

## Good and Bad Times Aboard Anna Boat by Roger Faultersack

Being the only boy with three sisters, one tends to get his own way a lot. Then my dad was killed before my 15th birthday. Now, I was impossible... now I had the run of the roost. NOT A GOOD THING!! Believe me. I came aboard the Anna with a bad attitude being 19 and could kick the world's ass, or so I thought.

One day out at sea, we had an Un-Rep with an E ship, and I was to join the party on the starboard side to unload the supplies. We mustered in the hanger deck, all of us standing in a nice line, I was smoking at the time and was asked very nicely to put out the cigarette. Now with my bad attitude I came back with, "When I am done with it". Wrong answer!! I wished I had not said that. I spent my next hours looking for some thing at the bottom of a bilge down in some hole in the boiler room. Nice and hot... no A/C where I was. I never did find what I was suppose to be looking for, but that was NOT the point, smart mouth.

When I crawled out of that hell hole, I had to report to Chief Suthers back at D/C central. "Sit down sailor" he said trying not to get the place a mess form me, I pulled up a chair. "Roger, you have a bad attitude. There are three ways we do things here... My way, your way, the Navy way, and guess which one we all do things by? The

Navy way,” he informed me. Chief Suthers told me to get cleaned up and report back to him when I do. About an hour later I went back to D/C central where Chief Suthers was waiting for me. “Lets take a walk” he said with a cigarette in his mouth. He took me to the fantail and started asking me a lot of questions. Some were very hard to answer, but he insisted. No one cared that much for me in a long time and I did not know I had so many issues with my fathers death and that's when it all came out.

The best time I feel in my 19 years so far was aboard the Anna Boat, others do care, and I was making a 180 turn around. Even Captain Wacker helped me, he took my fathers place where and when I needed it the most. Then there was Harris, what can I say about this black brother, my 1st class carpenter friend. He taught me so much about life and what to watch out for on liberty. Between these three men, I came through with flying colors.

So you see, being in the service was a good thing for me, and being on the Annapolis was the Best.