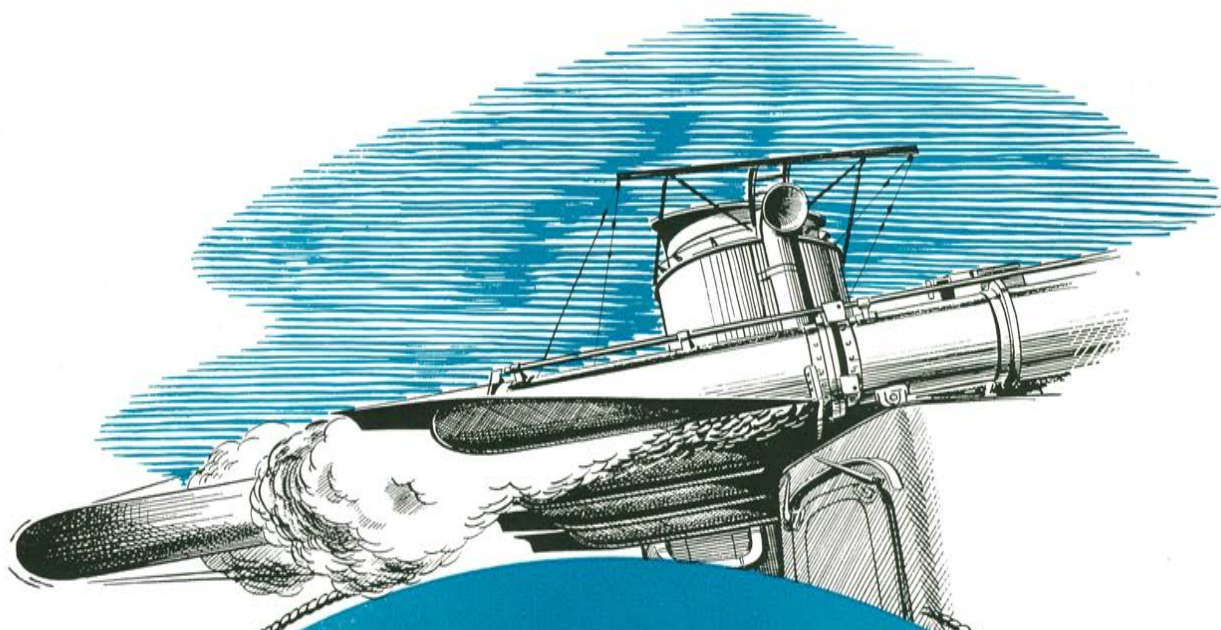


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LOG
of the
U.S.S. RICHARD P. LEARY

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LOG
of the
U.S.S. RICHARD P. LEARY



1944

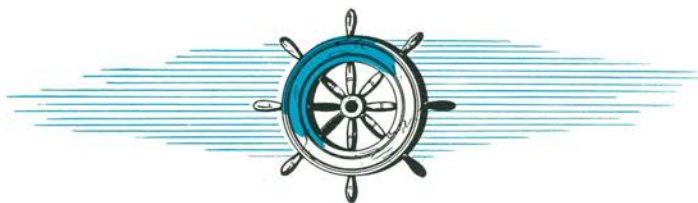
February

At 1500 Feb. 23 the USS RICHARD P. LEARY (DD-664) was placed in commission by Captain R. C. Grady, USN (Ret.), in Navy Yard, Boston, Massachusetts. Commander Frederic S. Habecker, USN assumed command. This vessel was named for the late Rear Admiral Richard P. Leary, USN and was built at the Navy Yard, Boston Massachusetts, the keel having been laid on 4 July 1943. The launching took place on 6 October 1943.

Fitting out in Navy Yard, Boston, Massachusetts.



Log of the Leary



SHAKEDOWN

1944

March—April—May

Fitting out, Boston Navy Yard. Bermuda, shake-down training. Post shakedown overhaul. Panama Canal. Task Group 27.7 (USS FRANKLIN, TWIGGS AND CUSHING.) San Diego (Sherman's, Plaza, Sky Room. Grant Hotel.)

TRAINING

June—July—August

Pearl Harbor—Training exercises. Eniwetok, Task Group 12.1. Anti-submarine patrol. Operation in capture, occupation and defense of Saipan, Tinian, Guam with Fifth Fleet.

Delivered harassing fire with USS California on Tinian.

Reported for Duty ComDesRon 56.

SURIAGO STRAIT ACTION LINGAYEN GULF, PHILIPPINES

September—October

Assigned to Third Fleet for invasion of Palau. Guadalcanal. Picket Station. Night firing, illumination Ngesebus and Peleliu. Underwater Demolition Support at 2,000 yards. Shore Bombardment. Sound and Radar Screen. Manus—Upkeep—October 18 Arrived Leyte Gulf. Delivered harassing fire southern landing beaches. Under air attack. Took enemy torpedo plane under fire. USS HONOLULU hit. Moored to USS HONOLULU, supplied electrical power, submersible pump and hose lines. Received 25 casualties. Delivered wounded to USS RIXEY during air attack. October 25. On station in Approach Disposition. Delivered torpedo attack on Enemy Battle Line at 7,200 yards range. Fired three torpedoes and observed two hits on FUSO type battleship. This vessel was straddled several times by enemy gunfire and also straddled by torpedo salvo. USS A. W. GRANT hit. GRANT in sinking condition. Went alongside and rendered assistance. Took four enemy planes under



Capt. H. F. STOUT, USN



Com. F. S. HABECKER, USN

fire. Left side of GRANT and splashed one "VAL." Screened retirement. Replenished torpedoes. Assumed patrol.

November—December

November 1. Took enemy aircraft making torpedo run under fire. Maneuvered to avoid. Plane damaged. Proceeded to assistance of USS ABNER REED burning and sinking after suicide plane crash. Splashed "VAL" attempting suicide crash. Picked up 6 officers and 63 enlisted men from vicinity of ABNER REED.

Assumed Radar Picket Station. Took Bogey under fire. Believed splashed. Received 11 casualties from MTB 491 for medical treatment. Enroute Manus for upkeep. Commander Duncan P. Dixon, Jr., USN, relieved Commander Frederic S. Habecker, USN, as Commanding Officer. Underway Manus to Kossol Roads with Task Group 77.2.

IWO JIMA OPERATION

1945

January—February

Enroute Lingayen Gulf. Screen for shore bombardment off Luzon Island. Hit by "IRVING" at No. 1 and No. 2 mounts causing minor damage and injuries to one man. Assisted in shooting down four planes. Observed air craft crash several ships of formation. Delivered shore bombardment off Lingayen Town. Supported assault troops in landings around Lingayen area. Designated covering force for Task Group 77.2 in Lingayen Gulf. Anchored San Fabian Harbor. Retired to Ulithi. Upkeep. Repair. Beer parties. Mog Mog.

February 10. Underway to Tinian for Iwo Jima rehearsal.

February 16. Commenced scheduled operations as seaward screen of heavy units on shore bombardment. Delivered night illumination fire. Commenced operations on enemy gun emplacements. Assigned Radar Picket Station. Anchored approximately 1,000 yards from southeastern shore of Iwo Jima and delivered call fire. Delivered night illumination on completion of call fire assignments.

OKINAWA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

March—April

Ulithi. Upkeep. "Liberty." Underway with Task Force 54. Screened heavy ships during shore bombardment. Took four bogeys under fire. Assisted in downing two. Screened minesweeping units off Ie Shima. Delivered night harassing and illuminating fire on western beaches.

Delivered prearranged fire on beaches prior to landing of assault troops. Opened fire on two planes, one probable kill. Observed USS MORRIS hit by suicide plane, went alongside and assisted in extinguishing fires. Received 23 casualties for medical treatment. Screened MORRIS in retirement to

Kerama Retto. Received COMDESRON 56 and staff aboard. Screened heavy ships. Delivered night illumination. Assigned patrol station inside Nakagusuku Wan.

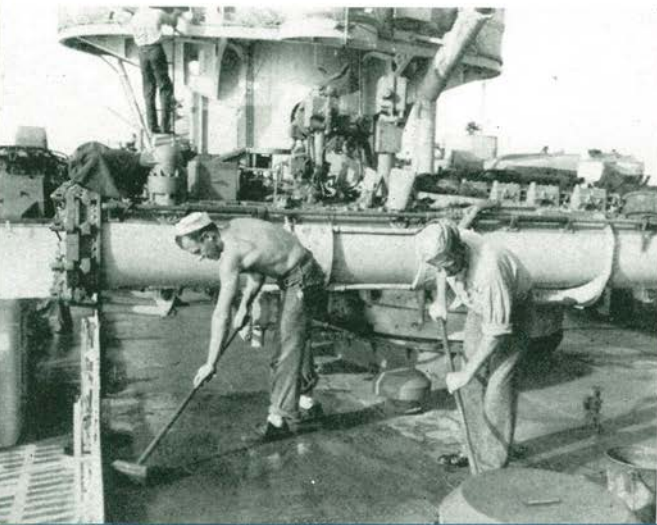
April 20. Delivered prearranged fire in support of advance troops. Hit vehicles, scattered troops, uncovered and knocked out camouflaged guns and started fires in troop headquarters. Opened fire on an enemy plane scoring an assist. Continued harassing fire, night illumination, driving enemy troops from trenches and inflicting heavy casualties.

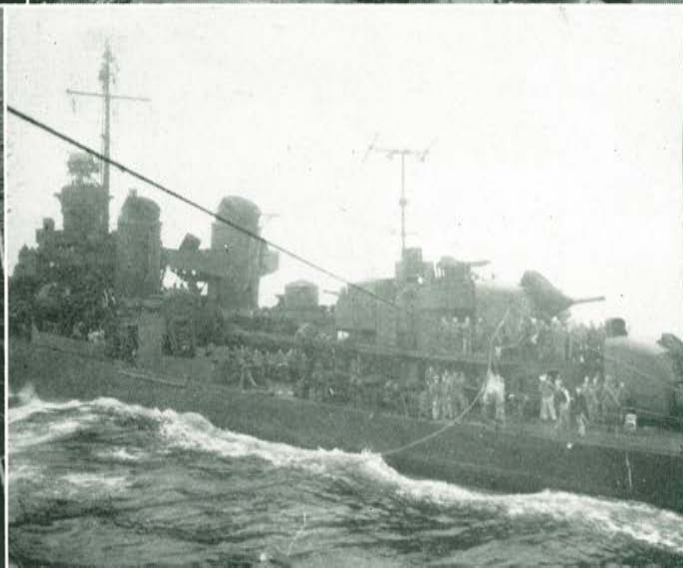
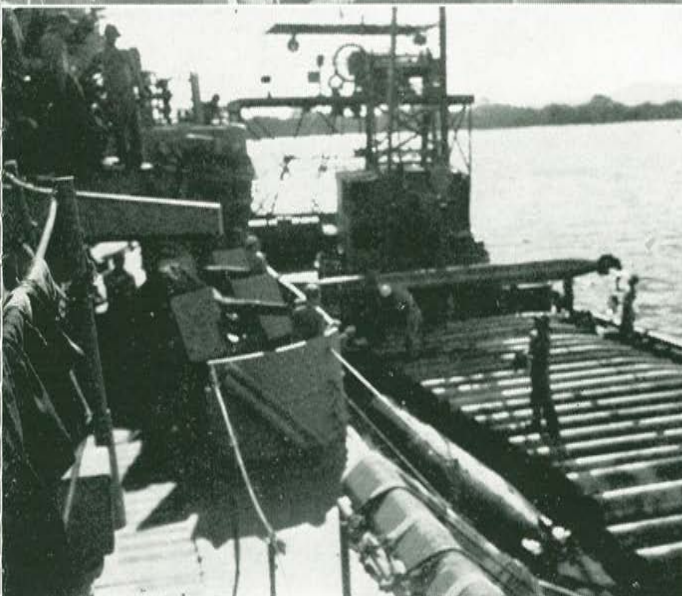
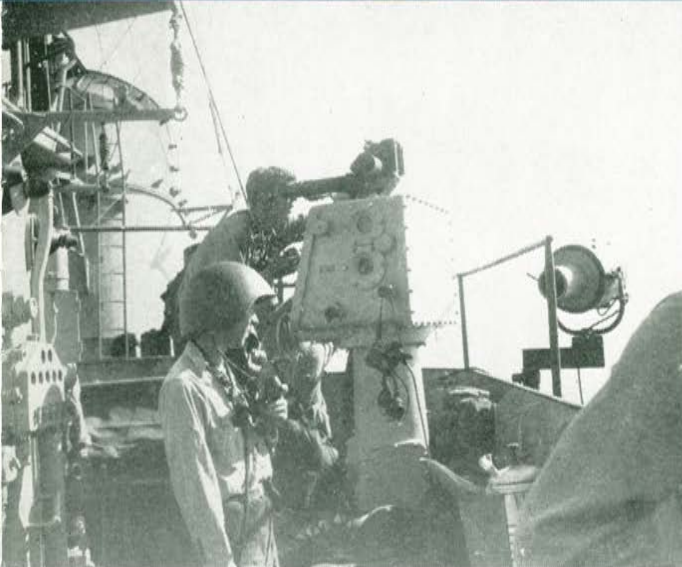
MAY—JUNE—JULY

May 3. Delivered night harassing and illuminating fire. Destroyed ammunition dump, pillbox, command post and anti-aircraft emplacement. Sighted two small Japanese boats, distance 1,000 yards. Illuminated with searchlights and star-shells. Fires with 40MM and 20MM batteries; sank both boats.

May 6. Commander Destroyer Squadron 56 presented various awards to various officers and men of this vessel. Observed "TONY" crash USS ST. GEORGE, shot down enemy plane attempting to crash escort carrier.

May 13. Captain Herald F. Scott USN assumed command of Destroyer Squadron 56 aboard this vessel; relieving Commodore Roland N. Smoot, USN. Delivered daylight call fire which resulted in many casualties among enemy troops. Scored numerous hits on enemy anti-aircraft emplacements, destroyed and sealed four caves and destroyed gun emplacements. Underway for Leyte with USS SALT LAKE CITY, MOBILE, ST. LOUIS, WICHITA, HAIL AND D. H. FOX. Regunned 5" battery which had fired 21,600 rounds, an average of 4,320 rounds per gun. Anchored Kerama Retto, Okinawa Gunto. Routine investigations reported contacts anchoring in Hagushi and Kerama Retto. Observed collision between two friendly planes. Rescued First Lieutenant Guy Oliver, USMCR.







CITATIONS



ALEUTIANS—JAPAN—HOME

August—September—October

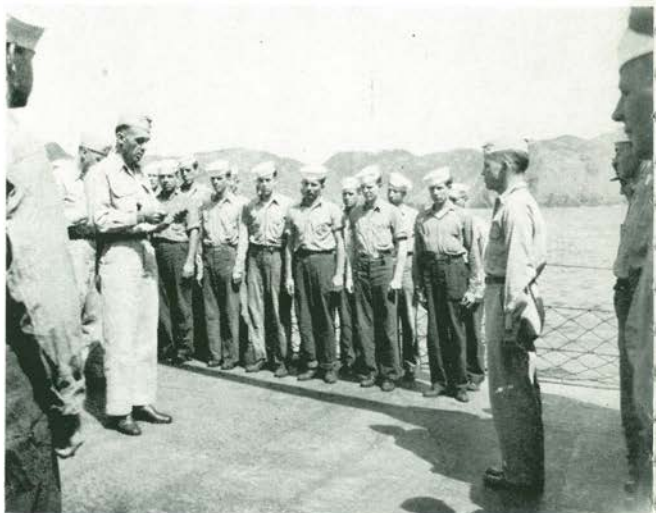
This vessel was assigned to Commander of Northern Pacific Naval Forces in the Aleutians. Upon arrival there it was anticipated that the ship would stand by for operations attacking the northern islands of Japan. As the ship dropped anchor in Kuluk Bay, Adak, the Japanese acceptance of Potsdam surrender terms was announced.

August 31. Captain Herald F. Stout, USN (COMDESRON 56) relieved Commander D. P. Dixon, Jr., USN as commanding officer this vessel.

September 1. Underway in company with USS CHESTER, SALT LAKE CITY, PENSACOLA, KILLEN AND IZARD enroute from Attu to rendezvous with Task Forces 42 and 44.

September 2. Lt. Commander Wayne W. Watkins, USNR, came aboard by breeches buoy from USS FULLAM, relieving Captain H. F. Stout as Commanding officer. Patrolled waters off Northern Honshu, Japan.

September 27. Anchored Tokyo Bay. After 18 months in Pacific Area sailed for Pearl Harbor, T. H. Hoisted homeward bound pennant set course for HOME. Arrived beautiful scenic Puget Sound Area. Overhaul completed set course for Destroyer Base San Diego for inactivation.

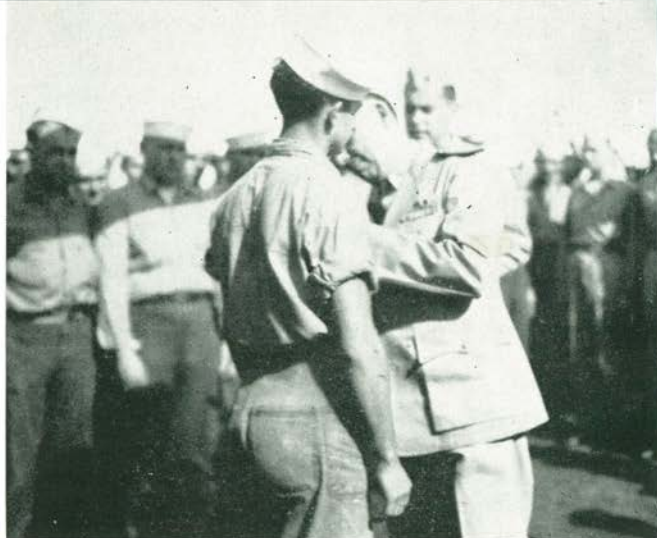


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Bars and Stars

Personnel attached to this ship since commissioning are entitled to:

1. American Area Service Ribbon.
 2. Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with six (6) campaign stars.
 3. Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two (2) campaign stars.
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- ★ ★



Special Awards to Personnel in Recognition of Their Deeds While Serving Aboard This Vessel

Navy Cross

Commander F. S. Habecker—Battle of Surigao Strait.

Silver Star

Commander D. P. Dixon, Jr., USN—Lingayen Gulf.
O'Rourke, J. E., S1c, USNR—Lingayen Gulf.

Bronze Star

Commander F. S. Habecker, USN—Saipan—Tinian.
Lt. Comdr. V. J. Soballe, USN—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Lt. (jg) H. V. Karp, USNR—Lingayen Gulf.
Lt. (jg) G. A. Harer, (MC), USNR—Leyte Gulf.
Lt. (jg) L. W. Seidman, USNR—Outstanding performance
during three major amphibious operations.
Jilcott, J. H., Jr., CQM(AA)(T), USN—Battle of Surigao
Strait.
Meador, M. A., CM2c, USNR—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Gaydos, M. M., Cox., USNR—Lingayen Gulf.
Brady, E. A., S1c, USNR—Lingayen Gulf.

Letter of Commendation with Ribbon

Lt. (jg) E. F. Harrington, USNR—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Lt. (jg) H. V. Karp, USNR—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Lt. (jg) C. J. Newlands, USNR—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Cravens, F. W., CFC(AA)(T), USN—Okinawa.
Ziomek, L. F., TM1c, USN—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Cato, J. E., FC1c(T), USNR—Battle of Surigao Strait.
Eubanks, C. R., FC3c(T), USNR—Battle of Surigao
Strait.
Polidori, A. J., SoM3c, USNR—Okinawa.
Sabbia, N. F., RdM3c(T), USNR—Okinawa.

Purple Heart

Harmer, A. J., BM2c, USN—Lingayen Gulf.



Crossing the Line





SHIP'S COMPANY



SQUADRON COMMANDER

Capt. H. F. Stout

CAPTAINS

Comdr. F. S. Habecker, USN
Comdr. D. P. Dixon, USN
Lt. Comdr. W. W. Watkins, USNR

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Comdr. V. J. Soballe, USN
Lt. Comdr. W. H. Young, USN

MEDICAL OFFICERS

Lt. Q. N. Harer, USNR
Lt. (jg) A. B. Hayworth, USNR
Lt. (jg) H. N. Allebach, USNR

GUNNERY OFFICERS

Lt. N. V. Karp, USNR
Lt. E. F. Harrington, USNR
Lt. (jg) C. R. Clark, Jr., USNR
Ens. C. J. Elkins, Jr., USNR
Ens. J. L. Davy, USNR
Ens. H. H. Woodard, Jr., USNR
Ens. L. A. Erf, USNR

C and R OFFICERS

Lt. T. C. Hall, USNR
Lt. C. J. Newlands, USNR
Lt. (jg) E. J. Brahm, USNR
Ens. J. E. Shoemaker, Jr., USNR

SUPPLY OFFICERS

Lt. (jg) C. J. Van Slambrouck, USNR
Ens. W. W. Schroeder, USNR

ENGINEERS

Lt. (jg) D. E. Wommer, USN—Acting Executive
Lt. (jg) F. A. Helenski, USN
Lt. (jg) D. H. Ziebell, USN
Ens. V. R. Ciccone, USNR
Ens. P. A. Gerkin, USNR

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

Lt. D. H. Maynard, USNR
Lt. I. Levy, USNR
Lt. (jg) L. W. Seidman, USNR
Lt. (jg) R. E. Gardner, USNR
Lt. (jg) Casey, USNR
Lt. (jg) W. Lowe, USNR
Ens. L. R. Schwartz, USNR
Ens. C. B. Wilder, USNR
Ens. P. P. Tiffany, USNR
Ens. C. H. Markel, USNR

ENLISTED MEN

Abel, J. F., PHM2c
Adkins, K. B., GM3c
Alberti, S., CQM
Albrecht, T. H., F3c
Alexander, A. F., ST1c
Alexander, G. W., CGM
Allen, W. F., COX
Anderson, H., WT1c
Anderson, R. A., SOM3c
Anton, G. W., F1c
Antonacci, P. C., S1c
Armel, C. S., RDM2c
Arney, D. C., RDM2c
Ash, A., CEM
Assise, F. J., F1c

Atkins, J. E., GM3c
Auerbach, L. S., QM3c
Aurand, H. E., F1c
Austin, H. L., SK1c
Bacon, M. D., CMM
Bacon, W. C., S1c
Bagley, R. P., CRM
Bailey, E., TM3c
Bain, I. F., CBM
Bagby, A. S., S1c
Bakken, G. W., BM2c
Bakos, E. J., F1c
Barnett, C. E., CWT
Barnette, T. E., S1c
Barnes, L. R., EM2c

Baughn, E. T., WT3c
Bausch, C. B., GM1c
Beard, J. L., RM2c
Beckman, P. E., S1c
Bee, K. H., MM3c
Belloni, B. B., COX
Benson, E. W., F1c
Bergeron, G., SC2c
Bertrand, M. E., S1c
Bex, D. K., MM1c
Bissett, W., S1c
Blackmon, F. M., S1c
Blake, T., ST3c
Blaker, R. M., BM2c
Bland, R. B., S1c
Blanks, R. F., S1c
Blankshain, C., MM3c
Blee, C. W., MM3c
Bobbitt, J. F., S1c
Boldt, P. A., S1c
Bolton, K. W., RDM3c
Bonadies, N. C., F1c
Bradley, J. W., F1c
Brady, E. A., S1c
Bressette, W. A., S1c
Bricker, C. A., SOM2c
Brigode, A., RDM2c
Brown, R. W., S1c
Bruns, C. W., FC3c
Buff, J. J., CMM
Bush, W. G., TM3c
Burgy, N. F., MM1c
Burnett, W. H., S2c
Buyse, A. F., WT2c
Callahan, J. W., QM3c
Carey, P. W., S1c

Cassella, L. S., EM3c
Cataldo, V. J., COX
Caudill, B., S2c
Chauvette, R. A., SF3c
Christison, J. M., CTM
Cissell, R. A., MM1c
Clarke, T. W., COX
Coburn, F. W., SM2c
Cohen, D. E., CY
Collier, A. R., F1c
Collins, J. A., QM2c
Cooke, W. F., TM3c
Cooley, C. R., TM2c
Copas, J. A., F2c
Cosenza, G. C., BM2c
Costello, T. B., RDM2c
Cotton, J. C., WT3c
Cotton, W., STM1c
Cravens, F. W., CFC
Crawford, R. M., Y3c
Crawford, W. W., WT3c
Culwell, W., GM3c
Cunningham, J. E., S1c
Cupp, J. W., GM3c
Czalbowski, R. J., MM2c
Czarnik, J. A., MM2c
Dagley, A. A., TM2c
Danner, R. F., MM3c
Dawdy, L. G., WT3c
Dean, T. S., F1c
Dekeyrel, J. G., GM3c
Delvaglio, A. J., F1c
Dennis, W. L., MM3c
De Maria C. A., S1c
De Giovanni, P. J., COX
Dittburner, G. C., RDM2c

Lt Cmdr. W. W. WATKINS, USNR

Comdr. V. J. SOBALLE, USN



Di Palma, J. J., MM3c
 Dixon, G. F., S1c
 Douglas, R. L., CWT
 Downing, T. A., SM2c
 Donovan, J. F., BM1c
 Draper, M. L., MM3c
 Dreffs, L. F., F2c
 Drew, K. G., S1c
 Drummond, J. A., S1c
 Dudek, P. J., EM2c
 Dumdei, M. W., RM3c
 Durand, R. J., QM2c
 Durbin, J. M., RM3c
 Dutton, R. H., GM3c
 Eberle, C. J., MM3c
 Eisert, D. B., S2c
 Elder, J. M., S2c
 Elkins, H. E., SC2c
 Ellis, W. B., S1c
 Emerson, C. J., BKR1c
 Engel, R. G., F1c
 Eubanks, C. R., FC2c
 Evans, F. A., CEM
 Evans, L. D., F1c
 Faith, G. V., MM3c
 Farris, J. W., S1c
 Farrel, L. E., WT1c
 Fierro, R., EM3c
 Finnin, R. F., CFC
 Fitzpatrick, F. A., S1C
 Flader, T. D., S1c
 Fleming, F. T., S1c
 Flitton, R. F., F1c
 Floyd, J., MM2c
 Fogg, L. E., RDM2c
 Forcier, R. M., Y1c
 Fortune, W. M., S1c
 Freeman, R. N., FC1c
 Ganoe, R. E., TM3c
 Gardner, W. F., RDM3c
 Garvin, P. G., Y2c
 Gates, H. O., STM1c
 Gauthier, F. E., FC2c
 Gaydos, M. M., COX
 Gers, B. F., WT3c
 Gill, L. C., STM2c
 Ginepra, R. E., TM2c
 Gooden, L. J., STM2c
 Gordon, F. J., S1c
 Gregro, R. W., GM3c
 Gribble, C. F., MM2c
 Griesmaier, J., EM3c
 Griswold, R. I., F1c
 Gullahorn, J. S., GM1c
 Haas, A., CSC
 Haldeman, A. H., MM1c
 Hall, L. G., RM1c
 Hall, R. D., S1c
 Hannah, H. B., S1c
 Harlowe, N. M., S1c
 Harmer, A. J., BM1c
 Harvey, H. W., SK3c
 Harvey, R. E., S1c
 Hatt, H. E., S1c
 Heaton, D. C., BM1c
 Heldmann, R. A., FCR3c
 Henderson, G., S1c
 Herring, C. E., S1c
 Hill, C. B., GM3c
 Hill, R. R., S1c
 Hitchcock, C. E., FC3c
 Hoffman, E. B., S1c

Hosmer, G. H., S1c
 Howard, R., STM2c
 Hoyda, N., S1c
 Hudgins, CMM
 Hunt, W. L., S1c
 Hurst, R. J., EM3c
 Israel, J., RM3c
 Jackson, G. T., MA(M)3c
 Jagodzinski, E. M., F1c
 Jensen, H. L., F1c
 Jilcott, J. H., CQM
 Johnson, F. C., RM3c
 Johnson, H. L., F1c
 Johnson, L., WT2c
 Johnson, R., S2c
 Jones, C., S2c
 Jones, STM1c
 Jordan, F. L., S2c
 Kadlec, J. J., F1c
 Kaminsky, A., S1c
 Kapus, S. A., F1c
 Katsifos, J. A., SC1c
 Kelley, R. F., F1c
 Kelly, R. H., F2c
 Kimbrell, J. F., SC3c
 Kinner, T. I., F1c
 Krieg, W. E., S2c
 Laisure, J. H., S1c
 Lagkam, F. F., MM2c
 Larocque, R. O., F1c
 Lavery, G., CMM
 Lawson, J. R., F1c
 Layne, R. E., S1c
 Leger, J. L., S1c
 Lenore, E. A., S1c
 Lesnikowski, J. P., TM3c
 Lewis, W. E., EM3c
 Lieberman, S. M., F1c
 Lindley, J. L., CWT
 Lomax, H., STM1c
 Long, K. L., TM3c
 Lord, C. E., GM3c
 Lutz, H. J., S1c
 Macresen, E. H., F1c
 Maehr, R. W., GM1c
 Marcum, C. J., S1c
 Marsalla, D., CMM
 Martin, S. E., SK1c
 Mason, R. L., STM1c
 Massaro, J., RM3c
 Matthews, R. J., TM2c
 Matrejek, E. J., S2c
 McCarrell, E. J., SM1c
 McClain, T. H., PHM2c
 McCorey, J. H., S1c
 McFadden, T. P., TR1c
 McIntyre, S1c
 McWilliams, J. T., S2c
 Meador, M. A., CM3c
 Meinecke, W. L., CMM
 Millay, C. L., S1c
 Millett, W. B., M2c
 Miltimore, J. R., S1c
 Misdom, G. H., Y3C
 Montanino, F. J., S2c
 Moore, D. W., SF3c
 Moore, F. T., CMM
 Moore, J. S., S2c
 Morris, A. G., S2c
 Motisher, L. R., RT1c
 Mullinix, C. D., S1c
 Muncie, H., S1c



Murphy, E. J., S1c
 Murr, G. A., MM2c
 Murray, G. E., CMM
 Nagle, P. E., SAC
 Naugle, O. T., BKR3c
 Neal, S. G., MOMM2c
 Nichols, W. D., S1c
 Olds, R. L., CCS
 O'Rourke, J. E., FC3c
 Owens, H. P., EM2c
 Padgett, J., COX
 Parker, S. E., Y3c
 Parrett, R. J., S1c
 Pendergrass, H. J., S1c
 Peters, H. J., GM2c
 Peterson, E. W., S1c
 Plenger, V. F., EM2c
 Pluszczynski, J. J., S1c
 Polidori, A. J., SOM3c
 Pomykala, J. P., S1c
 Porter, L. A., S2c
 Postles, D. R., Y2c
 Poston, A. W., S1c
 Poznick, L. W., SOM3c
 Price, C. B., S2c
 Primavera, M. A., F1c
 Pyles, R. F., S1c
 Quarles, R. S., S1c
 Rabon, O. W., S1c
 Ramsey, O. N., S1c
 Ray, H. W., Y3c
 Raymond, W. J., S1c
 Read, A. R., QM3c
 Reech, T. M., WT1c
 Reddick, C. H., FC2c
 Reid, J. W., SF1c
 Reitzer, L. J., S1c
 Riban, J., RT3c
 Riesenberger, N. G., S2c
 Rink, W. N., F1c
 Ritter, D. L., GM2c
 Roberts, E. V., S1c
 Roberts, W. W., S1c
 Robnolte, O. K., S1c
 Rosson, C. E., Y3c
 Roth, B., S1c
 Rothaar, P. V., WT3c
 Roussell, W. A., WT2c

Russell, W. C., SM3c
 Russell, W. L., S1c
 Ryan, W. D., CMM
 Sabbia, N. F., S1c
 Sander, D. H., EM2c
 Sanders, S. H., GM2c
 Sandoval, H. M., S1c
 Sargent, H. A., SK3c
 Sarna, F., S1c
 Satcher, C. F., S1c
 Saunders, M. D., S1c
 Schwab, H. T., F2c
 Senko, L. O., S1c
 Shackelford, A. C., EM2c
 Shepard, C. W., S2c
 Shepherd, T. J., FC3c
 Sheridan, R. E., RM2c
 Sheriff, A. A., CPHM
 Sherrill, J. A., S1c
 Skrzypek, B. F., S1c
 Smith, F. A., S1c
 Smith, J. L., S1c
 Solonichne, M., S1c
 Stacy, W. E., S1c
 Steen, D. E., S1c
 Steinhoff, E. L., GM1c
 Stewart, J. A., F1c
 Stowe, M. B., S1c
 Tate, W. D., S1c
 Taylor, C. J., S2c
 Thayer, M. P., GM1c
 Thompson, L. M., GM3c
 Threatt, J. M., S1c
 Tippih, R. L., S2c
 Tison, F. J., EM1c
 Torma, S. J., F2c
 Tosh, H. J., MM1c
 Treece, R. W., RM1c
 Tregoning, R. O., SC3c
 Tucker, G. W., S1c
 Tullock, S. A., QM1c
 Turnage, J. E., S1c
 Umbright, V. W., S1c
 Vance, H. R., COX
 Vanek, O., GM2c
 Veith, R. F., F1c
 Vest, C. E., TM3c
 Vogler, J. T., S1c

Voit, D. K., S2c
 Wager, S. H., S1c
 Wagner, E. H., S1c
 Walker, G. W., S2c
 Wallech, L. E., S2c
 Warfield, R. T., RM2c
 Warren, D. L., TM3c
 Weinberg, J., F1c
 Wells, C. T., S2c
 Wells, S. E., S2c
 West, F., GM1c
 West, J. E., Y2c
 Whitley, M., CK2c
 Whitlock, J. H., TM1c
 Wichser, J. N., COX
 Wicker, J. B., S2c
 Wilkins, J., S2c
 Wilkinson, S. A., SC3c
 Williams, C. C., S1c

Williams, C. W., F1c
 Williams, E. O., PHM1c
 Williams, W. W., S1c
 Wilson, G. C., S2c
 Wilson, J. W., F1c
 Wimp, G. W., F1c
 Wolfe, B., F1c
 Wolff, A. V., EM3c
 Wolper, L., SF2c
 Wood, B. H., S1c
 Wood, G. K., S1c
 Woodward, C. F., F1c
 Woodruff, R. L., S1c
 Woodworth, H. B., EM2c
 Worth, L. B., F1c
 Wren, T. G., S1c
 Youskites, S. J., WT1c
 Ziomek, L. F., TM2c

Letter of Commendation

From: Commander Destroyer Squadron FIFTY-SIX.

To: The Secretary of the Navy.

Via: Official Channels.

Subject: Recommendation for Award of Navy Unit
 (Commendation to USS HEYWOOD
 (L. EDWARDS (DD663) and USS
 (RICHARD P. LEARY (DD664).

1. In accordance with current directives, it is recommended that the Navy Unit Commendation be awarded to the USS HEYWOOD L. EDWARDS (DD663) and the USS RICHARD P. LEARY (DD664) for outstanding performance in combat against enemy Japanese forces ashore, afloat and in the air in the Pacific War Area from 29 May 1944 to 28 July 1945 for the H. L. EDWARDS and from 9 July 1944 to 28 July 1945 for the R. P. LEARY.

2. During these periods the subject ships participated in the six major amphibious assaults and landings in the Marianas, at Palau, Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In each of these difficult and very consequently the first ships to arrive in the area and in almost every instance among the last to leave. During this period the H. L. EDWARDS fired a total of rounds equivalent to four times the normal life of the guns. Both ships have been repeatedly commended for their accurate and devastating fire, and have accounted for the timely demise of many Japanese. During these operations both ships have been under fire from shore batteries and under repeated and heavy air attack. Both ships have made attacks on submarines, and both have claimed probable sinkings of one submarine each, though official assessments have not been received. The H. L. EDWARDS on 24 September 1944 destroyed a large group of small enemy surface craft, attempting to reinforce the garrison of an enemy held island in the Palau with the loss of a large number of enemy troops.

3. Both ships participated in the Battle of Surigao Straits and were with this squadron when

O DIVISION
 ENGINEERING



C DIVISION
S DIVISION
C & R DIVISION

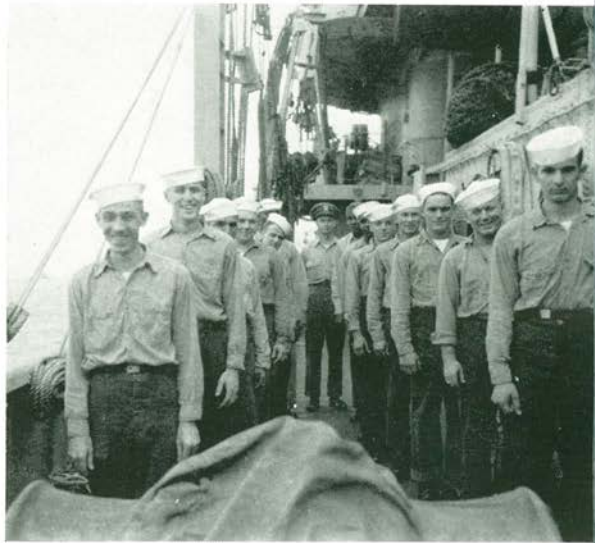
it delivered a coordinated torpedo attack on the Japanese battle line, the R. P. LEARY being credited with hits on a Jap battleship which no doubt contributed to its loss. Both ships were under heavy enemy fire but escaped without injury.

4. During the Okinawa campaign both ships were among the mainstays of the fire support group. When the originator requested Commander, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet to give these two particular ships a breather, he was told, "Those will be the last ships to be relieved, because they are so good that we cannot spare them. We can always rely on the EDWARDS and the LEARY to produce in the tight places."

5. The remarkable thing about these two ships, and the thing which the originator wishes to emphasize, is that in spite of these long and arduous duties, neither ship has been hit by the enemy, either from ashore, surface or the air. In view of the fact that six of the other ships of the squadron, participating in the same actions, have been hit and damaged, this record cannot be passed off as mere luck. Rather, it is the writer's opinion that this fine record is due to outstanding performance of duty by all officers and men of both ships, and is one of the principal bases for this recommendation. Many of the officers and men have been decorated for their individual acts, but it is the earnest desire of the squadron commander to see every man receive recognition for the outstanding performance mentioned herein.

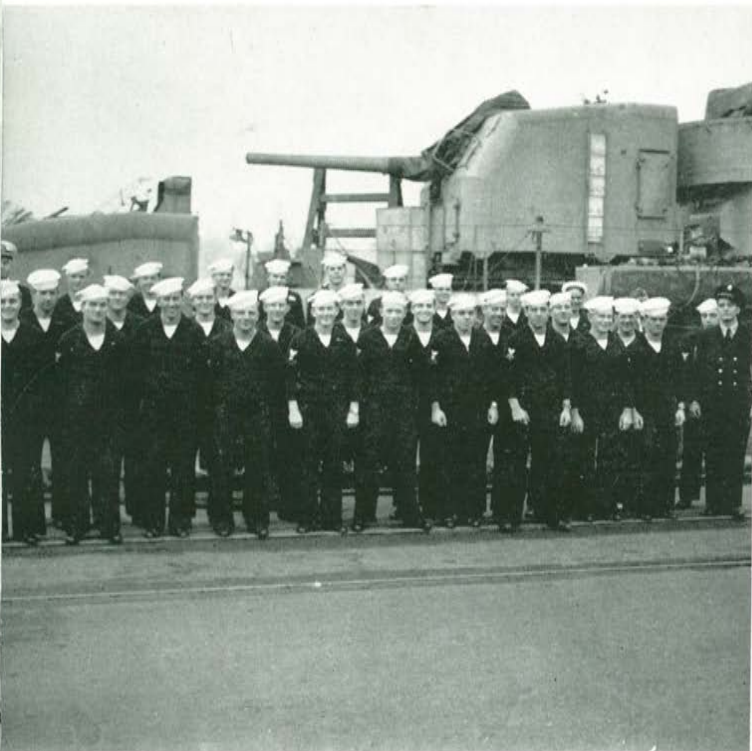
6. While neither ship has participated in any action of the spectacular nature which draws the attention of the press and radio to it individually, it is desired to point out that to the writer's knowledge no other destroyers in the Navy, except the other ships in this squadron have participated in all six of the above named major operations as a part of the bombardment and fire support group. This record the writer believes to be of such an outstanding nature as to warrant the award of the Navy Unit Commendation.

H. F. STOUT.

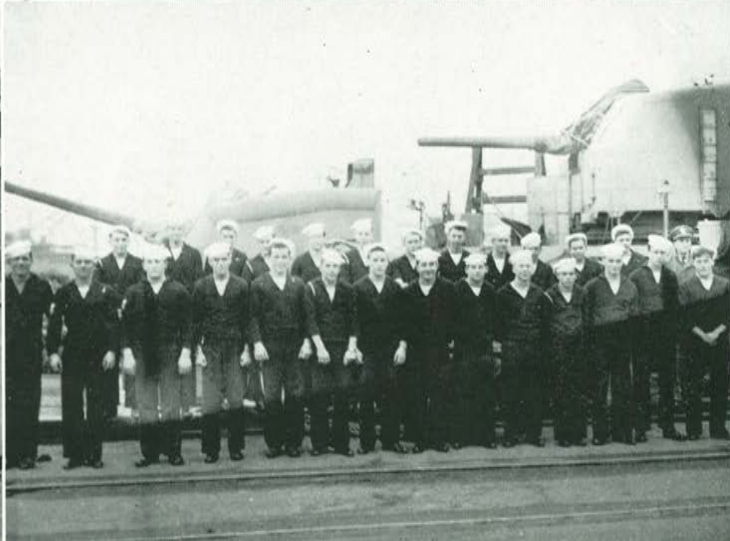
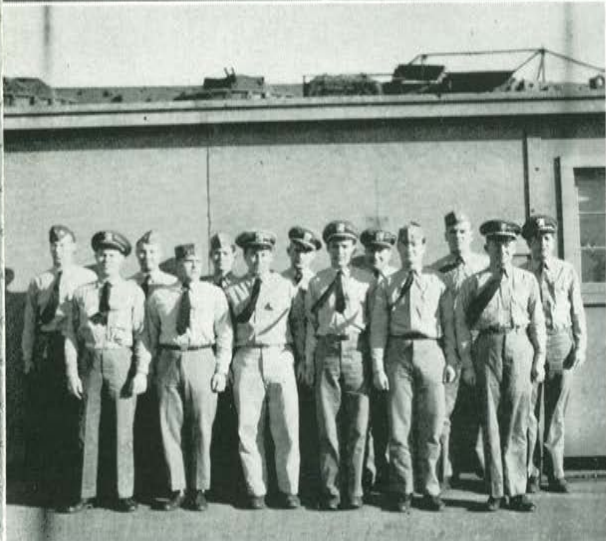
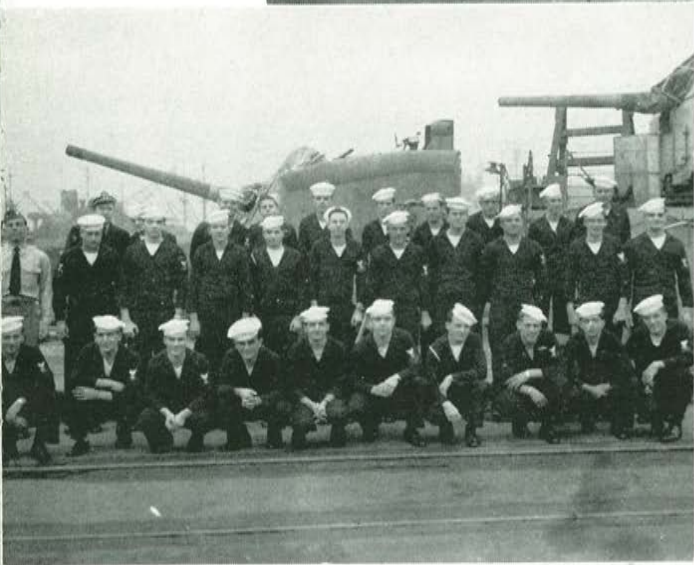


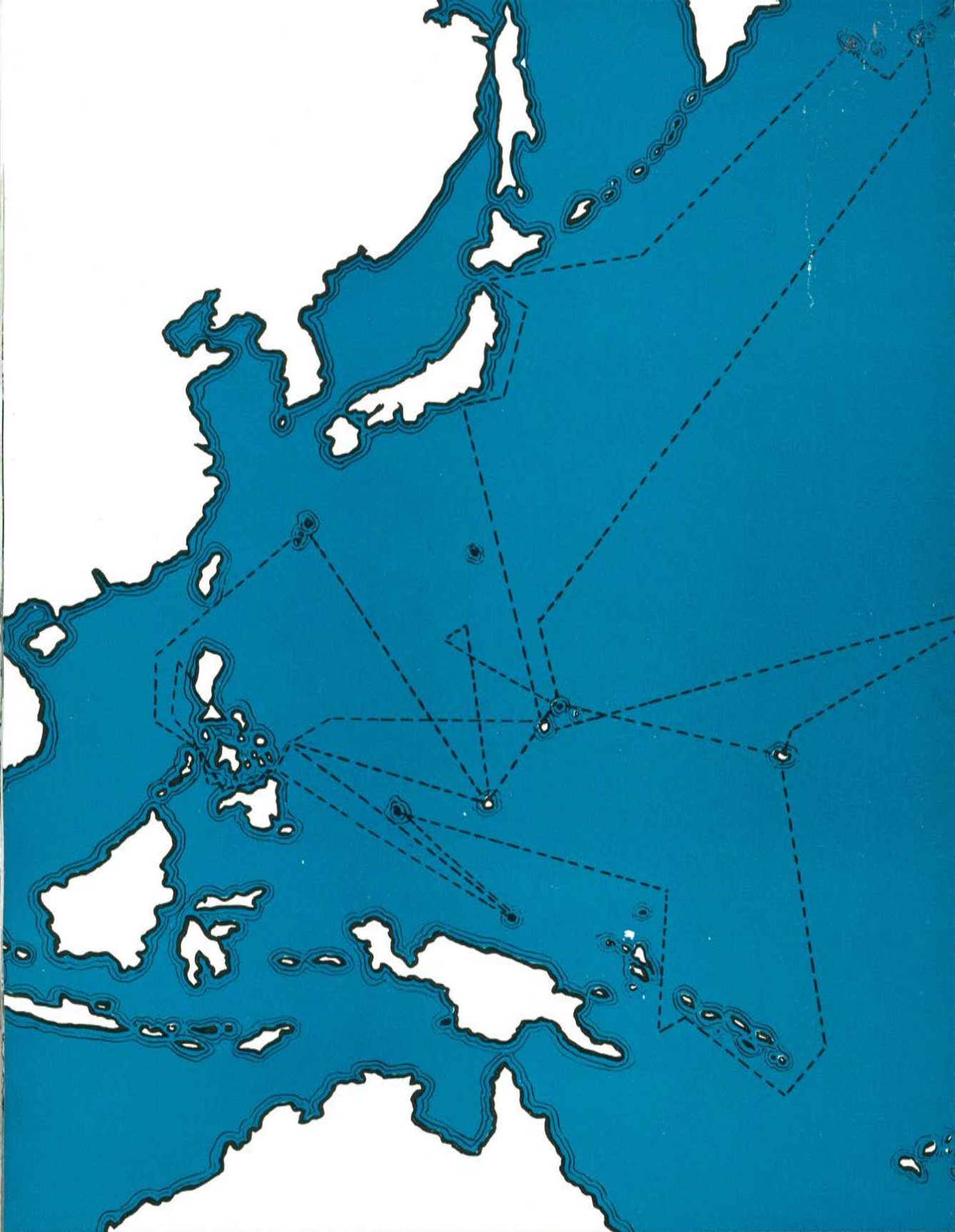


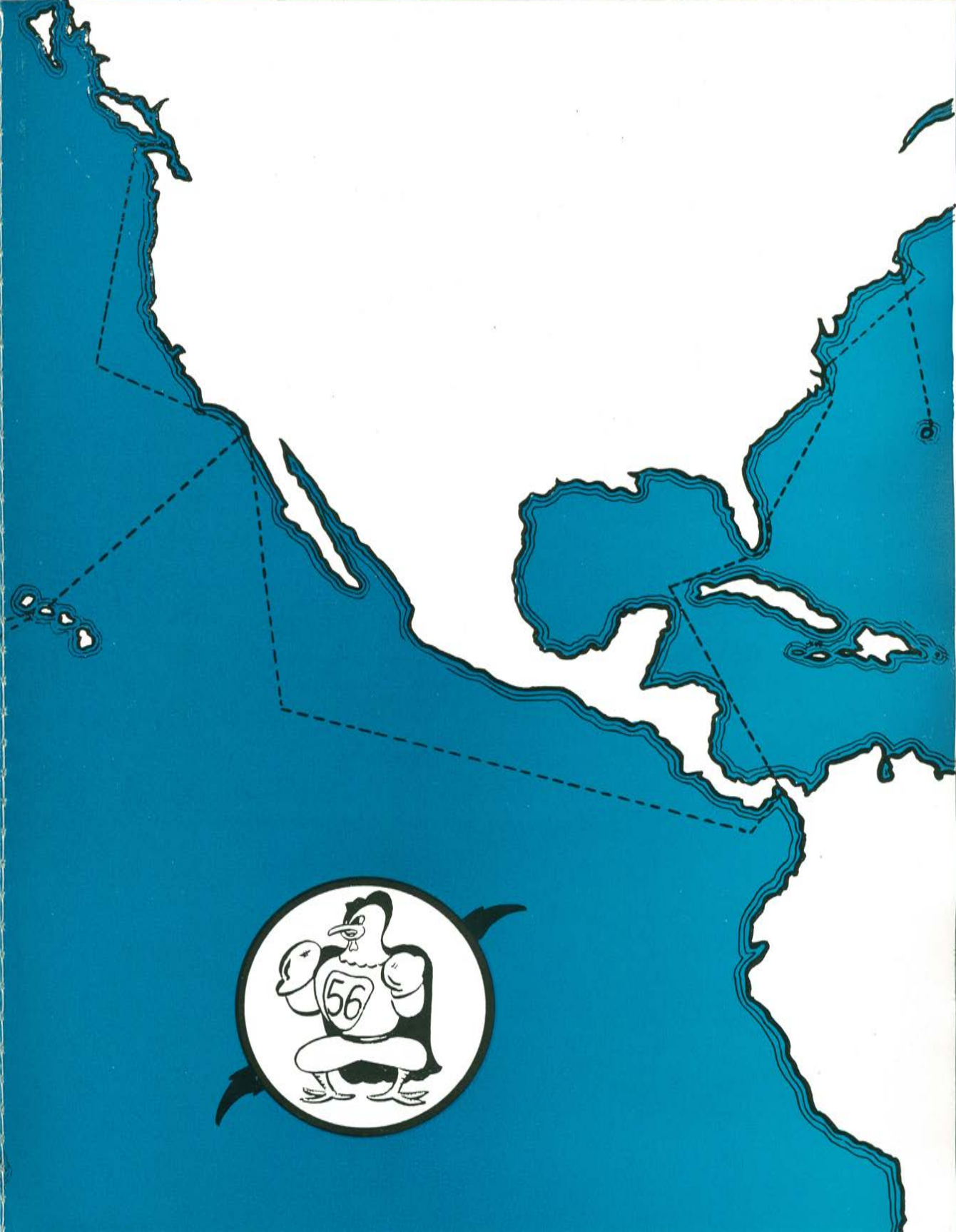
Captain's

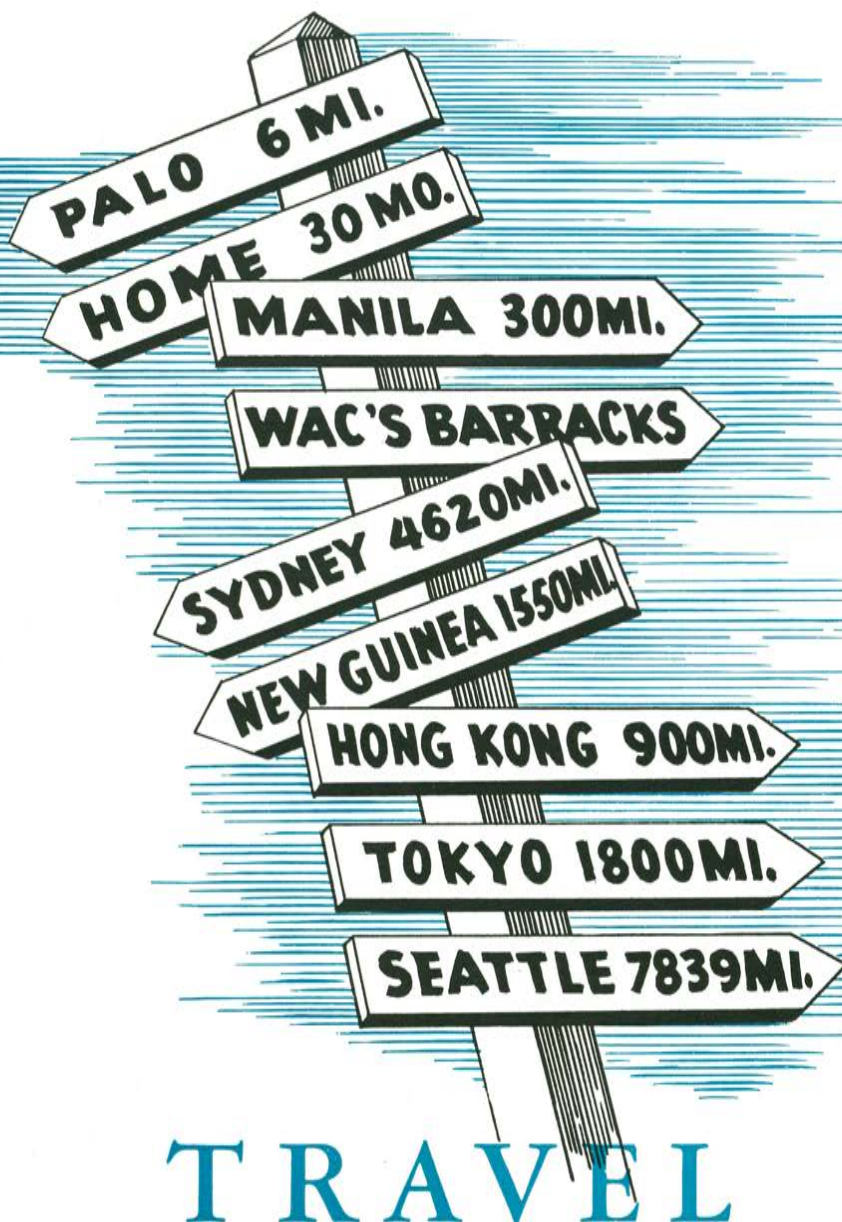


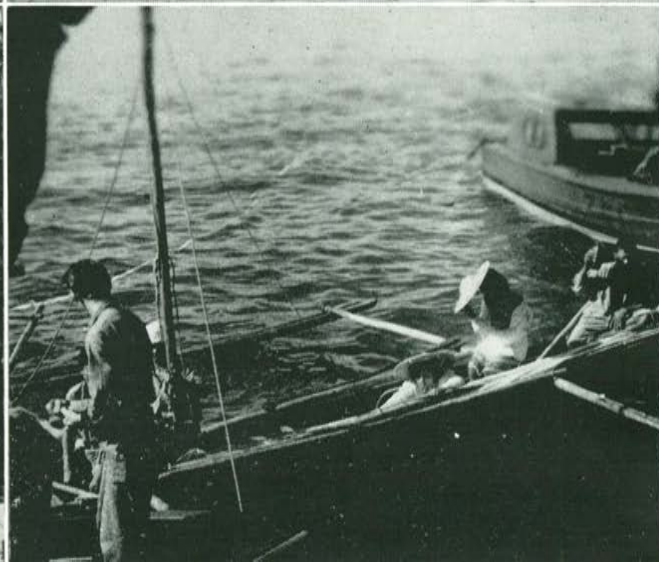
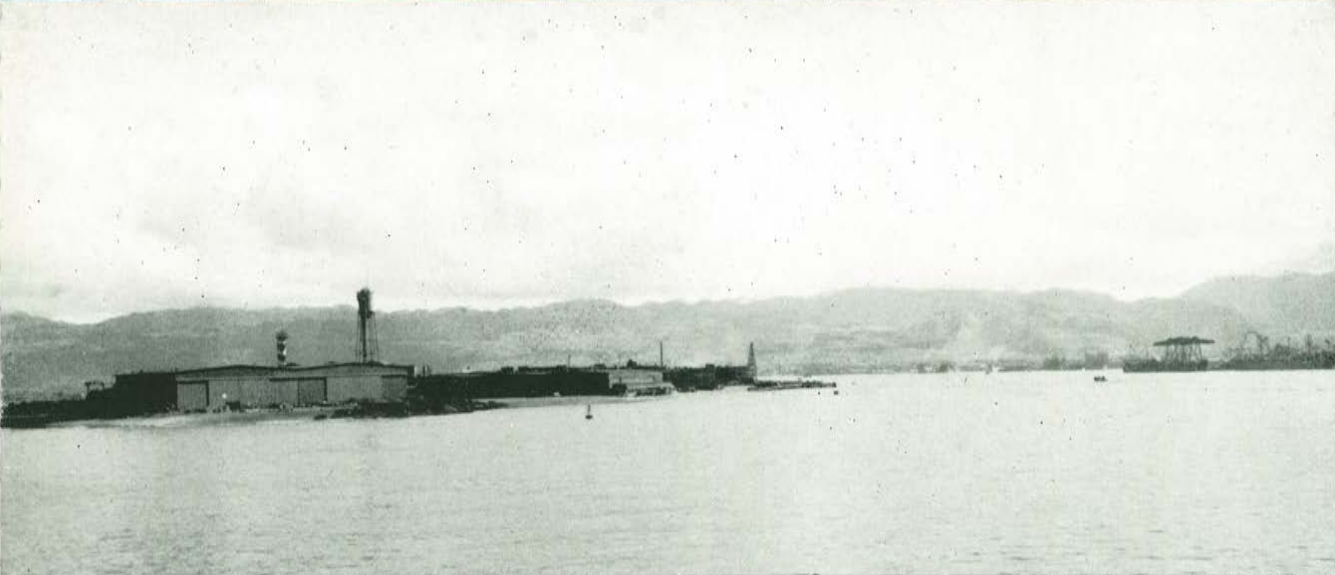
Inspection



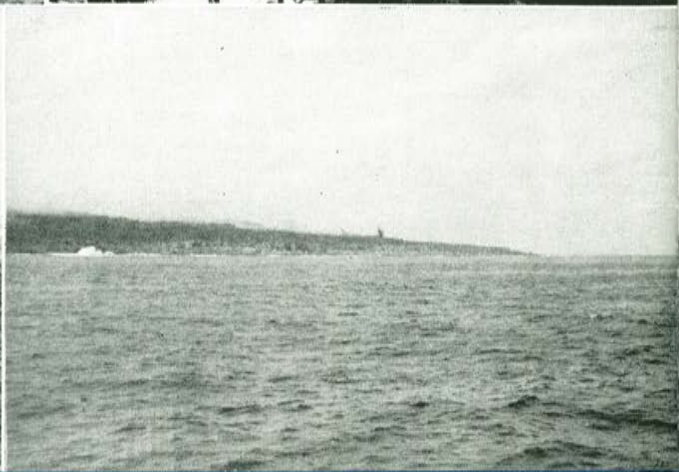
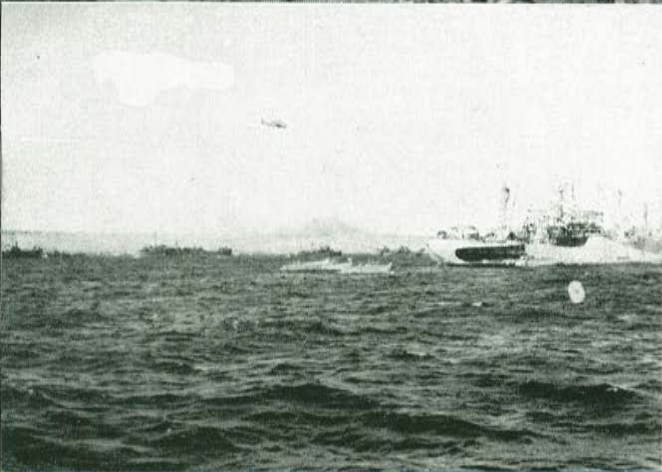




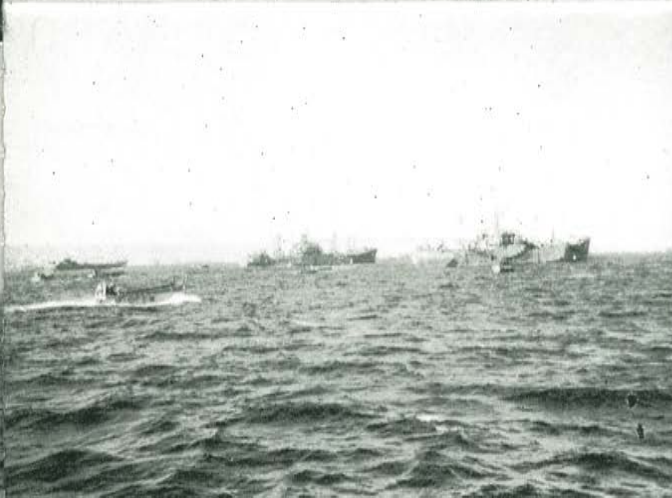


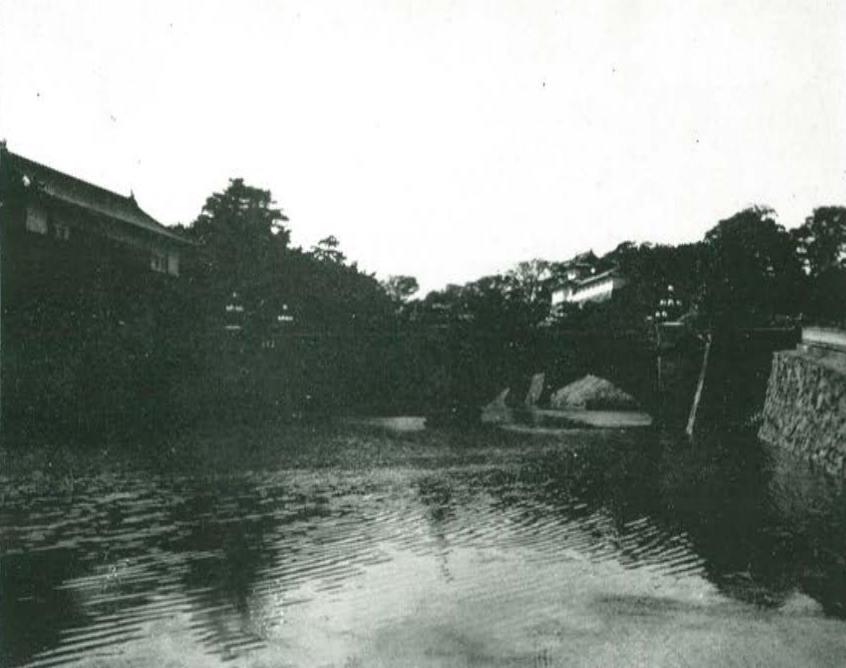


Philippines



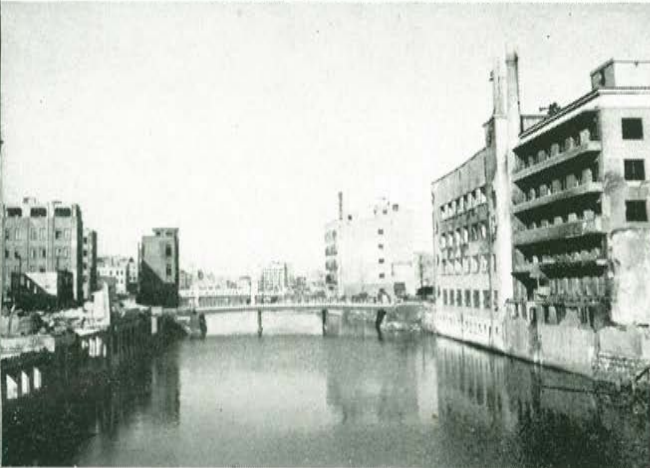
Saipan - Iwo Jima





JAPAN

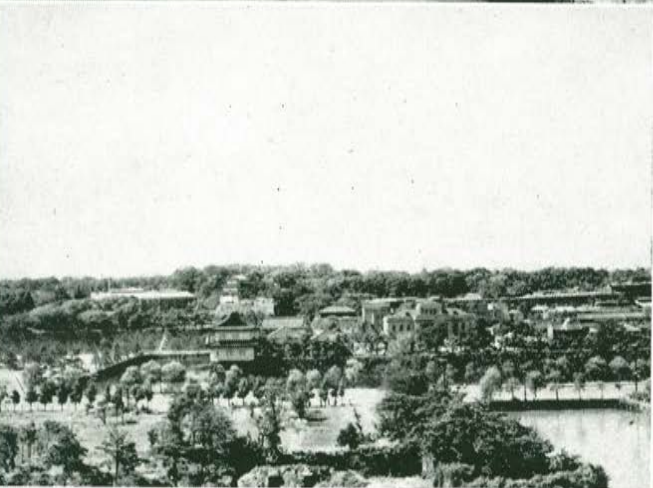




JAPAN

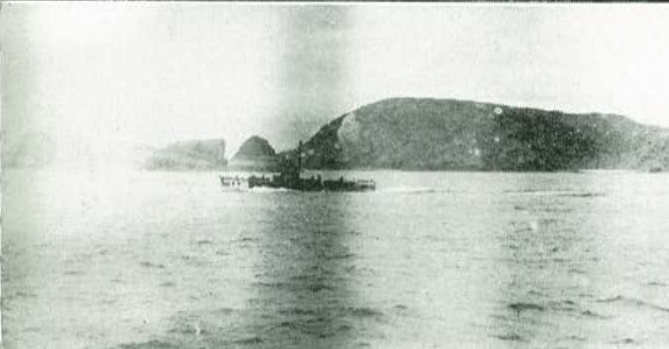
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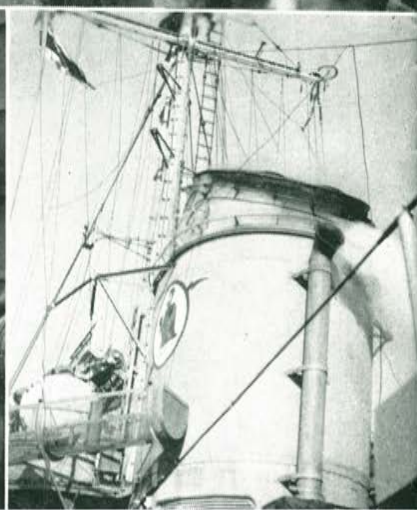
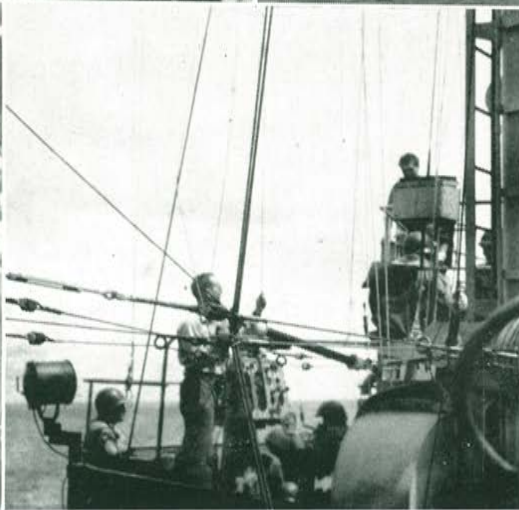


Aleutians

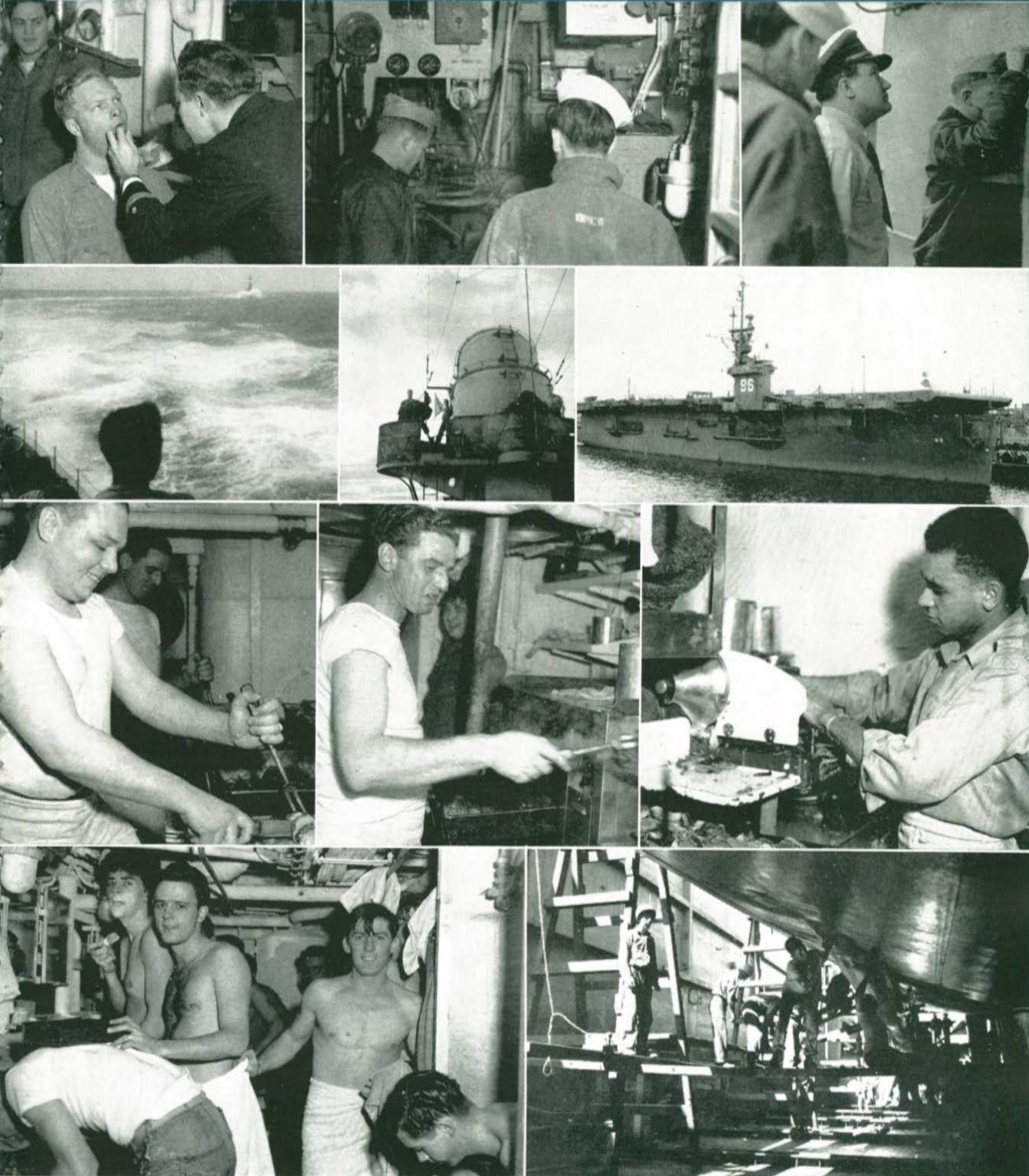








Shipboard Views



Shipboard Views



Lt. E. F. HARRINGTON, USNR



Lt. T. C. HALL, USNR



Lt. (Jg) L. W. SEIDMAN, USNR



Lt. C. J. NEWLANDS, USNR



Lt. (Jg) R. E. GARDNER, USNR

*U.S. Navy Destroyers
T-8.*



Lt. Q. N. HARER, USNR



Lt. N. V. KARP, USNR



Lt. I. LEVY, USNR

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