

The Sunflower Seed Incident

While doing my six-month stint at sea aboard the good ship Assiniboine a strange thing happened. We were doing exercises with the Yankee fleet out in the Pacific. Their job was to fly the drone around; our job was to pepper it full of holes. The Assiniboine, as I'm sure everyone is aware of, had radar-controlled 3'' 50's. On this particular day the gun jammed which obviously kicked us right out of the shoot. Then the troubleshooting started, I believe it wasn't until the next day that the problem was solved. What was the problem you ask? Well as it happens it was the dreaded sunflower seed. One of the lads in the mount had a passion for sunflower seeds and during the exercises he was eating them and kept spitting out the shells. Where the shells landed I do not know but it was the shells that put the mount out of commission. The "how" I leave up to your imagination but that's the God's honest truth.

In wartime the guilty party would have been keel hauled, however during peacetime, perhaps something a bit less severe.

As an anticlimax to this yarn, this event happened on the same occasion that one of our ship's shells was exploding and kicking the crap out of some village's church steeple in Washington State — the villagers were not pleased. It made the *Crowsnest*. Anyone else remember these two events?

Ken Neidy — Entry 10