

Don Schaffer, IC2, E-Div, 1955-1957



MYSTERIOUS CRUISE - by Don Schaffer, IC2, E-Div, 1955-1957

I found my notes about our mysterious cruise. The date was November 7th 1956. We were in Portsmouth in between cruises when we suddenly got underway with no word on why or where we were going. All questions were answered with a secrecy warning. We were advised that we were not allowed to write in letters or tell anyone where we were going, where we were or why....and I remember wondering how I could tell anybody anything when I had no idea myself.

We were underway for 21 days without any information and one day the captain announced that, after our lengthy time at sea, we would be pulling into a port for liberty in Lisbon, Portugal. We stayed in Lisbon for two days and got underway for Norfolk on November 30 and arrived in Norfolk on December 10th. I never found out why we made this cruise but as we discussed, it was the time of the Suez crisis, so possibly that was why.

Don

Rememberance of Bloody Mary

To:Jim Chapman..

The story I told about her placing flowers at the admirals cabin door in 1956 was from my personal observation and there is no record of it either visual or otherwise. A funny thing also happened when she came up the gangway to the O.D. He was a 5' 10" LTJG named Welker and he tried to refuse her permission to come aboard with the flowers. He argued with her for about 2 minutes and then let her come aboard. When she had a mission, you just didn't get in her way.

The part about her hoisting the battery into the 50 foot motor launch was also my personal observation from the same spot on the port quarter deck. I was surprised at how short she was and the ease with which she hoisted that battery which had to weigh at least 30 pounds.

Don

How the Des Moines Newspaper got it's nick name, by Donald P Schaffer

I went on board on August 4, 1954 after the ship came out of drydock in Portsmouth to repair a 5" inch gun mount that was damaged in the North Atlantic on the 1954 Midshipman cruise to Stockholm and Denmark.

For the next three weeks, the ship was getting prepared for the 1954 Med cruise so we were busy loading supplies and ammo. We got underway in early September (2.3 or 5) and on the first day at sea it was announced on the 1MC that in honor of the ships 6th year in service, everyone that had a birthday on any given day of the cruise will get a birthday cake on that day. My birthday is September 8th, so I was anticipating a nice cake.....but it never happened. The 8th came and went so I shrugged it off and figured that it was because I just came on board and the "new guys" weren't on their list.

Anyway, along with the birthday cake announcement, they also announced that they were looking for a new name for the ships' newsletter and whoever comes up with a winning name will also receive a cake .

The results were written in Vol 1 No.1 of the new newsletter they called the "Daisy Mae" (The following is MY narrative, not the story in the newsletter)

In the early to mid 50's, Al Capp's cartoon "LIL ABNER" was the most popular and most talked about . Whenever a story was written about the ship or it's crew members, the term used to describe anything was "DesM's" this, or "DesM's" that. The most popular character in the cartoon (for obvious reasons for sailors) was "Daisy Mae", his girlfriend. After repeating the name DesM many times, and with the cartoon being as popular as it was, and as hot as Daisy Mae was in the cartoon, it just seemed natural that "DesM" turn into DaisyMae as a natural progression, so that's how they came up with the name. The winner (who I think worked in the print shop) DID get a cake,.... but not me, and I have never forgotten that oversight. .

Payroll Records

PAY RECORD (CONT.)						PAY RECORD (CONT.)					
DATE	PAY NO.	AMT. PAID	ON BOOKS	DREW	BALANCE	DATE	PAY NO.	AMT. PAID	ON BOOKS	DREW	BALANCE
MARCH 29, 1956	92	43	69	69	0	MAY 1, 1957	97	35	119	0	119
APRIL 16, 1956	89	43	43	22	21	MAY 16, 1957	96	35	154	55	99
MAY 1, 1956	86	47	68	68	0	MAY 30, 1957	97	35	13A	0	134
MAY 16, 1956	91	43	43	43	0	JUNE 17, 1957	95	35	169	0	169
MAY 31, 1956	84	43	43	43	0	JULY 1, 1957		ON	LEAVE		
JUNE 15, 1956	86	36	36	36	0	JULY 18, 1957	88	45	262	150	112
JULY 2, 1956	87	35	35	35	0	JULY 31, 1957	84	51	163	63	100
JULY 16, 1956	87	36	36	36	0	AUG 16, 1957	82	46	146	46	100
JULY 30, 1956	86	35	35	35	0	AUG 30, 1957	83	46	146	146	0
AUGUST 16, 1956	98	36	36	36	0	SEPT 15, 1957	87	45	45	0	45
AUG 29, 1956	101	36	36	36	0	OCT 28, 1957		LEFT SHIP - 33 DAY EARLY OUT			
SEPT 15, 1956	-	36	36	-	36						
OCT 1, 1956	111	35	71	30	41						
OCT 16, 1956	113	40	81	55	26						
Nov 1, 1956	104	36	82	38	24						
Nov 15, 1956	110	36	50	0	50						
DEC 1, 1956	110	16	66	0	66						
DEC 14, 1956	109	51	117	117	0						
DEC 28, 1956	X	12	12	12	0						
JAN 16, 1957	110	32	32	32	0						
FEB 1, 1957	105	48	48	48	0						
FEB 15, 1957	106	35	35	35	0						
MARCH 1, 1957	101	34	34	18	16						
MARCH 15, 1957	100	43	59	18	41						
APRIL 1, 1957	99	41	82	32	50						
APRIL 16, 1957	100	34	84	0	84						

Ports of Call

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE 1955-56

SEPT. 7 - UNDERWAY FOR MEDITERRANEAN

ARRIVED	PORT	DEPARTED
SEPT. 22	BARCELONA, SPAIN	SEPT. 28
OCT. 5	VILLEFRANCHE, FRANCE	OCT. 13
OCT. 19	SUDA BAY, CRETE	OCT. 20
OCT. 22	BEIRUIT, LEBANON	OCT. 27
OCT. 28	RHODES, GREECE	OCT. 31
NOV. 1	IZMIR, TURKEY	NOV. 4
NOV. 11	NAPLES, ITALY	NOV. 16
NOV. 22	VILLEFRANCHE, FRANCE	NOV. 30
DEC. 6	ALGIERS, ALGERIA	DEC. 9
DEC. 10	MERS EL KEBIR, ORAN	DEC. 12
DEC. 17	VILLEFRANCHE, FRANCE	JAN. 3
JAN. 8	TANGIERS, N. AFRICA	JAN. 9
JAN. 9	CADIZ, SPAIN	JAN. 13
JAN. 13	GIBRALTER, B.C.C.	JAN. 16
XXXXXXXXXX		
1956		
FEB 28	UNDERWAY FOR CUBA	
MAR 2	GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA	MAR 14
MAR 17	SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO	MAR 19
MAR 26	PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA	MAR 28
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
MIDSHIPMEN CRUISE "A"		
MAY 29	ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND	JUNE 2
JUNE 3	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	JUNE 5
JUNE 20	STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN	JUNE 27
JULY 3	HAMBURG, GERMANY	JULY 10
	(OVER)	

DON SCHAFER
IC2

MIDSHIPMAN CRUISE "A" (CONT.)

JULY 25 1956	GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA	JULY 28
JULY 31	ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND	AUGUST 1
AUGUST 1 *	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	AUGUST 27
AUGUST 29	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	AUGUST 31
AUGUST 31	PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA	
1956		
NOVEMBER 7	UNDERWAY FOR OPERATIONS	
NOVEMBER 28	LISBON, PORTUGAL	NOVEMBER 30
DECEMBER 10	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	
1957 MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE		
ARRIVED		DEPARTED
	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	FEBRUARY 27
MARCH 9	GIBRALTER, B.C.C.	MARCH 9
MARCH 14	ATHENS, GREECE	MARCH 20
MARCH 21	SUDA BAY, CRETE	MARCH 23
MARCH 29	RHODES, GREECE	APRIL 8
APRIL 16	MARSEILLES, FRANCE	APRIL 25
MAY 10	MESSINA, SICILY	MAY 19
JUNE 1	NORFOLK, VA.	
1957 MIDSHIPMEN CRUISE		
JULY 8	LEAVE NORFOLK	
JULY 17	QUEBEC, QUEBEC	JULY 22
JULY 26	BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	JULY 30
AUG 7	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	
AUG 29	DRY DOCK	LEFT SHIP 10/28/57 EXP. ENL:

Don Schaffer IC2 E-Div
1954-1957