

## How I Met CDR Pheasant - Bob Turner

I reported on-board the Annapolis at 0330 in the morning while she was docked in Subic Bay, PI on or about 15 Aug 1967. After getting a few hours of sleep, I eventually found out where I was supposed to be for muster at 0700. Muster was fairly uneventful, but I felt I was in the right place at the right time, so I was pretty proud of myself.

Immediately after muster, an RM3 named Dave Mealy came up to me and asked if I play an instrument. "I play keyboards and bass" I replied. He responded with "Follow me!!" and off we went. Down two or three decks, through several corridors and eventually in a little cubby-hole right outside the Chapel. There I saw a set of drums, a keyboard and two amplifiers with guitars leaning against them. "What is this??" I asked Dave. "Welcome to the Salty Dogs!" Dave replied. Within about 3 minutes, a bass player and a drummer showed up. Dave strapped on a guitar and we started jamming!

We played 4 or 5 songs and when we got to the instrumental part of the 6th song, everyone stopped playing and were all looking up the ladder, which was right next to the keyboard I was playing. It took several seconds before I realized that they had stopped playing, but when I noticed they were looking up, I looked up as well. All I could see was GOLD!! The gold I was looking at was on Cdr Pheasant's hat!! When I finally stopped playing, he pointed directly at me and said, "What's your name, sailor?" in a fairly gruff voice. "Turner, RM2 Sir" I replied. "Be in my quarters in 5 minutes!" he bellowed. "Yes sir" I said as I saluted 'the gold'. I thought I had "screwed the pooch!!" Here I am, my first day aboard the Annapolis and I'm already in trouble!! As I asked for directions to Pheasant's state room, I was psyching myself up for a Captain's Mast!!

It took me several attempts to find his quarters in Officers Country, but I eventually knocked on his door. He let me in and said, "Do you know how long I was listening to you guys play?" "No sir, I don't" I replied. Cdr Pheasant said, "Long enough to know you have been playing music for quite a while and I have a proposition for you." "Sir?" is all I could think of to say. "The boys in the Salty Dogs are pretty good musicians, but they are not very well organized. They need some help in that area and I was wondering if you would be interested in working with them and get them organized and presentable." I said, "I believe I can do that, Sir... if I can find the time. I'm not even sure what I'm supposed to be doing!" (This was my first day aboard ANY ship!!)

Cdr Pheasant sort of scratched his head then asked, "Where do they have you assigned?" "I believe in the Message Center" I replied. "Well, that won't work," he said. "I'm going to move you to Comm Admin so you will have time to get this band together, but you can only practice when we are underway" said Pheasant. "You will be working under Cdr Hart and he's a nice fellow - you shouldn't have any problem practicing with the band for as long as need be after normal working hours."

That conversation is what started my involvement with the Salty Dogs' Guitarist/Bassist Dave Mealy, Drummer Ed "Mouse" Loughery, Guitarist Bob Dunham, and the bass player. (Wish I could remember his name!! :o) When the 'unknown' bass player left the

ship, Dave Mealy played bass until his tour was finished. Cdr Pheasant supported the band in everyway possible by giving us a place to practice, time to practice, and even a new set of drums, a new keyboard and two new amplifiers within a week after the first time we went to Japan.

Not only did we play for UNREPS, we also performed during the "Hoot-n-Anny", we played for 5 nights at The Playgirl Club in Hong Kong; Mouse and I played at the Commander's Christmas Ball at the Mandarin Hotel in Hong Kong; we sat in with a Philippino band in Subic Bay and we sat in with a locally well-known band in Perth, Australia. While at a jazz club in Japan, Cdr Pheasant wrote "overnight passes" for me and Mouse on a couple of napkins!! To this day, I still have a special admiration for Cdr Pheasant. And needless to say, I have a ton of fond memories of my tour aboard the USS Annapolis!!