

JON OSBORNE, SHSN

Jon arrived back on board the FRANK KNOX in a most unusual way, Jon ran the ship's store located on the main fore and aft passageway, at times referred to as "main street". His store was a 4 by 6 foot compartment filled with watches, lighters, gift items and cigarettes and the other essential, candy.

He was told he wasn't required on board the ship and was in one of the first groups airlifted off the ship to USS MIDWAY. Before he left, he carefully secured the locks on the store and put the key in his pocket. Grouped near the bow of FRANK KNOX Osborne took his turn riding the wire harness up to the helicopter 15-20 feet above the bow, and in front of the forward gun mounts. He arrived aboard USS MIDWAY, settled in with big ship food service, then up forward to his assigned bunk where he spent the night.

The next morning personnel located him and announced he needed to return to his ship to reopen the ship's store. The ride back was rough as Typhoon Gilda approached; sailors aboard the FRANK KNOX needed their cigarettes, candy chips to keep going and Osborne was their man. Osborne recalls, "I don't ever being asked to volunteer." His routine was to open the ship's store for two hours daily and then, be available for the many working parties.

When 10 tons of ammunition was transferred to an Army barge alongside his ship, Osborne handled the 5 inch shells and the heavier "hedge hogs" used against submarines, on the barge. Later after a rest break, he was in the bucket brigade handling ammunition else where on the ship. He recalls serving two shifts on the barge, as the effects of Typhoon Gilda stirred the waters around the ship.

Osborne and Richard Huehn (above) were not given "shower vacations" on one of the larger ships. Although Huehn was finally ordered to bring the personnel records to USS MARS, Osborne took salt water showers with some others and rode FRANK KNOX off the reef and into Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Osborne was the first to mention "swim call" in the ocean just off the reef. The ship would station riflemen on the O-1 level. Swimmers would then jump, or climb off the ship's stern, to swim, or float for a time before the next small group was called. When calm water followed a typhoon the call would go out for swim call in the ocean. The water was warm and daytime temperatures around 100 degrees. Osborne recalls there were days when the work never ceased; sailors could only dream of swim call.