

September 20, 2018

From: John Paepcke  
Midshipman Cruise

I apologize for not sending the pictures that I promised back in March. A lot has happened since then. Anyway, I really appreciate the information (and I will get that information to you before the New Year).

I'll add a story here that might at least rate a smile. While the ship was in Stockholm, a notice was posted, asking for volunteers for an Ambassador's party. My buddy and I had met a couple of young ladies, through the help of a couple of Swedish Naval Cadets and had arranged a date for that same evening, so we did not volunteer. As we were leaving the ship the next evening to pick up our dates, our liberty cards were collected and we were told that we could not leave the ship, because our names were on the party list. Obviously, they did not get enough volunteers.

Anyway, we were formed up on the pier in a column, two abreast, and marched off for the Ambassador's ball. Being taught to be resourceful, we managed to be the file closers. When we passed the first alley in town, we did a right flank and parted company with the main body. As it happened, the two in front of us were also non-volunteers and copied what we did at the next alley.

I was told later that the column was so depleted when it arrived at the party, that they took a roll call. Needless-to-say, the missing personnel were put on report for failing to attend a "volunteer" function for which we had not volunteered. You really have to love Navy command logic. Side-boy duty in Hamburg wasn't too bad.

Regards,  
John