

## **Richard Heffernan USS Turner Joy Memories – Received Feb. 19, 2013**

USS Turner Joy is a perfect tour. Last time I saw the ship was August 1964 while at sea on the Kennebec. We had our liberty cancelled and departed Sasebo, Japan to go on a emergency refueling somewhere in the Pacific. Found out soon enough it was the Tonkin Gulf, Vietnam.

I remember all the brass were tense. We went to General Quarters ( GQ ) for hours at a time, dressed in our battle gear of helmet , life preserver, and socks rolled up over the lower section of our trousers.

When I had Officer of The Deck duty, I constantly checked radar and peered through my binoculars for the reported Vietnamese gunboats that the USS Turner Joy and USS Maddox said was attacking our formation of ships. Never saw a thing. Neither did anybody.

We went to war anyway. Politicians knew better than us sailors on USS Kennebec and the 7th Fleet.

Keep up the great work with our Association!

Richard Heffernan  
( '64-'65 )