



## Úrklippur

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Úrklippur – The Observer – The White Falcon –

## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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[bjarnibenediktsson.is](http://bjarnibenediktsson.is)

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# Land on fire rises from the ocean

from MATTHIAS JOHANNESSEN: Reykjavik, November 16

TODAY I have seen a new land on fire rising from the sea—a new creation making its mark on the map of the world.

It has been fine and clear in the south of Iceland and this was an unforgettable sight as the steam clouds from the submarine volcano close to the Westman Islands rose to 25,000 feet.

The new island is now 1,500 feet long and 130 feet above sea level where the depth is 60 fathoms. It is rising still and today it has been observed from ships and aircraft.

The south of Iceland, where the capital, Reykjavik, is situated, is always liable to earthquakes and

eruptions. Today, from the coast about 50 miles from Reykjavik, I watched the column of steam, black then white, ever changing and rising. It reminded me of the column from an atomic bomb, though certainly more beautiful and much more wild. At the top the rays of the setting sun may be seen like a crown to the new-born island.

Thousands of people in cars, eager to see this wonder of Nature, are leaving the city of Reykjavik for the coast. In the highlands is Old Hekla, now more peaceful than in 1947 when it erupted.

Many people said Iceland is get-

ting much larger and they could not conceal their patriotic pride. Others said this would mean an increase in Iceland's territorial waters. The new island would now become the southerly part of Iceland.

In the Westman Islands everyone has been out watching it. Hardly any work is done. All are spellbound.

The Westman Islanders welcome their new neighbour. They hope the eruption will not touch their own town carrying ash and lava: but they are optimistic. The children have been given a holiday from school to see a sight that will remain in their memories until they are old.

Scientists are also busy. Some think the island will disappear again. A coastguard vessel has got to within 500 yards of the eruption. Observers aboard said the island is made of pumice and lava. As it rises and the craters get above sea level, the eruption gets more like a land-borne volcano.

Icelanders have already begun thinking about its name. Some want to name it after Olafur Thors, who handed in his resignation as Prime Minister on the day the eruption started.

## 'Earth rising...'

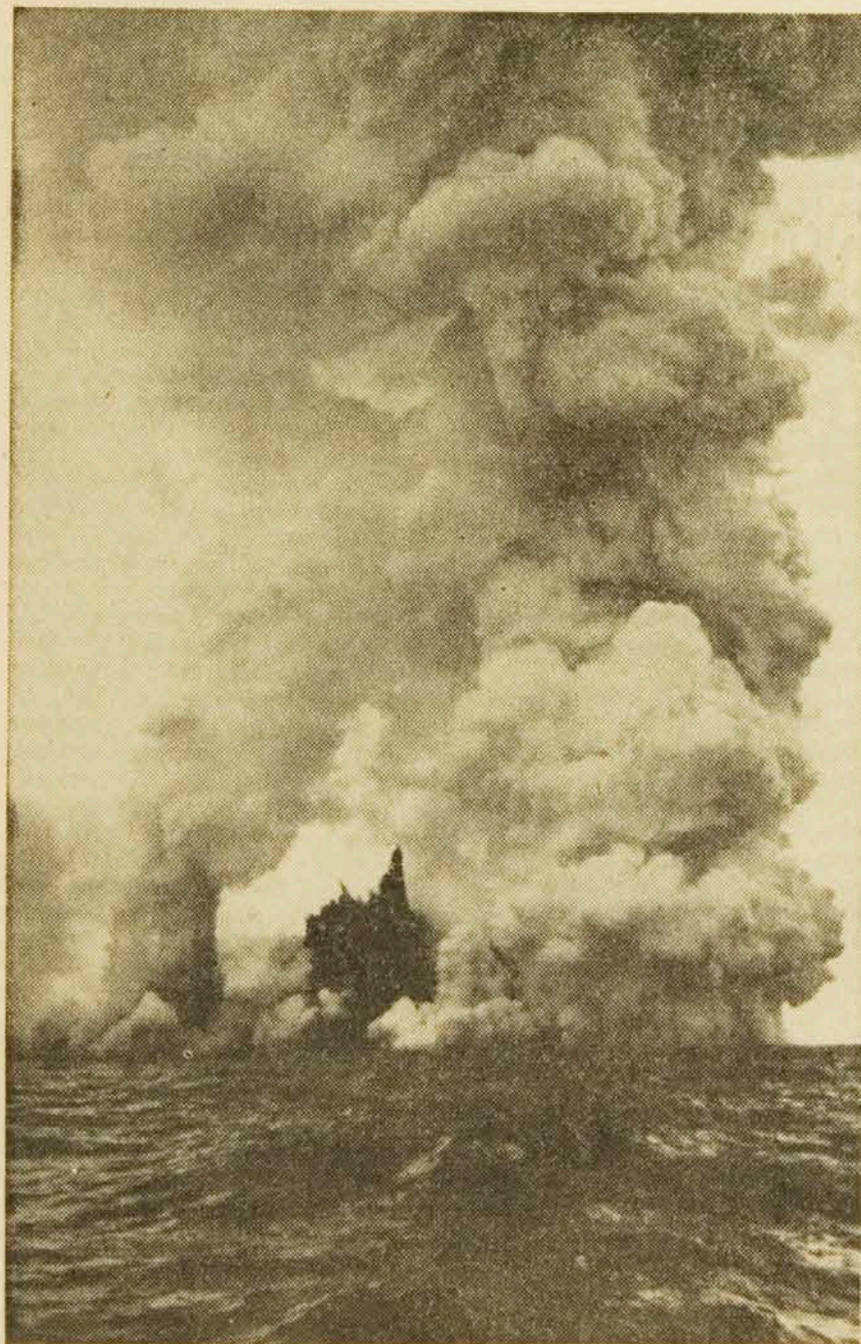
Others want to name it after Saint Brandan, an Irish monk, who was the first to see the ocean burning near Iceland in the fifth century, 300 years before the advent of the Vikings.

This new land of fire recalls to Icelanders the 1,000-year-old poem, "Edda." In the poem powerful wonders of nature are described as "Earth rising from the sea." The proximity to wonders of nature has from the first put its stamp on the thinking and poetry of the Icelanders.

Icelandic and foreign ships have been warned not to approach too near this latest eruption as unexpected flood waves might rise and rock formations might endanger the ships.

Many fishermen want to know if the eruptions will influence the fishing as this is the chief spawning place south of Iceland. Time will show if it will harm the fishing industries of the Westman Islands, where hundreds of fishing boats are stationed. Trawlers of many foreign nations fish these areas, among them the British.

Christopher Brasher writes: There is a connection between this



Earth and smoke belching out of the Atlantic.

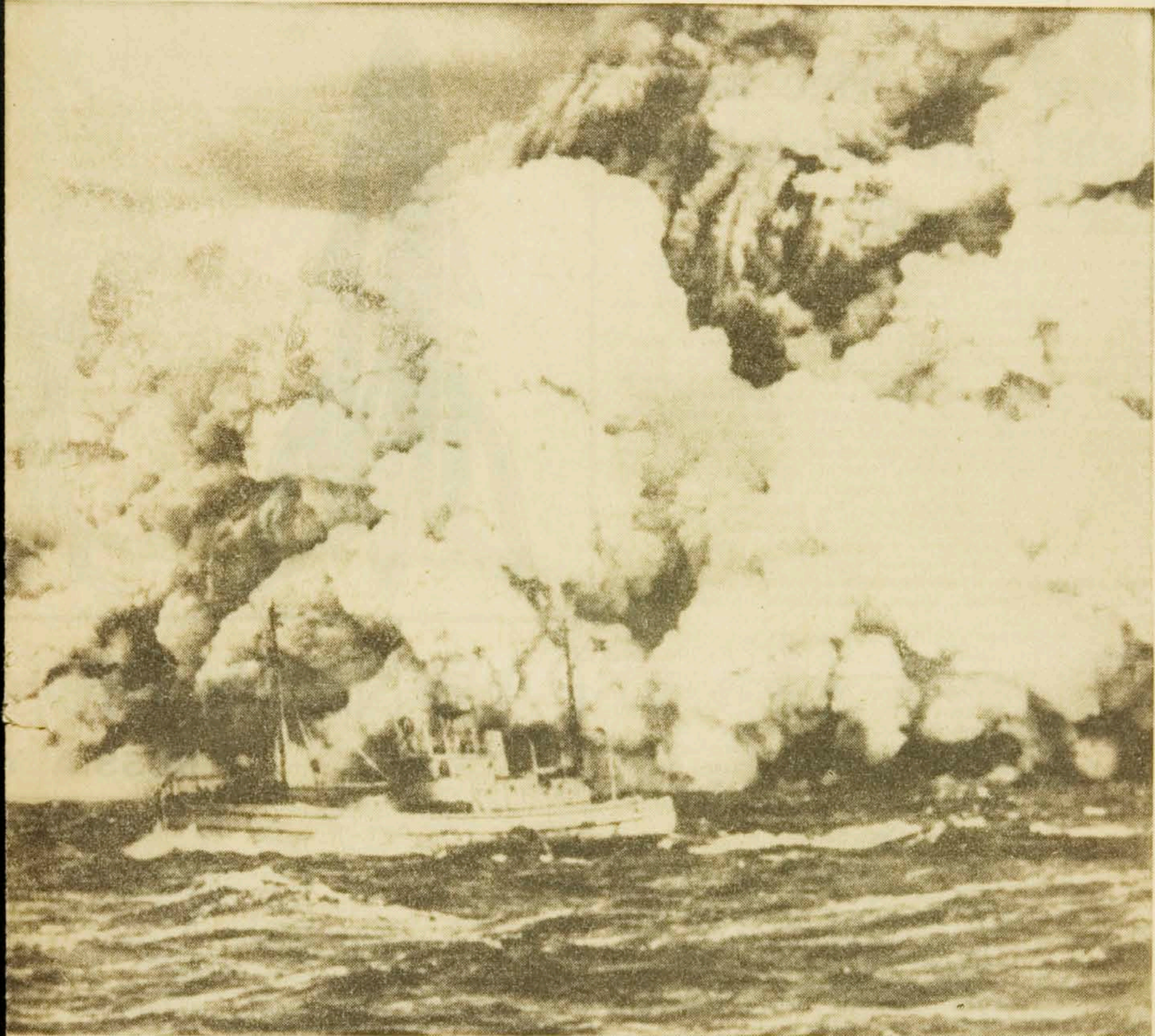


Clouds of smoke and steam from volcano as a coastguard

emerging island and the volcano eruption nearly 10,000 miles away on Tristan da Cunha in October 1961. The connection is the Atlantic ridge which extends from North Spitsbergen through Iceland, the Azores, St. Helena, Ascension Island to Tristan.

Professor W. A. Deer, of Cambridge University, commented last night: "Recent work has given fairly convincing evidence that upper parts of the earth's crust are moving apart down this Atlantic ridge. The movement is of course very slow indeed although in geological terms it is relatively fast."

"There is a release of pressure taking place in the magma.



Radioed photographs from ASSOCIATED PRESS

rise 25,000 feet in the air from the ship, scientists on board, edges in.

anic liquid beneath the earth's crust way which, when it comes to the surface eer, and cools, forms volcanic rocks] and it is quite possible that once mid- from the pressure has been reduced, the ice- island will sink below the surface and again."

It is not generally realised that, in geological terms, the earth is constantly changing. The magma (liquid rock) below the earth's crust is, like all hot liquids, affected by convection currents. This liquid is under pressure because of the shrinkage of the earth's crust caused by cooling.

So whenever there is a weakness in the crust, and the mid-Atlantic ridge is one such weakness, the magma, moving under the force of

the convection currents, tries to force its way through.

One theory is that the continents are "floating" on this liquid and consequently they tend to drift with the convection currents and the drift is taking America further and further away from Europe—hence the split down the mid-Atlantic ridge.

But there is no cause for alarm! It's not going to take longer to get to America, and we are not going to be isolated on the same continent as the Russians, without the American defence umbrella.

Fast though this movement is by geological standards, it is only just measureable by human standards. In the geological time scale, 10 million years is no more than the blink of an eyelid.



Beneath the smoke, the shape of the new island.

9/5

# 'YOU'LL GET FAIR PLAY'

*Iceland's Minister of Justice sends this promise to defiant Skipper Smith*



JAMES BALLANTYNE  
reports from Reykjavik,

Wednesday

**I**CELAND'S Minister of Justice, Mr. Bjarni Benediktson, asked me today: "Give skipper John Smith my assurance of fair play in our courts if he returns. He can be sure of that."

Mr. Benediktson is strongman of the ruling Conservative Party which is trying to save a slim three or four-seat majority in the coming elections.

Mr. Benediktson is under heavy fire from the Communists who are accusing him of "secret pacts" with the British to prevent Iceland's coastguards firing live shells on British "butcher" trawlers.

The Minister—a professor of law—spoke of the shock to Iceland public opinion of the Aberdeen skipper's statement refusing to return because there was "no justice in Iceland."

Said the Minister: "Iceland justice is as good as in any other country."

## APPEAL

He pointed out that if skipper Smith returned, he could appear personally before the court of investigation which first hears all the facts and reports them to the Director of Public Prosecutions before any charges are made.

Former Judge Benediktson said Skipper Smith could appear personally, have his own lawyer, have a British Embassy repre-



SKIPPER SMITH  
"No justice"

he wished and if at the end of the time he did not agree with the court's decision he would have the right of appeal to the Supreme Court here.

He said he had never known the British Government to need to question any decision.

Appealing again for the return of Skipper Smith, the Minister told me: "Our policy has been to create as few difficulties between our two countries with as much goodwill as possible."

He claimed that Iceland's coastguards had been very careful in all they did during the incident.

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coming elections.

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Said the Minister: "If the Royal Navy frigate had not intervened we would have stopped Skipper Smith with force.

"Because we did not want to create bad feeling in Britain and possibly the frigate Palisser came on the scene,"

## BLUNDERED

The Minister repeated his Government's demand for against young Lieut. ~~Commander~~ Nicholas Hunt of the Palisser.

The Minister claimed there had been breach of faith by Commander Hunt who had repeatedly promised that if he was allowed to take skipper Smith aboard the British ship he would return him to Iceland.

"It was on this understanding that we allowed Commander Hunt to take Captain Smith out of the hand of our coastguards."

Said the minister: "By failing to keep this promise he created a situation which the British Government and Royal Navy are responsible for. I cannot understand how Britain can refuse to hand over Skipper Smith for he came into the hands of the British commander in an unlawful manner.

"The commander comes under British law and we think the British Government must take necessary steps because he blundered.

"I don't think Commander Hunt had any ill-will. He wanted to do his best but in my opinion he did not do the right thing.

"This is a very, very, serious matter. The British Government has to make it good. I think Commander Hunt is young an inexperienced — I understand it is his first naval command of this type. I believe he made a grave error."

★ ★ ★

MR. JOHN WOOD, Aberdeen trawler owner of the Milwood, was tonight considering delaying his return to Scotland until Friday.

Earlier today he called on British Ambassador Evelyn B. Boothby, with whom he had exchanges on the telephone from Scotland early in the Milwood affair.

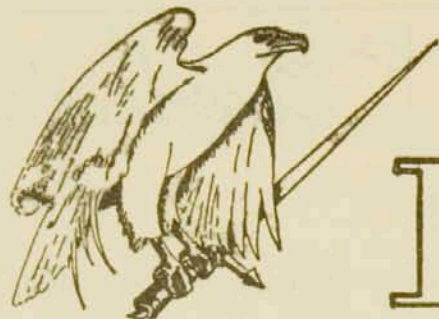
Later he tried to contact Iceland Government officials, and held talks with his legal advisers.

He has come under fire from Communist and Left-wing newspapers, who have referred to him as evasive, and pleading for his ship's return. The Milwood is "under arrest" here.

At one stage he considered calling a Press conference at which he could reply to some of the published statements—for the Iceland label laws are much less strict than in Britain.

Finally tonight he was deciding on a probable stop-over to Friday.

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Freedoms Foundation Award Winning Newspaper - 1963

# THE WHITE Falcon

U.S. NAVAL STATION, KEFLAVIK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ICELAND  
Volume III, Number 31. Friday, September 4, 1964



## President Lauds Services; Orders Accelerated Review Of Major Military Benefits

Washington (AFPS) — President Johnson stressed the increasing importance of the role of the military man in the nation's efforts toward peace and has directed a speed-up on reviews being conducted on military housing, medical care, pay and allowances.

The President said this at the convocation of students of the National War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Ft. McNair here, Aug. 21.

"The military man is many persons," the President said, "Whoever he is, wherever he serves, the

man is a product of our whole society, and he means more to peace today than he ever meant before."

Pointing out that he has had an intimate association with the armed forces for more than 30 years, the President said, Nothing is more gratifying, nothing more reassuring than to see, as I do every day the quality of the generations of military men."

"Our officers and our enlisted men have no true counterparts in military history," the President continued. "In a time of our nation's greatest affluence they and their families willingly and courageously undertake the most Spartan sacrifices and hardships for us all."

President Johnson said a military career today "demands a new



BEAGLE PARADE — With Him and Her tugging at their leashes, President Johnson escorts his guest, Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson (left) of Iceland on a stroll through the White House grounds.

## Navy Names Merrill As Special Assistant To Secretary Nitze

The Navy announced that Howard W. Merrill, vice president for administration of the Martin Co., is going to fill the new post of special assistant to the Security of the Navy.

Mr. Merrill will be responsible for providing Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze, who created the job, with

## Photo Contest Ends Sept. 30

All personnel assigned to NAV-AIRLANT units are eligible to submit entires in photo competition sponsored by COMNAVAIRLANT.

Pictorial photographs in both black and white and color can be submitted. Highly decorative photos depicting Naval Aviation and suitable for display are desired.

Prints may be of any size, but must be accompanied by original negatives. Negatives will be returned if a self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

guidance in matters related to the development and procurement of weapons and equipment, which Mr. Nitze will use to aid him in making the decisions.

Today the Navy has quite a few professionals, both civilian and officer, who are busy in scientific-technological planning. Secretary Nitze's aim is to fortify their judgments with that of an experienced industrialist acquainted with manufacturing difficulties involved in development and production of these increasingly complex weapons.

Mr. Merrill was born in Maine in 1921. He graduated from the University of Maine in 1942 and served as a captain in the U. S. Army-Air Force until 1945. Then

## Icebreaker At Reykjavik

The American icebreaker Edisto arrived in Reykjavik harbor Aug. 24 for a three-day stay in taking on more supplies and providing shore leave for her crew.

Since departing from her homeport in Boston, Mass., June 15, the crew had only one stop for recreation before arriving in Reykjavik.

land. The ship's captain said the stop in Reykjavik had been an anxiously awaited stop by the crew in their deployment.

Edisto has been escorting supply vessels through ice packs to remote bases in Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland.

She and her crew—present and past—have piled up many firsts in their ventures in icy waters: in 1955, the discovery of Edisto Inlet at Cape Hallett and in 1948, the first penetration of the ice packs east of the Ross Sea. She has had more consecutive days below the Antarctic Circle and has been to more ocean stations than any other vessel in a given season.

Upon departing Iceland, the Edisto is to spend three weeks analyzing particles from ocean depths.

## Color Reactions Give Cancer Clue

New York (AFPS) — Wondering "where the yellow went" — instead of wondering what to do about the blue that's there — could cause you to lose your life.

Don't be alarmed—the dangerous blue is a nuclear stain known as toluidine blue that may provide dentists with a simple method of identifying mouth cancers.

Doctors of the Veterans Administration dental research department conducting tests with the stain have been successful in finding suspected cancers.

In cases where the stain is applied to a suspected area, a blue coloration has developed if the lesion is malignant. This stain effect has also helped surgeons determine the extent of the lesion. Normally, a diagnosis of malignancy is confirmed by biopsy.

order of talent and training and imagination and versatility. Our military men have these qualities and they have them in abundance.

"I believe . . . that our country justly must and safely can accord to our American military men a place in our society long denied to soldiers throughout our history.

"I very much want our uniformed citizens to be first-class citizens in every respect. I want their wives and their children to know only the first-class lives."

The President said he was directing the Secretary of Defense to speed up his review of such matters as housing, medical care, pay and allowances, so that "we can . . . take whatever steps both human equity and national defense may require to enhance the standing and the morale of those who defend us."

President Johnson has also directed a review of the educational systems and major schools within the services and the opportunities now offered to continue civilian education while still in service in order "to broaden and strengthen these programs."

## USAFI Announces Television Courses

Madison, Wis. (AFPS) — The United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) has announced that two revised courses in introductory television are available.

Introduction to Television I covers the basic principles and fundamentals of a television system. Introduction to Television I is a continuation of the application of fundamentals to the various techniques of installation and practical troubleshooting. The latter part of the course covers color television.

## SecDef Says Labor 'Vital'

The following is a Labor Day statement made by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to members of the Armed Forces:

"On Labor Day, the Armed Forces pause to honor the working men and women of America and to recognize their contribution to the continued security of the United States. Through their efforts, supplies and equipment are produced to assure that our nation is able to safeguard its interests and to meet its commitments at home and around the world.

"Our military strength depends not only on our armed forces but also on the tools and weapons created by the technological and production genius of a free labor force in countless factories and shops. Labor Day is a reminder to us that American labor plays a vital role as one of the essential partners in the defense effort of the United States and that there must be continuous cooperation by all Americans in order to meet the challenges ahead.

"The Department of Defense welcomes the opportunity to salute the working men and women of this country."

## Photos Link Nations

President Johnson has sent America's moon photographs to the leaders of 110 nations, asking them to join him in "placing the peaceful realms of space off-limits to the design of aggressors on earth." The President pointed out that more than 60 countries are already cooperating in the effort to expand man's knowledge of the universe.

type of variable size, without postage, is enclosed. Captions should be on the back of prints only. No limitation is established on number of submissions. Glossy prints or mattes are acceptable but not toned prints.

Any photograph taken and submitted prior to Oct. 1, 1964, is eligible. Photographs can be made on official assignments or on own initiative. Current military address as well as permanent mailing address must accompany each entry.

Prizes offered for black and white pictures are: 1st Prize \$50 Savings Bond and 2nd Prize: \$25 Savings Bond; Color: 1st Prize: \$50 Savings Bond and 2nd Prize: \$25 Savings Bond.

Prize winning pictures will be displayed in COMNAVIAIRLANT Headquarters. Full credit will be given to the photographer.

No entry forms will be required. Complete name, present military address and permanent home address should be entered on the back of all prints.

All entries should be postmarked no later than Sept. 30, 1964, and mailed direct to:

*(Continued on Page 3.)*

## Viet-Nam Forces Increased By 900

Washington (AFPS) — During the first half of August, U. S. military personnel strength in the Republic of Viet-Nam increased nearly 900 since announcement of a buildup in July.

The Defense Department confirmed that the increase brings U. S. military strength in the Republic to 17,200.

The majority of the U. S. personnel in the republic are Army, followed by Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps advisers and instructors.

he entered the Martin Company's Baltimore plant as an engineer in the pilotless aircraft section, that did important pioneering in that field.

Trained and experienced in the upper levels of industrial management, he rose from chief of the electromechanical department to operations manager, general sales manager, manager of engineering and director of operations.

Becoming vice president in 1957, he was transferred to the Denver plant. In 1960 he was promoted to his present status and returned to Baltimore.

## Awards Offered For Best Letters

Cash and honor awards are still available for your thoughts on your right to vote. All Armed Forces personnel are reminded of the awards offered annually by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for outstanding statements written by military personnel. The awards include cash awards of up to \$1,000, George Washington Honor Medals, and participation in the awards presentation ceremonies in Washington, D. C., and Valley Forge this winter. The Principal Award recipients will ride in the parade in the Presidential Inauguration.

To compete, a "letter" of 100-500 words on the subject "My Vote: Freedom's Privilege" should be written and submitted to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., before November 1st. No entry fees or official nomination forms are required. Full military identification and address should be shown.

The awards are selected by a distinguished independent jury

*(Continued on Page 2.)*