

AT SEA!

It is a pleasure for me to add a few comments in the **USS GUADALCANAL's** cruisebook which was prepared to commemorate the Mediterranean deployment from 8 September 1977 to 13 March 1978. As my flagship, **GUADALCANAL** was in a sense the nerve center of Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group 2-77. Throughout the deployment the officers and men of **GUADALCANAL** provided superb support to the Ready Group and the embarked Marine Amphibious Unit by providing passenger, mail, and cargo service to the combined task forces. This, of course, was in addition to your primary mission of amphibious assault, an area in which you are second to none, as evidenced by **GUADALCANAL** receiving the Amphibious Assault Award for Fiscal Year 1977. You made every commitment throughout a deployment that included two major NATO exercises and operations that were conducted throughout the Mediterranean area.

In adverse weather, search and rescue missions, medical evacuations during darkness, and other contingency operations to numerous to list, you have all proved your mettle time and time again. I am proud of all of you, and it was a great honor for me to fly my pennant in **GUADALCANAL** during these important operations. Most of all, it was and is a pleasure to be a part of the "GUAD-TEAM."

Captain Eugene C. Rueff, U.S. Navy
COMPHIBRON 8 and CTF 61



CAPTAIN E. C. RUEFF

ACTION



Although I didn't arrive aboard until the New Year, your kindness and cooperation quickly made me feel as though I were an old hand. By doing well all that was assigned to you, you taught me the many things I had to know with regard to Amphibious Operations to become an effective member of the PHIBRON EIGHT team. For this I will be eternally grateful.

Additionally, I soon learned that each one of you is, and has every right to be, proud of the performance of **GUADALCANAL**. For these reasons, I am happy to be not only the Commodore's, but also your CSO.

COMMANDER ROY E. STARRIN, U.S. NAVY
CSO PHIBRON EIGHT

CPR-8