

CDR MARK W. WOODS, USN
Commanding Officer

The performance of DESRON FOUR on this cruise with the SIXTH FLEET is well known to have been outstanding. Certainly no ship contributed more to this reputation than the flagship, GEARING. The ship not only successfully met the various assignments and challenges, but also performed them with efficiency and flair. This kind of performance comes from teamwork. The very effective GEARING team was made from the fine performance of the individual officers and men on board.



Examine any category of our cruise, evolutions at sea, replenishments, planeguarding, communications, activities in port, ship appearance, conduct ashore, honors and ceremonies for foreign dignitaries - and you will find uniformly excellent performance. This was coupled with staying power, the ability to meet the requirements of the squadron watchwords "go now" at any time.

For me, as well as many other GEARING men; this was my first cruise in European waters. The list of our ports of call shows the completeness with which we covered the Mediterranean. The following pictures will attest to the many interesting and memorable features of the cruise. For me the best memory of all will be my pride in the performance of my ship and the manner in which my crew represented the United States. To all hands a very sincere WELL DONE.

Mark W. WOODS