

1946

## Log of the U.S.S. Richard P. Leary

United States Navy

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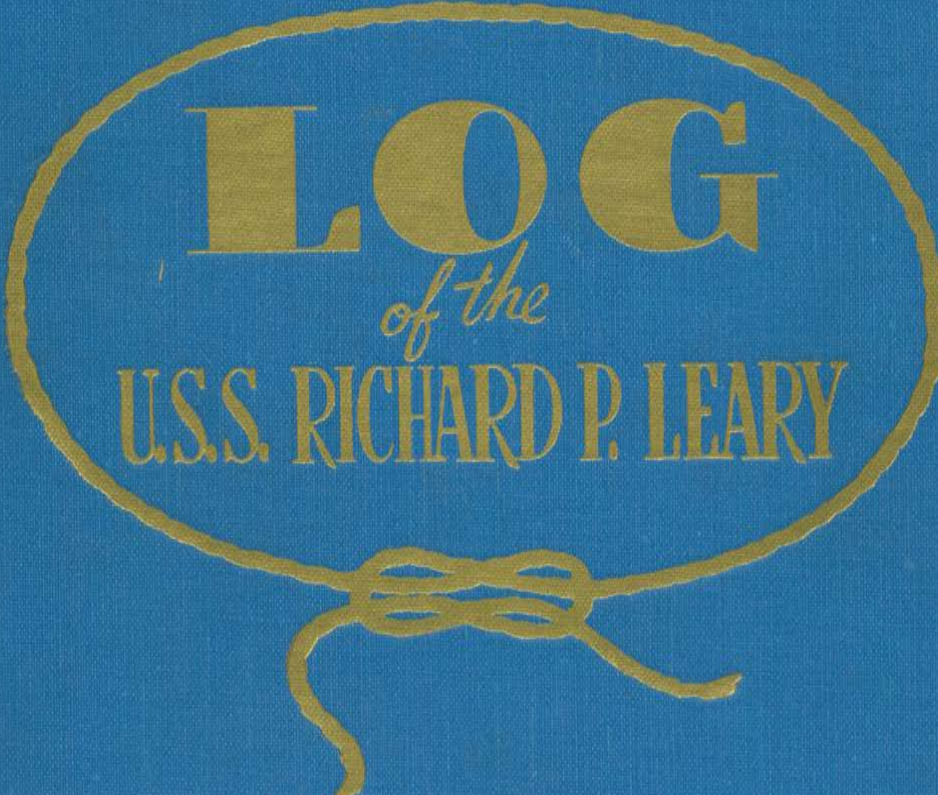
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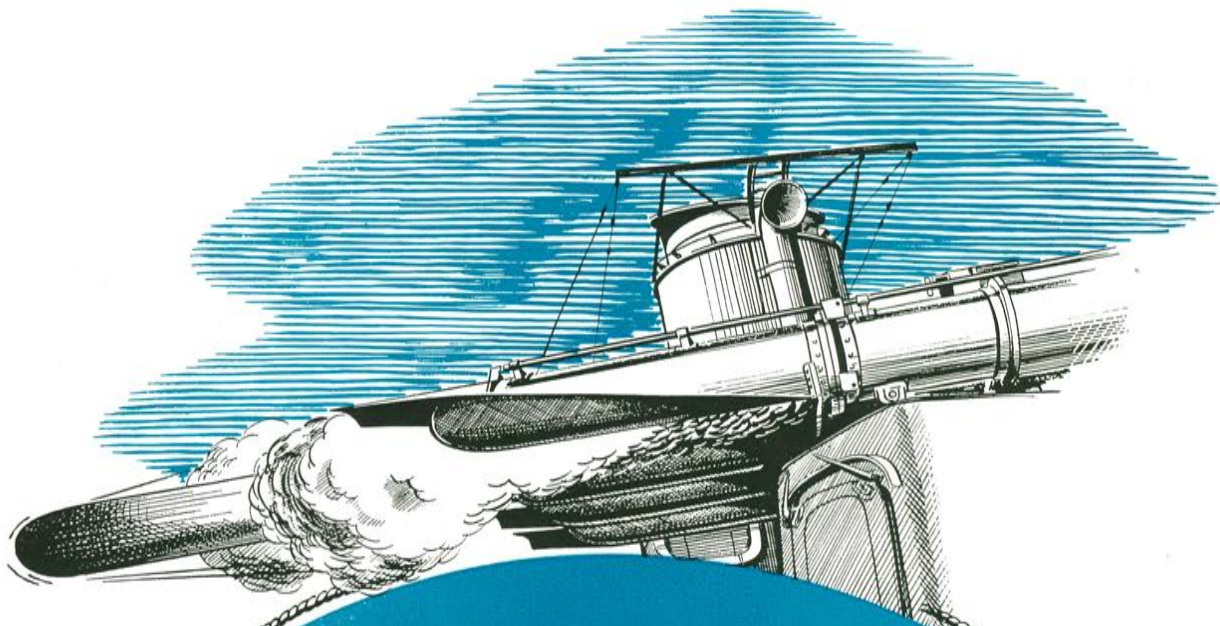
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**LOG**  
*of the*  
**U.S.S. RICHARD P. LEARY**

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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.

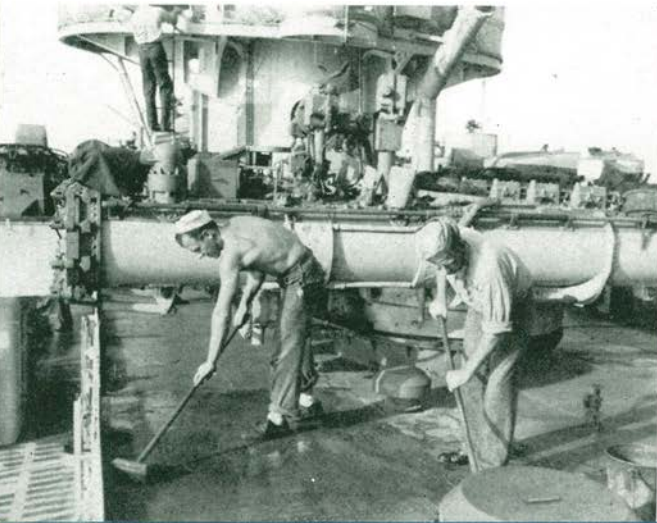
April 20. Delivered prearranged fire in support of advance troops. Hit vehicles, scattered troops, uncovered and knocked out camouflaged guns and started fires in troop headquarters. Opened fire on an enemy plane scoring an assist. Continued harassing fire, night illumination, driving enemy troops from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

### MAY—JUNE—JULY

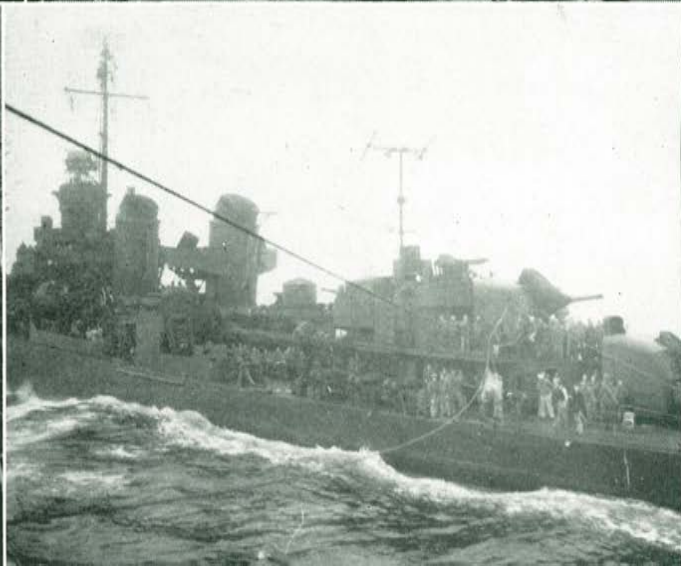
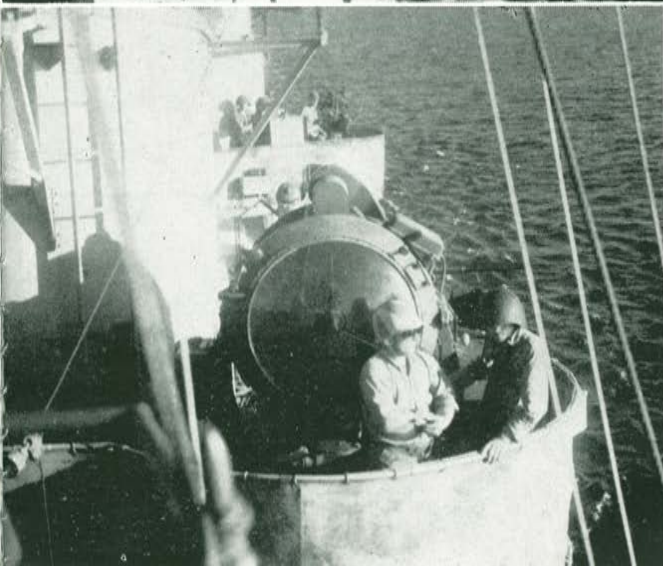
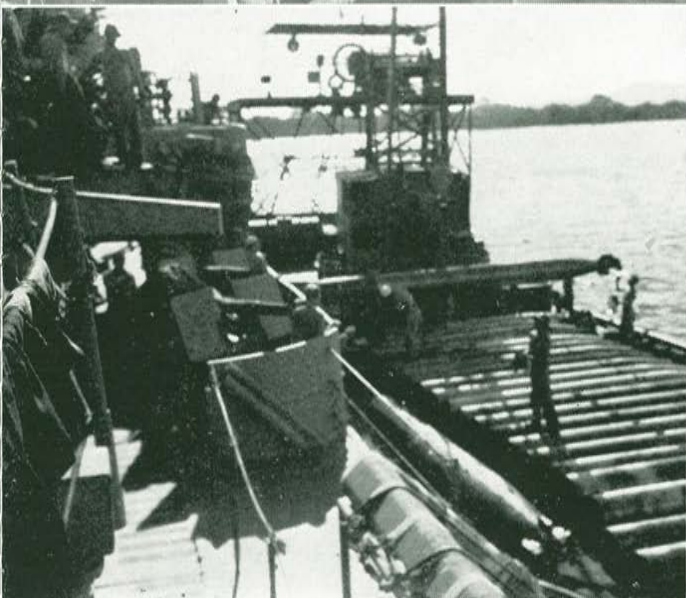
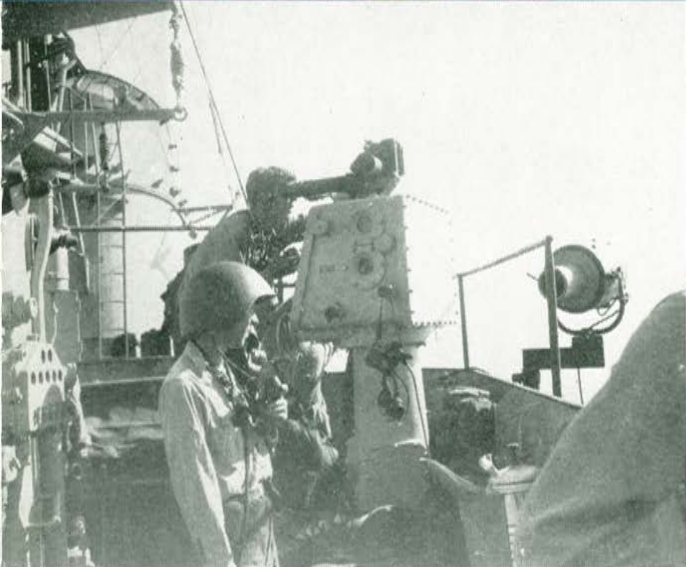
May 3. Delivered night harassing and illuminating fire. Destroyed ammunition dump, pillbox, command post and anti-aircraft emplacement. Sighted two small Japanese boats, distance 1,000 yards. Illuminated with searchlights and star-shells. Fires with 40MM and 20MM batteries; sank both boats.

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

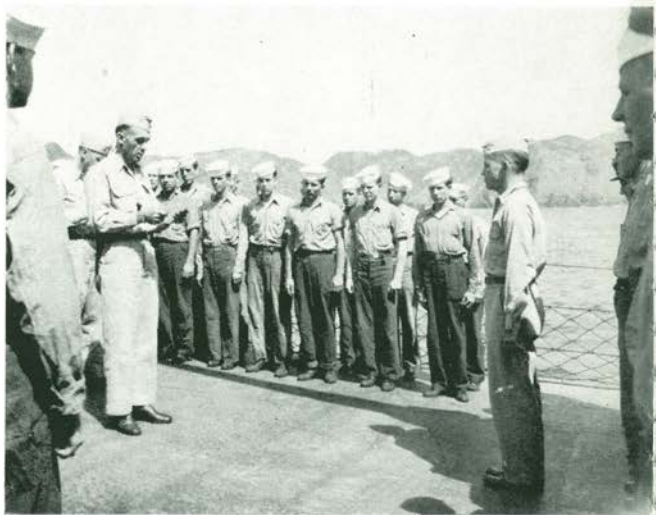
This vessel was assigned to Commander of Northern Pacific Naval Forces in the Aleutians. Upon arrival there it was anticipated that the ship would stand by for operations attacking the northern islands of Japan. As the ship dropped anchor in Kuluk Bay, Adak, the Japanese acceptance of Potsdam surrender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



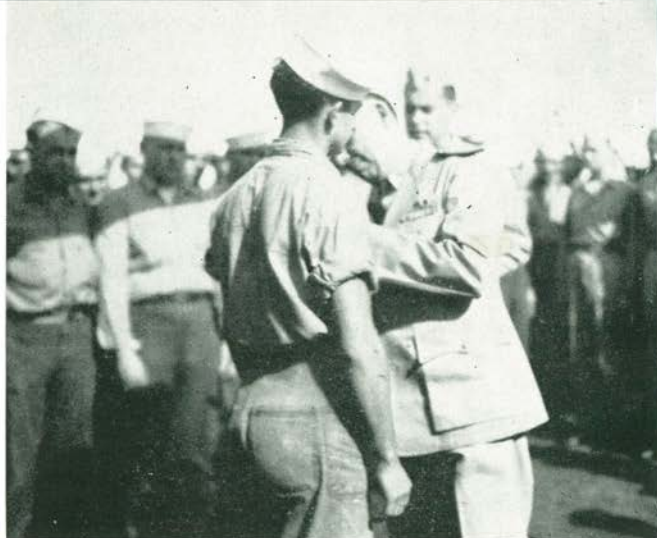
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## Bars and Stars

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 3  
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  
Buysse, 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 Comdr. 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  
 Gano, R. E., TM3c  
 Gardner, W. F., RDM3c  
 Garvin, P. G., Y2c  
 Gates, H. O., STM1c  
 Gauthier, F. E., FC2c  
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 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  
 Laroque, 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  
 Macrensen, 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  
 Millimore, 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  
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 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  
 Riesenber, 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  
 Tippitt, 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. N., 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  
 Woodard, 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

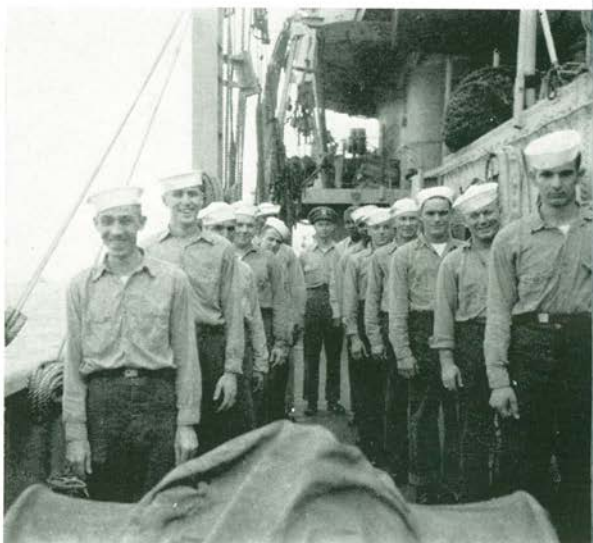
it delivered a coordinated torpedo attack on the Japanese battle line, the R. P. LEARY being credited with hits on a Jap battleship which no doubt contributed to its loss. Both ships were under heavy enemy fire but escaped without injury.

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.

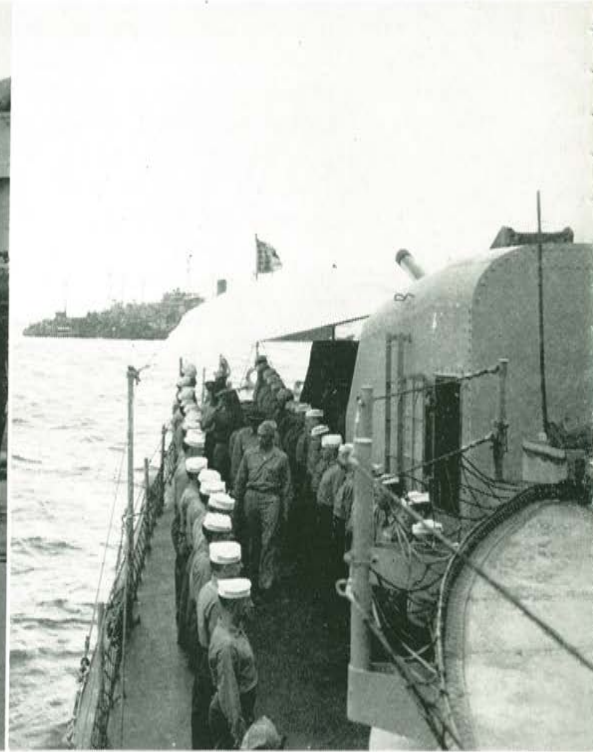
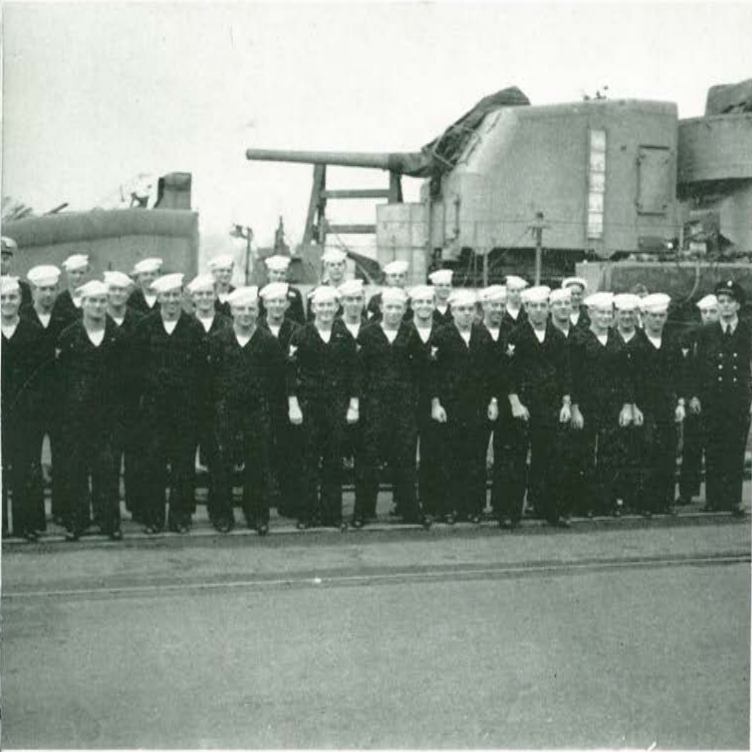
H. F. STOUT.



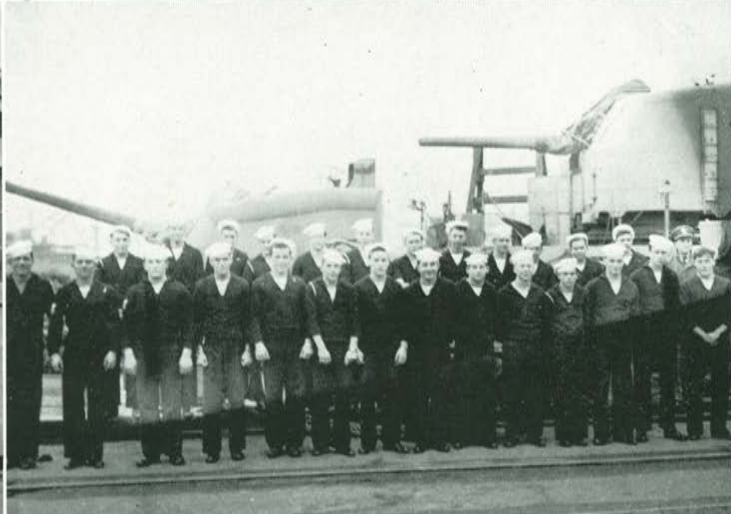
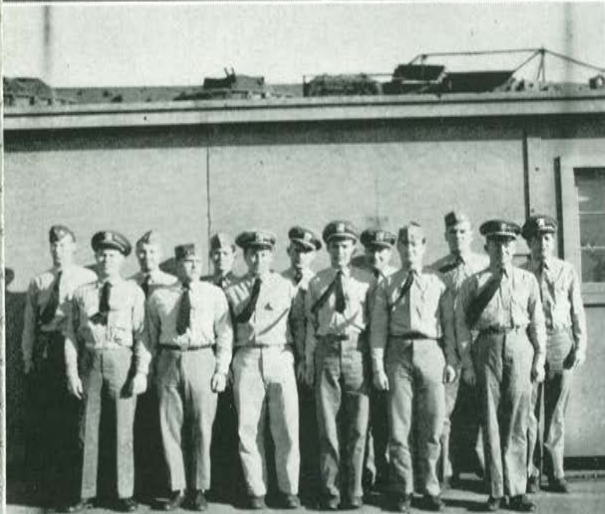
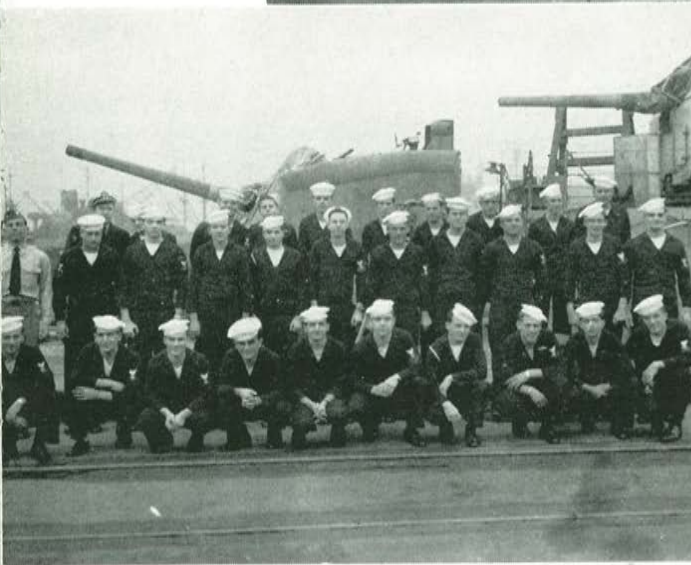




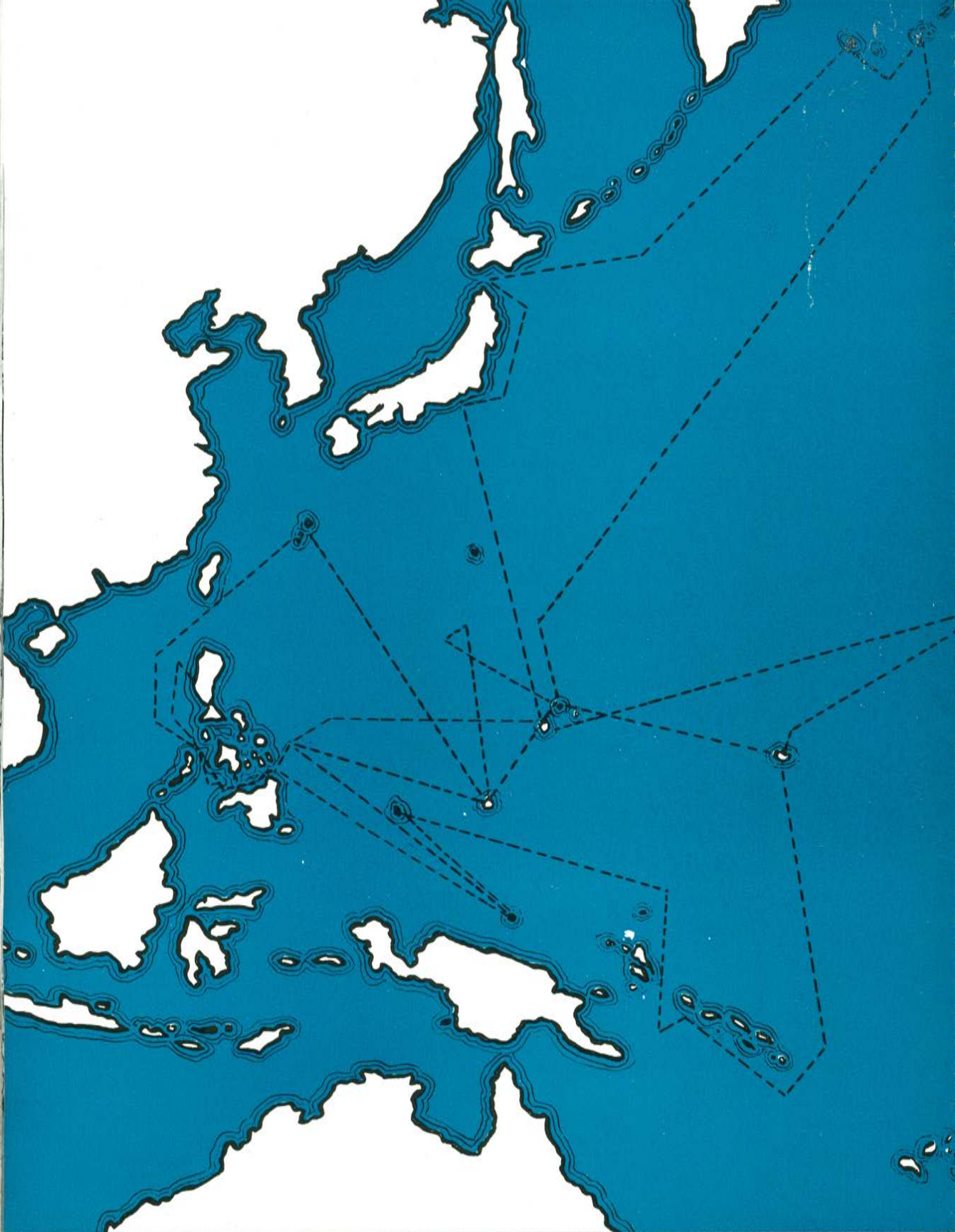
# Captain's

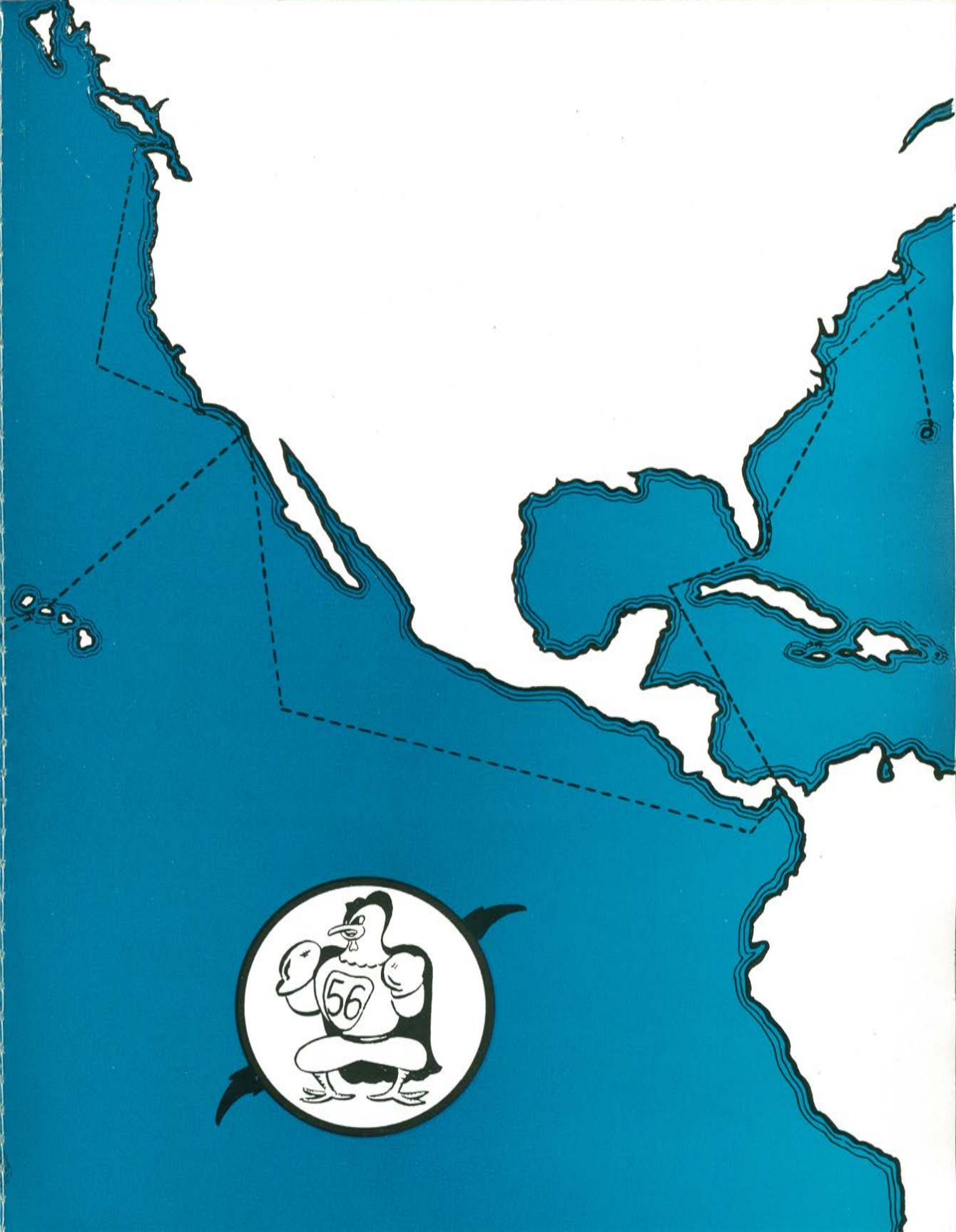


# Inspection





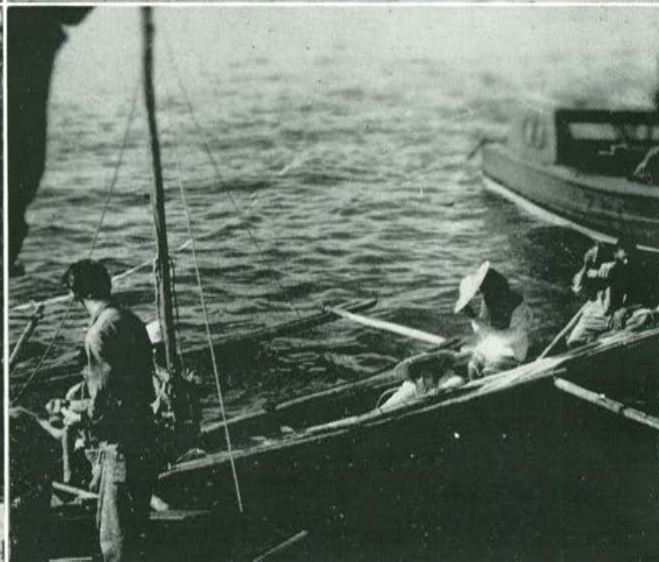
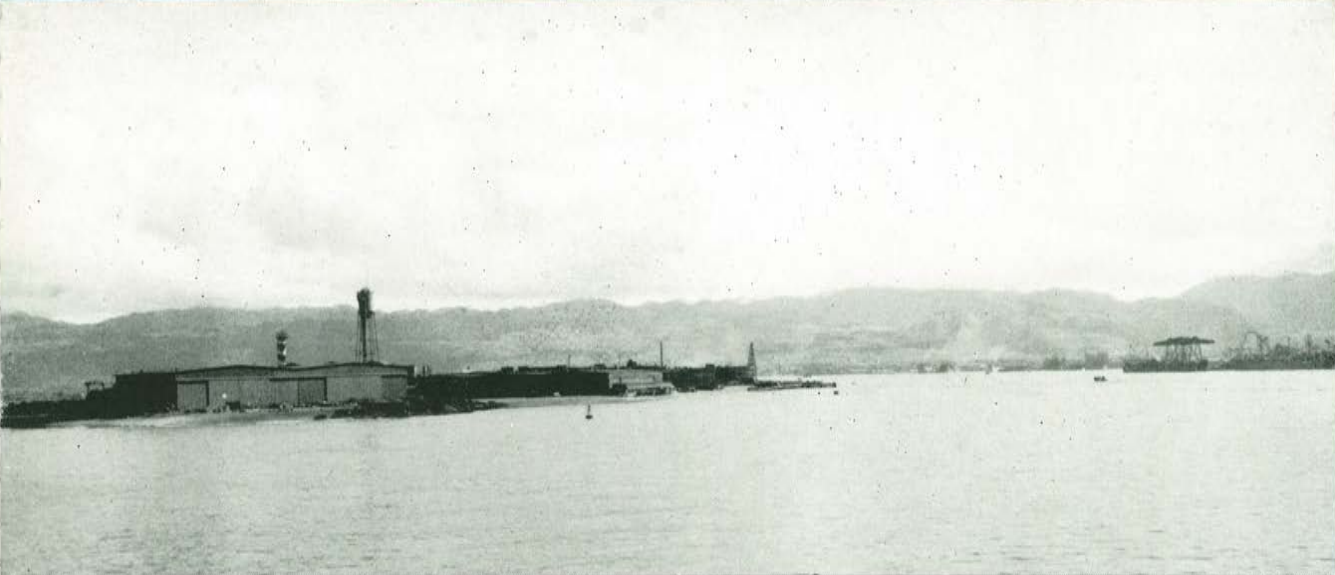






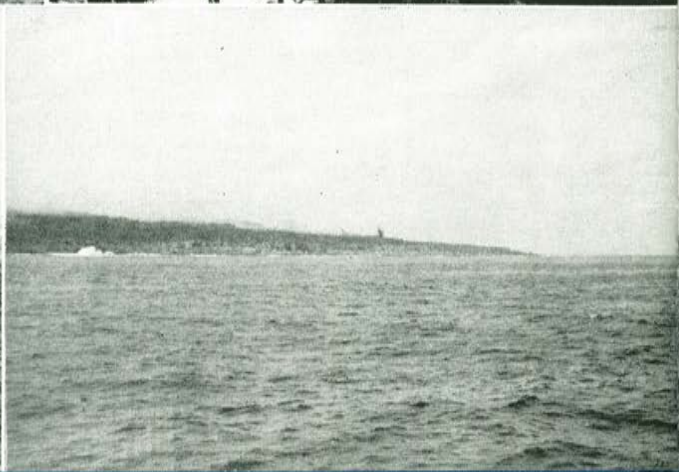
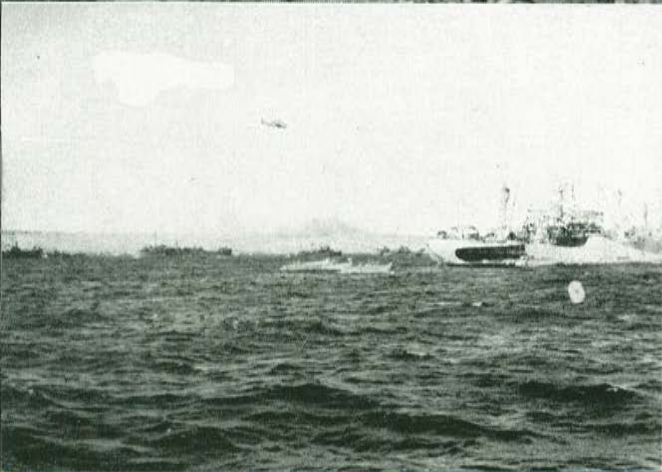


TRAVEL

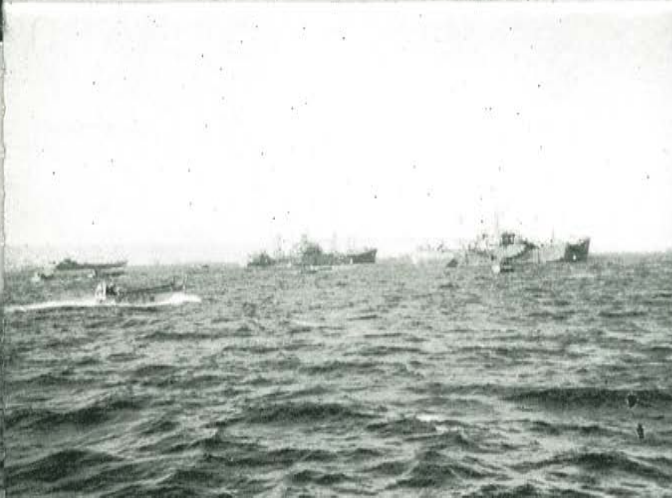




# Philippines



# Saipan - Iwo Jima



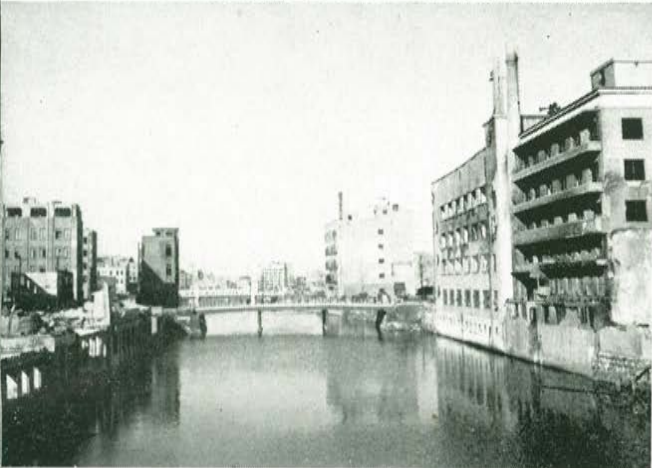




# JAPAN

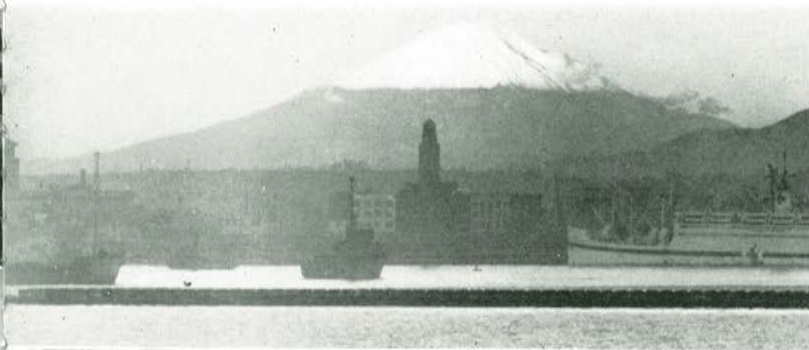




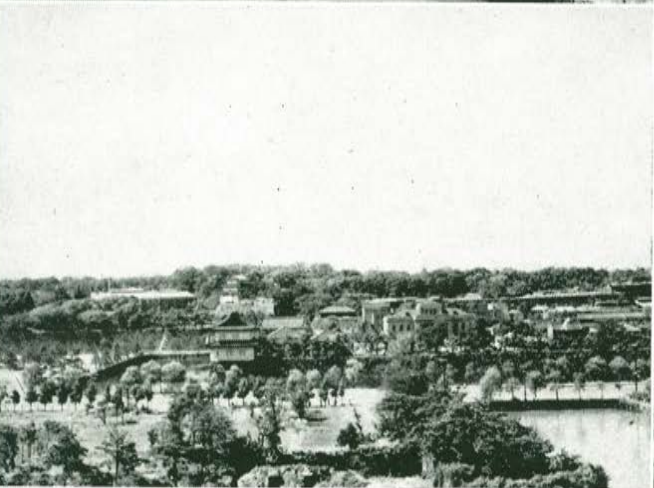


JAPAN

# JAPAN

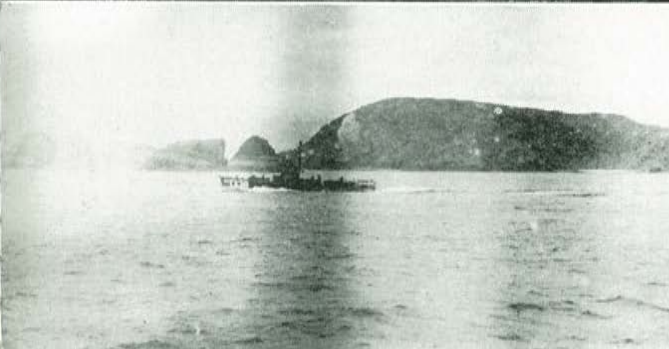








# Aleutians



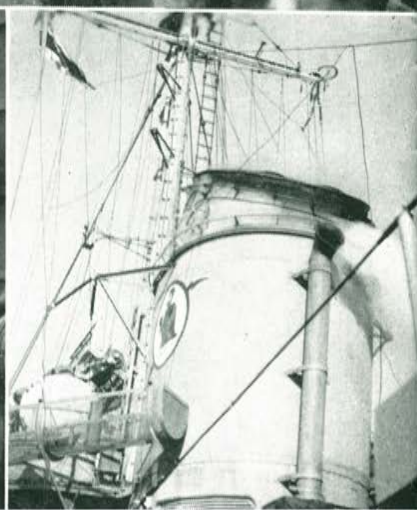
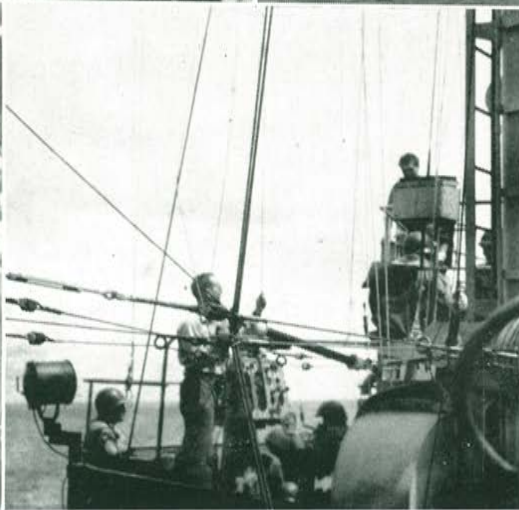






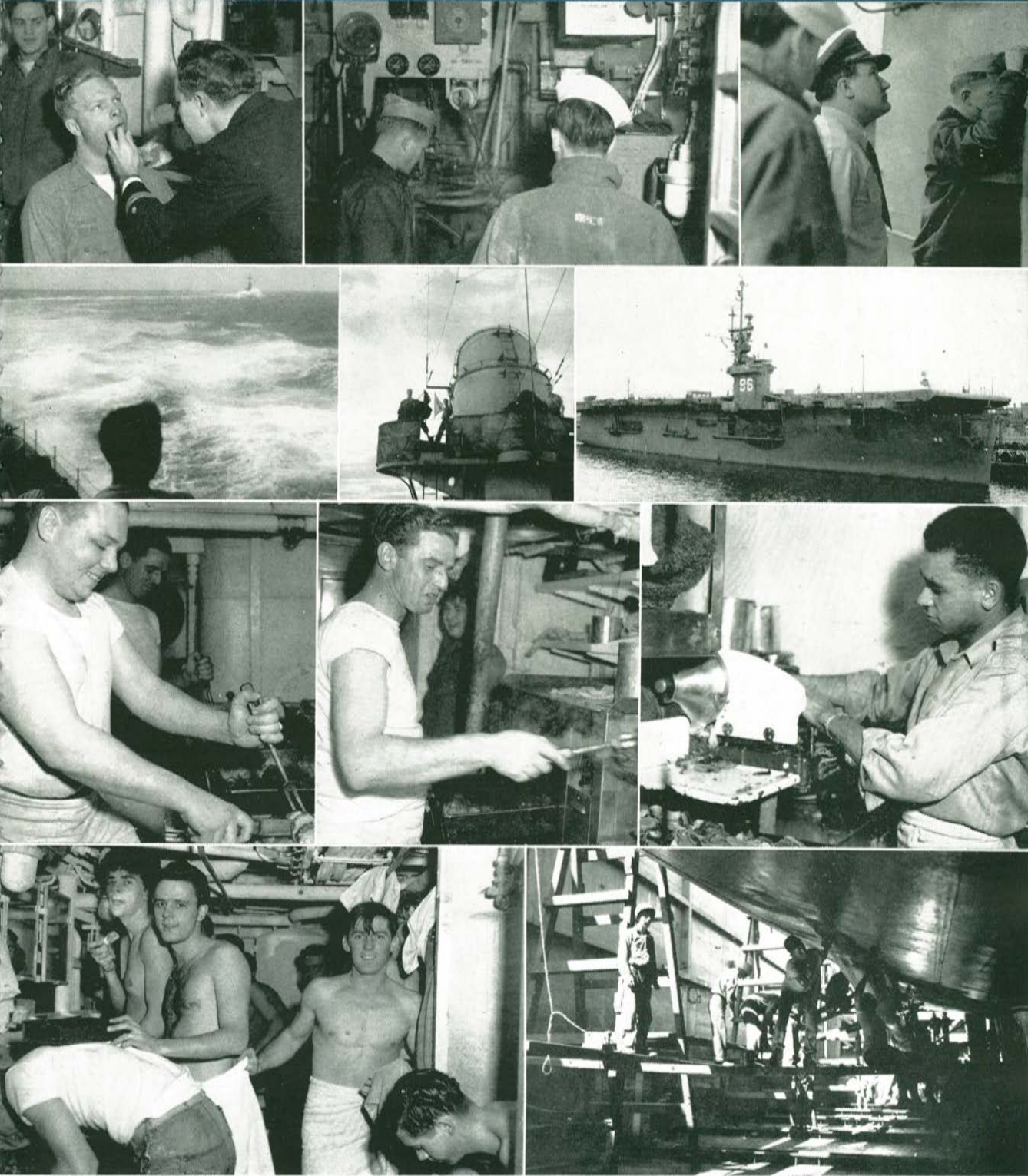






## Shipboard Views





# 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  
Task.*



Lt. Q. N. HARER, USNR



Lt. N. V. KARP, USNR



Lt. I. LEVY, USNR





