

# WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard USS NITRO (AE-23)! We are pleased that you are interested in the Service Force and are glad to show you how a modern ammunition ship accomplishes her mission.

## A WORD OF INTRODUCTION

**TO THE NITRO CLASS AE....** USS NITRO is the first of the three NITRO class ammunition ships, the other two being the PYRO and HALFAKALA of the Pacific fleet. The keel of NITRO was laid down at Bethlehem Sparrows Point Shipyard in Maryland on 20 May 1957. She was christened a year later on 25 June 1958 by Mrs. Randolph McCall Pate, wife of the then Commandant, United States Marine Corps. NITRO was commissioned on 1 May 1959.

**TO THE NAME....** Ammunition ships have traditionally been named after volcanoes or terms associated with ammunition. It is therefore fitting to name this ship "NITRO" after the ingredient in much of our conventional ammunition, but it was made even more appropriate by the fine combat record established by her predecessor.

**TO OUR HERITAGE....** USS NITRO (AE-23) heir to the proud traditions established by her predecessor, USS NITRO (AE - 2) which was built in 1919-1920 and decommissioned in 1945. During the beginning of the Second World War (AE-2) was employed supplying the Caribbean with ammunition and later replenishing the mighty battleships TEXAS, NEVADA, and ARKANSAS during the Normandy invasion of 1944. She also assisted in the invasion of Southern France, and, moving to the Pacific theater, reamed invasion fleets engaged in the attacks on the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

**TO THE DESIGN....** The present NITRO's design grew out of experience gained in World War II and in the Korean Conflict coupled with the new demands placed on replenishment forces by Forrestal Class aircraft carriers and guided missile cruisers and destroyers. Added to these is the need for increased naval mobility. Speed and safety are the key ideas behind NITRO's ammunition handling facilities: spacious, open decks for easy passage of cargo; modern, mechanical cargo-handling equipment to move large amounts of ammunition quickly and carefully; and dependable, efficient booms and winches, which are reeved with over five miles of line and wire. The newest cargo-handling addition is the helicopter flight deck, where helos can land for transfer of stores of refueling. This vertical replenishment (VERTREP) capability is becoming increasingly important in fleet underway replenishment operations. Equally important are NITRO's living spaces which contribute much to morale during extended cruises. Crew accommodations include individual reading lamps and air conditioning outlets for each foam rubber bunk, pleasant lounges for relaxing and watching TV, and a modern Ship's Store and Soda Fountain.

**TO THE CREW....** During peacetime cruising, NITRO has an allowance of 270 enlisted men and 15 officers. The ratings found aboard NITRO are: Boatswains, Boilermen, Commissarymen, Communications Yeoman, Damage Controlmen, Dishwashing Clerks, Electricians, Electronic Technicians, Enginemen, Gunners, Gunnery Fire Control Technicians, Hospital Corpsmen, Interior Communicationsmen, Machinery Repairmen, Machinists, Personnelmen, Postal Clerks, Quartermasters, Radarmen, Radiomen, Shipfitters, Ships Servicemen, Signalmen, Stewards, Storekeepers, Yeomen, and Seamen and Firemen.

**TO OUR MISSION....** The mission of an ammunition ship is to deliver ammunition to the combatant ships of the fleet at sea, often forming part of the Underway Replenishment Group of Service Force ships. NITRO can transport, store, selectively issue, and deliver ammunition of all calibers including missiles. She can take ships alongside to both port and starboard simultaneously, as well as conducting VERTREP. NITRO can perform other service tasks such as the delivery of freight, mail, passengers, fuel, movies, and bulk ammunition from one point to another.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Length	512'
Beam	72'
Draft	26'
Displacement	17,000 tons
Maximum Power	16,000 horsepower
Complement	275 Officers and men



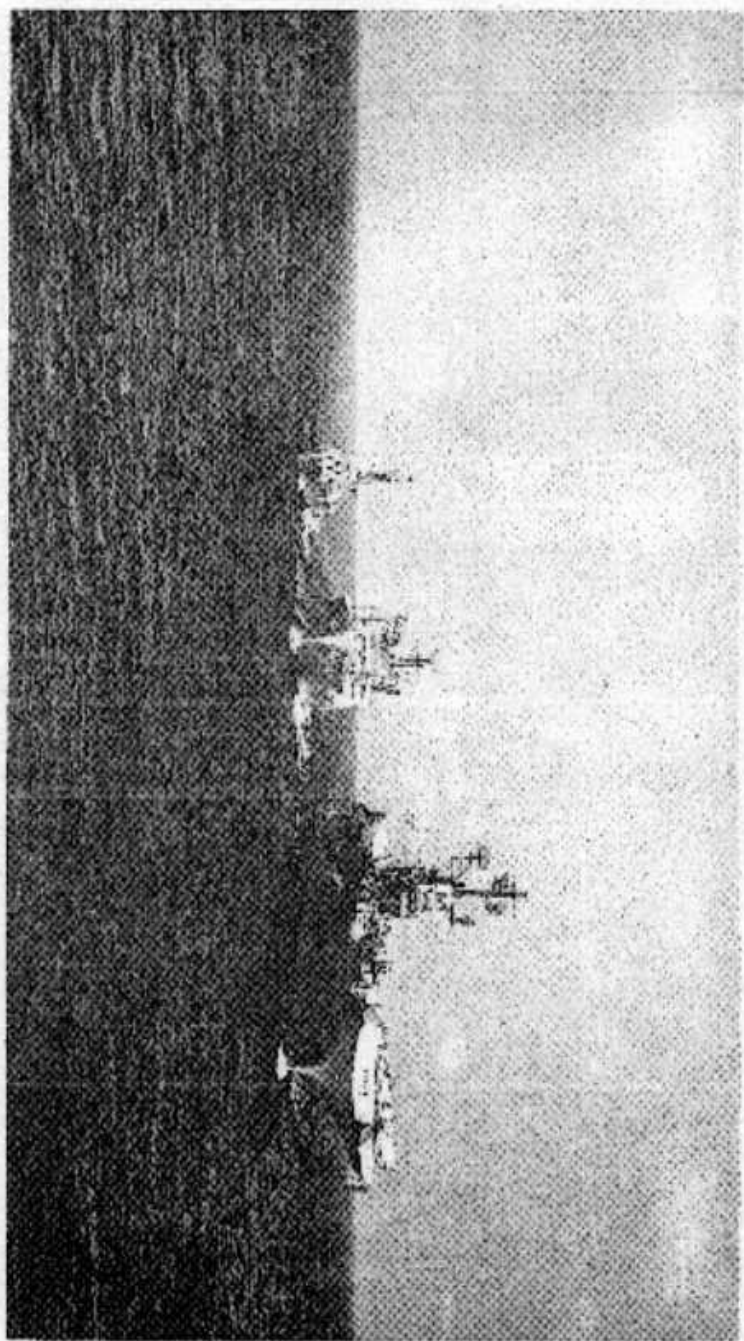
CAPTAIN THOMAS HOWE

Captain HOWE was born in Blue Field, West Virginia 2 December 1924. He graduated in January 1946 from the University of Virginia, commissioned in the NROTC program and reported for duty to USS CLEVELAND (CL-55); following were tours in the USS FRASER (DM-24) as Communications and CIC Officer, CIC and Fighter Director School, USS TALONIC (AGC-17) as CIC Officer, USS GRAMPIUS (SS-523), and USS POMPON (SSR-267).

After a tour in the Submarine Branch of BUSHIPS he reported for duty as Executive Officer, USS BLACKFIN (SS-322) in 1956 and was detached in 1959 to attend Armed Forces Staff College. He then commanded USS CUTLASS (SS-478) until 1961. Following were tours in the Special Projects Office, Washington, D.C., on CINCLANT Joint Staff (Polaris Operations) and as Commander of Submarine Division FIFTY TWO. After two years as Chief Staff Officer to Commander Submarine Flotilla SEVEN at Yokosuka, Japan, in December 1969 he assumed Command of USS MAZAMA (AE-9), which is now being decommissioned.

Captain HOWE is entitled to wear the following medals and awards: Bronze Star, American Campaign, World War II Victory, National Defense Service Medal with star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Navy Occupation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

He is married to the former Mary O'LEARY of Newton, Massachusetts.



DEPENDENTS CRUISE INFORMATION

- 0900 - Underway from pier two. Dependent sight seeing during Sea Detail.
- 1030 - Arrive Brenton Reef light and commence token "prep with USS TALBOT (DEG-4)
- 1130-1230 - Buffet Lunch
- 1300 - Surface Gunnery Shoot, Man overboard Drill.
- 1530 - Return to pier two and disembark dependents
- 1600 - Underway for Earle, N.J.
1. Everyone is reminded that there is NO SMOKING on ALL weatherdecks.
  2. Head facilities for all wives, girlfriends and female children will be in the CPO berthing compartment located on the 01 level.
  3. For viewing of the underway replenishment and Gun Shoot, dependents will be allowed only on the 03 and 04 levels.