U.S.S. Herbert J. Thomas

Continued from Page 5

and gunnery training.

Upon completion of underway training and after a final upkeep period, during which THOMAS received a pre-deployment inspection THOMAS once again found herself underway for WESTPAC on May 18. THOMAS sailed to WESTPAC in company with COMDESFLOT 7 and stopped at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Midway enroute. She reported to COMSEVENTHFLT for duty on 4 June 1963. While operating with the Seventh Fleet THOMAS visited Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan; Manila and Subic Bay, Philippine Islands; Hong Kong; and Buckner Bay Okinawa. The area of operations stretched from South Korea to South Viet-Nam in company with three attack carriers, USS CONSTELLATION, USS HANCOCK and USS CORAL SEA. On November 9 she participated in a highly successful joint Navy-Air Force Anti-Air Warfare exercise with aircraft from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

On 13 February THOMAS departed Long Beach with WILTSIE (DE 716) and executed the attack carrier TICONDEROGA (CVA(AW) 14) Pearl Harbor exercise. THOMAS is the only ship in the Navy with the new weapon system and the only opportunity it will continue to have for several years to determine its effectiveness and to work out difficulties associated with its implementation.

On 29 May 1963, CDR M. E. Ray Jones relieved CDR R. W. HOLCOMB, JR. as commanding officer.

Throughout June and August the THOMAS conducted day runs and was busily in preparation for Hold Ex. in August 1963. CDR MERLE MCNAIR, Chief of Naval Operations visited THOMAS and observed the unique ASW system.

THOMAS departed Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California on September 23 and arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on September 27. THOMAS then proceeded to Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, where she participated in a week long exercise with submarines from the Pacific Fleet.

THOMAS departed Pearl Harbor on 7 October 1963 and arrived Midway Island on 12 October. THOMAS visited Midway for a weekend liberty port and then proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan, where she moored starboard side to the pier at Berth 1 on 18 October. THOMAS remained in Yokosuka for a period of seven days and then departed for Subic Bay, Philippine Islands.

THOMAS entered Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California on 29 May 1963 and was placed in the yard for a regular overhaul. During this time she underwent many alterations and modifications. Also, during this time, she was visited by many dignitaries, including Admiral THOMAS H. MOORER, Chief of Naval Operations, who visited the ship on 4 July 1963.

THOMAS departed Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California on 23 September 1963 and arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 27 September