



Phil Roberts JO2, X-Div



Phil Roberts

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Name

Phil Roberts

Email

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Rank

PO2

Rating

PERSONNEL MAN

Dates Served on Des Moines

1955 TO 1956

How did you find this website?

Through the Villefranche reunion group

Where do you currently live?

HAYWARD CALIFORNIA

Comment

I am sending my 1955-56 Cruise Book and 10 copies of the Daisy Mae Newsletter, of which I was the editor, for inclusion onto the Website.

My 23 months aboard the Des Moines included one tour of the Mediterranean and two summers cruises for Midshipmen where I was in charge of writing stories for their hometown newspapers. I crossed the Atlantic eight times, rode out a hurricane off Virginia Capes where the ship rolled 42 degrees, when 46 degrees would capsize it. We had to strap ourselves into our bunks to keep from rolling out. We had numerous training exercises off Guantanamo with its warm tropical breezes and starry night skies.

I was the Captain's talker at GQ, and I remember one incident clearly even today. A tug off our port bow was pulling a target adjacent to the ship for the eight-inch gun crews. In one firing, suddenly a geyser appeared forward of the tug. Captain Adams ran across the bridge shouting, "Tell them it was a wave." Which it could have been, but I think not. Without a doubt though, Captain Adams was the very best of the three Captains I served under.

Lots of interesting times aboard the Des Moines, and a wonderful growing experience for a 20 year old.