

USS *New Jersey* (BB-62) 1 January 1969

Off East Coast of Vietnam

00-04

INDEPENDENTLY ^STEAMING OFF VIET NAM
IN SEARCH OF VICTOR CHARLIE CONG
AND NOW JUST SOUTH OF THE DMZ
SHOOTING AT TARGETS TOO FAR TO SEE
WITH ORDERS FROM COMSEVENTHFLEET
TO FIRE OUR GUNS AND KEEP THINGS NEAT
AS A PART OF 70.8.9
WE WILL BE FIRING ALL THE TIME
EMPLOYMENT SCHEDULE 3-69
KEEPS US BUSY ON THE LINE
THE OTC AND SOPA TOO
IS CAPTAIN SYNDER OF "62"
COURSES VARY THROUGH THE NIGHT
BUT 090 AT 5 JUST NOW SEEMS RIGHT
YOKE IS SET, WE KNOW ITS TRUE
WE STEAM AT CONDITION OF READINESS TWO
WITH BOILERS 1, 3, 5, AND 8
GENERATORS 2, 4, 6, AND 8
WE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEMS MAKING STEAM
WITH THEM ON OUR NEW JERSEY TEAM
WE SHOW NO NAVIGATION LIGHT
FOR DARKEN SHIP THIS NEW YEARS NIGHT
LT THORNTON THE OOD
SAYS THINGS LOOK GOOD AND WE SHOULD SEE
A SUNRISE WITH THE PASS OF TIME

TO BRING US INTO "69"

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE HOLD SO DEAR

AMONG THEM PEACE IN THIS NEW YEAR

GOOD CHEER, GOOD LUCK, A SAFE TRIP HOME

AND WITH THAT THOUGHT, I'LL END THIS POEM.

A MISTAKE HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS LOG I FEAR

FOR MORE ENTRIES NEED BE ~~MADE~~ ENTERED HERE T/T

AT TIME ZERO TO FORTY ONE

ORDER WAS RECEIVED TO FIRE OUR GUNS

COMMENDED FIRE MAIN BATTERY TURRET TWO

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR ~~TO~~ VICTOR CHARLIE ~~TOO~~ TO YOU T/T

SEVEN SALVOS RESOUNDED WITH A MIGHTY CLAP

WITH SEVEN FULL CHARGES AND PROJECTILES HICAP

THE ENEMY IN HIS HOOTCHES AND BUNKERS WE DID ZAP

(CONT.)

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ROUNDS COMPLETE, CEASE FIRE CAME UP THROUGH THE PHONES

AND RELUCTANTLY WE RETURNED TO THE NIGHT STEAMING ZONE

T.J. THORNTON, LT, USN