

1961  
CRUISE

# WestPac Diary

- 6 April, 1961 Departed San Diego on 1961 WestPac cruise. Plan to return in seven months.
- 12 April Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 13 April Enroute Suva, Fiji Islands
- 16 April Crossed the Equator at 1022. All Pollywogs initiated into the mysteries of the ancient order of Shellbacks.
- 21 April Suva, Fiji Islands. One day stop enroute to Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.
- 28 April Hobart, Tasmania. Australia already living up to expectations.
- 2 May Underway for Adelaide, South Australia. Roughest seas encountered yet.
- 4-8 May Adelaide, South Australia. Australian girls are wonderful!
- 9-13 May Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Coral Sea Celebration Parade.
- 16 May Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Our last stop in this wonderful country. Never will we forget the friends we made or the places we visited.
- 17 May Underway for Manus, Admiralty Islands.
- 22 May Arrived Manus for fuel stop. That sun sure is hot!
- 25 May Guam, Marianas Islands. Two weeks to get the ship back in shape.
- 9 June Departed Guam for Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- 12 June Arrived Kaohsiung to begin our six week patrol of the Straits of Formosa. SOMERS is in an ever-alert condition.
- 21 July Our job in Kaohsiung finally finished. Underway for Hong Kong.
- 22 July Hong Kong. Bargains galore! It doesn't take much time to spend our money.
- 29 July Departed Hong Kong for Subic Bay, Philippine Islands.
- 31 July Arrived Subic Bay. Never seems to stop raining. Operating in and out of Subic Bay for the next three weeks. SOMERS conducts rescue of passengers from MV BASCO, a merchant ship aground off Mindoro, Philippine Islands.
- 23 August Departed Subic Bay for operations with Task Group 77.6. Next port of call, Manila.
- 1 September Arrived Manila, Philippine Islands for a five day visit. What this Navy needs is a jeepney motorboat!
- 7 September Underway with Task Group 77.6.
- 16 September Subic Bay. That raincloud is still overhead.
- 25 September Underway with Task Group 77.6. Next port of call, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 6 October Arrived Yokosuka, Japan. If SOMERS didn't manage to buy all the glassware and china in Japan, at least we made a good try!
- 16 October Underway for the long trip home, with fueling stops scheduled for Midway Island and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 24 October Arrived Pearl Harbor. Next stop, San Diego.
- 31 October Home! It's good to be back.