

Bill Schwindt 65-67, left a *Guest Book* message about the memorable boat trip on the USNS Walker:

This is what I remember about the boat ride to Vietnam. 22 days long (seemed longer) nothing but water to look at in every direction. Never feeling quite 100%, I have no sea legs. Those very cramped sleeping quarters, my entire platoon in a room the size of your normal bedroom. I was 2nd on the ship in a chess tournament. Standing in long lines for chow. Skipping chow, it wasn't that good anyway, just to avoid standing in lines. Walking around the ship thousands of times, yes thousands. Rough water going out of the Straights of Juan DeFuca (entering the Pacific ocean from Washington). Wanting to get sick so I'd feel better, but didn't. A salt water shower is no shower at all. I took one in 22 days. One change of clean clothes in 22 days. The bathrooms are just solid rows of toilets, no privacy at all. Stopping in Guam, I think it was, got off the ship and did PT. While off the ship I saw one entire longshoreman's building full of Coke. And another full of 7-up. They were planning for a long war. Going by Iwo Jima (I think it was) on the way there. Hard to believe we lost thousands of guys to take that little tiny island. Movies on the back deck at night. We had that, right guys? I always say I saw 40.