

Needless to say, the CGC DALLAS, who had been waiting on station for us, was glad to see us arrive.

Once on patrol we quickly settled into our "old routine" to await the arrival of our final relief. The days went by as we pulled more gunfire support missions and boarded more Junks. Then on the morning of our "last" day we received the depressing news that our relief, CGC PONCHARTRAIN had broken down and was drifting some 300 miles East of Guam awaiting a tow.

You could hear the moans and groans of disappointment as the bad news spread throughout the ship.

Once again we returned to Subic this time to await the arrival of the "PONCH".

It was soon discovered that the PONCH would require extensive repairs, and we were ordered back out on patrol.

Our last patrol found us in the area of Da Nang and other than the numerous trips into Da Nang Harbor the patrol was pretty routine and boring.

Finally on the 2nd of April the PONTCHARTRAIN came over the horizon, and relieved us in Da Nang Harbor. We circled the PONCH with the tunes of "Seattle" and "Homeward Bound" blaring from our Bullhorns and then went "all ahead full" as we cleared the mouth of the harbor and headed for home by way of Japan.

Eight days later found us in Yokosuka, Japan and our last Far East port. While in Japan we had an enjoyable tour of Tokyo. We also had our ships party in Yokosuka with lots of free booze and chow for all. We also got all of our last minute shopping done, taking advantage of the Yokosuka Exchange to purchase everything from Kimonos and cameras to Motorcycles and Pachinko Machines. When we left Yokosuka we could have easily been mistaken for a cargo vessel.

We left Japan on the 12th on the last leg of our long journey with a brief at Midway Island for mail, fuel and a look at the Gooney Birds.

Perhaps the longest and slowest trip that any of us has ever made was the 120 miles from the mouth of the Straits of Juan De Fuca to Pier 91.

At 1800 on the 24th of April 1970 our long journey came to an end as we embraced our loved ones and thanked God we were home. Once again there were tears, but this time they were tears of Joy!