beirut, Lebanon. The shore patrol had rounded up who they knew lived in Villefranche but didn't have the time to look for ddddddus who lived in Nice. I and about 20 shipdmates were taken back to Nice and flown to Naples, Italy where we were berthed aboard the USS Yosemite (AD-19). Since none of us had anything except the clothes on our backs, the ship loaned us some money and the use of the shower and laundry. We were granted liberty and, luckily for me, my wife and son had gone beforehand to vist her parents in Naples and where I went to be with them. On 15 Jul we were flown to the Beirut airport where we saw Marines in battledress and in foxholes. They told us the Arabs had been sporadically shooting at them from the hills but no one had been hit. That made us feel like sitting ducks in a shooting gallery, so we broke the speed record in getting aboard the ship's helicopter and be flown out our ship. When I went below to change clothes I heard loud whistlings and shouts and felt the ship take a hard list to port. I ran topside and saw a Lebanese beauty in s speedboat wagging her boobs like a semaphore. From 15 Jul to 13 Aug we cruised off the coast of Lebanon due to that country's strife and incidents along the Syrian frontier. From 14 to 19 Aug we were in Venice, Italy for rest and recreation. Then we went to Naples (1-7 Sep), Augusta Bay, Sicily (13 to 17 Sep) and finally Villefranche were we stayed from 24 Sep to 3 Oct 1958.

I miss the Daisy Mae and wish something could have been done to keep her as a memorial warship.