

NAVAL GUN FIRE SUPPORT



Just after a shot, the amoke would blow back around the ship and leave the smell of gunpowder everywhere.

For eight months it was a never ending job for us to provide protection to our troops ashore, and to harass the enemy and keep him guessing as to our next move. Sherman had a very special way of saying "Good Morning" to "CHARLIE".

We went to naval gunfire support stations one hundred and fifty two times, which accounted for a lot of lost sleep for many of us. Three thousand eight hundred and sixty two rounds of five inch ammunition were fired at the enemy. This was one of the highest totals of any Coast Guard cutter to operate as a Market Time vessel.

Naval gunfire support proved to be the busiest, and very often the most arduous of all our duties during the deployment. We spent many long hours at night on the ganline providing support to the American and South Vietnamese troops on the beach. While on patrol in the Mekong Delta region it became a nightly routine for Sherman to be called for fire missions which usually lasted until the early hours of the morning.



81MM mortar fire was only used one time as it put us in shallow water.