

09 FEBRUARY 1966

### Calcaterra's Captain Says 'Thanks'

"As we leave the lovely city of Dunedin and the very gracious people who have made our short time together memorable, we are fully cognizant of the fact that time or distance will never dim the many friendships we have made," the captain of the weather picket ship U.S.S. Calcaterra, Lieutenant - commander W. C. Earl, said in a special message before the ship sailed at 9 a.m. on her return to Newport, Rhode Island.

"It has been a great pleasure and privilege for us to have been able to call Dunedin home during our deployment from the United States, and it is difficult to realise that we are now departing for the final time.

"There will be many sad hearts aboard as we sail westward from your country, but such is the way of all navy men and we will be warmed by the thoughts that some day we may return or perhaps have an opportunity to welcome some of you to the United States.

"For all you have done we offer our sincere and deep gratitude," he said.

15 JANUARY 1966

### Picket Ship On Last Duty

The United States weather picket ship U.S.S. Calcaterra left Dunedin yesterday morning for her last picket before returning to the United States.

The ship is carrying 13 New Zealand scientists who are to spend three weeks on the sub-antarctic Auckland Islands.

The men will return with the Calcaterra when she finishes her picket duty at 60deg south. She will return to Dunedin on February 6.

08 FEBRUARY 1966

### U.S. Swimmers Guests Of Calcaterra

Officers of the weather picket ship, U.S.S. Calcaterra this morning met the five American girl swimmers who are to compete in a carnival at the Moana Pool tonight.

The ship is in the final stages of preparations for the return trip to her home port at Newport, Rhode Island, which involves a round-the-world journey through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean.

The Calcaterra leaves at 9 a.m. on Thursday.

# THE GARY MAY RETURN NEXT SUMMER

The U.S.S. Thomas J. Gary will probably return to Dunedin again next summer for another weather picket duty. Part of her crew will be volunteers from the U.S.S. Calcaterra.

"It's unofficial yet but it is most likely that the ship will be back here again next year," said the Press information officer, Ensign M. J. Maciejewski.

"These weather pickets are on a voluntary basis and there has been a good response for another tour of duty by the crew. We also know a number of those on the Calcaterra have volunteered to come back on the Thomas J. Gary.

Ensign Maciejewski said the men volunteered because of the travel involved and because of the liberty (leave) they had in Dunedin.

"They like it so much here. It's not because of the picket because they don't enjoy that."

#### SLIGHT DAMAGE

The ship arrived at the Cross Wharf this morning after a relatively uneventful picket. The only rough weather encountered was travelling to and from the picket but it was enough to

cause some slight damage.

The Antarctic Circle was crossed and to mark the occasion the "bull nose" was painted red. The ceremony was carried out by Ensign M. Foley near the Bellany Islands.

Told that the U.S.S. Calcaterra had her nose painted blue in a similar ceremony, Ensign Maciejewski said the blue nose was for the Arctic Circle crossing. "Trust them to boob," he added.

Apart from the sea the next most common sight on the trip south was icebergs. At times there were more than 200 showing on the radarscope.

Open house will be held for the public as part of the Festival Aquacade attractions on Saturday between 1 p.m. and 5.

The Thomas J. Gary will also provide a drill party in the Festival Procession and if there is time a float will be entered.

Among those who welcomed the ship back to Dunedin today was the captain's wife, Mrs L. Smith. She arrived in the city from Newport, Rhode Island, on Monday to see her husband, lieutenant-commander R. C. Smith, for the first time in almost five months.

Advancements notified among the crew recently were, First-class Bosun Mate J. Fitzpatrick to Bosun Mate Chief, and Seaman G. D. Kilgore to Engineman Third Class.

The U.S.S. Thomas J. Gary is to leave for its final picket duty of the present tour on February 4. The picket will last about a month.