

## A GOOD WATCH ON HANNAH--CROW'S NEST

A lot of people think that the snipes in the black gang, way down in the engineering bowels of the ship, never see the light of day. NOT SO!

Even though the war was over, wartime practices such as General Quarters and Smoke Watch continued. On the smoke watch, the B Division sailor sat on a small platform above the top of the stack. Although not very comfortable, it was tolerable. He was connected by telephone to the Fireroom way down below.

Thick, black smoke would give away the position of the ship; so they endeavored to keep the smoke emitted to a "light brown haze" by changing the air and fuel mixture on orders from the one on watch. This watch was not a common procedure on all vessels and I have been hard-pressed down through the years to try and convince some "Old Salts" that there were "smoke watches". They accused me of telling sea stories.

I was in A Division in the refrigeration department. One of my duties was maintaining air conditioning units throughout the ship. My favorite unit served the Radar Room. If I remember correctly, it was on flightdeck level in the island. When my homeboy friend from Fieldale, Virginia, Assoc. Member **Troy Lee Few** had the smoke watch, I could easily join him and we had a crow's-eye view of flight deck activity and dolphins and flying fish playing alongside. It was a wonderful experience for two seventeen year olds in 1945!

P.S. I recall that ship's mascot, **Bingo** the dog, was initiated along with the rest of the poliwoogs when we crossed the Equator November 17, 1945.

James W. "Bill" Franklin

*(Editor's note: Thanks to James W. "Bill" Franklin for not blowing smoke!)*

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