

# Boarding



During her seven patrols, HAMILTON visually inspected nearly 2000 vessels of all types, from small native fishing boats to large coastwise and oceangoing ships. Several of these, because they were in some way suspect, were inspected by boarding parties from the ship. Besides arms and ammunition, we were also on the lookout for young Vietnamese attempting to avoid the draft (false or visibly altered identification cards were the tipoff here) and any unusually large caches of food or clothing not accompanied by valid shipping papers. The language barrier was really no problem, since we carried one or two Vietnamese Navy petty officers on board during most of our patrols. "Now, set Boarding Condition One," piped over the ship's PA system became familiar to all hands, as we had to be ready to board at any hour of the day or night.

