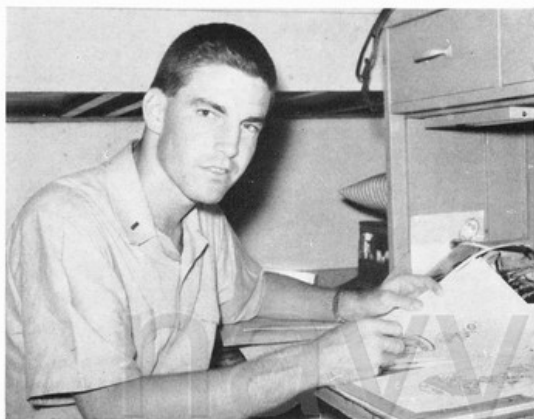


READY DECK

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Thanks to ...
Our "Angels" for their help and
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CDR C. B. Robinson

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Wo Burton and his mates of the Photo Lab for the many hours they put into READY DECK's preparation ;
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Dai Nippon Printing Company.



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most helpful assistance to you to record your passing activities aboard ship or ports-in-call, with fine printing, and cooperation with your ship's ingenious staff. We boast 83 years' ample experience and a distinctive reputation in this field.

As the pictures show, our gate is wide open to you. Everyone concerned with this line of business. And we are ready to produce your book. In the right-hand corner of this page is a panoramic view of the Ichigaya plant where READY DECK was produced.

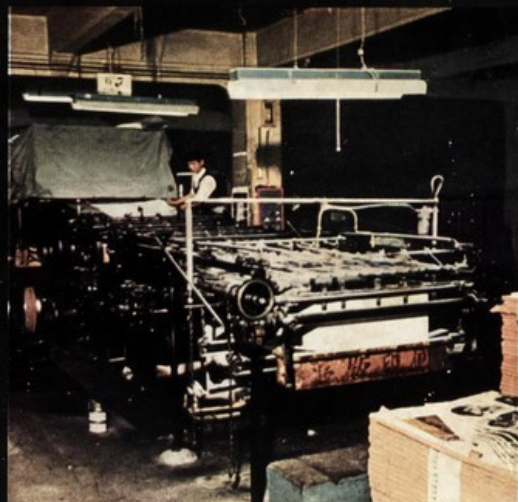
The remaining pictures on this page show the involved procedures in the printing of this book in streamlined process. Without these steps READY DECK would not have been possible.—(Blue printed design in center is our emblem).



Binding

Printing

Casting



Formosa—not much bigger than West Virginia, a beautiful island in the Western Pacific, if you can see past the squalor of the small villages, but thousands, of miles from California and even more than seven hundred miles from Yokosuka. Not much to quibble over, you might think at first, but for at least two big reasons you'd be wrong. The first, which is simply a matter of what some people call "geopolitics," is Formosa's location; and the second, a part of the fabric of spirit and determination which is one of the strongest remaining supports of Chiang Kai-Shek's government, is the fact that Taiwan is the last outpost of Free China. Chiang can retreat no further.

It's as simple as that. You may read of "world politics," "ideological warfare," and "mutual defense of common principles," but they all mean the same thing. They add up to simply stated but infinitely complicated problems which makes it necessary for thousands of Americans every year to come to the Far East. The interests of the United States extend now throughout the world, and wherever they are not safe there must be a Navy ready to fight for them.

The location of Formosa is a vexing matter of concern to Americans, and not just because so many of us do not like the fact it is so far from home. The island is about half way around the world from the United States, right between the two strongest free nations in Asia, Japan and the Philippines. That it remains friendly to us and to them means that vital sea and air lanes stay open. If Formosa falls the Communists will have a base situated directly between their strongest Asiatic enemies. From Keelung, Kaoshiung, and Taipei communist planes and ships could harass trade routes which now keep Free Asia strong.

But turn it around a minute. Look at the situation from a positive point of view. Look at it the way the communist leaders on the mainland see it today. Formosa stands seventy-five miles from the fortresses of China, a poised stronghold from which the communists can be attacked at any time. Chiang's troops await only the word that now is the time to return to the homeland, and the Communists know this. To protect themselves they must keep armies and air wings close by. They must keep elaborate lines functioning to supply those armies and planes. How much more he would rather have his strength in a position to force the issue in southeast Asia or Korea. He must feel frustrated as he watches his enemy's supply lines flowing unhindered while his sea ports are bottled up, his interior lines of communication lying open to attack. From Formosa the free world looks on him at close range and sees his movements, his build-up positions of strength, his plans. It is not surprising that he has announced he must take the island.

And that's where Free China enters the picture. To millions of Chinese on the mainland Chiang's promises to keep up the fight, to return to the mainland, are the principal source of hope. Chiang's armies train only seventy-five miles away, and their daily object is getting one step nearer the trip home. There is still hope on the mainland.

To maintain our commitments in the Far East, the President has sent army, navy, marine and air force units to the Western Pacific. Of these the most important is Admiral Kivette's Seventh Fleet. It conducts intensive training all over the Japan-Okinawa-Taiwan area.

Under the theme of training, though, there is always the thought that the fleet is ready. If while the ships conduct maneuvers, the need for their services arise they are there.

It is from this thought that we derived the title—READY DECK.