

1/1/69 MIDWATCH LOG ENTRY

It is a time honored custom that ships' mid-watch log entries are written as a poem. The following is the traditional log entry for the USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742) dated 1 January 1969. The Frank Knox departed 4 January 1969 for another tour in the Western Pacific and Vietnam waters.

The ship is moored, starboard side
To the FLOYD B. PARKS at the highest tide,
Mooring lines doubled connect us two
As if held together like epoxy glue.

FRANK KNOX the Radar Picket Destroyer
Has dropped the "R" but is still the same warrior,
As a DDR she's had quite a history
But as a DD she'll not be quite the mystery.

FLOYD B PARKS is moored starboard side,
In that harbor just south of Oceanside,
Called San Diego, Juan Cabrillo's discovery
In recent history it's made quite a recovery.

Father Junipero Serra established the town
He'd be pleased today at it's world wide renown,
It's been two hundred years since he built the Mission
Congratulations San Diego on your old age position.

We're at the Naval Station, thirty-second street
And to be here is really a treat,
Because unlucky friends are out steaming around
Over far off seas and uncharted ground.

We're at berth thirty five to be precise
Alongside pier three and it's really nice,
To see all the ships in their holiday best
Its put the electricians to the utmost test.

The engines are cold, the boilers are clear
We're receiving our services right from the pier,
Steam, water and electricity too
To enable the ship to provide for the crew.

The myriad of units that are within sight
Are Pacific Fleet ships and aircraft in flight,

The yard and service craft are all put away
Resting for another strenuous work day.

The Senior Officer present afloat
Has been taken home in his very own boat.
His Flagship remains the USS SAINT PAUL
Moored to North Island long, straight and tall.

Commander First Fleet is SOPA tonight
he's responsible for all ships both heavy and light.
His ships are all manned up and down the coast
He's a grand old man we're willing to boast.

News of last year has been good and bad
Much of it's made us sickly and sad,
Robert F KENNEDY, that young forceful man
Died of a wound from an assassins hand..

Martin Luther KING, the preacher of great
Suffered from wounds and a similar fate.
Our own proud ship PUEBLO taken by storm
Her gallant crew returned all beaten and worn.

Oh God what direction's our confused world going
With Middle East and Vietnam Wars so annoying,
We all pray for peace in the coming New Year
For to fill mankind's hearts with happiness and cheer.

One fourth of the crew is on board tonight
preparing the ship for its far eastern flight,
Soon we must go, it's our chosen direction
To give the less fortunate people protection.

Welcome New Year to this world so confused
We Navy men hope to make it much less abused,
To bring freedom to all, and choice as they please
So they may enjoy rivers, mountains and trees.

The intrepid FRANK KNOX and her stalwart crew
Who'll soon be sailing those oceans of blue,
Wishes all mankind a prosperous New Year
And for Auld Lang Syne, goodness and cheer.

By J. R. Sanford, Jr., LTJG USNR