

Since there are no supply centers on the coast, we had to rely on Navy supply ships for fuel, food, and mail. We received all of our supplies while underway, and in turn, we supplied the Navy and Coast Guard small boats operating in our area.

Our first patrol passed quickly and we headed for Bangkok, Thailand, our first R & R port.

We anchored in the Chao Phraya River and first encountered the amazing "water taxis". These canoe-type boats with large and powerful engines proved quite interesting on late night returns.

We found Bangkok to be a fascinating city. We saw all the sights and spent thousands of dollars on bronze ware, wood carvings, semi-precious stones, silk, and "soogies".

After a brief stay of five days, we left Bangkok headed for the southern tip of Vietnam and our second patrol! We fired our gun for the first time, but other than that the patrol was uneventful.

The days lingered on and before too long, we headed for Subic Bay again. After a brief stop to replenish ammunition, we mated alongside the USS DIXIE and began our much needed repair work. The frustrations of repair work, service wide exams, undependable liberty boats, hot humid weather, and a steady downpour of rain wore everyone's nerves thin, and with a sigh of relief we headed for a patrol on the 15th of September!

Our third patrol found us operating in an area around the Mekong Delta. Boarding and inspecting became the primary job. We rescued one fishing vessel that had been adrift without food or water for four days. The six men aboard were extremely happy to see us!

The patrol soon ended and we headed for Singapore. The first day in Singapore, as our first time in Subic was spent in preparation for an inspection by Rear Admiral ENGEL. Once again we were complimented on the appearance of ship and crew.

In addition to the souvenir shopping, gifts and night life of Singapore we were most impressed by the warm welcome we received from the British Naval personnel. Many parties, golf dates, and water skiing invitations were received and gratefully accepted. We left Singapore broke and tired, yet refreshed.

The next patrol found us in the same southern section of Vietnam but a switch of priorities took us off barrier patrol and assigned us as "Naval Gunfire Support Ship, Song Ong Doc" in support of a combined operation under the name of "Breezy Cove". In five missions we expended 268 rounds of 5" ammunition.

We also conducted Med-Caps in this area providing medical assistance to the people of the Coastal Villages.

Our 17th UNREP finished the patrol and marked the mid-way point of our deployment as we headed for a two week stay in Hong Kong.