Later that day the ship encountered two unexpected guests—a pair of TU-95D sleek Russian long range naval reconnaissance aircraft. TOWERS picked them up at a range of 200 miles. They made three passes overhead, at altitudes as low as 1,000 feet. Every amateur photographer on the ship took pictures, and as the Bears made the first pass Captain Snyder, over the IMC, told everyone to "smile, you're on Candid Camera".

On the 18th, with Carmen's winds reaching 60 knots, base speed was reduced from 23 to 21 knots to favor the smaller TOWERS. NEW JERSEY again topped off her escort that afternoon with 95,893 gallons of fuel.

On the 21st, NEW JERSEY transited the San Bernadino Straits in the Philippines. The transit lasted from 0600 to 2330. During the transit, as we steamed over the last resting place of the MUSASHI, Lieutenant Commander John P. Byrnes, NEW JERSEY's Catholic Chaplain, delivered a stirring oration commemorating the Battle of Leyte Gulf and in memorium of the Japanese Battleships that were sunk, one of the turning points for the United States during World War II. The following morning the ship moored at Alava Wharf, Subic Bay, where electronics gear was brought to peak operating condition. The four day stopover was also utilized for liaison visits with Fleet Intelligence Facility Pacific personnel. On the 25th, the ship moved out to the ammunition anchorage to load 88.8 tons of ammunition and powder. That evening at 1600, with load-out complete, the ship got underway for an anti-aircraft shoot the following morning. On the 27th shore bombardment on the Tabones Range marked NEW JERSEY's final practice shoot. DASH operations were also conducted that day with USS FECHTELER (DD 870) providing a drone. Then it was off for Vietnam.

On the 28th, at 1216, Gunner's Mate seaman Harold Y. Shaw became Medical's first emergency appendectomy patient. Lieutenant Commander John L. Denby performed the surgery with Lieutenant Commander James J. Quinn acting as anesthetist. Hospital Corpsman second class Robert J. Anderson and Hospital Corpsman third class Jerry D. Bass acted as circulating corpsmen and Chief Hospital Corpsman James J. Swafford, Jr. was operating room technician. Hospital Corpsman third class Dale A. Rigdon served as scrub corpsman. The surgery was completed at 1300 and the patient was back on his feet in a few days.

September had been a time of trial and innovation for the ship's navigation team. Not that the traditional sextant was
laid aside, but NEW JERSEY deferred to the push-button trend in navigation by experimenting with the intricacies of a small, multi-purpose digital computer.

With civilian and government agencies spearheading NEW JERSEY's peripheral entry into the space age, the ship became equipped to utilize the Navy's Navigation Satellite System before leaving Long Beach. Under the Navy's aegis for a mere four years, the system employs a network of four orbiting satellites with receiver and transmitter capacities, and several geographically spaced earth injection stations. From satellite to charthouse receiver to data processor computer units, the information cycle is completed with routine Navigator's inputs. The computer yields a time, latitude and longitude fix. Complementing the satellite equipment are two Loran "Charlie" receiving sets which indicate ship's position by measurement of time difference between signals received from land based master and slave transmitting stations. The computer, being programmed to process time differential, prints out accurate time, longitude and latitude fixes on a teletypewriter. Also activated in September was a new automatic steering unit which enables a helmsman to steer the ship merely by turning a knob.

Another modern technological advancement contributing to NEW JERSEY's efficiency is a team of six "Moto-Truk" electric pallet jacks and two diesel powered fork lifts. They have greatly enhanced underway replenishment capability and have cut ammunition ship alongside time by one-third. Whole pallets of ammunition and stores can be moved to strike down areas without on station breakdown. Each underway replenishment station can be cleared rapidly for the next load. This mechanization has also cut down on crew fatigue and has contributed a substantial safety factor.

(C) A new initial velocity proselytise computer developed by the Navy Electronics Laboratory Center, San Diego and Hewlett Packard has made I.V. calculations more rapid and more reliable. The system has reduced set up times for NEW JERSEY's fire control technicians and minimized the possibility of human error in fire control solutions.

On the morning of 29 September NEW JERSEY arrived off Da Nang and steamed up the coast to the Demilitarized Zone where her first combat rounds would be fired the following day. Rear Admiral S. H. Moore, Commander Task Group 70.8, arrived on board to brief the ship's officers prior to the firing. Also arriving on board that day were 32 national and international members of the press. The eyes of the world
would again be on NEW JERSEY as she wrote history. In a world of high speed public communications, the events of 30 September would be proclaimed on front pages and flashed across television screens around the world before the day was out.

The huge ship performed well that first day expending 29 main battery rounds on four targets in and around the DMZ. A fortified storage area was destroyed, with the access road cut in two places and 300 meters of trench line torn up. An automatic weapons position which threatened the Marine spotter aloft in a TA4 was silenced. An enemy artillery site was totally destroyed. Another storage area with five fortified bunkers was destroyed. Thus began another period in American history.

After the first day's firing, the Marine pilot and spotter came aboard by helicopter to discuss what they had witnessed with the embarked media. They were very enthusiastic and spoke in positive terms about NEW JERSEY's accuracy and the devastating effect of her firepower. Upon completion of firing NEW JERSEY went alongside USS ST. PAUL (CA 73) for transfer of Commander Task Unit 77.1.0 turnover material and Commanding Officer NEW JERSEY relieved Rear Admiral Moore as Sea Dragon Surface Action Commander.

On Tuesday, 1 October, the ship took station to the north of Tiger Island and fired at targets seven to twelve miles north of the DMZ. The ship again moved south in the afternoon to fire into the buffer zone. A Marine TA4 aircraft, assigned to NEW JERSEY for spotting, was hit by ground fire while enroute to one of the afternoon's targets. He reported that he was fast losing fuel and that he would have to ditch. Vectored to NEW JERSEY's position by Chief Radarman Macdonald Shand, NEW JERSEY's air controller, both men ejected safely and were rescued within minutes by TOWERS. Chief Shand was recommended for the Navy Achievement Medal for his role in the drama. Six bunkers, a supply truck and an anti-aircraft site were destroyed by the big guns that day.

NEW JERSEY again fired from a position to the north of Tiger Island on the 2nd. In the afternoon she departed station to rearm from USS HALEAKALA (AE 25), taking on 644 five-inch projectiles, 96 16-inch projectiles and associated powder. The ships were alongside for four hours transferring a total of 212 tons of munitions. That evening NEW JERSEY returned to the DMZ to fire five-inch at 39 prearranged targets. Eighteen secondary explosions were observed from the ship.
On the 3rd, NEW JERSEY fired nine 16-inch missions from support areas just south of Tiger Island. Six structures, one fortified (concrete) observation tower, a concrete bunker and an anti-aircraft weapons position were included in the day's assessment.

Many distinguished guests were aboard during NEW JERSEY's first days on the gunline. On the 29th of September, Lieutenant General R. E. Cushman, Commanding General, Third Marine Amphibious Forces; Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Lam, Commanding General, I Corps; Major General F. E. Anderson, Chief of Staff to General Cushman; and Brigadier General Dong Ho Lee, Commanding General, Second Republic of Korea Marine Brigade were aboard. On 1 October, Brigadier General A. C. Pixsten, Commander XXIV Artillery Corps paid a visit on the Commanding Officer. On the 2nd NEW JERSEY hosted Lieutenant General Richard G. Stilwell, Commander XXIV Corps and Major General Ngo Quang Truong, Commander First ARVN Division. On the 3rd Major General Richard G. Davis, Commanding General Third Marine Division observed the firing.

On the 4th NEW JERSEY again fired in northern I Corps, this time with Vice Admiral William F. Bringle, Commander Seventh Fleet aboard. Eleven main battery missions and two secondary battery missions, including one utilizing rocket assisted projectiles, were fired. One Communist troop concentration was wiped out and several bunkers were destroyed.

On the 5th, Commanding Officer, NEW JERSEY assumed command of Task Unit 77.1.2, the southern Sea Dragon unit. NEW JERSEY and TOWERS were joined by USS MACKENZIE (DD 614), a snoopy equipped destroyer. The three ships were responsible for the area from the DMZ northward to 18 degrees north. MACKENZIE flew snoopy for 1.3 hours in the morning and 1.2 hours in the afternoon, obtaining surveillance of the waters around Dong Hoi. Although NEW JERSEY received an excellent TV image, no waterborne logistics craft were sighted.

On the 6th the three ships replenished from MOUNT KATMAK. While NEW JERSEY took on ammunition at three stations, she simultaneously received supplies from USS MARS (AFS 1) by vertical replenishment. TOWERS and MACKENZIE also refueled from USS PLATTE (AO 24). Upon completion, Task Unit 77.1.2 closed the coast for preplanned firing missions. NEW JERSEY destroyed an artillery position and a trans-shipment point.

During the evening of the 7th, an S2 surveillance aircraft reported a concentration of waterborne logistics craft
moving south one mile off shore near the mouth of the Song Giang River. NEW JERSEY and TOWERS closed the concentration, took it under fire, and destroyed 11 of them before the remainder could beach.

The following day was highlighted by a visit of the Honorable Paul R. Ignatius, Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Ignatius observed two firing missions during his visit. He was accompanied by Admiral Bringle. On the 9th, NEW JERSEY and TOWERS replenished from USS CHIPOLA (AO 63). No missions were fired due to bad weather. Spotters were unable to fly. On the 10th, NEW JERSEY and TOWERS moved north to the northern sector of Sea Dragon, covering the area between 18 and 19 degrees north latitude and becoming Task Unit 77.1.1. Six representatives of the world press embarked that day, and stayed aboard until the 13th.

While firing a preplanned target on the 11th, the Marine spotter flying a TA4 spotted a truck concentration about one mile north of Nha Ky. NEW JERSEY quickly trained her guns around and opened fire, heavily damaging six of the vehicles and cutting an access road in three places.

At 0700 on Saturday, the 12th of October, NEW JERSEY went to General Quarters in preparation for firing at the heavily fortified and well protected Vinh caves. Two A7's from the USS AMERICA (CVA 66) spotted the mission and reported receiving heavy ground fire. One secondary explosion, several fires and one cave sealed were reported by the aerial observers. After the mission NEW JERSEY left station to receive ammunition and powder from USS RAINIER (AE 5).

(C) NEW JERSEY continued firing at the Vinh caves on the 13th and 14th although monsoon rains obscured the targets from the spotters most of the time. It was during one of these missions that a 16-inch high capacity projectile, fuzed on quick, was prematurely triggered by rain. All future missions fired in heavy rain would require high capacity rounds to be base detonated.

During the afternoon of the 14th, again with the A7's from the AMERICA doing the spotting, NEW JERSEY fired for 30 minutes at coastal artillery sites on Hon Matt Island. The spotter noted one secondary explosion and one battery obliterated. As the debris settled, the spotter reported, "you've blown away a large slice of the island--it's down in the ocean". The Hon Matt mission was observed by Rear Admiral William J. Moran, Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Group THREE and Rear Admiral Gerald E. Miller, Commander
Carrier Division THREE. Following the mission NEW JERSEY steamed southward to resume operations off the DMZ.

At 0600, Tuesday the 15th of October, Commanding Officer, NEW JERSEY was relieved as Commander Task Unit 77.1.0, Sea Dragon Surface Action Commander, by Rear Admiral David H. Bagley, Commander Task Group 77.1 and Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group Seventh Fleet. He was relieved as Commander Task Unit 77.1.1, Commander Northern Sea Dragon Unit, by Commanding Officer, USS CANBERRA (CA 70). NEW JERSEY then became a part of Task Unit 70.8.9, Naval gunfire support unit. NEW JERSEY replenished from USS POLLUX (AKS 4) in the morning and from USS VESUVIUS (AE 15) in the afternoon.

At 0230 on the 16th, NEW JERSEY replenished from USS ALUDRA (AF 55). Back on station at 0730, NEW JERSEY took up support of the Third Marine Division. Firing simultaneous five and 16-inch salvos, NEW JERSEY destroyed 13 structures and an artillery site and halted an enemy platoon moving through the DMZ. NEW JERSEY's support of the Third Marine Division continued through the 17th, when she departed station to rearm from HALEAKALA. Upon completion, NEW JERSEY proceeded independently to II Corps where she would support the First Field Force.

Foul weather which grounded air spotters resulted in no firing on the 18th and 19th. On the 20th the weather broke enough to allow spotting, and NEW JERSEY wiped out a Viet Cong command post and destroyed nine bunkers in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, about 50 miles north of Nha Trang. On the 21st NEW JERSEY's medical team performed another emergency appendectomy, this time on Seaman Scott Caswell.

That evening NEW JERSEY refueled from CHIPOLA receiving 700,000 gallons of fuel in two and one-half hours.

In the morning, still in support of the 173rd, NEW JERSEY steamed into the extremely restricted waters of the Baie de Van Pong to fire at Viet Cong command posts. Although the ship fired 57 rounds into the target area, the aerial observer was unable to obtain any meaningful gun damage assessment due to a double and triple canopy of vegetation. The same was true the following day, when NEW JERSEY was credited with "outstanding coverage of the target area and visible rearrangement of the terrain" but no assessment due to foliage.

While in II Corps, NEW JERSEY hosted several senior officers on the 22nd. They included Major General Charles P. Stone, Commanding General, Fourth Infantry Division; Major
General Roan Van Quang, Commander Vietnamese Special Forces; Brigadier General Richard A. Edwards, Commanding General, IFFV Artillery; Brigadier General Darrie H. Richards, Commanding General, U. S. Army Support Command, Qui Nhon; and Brigadier General Hwang Young Shi, Chief of Staff, Republic of Korea Vietnam Field Command.

After departing II Corps, NEW JERSEY was the recipient of a Chinese made machine gun, captured at the battle of Kinh Mon. The presentation was made to Captain Snyder on behalf of the officers and men of the First Battalion, 61st Infantry and First Brigade, 5th Infantry in appreciation for NEW JERSEY's preparation fire just before the battle, which lasted from 23-27 October. The area had long been a Communist stronghold, and the Army had made two previous attempts to sweep it. The first try resulted in 30 U. S. killed and 60 enemy dead. The second attempt, after a B-52 strike, resulted in 61 Americans dead versus zero enemy. Then NEW JERSEY came on the scene, to soften the area for a third try. Results of the third sweep were: seven Americans lost and 301 enemy confirmed killed.

During the night of the 23rd, NEW JERSEY moved north to the DMZ to be in position to rearm from USS WRANGELL (AE 12) before taking gunfire support station off the buffer zone, in support of the Third Marine Division. HMAS PERTH, an Australian guided missile destroyer, was assigned as consort for operations north of 16 degrees, 45 minutes north. NEW JERSEY, after joining with PERTH in the morning, rendezvoused with WRANGELL in the afternoon, receiving 283 tons of ammunition and transferring 15 tons of retrograde in five hours alongside. On the morning of the 25th, NEW JERSEY and PERTH took up gunfire support stations off the DMZ.

During the day two main and two secondary spotted missions were fired with 12 confirmed enemy killed included in the damage assessment. A Communist troop movement was discovered by the aerial spotter, and NEW JERSEY quickly answered his call for fire with 16-inch high capacity projectiles fitted with mechanical time fuzes. The observer reported the projectiles burst at optimum height, about 75 feet directly over the troops, who had taken cover in open trenches.

The next day NEW JERSEY recorded some of her heaviest damaged inflicted to date. Firing at targets in and around the DMZ, she destroyed 11 structures, seven bunkers, a concrete observation tower and 100 meters of trench line. The day also marked the first hostile fire received by the battleship since joining the Seventh Fleet in September. At 1710, while on
station but with no mission in progress, the North Vietnamese gunners had their first try at us. The officer of the deck, Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard S. Rockwell, immediately ordered right full rudder, all engines ahead emergency flank to unmask the turrets. In all they fired only ten to twelve rounds. It was immediately obvious why they had not shot at us sooner. Most of the rounds fell more than 500 yards from the ship. Their accuracy was so poor that it was difficult to immediately tell whether some of the shots were meant for NEW JERSEY or for other ships in the area.

Everyone was amused by Radio Hanoi's claim that Communist gunners had scored "direct hits" on NEW JERSEY. Needless to say NEW JERSEY was not even scratched. In reply to newsmen's questions regarding Hanoi's claim of having hit us, the Captain sent a message stating "...appeared from the bridge that six to twelve golf balls were driven off the Cap Lay bluff in our direction. Next time I will try to get more excited".

An Army pilot, Captain Roger S. Bounds, was flying in the vicinity of Cap Lay at the time, and upon request from NEW JERSEY, he went down for a look. Although we could find no artillery position, he did discover some fresh tire tracks entering a covered area, which could have concealed a piece of mobile artillery. Captain Bounds spotted five 16-inch rounds onto the suspected artillery site, but due to darkness and tree cover, was unable to report damage assessment.

That evening NEW JERSEY and PERTH left the DMZ and headed north as the southern Sea Dragon task unit. Poor weather minimized Sunday's firing and that night both ships left station to replenish from USS ZELIMA (AF 49) and rearm from MOUNT KATMAI. Fifty marines from the Third Marine Division came aboard earlier in the day for liaison with NEW JERSEYMEN. Incidental to the visit, some of the leathernecks got their first hot shower in 30 days. Supply Department initiated Operation Hilton which has come to be a regular feature of our hosting in-country units. Four-hour laundry service, haircuts by professional barbers, special service by all ship's service activities, head of the line privileges for sumptuous meals, and a beautifully decorated cake in their honor were included in this Op Order. For the first time, NEW JERSEYMEN heard first hand from the people they were supporting on the beach the effect of the ship's devastating firepower.

Staff Sergeant Robert Gauthier summed up the marine's feelings for NEW JERSEY in an interview over the ship's TV system: "You are doing more to improve the morale of the men
on the beach than anything else in the war. Every time we go on patrol, someone says, 'The big one is out there. Nobody better mess with us or she'll get them.' You are saving lives out here...American lives. And we thank you."

He then told how he had been leading a platoon in the area where NEW JERSEY was firing in support of the Third Marine Division. "We were ordered to pull back about 200 yards so that somebody, we didn't know who at the time, could start shooting at some Communist bunkers and emplacements that had been giving us a lot of trouble. When we finally moved back about 500 yards, we heard what at first sounded like a subway train moving through a tunnel--a big rushing noise--then BANG! Later on when we went back into the area, there was nothing...just nothing. It was like something had come along with a big eraser and wiped everything clean. And they were big, heavily fortified bunkers, targets our own artillery couldn't touch."

About that same time a young marine's mother wrote the editor of a Yonkers, New York newspaper a letter that reit-rated Sergeant Gauthier's words:

"...I received a letter from my son, a marine fighting in Vietnam. He closed his letter this way: 'The NEW JERSEY arrived here last week, and man, is she playing hell with Charlie! She sits out there about seven miles, big and beautiful, and when she lets go with her 16-inch guns Charlie knows he is in for some big trouble. I hope she stays out there for 135 more days. That is my time to come home, Mom, so just pray for me that I make it'...To all of us here in America surrounded by all the comforts and luxuries that our country has to offer, we take a lot for granted. But to our boys so far from home, this battleship stands for freedom, security, and the renewal of faith in the fact that there are still many Americans who haven't forgotten that they are there."

On Monday, NEW JERSEY and PERTH moved south to the DMZ. While firing at prearranged targets, the Marine spotter reported receiving heavy anti-aircraft fire from a position just below the northern trace of the Zone. He radioed back the grid coordinates and NEW JERSEY quickly silenced the site. That same day NEW JERSEY and PERTH had an unique exchange of crews. Fourteen Australians came aboard NEW JERSEY and the battleship sent 15 of her men to the Australian ship for a day. PERTH's Commanding Officer, Captain David W. Leach, and Captain Snyder thought it would benefit American and Australian understanding to arrange such an exchange. The
exchange visit did much to enhance Australian and American respect for one another.

On Tuesday, the 29th, NEW JERSEY destroyed 30 structures, three underground bunkers and 350 meters of trench line. During the afternoon the aerial observer located an enemy artillery position on a hilltop about four miles southwest of Cap Lay. The site was active and had recently been harassing allied ground troops in northern I Corps. After NEW JERSEY laid in four 16-inch rounds, the spotter radioed back "excellent coverage...keep them coming". Two rounds later the radio crackled once again. You've just lowered the mountain by 20 feet. Artillery site destroyed."

(C) NEW JERSEY remained off the DMZ throughout the 30th, silencing an anti-aircraft site and wiping out a supply and staging area. After a night of harassment and interdiction firing, NEW JERSEY departed station to rearm from VESUVIUS. One hundred eighty-seven tons of ammunition and 5,000 pounds of mail were received in three hours and 45 minutes alongside.

Upon completion of the underway replenishment, NEW JERSEY returned to her station off the DMZ to provide main and secondary battery call fire. At 1806, approximately six rounds of hostile 100mm fire were received from the vicinity of Cap Lay. The nearest round was 3,000 yards short. Main battery fire was returned, but again darkness made assessment of the return fire unavailable.

(C) On the morning of 1 November NEW JERSEY moved down the coast to a position off Da Nang and Point DeDe. At 0725 the largest underway replenishment yet began, with HALEAKALA. Three hundred eighteen 16-inch projectiles and 660 powder tanks (a total of 417 tons) were received. One hundred sixty 16-inch and 1,200 five-inch empty powder tanks (33 tons) were returned in seven hours and 15 minutes. It was while alongside HALEAKALA that NEW JERSEY intercepted the Joint Chiefs of Staff "Red Rocket" One and Two directing termination of offensive activities against North Vietnam effective at 2100 local time that evening.

On Saturday, the 2nd, NEW JERSEY began support of the First Marine Division, firing nine spotted missions from a point just south of the entrance to Da Nang Harbor. Although observers reported excellent coverage, no assessment was possible because of dense vegetation over the area. On Monday orders were received from Commander Task Unit 70.8.9 directing NEW JERSEY to take station in southern II Corps near Phan Thiet for the remainder of the current availability period.
Steaming at 25 knots, NEW JERSEY arrived on station at 2200 that night.

On Tuesday, the 5th of November, NEW JERSEY fired eight call for fire missions in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Eight Viet Cong bunkers and five structures were destroyed. During the day the ship received further directives from Commander Task Unit 70.8.9 to move 180 miles north to support the Ninth Republic of Korea Brigade in central II Corps. Arriving on the morning of the 6th, the ship fired four main battery missions. Major General Im Ji Soon, Commanding General, Republic of Korea Forces, Vietnam, was aboard to observe. The following day Brigadier General Kang Shin Tak, Assistant Division Commander, Ninth Republic of Korea Division, observed NEW JERSEY's deepest penetration to date. Reaching 23 statute miles inland, NEW JERSEY blasted Viet Cong caves and bunkers. Three secondary explosions were noted by the spotter as the 1,900 pound bullets smashed into the complex. On Friday morning, 8 November, NEW JERSEY joined RAINIER for rearming then proceeded to the DMZ and her next assignment. While enroute the ship received a message from Commander Task Group 70.8 directing NEW JERSEY to proceed instead to Subic Bay for upkeep from the 10th to the 20th. She anchored at ammunition anchorage off the Naval Magazine at 0730 Sunday, 10 November. Ammunition was topped off as NEW JERSEY received 454 16-inch projectiles, 763 tanks of reduced powder charges (16-inch), 96 five-inch projectiles and 273 five-inch powder charges. One hundred rounds of 16-inch armor piercing projectiles were off-loaded due to limited use of this type projectile in present employment. On Monday, 11 November, after 47 days at sea, NEW JERSEY moored starboard side to, Alava Pier, and commenced upkeep and liberty. Many NEW JERSEYNMEN took advantage of this period to take tours to Pagsanjan Falls and Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

Upkeep continued until 0800 Thursday, 11 November, when NEW JERSEY once again got underway for I Corps and Naval gunfire support duties. Thursday afternoon three hours of anti-aircraft practice was conducted, utilizing towed sleeves. Two were knocked down.

Saturday morning, 23 November, NEW JERSEY arrived at Point DeDe near Da Nang and, in accordance with instructions from Commander Task Unit 70.8.9, relieved USS GALVESTON (CLG 3) in support of the U.S. Army's Americal Division. At the direction of the local Naval Gunfire Coordinator, the ship then moved to Point Dolly near Chu Lai. In three afternoon missions, her five-inch secondary battery destroyed 15 structures and inflicted heavy damage on 29 others.
24th, still in support of the Americal Division, NEW JERSEY wiped out more structures and bunkers despite heavy rain.

On the 25th, the battleship notched the greatest single day’s tally of the year. With General George S. Brown, Commanding General, Seventh Air Force at the firing key, and Rear Admiral David H. Bagley, Commander Task Group 70.8, on board to observe, NEW JERSEY fired eight main battery missions. One hundred seventeen structures and 32 bunkers were destroyed and eight secondary explosions ripped through two storage areas near Quang Ngai. High capacity projectiles killed an estimated 40 Communist troops. NEW JERSEY also inflicted heavy damage to 93 structures, tore up 110 meters of trench line, and destroyed several tunnel complexes. Several of the targets were widely dispersed and the battleship fired what Chief Gunner’s Mate Billie G. Baker called “spreading fire”. The spotter got the ship on target then walked the shots around until the whole area had been decimated. Lookouts 120 feet above the ship’s main deck reported smoke and debris rising 1,000 feet in the air over the targets.

(C) On the 26th, Brigadier General H. H. Cooksey, Assistant Commander of the Americal Division, and Brigadier General Nguyen Van Toan, Commanding General, Second ARVN Division, came aboard to watch the firing. Nineteen more Viet Cong were killed, 66 structures and 22 bunkers were destroyed and 75 meters of trench line were torn up. One secondary battery mission that day utilized rocket assisted projectiles at a range of 23,000 yards. During the night Tuesday, the ship repositioned to Point Betsy near Hue to support the 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division. Two main battery missions were fired for the 101st, Wednesday prior to departing station at 1600 to rearm from RAINIER.

Thanksgiving Day began with a main battery mission at 1000. NEW JERSEY commissarymen had a first opportunity to try their hand at a holiday meal. NEW JERSEYMEN were treated to a spread of traditional Thanksgiving dishes that overflowed the serving lines and necessitated the construction of two tables in the mess decks from which desserts were served. A handsome souvenir menu was printed by the print shop. Thirty NEW JERSEYMEN went ashore that day to spend the holiday with the men of the 101st. Thirty soldiers came out to the ship to have dinner with NEW JERSEYMEN and give everyone the opportunity to discover how the other half lives. The transfer was accomplished by a Chinook helicopter in one lift.

NEW JERSEY remained on station near Hue on the 29th, but heavy weather precluded any firing. During the afternoon the
ship went alongside USS CHARA (AE 31) to receive mail and passengers. Secondary battery harassment and interdiction was fired during the night. Major-General C. B. Drake, Deputy Commanding General, XXIV Corps and Major General L. W. Schweiter, Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps, were aboard during the afternoon. On Saturday, with the weather only slight improved, three main battery missions were fired in support of the 101st. During the night five-inch harassment and interdiction was fired prior to departing station for the DMZ and the Third Marine Division. Thirteen bunkers destroyed and one hillside caved in were recorded on the 1st of December, less than 1,000 yards south of the DMZ.

On the 2nd, three missions were fired. During the day 45 combat weary marines from the Third Marine Division were embarked by helo for two days. Three of these men developed malaria and were transferred to the hospital ship USS REPOSE (AH 16). Accompanying the leathernecks was Brigadier General Robert B. Carney, Jr., Assistant Division Commander, Third Marine Division. On Tuesday morning, NEW JERSEY joined USS REGULUS (AF 57) to load 28 tons of stores and fresh provisions. Finished by 0800, NEW JERSEY returned to the waters off the DMZ and fired six observed missions. Six bunkers were destroyed and an active anti-aircraft site was knocked out. On the 4th, three missions were fired between two replenishments. In the morning it was USS MATTAPONI (AO 41) for fuel, and in the late afternoon, MOUNT KATMAI for bullets. After two missions on the 5th, NEW JERSEY again steamed southward to take up support of the First Marine Division. NEW JERSEY's 16-inch guns teamed up with Marine artillery to pound Viet Cong bunker complexes. In the afternoon, the ship refueled from USS CHEMUNG (AO 30) and rearmed from WRANGELL.

NEW JERSEY celebrated the 25th anniversary of her launching (7 December 1943) by destroying 12 bunkers, two structures and 10 meters of trench line in a Viet Cong infested area 13 miles south of Da Nang. USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852) provided a snoopy drone in the afternoon to allow NEW JERSEY technicians to check out control and video monitoring equipment. Results were good, with all systems functioning properly. On the 8th, with Rear Admiral L. R. Geis, Chief of Information observing, NEW JERSEY fired seven missions in support of Operation Meade River. After the 1,900 pound projectiles had smashed one enemy bunker 15 miles south of Da Nang, the spotter radioed back, "it looks like the excavation for the foundation of an eight story building now". At midnight NEW JERSEY was detached and proceeded to Subic Bay in company with MASON. Arriving Tuesday morning, 10
December, NEW JERSEY immediately commenced taking on ammunition from the Naval Magazine. Loading operations continued until 0200 the following morning, at at 0900, the ship shifted berths to Alava Pier to facilitate loading provisions and general stores.

On Friday, the 13th, NEW JERSEY, in company with TOWERS, got underway for Singapore via the equator. On Saturday night a boxing smoker was held on the fantail in the honor of Davey Jones, royal emissary of Neptunus Rex, ruler of the raging main. King Neptune himself boarded on Sunday, just as NEW JERSEY was about to cross into his kingdom. He was disturbed to find over 1,400 nefarious pollywogs included in the ship's company, and he directed Captain Snyder and the rest of NEW JERSEY's loyal shellbacks to initiate them into the ways of the deep. The last pollywog became a dignified shellback only minutes before NEW JERSEY crossed 000 degrees at 1403.

On Monday morning NEW JERSEY anchored in the Man-of-War anchorage off downtown Singapore. USS MONTROSE (APA 212) arrived the same morning and provided outstanding boat service for NEW JERSEY liberty parties until the 20th, when the ship returned to the gunline. While in Singapore, NEW JERSEY hosted the Honorable Francis J. Galbraith, U. S. Ambassador to Singapore, and Rear Admiral Michael D. Kyrle-Pope, Royal Navy, Chief of Staff, CINCFE, on the 18th.

At 1230 on the 22nd of December, NEW JERSEY arrived on station off the DMZ. Foul weather that day prevented spotter activity and no missions were fired. Again on Monday weather prevented firing, although unobserved harassment and interdiction was fired during the night. On Tuesday morning three main battery missions were fired prior to departing for Phu Cat to embark the Bob Hope Christmas Show.

On Christmas Day, NEW JERSEYMEN received a gift that to them was the next best thing to being home. Hollywood's King of Mirth and Merriment descended with Rosie Crier, Les Brown and his band, and 19 beautiful young girls. Knowing how, at this time of year, America's fighting men most feel the loneliness of being away from home, Hope and his famous quips brought gaiety into the hearts of NEW JERSEYMEN for an instant. For the 18th consecutive year, Hope and his troupe contributed their time and energy to the happiness of soldiers and sailors alike. Marines, Air Force and Army personnel from the beach were NEW JERSEY's guests for the day. NEW JERSEY had something special for them too. They were guests of honor at Christmas dinner served from 1500-1730 on the mess decks which was
highlighted by the cutting, by Bob Hope and Ann-Margret, of a 121 pound cake featuring a two-foot confectionary Christmas tree.

During the performance, actress Linda Bennett sang Silent Night with the men. Her beautiful rendition brought a taste of home to men who were 12,000 miles away. Filmed highlights of the show were shown back in the States on 16 January 1969. The Navy's Chief of Chaplains, Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, brought Christmas to a delightful close by preaching at the Protestant Divine Worship.

Two other guests on Christmas Day were Army Captains Charles S. Finch, Jr. and Roger S. Bounds. Both had served as airborne spotters for NEW JERSEY during firing missions. They told NEW JERSEYMEN of the effect their shellings were having on the Communists.

"The Communist troops certainly don't like to come out when NEW JERSEY is firing", said Captain Finch. "One of our biggest problems flying into a Red infested area is the anti-aircraft fire we take. But after NEW JERSEY got on station over here and started shooting, she held ground fire to a minimum. As long as you are in the area and firing, the Communists hole up with their flak machines and anti-aircraft weapons. This gives us more freedom in picking out better targets."

Captain Finch went on, "NEW JERSEY is best at rooting out and destroying enemy bunkers. The eight-inch, 155mm and 105mm land-based artillery make a small impression on the land, compared to what the 16-inch does; it really clears out the area."

Captain Bounds added, "The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops also store large quantities of ammunition, supplies and other materials underneath the jungle canopy. When NEW JERSEY shells an area, she levels all the trees shielding these caches. Even if the supplies aren't destroyed, the Communists still have to move all their materials and this is when we come in with Marine and Air Force jets and really get them. It's a tremendous effort you are making. I know it's a difficult thing for anybody to understand the fact that when you're mowing down trees, it is really an important target--something that is vital to the war effort. But the enemy uses camouflage and cover to an extreme extent. Jungle warfare is serious warfare. It is planned around cover and concealment, small groups of people, dispersion and things like this. The ability to remove terrain features denies them
their most valuable asset in jungle warfare and it is for this reason that we find a large ordnance, good delivery system, rapid firepower like the NEW JERSEY's to be such a great asset in our war.

The words of the two Army Captains were echoed later by Corporal Daryle W. Lewis, a marine ground spotter. He told of his experience with NEW JERSEY. "Each round has a tremendous psychological effect on Communist troops. Air spotters have told me they have seen Communist gun crews get scared and run away from their guns when you are laying in your big ones. I've talked to some of the Chieu Hoi (Viet Cong defectors) who say that even though the round doesn't hit close to them, it makes them think they're going to die right there."

Upon debarking the Bob Hope troupe, NEW JERSEY was directed to take station off Tuy Hoa in support of the Republic of Vietnam's 47th Army Division. On the 26th, 13 bunkers were destroyed and two cave complexes were blown up northwest of Tuy Hoa. The bunkers were constructed of layers of logs and rocks up to several feet thick. Shipboard observers reported rocks and logs flying through the air several hundred feet above the target area. That evening NEW JERSEY refueled from USS CACAPON (AO 52) receiving 850,000 gallons of fuel and transferring 300 empty 16-inch powder tanks.

On Friday, the 27th, NEW JERSEY continued Naval gunfire support in central II Corps, supporting the 9th Republic of Korea Marines. Firing at a Viet Cong infested mountain area 10 1/2 miles north of Van Ninh, NEW JERSEY "blew the top off a hill". According to the aerial observer, "the mountain top has been completely opened up". The spotter first called in point detonated projectiles to clear away the thick vegetation and ground cover. When he could see the target clearly, he called for base detonating projectiles which would penetrate the caves of the deeply entrenched enemy. Observing the firing were Lieutenant General W. R. Peers, Commanding General, First Field Force; Major General H. W. Hollis, Deputy Commanding General, First Field Force; and Brigadier General R. A. Edwards, Commanding General, First Field Force Artillery.

The operation continued until 1030 Saturday at which time the ship departed station to rearm from MOUNT KATHAT. This underway replenishment marked the first time NEW JERSEY had received ammunition on a double modified housefall rig. Substantially improved transfer rates were achieved. Two hundred seventy-three tons of ammunition, retrograde, and seven personnel were transferred in 2.3 hours alongside.
NEW JERSEY moved to the DMZ on Sunday, the 29th, where she would operate into the New Year. In one mission into the southern half of the Zone that afternoon, the battleship destroyed eight 2,500 square foot bunkers and demolished six structures. The spotter called in the fire when it was discovered the Communists had violated the buffer zone and built fortifications. One large secondary explosion was reported by the spotter as he shifted targets. "Don't ever let anyone tell you you can't put two bullets in the same hole", he said. "You can't miss. You must have a pair of magic tubes." At 1612 that day turret one became the first of the three to have fired 1,000 combat rounds since September. The other two turrets reached this mark shortly after the New Year.

Nineteen hundred sixty-eight had been a challenging and satisfying year for the men of NEW JERSEY. Although New Year's Day found them only halfway through the present deployment, and halfway around the world from their loved ones, they had much to be thankful for. They shared the satisfaction and pride of serving a ship that represented the pride of the surface Navy. They had received the ultimate tribute; A sincere "thanks" from every marine and soldier who had come aboard. Their job was to support allied forces in the field. They took pride in their work, and did it well. Only the men who serve her can make a ship great. And the men of NEW JERSEY served their ship in the finest tradition of the United States Navy.
APPENDIX A

AMMUNITION EXPENDED IN WESTPAC

September---------------------------798 5"/38; 90 16"/50
October-----------------------------4,835 5"/38; 1,322 16"/50
November----------------------------931 5"/38; 715 16"/50
December-----------------------------347 5"/38; 890 16"/50; 38 5" RAP
APPENDIX B

AMMUNITION RECEIVED
(CALENDAR YEAR 1968)

14 April------27 16-inch projectiles, 54 tanks 16-inch powder by truck from Crane, Indiana.

20,21,22 May--6,854 five-inch projectiles, 12,378 cans five-inch powder, 1,086 16-inch projectiles, 2,214 tanks 16-inch powder from NAD, St. Julians Creek, Norfolk, Virginia.

24 July-------600 five-inch projectiles, 600 cans five-inch powder, 50 16-inch projectiles, 100 tanks 16-inch powder from USS MOUNT KATMAI (AE 16). First ammunition UNREP/VERTEP.

26-27 August--4,100 five-inch projectiles, 1,050 cans five-inch powder, 187 16-inch projectiles, 458 tanks 16-inch powder from NWS, Seal Beach, California.

25 September--1,495 five-inch projectiles, 1,324 cans five-inch powder, 12 16-inch projectiles, 68 tanks 16-inch powder, 29 CHAFFROC heads, 10 CHAFFROC motors from Naval Magazine, Subic Bay.

2 October-----644 five-inch projectiles, 1,370 cans five-inch powder, 96 16-inch projectiles, 234 tanks 16-inch powder from USS HALEAKALA (AE 25).

6 October-----1,494 five-inch projectiles, 1,248 cans five-inch powder, 96 16-inch projectiles, 211 tanks 16-inch powder from USS MOUNT KATMAI (AE 16).

12 October-----1,102 five-inch projectiles, 623 cans five-inch powder, 100 16-inch projectiles, 168 tanks 16-inch powder from USS RAINIER (AE 5).

15 October----106 16-inch projectiles, 167 tanks 16-inch powder from USS VESUVIUS (AE 15).

18 October----100 16-inch projectiles, 198 tanks 16-inch powder from USS HALEAKALA (AE 25).

24 October----100 16-inch projectiles, 240 tanks 16-inch powder from USS WRANGELL (AE 12).

GP-4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals.
Declassified after 12 years,
DOD DIR 5200.10 applies. 63
APPENDIX C

GUN DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR 71 DAYS ON THE GUNLINE ENDING
31 DECEMBER 1968

MAIN BATTERY

Structures Destroyed-----------------------------322
Structures Damaged-----------------------------186
Bunkers Destroyed---------------------------------306
Bunkers Damaged-----------------------------------111
Artillery Sites Neutralized------------------------19
Automatic Weapons and Anti-Aircraft Sites Silenced--27
Secondary Explosions-------------------------------79
Roads Intercited----------------------------------21
Meters of Trench Line Rendered Unusable-----------1,365
Cave and Tunnel Complexes Destroyed-------------38
Enemy Killed in Action (Confirmed)---------------130

SECONDARY BATTERY

Structures Destroyed-----------------------------23
Structures Damaged-----------------------------45
Bunkers Destroyed---------------------------------23
Bunkers Damaged-----------------------------------31
Artillery Sites Neutralized------------------------2
Waterborne Logistics Craft Destroyed (Sea Dragon)--9
Secondary Explosions-------------------------------32
Enemy Killed in Action (Confirmed)---------------6
APPENDIX D

MILES STEAMED
(CALENDAR YEAR 1968)

26-28 March---------Builders/Sea Trials vicinity of Virginia Capes - 763 miles

15-18 April---------INSURV Trials off Virginia Capes - 1,021 miles

16 May-11 June------Rhumb Line transit Philadelphia to Long Beach via Norfolk and Panama Canal - 6,145 miles

17 June-3 September-Refresher and Advanced Training including Dependent Cruise vicinity southern California OpAreas - 5,712 miles

5-9 September-------Great Circle transit Long Beach to Pearl Harbor - 2,268 miles

11-22 September-----Great Circle/Rhumb Line transit Pearl Harbor to Subic Bay via San Bernadino Straits - 4,879 miles

25-29 September-----Transit Subic Bay to Da Nang via Tahones Firing Range - 748 miles

30 September-9 November---Coastal operations off North and South Vietnam from 18-55N to 10-55N - 6,785 miles

9-22 November-------Transit Da Nang to Subic Bay to Da Nang - 1,375 miles

22 November-8 December---Coastal operations off South Vietnam, I Corps - 3,793 miles

9-10 December--------Transit Da Nang to Subic Bay - 692 miles

13-16 December-------Rhumb Line transit Subic Bay to Singapore via Palawan Passage and Equator - 1,465 miles

20-22 December-------Rhumb Line transit Singapore to DMZ - 1,164 miles
APPENDIX F

ADVANCEMENTS AND REENLISTMENTS
(CALENDAR YEAR 1968)

Personnel advanced to next higher rate------------------846

Percentage advanced from those eligible for advancement-----------------------------------81%

Percentage reenlisted from those eligible for reenlistment---------------------------------80.7%

Percentage of first reenlistments----------------------------------21%
APPENDIX F

MONIES, RECEIPTS AND STAPLES CONSUMPTION
(COMMISSIONING THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 1968)

I. Total Disbursements---------------------$3,547,239.00

II. Issues from Supply Support Center
    Navy Stock Account - 13,245 issues------$410,696.04

III. Ship's Store Sales by Activity:
    A. Ship's Store #1---------------------$262,335.15
    B. Tobacco Shop-----------------------$ 65,165.96
    C. Clothing and Small Stores-----------$ 41,079.82
    D. Soda Fountain-----------------------$ 33,244.47
    E. Vending Machines--------------------$ 25,604.00

IV. Consumption of Major Staples in the General Mess:
    A. Frozen Meat------------------------322,969 pounds
    B. Milk, Fresh------------------------53,540 gallons
    C. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables---------285,783 pounds
    D. Frozen Fruit and Vegetables--------45,608 pounds
    E. Fresh Eggs-------------------------49,754 dozen
    F. Bread and Rolls---------------------113,427 pounds
    G. Coffee-----------------------------21,570 pounds
    H. Beverage Base----------------------32,448 gallons
### APPENDIX G

**MEDICAL DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS PERFORMED**
*(COMMISSIONING THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 68)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out-Patients</td>
<td>6,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Patients</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Exams</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>4,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptions Filled</td>
<td>7,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-Ray Films Taken</td>
<td>2,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td>9,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Procedures</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX H

DENTAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED
(COMMISSIONING THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 1968)

I. Number of Men Serviced-------------------------986

II. Patient Visits----------------------------------3,308

III. Procedures Performed--------------------------8,551

A. Teeth Permanently Restored (Filled with Silver, Plastics and Silicates)-------------------1,815
B. Root Canals Filled (Endodontics)-------------------9
C. Teeth Extracted----------------------------------191
D. Post-Operative Treatments------------------------157
E. Oral X-Rays Taken-------------------------------1,098
F. Patients who had Teeth Scaled and Polished----840
G. Patients who Received Stannous Flouride Treatments--------------------------------------854
H. Gingivitis Treatments----------------------------83
I. Mouth Guards Constructed for NEW JERSEY Boxer-12
J. Prosthetic Appliances Inserted-------------------15

IV. In addition, the Dental Department has treated personnel of USS TOWERS (DDG 9), USS DAVIS (DD 937) and HMAS PERTH and Vietnam based U. S. Army and Marine Corps personnel while aboard NEW JERSEY.
APPENDIX I

SHIP'S ENGINEERING PROFILE
(COMMISSIONING THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 1968)

Fuel Oil Received-----------------------------11,453,783 gallons
Fuel Oil Expended-------------------------------10,253,980 gallons
Potable Water Produced------------------------7,837,212 gallons
Feed Water Produced--------------------------9,657,403 gallons
Engine Miles Steamed-------------------------40,252.4 miles
Time Underway---------------------------------3,422 hours
APPENDIX J

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY GUESTS

4-11 JUNE

Mr. Roger Alison, President, Alison Company
Mr. Bernhard H. Auer, Senior Vice President, Time, Inc.
Mr. Clint Furrer, Chairman, Armed Services Committee, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Frank B. Hower, Executive Vice President, Liberty National Bank and Trust Co.
Mr. Lawrence E. Karrer, Senior Vice President, Puget Sound Power and Light Company
Mr. Robert G. Lawhead, Sr., Immediate Past President, Coronado Council, Navy League of the United States
Mr. William A. Ong, President, Long Aircraft Corp.
Mr. Herbert D. Strauss, President, Grey Advertising, Inc.
Mr. Emmet N. Sullivan, Long Beach City Councilman
Mr. Richard Wilson, Chairman, Armed Services Commission, City of Long Beach

5-9 SEPTEMBER

Mr. Jeremy Dole, Senior Editor, Readers Digest
Mr. Roland Dopson, Assistant Managing Editor, Miami Herald
Mr. William P. Grayson, Executive Vice President, Johnson Publishing Co.
Mr. John McCambridge, Vice President, Minneapolis Star and Tribune
Mr. John P. McGoff, President, Panax Corp.
Mr. Bruce Myers, Executive Editor, Corvallis Gazette-Times
Mr. Cruise Palmer, Executive Editor, Kansas City Star
Mr. Thomas H. Thompson, Editor, Amarillo Globe-Times
Mr. Maurie Webster, Vice President, CBS (Development)
"You are doing more to improve the morale of the men on the beach than anything else in the war. Every time we go on patrol, someone says, 'The big one is out there. Nobody better mess with us or she will get them'. You are saving lives out here...American lives, and we thank you."

Marine Staff Sergeant Robert Gauthier

"The communist troops certainly don't like to come out when NEW JERSEY is firing. One of our biggest problems flying into a Red infested area is the anti-aircraft fire we take. But, after NEW JERSEY got on station over here and started shooting, she held ground fire to a minimum. As long as you are in the area and firing, the Communists hole up with their flak machines and anti-aircraft weapons. This gives us more freedom in picking out better targets. NEW JERSEY is best at rooting out and destroying enemy bunkers. The eight-inch, 155mm and 105mm land-based artillery make a small impression on the land, compared to what the 16-inch does; it really clears out the area.

Army Captain Charles S. Finch, Jr.

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Marine Corporal Daryle W. Lewis, USMC