

PAINTERS — Crewmen (left and right) of USS Sproston dress up two of her awards for fiscal year 1961.

## This Ship Is E-OK

**T**HE ESCORT DESTROYER USS *Sproston* (DDE 577) almost ran out of paint recently. Not gray; but black, white and green. The crew was decorating the ship with "Es," "As" and "Cs."

The most significant "decoration" was the Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet, Battle Efficiency "E" for fiscal year 1961.

Besides this "E," the antisubmarine "A" and four gunnery "Es" — one each on mounts 31 and 32, and on directors, Mark 37 and 50, were added. A bit of color was included when the green "C" and "E" were added for accomplishments in communications and operations.

*Sproston* has also been awarded the Destroyer Squadron 25 "best in squadron" plaques for operations and gunnery.

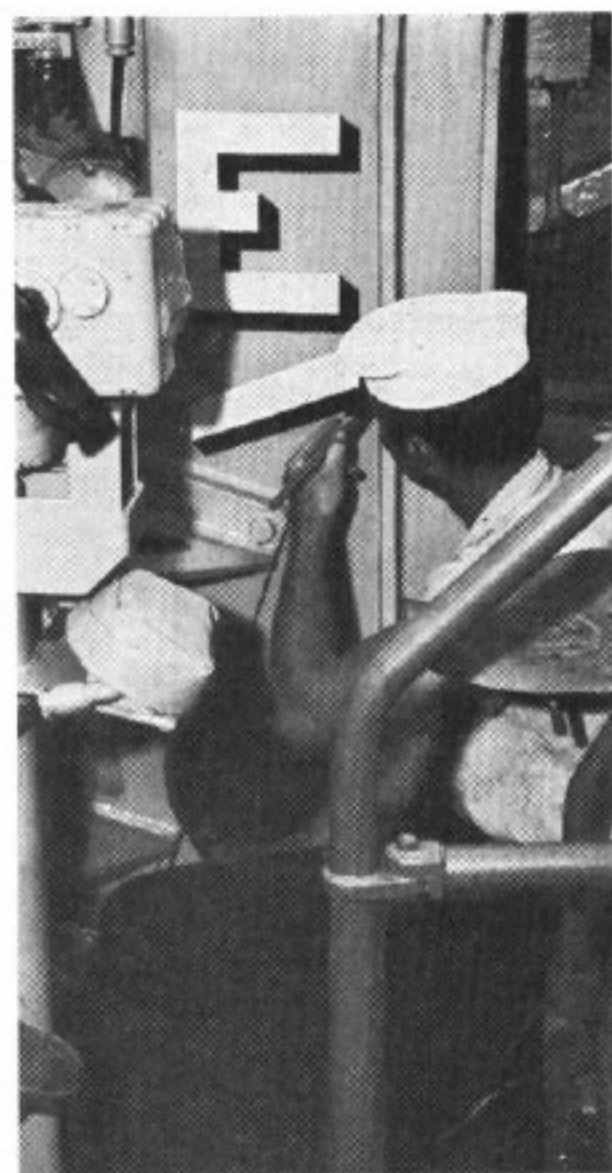
Hard work is not new for *Sproston*. She joined in the action of World War II within months after

she was commissioned on 19 May 1943. *Sproston* downed her first enemy plane on 25 Oct 1944, and by 4 Jun 1945 she had "killed" six additional planes and helped to splash three others.

Her first submarine kill came toward the end of the war while en route back to the United States. *Sproston* came across a battle between USS *Antares* (AK 258) and two Japanese submarines and immediately joined in the fight.

She sowed a pattern of depth charges which forced one of the subs to the surface. *Sproston's* main battery soon destroyed that Japanese undersea craft.

*Sproston* was decommissioned in 1947, but when the action began in Korea, she was again called to active duty. She performed well in the Korean campaign and, if her awards are any indication, she's still doing a great job for the Navy.



AWARDS are painted on Mark 56 director, Weapon Alfa launcher, Mark 37 director and Mount 31.

