

Anna Boat and Me by Roger Faultersack (DC3)

I came aboard the Anna Boat in Subic Bay PI after spending two weeks there in transit. We were to board her as a group at 1200 hours that day, I could not wait that long so I reported on board at 0900. I had to wait on the OD's deck for someone to come up from engineering and take me to DC central. The very first ladder I took down, I made in all the way on my butt. The treads were so slippery when I stepped on the first rung, out went my foot and fell all the way. The sailor turned to me and said "Welcome aboard the Anna Boat" I was then taken to DC central where I meet Chief Suthers, sitting there smoking his, most likely the second pack of cigarettes of the day. He looked at his watch and said "You are early, you are to be aboard at noon, but since you are here early you can pick where you want to go." I had three red strips out of boot camp, so I was open to go any where. I ask chief Suthers, "What's open?" he went through the list, then came to Damage Control. He explained it to me what I would be doing as a DC man. "I'll take that" I told him. "OK, want to take the in port watch?" Had no idea what that was, so Smithy came in from the roving watch, "take Roger here and show him the ropes of the watch" So out the door Smithy and I went, clip board in hand and sounding tape, we headed up topside. I went with Smithy for an hour until his watch was done at 1200 hours. I was let go to do my first watch duty on my own, only being on

board for 3 hours. Chief told me just to walk from bow to stern, if you see any thing unusual report it. After about an hour on my first watch, I came to OD's place where he stopped me. Lt some body ask if I was the roving watch, "yes sir I am" I have here some report papers that need to go to, One, the Captain, two, to DC central, third to the OD. There I stood not knowing where most of these places are, but DC central. Not knowing IT WAS His job to get these reports to the places they belong, not mine. I did not know this until I was told by none other than Captain Wacker. This was the first place I went to, when I found his inboard cabin, I knocked on the door, not knowing I was to ring the bell on the bulkhead. The door opened and there stood a PI in whites, "YES" he said. "I am to give this report to the Captain" just then I head a voice from the room. "Come in come in" so I step into the large room turned to see the Captain sitting at a large table eating his meal. "Can I help you?" "YES SIR" with a lump larger than a grapefruit in my mouth, I came out with "I am to give you this consumption report from the OD" "Where you from young man" "DC central Sir" "OH no, you are not to bring me this, it's the OD's job" "I did not know this, Sir" I gave the chit to the PI and he gave it to the Captain. He started to ask me a lot of questions. "New on board?" he was generally inserted in his men and took time to find out who he was in charge of. I then reported back down to DC central. What a day that was, in just 6 hours, I came 3 hours early, I fell down

a ladder, picked my designation as DC men, stood a 4 hour watch, met the Captain, did some one else's job for them, and lived to tell about it. My kids always liked me telling them about the Anna Boat and Me.