

THE LAST PATROL

Upon leaving Singapore we headed south for the ritual of crossing the equator. Shortly after turning around to steam back north to our next and last patrol area off Qui Nhon, we received a message informing us that a North Vietnamese trawler had been spotted by a surveillance aircraft close to the South Vietnamese coast. We were to proceed at maximum speed to intercept. Further instructions after we arrived on the scene told us to remain out of visual range but within good radar range. Soon two Navy destroyers arrived, and with the SPENCER in tactical command, we stalked the trawler up the South Vietnamese coast. As our little task group was approximately parallel with Qui Nhon we were relieved of our command and further duties in this operation by a missile-carrying destroyer equipped with experts in every field from demolitions to languages. We of the SPENCER were amused to note that the Navy team promptly lost contact with the trawler.



Eat your heart out



CIC busy in tracking trawler



SPENCER in command

