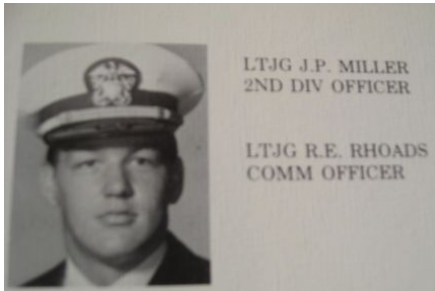


## Stories from the Alamo

Posted on USS Alamo FaceBook page December 19, 2025

Most of the 72 Westpac crew are not aware of this because it happened while the crew slept. Thanks to the quick action of LTJG Rhoads a collision with a LPD was avoided. Either the Okinawa or the New Orleans.



Dana Perko

John: Here is a picture of the radar gang 1972. Blow up the picture and you can read the names. I'm in the back.



John Nash

I did not know that Dana. We were heading to Hong Kong from Viet Nam passing by Taiwan which was on our starboard side. I had the mid watch. We were getting an SOS flashed at us from a ship of some kind that had ran aground on a sand bar. It was signalling all passing ships hoping to get somebody to come pull them off the sandbar.

John Nash

I had the mid watch. The Alamo was steaming along with other ships in close station keeping in a black out condition, no lights. I think we followed behind the New Orleans about 100 yards I would say. All of a sudden LTJG Rhoads sprang into action and had the boatswain's mate of the watch flip on all the lights and order all engines stop then back 2/3rds. We came very close to colliding with the stern of the LPD. Captain Shockert appeared on the bridge and heaped a lot of praise on Lt Rhoads for his quick action.

Robert Havens

John Nash Morning John! Mr Rhoads was a great officer!

John Nash

Morning Bob. I think so too. Lt Hollyfield. First LT, I really liked. He made a deal with me on a transfer to a constr batt, if I helped him for 3 months getting all the new guys trained after the 72 westpac, he would approve my request. And 3 months later I received orders to take a 30 day leave then report to Port Hueneme for A School. He kept his word!

John Nash

LT Commander Collins was in an argument with Capt Shockert arguing that the Alamo was obligated under international law to render assistance to any ship needing assistance. But we continued on to Hong Kong,



Dana Perko

[John Nash](#), Collins was probably right about the situation. He was a legend in his own mind though.

John Nash

I was on the focsle working with 1st Div that day.

Dana Perko

[John Nash](#), not known to most of the crew working that day, was that the guys in CIC on the New Orleans had picked up the radar signature of a SA7 missile radar on land opposite our position. There was concern that since both ships were anchored, a missile was being aimed at one or both ships. Fortunately, nothing happened.

Dana Perko

John, I saw the picture you posted of George King and Dude Deal. I have a picture of the entire radar gang which I will post later today.

John Nash

Dana Perko I worked with George King for over a year in 1st div. He was from Salinas, Ca.

John Nash

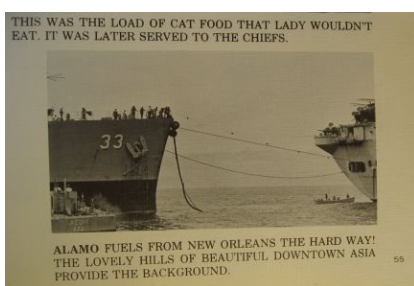
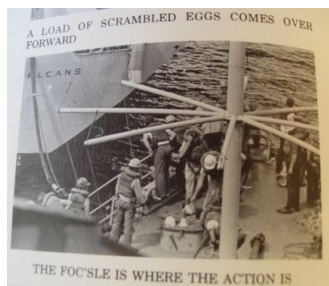
LTJG Rhoads actions were deserving of a promotion.

Dana Perko

[John Nash](#), in '72 did the Alamo not get fuel from the New Orleans as we were anchored off the coast of Vietnam?

John Nash

Dana Perko here is a couple cruise book photos fueling from the USS New Orleans.



Mike Kuehnl

Dana Perko the only ones I didn't work with are Flynn and Luna.

Dana Perko

John Nash John, I remember you. Good times on the Alamo. Great group of guys.



Patrick Marquez

How about when we almost hit the USS Tarawa on the way to the Marshall Islands in 78, Port to Port. I was on starboard watch, ready to flick the candle, all I saw to my left was a big ole red running light above the officer on deck, 02:30, just like if nobody knew, be assured it woke the Captain straight ahead, the hollow roar

Dana Perko

Patrick Marquez Sorry, I was on board from 1971 to 1974. Missed that Westpac.