



SHIP OF THE MONTH  
**USS Calcaterra (DER 390)**

The Newport-based radar picket destroyer escort *Calcaterra* recently returned to her homeport from an extended deployment in support of Operation Deep Freeze '66.

Since *Calcaterra's* departure in August, 1965, water from all the seven seas passed beneath her keel and she logged more than 44,000 miles. Her return to Newport marked the end of an around-the-world cruise.

For five months of her nine-month deployment, *Calcaterra* manned a picket station midway between New Zealand and Antarctica. Here she provided vital weather information to planes flying to and from Antarctica. She also served as a research and rescue unit in the icy waters of the Antarctic Ocean.

The crew of the 22-year-old ship proved well equipped to handle their tasks in the Antarctic region. Some of the ship's assignments kept her on station for more than 30 days at a stretch without refueling or replenishing.

Before leaving Newport last August, *Calcaterra's* Commanding Officer, Commander William C. Earl, was commissioned by Newport's mayor to serve as Newport's official emissary and extend good will from Newport to the mayors of the cities the ship visited.

When the ship returned to Newport, Commander Earl brought mementos from mayors of two cities the ship visited for presentation to Newport's mayor.

The ship and her 170-man crew visited countries around the world from Peru to New Zealand and Australia to England.

*Calcaterra* was commissioned as a destroyer escort on November 17, 1943, and was named for Silver Star winner Herbert Calcaterra, who was killed early in World War II. The ship escorted sixteen convoys to the Mediterranean during the war, seeing action twice against the Germans off the coast of North Africa. After the war, *Calcaterra* continued her service with duty in the Pacific until decommissioning in May, 1946.

In 1955 she was recommissioned as a destroyer escort radar ship and began regular picket duty in the Atlantic.

*Calcaterra* participated in Springboard '65 in the Caribbean. With duties as picket ship, special assignments and as a Sonar School training ship in Key West, Florida, *Calcaterra* frequently visits ports in the Caribbean area.

Commander Earl was scheduled to be relieved as Commanding Officer of *Calcaterra* by Lieutenant Commander Brian P. McCrane in ceremonies on June 20.