

Chief Meade illustrates some of the finer points of **Westwind's** small arms to Dill and Young.



Pokela adjusts the fire control radar. Range to a contact can be read from the radar scope.



The primary duty of a Gunner's Mate and Fire Control Technician on board **Westwind** is the operation and maintenance of her ordnance equipment and armament. This includes servicing and firing of the unit's 5 inch 38 caliber gun and the custody and care of all small arms, demolitions and explosives.

To keep the gun mount operational, Gunner's Mates and Fire Control Technicians must work with complicated mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic systems. They also maintain and keep in good working order various types of rifles, pistols, machine guns, and ordnance lifesaving equipment.

Another aspect of the ratings is their role in humanitarian missions. Their accuracy with the line-throwing gun has been utilized in effecting rescues, as has their use of pyrotechnics (flares and star shells) in lighting and illuminating a path for planes forced to ditch at sea in the night. Their ability with demolitions has also been used in freeing vessels entrapped in the ice.

"Guns" as he is known to his mates, is a good man to have aboard ship.