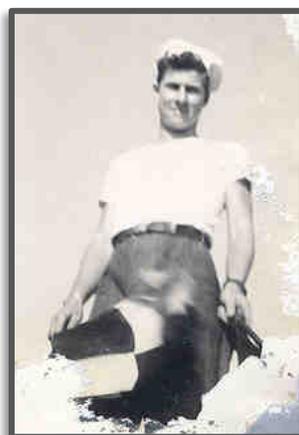
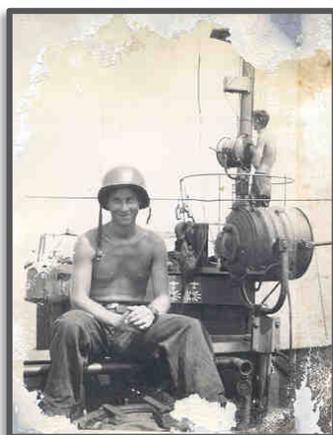


WWII Diary of A.L. Hunt - US Navy Reserve

This contains a transcription of the journal kept by Arden Lee Hunt, Jr. (also known as Al Hunt) during his service in the US Naval Reserve from May 8, 1944 to March 25, 1946. The journal was kept in two 8-inch by 5-inch hard cover books of about 200 lined pages each. The books are an olive green and have some water and mildew stains. Some of the entries are written in ink (shown in bold) and the others are in pencil. Extreme care was taken to copy each entry just as written, with the exception that the entries printed in all capital letters have been changed to mixed case for easier reading.

The first book was originally the Night Order Book for LCI 226 and the first 71 pages contain entries for February 9 through April 14, 1943 and one entry for June 28, giving course, speed, formation, general orders for the night, and calls during their trip from Virginia to Australia. Most entries end with "Respectfully, HT McK" written by Henry Turney McKnight, the first skipper of LCI 226.

Arden Lee Hunt joined the crew of LCI 226 on July 20, 1944. At some point he acquired this book and copied his earlier journal entries into it and then it became the first book of his journal.





1943

I was drafted while I was going to school in my senior year at Union High. I was drafted along with Richard Wakeman and Warren Dysard. We went to LaCross, Ind. where we caught the buss which took us to Indianapolis. All three of us passed our phy. I took the navy, Rich. W. took the marines and Warren Dysard the army.

Rich. and I were suaren in Sept. 24, 1943. Warren returned home the same day, while Rich and I returned home two days later. I had the shortes leave of us three. I had to return to Indianapolis a week later. After I returned, I was sent to Chicago, and from their to Great Lakes, Ill.

Got at Gr. Lakes Oct. 1, 1943. A few days later were given another phy. Passed so were issued our clothes and all other gear. We were marched to Camp Green Bay, and were in Co. 1523. Under Chief Wittenburg a rough guy.

Left for boot leave Nov. 24(?).

Wanataw

Rogers from Westvill, and Wittmore were also with me in boot camp.

After my boot leave I returned too Gr. Lakes at the Out Going Unit (O.G.U.) I was on Mess Hall work for nine long days. I than went on draft along with Herlod Main from Muncie, Ind. William Clark, Ky. Phew, Ill. Philphs, Ohio and Phillow from Ohio these were from my boot camp Co. We went by train too Champaign Ill. which is about 120 mi south of Chicago. We got their at night with ground coverd with snow. Our classes lasted for four month held on the University Campus in Urbana. Lot of girls going there. I graduated from their April 10, 1944. Got a nine day delayed order for Shoemaker, Calif. a R.B.

It was a swell trip through Rockies Mt to Calif. Many sights. I went on Liberty about every other day at Shoemaker. Visited San Francisco etc. I was at Shoemaker two weeks, than I went aboard M.V. Day Star at San Francisco May 8.



Sunday May 7, 1944

1944

Mon. May 8

top speed 18 knots

Speed about 15 knots

Left Shoemaker (R.B.) at 1300, in busses driven by women, to San Francisco about 50 miles away. Crossed over Okland Bay Bridge down to the dock. About 1200 sailors + seabees left San Francisco at 1800, (2000 back Home) The day + hour Mom got my High School graduation diploma, I passed under the Golden Gate Bridge, heading out to the big sea.

Our ship was in charge of a Danish Captain and belonged to that country, but taken over by U.S.N. for duration.

M.V. Day Star - good ship. Set our watches back one hr. at midnite.

~~Sunday~~ Tue. May 9

Sun stayed under clouds today, quite cool. I stood my first gun look out, on gun turret -D- a 50 MM gun on our port stern. We sighted another ship far off.

Turn watches back ½ hr. at mid-nite.

May 10

Cloudy + cool again today. Nothing in sight but water and plenty of it. Six sea gulls are following our ship. Get only two meals a day. At noon only get a fruit + sandwich.

Turn clocks back ½ hr. at mid-nite.

May 11

Quite warm today - Saw some boxes floating in water while on look out. My look out watches are 1200 - 1500 in afternoon - At night 0100 - 0300.

Clocks back ½ hr. at mid-nite.

May 12

Our first Sub was sighted last evening at 1900. Ships Company had G.Q. Were about to fire all guns on it, but did not see it again.

Set clocks back 15 min at mid-nite.

May 13

Getting warmer the futher south we go. Saw first flying fish today. The six sea gulls left our ship last night. Got sun burned.

Clocks back 15 min at mid-nite



Sunday

May 14

Very hot today. Had church services on deck. The Shell Back are planing our initiation æ when we cross the Equator.

That Sub we sighted^{May 12} attacked another ship. Clocks back 15 min at mid-nite

May 15

Very hot today. Shell Back cut my hair all off today.

We crossed Equator sometime last night. Shell Backs made new officers peel spuds and work on K.P. Clocks back 15 min.

May 16

Shell Backs finished initiation today. They took off all our clothes paddle us all (not easy). Than painted us with paint + oil mixed. In our hair too. Than squired us with salt water. We are sure wore out tonight. Heat is unbearable 120° in shade. I am now a Shell Back, with a certificate to prove. Clocks back 15 min.

May 17

Very hot today - Went to sick bay for sun burned lips. Sea very calm - Tired of seeing nothing but water. (same time)

May 18

Heat unbearable hottes day we've had. Just lay around trying to keep out of sun. Big lines by the little drinking water we do have. Clocks back 10 min at mid-nite

May 19

Very hot. Left shirt off too long + got sun burned. I am reading the book "54 - 40 or Fight". A ship was sighted today.

Clocks back 10 min at mid-nite.

May 20

Hot - About 3 ships were sighted today. Also an Island way off. Have canteen on ship But I have no money. Broke ever since I came to Shoemaker. Clocks back ½ hr.

Sunday

May 21

Hot, with quick tropical showers. Sighted more ships today.

Clocks back ½ hr.



May ---

We skip ahead a whole day. We have crossed the International Date Line

May 23

Our gun look out (gun D) sighted first plane today. Had G.Q. all guns were trained on the plane. It gave us its recognition signal. It was P.B.Y Catalina. Our ship hoisted, W H X E

May 24

Two planes circled us today P.B.Y and PBO. Hudson, Hoisted signal - WHXE. Shot at a wooden target thrown over board, with the 4 in gun. The P.B.Y. came back gave signal not to shoot at target. Clocks back 20 min.

May 25

Gun crew chipped paint of the 3 in gun. Islands near by. I see the Southern Cross on look out at night.

1. Bill Mouer

2. Mark - (Brizilan)

3. Joe

4. Bob

Clocks - 20 min.

stood look out on

gun - D - with me.

May 26

I was not on look out for first time last night. And it poured down rain. Roughest water so far was than cloudy - Set clocks back 20 min at mid-nite

May 27

They fired all guns today. I was on watch at the time. I stood right beside the 3 in gun, with all the cotten I could get in my ears and had the ear phones on too. It sure had a concussion + noise. Our gun, Gun D, came closes to target. Clocks 20 min

Sunday May 28

Went to church held on deck. Must be getting near our destination, because booms are up. Clock, 20 min

May 29

Saw our first land at 5:30 this morning. Coming in from the China Straights. Through out anchor at 8:30. 3 hr coming in through the straight.

We are in Milinea Bay, New Guinea. Amphib Barges all around. Took 21 days to cross Pacific



May 30 Memorial Day

*They do not have room for us ashore so we are being kept on board.
Held short silance, for Memorial Day.*

May 31

It rains every day here. There are three other troop ship in Bay. They have been in Bay for 21 days. Hope we get off soon. Coconuts in water.

“ June 1 ”

Getting tired staying on ship. Made wire basket to catach coconuts out of water with. Talked with Bill today. All can do is sleep + eat.

June 2

Still hopeing and waiting to go ashore.

June 3

We went ashore atlast - About 1600 part of us went ashore in landing barge. Were greeted with nothing but a foot of mud, when we hit the beach. Lots of coconut trees. Everything I have is covered with mud. No springs in our bunks. No mess gear yet

Sunday

June 4

Had to work all morning, in rain and mud. Rains all the day + night. Had my first fresh water shower tonight.

June 5

Worked all day in Lumber yard rained off + on all day. Got spoon.

June 6

Worked all day in amunition dump. Took for myself two 50 cal. shells.

June 7

Worked on dock all morning. Rained all day. Got some coconuts afternoon. Day Star finished unloading troops.

June 8

Went to sick Bay - Had tooth filled. Every thing is damp. Clothes get mild dew and moldy. Hope to be drafted soon.



June 9

Got my first mail today. 3 letters addressed to Shoemaker. 2 were from Mom written May 6 + 8 - 1 from Aunt Cather May 8. Sold pen for \$1.50 + a knife.

June 10

Bought 8 air mail stamps with the money. Wrote home - not so much rain today.

Sunday

June 11

Went to church in chapel made by Sea Bee's, ground floor, board seats open sides.

June 12

No working parties today. Washed all my duty clothes. Sun out for onces.

June 13

Hard rain - I waited 1½ hours in the canteen line, and just as I got to the window they closed down.

June 14

Bought my first candy for a month. Big draft going out tomorrow. Still no more mail.

June 15

Went to top of the waterfalls back up in the jungle on side of a mountain. Whit went with me. We went swimming in mt. stream in New Guinea. I almost fell up on top. Went to Bible class. V-mail from Home.

June 16

Heard first news that Tokyo Toyko was bombed by B-29
Saw a good out side show in the rain called "You were never lover".

June 17

Started work in the skullary at mess hall. This week we served four meals a day. Nelson went on draft.

Sunday

June 18

Worked in mess hall - went to church at 1000. Hahn who is from LaPorte, went with Witt to waterfalls.



June 19

Received a letter from Home. Wrote Charlotte Chambers, Eugene H. + Bob. bought 8 air mail stamps.

June 20

Went to sick bay. Show, after chow down. New guys came in.

June 21

Still working in mess hall

June 22

Finished reading the book "The Red Signal"
Went to Bible study this evening. Shorty came back across the bay today.

June 23

Wrote home today - Got off of mess hall for today. Washed clothes

June 24

Two letters from home - Walker moved over to barracks Enterprize. Found my steel helmet.

Sunday

June 25

Went to church, was very good. Made some semaphore flags.

June 26

My day off. Reading the book "The Barren Land" Got tooth paste from Chapland. Rote Wrote Eleanor.

June 27

Very hot and dry today - So I washed. Big crane got stuck by chow Hall. Had a cat pull it out.

June 28

Received a swell letter from Eleanor. Rained all day - Saw good show.

June 29

Witt we out on draft. Came back, but leaving tomorrow to go up north. Bible study this evening.



June 30

Cleaned out my sea bag - Washed my dress jumper to get the mold out. Got box to send some clothes home in. But have no money yet

July 1

Received letter from home. Navy mo. 167 First news about Robert getting wounded the second time, and sent back to Naples.

- Sunday

July 2

Wrote home - Went to church Our last day for serving four meals a day.

July 3

Stewart + Joe on draft. They were scashed after the lashed gear. Made coco in my canteen cup.

July 4

My day off at Mess Hall. Went to see Joe in Sick Bay. Four signalman went on draft.

July 5

Joe returned from sick bay. Big draft today, but to my dissapointment I was not on.

July 6

Two letters today - one from Mom and one from Eleanor. Wrote Eleanor today. My day off. Went to see Chapland Carter if he could fix it up for me to send a box home C.O.D. being I was broke, Could not get it done.

July 7

Madden (QM) Stewart, and Joe went on draft. Madden returned. Went Bible study last night.

July 8

Washed clothes - Wrote Steve McEnterfer my school buddy, in the air corp. Rained all day.

Sunday

July 9

Went to church -

Atlast!! I went on draft this afternoon. In 15 min. notice I was to have all my gear lashed sea going fassion. We were sent by a landing barge out to the ship which was in the Bay.



It was a new liberty ship from the states call "Crux" (K119) Got aboard at 1800

July 10

Are still aboard "Crux" here in Milinea Bay. More came aboard today. Were handed out C + K rations for chow. (Must think we are some darn soldiers.) Very crowed.

July 11

Got underway at 0600 this morning. The "Crux" sure sails smooths. Handed out more army rations, which were made in Austrialia. I slept on top side untill it rained. Hot

July 12

Very hot - passed all Island today, and small convoys. At 1000 droped anchor at Finchaven, and let off about 250 men. Stayed here all night. Finchaven is a very large U.S. Base. With a large air field. All kinds of planes, many C47.

July 13

Our liberty ship "Crux" got underway at 1200 noon from Fenchaven. Water kind of choppy tonight. (Cooler)

July 14

Cool, swell sailing. Passed convoy this morning of six liberty ships, Two sub chasers in the lead, and one crusier. Dangerous waters. We went way out from the shore line because Japs held a beachhead on shore.

July 15

Anchored at Hollandia at 0800 this morning. About 30 of us which were on draft 244 were put right on a L.C.I.(L) 432 - We are now underway with 4 other LCI's. enemy waters

Sunday

July 16

Very rough waters - Many are now sea sick. I am O.K. (I hope). These small boats are a real test for sea sickness. Had best chow aboard since I left states. I write this in my bunk as we go up and down. My roughest water so far.



July 17

Sea not quite so rough today. Sighted the lights this evening of our station. The 4 of us LCI's circled around all night because it is so dangerous to go in at night.

July 18

Came in to Bostrem Bay early this morning. - I am now on another L.C.I. the 228, waiting to be stationed on L.C.I. 226 which is not in Bay yet. These are the older type L.C.I. They have all seen plenty of action. This is our home base (all amphib) called "Alixhaven." "Madang" the hardest fought Jap air field is only a few miles away.

These bases were captured from Japs about four months ago.

July 19

To my disapointment we chipped paint all day today on L.C.I. 228.

Tonight LCI 226 pulled in. I will go over on her tomorrow.

L.C.I. 226

1000 in morning

July 20

I am now on LCI 226 - stationed at last on a ship after 10 months in the navy. I am now a signalman striper. Like it swell aboard. There is a swell write up about L.C.I. 226 on her trip across the Pacific starting at Norfolk and in action on raids. In "Lifes" issue of March 27, 1944 page 53-60

July 21

Wrote Bob a letter. Worked on signaling up on signal bridge.

Summers is helping me. He is from Kentucky and has been over seas 19 months. He is going to states soon. His mother died about a month ago which is hard on him. He is SM 3/C and is a Christian I'm sure.

My cleaning station is the passage way.

July 22

Stood signal watch on L.C.I. 25 with Summers. Were kept buisy receiving messages. There is another signal striper just starting, also name is Sommers from Pa. I have a big start on him. He did not go to school.

Sunday

July 23

Rich's birthday (16)

Wrote him a letter.



Went to church this evening with Summers on the beach. Practices signaling quite late every night.

There are about 30 different L.C.I.'s here with their ramps let down on the beach. We go ashore when off working hr.

July 24

Stood signal watch on L.C.I. 25 with Conway SM 2/C (Ohio). Very little at this base. Some Australians on beach and few sea bees. This use to be a coconut plantation. Tops of many of the trees have been blowen off by shells and bombs. Lot of natives around.

July 25

We pulled alongside L.S.T. 455. Stood signal watch with Summers on it. When moving to L.S.T. we run in to another L.C.I. and it sank its moter boat which was along its side. No damage otherwise.

July 26

Moved our ship back to shore. practice semaphore today.

We are in LCI group 19 Our group commander is aboard LCI 25. LCI 28 is our flag ship. We are also in Flot 7

July 27

Stood signal watch with Carl Summers on LCI 25 - We moved alongside LCI 25

July 28

Played game of volla ball today.

Had Ice Cream which is someing out here. It came from the ice box on the Regila supply ship from states.

July 29

Had the deck watch this afternoon.

Had a talk with skipper of ship Captain Miles.

Sunday

July 30

The Communication Div of all LCI's played soft ball game and we beat. I was on team of Communication.

Carl and I went to church on beach. Afterwards went to Aussie show at C.B. Base (Good.) Had a nice band.



July 31

Wrote a letter home - Also one to Charlotte Chambers. Feel kind of blue today.

August 1

Went on signal watch 0400 - 0800 alone. Sent Blinker to Main on L.C.I. 29. Went to small stores.

August 2

Sent out messg. for skipper. Received my first official messg. while on watch on L.C.I. 25

August 3

Alls well. May soon get under way. I hope we do.

August 4

Left for shuttle run to Finchaven. We took state side boys, eight Aussie officers and mail. Got underway at 1700.

August 5

Very rough water, with a strong headwind and rain. Stood my first signal watch under way on the Captians watch.

The waves are washing clear over the weld deck. It is my worse storm by far. It looks as if we would go right on over. Got into Finchave at 1400. We went along side the "Crux" which I was on before. We started back at 1800 with mail and some Aussie troops. Which soon got sea sick.

Our starboard quad is out

Sunday

August 6

Returned into Bostrem Bay at 1400. Let off Aussies.

August 7

Pulled alongside L.S.T. 455 today. Saw Morgan on L.C.I. 430.

Went with Summers to small stores. Helped him pack up to go back to the good old states.

August 8

My buddy Carl Summers left on a shuttle run to Finchaven to go back to states. Kimbell QM 2/C also went. My swellest pal.



August 9

Went into dry dock at 1000. We found a full barrle of oil jamed between our starboard screw and the skid. We returned all the way from Finchaven on the one screw. We scraped and painted the whole port side today - Every one works in dry dock. tough work. Floating dry dock.

August 10

We finished scraping bottom of ship and painted once. I got most of the paint on my self. Wrote Ellen Schlundt and Marion Mowser today.

August 11

Worked late tonight painting the stern. Getting tired of dry dock. We work from 8 in morning till 10 o'clock at night.

August 12

Left dry dock at 0800 with ony port screw on. Only can use port quad untill go back and have it finished. It took just a ½ hour to sink the dry dock so we could get out. Saw Kulas today.

Sunday

August 13

Missed church today - Went to Jap air field. Got some sovenuiers off of Jap zeros and dive bombers. Sent home 5 New guys came aboard. none rated. Wrote 4 letters for once.

August 14

I was paid today \$226.00
Sent \$200.00 home in money order. Played soft ball. Sent home for a fountain pen.

August 15

Practice Blinker + Semaphore with Andy today. Good breeze tonite.

August 16

Layed around all day. Stood signal watch on 25, 8 to 12.

August 17

Swabed down the conning tower. Stood Conways watch so he could play ball. Sent semaphore to Main, Morgun, and Kulas.



August 18

Learned flag and their meanings today. Stood signal watch 0800 to 1200
- received one messg (sem) Took L.C.I. Fuel and water reports

Cleaned passage way good today.

August 19

No inspection today. Studied blinker this evening.

Sunday

August 20

Went to church at C.B. Base this evening. Took on fuel. Saw "Road to Marco" at C.B. Base

August 21

Went to signal school on L.C.I. 430. (Morgan's ship.) Played a tied up soft ball game with 430.

I found out for sure today that I was rated SM 3/C on the first day of August. I now make \$96.00 a month overseas.

Stood mid-nite signal watch.

August 22

Were going to the rifle range this morning but it rained.

(Women) I saw the first women + today since I left the states four months ago. They are on the Quater deck of the LCI 30 next to us. They are Aussies and only three of them. Burned my eyes.

August 23

Not much taking place. Believe we will be making raid soon.

Got mail today (Ch Ck) with a lot of snap shots.

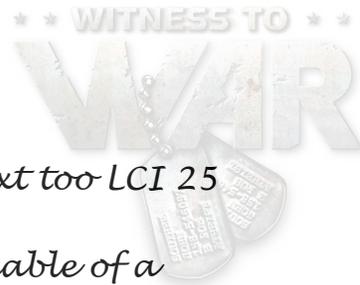
Went to rifle range. Shot the 30 M1 automatic. Did O.K. No too much kick.

August 24

Had meeting of signalman in pilot house. Are anchored out in bay waiting to enter dry dock.

August 25

Entered dry dock at 0700 this morning. We put on the anti fossile coat in 7 hours. The screw is being worked on tonight. Will probably leave in morning. Wrote Summers + Hicks.



August 26

Returned out of dry dock to beach. Took on water. We are next too LCI 25 our group commander (19)

When taking in our anchor it got caught on the anchor cable of a L.S.T. Received 10 page letter from Eleanor.

Sunday

August 27

Wrote Eleanor and few others today. Went to C.B. Base too church this evening, but it was not held. Kuhles went with me. (Mid-nite watch)

August 28

Pulled up anchor, went out in Bostrem Bay and had our compass compensated, also had General Quarters and fire drill. Must be a raid coming soon. Went to show. Practices Sem.

August 29

We had the group com. signalwatch this morning, untill we came along side L591 for water, fuel, + oil also supplies. LCI 25 has left. We will probably leave tomarrow. Got hair cut off of Morgans ship (430) for four bits. Summors stood signal watch with me on L591, worked Wakie Talkie, made out O.K.

August 30

We cast off from L591 and went to beach. Received message that all L.C.I's anchor out in Bostrem Bay and leave for Hollandia New Guinia at 0600 k tomarrow morning Aug 31. Rained tonight - Received letter from home.

August 31

Hit the deck at 0530 - All L.C.I's got underway at 0600. Form 18 - There are three Divisions, seven L.C.I's in each division. We are last ship in the coulum of Division three with LCI 224 ahead. I have second Div. watch, with Mr Coulson as O.D. + Brendal as B os't. Water calm

Sept. 1

All's well. Have changed course serval times up to now. Kept good formation last nite. (moon). Had G.Q. this afternoon. Fired all our four 20 M.M. = Entered Bostern Bay at Hollandia at 1600. We are now anchored out by ourselves. Lot of ships here. Received 00 mes. from PO OP6 (Admiral)



Sept. 2

I received a priority message this morning from 224. We were to get underway at 1800 this evening. But our exhaust water line is broken so we will leave alone in the morning and go back down the coast to Tipitid and pick up troops for the raid. Went too a show on Amycus a LST repair ship. Lot of ships here at Hollandia.

Sunday

Sept. 3

Left Hollandia alone last night at mid-nite. Good sailing. We got into Topia at 1000 in morning. Very good swimming water here.

We took on troops (U.S. ARMY) to make a practice beaching early tomorrow morning. All troops waded up to their waiste when they came aboard at 1600.

Sept. 4

Went out to sea serval miles so we could make practise beaching with troops on. Had G.Q. on way in, than beaching station. I had a lot of flag hoist. We hit beach at 0800 and troops from Gr. 19 poured ashore through waste deep water.

Sept. 5

We have been diving and swimming off of our ship. Took on Fuel and lube oil and water today from a U.S. tanker. We tied up alongside LCI 224 but water so rough we anchored out. Talked to Maurice Ryan by blinke and asked him to come over. He couldn't.

Sept. 6

Not much happen today which is unusual when getting ready for a raid. The war in Europe is expected to be over by last of October. Received some back mail today. Wrote home today.

Sept. 7

Conway, Sommers, and I painted the quarter deck in about one hour.

Wrote Charlotte and Betty today. Captain went swimming with us over side.

Sept. 8

We had a lot of traffic today.

Sommers and I received a 17 word message too all LCI's GR. 19 and a 47 word from Squad L.C.I. 7. Captain told us when + where the invasision was.



Sept. 9

Will take on troops today. I received most of the 00 mes. today. Recived a 71 word one from Wasachas. Went swimming off port side. We took on troops and their supplied at 0400. The shore was very rough. Troops are sleeping No. 3 hole so I will sleep in the polet house tonight. We are now anchored out.

Sunday

Sept. 10

Got underway at 0800 this morning. It is quite a large convoy. The Wasacak is the flag ship. About 5-L.S.T.'s 6-Destroyers, 20 L.C.I's, and 4 P.C. Speed 8 knots. The troops eat C + K rations that I wouldn't feed a dog. What we the crew don't eat they snatch it off our traies before we can throw it overboard.

Sept. 11

Are making good time. No rough water at all yet. It was quite dark last night. Hard to keep in collom. Are going north + soon will cross equator. Passed Hollandia last night. Another task force went in with ours. There is about 90 ships in whole conovy now. (L.S.T's) (L.C.I's) (L.C.T's) Destroyers, + (P.C.) I also man the (walkie talkie) (S.C.R.) at night. A man fell over board last nite on a ship somewhere in convoy. (was found.)

Sept. 12

Received a 48 word mesg early this morn. It rained on every watch today but mine. I could see Biak between 1200 and 1600 today as we passed it 25 mi to our port. Many lives were lost their lately. Also crossed equator at 1830 this evening.

Sept. 13

This morning 4 aircraft carriers, and 5 cruisers joined our convoy. Don't know where they came from. Troops are getting restless. The convoy made a 5° flank movement yesterday.

Sept. 14

We are now getting very close to our objective. I saw an air vew map of Morotai the island we are to take. It is about 17 mi wide + 26 mi long. It is about ten miles north of Halmahera. Only expect serval hundred Japs. We attack early tomarrow morning on a pennichil at south west side. Phillphines are only 300 miles away. This is an importain steping block for air craft to bomb Phill. This after noon Jap zeros were believed to



be coming our direction. It was a false alarm so far. Tomorrow will tell all.

INVAISION (D Day) at MOROTAI

Sept. 15

I was on the 4 to 8 watch in morning with Mr. Coulson, + Brendel (Bo's). We sighted land as soon as it was light. We all slowed down while the cruisiers + destroyers went in close to bomb + shell beach. Also our air craft went in to strafe. There was hardly any oposition that we could see. After two hours of shelling the island we proceded in. We hit beach at 8:45. There was a lot of coral on bottom. The troops waded through sholder deep water to get too beach. After troops off we could not retrack from beach because we were stuck on the coral bottom. Two LCI's could not pull us off together. So a big bulldozer on the beach that had just been unloaded from an LCT came out into the water four feet deep and helped the two L.C.I. get us off. We were very lucky that the Japs were not near by, because the could have shelled us. We than headed back for Hollandia. Which is 900 miles from Morotai. Morotai is only 360 miles from Phillipiens. We could see as we headed back the artilleary shelling the Japs. This concludes D Day at Morotai.

Sept. 16

We are still headed back to Hollandia. No rough water. A few quick + short rain squals. About 10 of us LCI's are in this convoy making 12 knots. We ran into 10 LST's loaded with supplies headed for Morotai we think.

Sunday

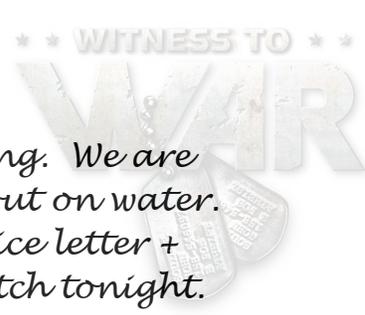
Sept. 17

Good sailing weather. Short rain squals in morning. We passed back over equator at 0800 this morning. Could see Biak on our starboard most the day. Wrote home today, Sunday.

Sept. 18

Last evening about 1600 our port screw gear box burned out. We could not keep up with the rest of convoy, at 12 knots so they went on, leaving LCI 27 + 25 to assistus us. LCI 27 is now towing us with a double cable, while 25 our group 19 flag ship is plotting out our course. We are making 10 knots this way. Heard news on radio about Morotai + Hallameara which we are returning from.

Sept. 19



We anchored just in side of Hollandia bay at 0400 this morning. We are now way back in the bay passed a lot of natives houses build out on water. I received 13 letters today, some being back mail. Received nice letter + pictures from Ruth. 10 days get here in. Had buisy signal watch tonight. We Heard news that Germany surrendered. (not sure)

Sept. 20

Received box cookies from Wittlesey's and three Hearlod Argus Newspaper. L.C.I. 29 came along side today. I had nice talk with Main. We got underway for Milne Bay at 1900 this evening. Only have starboard quad to go on. (one screw) LCI's 225 + 224 are with us. LCI 225 is the sopus ship. Have mail and few passengers aboard.

Sept. 21

Wrote home and Robert today. Sea is still quite choppy. Have a little hard time keeping up on one screw. We arrived at Aitape at 4:00 this afternoon. Let off two Australian officers. Next stop is Alix Haven, 250 miles from Aitape. That is where I started my first life aboard LCI's. (HOME)

Sept. 22

Water is becoming much rougher this evening. Water washes clear over the bow. We passed the Mountain of Blublub, Bam [active volcano], and Manum volcano. Speed about seven knots on one screw in rough water. LCI 224 Went way ahead about 1400 this afternoon. All's well.

Sept. 23

We arrived at Alex Haven at 1100 on my watch. I was supprised not to see byt LCI 26 there beside the Achilles. Went alongside Achilles to get supplies, and parts for our port gear box. I bought \$5. worth of candy on LST Achilles and sold it on our ship. All three of us LCI's went to the beach and took on water and got a lot of beer. I went ashore and got some coconuts. It seemed like home here. Australians had left and beached look clean. We got underway at 1800 that same evening for Finch Haven. Water little rough.

Sunday

Sept. 24

Coast on way to Finchafen is quite pretty. We arrived at Finchaven about midnite. But the shore station would not let us go in. We just followed L.C.I. 225 untill morning. It rained hard on my 12 to 4 watch.

Sep 25



We entered Fenchafen at dawn. Water is stirred up from the heavy rain. We stayed here all day. This evening we took aboard about 50 sailors just from Milne taking them back. Took army rations aboard for them. Cool last nite.

Sept. 26

We three L.C.I's 224 - 225 - 226 got underway once more. Left Finchafen at 0700 this morning for Milne Bay about a 1000 miles away. Could make it in three days but have only one crew and travel only 6 or 7 knots. Will probably take five days. No more stops between.

Sept. 27

We had our running lights on most the night. Passed Buna and Cape Sudest early this morning. Making only six knots on the one scraw. Starboard suad is about to burn out. Quite rough last night with strong wind. Waves about ten feet high.

Sept. 28

Water and wind much quieter this morning. This afternoon we passed through the Goshen Strait in to the Milne Bay parss. Arrived into Milne Bay just after sun down. Many lights on both sides most the way in. After getting clear in at Stringer Bay we came alongside 224 which is alongside 225. There are many ships. Many lights on beach.

Sept. 29

Anchored out in Stringer Bay this morning. Afternoon 225 and us went five miles across bay too Camp Gamma Dodo to unload some empty oxygen tanks. No place to take them off at, so returned to Stringer Bay and anchored on beach. All three are together. Went ashore this evening and saw a show.

Sept. 30

This morning they took off both our ramps and the 20M.M. on the bow. We then went down the beach aways and anchored on the beach. Tried to have a barbeque but meat didn't get done in time. Our ships working party brought supplies from Gama Dodo. Went to show on beach.

Sunday

Se Oct. 1

Went to church for first time for a long time. After church Sarge, Shook, and my self went for a hike to the air strip. We went about 20 miles by catching rides from jeeps etc. Saw planes take off and come in etc.



Received two letters today - Eleanor's one from home telling just about Rich. being in the Hospital. Went to show tonight.

Oct. 2

I went to Gama Doda today to get all kind of supplies for our ship. I went to chow at No. 2 Chow hall and walked through the Ranger barrack where I used to stay when I first came across. Deck gang started painting passage way for me. Our ship is anchored near Gama Doda tonight.

Oct. 3

I painted passage way by radio shack. Our ship went into a big floating dry dock this afternoon. LCI 225 is also in here. I didn't go to the show held on the dock. Wrote Ellen a letter tonight.

Oct. 4

Still in dry dock. I painted the black in passage way and part of the deck. The seaman are scraping the bottom of the ship. Received letter from home today.

Oct. 5

Still in dry dock. Painted on Passage Way today. Saw the show "Four Θ Jills in a Jeep" on the dry dock. I longed to be back home tonight.

Oct. 6

Painted the bulkheads white, by the engine room. Received letter from home, saying that Rich. was ruptured. Went on shore tonight, saw show on the Ground etc.

Oct. 7

Painted deck by the gallie. Went on working party this afternoon for supplies. I received \$175.00 pay today. Going to show tonight.

Sunday

Oct. 8

I stayed on board all day, in dry dock. No church. I received 15 letters today, and wrote five. Received much news about home today. Received some pictures.



Oct. 9

Painted deck of Passagey by galley. Made out a \$100. money order today, leaving me \$80. Dry dock workers worked in engine room today.

Oct. 10

Our ship is still in dry dock. All signalman + Q.M. had classes today. Very good show tonight "DEVOSTION."

October 11

Had signal classes etc. this morning. I used the dry dock signal light to signal LCI 224 today. they have a 6 ✕. light on it. Wrote letters to Warren W. + Steve. Still in this old dry dock.

Oct. 12

About 0800 this morning we left the dry dock, also did 225. We are anchored out in the bay, near Jetty. We are now waiting for our rocket racks, which are still in the states yet. Good news today. about 10 of the older crew is going to Sidney Australia as soon as they get transportation. I may get ten days to if they get back in time.

Oct. 13

It may take serval days before they can get transportation to Sidney. trying to go by plane. We got some side knives today.

Oct. 14

"Sidney" boys are to go ashore in morning. Mo left tonight. Anchored as before.

Sunday

October 15

The boys going to Sidney, went ashore at 0800 this morning. They expect to leave by plane Tue. If they get back before the rocket racks arrived from the states, we newer bunch may get to go. I sure hope so.

Oct. 16

Vary hot today. I went ashore in the small boat and got the ships bread (8 loaves). I think the boys gg to Sidney, left today on a L.C.I. Will take about Three Five days for tham to get there. I wrote Betty Doyle, a birthday letter, Sunday.



Oct. 17

We were told today to come into dock, but we requested a tug to help us in. Being we have but one screw. Tug has not come yet. Had flag hoist drill this afternoon.

~~*Oct. 18*~~

Oct. 18

I stood the deck watch for Majestic this morning 5 to 8. Last night he go the end of his finger cut off by a L.C.V. (small boat) coming alongside.

We came in to the dock with 225. are tied on their port. Saw good show tonight. "THE HITLER'S GANG". Is about Hitler coming in to power.

Oct. 19

Had blinker class in two hole. Received a letter from home and one from Carl Summers, who has malera. R alongside dock.

Oct. 20

I cleaned passageway good today. I think that the boys going to Sidney arrived there today. Put cord on blinker light. Put up all new Halyards the 18 of Oct. Saw good show tonight. Mickne Rooni Andy Carnie

Oct. 21

Wrote Ellen a letter yesterday. We got our two twin 50 cal. machine guns. I was Shore Patrol (SP) on liberty party today. Wrote Whittlesey a thank U letter.

Sunday

Oct. 22

Went to church on shore today. I took a little walk back in the jungle today and run on to eight natives. But could not talk with tham, they didn't know English. Slept most the afternoon.

Oct. 23

Andy painted the conning tower today. I was S.P. on liberty party today. Received news of Grndma loosing her car on the R.R. track. News of Jimmy Well's death.

Oct. 24

Stood deck watch for Majestic yet. Still moored alongside dock. Had our two 50 cal. stands put in. Very hot today. Wrote Carl Summers yesterday. He has malaraia.



Oct. 25

Washed my blues today. Workman are putting the 40MM. gun on the bow. Working at it tonight.

Saw the show "Good Luck, Mr. Yates". Ann Savage.

October 26

We are right next to the dock now. about the hottest day since I have been aboard L.C.I. 226. Shook returned aboard today. We thought he went to Sidney with the rest, but he got malaria and had been in a hospital here at Milne. There are two women aboard on the Quater deck with the officers.

Oct. 27

Chief and I put together a 500 piece Jigsaw Puzzle.

Hot day - received three old v-mail. Slept most the afternoon.

Oct. 28

Went ashore and got some coconuts. It rained just after the show. They mounted the 40MM gun on this morning. Conway + Sommers went over to a tanker.

Sunday

Oct. 29

Went to church on base this morning. Received a letter from Carl Summers today. Slept in afternoon.

Oct. 30

Very hot this morning. Got two bottles of Coke at recreation hall.

I fixed the commissoning pennet today. Paid canteen today.

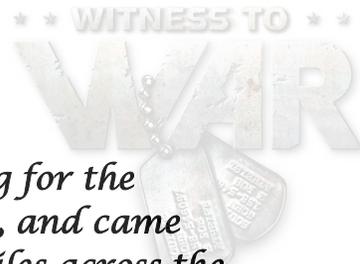
Oct. 31

Had Procedure Class today. The dock work men are still working on our ship. Have heard no word about our gear box or rocket racks coming from the States yet. Wrote Eleanor today. Tonight is halloween night, all we can do is think of the swell Halloween in the Past.

November 1

Today is my birthday, but it sure does not seem like it. I am now 20. The starboard section, which I am on went to fire school all day. We had real building fires to but out. It was very hot work

Mr. Coulson (Ex.) officer returned from Australia this noon. He sure looks bab.



Nov. 2

Port side went to fire school. Our ship is now finished, but waiting for the rocket racks and gear box. We and LCI 225 left the working dock, and came over to Stringer bay where LCI 224 is. Stringer bay is just two miles across the bay from Ladava where we wer

Nov. 3

I and Jordan went swimming. Our ships working party brought some fresh provision and supplies from Gamadoda, which is 5 miles from Stringer bay.

Nov. 4

Rained some today. A little cooler. Wrote a letter to Aunt Catherine today. Haven't received any mail lately. I played chess today and won from Devoure.

Sunday

Nov. 5

Chief and I went to church at Stringer bay. In afternoon I took a walk along the shore, and back to an army camp.

Nov. 6

Very hot today. I worked on one of the wooden floor mats for the con.

Nov. 7

Chief started working on his cabinet. I cleaned out my locker and sprayed it. I am putting in more shalves.

Nov. 8

Chief and I worked on our cabinets. We get peices of wood on the beach. I ordered some numeral flags and pennants.

Nov. 9

tolerance

We departed from alongside LCI 225 and came in alongside LCI 224 after a couple hours trying to come in, with wind and starboard screw to contend with.

Nov. 10

It is very hot every day, but nights are cool. Saw good show at Stringer bay tonight called "TILL WE MEET AGAIN" Beet down.

Nov. 11



A L.C.T next to us got her anchor caught in the LCT next to her while retracking from the beach. A boy got his leg broken trying to get them apart. Another LCT smashed our railling when comeing off the beach.

Sunday Nov. 12

Went to church alone today. This afternoon I climbed to the top of a high mt. here in Stringer bay. I saw many fox holes on the way. The ground was toren up in places where wild hog had hunted for someting to eat. I could see all over Milne bay from the top. I followed a mt. stream back. I did not reach the falls but I could see it. I sure am tired tonight.

Nov. 13

I didn't do much today. A working party went to Gamadoda today and got a washing machine. Boy's have not returned from Sidney yet.

Yesterday (Sunday) I finished reading all the books in the New Testament. I started the day I left San Francico to come over seas (May 8, 44)

Nov. 14

I went to Gamadoda by boat this morning to help get supplies. Received a letter from Aunt Catherine. I got 10 numeral flags and six pennant flags.

Nov. 15

The communication department is to paint number two hole, where the rockets and ammuniton is to be stored. There are five of us. We painted the bulkheads.

Nov. 16

We painted the rocket boxes in No.2 hole. I got a letter from home today written Nov. 6 - Took most of the bunks out of 3 hole where I sleep.

Nov. 17

It rained today for a change. We painted the rocket boxes their color coat today. Got three metal lockers on board today. I saw a very good movie on the base tonight, called "Dragon SEED" Story of China as the Jap took there land. Written by the author of "Good EARTH".

Nov. 18

We worked all day. Did some painting in No. 4 hole. We retracked from the beach this evening as the tied was in. We are now tied alongside LCI 224 anchored out. We will go over to Ladava tomarrow to have our rocket racks put on, which just came from the states.



Sunday *Nov. 19*

Got underway this morning. Went to Gamadoda and got 22 rocket racks. All together we can fire 528 rockets at one time. After the rockets were loaded we went over to Ladava. Anchored out.

Nov. 20

Quite cool today, with strong wind. All three of us LCI's are docked up against the dock. We put the rocket racks together today. We have 44 rocket racks. 22 on the port, 22 on the starboard. Each rack shoots 12 rockets. We can shoot 528 rockets at one time.

Nov. 21

Rained some today. Dock workman are working on the rocket racks.

Nov. 22

Mr. Anderson, Sommers, + my self worked on the shelves in No. 4 hole. The boys returned from Sidney this afternoon. They were all glad to be aboard again and had a lot of stories to tell.

Thanksgiving

Nov. 23

Had turkey

I finished painting in four hole this morning. Dock workers are putting on the rocket electrical connection boxes today. We are getting all set for our big drive to the Phillippines.

Nov. 24

Painted in No 2 hole this morning. The workmen are working on the wiring which is the biggest job of all. Received a letter form Ellen today. Talked to a signalman on LST 462 named Miller.

Nov. 25

Worked all day. Got the washing machine working for the first time. It was 125° at 8:00 this morning.

Sunday

Nov. 26

Went to church this morning with Jordan. Wrote Ellen and home this afternoon. A little cooler today. Received a letter from Ruth + Martin with picture album in.

Nov. 27

Painted in No 2 hole today. Wrote Ruth + Martin a letter today. Shoot the breeze with LST 462. Miller was not aboard. Helped a kid find his ship tha left him. YP 278



95
16
570
95
1520

Nov. 28

L.C.I. 225 is finished, and went out this morning to try their rockets and guns out. We are almost finished. Getting ready to paint the Con. Went to show with Conway tonight. Five new men came aboard from Gamadado.

Nov. 29

LCI 224 pulled away from the dock this morning.

We were finished with the rocket racks and this evening. Talked with L.C.I. 608 this evening.

Nov. 30

Got underway from the dock at 0900 to take on 20,000 gals. of diesel oil here at LaDava. From here we went to Stringer Bay, and tied alongside LCI 225 + 224. We got our first rockets today. 20 boxes. And 96 boxes of 40 MM shells, or 1520 shells. We are going out tomorrow for trial run etc.

Dec. 1, 44

Got underway for Shortland Island 50 miles from Stringer bay, to practice shooting off our rockets and 40 MM and 20 MM + 50 cal. We arrived at the island at 1100. Shot off 100 or so rockets. They are a lot more powerful than I thought. It chipped paint off the deck when leaving the racks. I was the first one to place a rocket in the rack on this ship. LCI 225 + 224 came 2 hrs after we were there. Passed in the China Straights on the way. Returned to Stringer bay at 1730.

Dec. 2

Received three letters today, from Mom, Eleanor, and Charlotte. We are on the beach here at Stringer bay.

Sent home \$160.00 in money order today.

Sunday

Dec. 3

LCI 224 and 225 left for Leyte in the Phillippine this morning. We are still waiting on the gear box. Did not get to church today, because we got underway to compensate our compasses. This evening I went ashore and hitched hicked to LaDava by road to see movie.

Dec. 4



Sommers and I finished painting inside the con. Some of the boys caught some large flat fish last night. Wrote six Christmas card V-mail letters tonight.

Dec. 5

Painted superstructure on quarter deck. I now have the quarter deck as my cleaning station instead of the passageway which I had since I came aboard. Stood signal watch this morning.

Dec. 6

Rained today for a change I got a Christmas box from home today sent last Sept. I also got one from Hick's today. Sure tase good out here Sent home my picture that Mr Coulson took.

Pearl Harbor Dec. 7

Received a nice box of candy from Martha Hügli. The ship bought a radio and phonograph combined, for \$200.00 We all paid \$6.25 each.

1717, the amphib base is moving up north nearer to the Phillippines and fighting front. (Stringer bay).

Dec. 8

Our gear box arrived today aboard L.C.I. 434, which has just come from Australia with 4 other LCI's. We got underway from Stringer bay to patoon dock at LaDava to have gear box installed. Received 8 Herald Argus papers.

Dec. 9

We haven't the gear box aboard as yet. Very little happen today. Wrote Marion, and Hick's today.

Sunday Dec. 10

The gear box is aboard now. It was 121° at 0700 this morning. Wrote home and Grandma today. Went to church on the base.

Dec. 11

I climbed to the very top of the mast this morning to put a pully on the ensign staff.

Sommers came in drunk tonight. Played Pop a couple games of chess tonight.

Dec. 12



I painted the ships mast today. Very windy ∴ hard to hang on. Royer and the new boy returned on board this afternoon. They were put in the brig last night, for going into the womens hut.

Dec. 13

Painted in the con a little this morning.

*Saw good movie tonight called "Widow of WEST POINT"
We are still waiting for the engines + gear box to be finished.*

Dec. 14

Rained today. Deck gang are painting in No 3 hole. Wrote home, and Steve.

Dec. 15

*Aired some flags out today. We got underway from patoon dock at 1530.
Went to Stringer bay to pick up rockets. We finished loading serval hundred rockets by 1730, and than went to see our last movie at Milne bay.*

Dec. 16

Got underway for Leyte in the Phillippines at 0700 this morning. Both quads work swell. We went out to Shortland island again. We shot all the racks full of rockets. We shot all the other guns on board, all so the 50 cal. which I am on. My ears are very num from all the explosions. Sea is very calm this evening.

Sunday

Dec. 17

Passed Buna a little after midnite last nite.

Pass quite a few liberty ships. Sea is very calm. Saw a school of porpoys. They look like shars and were 10 ft. long. lot of flying fish.

Dec. 18

This morning the water is a little rough. Today we passed Bagabag, Mam, Bam, and Blupblup islands. Passed by Finchhafen last nite, and Alexhafen this morning.

Dec. 19

It was very rough and windy last nite on my midnite watch. Passed Atopa this noon. Will reach Hollandia tonight probably on my watch.

Dec. 20

We arrived in Hombold bay at 2200 last nite.

There are hundreds of ships here. We have orders to be ready for sea Dec 22. I went to show on the base. Sure hot here.



Dec. 21

Tonite we loaded 1500 rockets. I worked until midnite while some of the others worked until 0400.

We got about five new boys. One is a Quater master striker.

Dec. 22

This morning we took on fuel and 50 smoke rockets.

LCI 225 + 226 (our selves) got underway from Hollandia at noon for Sansapor on the northen end of New Guinea.

Dec. 23

I had the midnite watch last night, it rained the whole watch carried by a hard wind. We are the leading ship. Will pass Biak tonite.

Christmas Eve. Dec. 24 - Sunday

Passed Windy and Biak last nite. Water was very calm and moon was out. Beautiful.

Christmas Dec. 25

Arrived in Sansapore this morning at 0800. I found a boy I knew in signal school on AP 171 today. His name is Chanler. Poor chow for Christmas day. Commander Day showed us all about rockets. Signal watch

Dec. 26

We got a little fresh meat today for a change.

Commander Day came aboard this after noon. We went up the coast about three miles and practiced firing rockets and all guns.

Dec. 27

We went out again today with LCI 225. We did much better shooting than they.

Yesterday the combat unit Photographer took Sommes and my picture. He came aboard at Hollandia and is going to take pictures of our next inviasion which will be soon.

=

Dec. 28

Got underway to take on water, fuel from Aō 50, provision for 30 day This evening about 7:00, two Jap planes came over. There are about 40 ships here. We all had Black out and General Quarters. The big search lights found the plane so ships began too open up on tham. The Jap didn't do nothing but run back were they came from. Had black out all nite.



Dec. 29

Received Typhoid shot today. We got tetna shot yesterday. We got 5 gals. of ice cream from Aō 50 today. Rained this evening.

First Jap Plane Dec. 30

Last nite about 1:00 all ships sounded G.Q. We were all at our guns when a twin moter Jap bomber came over. It was up very high, but the search lights picked it up. All large ships started firing. It got all most over when a shell hit it. It burst into flam, burning all the way down. It hit the water and blew up about a mile off. We than secured from G.Q.

All ships here at Sansapore got underway at 0330 for the Phillipnes. We are behind LCI 690, Flag ship of Squad 66. D day is 10 days. Pick other ships up at Leyte. We are going to attack Lozone, 100 miles from Manila, 500 from HonKong China. Biggest convoy ever in this part of the Pacific. Will be only 12 of us rocket ships.

Sunday Dec. 31

Proceeding at a slow speed of eight knots. Had shooting practices this morning. Made serval Corpen movements this afternoon

Jan. 1, 1945

I saw the new year come in just after I came off the 2000 to 2400 watch. But all was dark. Last nite we had a big smoke screen made by all ships, than did two turn movements in it. Worked well.

Jan. 2, 1945

We are now serval degrees north of the equator. We are now six days minus D day. The Combat Photographer took a single picture of all hands on board. Sub was reported in this area by radio. Later this afternoon two Destroyers picked up a sub. They droped serval dept charges put didn't get it. They followed it over the horizine. This morning we sighted another large convoy three points aft our starboard beam. Carriers in it.

Jan. 3

There is two aircraft carriers in our convoy now. Rained hard but short this afternoon.

Jan. 4

The water is full of swells which makes us rock. About four oclock this evening a smaller convoy from Manus came out and joined us. Some rocket ships were



in with them. We saw Layte ahead as the sun went down. The sun set is most beautiful in the Phillipine.

Jan. 5

Passed through the Surigao Strait down and around Layte, through the Mindanao Sea around Phillipine island of Negros. Enemy planes picked up twice last nite. Had G Q twice in four hours.

Jan. 6

Water is quite choppy today and tonite. We have G Q ten minutes before sunset and sun rise untill one hr. after.

Sunday

Jan. 7

This forenoon about 75 of our 25's flew over to bom somewhere. We had G Q a couple times again today. Shot down a Jap plane at the front of the convoy. Passed Mindora on our starboard. We are heading north up the Mindora Strait towards Corregidor.

Jan. 8

Had two short air attacks last nite. Shot down a couple Jap planes. This morning a Jap plane attacked one of the carriers astern of us. They shot it down, on the way down it tried to crash the carrier but missed. A Jap Zex flew like hell over the convoy low but we all missed him. He was shot down later.

The convoy entered the Gulf about 2:00 the morning of the ninth. The water is very quite, and moon is out. We are going along very slow with engines ahead $\frac{1}{3}$. It seems very spooky with all ships slipping so quietly through the water. We can see larger ships ahead of us firing on the beach.

LINGAYEN GULF

Jan. 9

D. DAY AT LINGAYEN GULF ON LUZON

We all went to General Quarters at 0500 in the morning. It is not dawn yet. All the Can's and Cruisers opened up as soon as it was light anought. There was also three battle ships firing, the first I have seen over seas. They sure could throw the shells in.

We were to lay back until 0900, than proceed to the beach and fire our 528 rockets. Before this we had an air attack. We came very close to hitting one zero. They hit a destroyer with a bomb. We The convoy shot down serval of there planes. One plane crashed dived on a ship setting it a fire. Don't know how many were killed.

We went in at 0900. We could now hear the battle ships shells singing by over our heads. We were about 200 yd. from the beach when we started letting



the rockets go. About that time there was a big exploding and water shot way up about a 100 feet off our stern. About ten seconds later there was another about a 100 feet on our port beam. By now we were so scared we were laying on the deck. Than the big one came. It hit just a little over 10 feet from our port bow, spraying us all with water. The boys were really scared now. By now we had launched all the rockets and were back away from the beach like hell, with engines all wide open. Two more shells hit close off our starboard beam on the way out.

We were never so glad to leave a beach. By now it was pretty quite on the beach, after our rockets tamed it down. The Army went in now, on tanks that float in the water. The tractors climbed right onto the beach firing at ever thing. After 200 tank tractors went ashore, small boats started bring in the troops. We saw a few get shot but not many. Most of the Japs had been killed by our guns or fled to the hills. A couple of cruisers did point firing all nite. We had an air attack about 1300 in after noon. I was sending a signal by light at the time, when a Jap Zero came cutting above the water. It was very close to us. I got down off the light right in the middle of my msg. and ran to my G Q station. The plane droped a bomb near a Can which was too clost to us. This about concludes D Day.

Jan. 10

We had more air attachs but the Japs afraid to come close. We maned our guns all nite. It is blamed last nite Jap Pt boats sneaked up on larg ships and threw hand greneads on board. Had another small air attack.

To Nite we received orders with a few other LCI's to anchor in a circle around the Amphib Flag Ship "FREMONT". We were to shoot at all boxes in water, and small boats if they did not reply to us. It was reported a Jap P.T. boat tried to damage it the nite before. Also reported that Japs were comeing out from the rivers with bombs on their bodys to blow up ships. We had five watches all nite carrying tommey guns. We shot at many boxes.

Jan. 11, 44

This morning we saw a water bufflow swiming in the water. It came right along side our ship. Mr Joyce was going to shoot it but the crew would not let him do so.

Last nite we listened to Mr. Gunnison give serval radio broad cast to the States from the Wasastch here at LINGAYEN GulF about this biggest operations in the Pacific. We are 110 miles from Manila. Our troops have had little opposition so far, but believed they fled to the hills. We get lots of broad casts from Japan which are not true.

I talked too Paul Markel on LCI 338 by semaphore. First I have seen him since we were assigned to LCI's a half year ago.



Jan. 12

Had a tough little air raid this morning. About three Jap planes came over. Two of them suicide dived on ships. The first one missed the ship and crashed into the water. The second dived into an APD setting it on fire. Don't know how many were killed as yet. Another plane dropped a bomb.

Jan. 13

We were able to obtain a few provisions today, from an APA transport. While leaving this APA, a Jap plane flew over quietly, and dropped a bomb 10 yds. off the bow of another APA. We were the next ship closest to the fallen bomb. The plane got away without getting hit. I met a friend who is a Q.M. on YMS (33)? We along with about 20 other ships got under way for Leyte all most unexpectedly at 1800.

Sunday

JAN. 14

We are still making our way down the coast of Luzon. Will pass about 50 miles out from Manila tonight.

About 40 ships in this convoy mostly LST. One air craft Carrier (96) About eight of us LCI's. Don't seem like Sunday.

Jan. 15

Today while under way we went along side several LST to pick up 140 units of blood plasma. We then took it back to the air craft Carrier which had casualties, from a Jap suicide diver.

This evening LCI 338 brought us mail. Were we all glad to see it. The first we have had for two months. I got nice Christmas box from Aunt Catherine.

Jan. 16

Still under way - Passed by Mendono last evening. I got six letters in last night's mail call.

Jan. 17

Expect to arrive at Leyte tomorrow morning. Sea got kind of rough last night from a strong wind.

Jan. 18

We arrived at Leyte 0900 this morning. There are many Philippine natives who come alongside our ships and trade with us. Some of the women are nice looking. Two brought out little babies. I got a Peso off a girl for a dollar.

It rained this evening and last night. Got letter from Rich car turned over Dec 30



Jan. 19

We were anchored alongside LCI 430 which Morgan is on. Rained a lot today. We are anchored with LCI's 224, 227, 225, and LCS 27 this evening. I heard seven were killed on LCI 70 which Maurice Ryan is on. It was hit about three minus D. day. Don't know how he came out yet.

Jan. 20

Still here at Layte waiting for next operation, which is the 29th of this month. Went alongside Liberty Ship to get provisions for 6 rocket ships. Started at 2200, finished at 0200.

Sunday

Jan. 21

Unloaded provisions on the rocket ships this morning. Kuhlas, Markel, and my self were talking together. This evening ship went into floating dry dock to get port screw fixed.

Jan. 22

We got out of dry dock at 1600 this evening. Put new port screw on. We are now anchored out in vicinity of LCI 28, our Flot flag ship.

Jan. 23

Still here at LAYTE. Had repair work done today. I was talking to two Filippino boys today. They wrote their name on paper for Jerry.

J 24

Getting ready for operation the 29th. Took on fuel, water, rockets, and ammo. I think operation will be at BATAAN. We get underway in morning.

Jan. 25

Six Rocket Ships LST and liberty ships, DD, DC, APD's etc got underway for Bataan at 0600 this morning. Sea is quite

Jan. 26

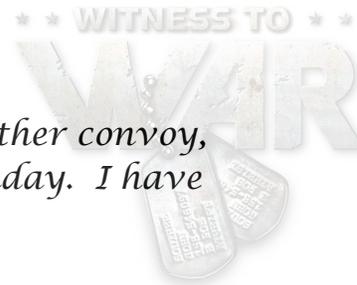
Sea is quite calm. We have been going only 5 knots. Not much going on

Jan 27

Wrote a letter too Carl Summers today. Moon is very pretty on the nite watches.

Sunday

Jan. 28



Day before D day at Bataan. Seas is little choppy tonite. Another convoy, mostly of troops joined us this evening. Sure doesn't seem like Sunday. I have 12 - 4 tonite.

Jan. 29

D DAY AT BATAAN.

Went to G Q station at 0600. The Cans and larger ships didn't fire on beach. There were natives who came out too meet us in dug outs. We could also see natives on the beach. We were afraid our orders were to fire the rockets, and many of the natives would get killed. But as we were going in, we received orders not to fire on beach as the natives reported there were no Japs around. So the troops went in in the small boats. It was a beautiful sight as the sun cast many shadows of the troops as they clamored ashore on the sandy white beach, while the natives came running too greet our troops, yelling and clapping their hand with joy. I shall never forget that sight, not a shot was fired.

Jan 30

We guarded the beach and ships from Jap PT boat attack. Our troops are only 36 miles from Manila. I talked to a Filipino today who went to a University in Manila.

The Filipino here are prettyer looking, and seem nicer. We traded clothes today for 10 chickens from tham. We had to clean tham our selves. I got about a 100 Pasos in trading etc. Natives are very good looking.

Jan.31

The other 4 rocket ships returned last night from shelling GRANDY island in SUBIC bay. We ate the chickens we got from the natives today. Very good. Most all the ships left here.

Feb 1, 1945

The natives have been trading souviners for soap cloths with us. Japs took all of there cloths. All the 1/C Petty officers went ashore today. We all like the Filipinos here. A Jap small boat sunk a S.C. a little south of here. We are getting underway 0720 tomarrow D.

Feb.2

We got underway for SUBIC Bay this morning. It took us two hours to arrive here in the 8 knot convoy. We saw the island in the middle of Subic bay that we left 16 inch guns on when the Japs took it in 1941. The guns are still there. they took Subic bay Jan 30 the day after we took Bataan. There were no Japs on the island in Subic Bay.



Feb 3

Subic Bay is a very good bay. It was a navy base before the war. We were to form convoy and get underway for Layte tonite, but did not because of a storm that came up. I have been standing radio watch on the T.C.S. in radio shack at night.

Sunday

Feb. 4

We went over to GRANDY Is. today. I got ashore. The island was sure bombed up. I set on our big 6 inch Coastal Guns we had in 1941. They still are not in such bad shape. A lot of Jap writting around.

Feb. 5

Feb. 6

Today we went back into a Jetty at the farther most poin in Subic bay to take on water. The whole ship got leave for two hours. I saw serval little villiages. One was wrecked by bombs completly. We were walking only seven miles from the front lines. The Artillery let fire behind us and over our heads, at Jap who were in the Mt. Pass.

Feb. 7

We got a little ice cream from LCS 49 today. I finished making Anchor ball today. Conway fell at GQ last nite and broke his little toe. We are alongside LCS 29 tonight.

Feb. 8

Painting the passage way. Still here in Subic Bay waiting for almost any thing, especialy mail.

Feb. 9

Captain HARNED went aboard LCS 48 to a confferance. Four CRUISERS came into Subic bay today. Looking for mail soon. Went ashore on Grandy Island this after noon to drink deer. Waiting for next operation.

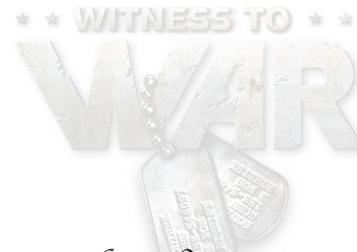
Feb. 10

Took on water and provission. Heard scuttulebutt that we were going to land troops on the main land in passed Corregdor.

Sunday

Feb.11

Went to church for first time for over two months. We went to church on the Crusier DENVER. I looked the whole ship over. Still no mail.



We went to Grandy Island this after noon to go swimming.

Feb.12

Doc. stayed on his original ship last night, LST 457. Got small stores today. We saw a submarine come into Subic Bay today.

Feb. 13

Captain Harned went aboard the LCI 430 (GR. Flag Ship). He got all the dope on our next invasion. D Day is Feb. 15, at Mariveles. The next morning we go in too Corregidor in Manila Bay. Mariveles is a small bay about four miles from Corregidor.

Feb. 14,

Loaded rockets this morning. Preparing guns etc for action. We got under way for Manila Bay at 1500 this evening. We headed north until dark and then headed south for Manila Bay. We did this to fool the Japs on the mountain which our troops were still fighting.

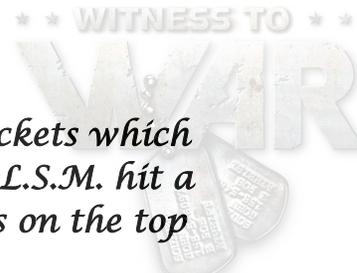
D DAY AT MARIVELES -

Bataan, Phillipines

Feb. 15, 45

When the sun came up our, not to large convoy was about six miles from Corregidor which is located at the mouth of Manila Bay. There was six LCI rocket ships and six LCS gun boats. Mine sweepers had been through here before us.

Corregidor had several good bombing before today. About a half mile before away from Corregidor the Japs opened up with a big 8ⁱⁿ gun hid some where in a cave. Their first few shots did not hit any thing. Then one shell hit very close to a small boat carrying troops, it did not turn over but it almost. We did not think any one was hurt. About five minutes later the same boat came by us told us by semaphore they had four wounded men who were in bad shape and wanted us to take them. We could not stop so they tied along side us still underway. We were now heading into Mariveles Harbor. Ships were shelling the beach already. We carried the first man aboard whose arm was hanging on by the skin underneath, he was one mass of blood. The second one I helped carry. His shoulder was laced open about six inches long and three in. deep. I got stick blood all over my hands, and the wound smelled terrible. The third man had shell fragments in his skull, and chest. His face was covered with blood. The fourth man died just as they were about to take him out of the boat, so they left him in and threw him on beach as soon as they landed. Blood was all over our deck now. Our P.H. Mate had the three carried down in Six Bay, which is in Three Compartment where Is sleep. I now had to get back on my



fifty cal. gun as we were going in on the run. We let go all our rockets which sure cleared the beach. Than troops went in. At the same time a L.S.M. hit a mine and caught on fire. It blew a half truck full of troops clear us on the top deck killing all. Many were killed.

We now loaded all forward rack for any emergency run. We gave the beach a heavy shelling with our 40MM and other guns.

We went along side an LCI who had a doctor on, right away as the wounded men were very bad. The man with the arm all most off was by now all most dead, from lack of blood even though our P.H. Mate did give tham plasma. By now the army had the beach quiet well theirs. This concluded our part of the operation on D Day. We finiche loading our racks, for Corregidor tomorrow morning. We anchored all night here in Mariveles harbor.

D DAY ON CORREGIDOR

* H

Feb. 16, 1945

To day I saw one of the most alful sights that I shall neve forget as long as I live. The day stared at 0300 in the early mourning. The reason G.Q. was sounded at this time was that serval Jap P.T. boats snei sneaked into Mariveles Harbor, and were raising hell! When I got on top side I saw one L.S.M. and one LCS all in one big mass of flames. We got all the fire fighting equipment out and stood by our guns for the unknowen. By now tracers and large shell were flying all over th harbor. We couldn't see what they were shooting at. The harbor was so small that shells were hitting all around us. Just than another one of our LCS blew up. The shells were still hitting all over the harbor. LCI 225 got hit by a 40MM shell in their fog generator and drums. A couple of their crew got shell fragaments in tham, but not hurt bad.

By now two more LCS were hit. The one bursted in to flames and blew up and went straight to the bottom with all hand still aboard. The other LCS was still on fire but she got ramed her bow on the beach so she could not sink. Half her crew were killed. Shells and tracers were flying all over the harbor like mad yet. Than the LCS next to us burst into flame and blew up. We could hear their men scream as their ship went to the bottom. Only a few were saved. We were all so scared by now we didn't know what to do. We though we were next because we were next in the line of ships that blew up. We did not know how the Jap were blowing up these ship and still do not know. Now all the fireing had stop. All was quite ex except for the crys of the many survivors floating in the water. We were all sick now our selves. Things were so mixed up, that we never found out how many Jap small boats we sunck. We could hear men yelling for help. The LCT's got orders to pick tham up.

In the 24 hours we took over Mariveles Harbor we lost, two LSM's and four L.C.S which have been over seas only four months. The one LCS did not think



because it was ramed upon the beach. We lost about 200 men whom serval I knew, and six ships, beside the others hit by smaller shells. v

We now got orders by radio to proceed out of habor and form collum for our prtectio. We went out to sea about six miles and than returned. By now the sun was comeing up. When we got back in Mariveles Harbor all was quiet. The LCS was damaged on the beach. The other were sunck.

By now it was light anought to get ready for the landing on Corregidor. We got under way for Corregidor at 0800 from Mariveles Harbor two mile from Corregidor. All morning our large ships were shelling the island, and bombers and dive bomber were strafing and bombing Corregidor for they were worth. Our planes dropped 147,000 tons of bombs on Corregidor. On the way across the Manila Channel we were headed straight for a floating mine. An A.P.D. signal us to stop. We backed down all engines full. We might have hit it if it wasn't for the A.P.D. At 0830 our planes started dropping air born troops on Corregidor. I saw serval parechutes that did not open. They kept dropping troops until 1000. Than 225 and 226 went in. We let go our rockets and backed off to strafe the caves and pill boxes. We knocked out serval pill boxes. We could see Japs firing at us. Than water flew all around the ship and we could hear bullets sing all around. We all fell close to the deck. We could hear the bullets hitting our ship. After backing out full speed. We were hit six difference places by Jap 50 cal machine gun fire. The bullet went all the way in the ship, hitting lockers etc. No one hit.

Feb. 17

We arrived in good old Subic Bay at 0200 this morning, and were we all glad to get back here even though there was no mail waiting for us. They are all most stoped having ship black out here at Subic Bay at night, becaus the Japs have only about 40 planes in the whole Philippines. Our Cans guard the mouth of the bay by Grandy Island for Jap P.T- boats and barges.

Sunday. Feb. 18,

We tried to go to church on the Crusier Cleveland but we could not find her. I stood signal watch on 225 last nite as they are alongside. 228 is also alongside us

Feb. 19.

They had fuernel services of the boys lost at Mariveles Harbor the early mourning of the 16th on the Fletcher. 225 and us are takeing turns standing signal and radio watches. Wrote home last night.

Feb. 20



Feb. 21

Received mail from LCI 778 today. We sure went nuts over it. I got pictures of Christmas at home. First mail for one month.

Feb. 22

Went over to Longapoe to get water. Got ashore for one short hour. Sure lots of little kids in the town. Took on fuel from - AO 38.

Feb. 23

Took on rockets today from -AK 99- Took on eleven hundreds. Got small stores and ships service off Pollux today for the six rocket ships and the two LCS's. Now alongside 225 at Subic Bay.

Feb. 24

Bought some small stores today. Could not get show boat tonight.

Sunday

Feb. 25

Did not get to church this Sunday again. This morning our ship and L.C.I. 340 went alongside a LCT and took on G.S.K. (General Stores) for all six LCI's.

All of a sudden this evening we left Subic Bay with L.C.I. 340, 225, 226, 337 for an operation which D Day is unknown.

We will pass Manila Bay tonight. We have no ships to protect us. We pick up main convoy at Mendoro tomorrow.

Feb. 26

We arrived at Mendoro at -1300- this afternoon. We had a \$15.00 anchor pool. Myers won. We went alongside 342, I got to talk to Miner on that ship_ They left that evening in convoy to hit some where a 100 miles from Boreno. the 27 Mendoro has the biggest air port I have seen over seas. Very windy here.

Feb. 27,

This after noon we anchored on beach. I got ashore 2 hr. that afternoon. It is very dirty and dusty here. Have about 100 B24 Liberators here. They have been bombing Formosa lately. This evening I went over and watched them come in from Formosa. I got to go inside and look over one B24 as long a I wanted. They have many other planes here, also seaplanes.

Feb. 28,



We found out today that our D Day is the 29th. We will hit the island of Lubang, just a little south of Manila Bay and Corregidor. It is little over a 100 miles from Mindoro where we left at 1600 this evening. Will land only 500 troops just to knock out a Jap radar station. Expect no opposition. Only think 300 Japs on island. Use and 225 will not throw rockets but guard entrance of bay with a (D.E.)

Feb. 29.

D DAY AT LUBANG ISLAND

H Hour is to be at 0830, which it was. We went around to other side of the island to land on. We layed off until one D.D. and D.E. shelled the beach starting some very large fires, beleived to have been gasoline. Than some A-20's let go with bombs. LCI's did not fire rockets as there was hardly no fireing from the beach. The troop LCI's and LSM's proceeded to beach. There was no oposition. The troops probably did have plenty of oposition later: we took the radar station with out trouble. About 1600 that evening we started back to Mindoro. We arrived at San Jose 0700 the following morning.

March 1, 1945

train

March 3

Sunday

March 4

Went to church at an Army base in the Filipino town of San Jose. He was very good. It is very dusty here at San Jose. Quiet a nice town.

March 5

Was sick today with sore throat, stiff neck and a head ack. Had temperture well over a 100, felt very sick. Got little mail today. Books from Eleanor.

March 6,

I am still in bed but feel alot better today. Doc. is sure goot good.

March 7.

Captain Harned received his orders today to go State side. He gave us a fare well speech. We hated to see him go, but glad he got to go. He was the best skipper in the whole Pacific, to my notion. He left Mindoro. (Skipper 7, mo.)



March 8, 1945

Got underway at 0700 with Bennet Coulson as our new skipper, for a landing on the island of Mindanao south of Layte. The convoy was quiet large mostly made up of Amphib. except for D.D. D.E. one CL.

March 9,

The sea is very rough. Water washed up on the quartr deck. Last night, a LSM lost one of here troop, who fell over board in the rough sea. Tomorrow morning at 0830 is H Hour on the pennsula of Zamboanga on Mindanao.

* March 10, 1945

D DAY AT ZAMBOANGA ON MINDANAO.

The D.D. and D.E. started shelling at day lighg, starting several large fires. At 0830 all LCI(Rs) and Gun Boats started in for the beach to clean it out for the troops who followed us up in Water Bufflos. Close to 500 or 700 Japs here. They could not fire back except with s machine gun fire as we kept tham down with terrefic rocket and gun fire. Troops next went ashore with all their machine guns spitting fire.

That afternoon Japs were throwing morters out in the water at LST's comeing in to unload. None were hit but very close hits. We had serval near misses. Our troops could not take the town of Zamboanga that day. That night we anchored still having Condition II. Kept close watch for Jap P.T. and Crash Boats.

Sunday March 11,

At 0600 this morning we went on patrol. All day we stood by at Condition II, waiting for the Army to call on us to throw rockets in the town if there was too mush oposition for tham. By evening they took the town with heavy shelling, but did not call on us. The town which was very nice one at one time is now almost wrecked. Moter fire hit out in water today from Japs back up in the mt.

March 12

Last night we had patrol duty all night along with 225, and LCS 30. Jap PT Boats were belived to have been trying to get in. Saw gun fire on beach all night off and on. This morning we went up along side the town to see if troops needed us as they advanced. Japs are putting up a last man to man fight. After noon we returned to the big Flag Ship "Rocket Mountain" Japs fired at us from the hill with light MM fire when we went in close to help troops. It came very close but none of us were hit. Also they fired on serval small boat loaded with troops. We had patrol duty all night. About 1900 Japs back up in



the hills started shelling our beachhead. We were patrolling only 500 yds. from beach and some shells were landing in the water too close to us for comfort. They stoped about 2100. Don't know how many of our troops they killed.

March 13

Didn't do much today, only stand by for emergency. Last night we patrolled again. It is to dangerous to anchor at night as Jap midge subs may sneak up on us. About mid nite last nighg, the Japs hit a lucky shot and blew up a lot of our oil and fuel on the beach. The fire lite every thing up for miles around. LCI 225 left in convoy last night.

March 14,

Did nothing but anchor and stand by all day. We are to moor east side of Samboanga Pier tonight. I don't like this as Japs are still to close around for comfort. Last night at 1800 two Jap planes came over for the first time here. They dropped a couple bombs on beach. We did not shoot at tham because they nevr came over the water. B24s have been bombing the Japs in the hills. Tonight all LCI's + LCT, tied up to Zamboanga Pier. We did not get tied up until 2300 that night. LCS's did the patrolling.

March 15

We all stayed tied alongside the pier all day. Being in close we could see that the town of Zamboanga was nice one before the Japs bombed it. Beautiful street lights. That afternoon two mines were seen floating towards the pier. So the LCI 337 demmolition crew got on a LCM and went after it. Two swimmers dove under the mind and tied a line to the mine anchor chain. They towed it out a mile and than blew it up by shooting at it. It took a minute and a half for all the pieces to come down. The did like wise to the other one. That night we anchored out as we were going on another operation in the morning.

March 16, 1945

D DAY AT SAOROC POINT, ON THE ISLAND OF (BASILAN.)

The island of Basilan is located about 40 miles south of Zamboanga. We got underway at 0800 in the morning. Troops were carride across in LCS's. LCI 337 and us were the only rocket ships. We got there at 1100. Threw our rockets and got out. We saw no enemy fire at all. About 1400 in afternoon we returned to Zamboanga Peninsula, and tied alongside the pier. Went to show



*held on the pier. That evening the Japs captured our P.T. Base up the point
aways. Our PT's got out just in time.*

March 17

*Are still tied to pier, with LCI's 227, 337. We started chipping quarter deck
today. Army having slow and hard time getting Japs out of the mt.*

Sunday. March 18, 1945

*Did not have Holiday routine today much to my disgust. Chipped quarter deck
all day again. Still moored to dock yet*

March 19,

*Worked on Q.D. today. Went out in the bay and got water off an L.S.T.
Returned to dock. This evening two Liberty Ships loaded down tied up to the
dock. The natives are diving for coins.*

March 20

*Still moored to Zamboanga Pier. Worked on Q.D. again today. Filipinos are
helping the Army unload the two cargo ships. Had some Jap pop today which
was good. 227 left*

March 21

*Moored as before. Went along side 778 for meat and get freeze box fixed. We
return to dock.*

March 22

Worked on Q.D. all day. Not much doing. Still moored to pier.

March 23

Moored to dock as befor. Had air raid alert, no planes came over.

March 24

*Got underway for Red Beach. We loaded a LCM up with all our rockets, about
1550. They took it to beach where they unloaded 250 Brought rest back and
loaded back aboard. Went over to Rocky Mount to pick up guard mail.
Also got mail off L.C.I. 778. I got 15 letters. First mail for over a month.*



party went ashore. Didn't seem much like Easter, but my Lord is with me. War in Europe sounds as if it's end was near. (Raining)

April 2,

Met two boys on the Oglala who stood gun watch with me while coming over on the Day Star.

April 3

Went into AFD 3 Dry Dock at 4:00 this evening. We scraped until 10:00 that night. Got three letters. Most all the mail that came today was in bad shape, from being wet. I saw Dr. Feller on LCI 28 about my sore neck.

April 4

Finished ship in dry dock today. Painted side and bottom. Left dock at 1600.

April 5

Captain Coulson left for State side today. Ensign Joyce has been promoted to Lt(QG). Now our commanding officer.

April 6

We thought we were getting underway for Mindoro today but think we leave tomorrow. We took group of officers over to the Henry T Allen (AG 90). Mr. Green on 225 was aboard today. Flew up from Cebu.

April 7

Went on liberty on LCI 778. Got 3 letters from home + 1 from Robert. Saw Filipino show on beach.

Sunday

April 8, 45

Got underway for Mindoro at 0800 today. Went through the straight above Leyte. Big ships cannot pass through here it is so shallow. Sea is very calm. Had target practice at sleeve pulled by plane. We have 10 LCI's in convoy and one LCS, and a PC for screening. Wrote home. No church.

April 9

Sea very calm. We arrived at Mindoro at 1600 today. Tenderfoot O Gang is here. Found out we had a lot of mail here, but LCI 224 took it down to Leyte from which we just came. We sure are sick about it. Wrote Ellen tonight. We have beached.



April 10

April

I went to show last night, and was to be aboard ship by 1000. I got back to the beach but our ship pulled off with out me. They had orders to pull off beach before full tied went out, as we all were gg to make dry run tomorrow. So I stayed on LCI 72 all night. We all started on the dry run at 0700 + finished at 1500. I stood by flag bag on the 72. I got on my ship to night after beaching. I was off about 24 hrs. Captain didn't mind.

April 12

Today we worked the con., painting. I got the sad news tonight that we had to transfer one signalman to LCI 72. I had to be the one to go because I came aboard last of us S.M. I was to get aboard 72 by the 13. I feel very bad leaving the crew on 226. I packed tonight.

April 13, 45

I am still on 226.

About one this afternoon there small boat got me and my gear. I don't know how I'll like it here yet. But may it be the Lord's will. They have 1, SM + 2 QM's.

April 14

I stood my first watch on this ship (72) at 0800 to 1200 this m. Good old LCI 226 brought my mail over to me. I don't know how I'll like this ship yet. We got underway to form convoy at 1100 today. The operat. is to be on Mindana

April 15

We had muster this morning Sure seems funny. I am on a 50 cal. at GQ. Water is quite.

April 16

Still underway. Passed Zamboanga this afternoon. Sea is quite. Tomorrow morning is D Day.



<Continued now in second book>

Arden L. Hunt SM 2/C

April 17, 1945

D DAY AT POLLOC HARBOR. S.W. END OF MINDANAO.

We arrived while Cans were shelling the beach. We were not to fire rockets and were to break off from other LCI's and guard the north west corner of Polloc Harbor alone, while other ships made the landing a mile from us. While laying off small a boat with 3 Filipinos were waving at us. We kept all guns trained on them think that it might be a Jap trick. He was signaling us in semaphore so we gave him king. He said they were Army and Navy and had info. about the Japs. We told them to come along side. They showed their papers. The old man was in USNR in 1917. The other was a sargent in Army of Gullilla 68 Batt. They gave us info. about Japs. I talked with the one young Filipino gurillia for quiet awhile + gave him some magazines gum. He told me he would bring me some bannas for them. Later he brought alot of swell bannas for all. They we dressed like gurillas and wore 45 cal on them. The one lived in Chicago a while. We are anchored in Polloc Harbor tonight.

April 18

We did little today Went alongside Comflot LCS (778) and other ships. Found out we and serval other rocket ships are going to Mortoi 19 at 1800 the 19 Talked with Markel all last evening on 338. Stood watch on stern from 12 to 3 watching for Jap Q Boat reported near by.

April 19

Picked up some fresh provisions from LCS 43. At 1800 we got underway for Morotai about a two day trip. My ship old ship 226 is not coming. We have LCS 50 with Com Day aboard as our guide ship, LCI 71 with com sargent + Fletcher aboard, LCI 72, LCI 74, LCI 338. We have a 2 star general aboard.

April 20

This six ship convoy has had good weather. We had air support for the first day out only. Two Coursairs.

April 21

Rained a little today, other wise good sailing. Have seen no land since we left Philippines. I don't know if I will like this ship. It is so much different than 226. Have muster each morning in shirts + white hats. Two S.M. on watch when getting underway or coming in to anchor.



Sunday. April 22

We all arrived at Morotai at 0800 this morning. Didn't get to church. The last time I was here was on D Day Sept. 15. It looks alot diferent now. Went ashore this afternoon. I ate chow on base today with a truck driver I met this afternoon. I had about a pint + half of ice cream at chow. Got aboard late.

April 23

We are now alongside the Achilles getting avaiability. She was an LST at one time. She was crashed dived at Layte. I stood watch on it when in Alixhafen New Guínea. Went alongside 338 this evening. Wrote Charlotte last night.

April 24

We made a dry run with the Aussies this morning. Us four rocket ships and LCS 50 will be about the only American ships in this operation, with the flag ship Rocky Mount, which is Task Force 78.1. It will be Austrailian troops that will land on Boruno. Hear Russians were intering Berlin.

April 25

Went on working party for provisions on LCI 338, Markels ship. After While leaving the provision ship there boom was sticking out over the water and hit the mast on 338 and breaking it at the bridge. That night Markel and I got their small boat and went over to D366 on which Jack Patrick and Taylor was on. They were at SM school with us. Got back at 0100. Good visit.

April 26

Did little today - painted the quarter deck. Boys on here have been getting a little mail, but I won't.

April 27, 45

Got underway from Morotai at 1600 for a large landing on the island of Tarakan located a short way from Boreno. The troops are all Aussies. Some Aussie Cans and Crusiers along. The American ships are Task Group 78.1. (Rocky Mount) Only four of us rocket ships in this whole convoy.

April 28,

Sailing is very smooth. Heading is 270°(T) Had old inspection today. Am reading a swell book called "Winter Wheat", by Mildred



Sunday

April 29, 45

Sure doesn't seem like Sunday today. Water is very quiet. Little windy tonight with slight showers. We are heading into the waves which is better than being in the trough

April, 30, 45

It is a very dark night, especially when going into our objective area.

May 1, 1945

D DAY AT TARAKAN ISLAND. A little west of Borneo

We arrived at Tarakan Island about 6 o'clock, before day light. There was several large fires started by our navel shelling, one minus D Day. Otherwise all was is quiet. "How" Hour is 8 o'clock. As soon as day light (7 o'clock) the Cans + Gun Boats started shelling. Us four rocket ships made our run. There was a little motor fire but that soon was stopped by our rockets. We backed off and the Aussies went in on small Alagators and L.C.V.P.'s

After laying off about 700 yd Japs threw mortar at our ship but we got out of there to fast for them to hit us, but it was close. There is quite a few oil wells here. Some were on fire. Troops are haveing only mortar fire from Japs as artillery. We anchored near the Aussie trnsports "Westraila" and the Moorer(?) to guard tham from PT or Q Boat attacks. Expect air raid tonight. There was one last night of serval planes, one was shot down. That concludes D Day at Tarakan. The CL Marblehead was sunk near hear by Jap planes during first of the war_ (1941)

May 2

Did little today but run all over the bay. A Destroyer cut our anchor cable by passing over it. Lost the anchor and 115 fathoms of cable. Had to get anchor off another L.C.I. Mr Powell the ~~Foto~~ Flot engineer is leaveing this ship today.

May 3

Took on fuel off the -OA- Winooski. Planes are still bombing Tarakan, so are ships shelling

May 4

Stayed anchored all day I slept on quarter deck all night.



May 5

Got underway in convoy at 1730 for Morotai. All LCI's except for about five Tugs and Screening DE + DD. in 9½ knot convoy. 78.1.93 is our Flag Ship (LCI).

Hear Germany unconditionally surrend most of her armys. Hear this as we were getting underway (1700). Sure happy

Sunday

May 6.

Mines reported on this route. Worked on gun tub on Q.D.

Played Irish game of chess but didn't get it Finished about even. Doesn't seem like Sunday.

May 7 to May 15

We are still anchored here at Morotai Harbor. Getting repairs from the repair ships - Achilles (ARL 41), Creon (ARL 11), and the Culebra Island (ARG 7). We had couple of liberties to shore. Saw Maurice Ryans ship and I asked about him by light. Saw Main for a short time. No mail since we left Leyte.

May 15, 1945

Today we are alongside the Culebra Island getting a new mast. The other has rotted out. Getting paid today \$161.

May 15 to June, 2, 45

We did little between the date of May 15 to June 2. We have been anchored here at Morotia Harbor. We did get available from the LST repair ship Creon (A.R.L.,11), Achilles is here and also the Culebra-Island.

We are getting ready for the coming operation on Borneo.

Much to our delight I got to see Maurice Ryan. I rowed over to his ship LCI(G) 70 the 1st day of June. He just made 2nd Class BO's. He told me about him being blown out of the 3 inch gun tub into the water as the Jap plane crashed dived them. Six were killed. We had swell visit. He is on this operation too. Ther first since Lingayen Gulf.

June 2

We got underway at 1200 noon for a 9 day run to our next landing on Borneo. We formed on 18. We are going the long way, will pass of Zamboog Zamboanga on Mindanao in Philippines. Then cut over to the south nortwest part of Borneo. We are doing this to fool the Japs. The 778 is our Flag Ship. We will be there 3 minus Zebra Day. Zebra Day (D Day) is the tenth. This convoy is



Amphib mostly. About 40 of us ships. The other large will come later on a much shorter route. The Rocky Mount is Flag Ship. Quiet rainy.

We have new officers, Mr. Erickson, + Mr Long the staff engineering officer for Goup LCI. 20. Their first operation-

Sunday June 3

Not so rough as yet. Several rain squalls last night. We have some hymn records we can play today. (Sunday.)

June 4

Had practice G.Q. today. Several rain squalls during day. Passed off Zamboanga on Mindanao in Philippines, this early evening. Now heading west 275°(T) for Borneo. Hard wind and rain on 2000 to 2400 watch. Rough waters.

June 5

Had practice G Q today. Cleaned life jacket today. I had the 8 to 12 watch last night with Mr Smith. Bad wind + rain storm came up. We got lost from all other ships but got back in our column later. A Mine Sweep went aground last night. LCI(G) 70 went to it. Very rough water

June 6

We have had very rough water all day. The Mine Sweep and LCI(G) 70 have not returned yet. We are to arrive in the morning, which is 3 minus Zebra Day. We will shoot mines that the Mine Sweepers cut loose.

June 7

We arrived at Brunei Bay northwest coast of Borneo at 1000 this morning. Mine Sweepers started sweeping on way in. We followed a Mine Sweeper the rest of the day. Several Gun Boats drew fire from the beach. 25 mines were cut loose today and sunk or exploded. At night we went out to sea and returned in morning to sweep. Lost from convoy last night.

June.8

This morning we returned early to sweep. We saw a mine floating just astern of a YMS who had cut it loose. We shot at it with the 20 MM., 50 cal. + rifles but could not hit it. Suddenly it exploded from a rifle shot. A large piece of shrapnel fell just missing the stern five feet. They are very power full

June 9, 45

We returned from sea early this morning. We and LCI(G) 25 are fire support unit for Mine Sweeps - 314 + 313 which are sweeping in Victoria Harbor.



Went in very near the island when ~~B24~~ 8 B24's dropped bombs on the island. We were to close for safty. Shrapnel fell very near us. B25 also strafed very near us. Last nite one of our Mine Sweepers hit a mine and sunk, some were killed.

June 10, 1945

D DAY AT BRUNEI BAY - NORTH WEST COAST OF BORNEO.

The main convoy joined up with us while out at sea this morning. We then seperated and proceeded to our beaches. There were three other landings besides ours this morning on different islands in this goup. One was on the main land of Borneo.

Our island just got a hard bombing just before we went in. We threw our rockets at 0815 with drew and reloaded all rocket rackes for another run on the same islan. After that run, the Aussie troops proceeded in on Alligators, spiting fire all the way in. There was no firing comeing out from the island that we could see. The other landings had little trouble also. On our beach we had 2 LCI(R) 71, 72, 2 LCI(G) 23, 26, 2 LCS(G) 58, 49, in all. Layed to all after noon. Had screening station a short ways from the beach. That concluds D Day with no death to our knowledge on our beach. (White Beach)

June 11, through June 16

At Brunei Bay - Borneo

We had screening stations every nite. During day acted as fire support unit for Mine Sweepers and other things.

On D Day a bomb from a Jap plane just missed the Repare Ship Achilles (A.R.L.41). Another Jap plane was shot down over the Rocky Mount.

Some of the boys went ashore on Po Pappan Island, which is nothing there but an old light house.

The Aussies have the Japs cornerd some where and our planes are now working on them.

We took on Dumbarton (rockets)(910) fuel, water the other day. We had two days availability alongside the Achilles (A.R.L.41)

Had to keep close watch for Jap Q Boats, and other small craft.

June 17, 45

Left Brunei Bay this evening under Commander Sargent on LCI 71, Com Squad LCI 20. We left in convoy of 4 LCI(R) and 4 LCS(G), for a min to assist Mine Sweeps at a place 180 miles south of Brunei Bay on the west coast of Borneo. We left last evening and arrived in the morning.

The Rocky Mount (AGC 3) our Amphib Flag Ship (78.1) (008.1) left for Manila in the Philippines, and from there to the States.



June 18,

We arrived this morning to help destroy the mines that the Y.M.S. cut loose. There are oil well here at this place. There has been machine gun fire reported by the Mine Sweeps before we got here. There has been 390 mines destroyed before we arrived here today. We followed astern of YMS 68 all day. We blew up 2 mine which were cut only 75 yd. from our stbd. bow. The shrapnel fell all over.

We destroyed four mines in all today, two of which exploded, + the other two was sunk. I shot at them with the Tomson machine gun (Tommy gun). I know I hit the mine several times but not in the right place to make it explode. Head out to sea tonight. Large oil fires on beach started by bombs.

June 19

Tomorrow morning is D Day. We swept all day with the YMS. We destroyed two mines today of which one exploded. There has been over 400 mine destroyed here so far. I think we will anchor tonight instead of heading to seaward. Raining very hard.

June 20, 1945

D DAY AT LUTONG ON THE NORTHEAST COAST OF BORNEO

We were on line of departure to beach at 0700 this morning. The troops and equipment arrived by LST's + LCT's about mid nite last night. Made run for beach at 0920. We were on the left flank, then an LCS on stbd, next LCI 71, LCS, LCI 74, LCS.

We all threw rockets in also firing all guns. The beach was shelled by Can's before we went in. After rockets were fired we layed too straffing the air strip on the left flank while the troops proceeded in on Alagaitor Tractors. No return fire that we could see. Several Jap planes grounded on the air strip. There is a large oil fire burning on the beach, which was burning ever since we came here three days ago. We layed too at anchor just off beach all day. That concludes another small but nerve racking operation.

June 21,

Standing by as before, anchored just off beach.

Two Aussie planes came over low this morning and a LSM opened fire on them, mistakeing them for Jap Zeros. I don't think the planes were hit. I hit the deck as the planes were coming at us, I didn't get a good look at them but saw the LSM open up on them.

At 1800 this evening we formed up and are now returning to Brunei Bay, will arrive in late morning. About 20 Amphib crafts in the small convoy.



June 22,

Returned to Brunei Bay at 0900 this morning.

Went alongside 778 first thing but no mail for any one, very disappointed. Took on 500 rockets, + 4000 gals of fuel, looks like we may go on another operation soon. I hope not. Alongside L.C.I. 74 tonight.

June 23,

Today Jo Kemosh SM 2/C, Chapman BM 1/C, Renderer RM 1/C, Russ, MOMM 1/C + Red SM 3/C, were transfereed on LCI in Flot 8.

The reason was that Flot 8 + 7 are returning to the States next month to be converted into LCS Gun Boats. Thi The first three men had 29 months over the others - 25. I am not the only SM on board. Have 2 QM Becken (QM) 2/C + Noyce QM 3/C.

June 24

Sunday

Today we got spare parts and other things from different LCI's here that are in Flot 8 which is starting for the States in July. They have been over only 14 months.

June 25

Got a few more parts today. Mr. Barnes from Texas got orders today that he was going to be promoted to Lt. J.G. and was going to be skipper of LCI(R) 71 our Flag Ship for Squad 20.

We hate to see him go as he is a swell guy. He left today. We got Weises the Executive Officer from 71.

June 26

Mr Weiner our skipper (Ens.) got word today from Mr Barnes that Mr Weiners orders for States was here. But must wait until his relief who is still in States gets here, a Lt. J.G.

Got mail today. About six letters from the dates of March to June. Only one form home. We played LST 912 a game of basket ball in their hole. I played and we sure got hot. They won about 5 to 30. They had lots of practice while most of us never touched a basket ball for two years.

Also got the dope today that this group of LCI(R) (Squad 20) will get repaired at Leyte in Phillippines, then we ~~fr~~ will work with the Austrailians on southern parts of Borneo. Will not be so bad as working nort of Philippines. Is said every one with 18 months or more will get home while we are at Leyte.



June 27

Did little today

June 28

I received about 10 letters today. I have been trying to get a signal striker.

June 30

I got a signal striker from LCI(M) 431 tonight. We transferred Roe on there ship in his place. The striker has 9 montks over. (Wilson)

~~J 3 June 30~~

Borneo

From Brunei Bay July 1, 1945

Got underway for Leyte in a convoy of LCS + LCI's about 20 of us in all most of them will go on to Subic Bay while we will stop at Leyte.

July 2 to July 13

On the way from Brunei Bay Borneo to Leyte the water was very rough. We took serval (45°) rolls things were falling all over the ship. Some even got a little sea sick. Waves were hitting us on the starboard beam until we turned letting it hit us from the stern which was much better. Waves at times were as high as the ship. The LCS and the 778 broke LCI 359, L.C.I. 431 broke off from us the second day out to go to Subic Bay for repairs.

We L.C.I(R's) 71, 72, 74, LCI(L) 1074, 1075 arrived at San Pedro Bay in Leyte July 5. - I never saw so many ships in my life as was here. Battleships, Crusiers, Destroyers, D.E., Carriers, repair ships + docks, about a thousands ships in all.

I went to a movie on the battle ship Omhaw. 14 inch guns. We three LCI(R's) ships got availiably (repairs) until Sept. 5. 71 at Manus in New Guinea, 72 (us) at Guian about 50 miles from Tackloban at Leyte. 74 at Subic Bay north of Manila. It is kind of rainy here. Red desil. This repair base has just been set up. We are getting repaired at a dock on Manicaní Island. Movies on the dock eack night. Liberties each afternoon. Poor Liberties. We came alongside the dock the 10 of July. Only LCI here. two D.E.'s

We are painting the bridge. I do not like this repair base. ©



July 13 to Sept. 9

Dear Diary,

A lot has happen since I wrote in you last. a Hell of a lot. The greatest thing, the war with Japan is over and peace again rains on the earth. The second thing and the main cause of our victory, the invention of the atomic Bomb. Sorry but I have forgotten the correct dates of these happenings.

Starting from July 13 and through. We were along side the dock here at Manicaní Island until Sept 9, except for the two different times we were in dry dock. There was little recreation on this island. My old ship LCI(R) 226, came alongside the same dock July 15 int for the same repairs as us. We both got 8 new diesel engines, radar, X S.C.R., radios and other repairs. Also a \$4,700 compass (Gyro) Sperry. I have been at Guiuan sveral times. They have a large beautiful old Spanish Church there. We worked all mornings but had afternoons off. Liberty stunk here on Manicaní Is. I sent home a box around the 25 of Aug. Our skipper Ens. Weiner went back to states. Our skipper now is an old navy man who worked up from the ranks. He was a Chief signalman. His name is M.M. Moore Lt. (JG) USN. LCI 226 + our selves completed repairs Sept. 8, 1945. Our orders were to report to Com. Flot. L.C.I. 7, on L.C.I. 28 at Tolosa in San Pedro Bay at Leyte.

San Pedro Bay

Sept .10, 45

Leyte

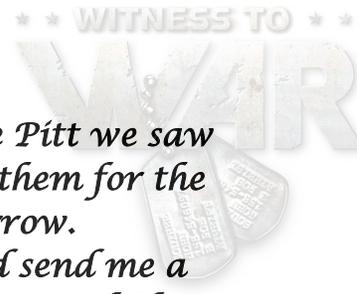
At 0900 LCI(R) 226 and LCI(R) 72 (ourself) passed out of the torpedo net at Guiuan Harbor for Tolosa at Leyte. Distance is about 50 miles. Arrived at Tolosa, in San Pedro Bay at Leyte at 1300. Commanding officer reported to Com. LCI Flot. 7.

Sept. 11

We have no orders. Are to wait two weeks for them. We are now in Squad LCI 19, Flot. 7.

* Sept. 12 *

Went to other end of San Pedro Bay to get provisions from Rigel. Could not get any until Sept. 20. So we went on up to Tactloban to see if we had any mail, which we didn't. On way back from Tactloban to Tolosa the LCI anchorage a distance of 6 miles. On way back I noticed alot of A.P.A.'s. Then dead ahead of us was A.P.A. 223 the U.S.S. Pitt. I knew it was Eugene Hick's ship. So I called it up with my light, as we passed about 40 yd off its stern, and sent this message # Pvt. to Eugene Hicks MM Second Class aaa I will be anchored at



Tolosa signed Hunt K/R. About 2300 yd on the otherside of the Pitt we saw LCI(R) 226 anchored. So our skipper said we will moor alongside them for the nite, as we wanted to hunt some provisions up around here tomorrow.

I got the skippers permission to go aboard the Pitt if they would send me a boat. So I went to the bridge and sent, Pvt. to Eugene Hicks MM Second Class aaa If you can send boat for me I can come over tonight Bt K/R.

Hicks who was on engine room watch at the time had the O.O.D. send one of there L.C.V.P.'s for me. I was signaling to an Aircraft Carrier when the ^{LCVP} came alongside our ship for me. I cut the Carrier off and ran down off the bridge and grabed my shirt and hat and jumped aboard the LCVP. I got aboard the USS Pitt about 7 o'clock that nite about an hour from the time I first spotter her. I found Eugene on watch in engine room. We were sure glad to get together.

We had a swell visit etc.

I stayed all nite and slept in his sack as we could not find my ship in the dark. I ate chow aboard the Pitt next morning. Hicks had the 0400 - 0800 engine room watch that morning.

The Pitt sent me back to my ship in the LCVP at 0715 that morning. Our skipper never said a word about me staying all nite.

Hicks sure was swell to me.

Sept. 13

Got some fresh provisions off of a (CVE) Aircraft Carrier. We were around the U.S.S. Pitt most of the day. That evening we returned to Tolosa about 5 miles from the Pitt. Had the hopes of getting together here again at Leyte.

Sept. 14

Anchored as before at Tolosa. Could see a group of APAs where the Pitt was. throug glasses. Working on quarter deck.

Artmodel 2 Sept. 15,

Saw that the A.P.A.'s were gone. So I figured they left for up around Japan, as Hicks thought that was where they were going. The Pitt came to Zamboanga from the States, thi which is located on the southwest part of Mindanao in Philippines. Then they went to San Pedro Bay on at Leyet.

The LCI(R) 71 and LCI(R) 341 arrived from Manus this forenoon. They underwent same repairs as us at same time at Manus. They got flag bag put on bcaak of the conning tower.

Sunday Sept. 16

Still standing by here at Tolosa for some kind of orders.

Working on quarterdeck - did not get to church. No church boat around.



Sept. 17

Same old routine, enough to drive a guy crazy in time. Talked with Carter on L.C.I 226, (blinker)

Sept. 18, 45

0630 - Got underway for Calacone on the island of Samar, about 60 miles from here at Tolosa.

1130 - Arrived at Calacone. Got our freeze box which we came after. (7000 lbs.) Are now anchored off S.R.B. Manicaní Island, to have freeze box put in tomorrow. (No mail)

Sept. 19, 45

1130 - Returning from S.R.B. Manicaní Island to Tolosa, Leyte. Could not get freeze box installed at Manicaní.

1500 - Arrived at Tolosa, Leyte.

Heard something about we were assigned to Marine Decommission Navy, or something like that.

Sept. 20,

Stayed anchored all day here at Tolosa. Got first mail today. Hicks left here for Japan aboard (A.P.A.223)

Sept. 21,

Went off alongside Repair Tender to have our new freeze box installed. Tender is the U.S.S. Rigel (A.R.-11)

Sept. 22,

Stilled moored alongside Rigel for availability. Received 3 more letters today.

Sunday

Sept. 23,

Got underway from Rigel to close up U.S.S. Culebra Island (Repair Ship) to take on some (poor) provisions. I did not get to church this Sunday again, as I was on the working party.

Noon: Got underway for our LCI anchorage off Tolosa, distance about (4) miles. No kind of orders yet.

Sept. 24,

Anchored as before off Tolosa, P.I. in L.C.I. anchorage. No news No scuttlebutt. Painted ~~in~~ bulk heads inside brige. Wrote, Eleanor, + Bob.



Sept. 25, 45

All we did to day other then the usual painting, etc., was to have (FBR) Emergency drills. Fire and abandon ship drill.

Sept. 26,

Not a darn thing happen unusal today. Very hard waiting here with out any kind of orders, not know how long it will be.

Sept. 27,

Went to Balusao water hole to take on water. Alot of natives there, but as usual we could not go ashore. Very hot today. 2 hour trip one way to Balusao.
- Painted whole quardeck, green.

Sept. 28,

Not a darn thing came off today un-usual. They are going to transfer some of the crew.

Sept. 29.

I red leaded the radar and mast. We got 2100 lb. of potatoes today for a change. Also some half rotten eggs. Large swells in harbor tonite

Sept. 30, 45

Went to church on beach here at Tolosa. Received pictures from home. They sure help my ~~to~~ moral.

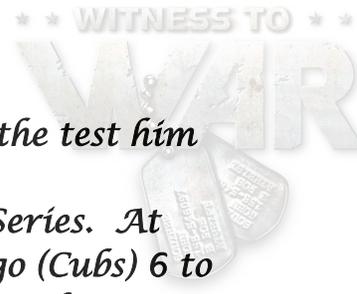
October 1, 1945

Looking and hopeing for very good news this month.

Oct. 1 to 10

We are still swinging here on the hook at Tolosa in San Pedro Bay, Leyte. Have been hearing all kind of scuttlebutt about going State side. But can't beleive anything. The latest is, we are returning to Pearl Harbor the seventeenth of this month. (Oct.) We are sure hopeing so, or go crazy.

~~We~~ Today (Oct. 10, 45) we transferred 9 men to the beach for replacement on orders of Comphibpac, to cut our crew down from 36 to 25 men. From the bridge they sent, Noyes, John - QM 3/C - N.Y. ~~Dienst~~ Dienst, Ben - SM 3/C from Huston Texas. Which leaves Becken, Ed - QM 2/C - Wash., Wilson SM 3/C - Okl. and my self. Wilson is now sick, therefore Becken and I are standing four hours on and four off. Starting the first of this month, I started studying for Signalman Second Class and will take my test sometime the middle of this



month which I'm sure I can pass. The skipper is going to give me the test him self as he use to be a First Class SM and a Chief Quartermaster.

I am listening to the seventh and last game of the 1945 World Series. At preasent 3rd enning the Detroit (Tigars) are ahead over the Chicago (Cubs) 6 to 1. I'm hoping for Chicago (Cubs). Over the - S.C.R. - Good Nature - Hang Dog -

Tomorrow we are going to Balusao, water hole to take on water then on to Guiuan on Samar, then return.

Received letters from, Joanne Grubb's and Ruth Coughenour at Taylor Univ. Hoping for best.

Detroit "Tigars" won over Chicago "Cubs" 9 to 3 at Chicago

Oct. 11 to 15

Oct.11 Went to Balusao this morning to take on water, then proceeded to Guiuan on Samar to transfer our "discharge point men".
Did not transfer them today.

Oct.12 Skipper went to beach today. Got orders to transfer men the following day. We are anchored off How 1 Signal Tower.
- Guiuan is about 50 miles from Tolosa in San Pedro Bay, Leyte

Oct.13 Transferred 6 men to beach this morning, "Frenchy", "Sheppick", Copper (KY), on points. Sheran KO, Beets, + Wagner on time (24 mo.)
We are now proceeding back to Tolosa. Hoping for some good news when we return.

Oct.14. Went to church on beach at Tolosa. Also saw Dinest and other guys in Hut 71 still waiting for assignment. They heard our ship was going back soon.

Oct.15 - Our skipper went to beach today. He found out that we have been assigned to the Philippine Frontear and we now have our orders to proceed Pearl Harbor along with - 71 - 226 - 341, - 359 etc. as soon as the Philippine Command says we are no longer needed. We think we will leave within a week. A convoy is to leave Oct. 18, and we hope to go with it, but it doesn't look like we will yet. LCI 70 and other Gun Boats are going in it.

Oct.16. I took my test for Signalman Second Class and passed it, so I am now SM 2/C SM 2/C \$12.00 more in pay, and have charge of the bridge + all signaling.



I now make \$108.00 a month over seas pay. We are sure hoping to go back soon.

Oct.17 I went to Tolosa this morning then hitch hiked on to Tacloban the capital of Leyte. A distance of 25 miles. I got a hair cut there. It is quite a place but sure broken down. I was in the capital building where MacArthur stood when he said "I have returned". I got back to the ship that evening at 1600. I hear we were going to leave by the 23 of this month. Dinest, Ben SM 3/C is returning tomorrow for transportation back, because his sister is critical ill.

Oct.18 - My Unhappiest Day
- We took on 11,600 gallons of diesel fuel this morning from YOG 40. Then came back to Tolosa and alongside 71. We got a speed letter from Manila saying all LCI's going back were to transferr all men under 18 months over seas or 35 points, to the beach. It will leave only 7 men aboard. I lack a week from my 18 months over, so I guess I will go along with the others. I sure am sick and p. off. We don't know the score for sure yet.

Oct.19 X Hell Day
We received all the transfer orders last night. Off the 27 men aboard 13 are to be transfered in exchange for same no. of men. I am to be transfered to L.C.I.(L)624, the Flotilla Flag Ship as a "Staff Signalman" in exchange for a SM 1/C. I hate this beyond words. In fact I am sick.
We go aboard the LCI(L) 624 this forenoon. Jones RM 3/C + two new RDM, and Goldberg S 1/C GM are going with me. Just Jones + I are staff men. We have are own quarters, etc. The bridge is the buisess place.

624

This afternoon I talked to Mr Haynes (Personnel Officer) and tried to get back. But he ord this staff could not transfer me back, because the orders all came from the beach. I lack only 2 weeks from having my 18 months over. He + every one else said my skipper should have not turned my name in. So I feel like I'm the unluckiest guy alive. I stood the 4 to 8 - tonight.

Oct. 20. I don't like this because they are too many aboard and to much traffic. The LCI(G)'s and LCI(M) left for Pearl Harbor this morning. The Rocket



Ships leave the 25th. I still have hopes of returning on one. I feel miserable today

- Oct.21. My old ship along with other Rocket Ship - 71, 226 etc. pulled out for Sunday Pearl Harbor at 1000 this morning. I am one sick guy. I went to church this morning also. Had the afternoon watch. Still feel low + cheap.---*
- Oct.22.- Didn't do much today - Stood 4 to 8 this morning and 4 to 8 this evening. Movies are pretty good on here usualy. Wrote home again today_*
- Oct.23 - Got underway for a change today and went to repair area to take on water from water barge.- No mail- I am mad as all hell yet will be until I get out of this dam hole. Heard today that we may not get back until March now. I can't take it that long--*
- Oct.25. Anchored as before in LCI anchorage off Tolosa in San Pedro Bay, Leyte. Wrote Ellen today. Nothing new hoppinging.*
- Oct.26 Took on provisions today. Scuttlebutt out now is that this ship and part of LCI(L) Flot 24 will return to Pearl Harbor. No mail as yet. Buisy 12 to 16⁰⁰ watch.*
- Oct.27. Navy Day*
Every day is Navy Day to me. Had Captains inspection today. Liberty at Osmenia today, all tho I didn't go - We went to a small native village near Tolosa. Goldbourg + my self walked on a varnished + waxed floor in Gook town
- Oct.28 Got some good sack duty today. LCS 9 + 10 are returning to Pearl soon. The scuttelbutt out now is that part of Flot 24 + this ship will go back to Pearl Harbor befor Dec 1.*
- Oct.29. "All's well" wrote Eleanor today. Buisy day on the bridge today. Saw a Wamilan this evening as they came alongside to see the movie "Blond Trouble" (Mickey Rooney)*
- Oct 30. - Little news today - No mail -*
+ Got underway and proceeded out of harbor to dump garbage over board. Anchored as before.



Oct.31. *Anchored as before.*

Wrote home this afternoon. Also getting some sack duty.

Heard that this ship may proceed to Pearl Harbor the 20 of November.

Saw a swell movie tonite, "Keep Your Powder Dry" with Lana Turner.

⊕ *November * 1, 1945*

Nov.1 *Today happens to be my 21st birthday.*

A strong typhoon is headed this way. We have the ship lashed down for the typhoon. Lambert + my self spent the four to eight watch this evening getting all ships under us ready for the typhoon. We almost wore the SCR radio out. It was raining to top it off.

Nov.2. *Got underway this morning to take on fuel and water. Typhoon has not hit as yet. It is suppose to hit northern Louzon tonite. It may not reach us, I hope. Wrote Steve McEnterfer.*

Nov.3 *We are now standing 4 on and 8 off. Two SM on watch during the day. The tropical typhoon is not expected to hit Leyte area.*

Sun.

Nov. 4. *Anchored as before.*

No new dope. Did not get to church this morning as I had the 0800 to 1200 watch. Went on liberty this after noon. Went swimming on beach. Saw Mary.

Nov.5. *Anchored as before. Some ships returned to Pear Harbor yesterday. LCI's 28, 342 etc.*

Nov.6 *Washing this afternoon. Didn't go on liberty. No mail as yet.*

Nov,7 *Went on liberty this after noon. Met Carl Nealson at the Army P. X. (Base K) at Tolosa. He graduated in at Union Mills High in 1938 with Bob Craft, Don Wakeman etc. He is about to go home with 32 months over.*

Nov.8 *Today I have a year and a half (18 mo.) over seas duty.*

*Tonite I went over to the LCI (R) 338 to see Marel before he left for the States tomorrow. We (338) got underway and went alongside LCI (D) 29 so went over to see Main. We realy had a get together. V
(Manila)*



Nov. 9 Received letter from Rich. today addressed to this ship.
Anchored as before
Square Conn ships returned to U.S. this morning. 8 ships
338
228
227
334
343 etc.

Nov.10 Letter from Ellen today.

Nov.11 (Sunday) Went to church this morning. Dope is now that LCI 624 will return to Pearl and staff will be transferred to LC(FF) 995. Staff will be screened there fore I may stay with this ship, (624) I hope.

Nov.12. Staff went aboard LCI (L) 636, whil this ship went to repair area to take on water from water barge near ~~the~~ Osmania. Recived long letter from Mom First for about a month since I came aboard this ship.

Nov 13. Received letter from Eleanor today. Same old daily routine. Raine all day + nite. Our LCVP broke away but we found it with another L.C.V.P. Also a C49 crashed near Tacloban air strip in San Pedro Bay.

(?)
Wilson - LST 1032

Nov.14. Rained all morning

Got a letter from home. Got my films back from Tacloban.

The LCIs 1002, 335, 29, ? , ? , ? , all six got underway for Pearl this evening. Wilson was transferred to LST 1032. Some guys went back with 4 months over seas + 25 points.

Nov.15 We learned today that LC(FF) 995 was to arrive from Manila tomorrow or next day. I do not know if I will be trasfered with the staff aboard LC(FF) 995. I sure hope not. As I want to go back with this group the 18 of this month.

Nov.16 Big day for me

While eating noon chow Mr. T came up to me and said pack my gear right after chow because I was to be transferred aboar LCI (L) 1004 and she is going back the 18 of this month.
So I am now aboard the 1004.



Nov.17 Only 18 men aboard to the 60 aboard LCI 624. ~~Flot~~
Com Flot LCI 24 was transfered to LC(FP) 995 today.
Short SM was transfered aboard LCI 1003 today.
We get at underway at noon tomorrow. "18"

*Sunday ** STATE SIDE BOUND **

Nov. 18 Got underway for the West Coast at 1200 noon. Rendezvous at a
1945 point on Samar. 19 LCIs in all with Com Flot LST 25 as O.T.C.^{LC(FP) 792}.
Smooth water with occasional rain squalls. All running lights on.
First stop is Eniwetok, in Caroline Is. 2,200 miles. About 9 days first stop.

Nov. 19 Our second day out. Water still quite smooth. Noon position was
10° 07' N and 128° 03 E

Nov.20 Good sailing again today. Only small swells. - 10°52^M N - 132° 05^M E --

Nov.21 Having trouble with both my ears, having hard time keeping up this
evening. Our O.T.C., who is Com Flot L.S.T.25 (Dovecoat 25) a full
captain and acting Comodor.

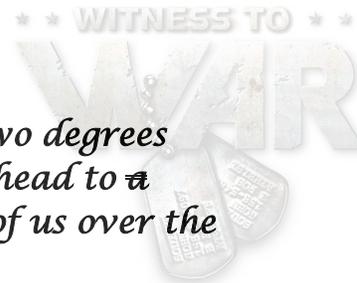
Nov.22 Had trouble with engines last evening. We fell out of convoy, so we
stoped and synerized all engines. After half the night we caught up.
LCI 625 also is having trouble.

This afternoon a hard storm came up with very rough sea. Were to
prepair for typhoon storm. We missed the typhoon but had 30 knot
winds and 40° rolls. About my third worse storm. Went at $\frac{2}{3}$ speed all
nite. About midnite all quited down.

L.C.I. 637 fell out of convoy because of broken thrust bearing in stbd
quad. Also 625 engine trouble. We are having hard time keeping up.
Can not get over 450 RPM's per quad.

Nov.23 LCIs 625 + 637 are now astern of us just on the horizine. Today is a
beautiful day. Tonite we will be about half way to Eniwetok, we hope.
This evening we droped back again to test engines as we could not keep
up. They changed filter and we caught up in not time with 550 RPM's.
LCI 635 droped out tonite due to port quad going out, but she has now
rejoined here position. LCIs 625 + 637 are out of sight astern of us.

Nov.24. Latitude - 11° 19^M North
Longitude - 141° 15^M East



We passed Guam on our port beam this forenoon about two degrees away (120 miles) Could not see it. LC(FF) 709 went on ahead to a Eniwetok to arrange. LCI 625 + 637 are still ~~lost~~ astern of us over the horizon.

Quiet sea today

Sunday

Nov. 25. LCI's 625 + 637 caught up with convoy today. We are running on 6 of our 8 diesel engines. The other 2 our broke down. Beautiful day smooth sailing.

This evening our port quad went out about the same time as our electric steering. We got both fixed after some time. It took all nite and half the next day to catch up with convoy.

Nov. 26 November 26, 45

**** LARGE FIRE IN ENGINE ROOM**

It all happen at 0703 Love time this evening while steaming up with convoy. When takeing the top off one of the port engines it blowed up starting a fire. At the time we were doing standard speed with wind on our port beam. We sounded fire alarm turned on break down lights and headed into the wind.

I reported the fire immediately to the O.T.C. (Com Flot LST 25) by radio.

Dovecoat 25

By now the fire was going strong. Three of the MOMM were burned and all most were trapped in the engine room. No one ~~ot~~ could get down in the engine room. ~~Now~~ We began grabing life jackets, and throwing ammunitions over board, magazines and all, from ready boxes. Didn't know how soon the fuel tanks would blow up. They finialy got a fog spray of water down and with fire ~~exteng-chemicals~~ ex. got the fire out after a long 10 minutes of burning. The LCI (L) 1003 was standing by us to help. The convoy slowed to 1/3 speed until fire was out and then resumed speed sending us a doctor aboard Squad LCI 21 (LCI 447) which the squad commander was on. After doctor fixed up the three MOMM LCI (L) 1003 took us in tow as we had no engines running except generator. We got 2 MOMM that night from LCI 447. We did not get any engines going until morning then only 3 on starboard quad. By night fall again we had 3 engine on stbd quad + 2 on port at the same time being towed by 1003 we made 7 knots.

It was a hard day of it, very hard on my nerves, as I have not recovered fully from my nerves~~ness~~ caused from operations.



We thought our number was up.

Nov.27. - 1003 still towing us. Very smooth sea. Slow ~~sp~~ going.

Nov.28. Same as before. LCI 447 went on ahead leaving us 2 ships by our selves.

Nov.29. We are very thankful this Thanksgiving Day for being alive. We all have a lot to be thankful for.

We are thankful thi for the thurkey, olives, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit cake, pie, + ice cream we had today, even though it was all mostly made from powders etc. It was good.

Small convoy of LCI (G) (Gunboats) passed us on our port beam this fornoon from Guam. We expect to arrive Eniwetok some time tonight. We arrived Eniwetok at 0800 pm. Port director would not let us in until day light because of reefs.

Nov. 30

** Eniwetok Atoll - Marshall Islands.*

LCI 1003 + ourselves entered Eniwetok Harbor at 0700. After many attempts we went along side Com Flot LST 25 (792) for parts + instructions.

LCI (R) 338 is here broken down. We are now alongside the Repair Ship "Oahu" (AR.G.5) to get our engines fixed etc. In 5 day we hope.

December 1, 1945

Another LCI convoy arrived late last night from Leyte Gulf, P.I. It was Sprocket 5 Gang. LCI's 1005, 624, 622, 1008, etc Ten ships in all. Don't think we will be repaired in time to leave with them. They hit the typhoon that we missed on their 2nd day out. Very rough.

Dec 2 We are getting ready to leave with the 10 LCI convoy for Pearl this evening. Shoved off from the Oahu to join convoy. Right away the electrical steering went out. Port quad is not ready yet. Stbd quad could not be snychronized due to enexperience MOMM's. So much to our discouragement we could not even get out of the harbor. So we just droped anchor and said go by again.

Dec. 3 Returned our 21 passengers to P. D. A Carrier came in today. Anchored near beach today. May be here a week or more.



- Dec. 4 LCI 338 expects to leave soon for Pearl. We will be ready for sea by tomorrow evening. Three LCI's came in this after noon - 780, 779, 634. We hope to leave next couple days.
- Dec. 5 The three L.C.I.'s left this evening with out us or 338. We were not quite ready. 338 + ourselves may leave together in a few days.
- Dec. 6 Black gang worked on the generators today. Went to a movie aboard a A.R.T. (ocean going tug.) May leave with the 338 the 8th. Hope
- Dec. 7 Much to our discouragement nothing new has developed. We snychronized all 8 engines + compasses this morning. At evening we went alongside an A.W. 3 (Water ship) to take on water. Also saw good movie there that night.
- Dec. 8.
This morning LCI's 1088, 1089, 222, came in from Tiapan. Later on about seven more came in. L.C.I. 1088 has a broken stbd. gear box gear + will be here a long time fixing it. Tomorrow morning at 0800 LCI's 1089, (OTC). 338, 1004^(us), + 1080 leave for Pearl.
"Eniwetok Atoll"

*** **GOT UNDERWAY FOR PEARL**

Dec. 9, 1945

At 0730 we received 8 high point men from L.C.I. 1088 to return with us to the states x We

We got underway at 0800 for Pearl Harbor with LCI's 1089, (O.T.C.) 338, 1004, + 1080 as a nine knot convoy, planing on 11 days to Pearl. All engines r running good.

- Dec.10 Today our second day out from Eniwetok, the sea very choppy with large waves. All engines running good.
- Dec. 11
Sea is still quite rough with a strong head on wind. We have been averageing only 7.8 knots. Alls Well.
- Dec.12 Today our trouble starts all over again. We have only three engines



per quad, but holding station. Seas is still very rough.

Dec.13 Today things are even worse. We only have five engines running. The convoy has slowed down to $\frac{2}{3}$ speed for while we repair engines. The steering aft has to be pumped every four hours. Hard time pumping the bilges out also. A T.C. sent msg. to Pearl Harbor of our condition. Everyone is really discourage.

Dec.14 Still have but 5 engines running at 400 RPM's. Convoy has slowed down so we could keep up. We got engine parts from 1089^(OTC), + 338 to fix the one engine so we would have six. May get it working. We are not going to Johnson Island.

*Dec.15 *CROSS INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE**

Dec.14 Today is Dec. 14 also, because we crossed the international date line this morning. We lose one complete day. Last evening another engine craped out. We have one engine on port quad + 3 on starboard. Making a little over 4 knots. ~~WS~~ The other 3 ships have slowed down with us. Expect to get another engine running soon.

Dec.15 We still have five engines running and hopes for a six + posabily 7. We are now on course 088° heading for Johnston Island where the 1080 + 1089 hope to pick up fuel. It is 740 miles from Pearl + about 50 miles off our course. Makeing about 6.5 knots.

Dec.16 Makeing good almost 7 knots today. This evening we have six engines running. About 300 miles from Johnston Is. (2½ days) Days and nights are getting much cooler as we go north. (17 degrees N).

Dec.17 We are now running with six engines + makeing good 7.5 knots, Will arrive at Johnston Island early tomorrow morning.

Dec. 18 -

Arrived Johnston Island (Atoll) 0800 this morning. We are now alongside dock takeing on fuel. Not one tree on the whole two miles of island. About four ships here. Just an airplane stop. Got underway from Johnston I. at 1500 and cleared the channel with



help of a pilot. We are now proceeding on a four~~d~~ day trip to Pearl Harbor T.H.

Dec. 19.

We made good 7.8 knots last night on our remainder six engines. E.T.A. Pearl, Dec. 22, PM.

I bought one Jap Samarie sword and one Jap rifle baynit from Whipple radio 2/C who ~~is~~ got them in Japan. Sword \$35. Bayonett \$5. Samarie sword is Jap navel officer sword.

Dec.20 Made good almost 10 knots on our six engines during past 12 hr. Sea is very calm with little trade winds.

Dec 21 Carrier (CVE) passed us today with planes takeing off + landing. Sea is very calm. Nights are quite cool. Our ETA. Pear Hbr, Oahu is day break tomorrow. Should sight it at mid-nite.

DEC. 22, 1945 * PEARL HARBOR *

Bt O.T.C. picked Pearl Harbor up on radar at 2000 last night. We arrived out side the entrance of Pearl Harbor before sunup. At 0800 we proceeded into the harbor. Passed two Cruisers + Carriers etc. Passed through different locks + fininally found the LCI Lock. About 18 other LCI's here for repairs etc. The ship got a lot of mail this afternoon, about everyone but, me. My last mail was Oct. 18. Most everyone went on Liberty in whites this afternoon except the watches, which I happen to have. Hope to look up my Great Uncle George Shepherd tomorrow.

Dec 23 Went on liberty for first time today. Rode into Honolulu by taxie with some other guys \$1.50 a piece. It was all a treat to me. My first civiliziation for 20 months.

Christmas Eve

Dec 24- Worked all day cleaning the ship up for inspection to see if ship will be decomissioned or not.



DECEMBER 25, 1945

Christmas Day

Port side rated liberty today so I didn't get liberty. Slept all day except for noon chow. Had swell chow. Sure a poor way to spend Christmas. No mail as yet.

Dec.26. *Went on liberty early this morning until mid-nite.*

I first went to fleet landing and found the civilian Labor Board and tried to locate my Uncle George W Shepherd. Could not locate him even though one of the girls looked for 40 minutes for me.

I then went into Honolulu at the Red Cross tracers of relatives. So they checked every place for me, Civil services etc. I called a W. Sheperd in telephone directory. She knew of no G.W. Sheperd but call + checked at the housing project, but not soup. So I gave it up as a good try and took in a movie.

I took buss back from Honolulu but failed to get off at Y.P.O. So had to catch ride back. Got aboard ship at 1210. All wells

Dec.27. *Wrote home today. Found out today that we may be towed to Dago by tug in about seven days from now. Sure hope so. Saw good movie, "Kiss and Tell" with Shirley Temple. I want to go on the "Round The Island tour" tomorrow morning but on by the U.S.O.*

Dec.28. *Went on Liberty again today.*

Dec.29. *Captain came back today ~~that~~ with ^{the} good news that our ship was going to be towed to San Diego by ocean going tug with in seven days. Sure hope this news is true.*

Dec.30. *We on the Round the Island tour this morning, starting at the Rainbow Club USO in Honolulu. It lasted from 1030 until 1515. Cost of \$2.50. Was sure worth it. A beautiful trip. Jack Harris, Boy Scouts Miami Florida.*

Dec.31 *Sacked in today. Stood 1600 to 2000 gang way watch.
New Years Eve*



1946

- Jan.1* Went on liberty late this afternoon with Shepherd to Honolulu.
Got my first mail since Oct. 15, except for about 3 letters I got just before being transferred off LCI Flot 24 staff.
Received 12 letters all written in Oct. except for one. Received letter telling about Grandma's death.
- Jan.2* Nothing happening today. Mooney returned this evening from Sick Bay. Repaired Halyard.
- Jan.3* Still no news about when we will go back. Have a loaf today. All's dead.
- Jan.4.* Over hauled both search lights. Received message from How 3 stating LCI 1004 have ~~at~~ availability, machinery and hull repairs. Good chow.
- Jan 5* Do.
- Jan 6* Do
- Jan 7* Do
- Jan 8,* Took a hike through a sugar cane and pineapple plantation. Also up and over a 4,000 ft. mt. ridge. We received 10 men today to relieve our discharge point men. I got a letter from home today written Jan 2. I learned Robert was home + Eugene discharged also.
- Jan.9* My moral is 0.0. I sure have been getting the dirt pushed at me.

We got underway from Waipio point to go over to the navy yards. We are now at BAKER DOCK, CLOCK 7. We are to go in dry dock Monday. Got G.S.K. today
- Jan 10*
- Jan 11,* Still moored alongside BAKER 19 pier navy yards. Got a letter from home in four days.
- Jan,12* No changes. Seamen now working on weld deck.



Jan, 13, Sunday --

Went on liberty today in Honolulu. Evening went to the Full Bible Mission on King Street, Honolulu,

Jan.14. Seamen are using compressed air to chip and sand the deck.

Don't feel as if I could take much more of this. I aired bunting today.

Jan.15 Same old routine. Received a letter from Eleanor today. Rained some this evening for a change.

Jan. 16, ROUTINE

Jan 17 Went on liberty tonight in Honolulu. Took four (4) rolls of 120 films into the American drug store for developing, located on King St. - Bought two sets of pictures of Japanese surrender. Got a Phm 2/C today.

Jan.18 I think the "old man" is going state side soon.

Jan.19. I received message today through the Air Craft Carrier off our port bow, that Mr. Pollasky shall relieve Mr Lindsey as Commanding officer. Mr. Lindsey is going state side soon.

Jan.20 Sunday. Wrote letter home today. Did nothing. Don't how much more of this I can stand.

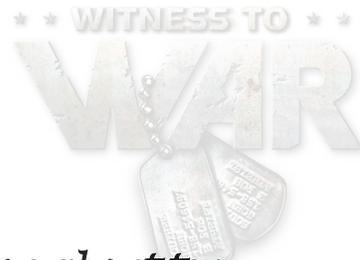
Jan.21 Got two letters from home today. This after noon we were towed into a drydock. There is also a YMS in with us. The whole dock slides up on to the beach. We started scraping this evening.

Jan.22 Working on the side of the ship here in dry dock.

Jan.23 IN drydock Railway One as before. Ship is all painted below water line.

Jan.24. At 1300 today we left Marine rail way dock and now moored alongside a YMS at "DE" dock. Things don't look good.

Jan.25 Still tied up here at the D.E. dock in the navy yard. I got a typhoid shot tonight (routine). No good news or changes.



Points Jan 26 to Feb. 8

29³/₄

^(ship)
We were returned to Baker Dock 18 in navy yard. We have about ten yard workers. Up to now they have all eight engines out also two generators + gear boxes. The workers are very slow. Chris + I have piolet house all painted -

ƒ February 8 ⑨

Today (this afternoon) four ④ of the original crew and my self were transfered to AGS 12 to return to U.S. This ship was converted from a YMS to AGS 12 a survey ship last March. It is ~~wose~~ worse then our LCI, but expects to return to west coast the 12th of this month at nine or ten knots. Living quarters are very poor. Received letter from Mrs. Coughenour today.

Sunday Feb. 10

Did not get to church today as we are not settled as yet. We are at Victory dock 7.

Feb. 11

Did very little today. Just waiting for inst. to get underway.

Feb. 12.

Took on fuel and water today. Learned that we will get underway for San Diego at 0900 in morning. I wrote 3 letters today.

*****-- STATESIDE BOUND FROM OAHU, HAWAII.

Feb. 13 Wed.

PEARL HARBOR.

Got underway from Victory 7 Dock and proceeded out of Pearl Harbor, passing Ford Is. We rondivizu off Waikiki Beach and Diamoned Head with another (A.G.S. 11), (AOR, Oiler), (YP) and a (A.R.S. Ocean Going Tug) makeing 5 ships in our convoy.

Feb. 14 .

Sea is very choppy. Many fellows have fed the fish, other feel very sick. I don't ʌ feel too good my self for being at sea as long as I have. This ship with its round woodi bottoms really can roll.



Feb. 15

We (convoy) are makeing a slow 8 knots. Expect trip will take 14 days. I stand a four section watch. We have no signal watch; so I stand radar watch which is ok by me as it is warm in the radio shack. I'm also the signalman on my section. Sea is a little smoother today.

Feb. 16,

The sea is very nice today. Calm with large slow swells ~~with~~ and light head winds. We are makeing good about 8 knots, as the Y.P. cannot keep up. (AGS 11, Survey Ship) is now towing the (Y.P.²²⁷) The (A.R.S. Tug) is towing the (AOR Oiler). We are on our own. --Alls well. --Cool weather.

Feb 17 to 19

~~At~~ *The sea has not been bad. Large swells with light tail wind. Hoover is still sea sick in his rack. The days and nights are very cool for me.*

Tried to take fuel on this afternoon from AOG 20,^{sea}to heavy. sea.

Feb. 20

Renewed our attempt to take on fuel from AOG 20, by closeing up on their stern. With one large hawser from their stern to our bow they passed the fuel hose to us which broke the first time. On the second time after we were fueled while casting off the hose it got one section tangeled in our stbd screw. After Sending Nelson over the side in shallow diving gear to cut it loose. The ship was rolling to heavy to do any thing. Also the water was ice cold. After comeing up another fellow went down but almost passed out when the ship came down on a swell hitting his head against the bottom. Finialy we pulled it out with the wintch. And proceeded to rejoin our convoy which was over the horizine now. We have a viberation in our stbd screw.

Feb. 21

This morning our selves, AGS 11 and YP 227 are trying to get permission to leave the Θ Tug and Oiler and direct our course straight to San Diego, in which we will cut of a whole day and stay clear of the coastal rough waters longer. No answer from OTC (Tug) as yet. This afternoon our selves, A.G.S. 11 and Y.P. 227 left the Tug and Oiler to proceed on a straight course to San Diego while the proceeded to Frisco. We are O.T.C. makeing 9.5 knots. Good sailing.



Feb. 22

Good sailing again today. I'm standing helm watch now. We traded movies with A.G.S. 11 last night and saw the picture Meet "Me in St Louis".

Our E.T.A. San Diego is Feb. 26, 0600.

Feb. 23

Proceeding as before as O.T.C. Sea is quite calm. The weather is quite cool to me.

Feb. 24,

Makeing good 9.5 knots.

Sea is very calm. Sea gulls are following the ship also some alboatross^(sp).

Feb. 25

We slowed down to 8 knots last evening as we could not make it to Diego this evening, so will arrive early in morning. Saw some sea lions in water to day. We picked up land (islands) with radar this noon, but could not see it this evening yet.

Feb. 26

ARRIVED UNCILE SUGAR

** ** * * * ****

Arrived San Diego Harbor 0700. Rounded Point Loma and passed into main channel. Not so many ships as expected. Many CVE's here. Moored to Bouy 16, with (AGS) 11 to starboard, in mid stream. No liberty today. Men with discharge points got off at noon. The city looks beautiful from the ship at night.

Feb. 27

Starboard section got liberty today I'm on port section.

Feb. 28

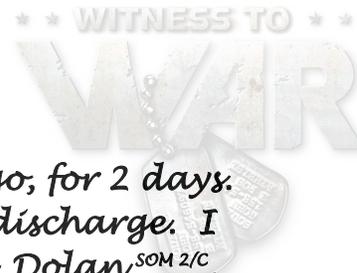
I went on liberty this morning. It felt good to touch good old U.S. soil again after 22 months. Liberty is swell, in the up to date world again. Chris got off today.

March. 1

I am on starboard section, so went on liberty again today. We get about 24 hour liberty. Us 4 can not seem to get off for leave or delayed orders.

March 2

New skipper took over today also the warrent boswan.



March 3 thro 18

The U.S.S. Harkness went into dry dock at repair yard Diego, for 2 days.

After getting out of dry dock 7 fellows are going home on discharge. I happen to be one of them. Also my two buddies, Gleween^{QM 3/C} + Dolan^{SOM 2/C}. They have me down for 31½ points, but I have only 30½. We went to Camp Elliott 9 miles north east of Diego for transportation to seperation center. Were there Sat, Sun,+ Mon. Tuesday went went on draft. We all took the same train to L.A. + there split up. There are 200 on the G.L. draft. We left L.A. at 1835 aboard the Challenger N- 8.

It is a very slow train. Stops for all other trains. I have a troop car which is not too bad. Slept good the first nite. Have a bad cold. My first in two years.

March. 20

Great Lakes or Bust!!

This morning we are in Nav. I saw my first snow to day for the first time in 2 years. Having a swell trip. Passing through many tunnels.

March. 21

We stoped at Salt Lake City for 20 minutes. Swell trip. Stoped at Denver shortly.

March 22

After passing thro the 6½ mi Moffat Tunnel we came down the mt. into Denver. Saw no snow this side of Denver.

We droped of a draft at Omaha. We arrived Chicago around 2000. Let a Ohio draft here. Got out to G.L. around midnite.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Calif.	- Nav.	- Utah.	- Col.	- Neb.	- Iowa	- Ill.	- Ind.
Diego	?	Salt Lake	Denver	Omaha		Chic	
L.A.							

March 23

Received our physical this morning for discharg
Insurance lecture in after noon. Called Aunt Catherine last nite.

Sunday - March 24

Had lecture and personel interview.

DISCHARGED
March 25, 1946





Timeline for Arden L. Hunt

Born: November 1, 1924 in LaPorte County, Indiana

Drafted: September, 1943

Sworn in: September 24, 1943 in Indianapolis, Indiana

Boot Camp: October 1 - late November, 1943

Company 1523, Camp Green Bay, Great Lakes, Illinois

Schooling (Signalman): early December, 1943 - April 10, 1944

University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

Shoemaker, California: April 19 - May 8, 1944

Troop ship, **M.V. Day Star**: May 8 - June 3, 1944

San Francisco, California to Milne Bay, New Guinea

Milne Bay, New Guinea: June 3 - July 9, 1944

Liberty ship, **Crux (K119)**: July 9 - 15, 1944

Milne Bay to Finschhafen to Hollandia (now named Jayapura), New Guinea

LCI(L) 432: July 15 - 18, 1944

Hollandia (now Jayapura) to Bostrem Bay (Alexishafen), New Guinea

LCI 228: July 18 - 20, 1944

Bostrem Bay (Alexishafen), New Guinea

LCI(L) 226 → LCI(R) 226: July 20, 1944 - April 13, 1945

Bostrem Bay, New Guinea (and one shuttle run to Finschhafen): July 20 - August 31, 1944

Hollandia (now Jayapura), New Guinea: September 1 - 2, 1944

Topia, New Guinea: September 3 - 10, 1944 (took on troops)

Morotai Island (D Day): September 15, 1944

Hollandia (now Jayapura), New Guinea: September 19 - 20, 1944

Finschhafen, New Guinea: September 25 - 26, 1944

Milne Bay (Stringer Bay, Gamadoda, Ladava), New Guinea: September 28 - December 16, 1944

Repairs and conversion to a Rocket Ship, LCI (R)

Hollandia (now Jayapura), New Guinea: December 20 - 22, 1944

Sansapor, New Guinea: December 25 - 30, 1944

Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines (D Day): January 9, 1945

Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines: January 9 - 13, 1945

Leyte, Philippines: January 18 - 25, 1945

San Antonio, Zambales, Luzon, Philippines (D Day): January 29, 1945 (no Japanese)

San Antonio, Zambales, Luzon, Philippines: January 29 - February 2, 1945

Subic Bay (Grandy Island), Luzon, Philippines: February 2 - 14, 1945

Mariveles, Bataan, Luzon, Philippines (D Day): February 15, 1945

Corregidor Island, Philippines (D Day): February 16, 1945

Subic Bay (Grandy Island), Luzon, Philippines: February 17 - 25, 1945

Mindoro Island, Philippines: February 26 - 28, 1945

Lubang Island, Philippines (D Day): March 1, 1945

San Jose, Mindoro, Philippines: March 2 - 8, 1945



Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippines (D Day): March 10, 1945

Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippines: March 10 - 16, 1945

Saoroc Point, Basilan Island, Philippines (D Day): March 16, 1945

Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippines: March 16 - 25, 1945

Leyte, Philippines: March 27 - April 8, 1945

Mindoro Island, Philippines: April 9 - 13, 1945

LCI(R) 72: April 13 - October 19, 1945

Mindoro Island, Philippines: April 13 - 14, 1945

Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines (D Day): April 17, 1945

Polloc Harbor, Mindanao, Philippines: April 17 - 19, 1945

Morotai Island: April 22 - 27, 1945

Tarakan Island, Dutch East Indies (D Day): May 1, 1945

Tarakan Island: May 1 - 5, 1945

Morotai Island: May 7 - June 2, 1945

Brunei Bay, Borneo: June 7 - 10, 1945 (fire support unit for Mine Sweepers)

White Beach, Brunei Bay, Borneo, Dutch East Indies (D Day): June 10, 1945

Brunei Bay, Borneo: June 10 - 17, 1945 (fire support unit for Mine Sweepers)

180 miles south of Brunei Bay, Borneo: June 18 - 20, 1945 (fire support unit for Mine Sweepers)

Lutong, Borneo, Dutch East Indies (D Day): June 20, 1945 {near Miri, Borneo}

Lutong, Borneo: June 20 - 21, 1945

Brunei Bay, Borneo: June 22 - July 1, 1945

San Pedro Bay, Leyte (Manicani Island, Tolosa, Guiuan), Philippines: July 5 - October 19, 1945

LCI(L) 624 {Flotilla 24 Staff}: October 19 - November 16, 1945

San Pedro Bay, Leyte (Tolosa), Philippines

LCI(L) 1004: November 16, 1945 - February 9, 1946

San Pedro Bay, Leyte (Tolosa), Philippines: November 16 - 18, 1945

Large fire in Engine room while at sea: November 26, 1945

At sea, towed by LCI 1003: November 26 - 29, 1945

Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands: November 30 - December 9, 1945

Johnston Island: December 18, 1945

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: December 22, 1945 - February 9, 1946

AGS 12 (USS Harkness): February 9 - mid-March

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: February 9 - 13, 1946

San Diego, California: February 26 - Mid-March

Discharged: March 25, 1946 in Indiana

Died: July 22, 1998 in Vista, California