

General Quarters was our favorite drill. We had it at least twice a day. Fire, abandon ship and collision ranked next in that order. If there were actually a fire in the decontamination locker for every time there has been a simulated fire there, it would look

worse than a fire school boiler room mock-up. We finished the shake-down drills on 13 October and passed the final examination on the 24th. Then we went into the Naval Dry-docks, at San Pedro for the post shake-down availability.

We were in for alterations and repair for a full month during which time there were more men over the

bill than at any other period in the history of the ship. The average daily number of AWOL's was about twenty. Whenever someone would get tired of civilian life and decide to come back, someone else would go out to take his place. One of them didn't come back until the following February. The sudden transition from a shore based civilian to a seagoing military man was a little too difficult for some of the crew to adjust themselves to. This was to be expected and penalties for being AWOL were consequently light.



*Simulate Fire in emergency Diesel Generator Room*



*Stand by for a port run*



*We leave the Golden Gate behind for the first time*