



Pass It along!

We are always looking for sea stories to publish in the YAGRGRAMS. If you feel you have something of interest, send it in.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to send in any articles that relate to your time spent on the radar picket ships. And, as a side benefit, you just might hear from some of your former shipmates who decide to get in touch with you and talk about old times. This has happened on more than one occasion.



John Wrafter (AGR-1, 1957- 58)

Dear Shipmates,

Here are write ups of several events that occurred on the Guardian in the 1957-58 period of my stint. You may note that I have taken poetic license with some of the excerpts. In several I have given names and dates which I made up, not having remembered the actual. I have also given Guardian credit for being the "best" or "only" in several instances which was strictly "my judgement."

The crew's mess occasionally served rabbit which I identified at the wardroom table as chicken for the benefit of a couple of officers who were squeamish about eating rabbit. Awfully small bones for chicken!

Reilly RDC had a unique ability to create historical logs which were required to be kept in Combat Information Center, but were neglected. Knowing they were on the check list of upcoming inspections, Reilly would create the logs. I remember one such occasion as Reilly created an historical log. He would take a new log book, make the pages dog-eared, make erasures of ink entries which were prohibited but which he provided as fodder for the inspectors findings, pour coffee on some pages and dry it off, throw the log book on the deck and stomp on it and all kinds of imaginative things to make the log look like something in use over a long period of time.

On one occasion, bags of flour in the storeroom became infested with weevils which I learned resisted boiling and freezing temperatures. I asked the commissary man what we could do and he replied, "We'll make bread with caraway seeds." Guardian won a prize for the best caraway seed bread in the fleet. At least, it was the crunchiest. You may recall Guardian also had the best Navy bean soup in the fleet.



Ed McGrath (AGR-7, 1957-62)

One mid-watch as I was sending a log reg out, I heard an SOS coming across the 500 KC's circuit. It was coming from the Greek freighter Guam Pioneer which was sinking. I forwarded the SOS to the Coast Guard and they in turn broadcast it to all shipping. The USS Watchman AGR-16 was close enough and so rescued the ship's crew. Seeing that we were heading for port, we were ordered to meet with the Watchman and take off the survivors and take them into port with us. Once onboard we cleaned them up, fed them and made them as comfortable as possible. Once in port the Coast Guard checked out our logs in regards to the SOS and informed us that if not for the Picket no one would have heard the SOS from the Guam Pioneer.