



DAWN PATROL—L. Shepherd, SN, USN, stands fo'c'sle watch as the heavy cruiser USS Macon wakes up and makes ready for a day of training at sea.

out to port. The barrels move up and down in unison, and then as individuals.

A flashlight probes a path along deck leading to a seaman making up a line on the fo'c'sle. From out of the bowels of the ship, up through a hatch, a dungaree-clad sailor is momentarily silhouetted. He steps out on deck, munching on an apple, and moves toward a small cluster of men who are visible, mainly, by the red end of cigarette butts glowing in the

dark. They wait for the word to start doing their specialties.

There is a quarter moon. The stars are bright and the sky is beginning to lighten. More and more men appear on deck. The effects of the first awakening gulps of coffee erase frowns and actually turn some faces into smiles as a joke is cracked about something that happened on liberty the night before.

The deck gang moves about checking loose gear and gets ready to take

over special sea details. A boatswain's mate calls out, "Let's get these scuttles secured." Someone moves and a scuttle drops into place; a twist of a wheel and it is secured.

Radar screens are spinning. The anemometer turns slowly, indicating it is close to calm. Uniform of the day is set—dungarees, clean white skivvie shirts and blue (baseball-type) cap. Condition Yoke has long been set.

A call comes over the speakers: "All divisions make their readiness for sea reports to the OOD." Gangway lights are unrigged and stored. The mailman, his bag over his shoulder, waits at the gangway. He'll return aboard tonight after the firing and bring back those ever-important words from home.

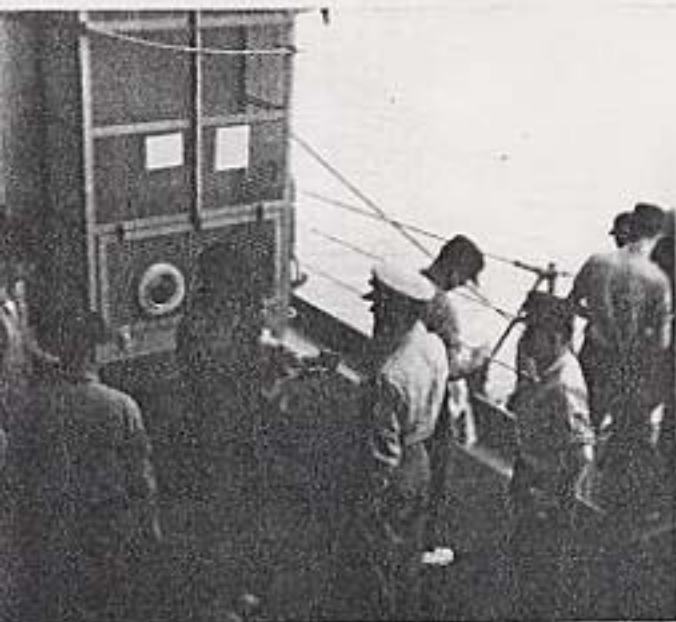
It's routine now. Chow is almost over. Men have just about manned all of their "getting underway" stations. The word hasn't been passed yet. But that will be soon. Special sea detail is set.

The men in the ship have already been notified in the Plan-of-the-Day that the ship is due to get underway at 0600. The whistle blows announcing the ship is underway. The sound is carried throughout the ship over the speaker system. Men hear the sound, check their watches (some even set them) and nod at one another.

The Plan-of-the-Day says, "Underway at 0600." The blast of the whistle confirms the time.

—Thomas Whaley, JOC, USN

'AWAY ALL BOATS'—First boat leaves with softball team. Right: Early morning detail gets canvas spic and span.



ALL HANDS