

# VUNG TAU

2 May 1969—

The USCGC SPENCER is a veteran of the Market Time Patrol. This time she is assigned to Area 6, off the coast of Vung Tau in the region of the Mekong Delta. The SPENCER crew is anxious to resume duty on the barrier after nearly six weeks of "shore duty" assignments, first as Station Ship in Hong Kong and then as Flag Ship for the COMRONTHREE Change of Command ceremony. Indeed, she is so anxious to resume duty that she arrives in the war zone on 30 April, twenty four hours ahead of schedule!

After relieving the USCGC MENDOTA, a landing party is sent ashore into Vung Tau to the Coastal Surveillance Center for briefing. Anchored for over four hours in the harbor, many pairs of SPENCER binoculars are trained upon the beautiful resort beach at Vung Tau, the jewel of the Viet Nam "Riviera". This town, in more peaceful days, was a favorable resort for the colonial French and Vietnamese rich, and now is a favorite "R & R" center for both Allied and Viet Cong troops. Overlooking the harbor, the Coastal Surveillance Center lighthouse makes a majestic impression.

The briefing completed, the SPENCER again gets underway on a patrol that will find her performing a variety of tasks, including the boarding of suspicious vessels, providing gunfire support, and one dark night, providing a MEDEVAC for a merchant seaman with a bleeding ulcer off the HOBART VICTORY.

