

WELCOME FOR U.S. CALCATERRA:

Picket Ship Reaches Dn. Almost Out Of Fuel

The commander of the U.S. Calcaterra, this season's Operation Deepfreeze weather picket ship, Lieutenant-commander W. C. Earl, was doubly happy when the ship berthed in Dunedin at 9.30 a.m. today. The Calcaterra was almost out of fuel and Commander Earl was highly delighted with the warm welcome he received on his arrival.

The Calcaterra sailed the 6,000 miles from Lima non-stop and apart from three fine days encountered storms all the way which made in-roads on the fuel supply.

"We've never been so low on fuel before," Lieutenant-commander Earl said.

The Calcaterra arrived playing recorded music (it was too cold for the ship's band to play on deck) and only a small group of on-lookers braved the conditions to greet the Americans. However, the greeting they received was enthusiastic.

One of the first to step onto the new oil wharf after the ship tied up was Radarman First Class, Chuck Schneider, who rushed to embrace his girlfriend, Miss Jennifer McMullan, a Dun-

edin nurse. They plan to marry about Christmas.

Radarman Schneider has seen a good deal of Dunedin. He was a member of the crew of the U.S.S. Wilhoite, Vance and Durant.

Also in the Calcaterra are five other sailors who were here last year in the U.S.S. Mills.

GREETINGS

Commander Earl, who has been told a great deal about Dunedin's hospitality, particularly from his school classmate, Lieutenant - commander R. Fountain, commander of the U.S.S. Hissem, which was here before the U.S.S. Mills last year, brought with him greetings from the Mayor of Newport, Rhode Island, Mr C. A. Hambly.

He will present the Mayor, Mr Sidey, with the message tomorrow morning.

Mr Hambly said in his letter: "It is indeed a great pleasure to have Lieutenant-commander Earl act as my personal emissary and bring to you and your people the warm and friendly greetings of the people of Newport."

"In these troubled times, it is our earnest hope and prayer that we all unite in a common cause for mutual respect and co-operation; thereby enhancing the spirit of international friendship and understanding throughout the world."

"As a memento of our friendship and goodwill I am very happy to present to you a 'Newport Tile' as a remembrance from the people of the City of Newport."

Commander Earl said his being assigned to picket duties at 60deg south, was "the opportunity of a lifetime." He had been in the Navy for 14 years and never had such a chance before. He considered it a "tremendous challenge."

The Calcaterra, carrying 164 men and 14 officers, leaves on Saturday morning for her first picket in southern waters to send weather information for the opening of the new Deepfreeze season. She returns on October 24.

Calcaterra Cook Breaks Leg

Joseph Warren Myers (20), a cook on the weather picket ship, U.S.S. Calcaterra, has been admitted to the Dunedin Public Hospital with a broken leg received when the ship was five days out from Dunedin.

The hospital reported today that Myers was progressing satisfactorily.

The ship reported that Myers broke his leg when the Calcaterra rolled heavily in a storm and a box hit the back of his leg. He was admitted to hospital shortly after the ship berthed.

Myers will be transferred to Wellington shortly and will rejoin the ship when she completes her first picket duty on October 24.

'Deepfreeze' Picket Ship At Dunedin

The U.S.S. Calcaterra, the weather picket ship for the 1965-66 Operation "Deepfreeze" season, arrived in Dunedin yesterday morning.

The captain of the ship is Lieutenant-commander W. C. Earl.

The Calcaterra sailed 6,000 miles from Lima (Peru) in 20 days, and when she berthed at Dunedin the fuel tanks were almost empty.

Lieutenant J. G. Stephen F. Selig, the ship's information officer, said there was only enough fuel left for two and a-half days steaming when the ship arrived.

"The trip was pretty rough," he said, "and few of us got much sleep."

"But we are told by those who have done picket duty before that the worst weather we met on the way across is the best we can hope for when we are south."

"She isn't the most stable ship in the world," he said, "and I think our biggest problem will be eating when we are down there."

When the ship tossed about it was difficult for the men to cook and even harder to eat, he said. "Nothing stays still in the wardroom"