WORLD WAR II DIARIES

RONALD W. WALDBY GM 2/C

U. S. NAVY Sept. 1942 - Oct. 1945

The material recorded here is copied from the actual diaries in which I made daily entries while aboard the USS STEADY (AM 118). The diaries are small notebooks from which it is impossible to make copies.

The entries recorded here are just as they were written in the notebooks. The material is written just as I saw it, lived it, felt about it and believed it. The only material I have omitted are some remarks of a personal nature, mostly concerning letters I wrote or received.

I have omitted nothing that relates to the ship; my life aboard; our travels; the battles and actions; our hopes and fears and of course, the sometimes monotony and boredom that we all experienced.

The eight small notebooks were "lost" in attics, and who knows where, for nearly fifty years, until they were discovered a year or so ago. They have now become important to me and has stimulated a desire to attempt to locate some of my old shipmates.

Much of the material I have completely forgotten, some facts are as I remembered and some are different. Be that as it may however, everything that is written here is what I did, what I saw and what I believed to be true at the time.

It is my hope that my family and friends and possibly even some of my shipmates will find this material interesting and informative.

Ronald W. Waldby

May 1995

Nov. 25, 1995

This Copy of my World War II Navy diary is donated to the Navy-Memorial Joyner library at East Carolina University.

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(SHIPS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS)

RON WALDBY GM3/C
USS STEADY 1944

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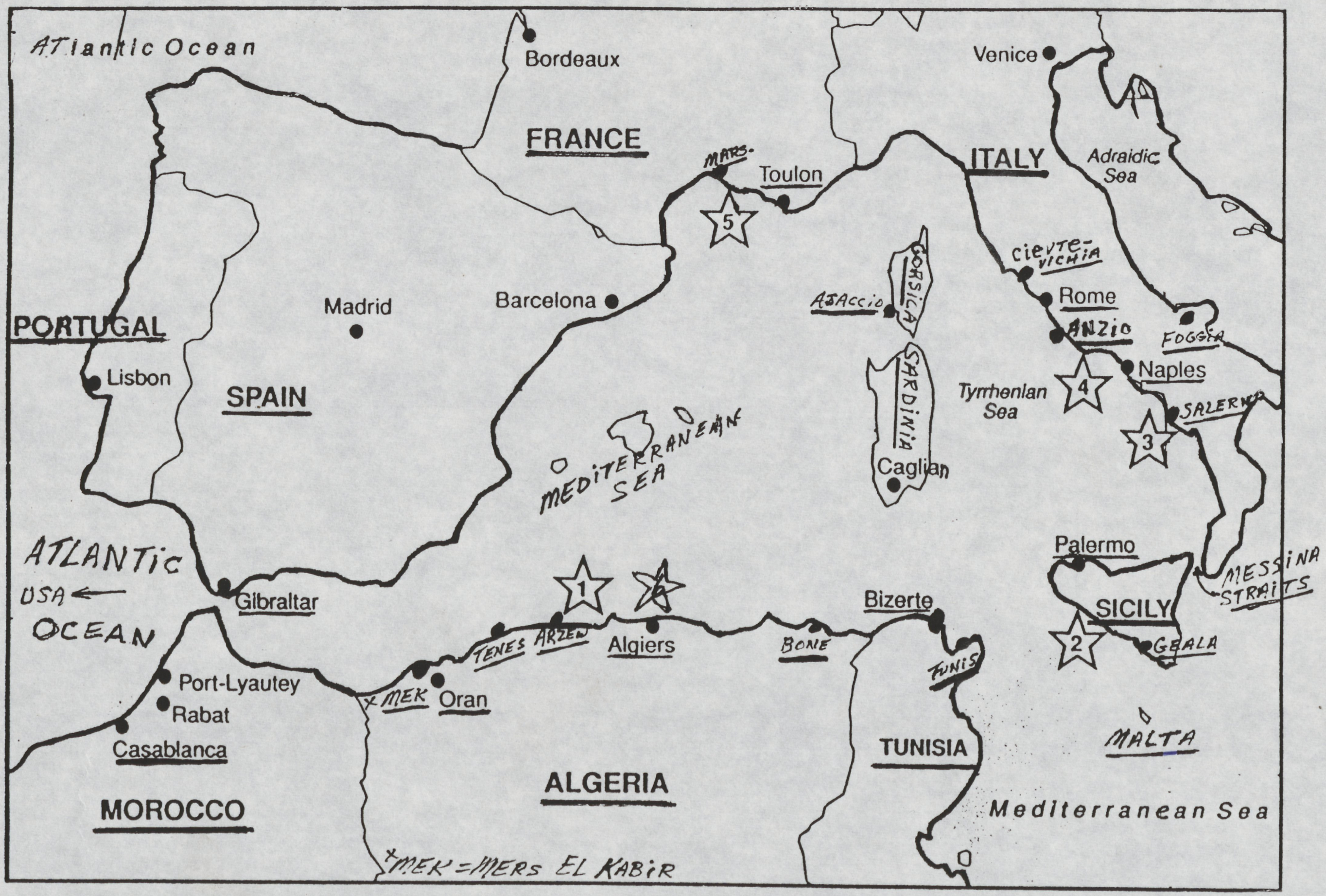


THE USS STEADY (AM 118) RECEIVED SIX BATTLE STARS FOR SERVICE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

1- Operation Torch in North Africa
2- Operation Husky in Sicily.
3- Operation Avalanche at Salerno.
4- Operation Shingle at Anzio.
5- Air raid on Convoy UGS-40, (5-11-44)
6- Operation Dragoon, Southern France.

Golfo di Gabes
Gerba
Zarzur
Agila
Homs
Cefara
Misurata
Mar
Tripoli
Tunisi
Malta
Sicilia
Trapani
Marsala
Pantelleria
Lampedusa
Linosa
Mare
Tirreno
Sardegna
Cagliari
Algheri
Sassari
Corsica
Bastia
Ajaccio
Bonifacio
Bona
Philippeville
Bougie
Biskra
Algeri
Blida
Orleansville
Tlemcen
Tlemsen
Oran
Mostaganem
Mascara
Tiaret
Mecheria
Aflou
Laghouat
Djelfa
Ain Sefra
Figuig
Colomb
Bechar
Gardaia
Ouargla
Touggourt
Biskra
Batna
Setif
Bougie
Gigelli
Bona
Tebessa
Souk Ahras
Guelma
Constantine
Algeri
Orleansville
Tiaret
Mascara
Tlemcen
Oran
Nemours
Casablanca
Rabat
Mazagan
Safi
Mogador
Agadir
Tarudant
Mogador
Tangeri
Tetuan
Alcazar
Fez
Mequinez
Rabat
Casablanca
Marrakech
Mogador
Agadir
Tarudant
Elarish
Algeciras
Gibraltar
Malaga
Almeria
Cartagena
Alicante
Murcia
Valencia
Denia
Alcoy
Xativa
Albacete
Cuenca
Toledo
Madrid
Guadalajara
Zaragoza
Huesca
Lerida
Tarragona
Barcelona
Tortosa
Castellon de la Plana
Teruel
Alcaniz
Caspe
Fraga
Balaguer
Tremp
Puigcerda
Andorra
Perpignan
Narbonne
Carcassonne
Toulouse
Montauban
Agen
Bordeaux
Biscaglia
Golfo di
Bilbao
San Sebastian
Irun
Bayonne
Pau
Tarbes
Lourdes
Oloron
Mauleon
Dax
Mont de Marsan
Arcachon
Soulac
Royan
Rochefort
La Rochelle
Fontenay
Les Sables d'Olonne
Nantes
Lorient
Brest
Quimper
Morlaix
Saint Brieuc
Saint Malo
Cherbourg
Caen
Dieppe
Le Havre
Rouen
Evreux
Dreux
Chartres
Orleans
Tours
Blois
Vendome
Le Mans
Alencon
Argentan
Falaise
Lisieux
Bernay
Evreux
Pontoise
Versailles
Paris
Meaux
Provins
Fontainebleau
Melun
Corbeil
Etampes
Dourdan
Rambouillet
Mantes
Evreux
Gisors
Beauvais
Compiegne
Soissons
Laon
Rheims
Chalons
Vitry
Bar le Duc
Commercy
Toul
Nancy
Luneville
Epinal
Remiremont
Belfort
Mulhouse
Colmar
Strasbourg
Saverne
Sarrebourg
Metz
Thionville
Longwy
Sedan
Mezieres
Charleville
Rethel
Laon
Soissons
Compiegne
Beauvais
Amiens
Abbeville
Boulogne
Calais
Dunkerque
Lille
Arras
Douai
Valenciennes
Cambrai
Bapaume
Peronne
Albert
Amiens
Montdidier
Noyon
Chauny
La Fere
Laon
Hirson
Rocroi
Givet
Fumay
Charleville
Sedan
Stenay
Montmedy
Verdun
Commercy
Bar le Duc
Ligny
Vaucouleurs
Neufchateau
Mirecourt
Epinal
Remiremont
Gerardmer
Saint Die
Schlestadt
Colmar
Ribeauville
Saint Dizier
Vitry le Francois
Chalons
Epernay
Reims
Soissons
Meaux
Paris
Versailles
Rambouillet
Dreux
Evreux
Lisieux
Falaise
Argentan
Alencon
Le Mans
Vendome
Blois
Orleans
Gien
Montargis
Fontainebleau
Melun
Corbeil
Etampes
Dourdan
Chartres
Nogent le Rotrou
Mortagne
Verneuil
Dreux
Mantes
Gisors
Beauvais
Compiegne

USS STEADY (AM 118) -(THE STACKLESS WONDER)

USS STEADY (AM 118) was one of eight Ravaln/Auk class fleet minesweepers completed during1942 by American Shipbuilding , Cleveland Ohio:

LORAINE YARD	CLEVELAND YARD
112 SEER	116 SPEED
113 SENTINEL	117 STRIVE
114 STAFF	118 STEADY
115 SKILL	119 SUSTAIN

Two hundred twenty feet, 1000 tons, four main engines, diesel electric drive. Capable of sweeping contact, acoustic, and magnetic mines and fitted with surface, antisubmarine, and antiaircraft detection equipment and weapons.

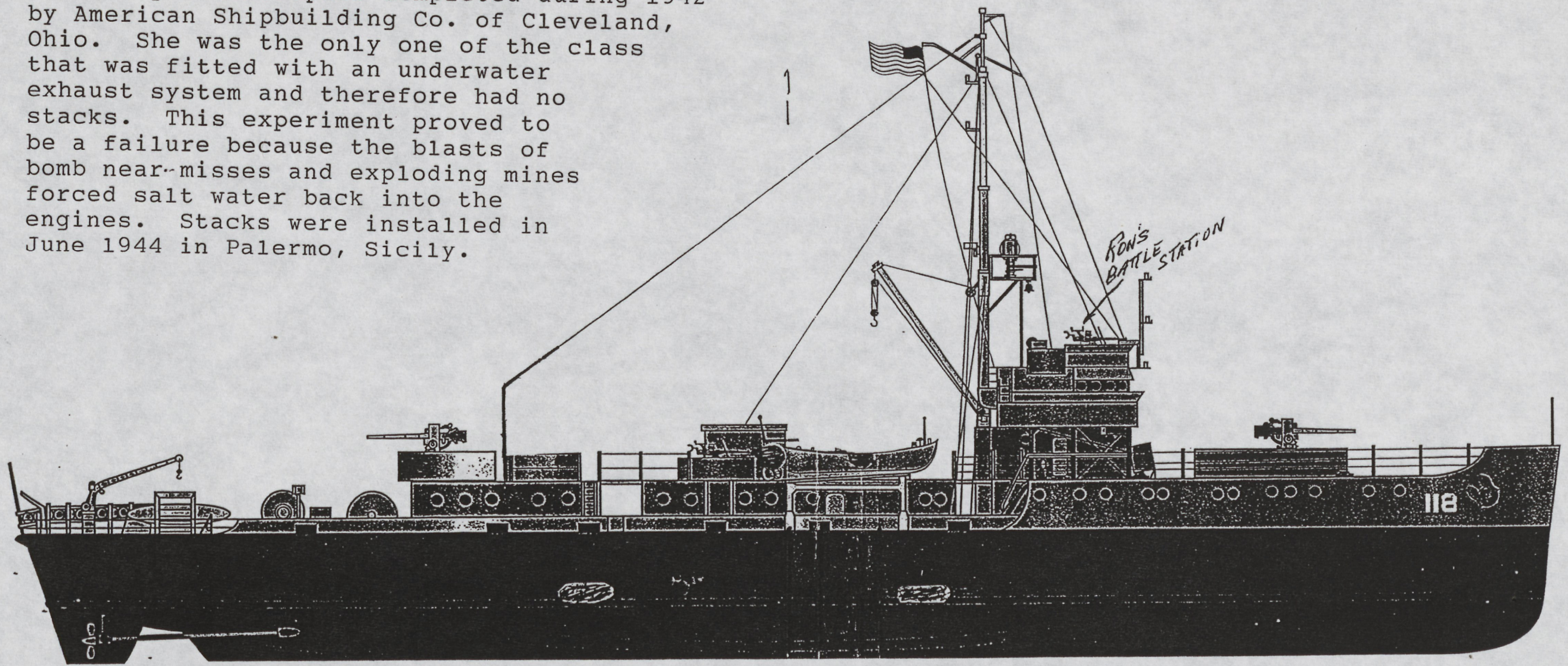
The basic Auk/Raven fleet minesweeper configuration included two stacks serving the forward and after engine rooms. **Steady**, however, was for some reason constructed with an underwater exhaust system?

All eight ships were completed about the same time and sailed overseas together escorting a convoy to North Africa in early 1943; and subsequently formed the "big guns" of the allied sweeper/escort group in the Mediterranaen.

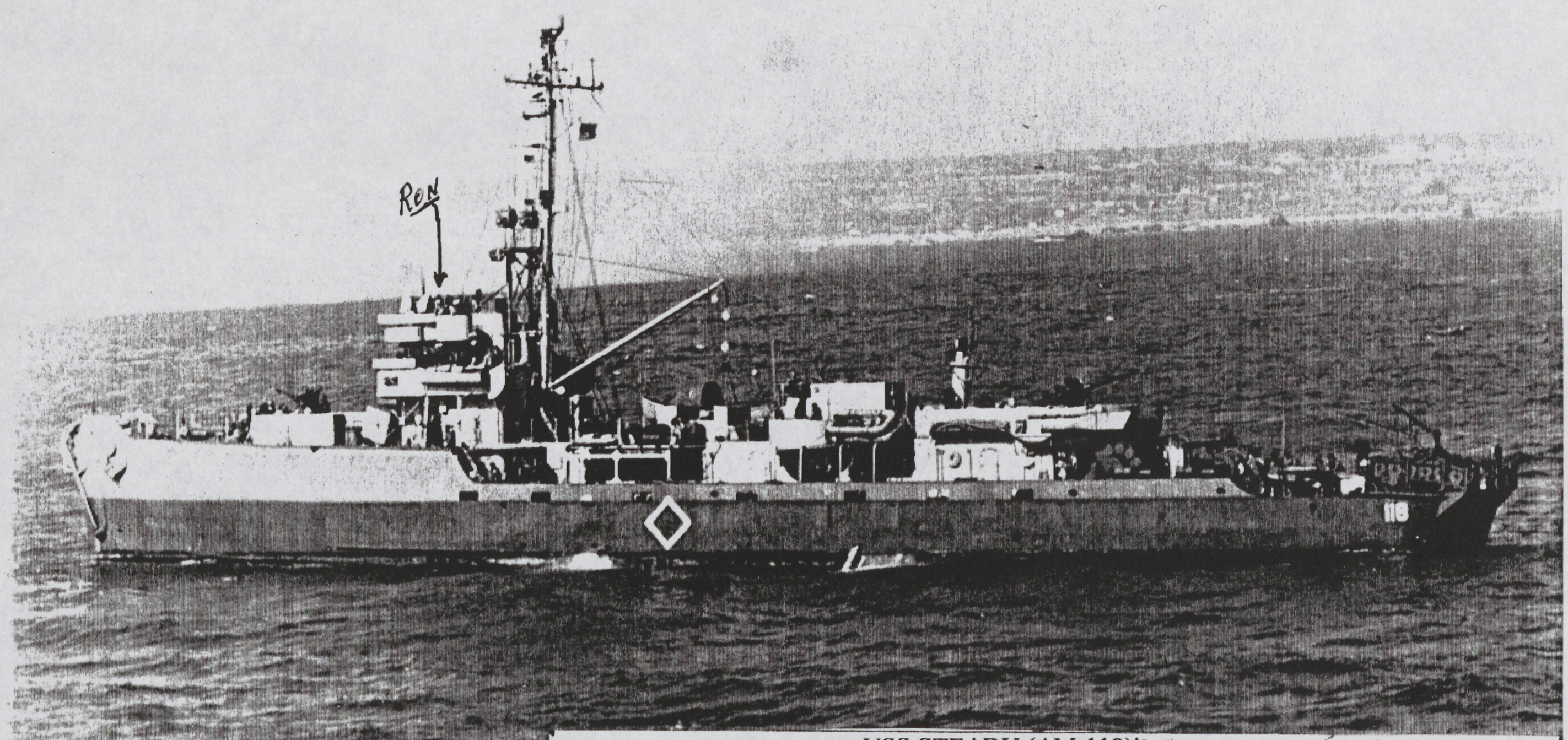
The Loraine yard ships made the worst of it - **SEER** was mined during the invasion of Southern France; **SENTINEL** was sunk by aircraft during the invasion of Sicily; **STAFF** was mined during the invasion of Sicily; and **SKILL** was sunk by torpedo during the invasion of Italy at Salerno. The Cleveland yard ships, although knocked about, never suffered major damage.
More importantly; since the engine exhausts were routed below the water surface there was a concern that the engines could be affected by concussion from underwater explosions; this concern was justified on July 26, 1943. While working up (termed end around) the west coast of Sicily and into the Gulf of Palermo ahead of General Patton's Army **STEADY** was subjected to a severe attack by German aircraft as outlined by enclosure (1); several bomb near misses did, infact, knock out two of the engines by reflecting the concussion back thru the exhaust. This action resulted in a return to the basic Auk/Raven class fleet minesweeper design and **STEADY** was retrofitted with stacks at the very place which proved the design fault - Palermo Sicily.

Photo shows **STEADY** lying off Gela beach during the invasion of Sicily. Action can be seen in the background and smoke off the bow. At the time of the photograph Vice Admiral Hewitt, the Naval Task Force Commander, and his staff which included LT Douglas Fairbanks Jr. USNR (of movie fame) came aboard to get a close in look at the invasion beaches - **STEADY** took the Admiral and his staff on a pretty good ride up and down the coast with several air attacks enroute. Note the lack of stacks and the port side exhausts at/below the waterline along with the acoustic "hammer" at the bow. When **STEADY** received her stacks in Palermo the hammer was relocated within the bow; a much better arrangement.

The USS STEADY (AM 118) was one of 8 Auk-Class Auxiliary Minesweepers completed during 1942 by American Shipbuilding Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. She was the only one of the class that was fitted with an underwater exhaust system and therefore had no stacks. This experiment proved to be a failure because the blasts of bomb near-misses and exploding mines forced salt water back into the engines. Stacks were installed in June 1944 in Palermo, Sicily.



KEEL LAID: December 1941
COMMISSIONED: November 16, 1942
DISPLACEMENT: 890 tons (1,250 tons full load)
LENGTH: 220 ft BEAM: 32 ft
PROPULSION: four main diesel-electric engines (2 shafts)
SPEED: 18 knots
SWEEP GEAR: (3 types) moored mines, magnetic and acoustic
ARMAMENT: (1942)- two 3" 50 cal. dual purpose guns; four 20 mm anti-aircraft; two 50 cal. machine guns; two 30 cal. machine guns; two stern depth charge racks; four depth charge K-guns and anti submarine Hedge-Hogs. (June 1944): The aft 3" gun was replaced with two 40mm anti-aircraft guns; two additional 20mm guns were added and the depth charges and racks were replaced with new tear-drop type.
COMPLEMENT: 96 enlisted men and 9 officers.



USS STEADY (AM-118)* I was on the flying bridge when this photo was taken according to my diary.

"Off Dime Beach", Gela Sicily July 11, 1943 - invasion in progress.

Standing by Command Ship, USS Ancon, from which this picture was taken, to take on VIPs for a close-in inspection of the main American landing beaches; "to hell and back"

- Vice Admiral Kent Hewitt US Navy
- Major General Keys US Army
- Major General Lucas US Army
- Brigadier General Wedemeyer US Army
- Captain Gerald Wright US Navy
- Lieutenant Griswold Royal Navy
- Captain Lowman US Army
- Lieutenant Douglas Fairbanks US Naval Reserve (of movie fame)

WORLD WAR II DIARY OF RONALD W.WALDBY
SEPT 1942--MARCH 1945

9-11-42 Enlisted in Navy in Detroit, Mi.

9-14-42 Began 4 wks. boot camp training at Camp Green Bay, Great Lakes, Ill.

10-14-42 Home on 9 days leave after finishing boot camp.

10-23-42 Back to Outgoing Unit for assignment. Spent 13 days in OGU (10 of it in K-P) Also took several apptitude tests.

11-9-42 Began 16 wks course in Gunner's Mate School.

3-1-43 Graduated from Gunner's Mate School. Received GM 3/c.

3-5-43 Home for 10 day leave.

3-13-43 Left home by train for trip to Norfolk, Va. for assignment.

3-15-43 Arrived Norfolk Receiving Sta. Brks #14 but left again at 4:30 PM for N.Y. In charge of a 6 man draft.

3-16-43 Arrived NY 6:50 AM & went to pier #92. At 5:00 PM went to Brooklyn Navy Yard and was assigned to the USS Steady (AM118).

3-19-43 Left NY 7:30 AM aboard the Steady and in a convoy of 44 ships. Destination unknown. Seasick.

3-21-43 3rd day out in the Atlantic- destination still unknown. Now I'm homesick, but not seasick.

3-23-43 Arrived Bermuda 8:30 PM. Have had 2 days of storms. It's getting dark so can't enter the Ber. Harbor. The convoy is put in formation to circle all night.

3-24-43 Just getting back to Ber. at 1:30 PM, and was 5:00 by the time we got all the ships in the harbor. No liberty tonight. Boy it's beautiful here with blue and green water, hillsides covered with green grass. I have 8-12 PM gangway watch.

3-25-43 Went to Hamilton, Bermuda on liberty from 1-6 PM. Rode bikes.

3-26-43 Still in Ber. Worked all day on 20mm guns.

3-27-43 Left Bermuda 8:00 AM. Going to Iceland, USA or Casablanca. Had gun practice at 1:00 PM.

3-28-43 It's my 21st birthday. Rough sea. Sighted and shot at a bouy. On our way to Casablanca.

3-29-43 I lost my new wrist watch down the toilet drain. Mad as Hell. Had 1st sub contact last night at 2:30.

3-30-43 Sea calm. At 5:00 PM washed dungarees and blue hat. Had gas mask drill at general quarters. Only have $1.18 left.

3-31-43 Saw a sub about 3 mi. back of us on radar. We are about 1800 mi. from Bermuda now.

4-1-43 April Fools Day. We're still floating along with the convoy. Washed my hair and cleaned up, ready to go on 12 noon watch.

4-2-43 Saw 2 big whales and had to back about 75 mi. to find a tug and a LST. Started back to rejoin convoy at 2:00 PM. Stormy.

4-3-43 Caught up with convoy at 5:00 AM. Storm about over. We took on fuel oil from a tanker on the fly. Changed course from SE to NE- we are in European waters. Time goes awful slow.

4-4-43 We dropped a depth charge on a sub last night and just finished replacing it. I'm going to sew up my life jacket. We are about ½ way to Casablanca. It's dark and stormy tonight. 12-4 watch.

4-5-43 12:15 PM. I just got off watch. The sun is out and it's getting warmer. Plan to shave and clean up. I've worn the same clothes for 10 days. Dropped 3 depth charges today. Haircuts are 25¢.

4-6-43 In a pack of subs. Had 3 sub calls last night. Spent all forenoon bringing 300# and 600# depth charges out of the hold. Look-outs saw a torpedo go past the bow end this AM.

4-7-43 Wed. Nice day, the ocean is smooth as glass. Saw a school of sharks in PM. We towed an LST all night to get her with convoy. There were US aircraft overhead all day.

4-8-43 Thurs. Sea a little rough. Dropped LST this AM. More aircraft overhead. We're about 750 mi. from Africa now.

4-9-43 Fri. Real chilly. Officers say there is possibly 50 German subs around this convoy. Expect enforcements from the air tomorrow.

4-10-43 Sat. Nice and warm again. I was issued a new jacket. Rumors now say we are going into the Mediterranean Sea to Oran. Hope not! Only about 275 mi. from Africa now. Towed another LST all day. Still no enforcements.

4-11-43 Sun. Quite windy and rough. Had GQ at 2 AM. Hunted for sub, but it was a couple of LCIs. Some English destroyers joined the convoy. Six Liberty ships left convoy to go to Casablanca. 85 others went on. Guess we are headed for Oran. Now are nearing the Straits of Gibraltar. Seeing fishing boats and gulls.

4-12-43 Mon. Noon. Still going through Straits. Seeing snow capped mts. Guess we're going to Oran, afraid we will be over here for sometime. I've been working on 3" guns all AM and 20mm guns all PM.

4-13-43 Tues. Arrived Oran 8:30 AM. What a place! Liberty was between White and me. I let him go as I only have 93¢. Would like to have liberty though before we leave here. Afraid we will be here in the Med. Sea for a long time; getting ready for an invasion. Army capt. says Rommel is about finished. High mts. are all around here. Awful queer people with clay and rock houses. We're about 200 mi. from the battlefront. In PM 4 of the AMs

docked side by side so I saw my friends Vitanis, Varga and Wallace. Looks like we will be here a few days. I left the ship toward evening and watched 22 transports unload soldiers. Alot of negroes. They are getting ready for a large invasion of Italy as Rommel is nearly finished. There is a big fort here full of German Soldiers. I sold my $3.95 knife for 500 francs ($10.00) to a 2nd Lt. Was going to charge $3.00. Have seen alot of Arabs. Sure getting near the war front. Airplanes are diving overhead, harbor is full of English, American and French ships— carriers, troopships, battleships, destroyers, sweepers hospital ships, cargo ships, tankers, LSTs and LCIs. Busy day!

4-14-43 Wed. Still in Oran. Worked all day on depth charge racks. I let Wallace take 500 francs for liberty.

4-15-43 Thurs. Worked all day on depth charge racks. Had liberty but traded for liberty on Sat. so I can go with Wallace. Went to the USS Delta and bought ice cream, candy and a new shirt.

4-16-43 Fri. Worked all day again on depth charge rack. Had gangway watch in PM 4:00-8:00. Got a typhus shot.

4-17-43 Sat. Worked in AM and went to Oran in PM with Vitanis. Borrowed $5.00 from the ship. Bought a few souvenirs. Movie at night was "Road to Singapore".

4-18-43 Sun. Worked in magazine in AM, Washed clothes and showered in PM. Saw movie at night. Rumor started that we will go back to states. Wrote letters at night.

4-19-43 Mon. Worked all day. Could have had liberty, but didn't take it. Wallace (AM119) & Vitanis (AM115) (The Sustain and Skill) left. Voldila (AM116-USS Speed) and Waid (117-Strive) pulled in here at night. Saw Voldila for awhile. Movie at night was "Immortal Sgt"

4-20-43 Tues. Took on 2 loads of supplies in AM. Left Oran at 11:00 AM. In an awful hurry to go out in the Med. to rescue survivors of a torpeodoed transport. Saw lots of oil on the water, life rafts and floating wreckage, but no survivors. Are now on patrol hunting subs. Don't know where we are going. Tired and sick. It's 10 o'clock PM.

4-21-43 Wed Still out to sea looking for survivors and subs. Pulled into Oran about 3:00 at a different harbor. Lots of torn up and sunken ships here. I'm still sick.

4-22-43 Thurs. Mom's birthday! Had 8-12 gangway watch last night and this AM Right now we are alongside an LST to refuel. May go back to the states soon. Hope so. Am going to write home tonight.

4-23-43 Fri. Worked all AM on hedge hogs. Left Oran at 1:00. Went east down the coast 30 mi. to a town called Arzew. (pop. 6000) Quite a few ships here. It's the most beautiful beach I've seen since leaving N.Y. The army is here. Jasper and I

walked around to look at tanks and army supplies. Had some vino we got from an arab.

4-24-43 Sat. Had high hopes of going back to the states, but guess not. Left Arzew this AM 7:00 with 6 LCIs going east along the African coast. Sure is beautiful- mts, green valleys with small beautiful towns every few miles. Arrived at Tenes with LCIs about 1930. Docked alongside of the USS Sustain. Walked around at night. We're about 100 mi. from Algiers.

4-25-43 Sun. Easter Sunday! 12-4 watch last night in port and am sure tired today. Have been cleaning all officers pistols. We're now heading back to Oran with the USS Sustain and 2 LSTs. Pulled in at Arzew again.

4-26-43 Mon. Left Arzew at 1000 and patrolled close to shore. Are screening for the army for practice landing. At night went down the coast for the landing. Lots of LCIs and LSTs and Ducks here. We are assigned to an amphibian force.

4-27-43 Tues. Still out screening, guess the practice invasion is over, so may go back in. Had a sub contact early this AM. A torpedo just missed us as it went passed the stern. I was on watch. It's raining hard and got awful wet at GQ at night.

4-28-43 Wed. Still out in the Med. just running around. Guess we're on patrol duty. Probably be out here all week. Had another sub contact last night. Ironed my whites and stowed in locker.

4-29-43 Thurs. Still at sea, doing nothing but go back and forth. Hope we go in soon. Getting darn sick of it. Painted signal projector.

4-30-43 Fri. Still on patrol in the Med. Rumors say that we may start back to the states Monday. Sure hope so. May go to Oran tomorrow. Got another typhus shot.

5-1-43 Sat. Still on patrol duty. Rained in the night. Caught a pigeon on the ship.

5-2-43 Sun. Had 8-12 watch this AM and it really poured. Our relief came out to relieve us, but we couldn't get into Oran so are still at sea. May go in this evening. Sure would like to go home.

5-3-43 Mon. Finally got into Oran last night about 1800. In same harbor as before. Rained all AM. I worked on stern racks and did laundry.

5-4-43 Tues. Still in Oran. Awful hot day. Worked on 20mms all day and burned my back. Had the 12-4 watch last night. Really tired tonight. Had liberty but did'nt go.

5-5-43 Wed. Still in Oran. worked all day bore sighting 20mms & 2-3" guns. Got sunburned again.

5-6-43 Up at 0400 and left Oran at 0530. A large convoy of LSTs also left for the east. Thought we might go too, but guess we will

patrol. A convoy of 50 ships pulled into Oran as we left. Officers said pay accounts arrived. Looks like a long stay over here. Gun practice in PM.

5-7-43 Fri. Looks like we are stuck on patrol duty again. It's very rough out here AM114 had a sub contact and dropped 3 depth charges. I*m getting damned sick of the navy.

5-8-43 Sat. 1730 and still out on patrol. Just finished chow. Food is getting d- poor and d- scarce. Saw a dead man in the water this PM and fish were eating on him. Also saw another life jacket. Would give almost anything to be home tonight. I've decided never to live near the water.

5-9-43 Sun. Was relieved from patrol duty by a couple of PCs. Pulled back into Oran and lo and behold we had mail. I got 11 letters. Also had 4 hrs. liberty in PM.

5-10-43 Mon. Still in Oran harbor. Worked all day on ready-lockers, pistols and 3" guns. Reread all of Phyl's letters and answered them. Sore wisdom tooth.

5-11-43 Tues. Still Oran. Worked all day on 20mms. Another large convoy came in. Nine large transports carrying 80,000 soldiers. Wayne may be on one.

5-12-43 Wed. Left Oran at 0630 for more patrol duty. Had to get up at 0030 last night and worked til 0330 this AM hauling supplies from the troop transport, Monticello. Food should be good again for a change. I ate 12 apples while working and stowed 10 in my locker. Can't help but feel that Wayne is here now.

5-13-43 Thurs. Still on patrol. Saw 2 large sea turtles this AM. I stenciled My blankets and hammock. Sure need a haircut.

5-14-43 Fri. Been having sub contacts all day. Four of us have been after him He goes deep and we lose him. Took shower and washed clothes this AM. We should go in this PM. Caught H- for leaving watch.

5-15-43 Sat. Still patrol. Have hunted 3 days for a crippled sub and can't find it. It's a beautiful day today. Saw 7 large whales this PM while on watch, we got close to them. We're also seeing lots of sea turtles, sharks and porpoise. Think we'll go into Oran tomorrow.

5-16-43 Sun. Calm and quiet. Pulled into Mers El Kabir about 5 PM and tied up beside the Strive. Mailman came with 8 sacks of mail. Everyone got some. I rec'd 29 letters and a picture of Phyl. Had the 4-8 watch.

5-17-43 Mon. Worked all forenoon on 20mms. Had liberty in PM. I went with Cadeaux. I traded a white hat for a red one with an Arab. We talked with soldiers from the front.

5-18-43 Moved ship to Oran Harbor. Worked all day on hedge-hogs. Finished reading my letters and answered them at night.

Sure is hot here. We saw alot of German prisoners headed for the States.

5-19-43 Wed. Pulled out of Oran at 7:00 AM to go out and sweep mines. Had gun practice in PM. 12:00 midnight-the sky was full of fire for hours and flaming barrage balloons fell near the ship. Thousands of dollars of ammo was shot. One ship was sunk in the harbor. Lasted 2 hours. 1st real action I've seen. We had 3 casualties aboard by flying shrapnel. Excitement

5-20-43 Thurs. Went back out this AM and swept all day. Was very busy all day after the raid last night. Back in Oran Harbor at night. 8-12 gangway watch. Another air raid at 2100.

5-21-43 Fri. Had 8-12 gangway watch in the AM. Didn't go to sea today. Had liberty in PM but didn't go as no money. Washed clothes and wrote to Phyl. Mansell was transferred. Am almost positive that we will be here a long time. Saw thousands of Italian & German soldiers and sailors at night as they came in by the ship loads.

5-22-43 Sat. Went out and swept mines all day, but came in at night. Walked around the docks at night and saw a movie on the ship.

5-23-43 Sun. A quiet Sunday in port. A big convoy of destroyers, cruisers and battleships came over today, so it won't be long now. I loafed around and got a haircut. It's now ½" long. Everyone got paid, but my accounts are lost so I didn't.

5-24-43 Mon. Left Oran early in AM and headed east, close to the African coast line. Borrowed some money from Jasper to pay up old debts Owe him $7.00. Pulled into Tenes at night-walked arnd dock.

5-25-43 Tues. Left Tenes early in AM and went out to patrol all day. I took out $5000 more insurance- now have $10,000 costing $6.50. Felt sick at night.

5-26-43 Wed. Patrolled all forenoon but pulled into Tenes at 3:00 PM. Had liberty-went with Jasper. Bought cards & cherries and we went through a school, also watched them butcher goats. Had about 30 kids following us.

5-27-43 Thurs. Back out to patrol in early AM. Stayed out all day & night. Gets d- tiresome.

5-28-43 Fri. Still on patrol. Guess we will go into Tenes in the AM. Am going to wash clothes and clean up as there will be Captains inspection tomorrow. Had gas attack drill at night. Wrote home

5-29-43 Sat. Pulled into Tenes in AM. Had Captain's inspection. Bought small stores in PM. Had mail & wrote home.

5-30-43 Sun. Pulled out of Tenes at 6:00 AM & started to Arzew with 3 LSTs and 3 LCIs. Went to Arzew and came right back to Tenes. Got here at night. Was so foggy we couldnt get into the harbor, so went to sea and circled all night.

5-31-43 Mon. At sea this AM, so swept for mines outside Tenes harbor until 3:00 PM and then went in. Wrote letters.

6-1-43 Tues In Tenes all day and worked on 20mms. Gangway watch in PM.

6-2-43 Wed. Still in Tenes. Worked on hedge-hogs in AM. Jasper and I left on liberty in PM from 1:00 to 6:00. Bought cards to send home and some apricots. Left Tenes at 7:00 PM and went to sea. Don't know where we are going.

6-3-43 Thurs. Pulled back into Tenes at 8:30 AM. Just went out to make water. I worked all AM and read all PM. Am miserable and homesick. We're just leaving Tenes again but will be in again in the morning.

6-4-43 Fri. Back in Tenes this AM at 8:30. Slept all AM. PM washed clothes and took shower.

6-5-43 Sat. Left Tenes 0800 and headed west to Oran. Arrived M.E.K. at 1700 at night. Boy it sure is packed with ships here. A huge convoy outside the harbor, ready to go back to the states. Looks like the English Navy here; carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers (everything from subs to carriers). The US has some cruisers and lots of destroyers here too. All 6 AMs are here together. Sure looks like plenty of action soon.

6-6-43 Sun. We stayed in harbor all day. Pulled alongside a tanker at night to refuel. Have 8-12 gangway watch tonight. A hell of a big battle fleet here and ready to leave.

6-7-43 Mon. Left Oran in AM with 4 other AMs went out & swept in formation all day. Back in harbor at 1800. Sick of loafing around.

6-8-43 Tues. Did same thing as yesterday. Back in at night. Saw movie- "Northwest Mounted Police".

6-9-43 Wed. Stayed in all day. Painted hedge-hogs and got 4 depth charges aboard and stowed away. Took shower at night.

6-10-43 Thurs. Left Oran in AM and went to Arzew to test our degauzing system. Stayed there 2 hours and then back to Oran. Had 12-4 watch.

6-11-43 Fri. Stayed in Oran all day. Pressed my blues ~~and~~ in AM. Liberty in PM. Spent 40 francs. Got ice cream (?) and a hanky for Phyl

6-12-43 Sat. Stayed in port all day. Painted all day except for one hour when I went with the Gunnery Officer to mail box. I got 4 letter

6-13-43 Sun. Still in port and worked all AM. In Pm I took shower, wrote home and rested. Sure is hot. Give alot to be home.

6-14-43 Mon. In Oran Harbor all day. Painted hedge-hogs. 4-8 Gangway watch.

6-15-43 Tues. Worked all AM on 20mms. Got paid at noon. I drew $330. (Feb. 22-June 15). Jasper and I had liberty in PM. Went to Oran and bought money orders for some of the fellows. I sent $300. home to Dad to bank for me. Paid Jasper 18.80 that I owed him. Bought P. some trinkets and now have $6.00 left. All my debts paid, don't owe a penny in the world.

6-16-43 Wed. Left Oran in AM and headed east with a Commander, Lt. and 3 other enlisted men aboard. Stopped at Arzew and picked up a convoy of LSTs. Now heading for Algiers. Sent money order hom

6-17-43 Thurs. Got into Algiers this AM 8:30. A large city with lots of war activity. Bombers flying all over and "dropping bombs"! Heard a German news broadcast this AM. Guess we'll be here for a day or two and pick up more tanks, trucks and troops. Lots of LCIs are with us, all loaded for invasion. This is the farthest east we have been ~~and~~ yet, only 125 mi. to Bizerte. Have my work caught up, so wrote letters home.

6-18-43 Fri. Still in Algiers harbor, tied alongside the USS Savanah (light cruiser). Painted all AM and a little this PM. At night showered and wrote letters. Am getting d- sick of this life. Went aboard the Savannah. Bought hair tonic there.

6-19-43 Sat. Left NY just 3 months ago today. Seems like a year. Still in Algiers. USS Sustain pulled in today. Saw Wallace this PM. Have 8-12 gangway watch this PM. Bought new clothes from the Savannah and nearly broke again. Haircut at night.

6-20-43 Sun Still in Algiers. Had 8-12 gangway watch in AM. Had all of my whites and dress blue jumper tailored by Cassidy. Had liberty in PM but didn't go. Washed clothes & cleaned up. Saw movie and wrote letters. Awful tired.

6-21-43 Mon. Worked all AM on 20mms Had special liberty in PM to go with Wallace. Went to town to meet him, but never found him. So one h- of a liberty. I did see a stage show at the Red Cross. While on liberty, the ship moved 3 mi. down the Harbor so 8 of us didn't find it until 1:15 AM. We signed in at the USS Savannah however, so are O.K. Had mail when I did get aboar

6-22-43 Tues. Stayed aboard and worked all day. Bought a couple of rating badges at the USS Barnett. We are tied alongside it. There are lots of transports packed with troops. We all had an air raid barrage this AM - thousands of dollars of ammo shot up in a few minutes.

6-23-43 Wed. Left Algiers about 10:00 AM and anchored in the harbor while a large convoy for the invasion came out and formed. Left Algiers in PM with over 100 ships- lots of destroyers, cruisers, 12 big transports loaded with troops, 35 or 40 LCIs loaded with troops, LSTs loaded with equipment and also PCs, SCs & tugs. Looks like the moment has finally arrived that we have waited over 3 months for. May have a couple of days of manuvers 1st. Can't send anymore mail and won't get any for a long time. Be darned glad when this is over.

6-24-43 Thurs. Had a practice invasion west of here that lasted all night. We swept in front of the fleet. We came back to Algiers this PM with the fleet. I wrote home at night. Invasion is not far off.

6-25-43 Fri. Slept all forenoon as had the 12-4 AM watch. In PM had liberty with Jasper and Richter. Ate supper in one of the restaurants, had spaghetti and egg omelet. Came back early as there was nothing to do.

6-26-43 Sat. Captains inspection in the AM. Washed clothes and wrote letters in PM. Still in Algiers waiting for the invasion to start. Had 2 air raids from 1 plane. I got 9 letters.

6-27-43 Sun. Took on fuel in AM. Again we're outside the harbor with the large invasion force. Hope this is really <u>it.</u>

6-28-43 Mon. Didnt go with convoy--we came back in the harbor. I worked all day and had 4-8 gangway.

6-29-43 Tues. We changed berths and are now alongside a supple ship. I went over and bummed some apples and oranges. Worked on the 20mms in AM. Had liberty in PM but didnt go- so washed clothes and wrote home. Transports are loading again.

6-30-43 Wed. Still in Algiers. Worked all day on 3" guns and taking ammo inventory. Got mail. It was 118° this PM.

7-1-43 Thurs. Left Algiers at 9:00 AM for Bizerte. It's about 400 mi. so probably won't get there for a day or two. Have radio equipment aboard. Not as hot today. One ship lost a pontoon, so we were held up all night.

7-2-43 Fri. We took lost pontoon in tow and continued on our way. This is an awful slow convoy-(6 knots). Prob. wont get there until tomorrow or even the next day. I'm getting sick of this life.

7-3-43 Sat. Still poking along toward Bizerte. Quite rough now. Got to B. about 9:30 PM and was getting dark so can't go in until morning. Even from out here one can tell this city has seen war.

7-4-43 Sun. What a h- of a way to spend the 4th. It's now 2:00 PM. We came into Bizerte Harbor about 8:00 this AM. The harbor is just the mouth of a river, which makes it a large one. The city has been nearly bombed and shelled out of existence. Dozens of ships are laying on the bottom of the harbor with just their stacks and masts showing. This place was really hit hard and is still being attacked several times a week. We are about 30 mi. from Tunis and about 85 mi from Italian held Sicily. I think we will be soon going on to Tunis. At 3:30 PM we got underway to go there and arrived at 9:30 PM. There are at least 200 landing craft anchored here. All are waiting for the invasion.

7-5-43 Mon. Stayed at Tunis and are outside the harbor with a big convoy. Ships have been refueling all day- getting ready to go. We painted a big white diamond on the sides of the ship to show what fleet we are in. The invasion will be within the week I'm sure Had 8-12 gangway.

7-6-43 Tues. Still in Tunis Harbor with the large invasion convoy. We gunners mates worked hard all day, getting ready for invasion. It's the hottest day I ever saw- a breeze is blowing from the desert. It's unbelievably hot! It was 118° and going up, but they covered the thermometer with wet rags. Our clothes are wringing wet all of the time.

7-7-43 Wed. Worked the hardest today that I have since coming on the ship. We hauled 20mm ammo all day, from the magazine to the clip-shack. Still plenty hot. All ships have a barrage balloon. Tomorrow is the big day I'm sure. Here's hoping we make it.

7-8-43 Thurs. Left Tunis this AM with over 100 LSTs, 1 English battleship, and a bunch of our destroyers. We're on our way for the invasio We will get to Malta tomorrow noon and then go on to Sicily tomorrow night. The Med. is full of our convoys now that are on their way to Sicily. We will sweep into the beach ahead of the landing crafts. Captain says our chances are 50-50. This ship is sure ready for it. No more washing or hot meals! All is secured.

7-9-43 Fri. The day is come at last! We are now on our way to Sicily with 2 large convoys. Got to Malta at 4:00 PM and we minesweepers (Sustain and Steady) went out in front and put out our gear at 8:00 PM. We swept a path into within 4 mi. of the coast off Geala, a town on the SE corner of Sicily. Right behind us, abt 5 mi. back were 2 cruisers (Savannah and Boise), 15 or 20 destroyers, 18 transports, 100s of LSTs and LCIs . We stood at GQ all night. At 10:30 PM there were 6,000 paratroopers landed behing the German defense line. Airplanes were bombing and our big ships were shelling from the sea. It lasted all night long and I shall never see such a sight again! Huge fires were started. Flares, bombing and gun fire all night long. One of our sister ships, the Sentinel (AM 113) was sunk and lost 87 persons.

7-10-43 Sat. Dawn found us this AM at battle stations, as we have been all night. Great fires are burning on the beach, but our air force has left the area. During the night the huge fleet has moved in and are lined up along the coast, just a mile or two from land. As it got lighter the German and Italian planes came over and we all opened fire. Shooting thousands of dollars wort of ammo. We knocked down a few, but they bombed a couple of LSTs and a transport. The transport was saved, however. Our troops started to unload on the beach from LCIs, Barges & from the transports, but ran into German Mark V tanks- waiting for them. The cruisers are starting to hold the tanks back

however, with their constant gunfire. It's 1400 and I am tired, but can't sleep because of constant air raids. This was the toughest point of the invasion and we are getting lots of opposition. Our troops can't make headway and planes are bombing our ships constantly. We lost our minesweeping gear as we came in last night, when the cruiser Savannah ran into it and cut it loose. Now we are going to take a few LCIs and LSTs down the beach aways so they can unload and come in behind the German Tanks.

7-11-43 Sun. Still at the scene of the invasion. The USS Steady had a big day today, as it was chosen to ferry some VIPS close along the invasion beaches for observation. We picked up Vice Admiral Hewett, Major General Keyes, Major General Lucas, Brig. General Wedemeyer, Capt. Wright (USN), Lt. Griswold (RN), Capt. Louenon (USA), and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. (USNR) the movie star. We had them aboard all day long and went to many different invasion points for observation. They took alot of notes and photos. The Steady had her picture taken by Navy Photographers as we lay alongside the Command Ship, waiting to take aboard our passengers. I was on the flying bridge when the picture was taken. This has been the worst day yet for air raids and we have really seen action. Have been at GQ station all day. I think we get credit for one plane as Admiral Hewitt thinks we hit it. Several ships have been bombed today and some are burning. One was a munition Liberty Ship that blew up with a terrific explosion that threw large pieces of shrapnel all over the area and it burned for hours as did the oil on the water Reports say that many of our troops on shore are being killed and making slow headway. The gunnery officer complimented me for fixing a 20mm gun during one of the air raids.

7-12-43 Had the worst air raid last night that we have had yet. German Stuka Bombers were flying very low and bombing all over the Harbor. We were in the midst of alot of transports and bombs fell very close to us. They dropped flares to see <u>us</u> but we couldn't see them until they came roaring down on us. One nearly hit us as he was so low. His bombs threw spray all over the ship. I was up all night loading 20mm magazines. We shot up 16 boxes. We have had to work all day today bringing up ammo and cleaning the guns. Today it has been fairly quiet. There have been a few raids though, and we shot down some of the German bombers. They came flaming down and crashed on the beach. What a sight! We're nearly out of 20mm ammo. Would sure like to go home.

7-13-43 Had one air raid in the night, but only lasted 15 minutes. Today we have been patroling up and down the coast. Most of the ships have left now. Only a few liberty ships, cruisers, destroyers and us are left here. We have had 4 raids today and are getting d- short of 20mm ammo. I shaved and showered and sure needed it. The US Air Force has taken over a large airfield so the raids should be less frequent. Glad this invasion is over!

7-14-43 We are laying off the beach now at anchor. The Cruiser USS Brooklyn ran into one of our own mine fields this AM and

was damaged pretty bad. Cleaned German rifles all AM. We went out to one of our mine fields at night to pick up mines which had been cut loose to get the Brooklyn out.

7-15-43 Thurs. Was in the mine field all night and hunting mines. We finally found 5 of them this AM and exploded them. We then came back to Geala and are again anchored about a mi. off the coast. There are alot of liberty ships here now unloading. Guess we've really got a foothold now.

7-16-43 Fri. Air raid last night at midnight. One German Plane was shot down and crashed about 50 yds from us. It exploded and gasoline spread all over the water and burned. Today has been quiet and we haven't done a thing. Still off the coast of Geala. The USS Staff (AM 114) hit a mine last night and lost a bunch of men. She was towed in and beached before she sank. That makes 2 of our 6 that are gone. Hospital Ships were here today looking for wounded. A YMS brought us mail from Africa. I got 2 from Phyl.

7-17-43 Sat. Still at anchor off the coast of Sicily. I worked all AM making a thing to load 20mm magazines. Took shower, changed clothes and got a haircut in PM. We left at 8:00 PM- went out a few miles to patrol around minefields. How I'd like to be home, helping in the Meat Market. Still cant write letters.

7-18-43 Sun. Back into Geala this AM and anchored all day. Didn't do much but stand watch and write letters, but wont leave ship for several days. Left Geala at 7:00 PM to patrol all night. Jasper was transferred to the engine room so I'm alone on the flying bridge. Hate this d- life.

7-19-43 Mon. Came in and anchored off Geala. Stayed all day, but left at night to go out and patrol.

7-20-43 Tues. Came in from sweeping at 1:00 PM. Davis and I cleaned 20mm guns in the forenoon. I cleaned my locker and wrote letters in the PM. Awful hot! We are refueling.

7-21-43 Wed. Anchored off Geala all day. I had 12-4 watch in Pm and really sunburned my legs. Patrol duty at night.

7-22-43 Thurs. We really had a close call early this AM. We were Patroling and at 3:45 a German Dive Bomber came over and dropped a bomb which just missed us by about 50 feet. The concussion stopped all engines and threw many men out of their bunks. We had GQ but he never came back. It was our closest call yet. God must be with us. Went back into Geala at 1400 after sweeping all AM.

7-23-43 Fri. Anchored off Geala all day working on the engines. Nothing happened of importance. I had my dress blue jumper tailored to fit and bought new low dress shoes from ships service. But left them there until we go back to the states.

7-24-43 Sat. We left Geala this AM with AMs 115;116; 117. Also 8 YMSs, 5 destroyers and several subchasers. We are going up to NW Sicily to newly captured Palermo which is the capitol City. Guess we'll have lots of sweeping to do there, and a new invasio: It's kind of rainy.

7-25-43 Sun. Arrived Palermo at 3:30 PM and began sweeping right away. Guess we are all done sweeping here and are now on patrol duty. This AM one of the destroyers stopped an old fishing boat and found German Officers aboard who were trying to make a get away. They took them prisoners and we sunk the ship loaded with guns, ammo and lots of stores. One of our seaman fell over the side today, but we got him before he went down. Saw 2 bodies in the water today. Wrote letters at night.

7-26-43 Mon Worst day of my life! We had a bombing attack this AM while sweeping. Large 2 motored Junker 88 Bombers from Naples made a raid on us about 10:00 AM. There were 15 of them and only 6 of us ships were out. Bombs were falling all around, just missing us and 2 of our 20mms jammed. Our Gunnery Officer, Mr. Sayre was hit by a bomb fragment and got a bad wound in his side. Fragments also hit the ship in many places and it was covered with muddy water and holes. They made a direct hit on one destroyer- killing 18 men and wounding many more. It nearly sank but they unloaded everything and were able to tow it into Palermo. What a day--everyone scared to death and nervous. Had GQ about 7 times during the day. Will prob. catch H- again tonight and tomorrow.

7-27-43 Tues. Wasn't so bad last night, as it was awful dark. Some planes came over but couldnt find their targets. The destroyers did lots of firing. We are only 18 mi. from the fighting front. There was terrific fighting there all night. The sky was lit up all of the time. The Germans are trying an invasion behind our lines.

7-28-43 Wed. Swept for mines all day. Have got to go over one channel 16 times into the Palermo harbor. We got here even before our army. Army transports are coming in now.

7-29-43 Thurs. Still sweeping in the same channel. In PM we went into the Harbor and tied up, as we asked for 48 hours to fix our engines that were damaged in the bombing attack. This city has sure been bombed by us; not a building left standing near the harbor. There are sunken ships all over. A few LSTs and LCIs came in too. We're now all set to go on east to the Messina Straits. This city is the Capital of Sicily and had a population of 45,000 before the war. It's very pretty where not bombed. The USS Skill came in and tied up by us. 1st time I have seen Vitanis in over 2 months. Mr. Sayre said we may get relieved in a month or so- I sure as H- hope so.

7 -30-43 The USS Speed (AM 116) came in last night and tied alongside us So Vodila, Vitanis and I sat up half the night talking over our school days. They both left this AM to go out and patrol, but we are still in Palermo fixing our engines. Could go on the

beach and get lots of German and Italian equipment, but have no place to stow it on board. Havent been on land in over a month. Some mail left the ship today, going back to Africa.

7-31-43 In Palermo Harbor all day. A bunch of liberty ships and 5 large transports came in, so we will prob catch h- tonight. They say we are going back to Africa in a day or so, but wont stay very long.

8-1-43 Sun. What a h- of a raid we had this AM. The Germans came in about 4:00 AM and WHAT A RAID! It lasted until late dawn. The whole Harbor was flaming as one ship after another was hit. Liberty Ships carrying ammo and oil were hit and when they blew up they threw debris all over the whole harbor. The USS Skill was hit by a bomb and tore a big hole in her side. It was tied by us. We untied from the dock to drift away from an oil tanker and a liberty ship on the other side, carrying gas, bombs and mustard gas. Only 3 planes were shot down and one of them crashed very close. We were at GQ most all day and we gunners mates carried up 60 extra rounds of 3" ammo. At night we got underway with 2 French Freighters - to take them to Bizerte, but we'll come right back after we have fueled. God how I'd love to be home.

8-2-43 Mon. On the way to Bizerte with the 2 French Freighters. We're going after fuel, ammo and supplies. Will get there early in the AM. We brought up more3" ammo this AM. We have no water and am I ever dirty. All I want is to go home.

8-3-43 Tues. Got into Bizerte at 7:00 AM. Worked hard all day refueling and taking on ammo and supplies. We are also taking ammo and supplie back to Palermo for all AMs and YMSs. Worked the hardest today that I have since coming in the Navy. Lots of mail tonight- I received 32 letters.

8-4-43 Wed. Still in Bizerte. Went into town and saw the most wrecked place in the world. Went all over the place. Helped go for stores in PM to a big storehouse. 4-8 gangway at night. Wrote letters.

8-5-43 Thurs. At 11:00 AM left Bizerte and started back to Palermo with the USS Biscayne (command ship) and a PC. We picked up a convoy of LSTs. Everyone is scared to death of another air raid— including me. Heard there were more AMs in Algiers that just came over.

8-6-43 Fri. 10:00 AM, still on way to Palermo with convoy of LSTs. Got there at 18:00 ~~AM~~. Just a few miles off the coast of Sicily we had a sub contact and dropped 4 depth charges. Don't know if we got the sub or not. No air raids all night.

8-7-43 Sat. At anchor, just outside the Palermo Harbor. Worked all day unloading supplies and ammo to other ships. Prob will have an air raid tonight.

8-8-43 Sun. No raid again last night, thank God. We saw 140 of our big bombers heading for the Messina Straits, however. We swept

the channel again this AM for about 4 hrs. Worked all PM replacing the depth charges that we fired the other day. Sure is a lonesome ole Sunday. Would like to be home going on a steak roast. Wrote V-mail letter to Phyl.

8-9-43 Mon. Went out and swept the channel again, leading into Palermo Harbor. In P.M. we went on patrol duty a few miles out- taking the place of a destroyer that got sunk.

8-10-43 Tues. Stayed at anchor in the AM off Palermo. In PM we patroled a few miles off from the beach. Guess we will go to Messina Straits in a few days.

8-11-43 Wed. Still on patrol off Palermo. Wrote letters.

8-12-43 Thurs. Still on patrol off Palermo. Guess we are stuck here for awhile. We all dread the next invasion. Was relieved from patrol and at 8:00 PM went into the harbor and anchored.

8-13-43 Fri. At anchor in the harbor most all day. Had locker inspection in PM. Refueled from an English tanker and anchored again outside the harbor.

8-14-43 Sat. Anchored off Palermo all day. Mr Sayre says we start for home next week. Tobin is mad at me for taking 2 vienna sausages. I got 14 letters and a swell package today.

8-15-43 Sun. 8:00 AM. I have lots of letter writing to do today. Was planning to attend church in one of the big churches in Palermo today— But had to go out sweeping so couldn't go. Most of the things in my box from home are gone already.

8-16-43 Mon. Still at Palermo. Nothing of importance happened all day. I've been working, standing watch and hoping to start for home soo

8-17-43 Tues. Still at Palermo, just working but dont know for what. A large squadron of bombers are going over all of the time on the way to Naples.

8-18-43 Wed. We finally have taken Messina so that means more work for us. Hope not. Didnt do much today- took shower and washed clothes.

8-19-43 Thurs. We and the USS Strive are still at Palermo. All of the others are back in Africa. Got my hair cut and wrote letters. We are bombing Italy day and night. This should be over by Xmas. The Strive has left for Africa. We're on patrol.

8-20-43 Fri. Still on patrol in AM. About 1500 though, we left for Licarda with 5 empty LSTs to pick up prisoners of war. We will then take them to Bizerte. Plenty of talk that we are done here and will go to the states soon. Sure hope so.

8-21-43 Sat. 0800 and are on way to Licarda with the LSTs. It was foggy early this AM and I had to stand the focstle watch from 0400-0600. Think we will go to Oran from Bizerte to pick up a convoy for the States. Lots of betting going on- I'm broke.

2200- got to Licarda but had to go back up the coast a few mi. with 2 LSTs to a city called Empidocle. Here we have to fill the 2 LSTs with army engineering equipment and take a Liberty Ship. We start again for Licarda at 0100.

8-22-43 Sun. Got to Licarda this AM and joined the other LSTs and are now on way to Bizerte. What happens from there is questionable. May go to the States or may patch up for another invasion.

8-23-43 Mon Got to Bizerte 0800. Never saw so many ships at one time in my life. Must be nearly 2000 here of all kinds and nations. Tied up at a dock and took on a few supplies and some stuff we have to take to Oran. Saw Don York at night and took him all around the ship. We're all praying to head for the States.

8-24-43 Tues. Still in Bizerte at anchor in the harbor. Took on more supplies. GMs painted both 3" guns. Hopes of going to the States are about shot. But we are going to Oran- another invasion is about ready and we will be in it. Had a red alert today.

8-25-43 Wed Left Bizerte at noon. Went out in the harbor and tied up alongside the USS Speed. Then left there at 1300 for Oran alone at 15 knots. Have 12 passengers aboard who are going to the States from Oran. Have our fingers crossed.

8-26 -43 Thurs. Still on way to Oran at 15 knots. Should get there at midnight. Everyone has high hopes of going to the states.

8-27-43 Fri. Got into Oran about 0100 and anchored out until daylight. Then went in to MEK. Lots of liberty ships, large transports and a couple of cruisers here. Get paid tomorrow.

8-28-43 Sat. Still in MEK. Was paid $173.00 this AM. Pays to Aug. 15th. I paid Jasper $14.00, Richter $6 .50 and will send home $100.00. A commander is on board to inspect the ship to see if we are prepared for more duty.

8-29-43 Sun. 1600 wrote letters. Didnt do much all day. Had 12-4 gangway and again tonight. There are about 18 big transports and 3 cruisers here now. Another invasion soon.

8-30-43 Mon. Slept most of AM as had 12-4 watch. In PM Jasper and I had liberty in Oran. Bought stamps and were all stuck together when I got back to the ship. Had a glass of beer at Joe's place Had no food all day. 2 new AMs here now.

8-31-43 Tues. Bad day for me. I felt low until tonight when mail came aboard. Am worried about this invasion- have heard some pretty bad news. But maybe our luck is good for another one. Got 2 fifty Cal. machine guns aboard today and mounted them on the fan tail. More head aches for us GMs. Got alot of mail aboard too. I got alot- 22 letters and made me feel better. It is now 1930 and I"m on the flying bridge with all my gear to write letters.

9-1-43 Wed. In MEK all AM. I painted hatch to depth charge magazine. At noon we went out with 5 other sweepers to practice sweeping for the coming invasion of France, Italy or Crete.

9-2-43 Thurs. Stayed out all night to sweep in formation after dark. Came back into MEK at noon. In PM I had SP duty in Oran. A large convoy of troops, nurses and WACs came in from the States so I was stationed at the main dock gates while they were unloading There were 15 transports carrying 8000 troops each. At 2000 I was taken all over Oran in a SP truck to pick up all men out after curfew. Was taken back to MEK by the SP at 2300 to find that the ship was out on patrol. So I went aboard the USS Boise and spent the night. Shore Patrol is lots of fun, but tiresome.

9-3-43 Fri. Ship came in early this AM and I'm now aboard. Amphibious Transports are loading today, so think we'll be on our way soon. I plan to write letters this PM as may be the last chance to mail for some time.

9-4-43 Sat. A new book and a new adventure. Had gangway this AM. In PM had liberty and went to Oran with Cadieux. We walked around town and came back to the ship early. Mail had come aboard and I got 6 letters. All the big transports are loaded and ready to go. They have loading night and day.. Had red alert at night.

9-5-43 Sun. Worked on depth charges and 50 Cal. machine guns all AM. After our noon meal we were called to quarters and the Captain explained our jobs for the coming invasion. All of the transports (15) 3 cruisers, 1 carrier and 8 of us mine sweepers left port. The invasion is to be somewhere in Italy, and it's going to be just one big landing. All 8 sweepers will go in at one point 5 hours ahead of the rest. Would like to write some letters home- but no can do. It is now 1700 and we are off for another invasion, Quite a fleet of ships but no LSTs as yet. I'm going to pack my money, pictures and money order slip in a watertight container.

9-6-43 Mon. Are on our way to Italy with a large convoy of transports, cruisers and destroyers. Another convoy is to join us at Algiers. Kinda sick all day and want to get this d- invasion over! Expect air attacks any time.

9-7-43 Tues. 2000. Just left Tunis and are now on our way to Sicily. Then on to Salerna, Italy. Now we have 25 lg. transports, LSTs, cruisers and destroyers, besides us 8 mine sweepers. The invasion is early Thurs. AM and will be a big one. We must really roll along tonight and tomorrow to get there on time. We are to have lots of air protection and I sure hope we do. I am carrying another notebook on my person for notes.

9-8-43 Wed. 0800. Still on the way to Italy with large invasion convoy. Are now just off the coast of Palermo, Sicily.
2000- 8 of us mine sweepers left the convoy at night and proceeded on to Salerno at 18 knots. So we can get there and get the sweeping done before the transports arrive. We had several GQs in the PM as air craft came over. We just heard of Italy's surrender and all went wild. But the Captain said it will still be a difficult invasion. At 2000 was 30 miles from Italy and 10 from the Isle of Capri. Put out our sweeping gear and proceeded into the Gulf of Salerno under darkness and met our sub 3½ mi. off shore. We then started sweeping for the transport area,

but got no mines. About midnight the convoy came in and the English landed a few miles to the north. Our air force was bombing the beach and the Germans were bombing the English invasion fleet. Lots of flares and fireworks. We were at GQ all night patroling and watch the raids. None of our troops could get ashore because the mines prevented the transports from getting close enough to the beach.

9-9-43 Thurs. Day break found over 200 ships off the coast of Salerno, Italy. There were troop transports, LSTs, LCIs, liberty ships, cruisers, carriers, destroyers, mine sweepers, PCs and SCs. The Germans were certainly ready for an invasion here. Large shore batteries all around and mines were really thick. Our LSTs would go into the beach to unload but the shore batteries would open up on them. Very little was unloaded all day long. Looks like they want to get a crack at us tonight with bombs. We swept all day and together got over 60 mines. God was again with us at evening when we were bringing in our gear. The cutter was about 25 ft from the ship and we found we had a mine caught on it. It exploded right away and lifted the ship right out of the water. In another minute possibly half of the crew could have been killed. It bent the screws and wrecked the sweeping gear, but no one was badly hurt. The Captain said it is the first time he has heard of that happening. WE've had alot of dive bombing attacks all day and probably will catch h- tonight as the moon is very bright. We have to patrol all night around the troop transports.

9-10-43 Fri. Up most all night with air raids. Had 8-12 watch. 1st raid was about 2300- the G's sent over about 30 bombers. It was really hot for over an hour. They lit the place up with flares (1000 candle power). They hit one LST that was very close to us. Next raid was 0300- but only dropped flares as couldn't find targets.There was another bad raid at 0500, but the moon was down so they had a hard time of it. I'm really a nervous wreck again. All day today we have been sweeping again with magnetic gear. Swept all day around the transports and a main channel for convoys to come in. Transports and LSTs have been unloading all day using the passage that we swept yesterday. Most of our equipment and troops are ashore now and the shore guns have been silenced. Dive bombers sneaked in this AM and bombed a concentration of our troops on the beach. Guess we finally have a beach-head now. But will catch h- again tonight. The Germans are pouring troops down here but guess we can drive them back. It's now 1700- think I will eat chow and sleep before raids start.

9-11-43 Sat. One year ago today I joined the Navy. A d- long year too. Had 2 raids last night. They really came close but didn't get us. Hope our luck continues. 2100- this has been the worst day yet for air raids. A bunch of liberty ships came in this AM and they have tried 9 times to get them. We saw lots of dog fights overhead and enemy planes shot down. Been at GQs most all day. A high altitude bomber dropped 3 bombs and hit the USS Savanah- they were direct hits. Many men were killed. We have to patrol around the liberty ships tonight- so expect a hot time.

9-12-43 Had just one raid last night but it was a bad one. They dropped

about 50 flares and lit the place up like day. But destroyers had laid a smoke screen around our ships so they didn't get any. Today we have had quite a few raids. During one raid we were tied alongside 2 LSTs getting fuel. Never wanted to get away from a place as I did there. At 1600 3 of us AMs & 3 YMSs started for Termini, Sicily with a convoy of 23 LSTs going there to be loaded. Will sure be a relief to get away from here for a day or so, but will come right back. The moon is now full and up all night so it is d- bad.

9-13-43 Mon. 6 months ago today I left home and Phyl. Seems like at least 2 years. Got to Termini 1100. Left half of the LSTs there and went on to Palermo with the rest. Wrote to Mom and Phyl. At Palermo we took on fuel and then went out in the harbor to anchor. Movie aboard at night was "The Crystal Ball".

9-14-43 Tues. Left Palermo at 0600 and went back to Termini where we patroled until 1400. We then started back to Salerno with 9 LSTs and 3 LCIs. Had 2 GQs in the night when planes came over but they didnt attack.

9-15-43 Wed. Into Salerno this AM at 8:00 and had a bad air raid. 2 liberty ships were burning and 1 LCT was hit. It was loaded with ammo. Escorted our LSTs to the unloading beach- then went on patrol duty around the transport area. Our troops on the beach are really taking a beating. 5 or 6 convoys of LSTs are coming in every day now. They are running a regular ferry service between here and Sicily. The British 8th army is about 80 miles away. Wish they would hurry and get here. We are really getting it here. During the day we had about 15 GQs. Two English battleships came in today to shell the beach and large formations of bombers went over all day to bomb the enemy troops. This is the worst war zone we have been in yet. Heavy gunfire, explosions and air raids are continuous. Sure dread tonight with the full moon.

9-16-43 Thurs. Had 3 air raids last night- we were attacked by dive bombers. (glad I had my rabbits'foot) as we came through OK. We have had raids and been at battlestation all day. Everyone is dead tired and can hardly stand up. Quite a few enemy planes were shot down today, but they bombed some ships and troops. One of the English Battleships was bombed and had to be towed out by a couple of tugs. 8th army is only 18 miles away now. We should get a convoy to Sicily today or tomorrow. SURE HOPE SO!

9-17-43 Fri. Still patroling around ships as they unload. Could have taken a convoy to Sicily but one engine is out so didn't get it. Bad luck! Real bad raids all night last night so no sleep again. Alot of damage was done but none came close to us. Our army is doing better now as the British 8th has joined them. Hope we will get a convoy out today so we can get some rest. Mr. Sayre says it will be at least Dec. before we can go home. I'm pretty discouraged. 2100- GQs all day long and no convoy out as our engine is still out. Another miserable night here.

9-18-43 Sat. Three bad raids last night again. Never was so tired of any-place in my life as I am of this place. Everyone is dead tired.

2000- got our engine fixed now so may get a convoy soon. A German plane was shot down this evening and it lit very close to us. Wish I was home working in the store.

9-19-43 Sun. Still patroling the transport area. Air raids are now less frequent as we have taken a couple of air fields and have more air power. Didn't do much all day but kept wishing for home- like everyone else.

9-20-43 Mon. At last we have a convoy to take to Bizerte. This morning while still on patrol we had a sub contact and let go 4 depth charges. At 1000 we went into the beach area close to LSTs & liberty ships to get our convoy orders. Saw many sunken ships and floating, charred bodies. We got a convoy of 8 LSTs and got underway for Bizerte. I wrote an 8 page letter to the folks and a 10 page one to Phyl. They will be mailed in Africa. Sure seems good to get away from the front.

9-21-43 Tues. Enroute to Bizerte with 8 LSTs. Cleaned up and washed clothes in the AM. Wrote a few letters at night.

9-22-43 Wed. Got into Bizerte at 0900. Worked all day on depth charges and got 8 more aboard. No mail and none written as to tired tonight

9-23-43 Thurs. Still at Bizerte. Wored on depth charges and 20mm guns. Wrote to Mom at noon. Bought a suit of officers khaki clothes for $5. Went out and anchored in the Bay at night.

9-24-43 Fri. Still at anchor in Bizerte. Worked all AM on look-out seats. Had 12-4 gangway. Cleaned out locker and wrote letter at night.

9-25-43 Sat. Still in Bizerte. Slept all AM as had the 12-4 last night. In PM went to Bizerte Red Cross and read magazines. Back to ship at 1500. At night I pressed all my whites and saw a movie. Can't even guess where we are going next.

9-26-43 Sun. Still in Bizerte. A cool cloudy day. Everyone has a holiday routine. I wrote 4 letters. We heard that the USS Skill (AM 115) was torpedoed near Salerno. Slept some and read a book. In the evening it blew up a bad storm and really rained- It lasted all night.

9-27-43 Mon. Rained a little all day. Worked on hedge-hog magazine all day. Another storm at night.

9-28-43 Tues. Raining hard in the AM when we got up. At 0900 we left Bizerte, but went outside in the harbor and anchored while a convoy formed. At 1330 we left for Salerno with 9 LSTs and 2 LCIs. It's very stormy, rainy and rough- a gloomy, miserable day. Everyone is worried about the new torpedo the Germans now have, that sank the Skill. Alot are seasick.

9-29-43 Wed. Still on the way to Salerno with LSTs and LCIs. Still rough but not cloudy and rainy. Just a nice, crisp, early fall day. We've had 2 of our air craft overhead all day.

9-30-43 Thurs. Got to Salerno this AM at 0800. Quite a few ships still here. I heard Cmdr. Richards talking to the Captain and things look bad for us- we will be here a long time yet and subs are getting out of control. The USS Skill was sunk last week about 1 mi. from here. It was torpedoed and was blown up in the air and broke in 2 pieces. Most of the crew were lost, except those that were blown off from the ship and into the water. Highest rank saved was a GM 1/c. The ship burned and sank in 20 minutes. Don't know if we will stay here or go back to Africa. Sure hope we go back. I made a packing list today for a leave- hope I get to use it.

10-1-43 Fri. Still on patrol in Salerno. Guess we're stuck here for a few days now. I have heard that my friend Nick Vitanis was a survivor from the Skill. I bet $5.00 today that we would be home by Christmas. Not much activity here now- and I hope none starts! Mr. Sayre says that we won't be home until after the first of the year.

10-2-43 Sat. Still patrol off Salerno. Had a bad old storm with lots of wind in the AM while I was on watch. I got soaking wet. Took shower and washed clothes in the PM. Feel kinda bad- headache and lame all over.

10-3-43 Sun. This morning we anchored in the center of all the ships near the beach here at Salerno. In the PM we took a convoy of LSTs out and started for Bizerte. We are wearing life jackets continuously now as the sub threat is so bad. Had chocolate pie at the noon meal. Wrote v-mail letters to Mom and Phyl.

10-4-43 Mon. Continued on way to Bizerte without any action. Arrived at midnight and anchored outside the harbor.

10-5-43 Tues. Came into harbor in early morning and anchored. Got lots of mail aboard. I received 46 letters- 26 from Phyl. It is the first mail we have gotten in a month. It sure boosts everyones moral. Had gangway watch so couldnt read any of them. We also brought 10 new depth charges aboard.

10-6-43 Wed. Still at Bizerte. I had a gangway watch from 0800 til noon and was very busy. I filled 5 pages in the log book. In PM I had liberty but didnt go. I took all my mail to the Red Cross and read it. Then went back to the ship and answered some of it It may not leave the ship as we are going to Naples very shortly Rained hard all day. Got 4 more letters at night for a total of 50 letters in 2 days.

10-7-43 Thurs. 0930 left Bizerte and headed for Salerno with 2 PCs at flank speed. Rain again today. In the PM we just missed a big floating 800# mine by a few feet. Lucked out again. Sea is roug

10-8-43 Fri. Still on way to Salerno, Italy. 2000- got here at 1330 and are now on patrol duty. Hope we don't have to stay long. The word is that subs are very thick around here. They have gotten quite a few ships too.

10-9-43 Sat. Would like to be home so Phyl and I could go to the UM-Notre Dame football game today. Now we are getting underway to transfer some stores to AM 104. PM took shower, wrote letters.

10-10-43 Sun. Still on patrol off Salerno. In the PM we went into the transport area and anchored so we could fix our sound gear. Many ships are leaving here now, so just a few liberty ships are left This area is being evacuated for good. We stayed at anchor all night. Two more destroyers were torpedoed last night while on patrol. Report says there were only 20 survivors from the USS Buck that had a crew of 250. Looks like we are getting ready for another invasion.

10-11-43 Mon, Patroled off Salerno until noon. We then escorted four liberty ships out of the area. We, with two other AMs, are taking a convoy to Bizerte. Very few ships left at Salerno now.

10-12-43 Tues. Still enoute to Bizerte. Guess we will be there for a week- tied alongside a repair ship. We hope it is repairs so we can go home. Just wrote a long letter to Mom and am now all caught up on my letter writing til we get there.

10-13-43 Wed. Left home 7 long months ago today. Got to Bizerte this AM and came inside and anchored. Worked all day on the stern racks. Got 6 letters at night. Saw a movie-"Gold Rush Mazie". Italy has now declared war on Germany!

10-14-43 Thurs. In Bizerte. Rained in AM. But worked in PM. Guess we will be here for 10 days getting repairs for more duty. Looks bad.

10-15-43 Fri. Hunting season opens at home today. We went into Lake du Bizerte and anchored a short ways from the USS Delta. We're waiting to go alongside for repairs. Worked on depth charges.

10-16-43 Sat. Worked all AM on depth charges. Liberty in the PM-didn't go. Went to the beach long enough to buy some stamps and envelopes. Moved alongside the Delta at night. USS Speed is also alongsic All of the AMs are getting repaired for something- wish I knew what! Probably another invasion in Italy, a trip to England or back to the States. Wrote letters at night.

10-17-43 Sun. Alongside the USS Delta. Holiday routine. Went to the dentist on the Delta and had my teeth checked. All in good shape. Did little today but wrote a long letter to Phyl.

10-18-43 Mon. Alongside the Delta. Worked hard all day again on the stern- racks. Very tired at night so went to bed at 1830.

10-19-43 Tues. Left the USA 7 months ago today. Rumors are that we will be here for at least another 3-4 weeks. Very discouraging. Worked on a working party in the AM and gangway PM 12-4.

10-20-43 Wed. Still alongside the USS Delta in Bizerte. Had a 12 hour liberty today. Longest we've had since we've been here in Africa. Had from 0800 to 2000. Jones, Bradley, Spiess and I all went to Tunis. We rode in an army truck about 60 miles.

We saw lots of the battle fields, graves, air-fields and captured German equipment along the way. Also ammo dumps all along the road. We got to Tunis and was on the go about two hours and was put in the brig. We got out at 1800 and started back to Bizerte. Finally caught a ride and got back 2130. Had good excuse so didn't get put on report. I spent $5.00 and learned a lesson.

10-21-43 Thurs. Worked all day getting everything ready for an inspection tomorrow, by Cmdr. Messimer. It will be a big inspection of personnel and material. All our stuff is in good shape. Got 5 letters today and finally found out that Vera had a baby girl. At night washed clothes and showered.

10-22-43 Fri. Had a big inspection this AM in dress blues. Our dept. was in good shape and did OK. White made GM 1/c- guess I'll always be 3/c. Did'nt do much in PM. Getting paid tomorrow and I'm to get $131.00 which pays to October 1. Sending $100.00 home. Wrote letters at night.

10-23-43 Sat. Got paid $131.00. Will set aside $100.00 to send home by money order. Keep $31.00 to buy clothes to go home with; shoes, pants, etc. At night I had the 2000-2400 gangway. Guess we're leaving here soon. Maybe another invasion- Sure hope not.

10-24-43 Sun. Had 0800-1200 gangway this AM. Had a really nice dinner of chicken, french fries, peas and chocolate pie. Laundry in PM.

10-25-43 Mon. Worked all day. Got a hair cut and a money order aboard the USS Delta. Had 1600-2000 gangway watch in P.M. Sent the money order to Dad. Rained at night.

10-26-43 Tues. Had the 0400-0800 gangway and I cleaned up for liberty while on watch (with permission). At 0700 I left the ship. At 0700 Jasper and I left for Tunis in an army truck. We walked all around town and saw the battlefields and planes and tanks that were damaged. Also saw the German graves of their troops that were killed here. At 1400 a bunch of us went to Carthage to see the old ruins of the Roman Empire. Saw the open arena with all it's pillars and the lion's den where christians were killed. Also saw a large museum with tombs and old Roman slabs. We saw a large old Cathedral which was the most beautiful place inside I have ever seen. It was Catholic but I prayed. Back to ship at 2000 and to bed.

10-27-43 Wed. Painted all AM and in the PM Davis and I brought up 54 boxes of 20mm ammo. We worked hard to get the work done as it was a 5 man job. I got bad rope burns on two fingers that are now bandaged. Showered and washed clothes. Leaving here soon, I guess.

10-28-43 Had liberty but didn't go- am short of cash as bought new clothes today: new shoes, hats, socks, scivvy shirts ~~and~~

and pants. Also went on a working party this PM and got some more clothing.

10-29-43 Fri. Still in Bizerte. Worked all AM and had 1200-1600 gangway- also again 1200-0400 in the AM. Made $21.00 on some excess clothes and bought a new pair of army shoes for winter.

10-30-43 Sat. Bizerte still. Had a personnel and material inspection.in AM. Was able to sleep all PM as had 1200-0400 last night. Saw movie at night "It Ain't Hay".

10-31-43 Sun. A quiet and peaceful day. Did nothing in the AM. In the PM I went to Ferryville with Davis and Johannson. Back at 1800.

11-1-43 Mon. Went outside the Bizerte harbor this AM and anchored. Are going to leave for Oran with a 7 knot convoy. Left Bizerte at 1000 with 14 LSTs that are towing LCTs. They are going to England. Still don't know what we are going to do.

11-2-43 Tues. Still on way to Oran with the 14 LSTs- towing LCTs. I have a bad cold and feel kinda sick. Rainy all day.

11-3-43 Wed. On way to Oran. It's cold, rainy and rough. I have a bad cold. Wrote 2 letters in PM.

11-4-43 Thurs. Got to Oran at 1600 and went into MEK. Lots of British and American transports here. Also there are some DE's here and 3 new AMs. Some transports are going to the states but lots of LSTs are going to England. No mail as it was sent to Bizerte. Had 1600-2000 gangway so no chance to write.

11-5-43 Fri. Worked all day on odd jobs. Cold and rainy here in MEK. About 6 transports left for the States today. Guess we will be here all winter. At night saw the movie "Battan". Wrote 2 letters. Still no mail. Sent $50.00 money order home.

11-6-43 Sat. Did various jobs in AM. Davis and I got special liberty as we are leaving here for Bizerte. Went in to Oran and had a good time. We drank 3 glasses of French Beer. Back aboard at 1800.

11-7-43 Sun. 0900 left Oran and going back to Bizerte with 2 YMS and an SC. No mail here at all. Sea is rough and quite a few are sea sick Have to keep a good look out for torpedo planes. Johnny Pasquensa was put in our brig for 5 days on bread and water and also 50 hours of extra duty for not having a hair cut. It nearly caused a mutiny.

11-8-43 Mon. On our way toBizerte. Large land swells and it is sure rough. Can't hardly walk on the deck. Everyone hates the d- navy.

11-9-43 Tues. Still very rough. Would like to write home but it's too rough to write. Got to Bizerte about 1400 and unloaded four passenge and 700 sacks of mail that we brought from Oran. We brought 700 sacks and not one of them for us. We did get 2 bags in Bizerte but was all packages and none for me. Shower at night.

11-10=43 Wed. In Bizerte harbor. Painted the clip shack. About 11 bags of mail came aboard- mostly packages and no letters. Had 2000-2400 gangway so no letters written.

11-11-43 Armistice Day but no Armistice. Had the 0800-1200 gangway.
Thurs. Worked in the clip shack in PM. We went into docks and tied up at noon. Finally got some letters.

11-12-43 Worked on guns in AM and went to Ferryville with Davis and
Fri. Rogers in PM. Got two new 30 cal. machine guns aboard.

11-13-43 Had Captains inspection this AM. Just got all guns uncovered
Sat. and it rained hard so in the PM we had to clean the guns and also worked on the new 30 cal.

11-14-43 Still in Bizerte Harbor. Slept all AM as I had the midnight
Sun. to 0400 gangway last night. Took shower & did laundry in the PM. Saw movie at night- "Cowboy in Manhattan".

11-15-43 Got paid at 0800 and I drew $139.00. At noon we got underway
Mon. for Palermo. We're taking a convoy of LSTs and liberty ships. Kinda rough.

11-16-43 Got to Palermo at 1100. Had gunnery practice just before we
Tues. got into port. Fired 20 rounds in the 3" all 20mm & the 50 cal. This time I fired the 20mm Guns. In PM went on liberty with Jones and Davis. Best liberty we've had. Lots of fun.

11-17-43 Still in Palermo. Worked all day on depth charges and 30 cal
Wed. guns. Sent some Xmas cards and some money to Dad.

11-18-43 Worked on 30 cal guns. Had 1600-2000 gangway. At 0230 we had
Thurs. to leave the harbor to take two ships out about 25 mi. to meet a convoy coming from Naples and going to Oran. We came right back to Palermo and got here at 0800.

11-19-43 Left Palermo about noon with a liberty ship, a tug and a PC.
Fri. Are going to Oran, but will stop at Bizerte.

11-20-43 Arrived Bizerte at 1300 and came inside to anchor. Had liberty
Sat. but didn't go. Received a nice xmas package from Phyl, but no letters. Wrote letters at night.

11-21-43 Stayed in Bizerte in the AM and had a nice chicken dinner.
Sun. 1300 left Bizerte for Algiers with a sea-going tug. Chilly.

11-22-43 Arrived Algiers 1600. There are about 100 loaded liberty ships
Mon. outside the harbor & the harbor is packed with all kinds of ships of all nations. First time we have been here since last June. We are in the harbor tied alongside a Polish destroyer.

11-23-43 In Algiers. Rained all AM. I got a typhoid booster. Felt
Tues. kinda sick all day. Are leaving at 1600 and are going back to Bizerte with an 8 knot convoy. Will probably be at sea on Thanksgiving. Put on new army shoes.

11-24-43 Picked up a convoy of 60 cargo ships last night that just
Wed, came from the USA. We take them to Bizerte and some are going on to Port Said, Egypt. It is really rough and everyone is afraid of air attacks.

11-25-43 Thurs. Thanksgiving. A very funny day! Had sub contact and dropped 4 charges. Got to Bizerte with convoy at 1300. We had our big dinner about 1600. Had turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, dressing, gravy, peas, strawberry short cake. Very good. The weather is chilly and windy. I had gangway 1200-1600. Mail came aboard and I got 35 letters and a xmas pkg from Mom.

11-26-43 Fri. Had 0000-0400 gangway watch so slept all AM. Had liberty in PM but didn't go. Saw the movie at night, then washed clothes.

11-27-43 Sat. Had Captain's inspection in the AM. White, Davis and I went out to ammo dump and got 4 depth charges in the PM. Saw a movie at night. Got a nice Xmas package from Phyl. Showered.

11-28-43 Sun. In Bizerte. Worked on depth charges in AM and washed clothes in the PM. Had 2000-2400 gangway.

11-29-43 Mon. Had 0800-1200 gangway. In the PM we GMs brought up practice 3" ammo for tomorrow. Went to bed early as was tired.

11-30-43 Tues. Last day of November and it is a beautiful day. It's 65°, clear and sunny. At 0630 seven of us AMs went out of Bizerte for 2 days of maneuvers and gunnery practice. - both AA and water targets. We fired all day then anchored at night just outside Bizerte.

12-1-43 Wed. Another warm, bright, sunny day. Had gunnery practice all day with the 3" gun- fired at the water target. Came insid and anchored in the stream at night. Looks like I lost the $5.00 when I bet we'd be home by Christmas.

11-2-43 Thurs. In Bizerte. Worked all day on 3" guns and clip shack. Had liberty but didn't go. Saw a movie in PM. Painted the deck in clip shack.

12-3-43 Fri. Worked on hedge-hogs all day. Showered and cleaned up. Had the 1600-2000 gangway watch.

12-4-43 Sat. Worked on 20mm in AM,at 1100 we left Bizerte and lined up a convoy of LSTs and 1 liberty ship, and started to Naples, Italy We are the only large escort. Everyone dreads to go there. Rumor is that this is our last assignment in this area. Hope so This has been a nice warm day.

12-5-43 Sun. On way to Naples with 5 LSTs, 1 liberty, 3 YMSs. Kinda chilly and rough. Fired both 3" guns for practice against glider bomb

12-6-43 Mon. Mt. Vesuvius is bright for miles. We passed between the Isle of Capri and Italy at 0500 and got into Naples at 0900. Went in and tied up to the dock while LSTs were unloading. Some of the crew had liberty, but not me. Davis and I were on the beac most of the PM however. It's the first time we've set foot on mainland European soil. People here are starving and the place is badly bombed. Everyone here hates the Germans. At 1630 we went outside to anchor all night to be away from air raids.

12-7-43 Tues. 2 years of war! We are still in Naples. I had liberty at 0700- 1000, so Davis and I went on the beach and walked around. I bought Phyl a coral necklace. We are quite close to Mt. Vesuvius here. At 1100 we got underway for Bizerte with 8 LSTs loaded with German prisoners,and 3 empty Liberty Ships. It is a beautiful, warm, bright day.

12-8-43 Wed. On way to Bizerte. Had 0800-1200 watch. PM showered and washed. Wrote letters at night. Another lovely day 75°

12-9-43 Thurs. Got to Bizerte at 1000 with the convoy. We rec'd mail in the PM and I wrote more letters.

12-10-43 Fri. Still Bizerte. It's a funny day- sunny one minute and rain the next. Didn't accomplish much all day. I rec'd 19 letters.

12-11-43 Sat. Had 0800-1200 gangway watch. Had liberty in PM but didn't go. Saw a movie "Mission to Moscow". I packed a picture of the ship and gave it to Zeller to mail for me in the states. Scuttle-butt is we will leave here in about 2 months. Hope.

12-12-43 Sun. Went alongside LST Repair Ship #387 for 10 days availability. Washed clothes and showered in the AM. In PM Wallace came over and we walked around on the beach in Karuba,watching the army air force loading on LSTs. Night movie was "How Green was my Valley".

12-13-43 Mon. AM worked in magazines and armory. Had 1200-1600 watch. Saw the movie "United We Stand". To bed early as I have 0000-0400 watch. Pay list was posted on the bulletin board.

12-14-43 Tues. Worked most of the day in the armory. Paid Sandy McPherson the $5.00 on the bet I made three months ago, about going to the states before Xmas. It has been a rainy day. Showered.

12-15-43 Wed. Pay day. I drew $87.00 and can't send any home as I loaned Ray Davis, GM 2/c $50.00. He isn't drawing any for 2 months. In the PM Don Poole and I went on the beach and got helmets for the ship. We also went to Mateur for spare parts. Talked with army officers, from Major on down. Poole fell out of the truck on the way home. I had done alot of walking and was dead tired so to bed early.

12-16-43 Thurs. Worked all day on 3" guns. Got 8 letters today so wrote home at night.

12-17-43 Fri. Went on the beach and found some gears for a washing machine- also got caught in a rainstorm. Mr. Sheppard is gone so Mr. Upton is now executive officer. We got new helmets today.

12-18-43 Sat. Worked all day stenciling Mr. K.W. Brown's clothes and also our new helmets. Still alongside the Repair Ship. Put in a request for a thirty-six hour liberty with Bradley. Sent $5.00 to Furnival's Flowers for Phyl's flowers. Got new dungarees.

12-19-43 Sat. Rainy and dark day. Had all day liberty so Buck Bradley & I went to Tunis. Came back at 1700. Had a chicken dinner($2.00)

12-20-43 Mon. A fairly nice day. Worked on 3" guns. Got 2 Xmas packages and more gum, candy, etc. than I know what to do with. Wrote letters at night.

12-21-43 Tues. Painted the 3" ammo ready lockers. Had 2000-2400 gangway at night. Also washed a few clothes. Asinga came over awhile.

12-22-43 Wed, Had 0800-1200 gangway. Painted all PM. Showered. Feel sick.

12-23-43 Thurs. AM- worked on 20mms. Had liberty in PM but didnt go. Wrote letters and saw movie at night.

12-24-43 Fri. Worked on depth charge racks in AM. In PM five of us went to the range and shot 45 cal automatic pistols. At night showered and cleaned up for Xmas. Had some vino that some of the fellows brought aboard for Xmas.

12-25-43 Sat. Xmas in Bizerte, Tunisia, North Africa. Not much like Christmas at home. No snow and no Xmas spirit. There was no reveille or work today. I loaned the small xmas tree that P. sent for the officer's table today. It's a nice warm, bright day. For dinner we had roast turkey & ham, potatoes, dressing, cauliflowe peas, soup, mince pie, strawberry shortcake and free cigarettes. At 0930 we were called to quarters and had to stand for 1½ hours while officers looked for wine. In the PM went on the beach to play football. Saw a movie at night and to bed.

12-26-43 Sun. Up at 0800 and studied for my GM 2/c test. For the noon meal we had steak! At night we had movie and a bunch of mail came aboard. I got 14 letters. All the money I've sent is safely home.

12-27-43 Mon. Worked on depth charge racks all day. Got more mail aboard. I had the 2000-2400 gangway.

12-28-43 Tues. Had 0800-1200 gangway this AM. Worked all PM on stern racks. Don't feel too hot.

12-29-43 Wed. Worked on 20mm in AM- Had liberty in PM but didn't go. Washed clothes instead. At night saw the movie,"Air Force". We heard today that the AMs are going to Casablanca.

12-30-43 Thurs. Worked in the AM. In the PM White and I went with Mr.Brown to trade tea for eggs and vegetables with the Arabs. We went to lots of small African villages and had lots of fun. Were offered $100.00 for $10.00 worth of tea. Got back late.

12-31-43 Fri. The end of 1943 and the end of another book. Worked in the AM and had the 1200-1600 gangway. Quite cool and rainy. I studied for test and wrote letters. No N.Y celebration. I stayed aboard and went to bed at 2030.

1-1-44 Sat. Still at Bizerte since 12-9-43. Holiday routine for all. It is a nice warm, bright day. Davis and I went over on the beach to an army camp to see some friends of his. At night we brought them aboard to see the ship, eat chow with us, and see the movie. We then walked part way back to camp with them. Some of the crew had a party in the aft hold. Got mail. We leave here soon.

1-2-44 Sun. Another nice day. In AM took shower and washed clothes. We moved from alongside the LST repair ship and went over to NOB docks to take on fuel and sweeping gear. Looks bad! Movie at night.

1-3-44 Mon. Guess we move out tomorrow for Naples for 4 days and will go int dry dock. Looks like we will be here for the duration. I worke all AM on depth charges. Got 3 packages today so have them all now. Got box of nuts, candy, fruit cake, cards, a "sweet potato and lots of stuff. Glad I got them before we left here.

1-4-44 Tues. Still didn't go to sea, as we were supposed to, because we ran over a bouy while running a degausing test and it got caught in the screws. Had to have a diver from the base go down and get i loose. It was too late to leave by the time he got it free. I took ½ of my 2/c test today and passed with flying colors with a 3.9 score. The test was on 20mm and depth charges. We are off for Naples tomorrow.

1-5-44 Wed. It is too rough for LCIs to leave for Naples so we are still in Bizerte waiting for better weather. It is a real chilly, rainy, nasty day. Took more of the 2/c test today and will finish tomorrow. Saw a movie.

1-6-44 Thurs. Another chilly, rainy, windy day. It's so rough that we can't even get out of the harbor to go to Naples. Waves are coming in 20 feet high and way over the top of the sea wall. Not much wor today. Took more of the 2/c test and did well- really surprised myself. It covered 3" 50 cal., 5" 38 cal., ammunition, small ar ammo magazines and all about turrets. Still have one more test take on the A to N and petty officer books. Had 1600-2000 gangway. Mail came aboard and I got 10 letters.

1-7-44 Fri. Had the 0400 to 0800. Read all of my letters again, then cleane up the 20mm magazine, swabbed and waxed the armory deck and cleaned up the armory. In PM I worked on 3" guns. At 1600 we got underway for Naples. Quite abit calmer but is still plenty rough. Are going there to take a convoy of LCIs and go in to dry dock.

1-8-44 Sat. On our way to Naples with 15 LCIs, 2 SCs and 2 PCs. It's rough & alot of guys are really sea-sick. I slept most all day as had 0400-0800 watch. At night I wrote letters.

1-9-44 Sun. Got to Naples at 0800 but had to lay out in the harbor until 1600, then went inside and to dry dock. This is the big Naples harbor, and there are an awful lot of ships sunk and damage to docks and buildings here. The dry dock is operated by Italian prisoners. Davis, Spiess and I had 2 hr. liberty at night and

saw the city. The people are starving and the city is all torn up and very dirty.

1-10-44 Mon. They are pumping water out of the dry dock. Worked all AM on 20mms and in the PM Davis, Poole and I bore-sighted the 3" guns We then went on the beach to look at Italian and German guns an equipment. Movie at night and hit the sack.

1-11-44 Tues. Had 0800-1200 gangway. In PM Davis and I went to town to get Mr. Brown some 40mm shell cases. Saw the movie at night and had the 2000-2400 gangway. We give the prisoners all left-over chow and they practically kill each other to get it. I borrowed $10.00 cause I'm broke. Going to Pompei on next liber

1-12-44 Wed. In Naples, Italy inside the dry dock. All hands helped to scrape the bottom of the ship in the AM. A real job! PM we left the dry dock and went outside the harbor and anchored. There were lots of men-o-war of all nations. Planes came diving in on us so we could practice. Lots of loaded transport here so we're ready for another invasion very soon. Got our sweeping gear out tonight and are ready to practice sweeping tomorrow. Looks bad.

1-13-44 Thurs. Left Naples at 0730 and went out about 20 mi. & Practiced sweeping all day. Came in at 1830 & anchored again. We saw over 300 flying forts go over today on a raid north of us.

1-14-44 Fri. Laid at anchor all day outside Naples harbor. Hundreds of ships are concentrated here for this invasion soon to come. All of the AMs are here now- 12 of them. Worked all day on guns.

1-15-44 Sat. Still at anchor just outside Naples Harbor. New invasion is soon. We changed anchorage at night as Naval Intelligence expects a torpedo bombing attack tonight. We had GQ last night and a small raid- lots of firing, but no bombs. We tested the magazine sprinkling systems this AM. and knocked off in the PM. Dave's birthday today so he & I bought a bottle of cognac and wine from some fishermen and drank it. Sure dread this invasion. Had a 20mm watch at sunset and dawn.

1-16-44 Sun. Didn't do much all day long. All ships are loading with troops and getting ready. Nice and bright out, but cool at night. We went out to patrol all night.

1-17-44 Mon. Came back in to Naples at 0800 but left again at 0900 for Salerno beach, with some destroyers, for practice invasion. For this invasion we are going to do patrol duty only- no sweeping. Got to Salerno Beach at night and all the invasion force was there for a practice landing. Over 200 ships of all kinds. We patrolled between the Isle of Capri and the beach.

1-18-44 Tues. Had practice invasion all night. Lots of flares and gun fire. This PM we brought the force of LCIs and LSTs back to Naples then went inside the harbor and fueled so are now ready for the real thing anytime. At night we anchored outside the harbor. There have been hundreds of "forts" and Liberators going over all day. I heard today that I made 2/c on the first of Feb.

1-19-44 Wed. Anchored in Naples anchorage all day. Had a red alert in AM. Four German planes were shot down out of five that came over. We worked on the 3" guns and hedge-hogs all day preparing for the invasion. Took on some smoke-pots at night. No letters leaving the ship at all.

1-20-44 Thurs. Changed anchorage in AM but are still off Naples Harbor. We took it easy all day and everyone took a shower and put on clean clothes as the invasion will be any time now. Heard it's to be about half way between here and Rome. Looked at all my pictures in the PM so am homesick tonight. Sure want to get this d- war over with and get home!

LANDING 60 MILES BEHING ENEMY LINES AT PORT D'ANZIO, ITALY

1-21-44 Fri. 1200 Noon.
One wave of invasion fleet left Naples early this morning for th landing at Port DAnzio. All of the PCs, SCs and YMSs left earl as they are slower. We will meet them at a rendezvous point tonight. We will take the faster ships such as cruisers, destroyers, DEs, LSTs, LCIs and liberty ships.
1500- we just left Naples and are on our way to another few week of real battle. We are with cruisers, destroyers, DEs, AMs, LSTs, liberty ships and over 50 LCIs- all loaded to the brim. It's a bright day and just cool enough to be nice. The invasion point,and miles around,has been bombed continuously for the past 24 hrs. by heavy bombers. There are about 100 liberators over us right now just returning. The captain gave a talk just before we left and our only danger is air craft, subs and E-boats. Everyone is on edge and the new men are scared stiff.

1-22-44 Sat. 0800. We were at GQ all night and it was really cold. I am carrying my rabbits foot and Phyl's picture. We took in a big convoy of LSTs and liberty ships. Didn't have any trouble all night and got to the beach at 0630. There were 5 waves sent in and landed with little opposition. There are about 300 ships here in all. Enemy planes have been over several times already this morning.
1800- we have been patroling all day off the beach, and have had nine raids. Many fires have been started on the beach. Everyone is dead tired and my left arm is awful sore from infection I got in a boil. What a miserable life! Sure dread tonight.

1-23-44 Sun. 0730- had a pretty good night last night but I couldn't sleep much because of my arm. Am having it cut open this AM. E-boats were in last night and sunk one of the new AMs-the Portent (106 They tried to get more but were driven off at 0500. We were at GQ just once and didn't have any air raids. I am secured from watch for awhile because of my arm. It's badly swollen from my finger tips to my elbow. We hope to get a convoy back to Naples 2000- had air raids all day today and didn't get a convoy. We patroling around a convoy center about 5 mi. from the beach. I am confined to my bunk and can only leave it to go up to the mess hall for GQs. Arm is swollen worse and really sore. It was lanced twice today and dressed 5 times.

1-24-44 Mon. 1200 noon- was moved in nearer the beach today to patrol. Only 2 miles from the beach now where all the troops & supplies are unloading. Lots of bodies floating in the water! A horrible sight. Had several air raids this morning. Arm is about the same by keeping wet bandages on it.
2100- we just secured from GQ and one of the worst raids we were ever in. Germans sent in a wave of over 50 planes just at dark and they really gave us hell. They sent nearly every type plane they have; torpedo bombers, heavy bombers, glide bombers and dive bombers. They were escorted by fighters that strafed the ships. One came in on us with machine guns going but just went acrossed the fantail. All ships did plenty of firing and we were caught in cross-fire several times. Two of our destroyers were hit and an English cruiser and destroyer besides all the other cargo ships that were left burning and exploding. Possibly thousands of men were killed and millions of dollars worth of supplies ruined. All patrol ships were making smoke. It was the worst raid we've been in yet. I was supposed to stay in the mess hall but went out. I imagine we will have more raids before morning. My arm and hand are puffed up like a balloon!!

1-25-44 Tues. 0800- had several raids last night. Lots of flares and bombs dropped but none very close to us. Everyone was up most all night. Doc got two cores out of the boil this AM so it will get better now, I hope.
1800- More light raids all day long. We have had 8 GQs. Arm is alot better already and are using dry dressings. I go to GQ mpw and stand watches. Still on patrol duty and dread tonight but know we'll come through okay! Got to for Phyl and Mom. Gotta go now and get ready for 'em.

1-26-44 Wed. 0800- Well last night wasn't as bad as expected, cause it got terribly windy and stormy. Poor night for bombing and too rough for E-boats. This is the roughest sea I've ever been in since I've been in the navy. The ship is completely out of sight at times and the main deck is cracking. My arm is healing now and no pain to speak of. The USS Sustain (AM 119) just came in from Naples and is supposed to have mail for us. But don't know when or how we will get it.
2100- Just got off watch. Rougher than H- all day. Just a sandwich for meals now. Have had several raids today but all were on the beach. The last raid tonight, just at dusk, was bad and I nearly shot down one of our own night-fighters. I also shot a halyard off the mast. D- war to H-- no food, no sleep and everyone scared stiff!! Quite a few ships were hit again tonight. One was loaded with ammo and no survivors! Another AM got a near miss and was sent to Palermo for repairs. Germans are using glider bombs and are they accurate!!

1-27-44 Thurs. 0830- had two raids during the night and they really bombed & used lots of flares. Had one raid already this morning on a big convoy coming in from Naples. Sea is a little calmer but still plenty rough. I got a new dressing on my arm this AM and it is healing good. Awful tired so I'll try to sleep.
1930- Been at GQ most all day and had lots of air raids. Both high level and dive bombing. Tonight, just before dark, things

are pretty quiet for a change. Too darned quiet for our own good maybe. Got the 0000-0400 watch tonight, so guess I will try again to get some sleep. HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!

1-28-44 Fri. 0800- had a bad raid on the 0000-0400 in the night. Lots of flares and several ships were hit. We've had 4 GQs already this AM. It's a clear day so it will be a bad one for us. Sure am homesick and sick of war.
2000- lots of air raids all day but quiet tonight at dark. Need a shower, but no time to take one. Wish we would get a convoy to Naples.

1-29-44 Sat. 1600- a good night last night, no raids at all! We've been at GQs a couple of times today but no bad raids as yet. This PM I shaved, showered and put on clean clothes. Sure feels better too Chow is awful low so only get one slice of bread at a meal and little of other things. Hope things are as quiet tonight as they were last! A YMS hit a mine today and was demolished. Only 10 survivors. Some of the sweepers in near the beach have been fired upon by the German 88s on the beach. Our bombers are after them now.

1-30-44 Sun. 0800- Had a bad raid last night at 2200 and a couple of ships were hit and blew up. The report says that 26 German planes were shot down near this beach head. We saw 2 come down last night. Convoys of LSTs are pouring in here all the time. Don't have a watch until 1600 so guess I'll try to get some sleep today.
1830- been a quiet cloudy day. No raids at all. Chow is d- scarce and bad. One of the cooks was put on report this AM for poor cooking. All we get is a thin slice of bread and some of the guys are half starved. We got a convoy to Naples tonight AND to get fuel and stores. Sure glad to get out of this d- hell ho for a day or two. I'm going right down to write letters now, so they will leave the ship while in Naples.

1-31-44 Mon. We got here to Naples with convoy about 0730 and anchored just outside the harbor. We've been working very hard all day cleaning all the guns and carrying stores aboard. We got more stores than we received in a long time- and surely needed them. We also went alongside a tanker in the PM and took on 55,000 gal. of fuel. In the evening we got 10 sacks of mail aboard for us, and alot for other ships at Anzio. I had the 2000-2400 gangway so didn't get a chance to read any of mine, let alone write any. I rec'd 37 letters in all, 19 from Phyl (she had gotten the flowers I sent). Also, 8 letters from Mom, 1 from Marilyn, 3 from Wayne, 1 from Vada, 1- Aunt Maude, a christmas card from Knauers, 1 letter each from Vera, Miss French and Nick Vitanis.

2-1-44 Tues. Had the 0800-1200 gangway watch. PM I read all my letters. Everyone aboard is crazy about my Xmas card from Wayne. All my letters were great. Still no advancement in rating! Have to see the Gunnery Officer about it! We got underway at 1730 to go back to Anzio with a convoy.

2-2-44 Wed. Got to Anzio with our convoy of LSTs at daylight and took them i to the beach. We then delivered mail to all the other AMs.

Lots of bodies floating in the water all over. Saw at least twenty. At noon, to our surprise, we got another convoy to take to Naples. Guess they are sending alot of the patrol craft away. I don't think we'll be coming back here except only to bring in a convoy. Wrote 6 letters in PM. We are now on our way to Naples. Hoping for more mail.

2-3-44 Thurs. Got back to Naples this morning at 0300 and anchored outside. In the AM we cleaned all of the 20mms and the 3" guns. Also washed the paint work in the armory. Guess we are going back to Bizerte tomorrow for something.

2-4-44 Fri. Started to Bizerte this AM with a large convoy of landing craft. It got too rough for some of the LCTs so we brought them back in to Naples and anchored outside the harbor. Nasty weather so we cleaned officers pistols. At night saw a movie "Two tickets to London".

2-5-44 Sat. Had a material inspection this AM. A very dark day and lonesome Read "See here private Hargrove" in PM and wrote some V-mail letters. Still in Napoli.

2-6-44 Sun. In Naples in the AM. I started to have 1200-1600 gangway but we got underway for Bizerte at 1330. We are taking a few LSTs that are towing LCTs and pontoons so are making only 5 knots. Will get there Wed. AM. Heard that our stacks were over here someplace- sure hope not. No letters.

2-7-44 Mon. Are on our way to Bizerte with LSTs towing LCTs and pontoons. Slow convoy of 5 knots. Rough and rainy!! Homesick!

2-8-44 Tues. Still enroute to Bizerte- are to get there tomorrow AM. Never so sick of poking along so slow in my life. It's kind of a sad day for me- heard that White and Jasper are being transferred as soon as we get to Bizerte. Going to the states for school and reconstruction. Losing one of my best pals, and my boss and a pal. I helped Jasper pack this PM to get ready to leave. Davis will be head gunners mate now and me next. Sure wish I'd get a transfer back, but no such luck.

2-9-44 Wed. Weather so bad we did't get to Bizerte until 1700 tonight. Then they wouldn't let us in. We lost 1 LCT in the convoy due to weather conditions. All hands were saved however. When we got to Bizerte they gave us 5 liberty ships to take up to Tunis and get them out of the storm. It's 70 mi. there- so should get in early in the AM. White and Jasper won't be transferred until we get back to Bizerte.

2-10-44 Thurs. Got to Tunis 0100 with the liberty ships. We all went in near the breakwater and anchored. At noon today we and 2 YMSs left Tunis to go back to Bizerte. Always on the go now. I'm sending a letter and package with Jasper to be mailed home in the States. 2000- got back to Bizerte from Tunis at 1800 & are tied up inside now. A whole bag of mail- I got 27 letters.

2-11-44 Fri. In Bizerte with 6 other AMs. Today Capt. Manley leaves [illegible] and we get a new one aboard. White, Jasper, Brady and Haberman leave for the States. At 1000 we were paid for 6 weeks.

I drew $140.00. Sent 50.00 home to be banked and loaned $25.00 to Davis because he only drew $13.00. I paid $20.00 I owed to the ships' service and Sent $10.00 to Furnival's for flowers for Phyl and Mom. In PM saw the boys off.

2-12-44 Sat. In Bizerte. Bought small stores for $9.30- pants, shirt, socks, gloves and underwear. Had Captains inspection in the AM. Funny day- bright one minute, rain and hail the next. Worked on inventory and saw Wallace in the PM.

2-13-44 Sun. (Phyl's birthday- 22 years old) In AM fixed a magazine sprinkling system. In PM just sat around. Saw a movie.

2-14-44 Mon. Went to an aircraft identification school in AM. PM worked on 20mm & 3" guns. Received mail.

2-15-44 Tues. In Bizerte. Rain 1 min. and bright the next. Had the 0800-1200 gangway. Also at night the 2000-2400. In PM went on the beach to get gun parts and jackets - but no luck.

2-16-44 Wed. Worked on the 50 cal. machine guns for awhile in the AM. Then to Aircraft Identi. School again. Studied all types of bombers. Went on the beach in PM and got all of us G.M.s a new life jacket and had some keys made. Slade is our striker now so we have four in the dept. Could go to Tunis on liberty tomorrow, but am not going. Stay aboard, paint depth charges and save my money. I got 4 letters- they are very recent.

2-17-44 Thurs. Went to spotters school in AM and painted the depth charge racks in the PM.

2-18-44 Fri. Had 0800-1200 gangway. In PM painted depth charges in between rains. Raining continually lately. Heard today that we are getting some new gear aboard that will use the armory. Guess we will have to move. 2000-2400 gangway at night.

2-19-44 Sat. Moved from NOB to Karuba and went alongside LST #387 Repairship to get new anti-radio controlled bomb device (Jamming gear) We had to move from the armory down into the Issue Room next to refrigerators. Not near as nice a place but can't do anything about it. Worked all day moving and fixing up the place. Dead tired at night so to bed early. Rained all day.

2-20-44 Sun. Worked all day in the new armory room. Had a good chicken dinner with pie and ice cream. Saw movie at night. The old armory is all torn up and new radio gear is being installed.

2-21-44 Mon. Had all day liberty at Tunis. Went up on the train with Speiss, Jones, Bradley, Fournier and Dee. Bought some bracelets and rings. Came back early. Spent $5.00.

2-22-44 Tues. Worked all day on depth charges and got 2 new twin mount 50 cal machine guns. Hear we will go back to Anzio soon to jam radio controlled bombs. Sure dread that! Since they moved the armory everything has gone wrong. Lots of work and no armory!

2-23-44 Wed. Worked on depth charges all day and helped put a new bench in the armory. Got my new ID bracelet from Phyl for my birthday.

2-24-44 Thurs. Worked on hedge hogs in the AM and new 50 cal. machine guns. Had 1200-1600 gangway- #11 evening- I worked in the armory until 2330- when I had to go on watch again. Awful discouraged as so much work to do and so little time.

2-25-44 Fri. We all worked all day on guns and moving them. At night when we thought we were nearly caught up, we got a smoke generator aboard and that is in our dept., so no let up. We worked until 2100 fixing that and new mounts for the 50 cal. machine guns. We're really getting ready to go into action with new guns, smoke maker and all. Leaving here Sunday I guess. I have all day off tomorrow to go and find some 50 cal. magazines- which are very scarce. Rec'd mail.

2-26-44 Sat. Went to the airport in the AM, and got 25 new magazines for the 50 cal. guns. Worked all PM on 50 cal. and loading magazines. Showered and cleaned up at night. Wrote letters. Guess we will go to Naples and Anzio tomorrow.

2-27 -44 Sun. Worked on the new 50 cal. machine guns in AM. In PM we left Bizerte to go to Naples and then on to Anzio. Rougher than h- out here. We fired all guns when we got outside for testing purposes. Guess we won't even get a minute to rest out here even.

2-28-44 Mon. On our way to Naples with 5 YMSs. A nice day and not quite so rough. Worked on the guns all day- so no rest again. Everyone dreads to go back to Anzio.

2-29-44 Tues. Got to Naples 0800. Anchored out, took shower and washed clothes. At 1300 went in to docks and tied up. Worked on the 3" guns in PM. At night Speiss, Bradley, Wilcox, Fournier, Dee and I went up town and wandered around awhile.

3-1-44 Wed. Naples, Italy. Changed berths in AM. The executive officer gave us a talk this morning. We are going to Anzio, with the new radio gear to jam German glide bombs, for 5 days then come back to Naples and Capri for 10 days. We sure will catch h- up there with this new gear. In the PM Davis and I went over to AM 104 to exchange movies and went up town for awhile afterwards. Showered at night and the darned infection in my arm is coming back; like I had it, over a month ago, while at Anzio.

3-2-44 Thurs. Still at Naples. Worked in the clip shack all AM and washed clothes in the PM. Had the 1600-2000 gangway. At 1700 we left the harbor and went outside to anchor. At 2100 we left Naples with LSTs and LCIs for Anzio. We have to stay there for 5 days with our jamming gear, then we are to be relieved for 5 days. Everyone sure dreads to go, cause if the Germans find out we have the gear it will be bad for us. Had 2 GQs just before we left Naples.

3-3-44 Fri. Got into Anzio at 0800 and took our convoy into the beach.

We then put our magnetic sweeping gear out at 1100 and swept around the anchorage area. We swept all PM with the AM 119 and the AM 341. Had a few red alerts but no raids.

3-4-44 Sat. Patroled in close to the beach all night and started sweeping again this AM. Germans are firing out at the ships from back inland with big long-range railroad guns. Still havent had a chance to use our anti-radio controlled glider bombs gear yet. I hope we don't! Here's hoping that the Jerries dont find out that we have it. I was told today by Mr. Upton that we were one of the first ships in our navy to ever have this equipment. At night went in close to the beach and patroled again.

3-5-44 Sun. Patroled all day around anchorage area- didn't sweep. Had a few red alerts but the weather is too bad for much air operation It's good for us, but bad for the air force! Showered in the PM, I really needed it. My arm is much better. No air raids at night.

3-6-44 Mon. Patroled and swept again all day with magnetic type gear. A few red alerts but no bad raids as weather is too bad. The Germans are shelling the beach-heads and coming close to some ships, not much damage as yet.

3-7-44 Tues. Rained all night but a beautiful day today- bright and warm. Our air force has really been busy. We counted 235 heavy bombers this PM coming back from northern Italy. We swept all day for submarine mines with our old type gear. Will probably catch h- tonight as it is so bright and clear. Today completes our 5 days here but will be here until our relief comes.

3-8-44 Wed. Swept and patroled all day along the anchorage area. Last night we had some bad raids, but we did no firing. Germans are still shelling the beach badly. Hope we get relieved soon.

3-9-44 Thurs. Still no relief this AM. Had more bad raids at night as it is full moon now and nights are just like day. Quite a few troops came in this AM and landed. Sweeping all day again today- both old type and magnetic.

3-10-44 Fri. Swept and patroled all day again and had several light raids. Still no relief! Convoys come in every morning and leave every night. The Germans are shelling the beach and ships all of the time.

3-11-44 Sat. Our relief came in this AM, but relieved a DE instead of us. So we are probably stuck here for another week. Getting d- tiresome and nerve wracking. Had 2 bad raids last night and several planes came in very close and low. I had to stand bow lookout cause there were floating mines around. Swept all day with old type gear. In the evening we went right in close to the beach to get a message from the USS Pioneer (AM 105) and 16" shells were falling all over the area. The Germans are in the hills back a few miles. Guess we will patrol again all nigh We all hope our luck holds out.

3-12-44 Sun. Nasty, rainy day. Swept all day off Anzio. (AM 105) was to relieve us but again relieved a DE instead. We went in near the beach at night and some shells came really close. Bad raids at night. Wrote letters.

3-13-44 Mon. One year ago today I left home, I've thought about it all day. Another nice day and we have spent it sweeping. I've had a headache all day and feel kinda sick. Still no relief for us and lots of red alerts and raids. We can see both the German and American fronts and they are really having an artillery battle- night and day.

3-14-44 Tues. Patroled and swept all day. In the AM a JU88 flew out of the sun and came very close to us but didn't attack. Probably was a reconnaissance plane, trying to find which ship is the "jig" ship. At night we were relieved by the USS Speed (AM 116) so we got a convoy back to Naples. Left Anzio at 1600. Everyone is glad to leave.

3-15-44 Wed. Got to Naples at 0300 during a big air raid. We anchored outside the harbor. In AM I cleaned a 20mm and in PM the first section had liberty so I went ashore with Davis, Speiss, Jones and Mills. I had no money, so bought no souvenirs. Were supposed to be paid today, but weren't. All came back to the ship at 1700 (Only had 3½ hrs). Mail had come aboard and I got 27 letters and a pkg. of candy and cookies from Phyl. Movie at night-"Hers to Hold" with Deanna Durbin. Heard some record that OT Snyder sent back from the states.

3-16-44 Thurs. Anchored off Napoli and worked all day on 20mm guns. Got 2 more nice packages from home. Wrote letters at night.

3-17-44 Fri. Left Naples at 0900 and headed for Bizerte as we are escorting the USS Biscayne. It is carrying an Admiral. We are taking a new route and traveling at flank speed. Will get there early in the morning. We will go right back to Naples shortly. We are also going to Palermo dry dock soon to get stacks on. On the go every minute so no chance to write many letters. At night I wrote to Furnivals for flowers for Mom and Phyl on Moms' birthday and a $10.00 bouquet for Mrs. Tuohy on Mother's Day. Can't send them though until we get paid. I'm standing wheel watches alone now. I've really got to write letters when get to Bizerte.

3-18-44 Sat. Got to Bizerte at 0700 and went in and tied up. We have 2 new 20mm guns aboard to put on the fantail. Spent all day unpacking them and helping to bring stores on board. Showered, washed clothes at night.

3-19-44 Sun. 1 year ago today we left NY for North Africa. Not a very good anniversary. Got paid in AM. I drew $87.00 for Feb.1-Mar. 1. Davis paid me $15.00 (now owes me $60.00). I sent $20.00 home to bank, $20.00 to Furnivals, $5.00 to Gilberts- candy for Mrs. Tuohy and now have about $35.00 left.

3-20-44 Mon. In Bizerte. Worked all day on new 20mm and getting some ammo. Dead tired at night. Getting underway tomorrow, I guess.

3-21-44 Tues. Worked all AM on new 20mms. At 1600 we left Bizerte to escort the Biscayne to Palermo, Sicily. It is really rough and windy. Got a small pox vaccination.

3-22-44 Got to Palermo 0700 and went in and tied up. The harbor is all

cleaned up now and looks real nice. Not many ships here now either. A few are in dry dock being repaired. Liberty was granted to the 3rd section from noon to 1800. At noon I went uptown to the Navy Dispensary- to the dentist. I had one tooth filled and one ~~x-~~rayed. Teeth in pretty good shape. Had the 1600-2000 gangway & then hit the sack. I made $28.00 on cigarettes I had. The Italians pay $8.00 to $10.00 for them and cost us 60¢. Palermo is slowly but surely recovering from war. They are repairing bldgs. now.

3-23-44 Thurs. Palermo. Painted smoke generator in AM. We rated liberty today But none was granted as we are getting underway for Naples, to take the Biscayne, at 2000. In PM I put rubber matting on the armory deck and took some 20mm magazines on the beach that were worn out. At 1700 we left the harbor and anchored outside. At 2000 we got underway for Naples with the Biscayne. I made over $50.00 making deals with cigs. again.

3-24-44 Fri. Got to Naples 0800 and anchored outside the harbor. I rated liberty in the PM so went with Davis and Smith. Looked around town and bought a $100.00 money order to send home for banking. Had 13 letters when returned to ship. 1700-left for Palermo. We will have 7 days availability there- we all thought we would go to Anzio. 1st section took it out so no chance to write letters.

3-25-44 Sat. Got to Palermo at 0815. Went in and tied up. We'll be here 7 days for repairs. Didn't do much all day as it rained. Wrote 4 letters, showered and washed clothes.

3-26-44 Sun. Cleaned up and washed clothes. Went on the beach a couple of times with cigs. with Spiess and Bradley. Had the 2000-2400 gangway at night.

3-27-44 Mon. In the AM we had photos of the crew taken by divisions but don't know if we can get any because they can't get the paper to print them on. In the PM I went on liberty with Davis and several others. We had our pictures taken at a studio, individually, then had a group picture taken with Davis, Johanneson, Smith and myself. Can't get them for a couple of days. Cost me $6.00. We spent the rest of the PM buying souvenirs to send home. We got into a fight with four Italian soldiers who drew bayonets on us. I fought one, Davis took one and Rogers knocked one out with a chair. They ran and started stoning us! Some Americans are killed or injured here in Palermo nearly every day. One stole $18.00 from Davis. We had two glasses of wine to celebrate my birthday.

3-28-44 Tues. Twenty two years old today. Spent all day aboard ship working on 20mms. Have my wrist all taped up as it's a little sore from the fight yesterday. Received 3 letters today. I wrote to Phyl & Mom and Dad and enclosed a picture of me.

3-29-44 Wed. In Palermo. Worked all day on depth charges. Sent one of my group pictures to Phyl. Had 0000-0400 gangway watch.

3-30-44 Thurs. Still in Palermo. I went on the beach in the AM and got some 20mm parts. In the PM went on liberty with Davis, Smith and Johanneson. We went out to the Catacombs and saw hundreds of dead people. Sure is some sight! Got back to the ship at 1800 and packed my boxes of souvenirs to send home. Bed early.

3-31-44 Fri. Worked all day in the armory and on a new ready box we got for the new 20mm guns. Saw the movie at night. Tired again.

4-1-44 Sat. Palermo. Worked all day on the "ready lockers" and in the armory. In the PM showered, washed clothes and mailed packages to Mom & Phyl. At 6 PM left Palermo to go to Naples and then probably go to Anzio. We set the clocks ahead an hour at midnight so I only had a 3 hour watch.

4-2-44 Sun. Got to Naples at 0800 and anchored outside the harbor. At 1500 left Naples to go to Anzio for a few days. I dread going back.

4-3-44 Mon. Got here at Anzio last night at 0100 and went right on patrol next to the anchorage area. In the night we had a bad air raid and some acoustic mines exploded d- close to us. We saw several enemy planes fly over but didn't shoot. Been sweeping all day with the old type gear. Not many ships here now, but sure is hot! Full moon all night. We can't make any water so can only wash once a day and a little to drink.

4-4-44 Tues. Last night we had another bad air raid, an E-boat attack and a submarine attack all at one time. We were 17 miles out on patrol, all alone, and were at GQ most all night. No planes came close but we picked up a sub contact. We drop depth charges now all night long, every night. We drop one about every 2 hours. Really hard on us GMs as we bring them all up from the magazine and get them prepared for dropping. One night 3 of these random drops failed to explode because I had neglected to cock the detonator pistols. The warning buzzer had sounded and the entire crew waited for the jarring explosions that never came! I goofed and they didn't let me forget it. Early this AM we had a sub contact but one of the officers messed it up so we didn't get it- everyone is mad. This place is worse than it has ever been, and it appears to be really bad on the beach. I'm awfully dirty and sweat plenty bringing up the depth charges, but no [redacted] water to clean up with.

4-5-44 Wed. Wasn't quite so bad last night- just a couple of light raids. We have swept all day and laid marker buoys in the channel. At 1600 we went in close to the beach and took on water from an LST- Only enough for drinking. What I wouldn't give for a good shower. While we were in close to the beach, a pay master came aboard and paid us for a period of one month, to April 1st. I drew $87.00 and Davis paid me $25.00 (still owes me $50.00). Hope to send $140.00 home when we get back in port. After being paid, went back out 17 mi. to patrol. Hope the E-Boats and Subs stay away tonight. My clothes are as black as my face, but I'm not changing them until I shower. Hope we aren't here 2 wks. as we were before. I'd like to write letters, but not a minute to do so.

4-6-44 Thurs. Swept all day and we GMs brought up 4 600# depth charges. The nights are awful bright now, but no real heavy raids lately. We have had several sub contacts but can't go after them while sweeping. Terribly dirty.

4-7-44 Fri. Swept again all day until 1530, then went into the beach to get water from an LST. We all had 5 minutes in a shower. I also changed my clothes. Sure feels much better. No raids at all last night. The list for 2/c came up, finally and it was dated back to April 1st instead of Feb. 1st. Old Brown sure gave me a raw deal. Am going to take 1st class tests right away so I'll have it done. Will then have to wait only for the time. Wish we would get relieved and go back to port. Lots of letters to write, but no time out here.

4-8-44 Sat. Had 2 bad raids last night and some JU88s really came close. Got very little sleep. I slept all AM today and stood 1200-1600 watch. I got my progressive test applications for 1st class today so will start on them. Might just as well get it done with. Kinda homesick so read some old letters at night.

4-9-44 Sun. Easter Sunday at Anzio, Italy. Not a very pleasant place to spend Easter- with the battle front only 6-8 miles away and German air craft overhead. Had 0800-1200 watch. We had a very nice dinner; chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, soup, lemon cake, bread-butter and coffee. I slept in the PM About 1830 an SC came alongside and gave us 4 bags of mail that just came up from Naples. I got 9 letters.

4-10-44 Mon. Last night the USS Sway (AM 120) shot down a JU88. Wrote letter in the AM. In the PM worked on 20mms and on my 1st class exam. No raids all night or all day because it has been cloudy and rainy. Went in near beach at night after sweeping all day and to get water and provisions.

4-11-44 Tues. Still at Anzio. Last night a German plane crashed very close to us. A PC went over and picked up survivors and it was manned by Italians. It had laid 4 mines before being shot down. Had several bad raids during the night. We swept all day today with old type gear. At night went in to the beach to get water and supplies from LST #352. They also had a little mail for us & I got 3 letters. We had a sub contact in the AM and was at GQ for 3 hours- but finally lost it.

4-12-44 Wed. Had some bad raids again last night. Have swept all day as usual and were behind enemy lines at times. 5 English J-sweepers came in today and are sweeping a known mine field. Heard that a whole fleet of battleships, cruisers and destroyers were coming in soon to clean up this beach-head. At 1600 went in to the LST and got more water. In the evening we got a message that we will be relieved by the USS Seer (AM 112) tomorrow at day break. We leave here at dawn for Naples. Sure will seem good to get away. We had a bad raid tonight. Just before dark 20 FW190s came in all at once and dropped a few bombs. Never saw so much flak in my life at one time. Didn't do much damage

4-13-44 Thurs. Left Anzio at 0800 for Naples. Came alone at 15 knots & arrived 1530. Will leave here soon, I guess. At night I showered &

got a haircut. Saw a movie- "Crazy Horse" with Olson and Johnso:

4-14-44 Fri. At Naples. Worked all day on #1 3" guns. At 1600 we got underway for Palermo, Sicily. We will be there for a least one week.

4-15-44 Sat. Arrived Palermo 0800 and went inside and tied up. I worked all day on 50 cal. machine guns. I had 1600-2000 gangway. Guess we can get 4 cans of beer each- while here this time. I washed clothes at night.

4-16-44 Sun. Holiday routine all day. Slept all AM and had liberty with Davis in the PM. When we returned I got 4 letters.

4-17-44 Mon. Worked in the AM and sent to Air craft identification school on the beach in the PM. Came back to the ship at 1600. Showered, washed clothes and wrote letters.

4-18-44 Tues. Palermo. Worked hard all day- cleaned four 20mm guns and saw a movie at night. Real tired so to bed early. I'm a little afraid we may go to England in the near future.

4-19-44 Wed. Worked AM on 20mm tanks. Lad liberty in the PM so went with Spiess in undressed blues. We went through a large church and went up on the mountain overlooking Palermo. We ate supper up town and came back to the ship at 1800. Had 7 letters.

4-20-44 Thurs. Worked all day on 3" guns and stenciled my new dungarees in the PM. At night we had a ships' dance at the Red Cross in town. I went up but didn't dance any. Had about 15 Italian girls there with their mothers. Came back early. Guess we leave here tomorrow for Oran and are starting some new duty. May go to England but sure hope not. Haven't been to Oran since November.

4-21-44 Fri. Palermo, Sicily. Worked on 3" guns and in the armory. Worked hard to get all of our work done as we go to sea tonight. 2030- left Palermo at 1745 and are now going out to meet a convoy of troop transports which we are taking to Oran. Lots of ships are meeting there now and getting ready to go to England. We'll probably be in on that one too.

4-22-44 Sat. Happy Birthday Mom! On our way to Oran with a convoy of English troop transports. There are 7 transports and 10 Englis] destroyers besides us. Guess we came along as we are the only jig ship in the convoy. We are making 14 knots and will get to Oran on Monday AM. Been nearly 6 months since we've been there. My arm is beginning to get bad again.

4-23-44 Sun. Still enroute to Oran. Just going by Algiers now. Arm really hurts today. It has been rainy and nasty and quite rough all day. For dinner we had turkey, dressing, spuds and cranberry sauce. No water again and I'm really dirty. Too rough to writ

4-24-44 Mon. Got into Oran at 0900. Found the Sustain there also, so guess we are to run convoy duty between Gibraltar and Bizerte for awhile. All these big convoys are being attacked by German torpedo planes. Sustain was with one Fri. that lost 3 liberty ships, a tanker and a destroyer. We are in destroyer squadron 7

4-25-44 Tues. Worked in the AM in the armory making out orders of stuff we need from the states. Had liberty in the PM so went to Oran with Davis. Not a good liberty because everything is so high. We paid $1.50 each for two eggs, onions and bread. Sandals for Marilyn were $14.00 so didn't get any. Came back to ship at 1800 and went to the movie.

4-26-44 Wed. Got underway at 0900 for Bizerte with a large convoy of 85 liberty ships. We met them as they went by Oran. Going 8 knots and I'll be surprised if we aren't attacked on the way up. We have 18 new 2/c seamen aboard and it is really funny to watch them. They salute all us guys and call us sir. We are really feeding them a line of s- and they are scared to death. Just out of boot camp, and are about 17 and 18 years old. No water today- not even to drink!

4-27-44 Thurs. Enroute to Bizerte with this convoy of liberty ships and tankers Quite rough and we still don't have water to wash, shave or even to drink. Most all the new seamen are sea sick. I stand watch on the boat deck now and it is much better than the flying bridg Hope this convoy gets through better than the last one. They lost 3 liberties, 1 tanker and a can!

4-28-44 Fri. Poking along at 6 knots as a couple old tankers can't keep up. It is still rough and no water. Don't know if we'll stay at Bizerte awhile or go right back to Oran again. We're just going by Bone now about 45 miles out. Would like to write some letters but too rough. I'm dirty, sweaty and a long beard. We have a little air cover now by P47s.

4-29-44 Sat. At last we got to Bizerte at 1000 and went inside and tied up. Our stacks are here from the States and there is a rumor that they will be put on here after our next trip. Sure hope not. We get paid tomorrow so I made out my pay check today. At last I am drawing 2/c pay. I get $118.00 this time and don't know how much I'll send home cause I've got to buy all new whites for this summer. I'll wait and see if any of the boys pay me any. During the day I washed clothes and we also got paid. I will send $100.00 home. Davis paid me and only owes $10.00 now.

4-30-44 Sun. In Bizerte and had holiday routine. I laid around all day and worked in the armory some on our mail box. In the PM I wrote letters to Phyl and Mom and Dad. At night I saw the movie and had the 2000-2400 gangway watch. We're getting underway tomorro Since we left N.Y. on 3-19-43 we have traveled 52,690 nautical miles on the USS Steady.

5-1-44 Mon. In the AM we Gunners mates took a drum of chemical oil over to the beach and exchanged it for 2 drums of fog oil for our smoke generator. At noon we left Bizerte and went out with 11 Destroy Escorts to join a large convoy of 90 liberty ships which came up from Port Said, Egypt! Never saw so many liberty ships at one time in my life. The convoy is about 15 miles long and 5 miles wide. We are the only jig ship in the convoy and are going as far as Gibralter with them. The convoy and all the DEs are

going on to the States and we have to turn around and come back! Those d- DEs have been over here only 3 weeks. Most of the ships have torpedo nets over. Sure bet we'll be attacked on this run.

5-2-44 Tues. We're right in the middle of the convoy now and making 7 knots. The convoy reformed this AM so we now have 13 columns of 6 ships each besides all the escorts. We go nearly to Gibralter with them and supposed to get back to Oran late Fri. night. This tri will be the nearest home we have been in over 13 months. Guess we will lay smoke around the convoy tonight! No water again- not even to drink.

5-3-44 Wed. Rather a miserable day and I'm a little homesick. Last night about 0030 we had a submarine attack on the stern of the convoy. Several subs sneaked in from behind and torpedoed one of our DEs. The report is that 21 men were killed, 7 missing and about 45 wounded. The DE didn't sink and is being towed in to Algiers by a tug. Several of the DEs went after the subs but didn't even get close to them. God darned"boots" and coast guard! We had to stay with the convoy as we're jig ship.
No water at all now. Our coils have broken completely and cant get new ones until we are in Oran on Saturday. No water to drin or even to wash up. We get a glass of tomato juice a day and that is all. My old beard is really long and am I ever dirty.
Bet most anything that we will have and air raid tonight. Oh well, this d- war can't last forever- I hope! Wrote letters at night.

5-4-44 Thurs. 1900- right now we are going by Oran. We will leave the convoy tomorrow morning at 0700 and then come back to Oran for a few days. On the way back in the morning we are going to practice fire all guns. Last night some ships got that sub cornered that torpedoed one of the DEs the other night. They found him laying on the bottom about 15 miles out from the beach up east of Algiers about 50 miles. Ships and planes were called out of Algiers and they completely circled the sub with about 25 ships This morning at 0330 the sub had to surface and was immediately sunk by the ships. Only 15 survivors were taken off the sub. We still have one following the convoy. We picked it up several times last night, using it's radar, with our "counter-measures" gear. Might see a little action tonight. Lucky last night!
No water and am I thirsty. We all look like wild men with our long beards.

5-5-44 Fri. AM. We are now halfway between Oran and Gibraltor on a sub sear with two DEs and four destroyers. Early this AM just before daylight a submarine was sighted between the outside column of the convoy and the escorts. It came up, put two torpedoes in a DE then submerged again. We were first sent to the damaged DE to stand by and pick up survivors. When we got there it was just breaking daylight and the DE was nearly down. She broke right in the middle and sunk in about 25 minutes. Quite a few of the men were taken off before she sank and alot of them were in the water. When the DE had sunk 150 ft. all of her dept

charges exploded and killed many that were in the water. It was terrific explosion and really gave us a jar. After the ship had sunk and all men were picked up and put on a tug to be taken to Oran, we were told to start a submarine search. We took two Coast Guard DEs out of the convoy and sent to Oran for more ships to help out. 4 destroyers came out and we all searched all day long with a 50% watch. At night we were called back in to Oran as we have been without water for 10 days. On this trip from Bizerte we have lost 2 DEs and the first sub has been sunk. Sure hope they get this one!!!

5-6-44 Sat. We got here to MEK at 0600 and went in and tied up by the Vulcan and six destroyers that just came over. In the AM I took a much needed shower and shaved. Also all clean clothes. PM I rated liberty so went up to Oran with Davis, Speiss and Smith. We were in a restaurant to buy something to eat and were picked up by two army majors- MPs, cause it was out of bounds. It was on the main street right acrossed from the MP Station and there were no signs to keep out! We were taken to SP Headquarters and put in a dirty, filthy brig and stayed there until 2305. Most of the guys in there were picked up for similar charges- most of them were getting hair cuts. Two more guys from the Steady were there for that reason. We were sicker than dogs when we got out from the smell of the place and the looks of it. I never got such a raw deal in my life and never again will I go on liberty in Oran. It's hard to explain how made we were but we were mad enough to kill. I got Marilyn's slippers before we got in. While on"liberty" a bunch of mail came aboard. I rec'd a total of 35 letters- 21 from Phyl, and the rest from different people.

5-7-44 Sun. Fooled around all day and read all my letters. I wrote back.

5-8-44 Mon. Still in Oran. d-- am I happy today! Got 10 more letters this morning and they were very recent and sure boosted my spirits. All were written between Apr. 24 and May 2. Some only 6 days old and I think that beats all records. They had received my money and also their flowers and souvenirs. Worked all day on the flying bridge and had the 1600-2000 gangway at night.

5-9-44 Tues. Worked all day stenciling new gas masks. We got underway at 1630 to go out and meet a large convoy and take it to Bizerte. After we got underway I packed Marilyn's sandals and wrote to Mom. Sure did well with mail this time in Oran. Hope we don't have as much trouble with this convoy as we did the last one. The boilers were'nt fired in Oran, so again we only have water to drink. Probably take 4-5 days to get to Bizerte at 8 knots. Got to catch up on my letter writing this trip.

5-10-44 Wed. Underway for Bizerte with a large convoy of liberty ships - had the 0800-1200 watch this AM and slept in the PM- then finished packing Mare's box. Hope no raids tonight.

5-11-44 Thurs. Still poking along on way to Bizerte. All went well last night! I had the 0400-0800 this morning so had all day off. I slept al

AM and wrote letters all afternoon. I wrote to Phyl, Wayne Gram, Bob K. and Vada McRae. Hope to get caught up before we get to Bizerte. We've had several red alerts today. The convoy Commander expects an attack.

5-12-44 Fri. Well, last night we really got it! Just at dusk we picked up a bunch of aircraft on radar 30 miles from the convoy to seaward. A few minutes later we were attacked by JU88s and HEIIIs. They came in from all sides and were low to the water. Some were dive bombers but most were torpedo bombers. Some planes came pretty close to us but no torpedoes were thrown our way. We did lots of firing with 20mms and may get credit for one plane. Five planes were knocked down and not one ship was hit. Pretty d-lucky. I fired more than any other gun on the flying bridge port 20mm. I fired 1200 rounds. Had some of the best shots I've ever had and we really put 'em in there. Today we went alongside alot of liberty ships to get action reports. We have had several red alerts today also, so we'll probably get it again tonight. The convoy is going to Port Said, Egypt, but we leave it tomorrow morning and go to Bizerte. Wrote letters at night. I have a bad cold.

5-13-44 Sat. Left the convoy and came in Bizerte at 0630. We worked all AM filling the smoke generator and turning in our old gas masks. Some mail came aboard at noon and I got 1 V-mail letter. Also 3 great boxes with candy of all kinds, popcorn, stationery, tooth paste, shaving cream and lots of other things. Possibly will sell the cigarettes in Palermo. Showered & cleaned up at night.

5-14-44 Sun. AM cleaned locker and moved my bunk to the mid compartment where it will be cooler this summer. I gathered up all the small liras and francs I've been saving and found that I had $19.00 worth. I sent it to the post office and got a money order to send to Phyl to buy a war bond. At 1330 we left Bizerte to go to Palermo where we will probably be for three weeks- to get stacks, also 2 40mm guns and 2 more 20mms. Just after leaving Bizerte we practiced fired all guns at a sleeve target towed by an air-craft and put our sweep gear over for practice.

5-15-44 Mon. Yesterday we got underway for Palermo and practice fired all guns on the way. I fired 1500 rounds at a sleeve target. We got about halfway to Palermo and was radioed from Bizerte to return immediately. We went back and anchored out all night and came into the harbor this AM. We just got inside and was sent back out to pick up a troop transport and take it to Corsica. We & AM341 are now on our way to Corsica with the transport. We'll get there tomorrow PM and then will probably return to Palermo for our availability. This is our first trip to Corsica.
At noon today I packed alot of stuff to send to Phyl (letters, books and things to get off the ship). Hope we don't run into trouble this trip. Changed my locker to mid compartment today.

5-16-44 Tues. Yesterday we traveled all along the coast of Sardinia at 16 knot Early this AM we passed through the straits between Sardinia & Corsica that is only 500 yards wide in one place. We went

around on the SW side of Corsica and up a small bay to a small port, called Ajaccio. It is a French Port which we are in now lying at anchor. There are 5 large transports here- all British. Also there are 2 U.S. Liberty Ships, 2 U.S. APDs and lots of landing craft of ours and the English. Also alot of French and Italian small craft and 1 cruiser. Looks very much like one of the bases from which the invasion will be launched, against southern France. This whole island is loaded with our airplanes of all kinds and many french troops. This is a very beautiful harbor & city, with beautiful water and large green mountains all around. Sure wish I had a camera.
Liberty was granted to the 2nd section so we were left aboard. Hope we are here long enough for us to get liberty. There is a big seaplane base here too.

5-17-44 Wed. Still in Ajaccio, Corsica. We worked all AM on our new arbor covers. In the PM Davis and I had Shore Patrol duty. We went up town and signed in at the SP office and was on three differe beats. A person could certainly make some money here if they could get some items ashore. Cigarettes are worth $10.00 per carton, shoes- between $60.00 and $80.00 and other clothes are worth eight times their true value. Some of the guys took a few cigs. ashore and made $50.00-$60.00.
Dave and I went through Napoleon Bonaparte's home and saw where he was buried. He was born in Ajaccio. We got back to the shi at 2130 and were really tired and went right to bed. We wore whites today which is the first time this year. This sure is a nice little town of about 32,000 people. Lots of French troops here now for invasion.

5-18-44 Thurs. I had 0400-0800 gangway this AM. In the forenoon we caught up on a few little odd jobs. At 1300 we left Ajaccio with the USS Speed and an English merchant ship that we are taking to meet a convoy 60 miles west of Bizerte. Then we proceed on to Bizerte alone and probably on to Palermo for our availability. We are making 12½ knots and will rendezvous with the convoy tomorrow about 1700. The sea is calm and the weather beautiful

5-19-44 Fri. At sea with the USS Speed and an English Merchantman. At 1700 today we met the convoy of 17 large troop transports and left the English ship with it- going west. We and the Speed then came on to Bizerte and anchored outside the harbor. Had a movie at night.

5-20-44 Sat. Worked all AM on 3" guns. Still at anchor outside Bizerte Har. Wrote a short letter to Phyl. At 1300 we got underway for Palermo where we will be for at least 3 weeks to get our stacks two 40mm guns & two more 20mms. We are accompanied by 2 SCs.

5-21-44 Sun. Got here to Palermo at 0800. Took a shower in AM. Went on liberty with Davis in the PM. Also took all my laundry over on the beach to have done. Took 6 cartons of cigarettes and sold them for $7.00 a carton. In PM some mail came aboard-I got 4. Mom & Mrs. Tuohy had gotten the flowers and candy for Mothers I

5-22-44 Mon. Really put in a hard day today. The ship is really being torn u by Italian labor. We worked on the #1 3" gun all day and also unloaded some ammo. All the ammo has to come off the ship as lots of welding to be done. Went over and got laundry- they did a fine job. Also took some more cigs and an old pair of army shoes I had, and got $18.00 for them. Very tired at night so wrote no letters.

5-23-44 Tues. Another hard day. Unloaded all ammo out of the aft magazine & bore-sighted the forward 3" gun in the PM. Showered at night and wrote letters. Ordered some new clothes as are wearing whites now on liberty.

5-24-44 Wed. Worked on forward 3" gun in AM and in the PM went on liberty wit Spiess and got some more souvenirs for Phyl, a rubber stamp for me and rode all around town in a carriage. At night I paid $23.00 for small stores that I have ordered.

5-25-44 Thurs. Worked hard all day on the flying bridge and on depth charges. Very tired at night. I bought six extra pairs of shoes today with Bzdon. Guess will be going into dry dock tomorrow. All the work is coming along fast.

5-26-44 Fri. Worked all day on forward 3" gun. In PM I got a yellow fever shot at the base dispensary and also to the dentist on the USS Delta. All my teeth were OK. At evening we went into dry dock where we will be a few days. Italians all over the ship and it sure is noisy!! No sleep at all at night. After supper I sat down to write to Phyl and then was called to take our depth charge pistols over to the USS Delta- so still no letters. More d- work!

5-27-44 Sat. Worked on forward 3" gun in the AM. Small stores came aboard and Spiess and I got 8 extra pairs of shoes for resale- each made $75.00. Liberty in the PM and bought Phyl a blouse with her name embroidered on it, a small trinket and a set of Snow White and the 7 dwarfs with Italian names. At night the ship had a dance up at the Red Cross.

5-28-44 Sun. Sunday, but no holiday routine. Are in drydock and we worked hard all day. Put chromite on 3" gun, scraped hedge-hog and got pistols from USS Delta. Sent $100.00 money order home and stenciled new clothes.

5-29-44 Mon. Worked on 20mms on flying bridge. At night showered and cleaned up, wrote letters and sent my money order.

5-30-44 Tues. In AM painted the 3" gun and we are still in the Palermo dry dock. PM I went on liberty withSpiess and rode all around Palermo in a carriage. I bought P. a table-cloth & a few other souvenirs. Tired when we got back so right to bed.

5-31-44 Wed. Painted all day on 3" gun and Hedge-Hog projector. The ship looks different now & is sure torn up. The boat deck is completely changed to make room for two new 40mm guns. We came

out of dry dock in the PM. I went over and picked up laundry, repacked Phyl's box and wrote her a short letter.

6-1-44 Thurs. Tied to a dock just outside dry dock in Palermo. Got paid in AM and I drew $108.00. I am able to send $100.00 home as have a little extra money. At night worked on 20mm mounts.

6-2-44 Fri. Worked on 20mms on the flying bridge in AM and went to 40mm school. In the PM I went on liberty with Davis and got back at 2100. Saw movie and hit the sack. Kinda sick.

6-3-44 Sat. Worked all AM on an army 40mm over on the break-water. We are getting so we know them pretty well. In the Pm I had Shore Patr duty with Alsdorf up town- got back to the ship at 2300 so another day passed with no letters written. I'm really sick cause I have written so few letters while here. It's getting pretty tiresome.

6-4-44 Sun. Worked all day painting the splinter shield on the forward 3" gu At night I had the 2000-2400 gangway. Mail came aboard this PM and I got 13 letters but couldn't read them until 0100 after I got off watch. D- this life!

6-5-44 Mon. Had the 0000-0400 last night and worked hard all day on hedge-hogs and the new 40mm guns. Showered at night and wrote long letters to Mom & Phyl. Also sent money order home. Liberty starts at 1630 from now on instead of 1300. Am getting d-sick of this ship.

6-6-44 Tues. Got a typhus shot this AM and my arm is really sore. We worked on our new 40mms in the AM. In the PM we went to an army 40mm battery and fired at a sleeve target all PM. Got 4 letters in PM and had a 3" gun watch. The invasion started across the channel this AM but we haven't heard much news yet. Was glad to hear it, but feel sorry for the boys who are in it. Guess we leave here Fri. or Sat. and will be in another invasion soon.

6-7-44 Wed. Worked all day on the new 40mms and got them both pretty well cleaned up. In the PM I had the 1600-2000 gangway. At night I saw the movie, "Above Suspicion" and wrote to Mom and Wayne. Really tired again so hit the sack early.

6-8-44 Thurs. Worked all day on the new 40mms and also was in charge of Italian workers when they painted the fantail. At 1630 went on liberty with Tarala. We went to the navy club and had two beers each. Came back aboard at 1900 and saw the movie-then to bed. Guess we will go out on trial run tomorrow.

6-9-44 Fri. Worked all AM putting the pistols and extenders in the depth charges. At noon we got underway and went outside and ran around until 1900. We fired the 40mms and the 4 new20mms. Everything worked well. We worked very hard today! At night I cleaneddup and wrote letters to Mom & Phyl. Leave here soon.

6-10-44 Sat. Spent all day painting on the boat deck and the new 40mms. We also got 4 more new 20mm guns and mounts aboard to replace the four old ones. Lots of work to do now. At night I cleaned up and wrote letters while waiting for the movie to start.

6-11-44 Sun. Thought we would get underway today but didn't. We worked all AM on fog oil and putting the new 20mm guns together. In the PM I went on liberty with Davis. Went for a long ride in the country in a carriage.

6-12-44 Mon. Finished painting the 40mms in the AM and had liberty in the PM. Went alone and came back early. Mail came aboard at night. Guess we're leaving here tomorrow to go to Malta and I sure dread it.

6-13-44 Tues. Left Palermo at 0930 and are enroute to Malta to make a degaussing run and also have a lot of supplies aboard for the USS Philadelphia. We fired all guns again today at a sleeve target towed by a plane. We GMs really worked our "rears" off this PM cleaning them up again. I was fixing a 20mm and lost half of it over the side! No bona! But no problem. It's now 2000 and we are just passing through the Messena Straits. It's only 1¼ mi. wide and really a beautiful sight. Large green mountains on both sides with small cities here and there. Sure would like to take a picture. We also just passed a large convo of loaded liberty ships going the other way. We are due in Malta tomorrow about 0830. Guess we'll be there a couple of day Then where we will go- no one knows! Seems good to have stacks on and no spray. Tonight I need to shower and wash clothes.

6-14-44 Wed. Arrived Valetti, Malta at 0830. We went in and tied up alongside a sunken tanker and unloaded all supplies that we had aboard for the USS Philadelphia. At noon we went outside the harbor and ran the degaussing range several times. At 1630 we left there and headed for Naples, alone, at 16 knots. Guess we are all set now for more real duty. Showered & laundry at night.

6-15-44 Thurs. Traveled all day at 16 knots along the coast of Italy. Got to Naples at 1900. Saw a movie, wrote to Mom and Phyl, then had 0000-0400 watch. It's 110° here in the armory now where I am.

6-16-44 Fri. Got underway this AM to go to Anzio, or up north of Rome, with the USS Sway. We left Naples at 0900 and swept all the way to Anzio. Several liberty ships are here unloading now and it seems to be pretty quiet with the exception of a few air raids and red alerts. I don't know if we will stay here and sweep or go on up the line. No water again.

6-17-44 Sat. Still at Anzio and swept all day long. Guess we'll stay here all the time we're out for duty, which is to be for about 21 days There is very little water aboard, so again we can't wash or shave. We get to drink only 3 times a day. Everyone is really disgusted! Am I ever dirty already. Tarala, Spiess and I have started a daily conditioning hour with the medicine ball.

6-18-44 Sun. Anzio. Got quite rough during the night so today we have tossed around plenty. We swept until 1500 then came in and

anchored out with the liberty ships where we will stay until 200 then go out and patrol. Hope we will get water while here. In the evening I went to the RDF shack and wrote long letters.

6-19-44 Mon. Anzio. Patrolled all night and swept for mines all day today. At 1600 we went in to the beach to get water and some mail. I got 9 letters- one was from Wayne and it was only 4 days old. He is right here in Italy and I'm sure going to try and look him up. His address is: 825th Sqdn 494th Bomb Group
APO #520 c/o FPO New York, NY.

6-20-44 Tues. Anzio, Italy. Patrolled all night again and swept all day. At 1530 we came in close to the beach and anchored until 2000. Then back out to patrol. While in at anchor I showered and cleaned up because the water has again been turned on. Wrote letters to

6-21-44 Wed. Anzio. Longest day of the year. Sunrise was at 0455, and sunset is 2143. We swept today and went up past Rome, right in close to the mouth of the river. It's the farthest north in Ita that we have been. While sweeping, a Piper Cub came down awfull close and kept circling us and a P38, so I thought perhaps it was Wayne. At 1400 we went in to Anzio and anchored until 2000 and then went out on patrol. While we were in I washed clothes and wrote letters.

6-22-44 Thurs. Anzio. Patrolled all night again and swept all day today with magnetic type gear. At night we went in and anchored until 2000 then back on patrol. This PM we fired 40mm and rifles at oil drums which some ship had lost. We sank about 20 of them. I had evening watch.

6-23-44 Fri. Anzio. Patrolled at night and swept all day with "old Type" gear. This PM we were playing with the medicine ball and it dropped over the side so the skipper went back and picked it up. He sure is a nice guy. At night we went in and anchored until 2000 so I wrote to Mom and Phyl. Sure would like to get home!

6-24-44 Sat. Anzio. Patrolled all night and swept all day again. We went into the beach at 1500 and anchored so we turned to until 1800. I fixed 2 barrel tanks. Movie at night was "Cairo". Then we went right out on patrol.

6--25-44 Sun. Anzio. Swept all morning but came to anchor at 1300. I shower and cleaned clothes and then wrote letters. Back out to patrol at 2000. I found out today that Wayne is at Foggia Field here in Italy. Guess we will be up here for 3-4 more days.

6-26-44 Mon. Anzio. Swept all day and went up north by Rome again. At 1500 went in close to the beach and anchored. At 1800 the USS Sustain (AM119) came up from Naples and relieve us. The USS Dextrous (AM341) relieved the USS Seer (AM112). The two of us are now on our way to Naples with 2 empty liberty ships.

6-27-44 Tues. Got into Naples at 0700 with the two liberty ships and anchored. There are alot of attack transports here now and all kinds of invasion ships, so the big invasion isn't far off. At noon some mail came aboard- I got 8 letters. At 1430 a Comdr. came aboard and we got underway for Salerno. Got to Salerno this evening at 1800 and anchored out. Guess we will be here for at least a couple of days to have an annual military, naval inspection. We will have a personnel and material inspection tomorrow, then have all kinds of drills, such as general quarters, fire, gas, abandon ship and also invasion tactics. We also must stream all sweep gear as well as lockers and quarters inspection. What a bunch of s--- this is going to be!

6-28-44 Wed. Salerno. This AM we had a very strict personnel and material inspection which lasted from 0800 until noon. We then got underway with the inspection party aboard and went out for drill of all kinds. I guess everybody proved to be pretty good! We came back in at night and anchored out. I had the 2000-2400 gangway watch.

6-29-44 Thurs. Salerno. Worked all day on ready lockers and the hatch to the depth charge magazine. In the PM I put in a request to Mr. Nelson for a couple of days off to go and see Wayne. Don't know if I will get it or not. At night I cleaned up and washed clothes, so again no letters.

6-30-44 Fri. Salerno- HAPPY DAY!! This morning at 0800 I was informed by our executive officer, Mr. Upton, that I have leave until tomorrow night at 2030 to go and see Wayne. I got ready in whites and packed a few things in my bag and was ready to leave by 0900. The boat took me into Salerno and I then hitched a ride to Naples through Pompei, by army truck. At Naples I took a bus to an airport. There I tried at 3 offices to get a ride to Foggia but to no avail. I was ready to give up when I heard of a pilot who was going. I looked him up and he smuggled me aboard and took me to a B-24 field at Foggia, in a B-25 Mitchell bomber That was my <u>first</u> plane ride! I sat back in the bomb bay area. We landed at a field about 30 miles south of Foggia. I inquired there about Wayne's address and was told that it was 7 miles further down the road. It was hot and dusty. I started walking and finally got a ride in a water tanker- the last mile. I got to Wayne's group operations office and found that he was in town. I went to his tent and shortly he came in. His first words were, "well you old bastard you". Mine were, "Hi you old bitch"!! We were then silent for several minutes just looking at each other. We then had a long visit and I met alot of the flyers. That evening he took me for a two hour ride in a B-24 Liberator and we went all over southern Italy, using up 800 gal. of gasoline. I got in all of the turrets and even flew the plane myself. After we came down we went to his tent and wrote a letter to Mom. We went to the officers' club and had a beer each, then slept in his tent. Today, (June 30, 1944) is the first time I've seen a person from home in over 16 months First time I have seen Wayne in over two years. How lucky I was to find him and what happiness it brought us both- not to mentio

the happiness it will bring Mom!!

7-1-44 Sat. 30 Miles south of Foggia, Italy! Wayne and I got up at 0530 to see the crews go to their planes and take off on a bombing mission to Munich, Germany. They were all ready to go but the mission was called off because of bad weather conditions over the target. We spent the forenoon visiting and writing letters- I wrote a little more to Mom and a letter to Phyl.
The operations office let Wayne take a B-24 to bring me back to Naples and also made arrangements for us to land there. To do this they had to drain out most of the gasoline.
At 1430 we left the field in a Liberator and headed for Naples. We landed at 1630! Wayne got out with me and we said "goodbye" above the roar of the planes' four big engines. We shook hands and wished each other the best of luck. We both turned and left quickly and I imagine for the same reason! I stood and watched him take off and disappear over the mountains. A jeep came out to pick me up and take me off the field. I then walked out to the Salerno road and caught a ride with a weapons carrier directly to Salerno. I got back aboard ship at 1920 which was an hour earlier than was necessary. My suit of whites looked more like blues than whites but the trip I had was well worth a little extra scrubbing. I've seen Wayne, flew three different times, flew a B-24 myself and had a wonderful time.
I am now ready to make this next invasion which is coming within two weeks. When I got back to the ship tonight I had a letter from Gram. I showered then went on the 0000-0400 gangway watch.

7-2-44 Sun. Salerno. I slept all forenoon until 1000. I then got up and related all my experiences of the trip to most everyone and some of the officers. They were all very interested in what I had done and had seen and everyone was tickled that I had seen my brother. In the PM I caught up in this book and wrote letters to Wayne, Phyl and Mom. It's a beautiful day and as I sit here I look upon many ships of all kinds that are here making preparations for the new large invasion which is very close to here! It's going to be big and bad! At night I saw the movie-bed earl

7-3-44 Mon. Salerno, Italy. Worked on the 20mms in the AM and took life rather easy in the PM. At 1630 liberty was granted so I went ashore with Davis, Spiess and Tarala. Alot of us had just gotte outside the gate when a Lt. Comdr. came up in a jeep and said we were all out of uniform because our hats weren't square. He told us all to go back to the ship and we were restricted from liberty! Boy, were we mad!!! We started back to the boat land but as soon as he left we tore up another street and on to our liberty. Only had 3½ hours. There isn't a d- thing in Salerno so we went up to Carva which is about 5 miles, and is halfway to Pompei. We got a haircut and ate some Italian ice cream (no d- good), then came back to the ship. We were a little lat but it was OK. As long as I have been on this ship, or even in the navy, I've never gotten in any trouble or even put on repor Our quarterly marks just came out and my marks are all up one point. They are: Proficiency-3.9; Mechanical ability-3.9;

leader of men- 3.9; conduct- 4.0. (4.0= 100%).

7-4-44 Tues. Salerno- Whew! Is it ever hot! I believe it is the hottest day we've had yet. It is well over 100°. In the AM some mail came aboard and I got 9 letters from Phyl, Mare and Mom. Worked on the hedge hogs in AM and in PM we went inside and tied up by the USS Biscayne and I spent the whole afternoon reading letters, answering them and sweating! At night I washed clothes and showered. Invasion ships are coming in all the time. It can't be long now! Got paid at night- I drew $109.00.

7-5-44 Wed. In Salerno. I spent the day washing clothes and cleaning up the armory. At 1400 we got underway to go out aways and screen for troop transports while they make practice landings. I bet Davis $5.00 that there will be another invasion here within one month. A new GM 1/c came aboard for duty. Got him from a PC. Makes seven of us now. We can't get money orders here at Salerno so I gave Doc $75.00 to keep in the safe until we can get to a port where we can get them.

7-6-44 Thurs. Salerno, Italy. Came in from the screening duty at 1100. In the PM got some mail aboard. At 1600 we got underway to go out and sweep and to "screen". More d--- practicing!! We learned today that we merit another star for the convoy torpedo attack that we were in off Algiers on May 11. The convoy was called UGS40. Makes five stars now that we have earned.

7-7-44 Fri. Came back into Salerno Harbor at 1400. We worked on the 3" gun. I wrote a short letter to Mom & Dad and then I had the 1600-2000 gangway. At 2000 went out to patrol and we are leaving here for Naples at 0430.

7-8-44 Sat. Left Salerno at 0430 and got to Naples about 0800. We came inside and went right into the dry dock where we were before. We need to have a new screw put on. In the AM I went on the beach looking for some ordnance supplies- had no luck. In the PM I went on liberty with Spiess and Davis. This town is rotten for liberty. The streets are crowded with service men from every country in the world. We came back early and I hit the sack. Doc got my money order today to send home.

7-9-44 Sun. Naples, Italy. Got up at 0800 and wrote letters to Phyl, Mrs. Tuohy and Mom. Also sent my $75.00 money order to Dad. I got 5 letters today. At noon we left dry-dock and went alongside a tender to refuel. While refueling we got word that the USS Swerve (AM 121) had just hit a floating mine at Anzio and sank immediately. She was the last AM to come over- has been about one month. Boy, are we lucky! We left the tanker and started up the line to a town north of Rome called Cievtevichia. We will be there quite awhile and do duty as a jig ship.

7-10-44 Mon. We stopped at Anzio last night because it was rough and were afraid we couldn't find the swept channel to come on up to our destination. It's a d- good thing we did because early this morning, just after daylight, we started up here to Cievtevichia

and right away we spotted a big floating mine at 355°. We turned away quickly so didn't hit it! Then Davis and I fired at it with my 20mm and I guess I sank it- at least the executive officer gave me credit for it. We came on and got to Cievtevichia about noon. Quite a few liberty ships are here and we are to stay at anchor right in the middle of them and jam all radio controlled bombs if there is a raid. Good duty if we don't have any raids!

7-11-44 Tues. Cievtevichia, Italy. Layed at anchor all day long. Had drills all AM and stood watch all PM Slept from 1600-2000 and then went back on watch until midnight. No letters and nothing of interest happened.

7-12-44 Wed. Still at anchor and doing duty as jig ship for all the LSTs and liberty ships at anchor. Cleaned 2 20mms in the AM and in the PM went on the beach for two hours, to look around. Saw the movie and hit the sack.

7-13-44 Thurs. Still at anchor as jig ship. Worked on 20mm guns, washed clothes and cleaned up. Saw the movie and hit the sack early as had 0000-0400 watch during the night.

7-14-44 Fri. Slept all AM and had the 1200-1600 gangway. Wrote a letter and saw the movie. Everyone sure is sick of life and homesick. Have inspection tomorrow.

7-15-44 Sat. Cievtevichia. Still at anchor outside the harbor acting as jig. Quite a few ships here waiting to go on to Leghorn as soon as it is taken. No raids as yet! Had the inspection this AM and all our gear was in perfect shape. I slept in the PM and had the 1800-2000 watch. No recreation at all here! Really a dull life.

7-16-44 Sun. A nice, quiet and peaceful day. 15 men were granted liberty today, from 0800-2000, to go to Rome. A few will go each day. In the AM I helped fill the smoke generator and wrote letters to Mom & Dad, Phyl, Gram R. , Aunt Maude & Uncle Leon, and Aunt Hazel and Uncle Louie. Slept much of the PM and sat around and talked at night. Hit the sack again at 2100 as I have the 0000-0400 watch.

7-17-44 Mon. More men went to Rome on liberty. They say it is very clean and nearly like a city in the States. Sure hope I get to go there. This morning I was sent on the beach to get fog oil and other ordnance gear. Took me all day but I got quite alot of stuff. Had the 2000-2400 watch at night.

7-18-44 Tues. Another liberty party went to Rome today but still not me! This is the last day we can get transportation for Rome so guess there won't be anymore liberty there unless we get more transportation. Everyone is mad cause they let some of the new fellows go instead of us who have been over here for 16 months. Oh well to hell with em!! Had the 0800-1200 gangway and slept all PM.

7-19-44 Wed. Been overseas 16 months today. No liberty party because of no transportation. I worked a little in the AM and during the day I wrote to Mom and Phyl. An invasion of southern France isn't very far away- maybe a couple of weeks.

7-20-44 Thurs. Still at Cievtevichia. Didn't do much all day, just loafed around and had the 1200-1600 gangway. Wrote letters at night. Guess we'll get relieved soon.

7-21-44 Fri. Still here and still no Rome liberty! I had 0800-1200 gangway this AM and worked all PM on the port stern depth charge rack. Sat around and visited at night and read about the cross channel invasion of France. Good duty here but I'm getting tired of just laying around! Dream alot of home and Phyl lately.

7-22-44 Sat. Gave Rome liberty again today and 15 more men went! Maybe I'll go tomorrow or Mon. if we are still here. Worked on stern racks in the AM and cleaned up in the Pm. Wrote 2 letters.

7-23-44 Sun. Had Rome liberty again today and I went with Spiess. We got there at 1015 and went on a sight seeing tour! We saw the Vatican and St Peters Church (largest and costliest in the world We also saw the balcony where Mussulini always spoke from. Also saw all the old Greek and Roman tombs and monuments and visited the Coliseum. Saw everything of interest in Rome. We saw Pope Pius XII in person and was blessed by him in the church. We were with officers all of the time and at 1730 we started back to Cievtevichia. We got back aboard at 1930 and I went right on watch. The USS Speed is here again so will probably be relieved

7-24-44 Mon. We were relieved from this duty here at Cievtevichia this PM and got underway to go to Naples. We will probably get there in the morning. Just before we got underway I wrote a short letter to Phyl. We should get mail in Naples.

7-25-44 Tues. Pulled into the harbor here at Naples at 0730 and found it packe(full of ships that will form this next invasion fleet. There ar(well over 200 liberty ships alone and lots of cruisers, destroye: battleships and almost every other type of ship- flying a dozen different flags. Mail came aboard at 1030 and we all jumped around like little kids. It's the first we have received in a long time. I got 23 letters in all. 9 from Phyl, 5 Mom, 4 Marilyn, 3 Wayne, 1 Gram R and 1 from Vera. Guess Dad has close(the store for sure now. Wrote letters at night. The big shove is coming soon.

7-26-44 Wed. Naples. One year ago today we were in a terrible air raid off Palermo while sweeping. 27 bombs fell near us.
Still in Naples with lots of ships. Worked on 20mms all day. Showered at night and wrote letters.

7-27-44 Thurs. Naples, Italy. Worked on the 20mm guns and depth charges in the AM. In the PM I went on liberty but came back early. All ships are getting ready for invasion. We are getting new gear.

7-28-44 Fri. Went on the beach with Mr. Nelson this AM to get some new gas masks and other gear. Slept in the Pm and wrote to Phyl. Saw movie at night. Don't feel very good lately. Had an air raid last night at 0200 but all the firing was from the beach.

7-29-44 Sat. In Naples yet- took life easy all day. Got 4 letters and one was from Mom with the newspaper clipping of my letter to her when I went to visit Wayne at Foggia. Wayne's and my picture also was published in the paper. At night I wrote letters and saw the movie. More big transports came in today including the Queen Mary!

7-30-44 Sun. Left Naples this AM and went up by Anzio to sweep with 2 other AMs and some YMSs. We swept all day with magnetic gear. At 1800 we exploded a magnetic mine. We were told that it is the first one gotten in this theater by an AM. It really shook us up and threw mud and water about 200 feet in the air. We anchored at dusk.

7-31-44 Mon. We left the Anzio anchorage 0300 & went out to sweep some more. Hundreds of landing craft and some attack transports came up through the channel we swept- probably going up to Corsica to load up. At 0800 we went back to Naples and anchored. Some mail came aboard. Saw the movie at night.

8-1-44 Tues. At anchor in Naples. Took a h- of a beating one year ago today inside the harbor at Palermo. In the AM I gave instructions to 15 men on the 20mm guns and also lectured about them. In the PM I worked on a hoist for ammo. I got 5 letters.

8-2-44 Wed. Left Naples early this AM. with 2 other AMs and went up to Geata again to sweep but can't figure out why. Maybe a practice invasion. At dark we anchored in near the beach. Guess we will sweep again tomorrow.

8-3-44 Thurs. Swept around here until noon then back to Naples and went in to refuel. I went on the beach and had 6 barrels of fog oil brought aboard. We finished refueling at 2000, then went outside and anchored. I had the 2000-0000 gangway. Get paid tomorrow?

8-4-44 Fri. Got paid this AM here in Naples I drew $118.00 and owe $15.00. We gunners mates really worked today as we got alot of new ammo aboard and took alot out of the magazines to send to the beach. Also got some new secret gear aboard- rockets that are used to jam enemy radar! Tired at night so hit the sack early.

8-5-44 Sat. We G.M.s worked all day modifying the stern racks for new "tear drop" depth charges. We have about 36 hrs to do a five day job. Sure are alot of war ships here now and also 3 flat-tops.

8-6-44 Sun. We GMs have worked hard again all day Possibly the hardest days work I have ever done. Worked all day on stern racks and then worked all night bringing 60 new depth charges aboard and taking all the others off. We worked 23 hrs. straight without stopping. Were wringing wet all day.

8-7-44 Mon. Worked all night until 0500 this AM on depth charges. Slept until noon, then worked again this PM putting depth charges below and rigging them up. Very tired.

8-8-44 Tues. We worked today on our two main types of rocket guns and rockets. I also had a working party and unloaded some ammo from magazines. All the ships are loading up now with troops for the invasion. I sent money to Furnivals Flowers for bouquets for Mom and Phyl.

8-9-44 Wed. Worked again this AM on depth charges. In the PM I took 8 photos and sent a box of souvenirs to Phyl. At 1600 we had liberty and back aboard at 2000. I hit the sack at 2030 as I have the 0400-0800 in the AM. We got word that there are 15 new AMsover here to relieve us after this next invasion which is soon.

8-10-44 Thurs. Davis and I worked on aircraft identification cards all day. We cut out pictures and pasted them on cards so the crew can learn to identify enemy planes, as well as ours, for this next invasion. We will leave Naples tomorrow. Don't know if the invasion is to start then or if we will go to Salerno for a few days. Saw movie at night and wrote several letters. We are all in high hopes of going home soon because the new AMs are here.

8-11-44 Fri. Left Naples at 0800 with AMs 116, 117 & 119 to go to Salerno. On the way here we held drills, gave instructions and dropped a few depth charges to test the modified racks and new charges. We got to Salerno at noon and went in close to the harbor and anchored. There are 100 LCIs here and a few small troop transports. The invasion is only a couple of days off now so we spent the PM making last minute preparations. We took spare parts, cotton and first aid packages to all guns and stations. All men were given a small flashlight to secure to their life-jackets so can be seen at night in the water. We have all kinds of anti-gas equipment aboard now, ninety days of rations and a full capacity of everything else! At night I was in the mess hall to see the movie and was called out to the gangway after the second reel. I went out swearing and cussing as I didn't know what they wanted with me. I got out there and low and behold there stood Wayne. Was never so surprised in my life. I introduced him to some of the officers and men and showed him a little of the ship and some of my work. The commissary officer, Mr. Brown, had some good smoked ham and some nice fresh eggs broke out and was having the mess attendants fix us a good meal of ham and eggs, salad and bread, pie and coffee. It was just cooked and ready to eat when we got a message to get underway immediately to go out on patrol. The OD flagged down a boat and Wayne had to leave right away after being aboard about an hour. He was nearly starved, but still didn't have time to eat, possibly the best meal that he would have had while overseas. I was mad and hurt but could do nothing. Before he left I gave him some hair tonic, some T-shirts and a bottle that I have been saving for the invasion. I only had time to say goodbye and he was gone. He had been to Capri for a

weeks rest and was on his way back to Foggia. I think he would have stayed all night had we not got underway. We went out and patrolled all night off Salerno.

8-12-44 Sat. We patrolled off Salerno until 1000 today, then went in closer and had a talk from our Captain. At noon we left Salerno with our 4 AMs of mine division 17 and headed for Corsica with 100 LCIs and a few small transports. The landing is to be Tues. at 0800. It will be a little ways east of Toulon, France. Large convoys of this invasion fleet are leaving from Gibralter, Oran, Algiers, Bizerte, Salerno and Naples. All of the smaller landing craft will leave from Corsica which is only 70 miles from the landing point. D-day is Aug 15 and H-hour is 0800. We are going in ½ hour before any other ships but we aren't going to sweep except in case of an emergency. This landing is nearly as big as the English Channel operation and we have the enemy outnumbered in everything!! For this operation we have 5 battleships, 9 aircraft carriers, 18 heavy cruisers, 80-100 destroyers, 100 mine sweepers and hundreds of transports, LCIs, LSTs, LCTs and all the other smaller landing craft. We have 1800 land based planes to help us besides those on the carriers. The enemy has about 350 planes in the landing area and has 9 submarines in the sea area close by and also some small 2-man subs. The main objective of this landing is to draw troops down from Northern France and to capture all the important cities and sea ports in southern France. It will also draw troops out of Italy. We are told that our jobs will consist of sweeping mines, escorting, patrolling, messenger ship, jig ship, radar jammer, anti-submarine and anti aircraft ship. Also we will help lay smoke screens. We are now steaming along up the Italian coast- headed for Corsica. We will stay there until it is time for the landing. The crew and officers are all on edge and excited. This will make our 6th star and we have a good chance of going home when it is over.

8-13-44 Sun. Book #7. The beginning of this new book finds us at Ajjacio, Corsica just the same as the last book #6. For an entirely different purpose, however!
0800 and still steaming up the coast of Sardinia and Italy with over 100 LCIs which are carrying the US Army 36th Division of about 29,000 men. 1000 steaming through the Straits between Corsica and Sardinia. 1600 pulled into Ajaccio Harbor at Corsica. All the LCIs went in and anchored and us 4 AMs stayed out and patrolled all night. We will be here for about 24 hours Then on to southern France and the invasion. I've got me a bunk fixed up behind the hedge-hog projector, about 6" ahead of the Captain's Cabin. It's pretty nice and cool.

8-14-44 Mon. 0800 and still patrolling off Ajaccio, Corsica. We will leave here today at 1700 and head north. 2300-we left Ajaccio at 1700 with our 112 LCIs and 4 AMs as escorts. At 1900 we were at the rendezvous point when we saw large convoys of ships of all kinds and sizes. There were about 25 large troop transports 5 battleships, 10-12 cruisers, about 35 destroyers and lots of LSTs. Most of them have gone ahead and we are close behind them

0630 tomorrow will find us all laying off the coast at Frejus, France- about 50 miles from Toulon.

8-15-44 Tues. D-Day! We steamed all night and went to GQ this morning at 0500. At 0630 it began to break dawn and we were just coming into the landing area and about 12 miles from the beach. About 3500 ships lay here now along a beach-head 35 miles long. The beach is divided into 5 different areas- our area is called "Camel Beach". This is the main point of attack and where all of the transports will unload. Right now there is a continual roar of planes overhead that are going in to bomb the beach. Ton after ton of bombs are hitting the beach right now, and they even shake the ship. Planes are coming in waves now of from 15 to 36 planes in each wave. They are wiping out all targets and coastal installations that may interfere with the landing. What they fail to get, the Navy will get in a few minut by a heavy shell bombbardment!! Almost every type plane is going in now. B-17 Fortresses; B-24 Liberators; B-25 Mitchells; B-26 Marauders; Bostons; P-38 and P-47 fighters! That bombing is terrific!!! The ships are beginning to shell the beach now and the bombing has just ended. It's just 20 minutes now before H-hour. Battleships, Cruisers and Destroyers are firing salvo after salvo of 5-6-8-12 and 14 inch shells. They have 20 min. and will lay in around 4800 rounds. It's just one continual roar of gun fire and shell bursts now. We just got word that 14,000 paratroopers were landed here earlier this morning also and were never fired upon. They were landed all the way from here to Marseille. 0900. It's one hour after H-hour now and we still have met no air or shore opposition. Our ships ceased firing at 0800 and our men started ashore from LCIs. During the first hour about 15,000 men have gone ashore and the army reports that only light machine gun fire was encountered and casualties are light. Our beach-head is already firmly secured. All ships are shelling the beach again now but have raised their fire inland. We are patrolling around the transport area now and lots of mine sweepers are sweeping for mines around the area but no mines have yet been found. We are at GQ and all tired out. We've had no opposition of any kind all day long, but it has been a nerve wracking day. We're still patrolling around the transport area. Another beach was taken this PM from inland and now all the LSTs are in there unloading. Transports are being rapidly unloaded and the empty LCIs are even being used for that. One YMS was fired on from a shore battery, but the air force knocked that out in a hurry. The C.O of the fighter-bomber group has asked the Navy for more jobs and says he has more planes than targets. Squadrons of P-38s and P-47s are overhead continually on patrol. This operation has gone the smoothest and quickest of any that I have seen. We have eaten at our guns all day- we had beef and egg sandwiches. We all expect a raid tonight. If we don't have one the German Air Force must be completely out. The beach is all smokey now and there are many large fires caused from our bombing and naval shelling. 2145. It's nearly dark now and we just had a light air raid.

About 8 ME 210s and 4 FW 200Ks came over the area. The bombers launched radio controlled glider bombs. The ships put up a

heavy barrage and they didn't stay long after the bombs were away. We fired a little, but only the 3" guns. Our jig gear jammed one of the bombs and someone else got the rest. We made smoke all evening and just secured from that now. We're still at GQ. There is a h- of a big fire on Green Beach that looks like one of our LSTs burning. Must be loaded with ammo. It's our 1st ship loss so far. It's dark now so will quit writing. D-Day is over and it was a very easy, mild affair. I hope the next few days are equally as mild. Sho am tired!!

8-16-44 Wed. D-Day + one! 1030. We secured from GQ at 0100, but then I had to go on watch until 0300. I slept on deck from 0300 to 0500, then went back to GQ again. After GQ I ate breakfast and <u>now</u> have the 0800-1200 watch! Out of the past 36 hrs. I have had 4 hours of sleep. Everything went well last night and has so far today too. Hope it stays that way. 2130. We are still patrolling off the beach about 6 miles out. We just secured fro GQ during which we had another light air raid. About 8 Dornier 217s came over very high and launched more glider bombs. We jammed two of them and other ships were jamming also, but one bomb hit another LST that was loaded with oil- all were killed on it without a doubt. Lots of ships fired, but they were high for us. Many ships have left here already but about 30 more liberty ships came in to take their place. Mines have been exploding all PM as our sweepers located a mine field. Hope we don't have to sweep!! Am on watch now as have the 2000-2400 again.

8-17-44 Thurs. 1300. No raids last night after the one at dark. We are on patrol now, way in close to the beach and can see everything clearly. Hospital ships came in this morning to evacuate wounded. 2130. We just secured from another glider bomb attack About 6 Dornier 217s came over. Some bombs hit close, but no ships were hit. This PM I took a shower and cleaned up. Going to hit the sack now up on the foc'sle. It's raining a little.

6-18-44 Fri. 0800- just got off watch. At 0200 this AM some German E-Boats tried to get in to the beach-head to attack the ships, but were held out by the outer patrol and got h- shot out of them. They were lit up by star shells and searchlights. Two of the four were sunk- rest got away. Gotta go now and fill the smoke generator. 2130. Dark again now and we just secured from anoth GQ and a light raid. We've had an airraid every night so far. But not one during the day- nor have they used flares! So far the army has had 300 casualties and have captured about 7,000 Germans- not to mention the killed and wounded. Some of the hostile planes tonight layed mines. Tonight just before GQ I wrote 2 letters, but they won't leave the ship for quite awhile. I think we will go to Toulon to sweep, as soon as it is taken. Got the 0000-0400 tonight.

8-19-44 Sat. (Over seas 17 months today). It's 1600. Five more E-boats tried to get in last night and four of them were sunk. I had the 0000- 0400 last night on the 40mm and all through the watch, the aft stack kept throwing oil. We all got covered with it and also the guns and fantail. The deck was so slippery one could hardly stand up. One kid thought it was rain, so opened his shirt up- boy was he covered. We have been sweeping all day with two other AMs but got no mines. We were in charge so was the lead ship and were in a known mine field. We really wrecked our gear too. The Germans had "obstructors" all around the field that cut our sweeping gear and we lost alot of it. Got more for tomorrow though. We are retrieving our gear now and will then go back on patrol. Guess I'd better go wash up.

8-20-44 Sun. 2000. No raids at all last night and no E-boat attacks. The Germans are really down and out and are taking a h-- of a beating in northern France. We swept all day and was again the lead ship. We got one mine and so did the 119. We lost all of our gear again today and had to get some from the Sustain (119) At 1800 one of the new AMs came up here from Naples and had two bags of mail for us. I got 20 nice recent letters. Just finished reading them. One was from the Dept. of State. Will try to answer some of them tomorrow. My morale is really low tonight. Letters make me homesick and I get awful mad to think that we get all the shit details and these new AMs lay around! Nearly time for GQ.

8-21-44 Mon. 1500. We had another raid last night but only two or three planes. One plane was shot at for about 30 minutes and nobody could knock him down. He came right by us and we all missed him too. He sure was a good flyer. It was a JU88. E-boats tried to get in again last night but were driven off by the outer patrol. They sank two of them. We are sweeping again today but have got no mines so far. I've spent time today writing in this book- copying the material from the rough copy I've been keeping. I go on watch in 45 minutes and I sure don't feel good. Don't know if I'll get any of these letters answered or not! 2000. Did write to Phyl and Marilyn tonight.

8-22-44 Tues. No raids at all last night and no trouble with E-boats, as it got a little rough. We swept all day off Frejus with 3 other AMs. At 1630 we left there and went down east aways to Cannes to patrol. The army hasn't taken this place yet and the Cruisers are shelling the town. In the PM I finished the 9 page letter to Phyl and wrote to Mom Dad and Wayne. Sure has been hot today.

8-23-44 Wed. Swept all day off Frejus with magnetic gear. Got no mines. A very quiet day. In the evening wrote letters, showered and cleaned up. Sea is calmer now.

8-24-44 Thurs. Did not sweep today but stayed on our patrol off Frejus until 1600, then we started down west along the coast with five other AMs. We came to another landing area and went in and anchored. All the AMs and YMSs in the Med. came in there from different places and anchored. All the new AMs are here now and about 10 YMSs. Don't know what's coming but it must be something big. Most sweepers I've ever seen at one place & time Movie at night.

8-25-44 Fri. We were anchored here all night and all day today- with more sweepers coming in all the time. Sure hope it's not up to us to clean out this whole damned Mediterranean Sea of mines! I cleaned my two 20mms this AM. In the PM we got a bag of mail, I had 7 letters. At night I saw the movie and had the 2000-2400 watch.

8-26-44 Sat. Had the 0800-1200 watch. At noon we and the rest of mine division 17 got underway and went down the line a ways toward Toulon. Guess we are to sweep at Toulon or Marseille. We anchored all night just a short way east of Toulon and will go on in tomorrow and sweep. Toulon isn't even taken yet and ships there are being shelled. Movie at night.

8-27-44 Sun. Still laying at anchor about 15 miles east of Toulon. Guess we are waiting for things to quiet down there. We can see big fires there at night. A quiet day today just laying around. Saw movie at night.

8-28-44 Mon Still at anchor about 15 miles east of Toulon. More sweepers are coming in here today so probably will go to Toulon tomorrow and start sweeping. It's a nice warm quiet day here and the scenery is really beautiful. At noon I wrote one letter then we swimming and did some diving under the ship with a diving mask some of the fellows made. Sure is fun! At night I played pinochle with Spiess, Davis and Lilly.

8-29-44 Tues. We left our anchorage at 0500 and came up here to Toulon where we have been sweeping all day. We sure have swept alot of mines and not one ship was fired on and none hit any mines. We exploded one and cut several loose that came to the surface. At one time we passed seven floating mines awfully close that one of the sweepers ahead had cut loose. We all grabbed our life jackets cause it seemed impossible to get through them without hitting one. A YMS came along in back and sunk the mines as we cut them loose. It's really been a hectic, exciting nerve wracking day. It's now 1800 and we are still sweeping. Guess we will quit in about an hour and go back to our anchorage This is supposed to be our last operation before we go home, so hope it doesn't last too long. Lots of mines here though. One scout plane saw 25 in a row under the water. Its really a big harbor here and really fortified. Big gun emplacements all over the beach, but have been knocked out at last. Some MLs swept out the harbor today. Convoys will be coming in soon. I've heard we have some mail up here someplace.

Later at night we sunk and exploded four more mines. Also we had one caught in the otter when we brought the gear in- just like at Salerno. We broke the whole gear off and sunk the float and all with 20mm and 30 cal. fire. It was dark so we used the 24" search light. I fired the 20mm to sink mine and gear. We will stay all night off Toulon, ready to sweep again tomorrow. Sure am nervous as I write this. End of a hectic day!

8-30-44 Wed. We lifted the hook at 0600 and steamed out of Toulon harbor to sweep again. We got 7 yesterday and all of us together got around 40. Just before we came out one of the other ships' boat brought us a couple of bags of mail. I got 6 letters- My folks are up north again. Phyl rec'd the box I sent & the flowers on the same day. This sweeping is really h-, we've come awfully close, yet no ships have hit one. About 100 mines have been cut here in the last 1½ days and we are still getting some every round. We've had 2 caught in our gear so far and brought them right up to the fantail. I sunk another mine this morning with a 20mm. That makes 3 that I have sunk here. At night we anchored in the outside entrance of the harbor again

8-31-44 Thurs. Last day of August and one month pay coming. We spent all day sweeping again with both types of gear. We should be nearly done here because we didn't get one mine all day long. We went in the harbor again and anchored all night. Got 2 letters.

9-1-44 Fri. 1200. The beginning of our 18th month overseas. Will have 18 months in on Sept. 19. Are sweeping off Toulon again with magnetic gear. We got word to take our jig gear off and we think we will go to Naples soon. We swept all day again and anchored in Toulon harbor at night. Saw the movie and played cards.

9-2-44 Sat. Swept with magnetic gear all day off Toulon. One of the YMSs was sunk inside the harbor when it hit a mine. Alot of electrically controlled mines in the harbor that were just discovered. We came back in the harbor at 1800 and anchored again. Saw the movie at night. Still hoping we will go to Naples and then home! War news is darned good.

9-3-44 Sun. Had a bad wind and rain storm all night long. We came way inside and anchored. The USS Staff (AM 114) tied up to us and in the night we drifted anchor and ran down on a YMS. The YMS anchor chain got fouled around the 114's screws. I froze all night & got little sleep. It was the worst storm I've seen since we came over seas. We went out and swept again today and it was quite rough and terribly windy. We came way inside again and anchored. No more news about leaving here and we're getting d- sick of this place and this duty. Movie at night.

9-4-44 Mon. Toulon, France. We stayed inside the harbor all morning and I cleaned two 50 cal. M.g.s At 1400 we went outside and anchored and had a movie "How About It?". At 1900 we got underway and went out to patrol all night and sweep tomorrow I guess. The war news is good, but no more good news about going home!

9-5-44 Tues. We swept all day with magnetic gear off Toulon. At night we came inside and anchored. Some of the crew got liberty here in Toulon after we came in.

9-6-44 Wed. Stayed in port all day and 25% of the crew got liberty. It rained all day and was dark and dreary. In the PM we had to unload all of our rockets, so I took a working party to the beach to unload them. We stayed on the beach all PM and went up town and looked around some. Lots of German equipment laying around and lots of German prisoners there also. They got mad cause we laughed at them. Today was the first time that I have stepped on French soil. I had no money so couldnt buy any souvenirs. At night- saw the movie and than I had the 0000-0400 gangway. Guess we go out and sweep again tomorrow. Guess we are stuck here for quite awhile now.

9-7-44 Thurs. Went out early this morning and swept all day with magnetic gear. It got quite rough in the PM so couldn't write or nothing. We came in quite late at night. I watched the 2nd movie and hit the sack.

9-8-44 Fri. We stayed in all day today and it cleared up good. I had liberty in Toulon in the PM from 1300-1800 so I went with Davis and Spiess to look the city over. I bought Phyl and Marilyn each a pair of wood sandals and got some other small souvenirs and some German money. Not much of a city here. Saw Wallace today and they think they are going home real soon

9-9-44 Sat. Toulon. I worked on 20mms all AM and gave Wallace one of our 50 cal. mgs. At 1600 we went outside and anchored to act as message ship. I think we may go home soon. It's the main topic now. Was station ship all night and I had the 0000-0400

9-10-44 Sun. Toulon, France. I slept in, all AM. Packed the shoes I bought in town and wrote a letter. Liberty was granted for 25% of th crew. The rest of the day I just sat around thinking about ho and our past. At 1800 we were called out to pick up survivors from the USS Seer (AM 112) which had just hit a mine while sweeping. We went out with doctors aboard and cots in the mess hall for any survivors. We got there at the scene but PT boats and SCs had picked up the survivors and were already taking them in. The Seer did't sink and was being towed in by other ships. We stood by with our pumps ready. The ship was hit in the port bow. Report was; 1 killed, 3 missing and about 15 serious casualties. We went back and anchored out all nigh

9-11-44 Mon. Stayed in all morning and I slept. At 1400 we got underway and went outside and anchored. In the PM I went swimming. At dusk we got underway and patrolled all night just outside the entrance.

9-12-44 Tues. In the Navy two years today! We came back in this AM and anchored along the USS Sustain. I worked on the fantail. In the PM some mail came and I got 5 letters. At night I had the 2000-2400 gangway. I wrote one letter.

9-13-44 Wed. Toulon. We went out this AM at 0630 to patrol. The French fleet came in this morning and a couple of our cruisers. There was a big celebration in Toulon today and we gave the French some small craft like SCs, YMSs and PCs. This may end out stay up here and I sure hope it does. We had a movie this PM while underway-"Sweet Rosie O'Grady" with Betty Grable. It has been a dark, cloudy, rainy day. We are to stay out and patrol all nigh

9-14-44 Thurs. We stayed out and swept today until 1430, then went in and took on stores from the USS Speed (AM 116). At night we went to a fuel dock and took on fuel. At night saw the movie and to bed. We stayed in the harbor all night.

9-15-44 Fri. Stayed in Toulon Harbor all day. This AM we had to wear whites because General DeGaulle was inspecting the harbor in a small craft. In the Pm we got paid and I drew $100.00. Got paid in US made, French money. Not going to send any home because I think we will be going home soon. At 1400 I went on liberty with Spiess. We went up to Toulon and saw the big parade and General De Gaulle. Came back early and saw the movie- "And The Angels Sing" with Dorothy Lamour & Betty Hutton. It was good

9-16-44 Sat. Went out early this morning to sweep with the AM 114 and 119. While out I showered and washed all of my dirty clothes. Paid off my $15.00 debt today. Square with the world again. At night some mail came aboard and I got 2 letters.

9-17-44 Sun. Started to work in the AM but it rained, so we quit. Got 7 more letters today. At 1400 we got underway and went out on patrol for the night. Some of the fellows were told today that they would be going home, on rehabilitation, within the next five days. The ship is really in a turmoil tonight. Davis, Richter, and Spiess are slated to go. Sure wish that I was!!

9-18-44 Mon. Today makes 18 months of overseas duty. We went into Toulon this AM at 0800 after patrolling all night. All the guys who are leaving packed their gear and were ready to leave this PM but at noon we got word to get underway and go back on patrol, so the guys couldn't leave. We're at sea now and it is quite rough. We may be out here a couple of days this time as some of the AMs are having availability.

9-19-44 Tues. At 0830 we came in from patrol. I wrote a letter to Phyl and gave it to Davis to mail in the states. At noon all the men left that were going on rehabilitation. All were good friends of mine. I had the gangway watch when they left the ship, and it was a pretty sad time. In the evening I wrote two letters then saw the movie and hit the sack early!

9-20-44 Wed. Stayed in Toulon Harbor all day and it has been nice and clear. I worked all day and put in my first day as leading gunners mate. I rated liberty but didn't go. Poor liberty here! In the PM we got some mail and I got 5 letters. At night I wrote letters and sent Phyl a money order for $18.75 to buy a war bond and another $25.00 money order for her to buy her a new suit. Hit the sack early- a busy day tomorrow. Today the 17th Mine Division was relieved of duty by some

destroyers. Hope it's a good sign and not more duty.

9-21-44 Thurs. Went alongside the USS Denabola this AM for repairs. I went aboard her and drew some supplies for us. Worked all day on th 40mms. Tired at night and hit the sack early.

9-22-44 Fri. Still alongside the USS Denabola. Painted the 40mm guns all day. I went aboard the Denabola this PM and got me a brand new foul weather jacket. At night, after dark, we got rid of our 50 cal. M.G. Saw the movie and hit the sack. Have the 0800-1200 tomorrow.

9-23-44 Sat. Had the 0800-1200 gangway then at noon we left the Denabola and tied up to a bouy alongside the AM 117. I rated liberty but stayed aboard and helped finish painting the 40mm. They really look nice. At night I cleaned the armory, stenciled clothes and wrote letters. I think we will leave here soon and go to Naples or Oran. Sure hope its Oran, then we may go home. There are plenty of good rumors.

9-24-44 Sun. Stayed in port all day. I cleaned more in the armory in the AM. In the PM I showered, wrote a letter and helped bring stores aboard. Saw a movie at night. Been a beautiful day.

9-25-44 Mon. In the AM worked on the 40mm. At noon I had the gangway til 1600. We had a bad wind storm and it really blew. At night I worked on my 1/c progress and nearly completed it. One of the new kids shot right through his leg with a .45 pistol. We took him to another ship. No word about us leaving here yet.

9-26-44 Tues. Still in Toulon. Worked all day on 40mm and hedge-hogs. Really been busy since Davis left. Bed early and no letters.

9-27-44 Wed. Painted the clip shack today and it really looks nice. At night we got underway to go to Ajaccio, Corsica to pick up some French sailors. I was going to write letters at night but it was rougher than hell!

9-28-44 Thurs. Got to Corsica at 0730 and took 80 French sailors aboard to take them back to Toulon. We started back at 0830 and was it ever rough. We came back at 15 knots and everyone was sick. Roughest sea we have had since last winter. It's been a very miserable trip. We got back to Toulon at 2130 and was I glad to hit the sack. I didn't throw up today as most did, but I have really felt sick and the ship was a mess!

9-29-44 Fri. We stayed in Toulon all day. We cleaned up all our guns & painted two 20mms on the fantail. Guess we leave here in the morning and are going to Marseilles for something- dont know what.

9-30-44 Sat. Left Toulon at 0730 with 150 American sailors aboard to go to Marsielles. They will get a transport there and go to the States. We got to Marsielles at noon and I wrote a few letter

while at anchor. At 1400 liberty was granted and I went ashore with Tobin and Sandwick. It't a nice town and we saw it all. We got back to the ship at 1930. Guess we're going back to Toulon tomorrow.

10-1-44 Sun. Left Marsielles at 0730 and arrived back at Toulon at noon. We went inside the harbor and took on fuel in the PM. At 1630 we got underway and went down the line 15 miles east to anchor all night. Tomorrow we sweep again but don't like it.

10-2-44 Mon. We swept all day between Toulon & Frejus with old type gear. Quite stormy all day but not very rough. At night we anchored off Frejus. I saw the movie and hit the sack early.

10-3-44 Tues. Swept all day again off Frejus with both types. It was a nice, warm, calm day and we got quite alot of work accomplished. We came in at 1630 and anchored off Frejus. Saw the movie & wrote a short letter to Phyl. Guess we will go back to Toulon tomorrow night- and then, hope to go home!

10-4-44 Wed. This AM we left Frejus and swept all the way back to Toulon. We went inside and anchored. I had the 1600-2000 gangway. I saw the second movie and hit the sack. I've got a bad sore throat

10-5-44 Thurs. In Toulon all day. Went on the beach with Mr. Brown to get some paint and ½ in. rod. We came back at noon and mail had come aboard. I hit the jackpot with 15 letters- one was from Davis. Got paid in the PM and I drew $110.00 in French money. At night I wrote a long letter to Davis. Guess we go to Bizerte soon for availability.

10 -6-44 Fri. Stormed all day so we cleaned all the small arms and painted the aft 20mm magazine. At night we GMs had popcorn in the armory and had a nice bull session. Hit the sack at 2330. Also had locker inspection today and I was O.K.

10-7-44 Sat. Another darn rainy day. Worked in aft magazine in AM and had the noon to 1600 gangway in the PM. In the evening I showered and saw the movie, "Flight Lieutenant". Also wrote some. Guess we leave tomorrow for Bizerte. Things look pretty good again now

10-8-44 Sun. It cleared up this AM but then rained again all PM. We had a movie entitled "Keeper of the Flame". At 1700 we got underway for Ajaicco, Corsica. It's quite calm out here. Have the 2000-2400 watch.

10-9-44 Mon. Arrived Corsica at 0630 and went in the harbor and tied up. We then loaded lots of sweep gear aboard. The escort sweeper group is moving back to Africa. Liberty was granted in the PM, but I didn't rate. Saw movie at night.

10-10-44 Tues. Had the 0800-1200 gangway then went on liberty until 1630. While on gangway I had to put a kid on report for jumping ship, as I was ordered by the O.D. The Captain thinks we will be going home soon.

10-11-44 Wed. We left Ajaccio at 0630 for Bizerte. It was rough when we started but calmed down later in the day. We are senior ship of this three ship convoy. (Got rid of the smoke pots and 50 cal. ammo on way to Bizerte). *(INTERESTING STORY!)

10-12-44 Thurs. Arrived Bizerte at 0930. The harbor has been cleaned up alot but still looks very familiar. First time we have been here since last May. There are 9 of us AMs here now and we all have 10 days in here for repairs. I helped Bzdon this PM collect all of the crew's odd money, like French and Italian. We took it to the beach and exchanged it for "gold seal" money. I wore a gun and was guard. I also helped return it to the crew. We had over $7,000.00 to exchange. It sure is hot tonight. I intended to write letters but it's 98° here in the armory and I'm really sweating. Many on the beach think we will go home soon.

10-13-44 Fri. In Bizerte for 10 days of repairs. I spent most all day on the beach getting supplies. Got paid at G.S.K. stores. At night I saw the movie and hit the sack as I have 0000-0400. Rate Tunis liberty tomorrow but am not going. Should write letters but we're really busy.

10-14-44 Sat. Didn't go on liberty today cause I was too tired, but stayed aboard and worked all day. I'm really tired tonight. We must get ready for a material inspection next Tuesday. I put in a request for a special liberty for tomorrow, but don't know if it will pass or not! At night I saw the movie "Cover Girl" and wrote 2 letters.

10-15-44 Sun. Went on special liberty with Badgley. We left here at 0910 and got there at 1130. We rode horse back for an hour and had ice cream and coke at the red cross. First coke I've had in 19 months and it sure tasted good. We went into a bar and had a few beers too. We left there at 1900 and got back to the ship at 2130. I saw the movie and hit the sack.

10-17-44 Tues. Started work on another depth charge rack today and we worked hard. We are having the inspection tomorrow so lots of little jobs to do also. Saw the movie at night. Big day tomorrow!

10-18-44 Wed. Had our big inspection today and everything was in pretty good shape. Our hedge-hogs, clip shack and armory were the best in the division. We worked on the fantail again all day. At night I got the washer and washed four runs of clothes. Ruined alot of whites cause I put a pair of blue socks in with them- they came out blue, which is'nt regulation. Finished late so to bed at 2330.

10-19-44 Thurs. More work on the fan-tail today. I also had the 1600-2000 gangway watch. There is no more liberty granted here except on the base- no more Tunis liberty. Still rumors about going home, but who knows?

10-20-44 Fri. Fan-tail work again all day. Also got 9 more letters. Saw the movie and hit the sack. Pretty tired and discouraged.

10-21-44 Sat. Had a personell and material inspection this AM. In the PM we worked on ready lockers, dogs and knife edges. At night I washed my blues, wrote a letter and hit the sack. I'm so tired lately I can hardly keep my eyes open.

10-22-44 Sun. Brought ammo aboard in the AM then had the 1200-1600 gangway. Mail came and I got 7 letters. Wrote some at night.

10-23-44 Mon. We went out this AM with 3 others AMs for 3" target practice. We were out all day long and never fired a shot. We towed the target for the others to shoot at, then another ship towed it for us. Just as we were ready to fire, the target tipped over so we never got to fire- just came back in. Movie at night was the "Canterville Ghost".

10-24-44 Tues. Bizerte still. We went out to lake of Bizerte and had drills all day long. Came back to harbor at night. Guess we go back out tomorrow for more target practice.

10-25-44 Wed. Out again today with 3 other AMs for target practice. We shot at a sleeve target and surface target with the 3" and I fired 300 rounds with my gun. We came back in at 1630 and we GMs worked far into the night cleaning guns. Did see the movie.

10-26-44 Thurs. Cleaned guns today and at 1600 we got underway to go to Toulon with a huge load of provisions for the base. I thought we wouldn't see that d- hole again, but guess I am wrong. We are on our way now and it is rough out here. The rumor is that we will go to Oran from there and then home. Hope its tru

10-27-44 Fri. Enroute to Toulon with an LCI. This is the roughest sea that I have ever been in, I honestly believe. We are going against heavy seas and are making about 4 knots an hour. We will be at least a day late when we get to Toulon. It's too rough to eat regular food in the mess hall so all we get are sandwiches. Also we can't stay in our bunks cause it throws us out. 95% of the crew is sick.

10-28-44 Sat. Still out here rolling around and the sea is even worse. We should have gotten to Toulon this morning, but doubt if we'll get there even by tomorrow morning. This is really a rough miserable bastard. We are loaded with eggs, potatoes and cigarettes for the base at Toulon, and it is washing all over the decks. Most of the waves are going right over the ship. Gun covers and all canvas is getting torn to shreds.

10-29-44 Sun. Got to Toulon at day break and this was really a happy crew! We worked all day cleaning the 40mm guns. At night I washed, shaved and brushed my teeth for the first time in 3 days. I also washed all my dirty clothes and wrote 2 short letters. We got a new GM "striker" today. Rated liberty- didn't go.

10-30-44 Mon. Worked on the 20mm guns. In the PM all us Gunner Mates got special liberty and went to the enlisted mens' club and drank beer. I bought Phyl 3 bottles of perfume for $10.00. Came back to the ship early and saw the movie.

10-31-44 Tues. We got underway this AM. with an LCI to go to Oran. Guess we will be there for a day or so then come back here to Toulon and act as S.O.P.A. for a couple of weeks. It was pretty calm when we started but got rough again before night. Too rough to writ I've invested $50.00 in clothes to sell when we get back to Toulon. Sure need the money!!

11-1-44 Wed. Still enroute to Oran with an LCI. Not too rough but certainly is't calm. I worked in the armory some and slept the rest of the day.

11-2-44 Thurs. Got here to Oran at 1300 and came in Oran harbor. Badgley and I went over to MEK and went aboard the USS Vulcan to get some new I.D. cards, but couldn't get any. We came back to the ship and carried stores until 2200. Then I had the 0000-0400.

11-3-44 Fri. Again this AM I went over to Mers El Kabir and went aboard the Denabola to get I.D. Cards. They are going to make them and send them to us. When I got back to the ship it was already to get underway for Toulon, France. We left at 1130 and it was pretty calm out. I worked in the armory all PM.

11-4-44 Sat. Enroute to Toulon at 13½ knots. Quite calm all day, but got rough at night. Didn't do much all day except stand watches. Arrive Toulon in the AM.

11-5-44 Sun. Arrived Toulon 0900 and had holiday routine. Got 6 bags of mail at noon- I received 14 letters. At night I went on the beach with Badgley and sold some cigarettes and the saw the movie.

11-6-44 Mon. Left Toulon at 0700 and headed for Bizerte at 15 knots. It's pretty calm out here so I answered some of my letters. Rumor is that we are going to Bizerte to help sweep a "war channel" or going there for a convoy of LCIs to take to the States!

11-7-44 Tues. Arrived Bizerte at 1000 and anchored in the stream alongside the USS Speed (AM 116). In the PM we cleaned four 20mm guns. Saw the movie and at night we GMs had some popcorn in the armory. There are some good rumors here that we will go home soon. End of book 7- still in the Med.

11-8-44 Wed. In Bizerte and worked all day on 20mm guns. Got paid in the AM. I drew $123.00. Again today we turned in all foreign money

to be changed to blue seal and gold seal so it's almost certain that we'll be headed home soon. I had a little over $200.00. At night I saw the movie and stood the 2000-2400.

11-9-44 Thurs. Bizerte. Worked on 20mms. We had our money changed today and the Captain will keep it until we get underway for the States. Got 3 shots today also, one for typhus, cow-pox and tetanus. My old arm is really sore tonight.'

11-10-44 Fri. Worked hard all day preparing for inspection tomorrow. We painted alot and worked on dogs and knife edges. I got into a h- of an argument with Brown. At night I was dead tired, saw the movie and hit the sack.

11-11-44 Sat. Had a big Captain's inspection of personell and material. Our department passed with a 3.9! This PM we worked on depth charges then I had the 1600-2000 gangway that lasted until 2145. Watched the second movie and hit the sack at 0030. Should write some letters but no time anymore.

11-12-44 Sun. Rained all day and we had holiday routine. Received 9 letters today, one was from Davis. I wrote some letters home and told then we were coming home. I think we leave here tomorrow.

11-13-44 Mon. Left Bizerte at 0900 with 8 other AMs and about 75 LCIs. Are going to Oran and will probably never see Bizerte again! (hope) All the AMs headed for Oran at 14 knots and left the LCIs behing. Not too rough so we worked in the PM.

11-14-44 Tues. We're on our way to Oran at 13 knots with 8 other AMs. It's a nice bright day and quite calm. I asked Mr. Brown about 1/c and he said OK but must send into Washington first. Probabl won't get it while here. We get into Oran tomorrow AM.

11-15-44 Wed. Arrived Oran at 0800 and went into Mers El Kabir. We all tied up to the sea wall. In the PM Duke and I tore the training gear off the 3" gun. Saw movie at night.

11-16-44 Thurs. Worked on the 3" gun in the AM, and at noon had the gangway until 1600. Also took my test for GM 1/c. Passed it very easy. At night saw movie and cleaned up. All departments are getting ready for our long trip home! OH HAPPY DAY!!

11-18=44 Sat. Another big inspection today and passed OK. Then we worked all day and saw the movie at night. Got another tetanus shot.

11-19-44 Sun. Still in Oran and had holiday routine- but in the PM we had 93 boxes of 20mm ammo come aboard so we had to work and take care of it.

11-20-44 Mon. I had the 0800-1200 gangway this AM and went on liberty in the PM. I went up to Oran with Kraft and Noel and bought $10.00 worth of francs to take home for souvenirs. Saw movie at night

11-21-44 Tues. Worked hard all day and am really tired tonight. We finished painting the stern racks and the 3" gun. Movie at night. We may leave here tomorrow- hope so!

11-22-44 Wed. Worked on the 40mm guns all day. We painted them dark Pacific war paint. Showered at night. We handed in all our gold seal money today to exchange for blue seal so not long now before we head for the good old USA. The ship is sealed.

11-23-44 Thurs. Thanksgiving Day in Oran at MEK. We worked all AM. Had holiday routine and movie in the PM. Our supper tonight was: turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, peas, pickles, olives, consomé, salad and mince pie. We leave here tomorrow for the good old USA. OH HAPPY DAY!!!

11-24-44 Fri. We left MEK this morning at 0730 and went out a ways to form a convoy. We are taking about 40 LSTs and 75 LCIs back to America. We formed our convoy and got started about noon. At last we are on our way. I won $5.00 from Badgley cause we will pass through the Straits of Gibralter before Nov. 28th.

11-25-44 Sat. We are on our way home with a large convoy of landing craft. We passed through the Straits today at 1400 and are now out in the old Atlantic. It is a little rough but not too bad. Quite a few pictures were taken of the "rock" as we passed by it. The Atlantic isn't as rough as we all expected.

11-26-44 Sun. We are plowing along at 11 knots but convoy is moving at 9. It will be a long monotonous trip, but I sure do love it! Every hour I'm a little nearer home and peace. Nothing of importance happened today.

11-27-44 Mon. We are out about 400 miles today and it is a little rougher. Some of the guys are sick. Had a little practice shooting today with the 20mm and the 3" guns. No more work for me! I've worked on this bastard for 20 months so now I quit! I'm too busy thinking about home! OH HAPPY DAY!!!

11-28-44 Tues. A little calmer sea again today and we picked up a little more speed. Took a shower and washed a few clothes. Nothing of importance happened today.

11-29-44 Wed. Nice and calm and we are making good time. One LST caught on fire and fell behind but guess it's OK now and will soon catch up. We fired at some smoke pots with the 3", and 40mm g I was on the 40mm and really did some rotten shooting. Everyo is kidding me about it!! Fun! Washed clothes.

11-30-44 Thurs. Still calm but awfully cloudy and dark. We passed the Azores last night. We are 1100 miles out in the Atlantic now from the Rock of Gibralter and are about one-third of the way home. We have set all of the clocks back three times now. Set them back one hour about every 3 days. Started to read a book today, called "Shore Leave".

12-1-44 Fri. The letter for my GM1/c was sent in to Washington while we *wer* in Oran. I should be 1/c by the time we get home. Still making pretty good time of 10 knots. Should get in the States

about Monday, December 11. Weather is very good! Barometer is 30.29 which is very high.

12-2-44 Sat. Another nice day and are still making good time with a following sea. One LCI broke a shaft and is being towed by a sea going tug.

12-3-44 Sun. Quite cloudy but still not very rough. The convoy is making better than 10 knots.

12-4-44 Mon. Can't sleep at all any more- All I can think about is home; am really nervous! At noon today we ran into a big storm and it blew hard and got rougher than h-! One week from today we should pull into good old USA.

12-5-44 Tues. It rained hard all night so it calmed some and was calmer this AM. But at noon the barometer dropped to 2900 and we really hit another storm. It came from behind us so didn't slow the convoy too much. The waves are bigger than the ship.

12-6-44 Wed. Still rough and stormy. In the AM I took a shower and cleaned up. We have GQ every night and morning now and it sure gets tiresome. We will set the clocks back another hour tonight and this is the last change.

12-7-44 Thurs. Pearl Harbor Day!! Still rough and cloudy. We should pass by Bermuda tonight but will be 60 miles to the north. This trip is really getting monotonous! Can't do anything but sleep and stand watches. Too rough to even eat!

12-8-44 Fri. Still enroute to the good old USA. Quite rough still and rainy We will arrive in the States next Monday.

12-9-44 Sat. Still rough and cold and we are still on our way!

12-10-44 Sun. Last day out and everyone is sure happy about it. Everyone is singing and laughing all of the time. New guys are even more excited than the old guys! The anchor pool that Fournier & I made for $1200.00 is all sold now and in the ship's safe.

12-11-44 Mon We hoisted our homeward bound pennant this morning at daylight. Got our first glimpse of American land at 0900. It is quite rainy and rough. We came into Chesapeake Bay and up the York River to Yorktown to unload all depth charges and hedge-hogs Our $1200 anchor pool was won at Yorktown by Pappalo and Kubulis- they won $800.oo and we also had two more $200.oo winners. They were Bill Williams and Agee, and also Williams and Fournier. The lights of Norfolk sure looked wonderful and we went into NOB and tied up. Our over-seas journey is ended after 21 months and 22 days. Alot of mail came aboard after we tied up and I got letters from Mom & Dad & Phyl and a Xmas

box. I hit the sack at midnight after kissing the USA soil!!!

12-12-44 Tues. Unloaded ammo all day and really worked hard. In the PM I went on the dock and called home and talked to Mom and Mare. At night I called again and talked to Mom, Dad, Phyl and Mare. Sure seemed swell to hear them. Had my first glass of milk tonight in 22 months. No word about leaves as yet. Sure hope I can get first one so can be home for Xmas.

12-13-44 Wed. Rated liberty this PM so went up town and bought me a new suit of tailor made blues. Came back to the ship at 1600 and found I had been granted 30 days leave and 3 days travel time. I stayed all night in a hotel as my train doesn't leave until tomorrow AM.

12-14-44 Thurs. Started home today on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. Rode all day.

12-15-44 Fri. Got in Detroit this AM at 9 o'clock. Took the bus to Jackson Arriving there at 2:20 PM. I met Phyl and all the folks and am now started on my 30 days of HEAVEN ON EARTH after 22 months of overseas duty!!!

5-2-95 It has been over 50 years since my last entry on Friday December 15, 1944 when I arrived home. I must now write a final entry to summarize my final six months in the Navy. After I left the USS Steady for the 30 days leave, I went back aboard in January 1945 and was transferred off the ship in late January to the Norfolk Receiving Station. I was then reassigned to the large Naval Ammunition Depot at Crane, Indianna where I served until October 1945. I was then sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Station to be discharged in October 1945. I was in the navy 3 years and 1 month. I received an honorable discharge and six battle stars.

END OF US NAVAL SERVICE AND THESE DIARIES.

RONALD W. WALDBY

Received from
Clarence Wiltsee
4-18-95

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D. C. 20374

IN REPLY REFER TO

Ser 09BH/2220

14 NOV 1973

Dear Mrs. Heckler:

In further response to your inquiry of 23 October concerning the USS STEADY (AM-118), I am enclosing a copy of the narrative history of the ship which was written by one of her officers at the close of World War II. By James P. Whyte Jr. Lt. (jg) USNR 4 in Convoy!!! Fun.

In addition the following information may be of interest: STEADY was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 February 1968. She was transferred to the Government of the Republic of China, by sale, on 4 March 1968 as MO LING (PCE-70) where she still serves as an active unit of their navy.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

D. A. LONG
Captain, USN
Deputy Director
Naval History

Honorable Margaret M. Heckler
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

9 1973