

SPEAR

POINTS

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USS L.T. SPEAR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES
ITS FIRST DEPLOYMENT



From The Captain



With the crew of the SPEAR POINTS we will take a month's break in all of us except you and directed elsewhere pointed and together with our families, loved ones and friends. The next issue of SPEAR POINTS will be 23 September.

Our deployment to the Indian Ocean has been an outstanding success. It has required a lot of hard work, dedication, innovation and close cooperation of all departments. We had a difficult demanding challenge to prepare our ship for its first ever deployment. There were personal hardships and sacrifices involved. Operations deployed required that we be totally self-sufficient in lights, power, water, dock maintenance, food and personal services and fleet repair services. That we met all challenges in such a superb manner reflects positively on each member of L.Y. SPEAR, our success is the result of all your actions contributing their best efforts during the entire deployment.

One of the best possible rewards is already plainly visible throughout the ship if you but look around. Many of our dependents have discovered that the pride they feel in their accomplishments, the L.Y. SPEAR, the Navy and our country are directly related to their own individual efforts. To be proud of yourself, your work, and your deployment is all optimal positive feeling that we on L.Y. SPEAR have learned to appreciate.

I am proud to be a member of the crew of L.Y. SPEAR. There is a dependable spirit of confidence and sense of mutual cooperation apparent that makes being a part of our crew worthwhile and rewarding.

L.Y. SPEAR is but a shell of steel, designed to provide fleet repair services, and sustained made with equipments and stores, like most other vessels and repair ships. The difference in L.Y. SPEAR you see, lies in the personnel within that shell, dedicated, competent, cooperative dependents working in harmony with mutual interests.

Have safety and relax during our deployment and have fun.

The SPEAR POINTS is an authorized unofficial publication of the USS L. Y. SPEAR (AGOS). The contents and news content of the publication are not necessarily the views of the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy or the Command and should not be considered as such. The SPEAR POINTS is published by and for the crew every two weeks, and is printed in the L. Y. SPEAR press shop with non-appropriated funds in accordance with NAVPERSFORM 1-27. We solicit items of interest from the Officers and Crew, but reserve the right of editorial control. SPEAR POINTS receives copyright from the Armed Forces Press Service and materials ordered to the AFPS may not be reprinted without written permission of the Armed Forces Press Service.

SPEAR POINTS STAFF

COMMANDING OFFICER
CAPT J.G. RUFFALO

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CNS R.P. BARRETT

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR
CNS/ADM C. WELCH

EDITOR
MR J.T. SPANG

MANAGING EDITOR
MRAN E. STREET

DESIGN & LAYOUT
MR S. BERNARDSON
MR E. BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHY
PHY J.F. STRANDBERG
PHY R.E. CLARK

PUBLICATIONS
LJ C.D. HULL
LJ H.J. THORBERG
LJAN R.L. JOHNSON
LJAN R. GILSON

REPORTERS
MR FORCE

DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting news stories to this office for publication is the first and third Fridays of the month. If you want news from your division or special interest stories to be included in the paper, please have it in the editor's office at least two to three days before the deadline.

The SPEAR POINTS staff welcomes and encourages any input from the crew to be stored, reviewed and printed in future issues. Any human interest stories, special events (if something unusual like poetry will be accepted. Please keep articles short, clear and informative.



With only one month to prepare for our deployment, we spent many hours getting ready to get underway. Supplies, weapons, and food were loaded aboard in great abundance every one of those thirty days. All hands put forth their effort so that we could accomplish this very difficult task. Usually the crew knows about major deployments about six months in advance. Given one month's notice the USSA is packed for deployment and was ready to go.





DID YOU SAY

BIG FISH BOAT!



Soon after leaving the safety of our Scottish berth, we found an angry storm in the Atlantic waters. When our ship began taking thirty degree rolls, objects were flying around in all the spaces, and people began to get sea sick. We encountered our assignment for a day and replaced everything on the shelves, only to run into another storm. It was indeed a relief to reach the calm sea and warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea.



FIRST PORT CALL

Our first stop was in Alexandria, Egypt, the cradle of civilization. There were available to visit Cairo and other places of interest. We saw pyramids and tombs, but the memory that will last forever was the sight of millions of destitute farmers and people living in squalid hovels. Sometimes we take for granted all that we have until we meet someone who could advise us what we have won. Do you remember the feeling you had the first night you returned to the ship? America looks better every day!





TRANSITING THE DUELL

When we entered the canal zone to wait for an accompanying conveyance of ships, we dropped anchor at Port Said and were met by many small boats with Egyptian merchants peddling their wares.

The next morning at 6:30 we began our transit down "The Ditch" which took about a day and a half. It was very evident by the gates that remained closed and the vast monuments, that history was made many times along the banks of the Suez Canal.





ON YOUR KNEES POLY WOOL

Throughout the history of the Navy, when creating the equities it has been the custom to initiate the first time along Poly Wops. The biggest difference about the SPAN was the initiation of WPS Shellbacks into the equal trails of the riggs of Nymman Row. Women Shellbacks are a recent first throughout the Navy. All total there were approximately 1000 shipmates to be initiated as Shellbacks.

The day of time was an interesting break from the monotony of many days of sea.





THE ROCK



When we took the first liberty on Eliza Garcia we were surprised to find a green, sunny, tropical paradise. There were numerous recreational activities including baseball, swimming, tennis, snorkeling and the usual Navy Clubs. Even though we had to catch the liberty boats and be home by 2000, it was fortunate that we had somewhere to get away from it all for a short time.





LETS AT SEA

Among the first weeks ever to take place aboard SPAR were hole-ups, 200 hand working parties, Ware calls, and reburial at sea. There was lots of stress from rest, seas, sickness, supplies came aboard from other boats, and the 8 legs. We placed a total of more than 1,500 Ware calls to places all over the state.



OUR PORT VISIT IN GREECE

On July 21 we arrived in Athens, Greece. Our eight liberty and civilian clothes privileges were granted. As we boarded the water taxi to go to shore, anticipation filled our minds. Athens was everything we expected and more. Whether you wanted to visit the ancient ruins, go shopping, try the delicious Greek food, or dance all night, you could find it all in Athens.





LAST POST CHILL, SPAIN

We pulled up to the gas in Malaga, Spain on July 27 for a few day rest. Many people loaded the Yammies for the night too and many beach towels. Others found the gas stations and found a little cafe through the convenience to get just what they needed. The low prices attracted hours of shopping for Spanish treasures with brands at reasonable value to the famous Spanish wine. As we pulled away from the Malaga gas away hours was filled with excitement knowing our next stop would be Frankfurt, Virginia in the good old US of A . . .

WE'RE HOME !!



SEND SPEAR POINTS HOME !

FROM _____

10 DOLLARS PER

10 DOLLARS PER



TO _____

FOLD IN HALF AND STAPLE ON ALL 3 SIDES TO MAIL