

COMMANDING OFFICER



CAPTAIN RICHARD L. FOWLER, JR.

Failures by those working under Captain Fowler were few. All of us knew what he expected, and that was our best, if not perfection . . . Always on the "go," Capt. Fowler was often heard saying "Why aren't we turning?" or "Let's get those planes off the deck." . . . His quick wit always kept the bridge watch relaxed in moments of near panic on the part of others . . . His keen nautical eye never ceased to impress those around him . . . Such now well known nicknames as "Magellan" and "Chief Idler" were the result of his always active mind . . . His genuine smile and friendly attitude toward us all kept ESSEX a happy ship during the many months she spent away from home . . . In his new job of Chief of Staff and Senior Aide to the Chief of Naval Operations, we know that Capt. Fowler will have every success.



CAPTAIN SETH S. SEARCY, JR.

In the few months that he has been aboard, Captain Searcy has made himself known to all hands. Whenever the gruff, fatherly voice comes over the General Announcing System everything else is put aside to hear him. Why such interest in what he has to say? Simply because we know that he is interested in each and every one of us . . . A first rate shiphandler, Capt. Searcy has given many pointers learned through years of experience to his OOD's . . . His patience and wisdom in dealing with others have made us know that he is the man to turn to when we need a friend . . . Anxious to know the crew, the Captain might be found talking to a Fireman he had sent up to the bridge to see how the ship runs or wandering around the Foc'sle early Sunday morning . . . A Captain's job is supposed to be lonely. This, we hope, is not true. Capt. Searcy, sir, we want you to know that you have 2500 trusting and respectful friends aboard ESSEX. We are indeed glad to have you aboard!



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COMMANDER MORAN

With ESSEX for over a year, Commander Moran is well known by all hands. Soft spoken and easy going, he deals with all our problems, big and small. His cautious approach to every situation always results in the proper and just decision. Many times he has solved our problems before they reach the surface, and attract our attention. We see the X.O. all over the ship—on the Mess Decks, on refueling stations, inspecting the living compartments . . . and he always has time for a few words with each of us. CDR Moran never has to tell a subordinate to get the job done. The work gets done simply because those under him enjoy working for him. He is the man who said of ESSEX . . . "I don't know why, but everything always gets done on this ship." It is because of people like Commander Moran that things get done on ESSEX. Soon to serve in the rank of Captain, he is wished continued success by all hands.