

Our third patrol area was in the Gulf of Thailand. It was here, in April and May, that we first used our five inch gun heavily in Naval Gunfire Support missions. By the time that the MINNETONKA shot her last shell in September, she had fired more than any other ship on Operation Market Time. The 4,684 rounds from the five inch gun yielded good results: 56 enemy killed or wounded in action, 279 enemy structures destroyed or damaged, 31 enemy bunkers destroyed or damaged, 48 enemy sampans destroyed or damaged, 14 fires started and 1,930 meters of trenchline or trails destroyed. The aircraft spotters consistently praised our marksmanship. The gun barrel was subjected to so much use, that we needed to have a new one placed in the mount when we returned to Subic Bay in September.

