

CAPTAIN JACK STEWART THUMA, USCG Commanding Officer

Captain Jack Stewart Thuma was born on May 16, 1921, in Crosswell, Michigan, the son of Jacob W. and Audree Shafer Thuma. His boyhood days were spent in Crosswell, Michigan, where he attended and graduated from Crosswell High School. Captain Thuma received his higher education at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Captain Thuma's military career began in January, 1942, when he enlisted at the Recruiting Office, Chicago, Illinois. His first glimpse of service life came as a recruit at a war-time receiving center on the campus of the University of Chicago. From there he was transferred to New London, Connecticut, and subsequently to Atlantic City, New Jersey, for duty under instruction in Basic Radioman School. His interest in this field secured rapid advancement for him with a final enlisted promotion to Second Class Radioman in May, 1943. An urgent requirement for officers during the war years (1940 to 1945) prompted him to apply for Officer Candidate School. Based on his educational background, experience and other qualifications he was selected and assigned to training in the "OC" program at New London, Connecticut, in July, 1943. In November, 1943, he was commissioned an Ensign (temporary service) and assigned as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Patrol Boat CG-83429 located at New London, Connecticut. A change in homeport of the vessel saw him serving as her CO in the Philippines from January, 1945 to January, 1946.

Upon the conclusion of World War II, he returned home to his family in Sycamore, Illinois to settle down to the more routine life of a civilian. His former position with the Sycamore Preserve Works Corporation, Sycamore, Illinois, was waiting for him and the next three years saw the start of a promising career. However, the call of the service was too strong and in April, 1949, he accepted a permanent commission as a Lieutenant (junior grade) in the Coast Guard.

He reported to the Coast Guard Cutter **Owasco**, Boston, Massachusetts, for duty and was subsequently assigned to the Cutter **Escanaba** in Alameda, California. Once again back in the service of his country, Captain Thuma embarked on a voyage which has seen rapid promotions and many varied assignments. He has served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of the Cutter **Woodbine** and Commanding Officer of the Cutter **Acacia**. Shore stations include assignments as Assistant Chief, Electronics Engineering Branch, 14th Coast Guard District; Chief, Electronics Engineering

Branch, 9th Coast Guard District; Chief, Navigations Branch, Electronics Engineering Division, Coast Guard Headquarters; and Commanding Officer of the Washington Radio Station, Alexandria, Virginia. Undoubtedly his assignment, in July, 1965, to the Washington Radio Station brought back many memories of his "white hat" service as a radioman during World War II. His interest in this field has been demonstrated on numerous occasions since reporting aboard **Westwind**.

Captain Thuma is married to the former Marguerite Bodeen of Sycamore, Illinois. They and four of their seven children, Mark (age 16), Nancy (age 14), Peggy (age 12), and John (age 6), reside at 19 Romar Drive in Annapolis, Maryland. The Captain's oldest son, Richard, wife Carol and grandson Jeffrey, reside in Fairfax, Virginia. Another son, Ronald, is a graduate of Case Technical University, Cleveland, Ohio, while yet another son, Joel, is preparing to follow in his father's footsteps. Joel is a cadet, third class at the Coast Guard Academy. Captain Thuma's brother, Dr. B. E. Thuma, is a Doctor of Chiropractic and has an established practice in Lexington, Michigan. His father, Jacob W. Thuma, is a retired cannery and now makes his home in Sycamore, Illinois.

Captain Thuma was promoted to his present grade on April 1, 1967. He has received the Coast Guard Good Conduct, American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, World War II Victory, Philippine Liberation and National Defense Service medals. Upon completion of this cruise he can add yet another medal to his growing number of awards; the Antarctica Service Medal. Captain Thuma relieved Captain Frederick A. Goettel as Commanding Officer of **Westwind** in relief ceremonies held on board this unit on June 8, 1967. His service on board the cutters **Woodbine** and **Acacia** have provided him with experience in the ice breaking wing of the service; experience which he has put to good use during our current deployment.

The officers and men of **Westwind** are proud to have a man of his stature as Commanding Officer. His enlisted service makes the crew regard him as one of their own, while his commissioned service has provided him with the knowledge and experience required to ensure the safety of his ship and crew. Personnel of the **Westwind** look forward to serving with him on the next cruise and rely on his leadership and ability to see them through the dangers imposed by a "sea-going" life.