

Contributed by Richard Cotter

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START FOR SOUTHERN FRANCE—(AP Wirephoto) Barrage balloons hover overhead as LSTs load supplies and other supplies at a southern Italian harbor in preparation for the invasion of France, which got under way Aug. 15.

Nelson T. Catter Y 2/c
U.S.S. LST 1020

Commissioned 19 May 1944

Stations:

Harvard Univ. (Comm)

Tufts College (V-12)

Camp Bradford (Va)

U.S.S. LST 1020

DATE-OF-RATES

Y 3/c 6 NOVEMBER 1942

A.S. 1 JULY 1943

Y 3/c 5 FEBRUARY 1944

Y 2/c 1 JUNE 1944

Y 1/c 1 DECEMBER 1944

Left States 0800, 24 June
1944.

Arrived in Oran 11 July
1944.

First enemy air attack
12 July 1944. at 0300.

Arrived in Bizerte 13
July 1944.

Left Bizerte 25 July
1944, arrived in Naples
27 July 1944.

Held maneuvers, for
coming invasion, on
6 August 1944.

August 12, 1944 - Left Terra
Annunziata at 1630 to
join Invasion fleet.

July 1, 1944: Practiced beaching with pontoons. The C. B. A. took a bulldozer onto the beach via the pontoons. Just as the ^{bulldozer} got off the pontoon onto the beach they hit a land mine. Nobody was hurt but the bulldozer was wrecked.

7/2/44: Another LST practicing with pontoons had a duck blown up by a land mine & 2 men were killed.

August 13, 1944: Proceeding in convoy of about 100 LST's up the coast of western Italy.

August 14, 1944: Arrived at strait between Corsica and Sardinia at 0615. Picked up air coverage consisting of P-38's

August 15, 1944: D-DAY: Arrived off southern coast of France at 0400. Proceeded to transport area. Bombardment of beach by planes and ships from 0645 to 0800. H-Hour 0800. We beached on yellow beach at 0615. Retracted at 1700. Under

enemy air attack at 2100.
There was no aircraft
resistance from the Nazi's.
We saw two ME-109's and a
flight of four Focke-Wulf's.
Joined runway at 2100.
Headed for Corsica.

Aug. 16, 1944: Still proceeding
in runway. Reached
Ajaccio, Corsica today. Nice
looking place.

Aug. 17, 1944: Still at Ajaccio
waiting to take a load
back to France.

Aug. 18, 1944: Loaded up with
426 French, Arab and
Senghaes troops. Mostly the latter's

Left for France around 1800.

August 19, 1944: Reached France about 1400. Went in and discharged troops at 2000. Red alert all the time. After retreating, went out & anchored.

August 20, 1944: Laying at anchor. Had Red alert. Left for Ajaccio in early afternoon. Did not leave for Ajaccio until 2100. We had air raid at 2100 but they only bombed the beach. One plane that we could see was shot down.

August 21, 1944: Arrived at Ajaccio around 1330. Last night a destroyer sunk two E-boats near the convoy and a sub was reported 30 miles away. Went in to the beach and loaded up with trucks, guns and their French & Arab troops. Stayed on the beach all night.

August 22, 1944: Still on beach in the morning. Got off beach around 1500. Got underway for France at 1800.

August 23, 1944: Arrived at ~~Ajaccio~~^{France} around 1300. Anchored off beach. Reached and got out right away for Ajaccio.

arrived / Ajaccio around 1300

August 24, 1944: Still anchored. Went on first liberty in Ajaccio. No good. The people were celebrating liberation of Paris.

August 25, 1944: Still anchored. Nothing new occurred except that I went swimming for the first time in the Mediterranean. Pretty salty water.

August 26, 1944: Today I and a man - in the eyes of the law. We went into the beach to load up for another

trip back to France. Our last one, we hope. In the afternoon we played softball & football & had a swimming party. In the evening a couple of the boys surprised me with a little party consisting of ice cream, fudge & liquid refreshment. My first summer beach occurred today.

Aug. 27, 1944: Today we loaded up with trucks and a bunch of French soldiers. Left Ajaccio at 1730 for Southern France. We are going to Alpha Beach this time.

August 28, 1944: Reached
Alpha beach around 1300.
Beached & unloaded. Left
for Ajaccio around 2000.

Aug. 29, 1944: Reached
Ajaccio around 1300.
Anchored out.

Aug. 30, 1944: Went into
Beach and loaded up
with Americans this
time. Left for S. F.
around 1730.

Aug 31, 1944: Reached
Alpha beach at 1200.
Beached, unloaded and
went to convey area.
Left S. F. at 6000.

Sept. 1, 1944: Arrived at
Ajaccio at 1300. Anchored
off beach. Still no
mail. Haven't had any
for almost a month.

Sept. 2, 1944: Left today
for Naples. Weighed
anchors around 1200.

Sept. 3, 1944: Still on our
way to Visida. Holiday
route, I slept all day.

Sept. 4, 1944: We received
our mail today. I
got 14 letters. We went
into the beach to load
up.

Sept. 5, 1944: Stayed on beach all day. Loaded up with American troops. Rumors from all sources insist we will be back in States for Christmas. I doubt it but it would be nice.

Sept. 6, 1944: Left Visida today for S. I. 20 LST's in convoy plus about 20 merchant ships.

Sept. 7, 1944: Still on way to S. I. Very slow convoy. You can tell winter is coming on as the usually placid Mediterranean

is very choppy.

Sept. 8, 1944: Very rough today $\frac{3}{4}$ of the soldiers went sick. We reached Sardinia & Corsica around 1500. B. Q. at night.

Sept. 9, 1944: Boy, what a beating we took last night. Nobody could sleep expecting the ship to break in half at any moment. Reached S. I. at 1300. Beached at 1400. Left beach around 1730 with 400 prisoners. Most of them are Russian Poles. They are congenial & say they are glad they

They are prisoners. Most of them are quite young or old. After loading went & anchored in nearby bay.

Sept. 10, 1944: Stayed at anchor all day. Left anchorage around 1700. Going back to Naples in company with 20 other LST's. Scuttlebutt about going back to States is even stranger. Could be!

Sept. 11, 1944: Last night one of the fellows had 130⁰⁰ stolen from his locker. In the ensuing inspection the officers found enough

guns & ammunition to start a minor invasion. The crew had bought them from soldier passengers. They found 45's, rifles, Gasand, carbines, Tommy guns & even a bazooka. The money was later found in between some pipes in the overhead. Someone had concealed it there fearing discovery. This afternoon we had a little gunnery practice with the confiscated ammo & guns. I shot a Tommy gun for the first time. I also shot with a .45 & a carbine. Of them all

I prefer the Tommy gun.
I sank a ~~of~~ can with
one of burst (those shots).

Sept. 12, 1944: Still on way
to Naples. Will arrive
there same time late
today. Arrived at Visida
around 1700. Went into
dock at 1830 and unloaded
prisoners. They seemed
pretty happy over the
whole thing. We went
& picked up the Health
Records. The scuttlebutt
about going back to the
States is very strange.
I have an idea that we
will go back. Everything
points in the direction.

Sept. 13, 1944: Transferred 10
men for duty in nuclear
crew. Took on about 50,000
gals. of fuel. Enough to get
us back to the States.

Sept. 14, 1944: Went &
loaded up. They say it
is our last load that
we will not be coming
back to Italy again.
Left Visida (port S. J.)
at 2000.

Sept. 15, 1944: Proceeding
in convoy to S. J.
Nothing interesting
happened.

Sept. 16, 1944: Arrived at St. Maxime around 1400. Received orders to proceed to Marseille.

Sept. 17, 1944: Arrived in Marseille at 1000. Received orders to go back to St. Maxime. What a life!

I saw a beautiful looking Cathedral right near the waterfront at Marseille.

The only part of the town that was hit hard was the waterfront.

Sept. 18, 1944: Sometime during the nite we lost the convoy. It is raining and a high sea is

running. The first rain storm we have had since leaving the States. Our greatest danger at the moment is mine fields. Here's hoping we don't run into one. We arrived at Camel Beach and unloaded. Here we saw the LST 282, the only LST lost in the invasion of Southern France. She was a mess. One bomb did it all, only 50 survivors out of about 450 Army & Navy personnel. Went & anchored for night.

Sept. 19, 1944: Weighed anchor at 0600. Destination unknown, either Nisida or Oran. Pretty rough weather today, the roughest we've encountered yet.

Sept. 20, 1944: Still on our way. Our destination is Nisida. Very rough weather. This thing (the ship) is bouncing like a rubber ball.

Sept. 21, 1944: Reached Nisida around 1600. All our mail has been forwarded to Oran. At 1900 we went into

beach and took on a load. It consisted of tanks, used for demolition purposes, and trucks. American troops.

Sept. 22, 1944: This is to be our last trip from Nisida. We go to S. F. and thence to Oran. From Oran we expect to either go to the States or - the Pacific.

Sept. 23, 1944: Got underway for S. F. at 0530 this morning. 18 LST convoy. Very nice weather. Our destination is supposed to be Marseille.

Sept. 24, 1944: Sunday,
day of rest - and boy,
well I! Passed through
straits of Corsica at 0700
this morning. Smooth
sailing so far.

Sept. 25, 1944: Sometime
during the night our
smooth sailing ended.
Today is the roughest
weather we've seen yet.
Arrived at Marseille
at 1645. Anchored out
for the night.

Sept. 26, 1944: With the
coming of morning I
went up on deck and
looked at the city through

a pair of glasses. It is a
nice looking city. There
is a very large
cathedral right near the
waterfront. To the right
of the cathedral, set
up on top of a large hill,
is what appears to be
either a church or a
monastery. At the top
of this building there
is a huge, gold, statue
of the Blessed Virgin.
Surprise! A liberty in
Marseille. It is a swell
city. Reminds one of the
states. The people are
very friendly - and clean.
I visited the church up
on the hill and a few

others. The dock where the LST's unload is in the center of the town and the people never saw an LST before. They stand on the street, blocking the traffic, to see these strange ships.

Sept. 27, 1944: Went into the dock to unload. On the way in we ran aground on some rocks. The Germans had a sunk a ship right across the channel entrance and only left about 60 ft. open. We are 50 ft. wide. When we got in the people

were still there gaping. After unloading, went outside in the bay & anchored.

Sept. 28, 1944: Still anchored. We are supposed to leave for Naples today. Got underway at 1200. Left four officers & small boat crew behind. Officers hadn't come back from liberty. We have hit some really rough weather. The water comes up to the level of the deck when we roll.

Sept. 29, 1944: Deached Vesuvius around 1700.

We met our four officers. They came down by plane. We received our long overdue mail. I got 19 letters, a new record.

Sept. 30, 1944: Went into load up again. taking on French food & Yanks. From the looks of things we won't be home for Christmas. Too much material to be taken to France.

Oct. 1, 1944: Sunday. Still loading. Went to Mass & Communion at 1600.

Oct. 2, 1944: Left Residua for S. F. at 0500. It started getting rough even before we were out of the harbor.

Oct. 3, 1944: Rough weather all night, nobody could sleep. Smoothed off during the day.

Oct. 4, 1944: Still on our way. Pretty smooth water compared to our last trip. ETA: 2000 to 2200. Arrived at Marseilles around 1600, ahead of ETA. Listened to first game of World Series over radio. Germans tried to shut it

out but couldn't.

Oct. 5, 1944: Still anchored out in harbor. Heard second game of World Series. Won 20 bucks on it.

Oct. 6, 1944: Still at anchor in harbor. Listened to Series again.

Oct. 7, 1944: Proceeded into dock around 1400. On way in hit much of ship laying in channel entrance. Tore two holes in our starboard side. One is about 6' by 4' and the other is a

little smaller. Both holes entered into our forward magazines. One is only about six ft. above the waterline.

Oct. 8, 1944: Sunday. Went to Mass & Communion for the 2nd Sunday in a row, a new record. A French priest said the mass and gave a nice sermon — in French. Started repairing the holes in our bow.

Oct. 9, 1944: Still in at the dock & still working on the holes in our bow. Went out to

breakwaters to take on
pontoons. We got our
port one on. Had liberty.
Went to a show & saw
"Joe Smith, American"; English
speaking with the French
written in on the bottom.
The people seemed to enjoy
it.

Oct. 10, 1944: Got our
starboard pontoon on. These
pontoons are about 4 ft.
wide and 200 ft. long.
They are used on shallow
beaches.

Oct. 11, 1944: Got underway
for Leghorn. 30 miles from
the front. Latest news is

that we will start back
for the States Feb. 15.

Oct. 12, 1944: Still on way
to Leghorn. Had gunnery
practice this morning.
Blew up balloons & let them
float away. Our ships
shot down four, more
than any other ships.

Oct. 13, 1944: Passed the
island of Elba around
0800. Arrived at Leghorn
shortly after noon.
Anchored out in harbor.

Oct. 14, 1944: Out at anchor
all day. Went into dock
after sunset. Met some

Soldiers & they told us that the town had been completely evacuated of all civilians three weeks before. The town was really beat up.

Oct. 15, 1944. Left for Nisida at 0600. Smooth sailing all day.

Oct. 16, 1944. Arrived at Nisida around 1200. The minute we docked the rumors about going back to the States started up. This time they seem to be a bit true.

Oct. 17, 1944. Got underway at 0600 for Salerno. From there we go to Bizerte. From there ????. Had liberty tonight. I went ashore as an S.P. The people were scared stiff of us. Poor liberty town.

Oct. 18, 1944. Laid out at anchor all day.

Oct. 19, 1944. Around 2400 we went in & loaded on 4 LCV's, came back out & anchored. Received warnings of a terrific storm approaching. Started to go to Bizerte our orders were changed & now we are headed for Nisida to

get a good anchorage from
the storm. Arrived at
Nesida around 2400.

Oct. 20, 1944: Got underway
for Bizerte at 1000. Heavy
ground swell is really
tossing us around.

Oct. 21, 1944: ETA is at
1700. Arrived at Bizerte
at 1900. Anchored out for
the night.

Oct. 22, 1944: Still anchored
out. Went into inside
harbor at 1700. The Black
Blague is raging in
Bizerte. No one is allowed
off the base.

Oct. 23, 1944: Still anchored
inside harbor. The C.B's.
took our pontoons off
today. Trombosi's gun accident.

Oct. 24, 1944: Still anchored
out in harbor.

Oct. 25, 1944: Still anchored
out in harbor.

Oct. 26, 1944: Went into
dock and unloaded.
Then went and tied up
alongside USS DELTA.
Commenced repairs on
ship.

Oct. 27, 1944: Still
tied up alongside Delta.

Nov. 12, 1944: Took on
LST 745. Still tied up
at Hard.

Nov. 13, 1944: Still tied
up at Hard.

Nov. 14, 1944: Went out
to Mess-el-Kebir and
tied up alongside LST
194.

Nov. 15, 1944: Still at
Mess-el-Kebir. Expect
to leave for States
around the 20th.

Nov. 16, 1944: Still out
at Mess-el-Kebir.

Nov. 17, 1944: Went into
Hard at Oran and took a
load of small boats
onto the Tank Deck.
The scuttlebutt is that
we are going to New
Orleans.

Nov. 18, 1944: Left Hard
at Oran and tied up
alongside LST 50 at
Mess-el-Kebir.

Nov. 18-23, 1944 - Stayed
at Mess-el-Kebir.

Nov. 23, 1944: Thanksgiving
Day. Had a wonderful
dinner. Left MEK and
anchored outside of

Oran Harbor. Tomorrow
we leave for the States
our destination is
Oran New Orleans.

Nov. 24, 1944: Today at 0900
we left for the States.

Nov. 25-29, 1944: On way
to States. Destination is
New Orleans. We having
been travelling at the
rate of 10 knots per hour
even in the rough
weather. Yesterday &
today have been unusually
calm, just a slight swell.
If we keep going at this
pace for the rest of the
trip we may get home

for Christmas.

Nov 30 - Dec. 1, 1944: Still
having good weather
and making good
speed. ETA is anytime
from the 15th to the
20th of Dec. Today, Dec.
1, I made 8 1/2. ????

Dec. 2 - Dec. 6, 1944: Had
good weather up until
the 5th and then we
hit a bad storm.
Waves as high as a 3
story house and 20 to
30 feet long. We are
expected to leave the
main convoy the 8th
and head for New

Orleans which is about
seven more days.

Dec. 7-10, 1944: Our orders
have been changed. We
are going to Norfolk. From
there we expect to go to
New Orleans. We will
not get home for
Christmas. Tomorrow, the
11th, we will arrive at
Norfolk. We have had
really rough weather
west since the 5th.

Dec. 11-15: Arrived in
Norfolk the 11th. Had
our cargo from the
tank deck removed.
On the 15th we left

for New Orleans.

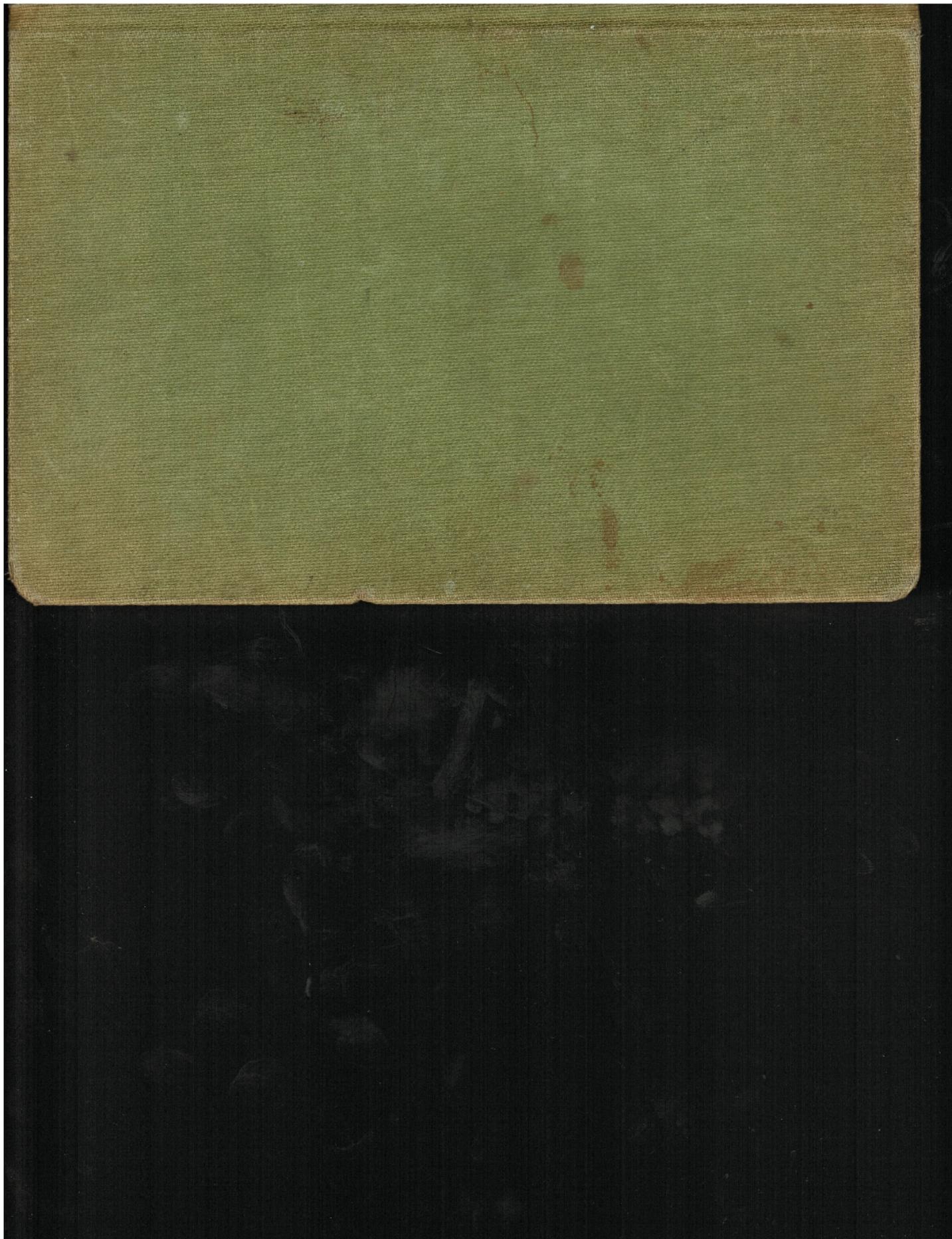
Dec. 16-18: The first couple
of days out we ran
into the roughest weather
we've seen yet. Just
off Cape Hatteras. We
bounced and rolled and
practically stood on
end. The ship was
quivering just like a
bowl of jello. We are
having calm
weather now that we
are off the Florida
coast. ETA - the 23rd.

(Over)

This is the diary
that I kept from
just prior to the
invasion until just
before we arrived at
New Orleans. Save this.

Nelson

Note: ETA means Estimated
Time of Arrival at
Destination.



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START FOR SOUTHERN FRANCE—(AP Wirephoto) Barrage balloons hover overhead as LSTs load supplies and other supplies at a southern Italian harbor in preparation for the invasion of France, which got under way Aug. 15.

Feb. 8, 1945

Left New Orleans at 0800.
Reached the Gulf of Mexico
at 1500. Around 1600 had
our last glimpse of the USA.

Feb. 9-13, 1945

Proceeding on our way to
Panama. We had gunnery
practice twice. I shot my
20MM for the first time.

Feb. 14, 1945: Arrived at Panama.
Tied up at Caco Solo. Had base
liberty.

Feb. 15, 1945: Went on shore patrol
and was stationed at the
Redlight district.

Feb. 16, 1945: Went through
the Panama Canal today.
It was a wonderful sight.
Around 11:00 P.M. reached the
Pacific Ocean.

Feb. 17-18, 1945: Underway to San Diego. Good trip - so far.

Feb. 19-24, 1945: Still underway to San Diego.

Feb. 24-27, 1945: Still underway to San Diego.

Feb. 28: Arrived at San Diego. Had my first liberty!

Mar. 1
Feb. 29 - Mar. 20: Still at San Diego due to engine trouble.

Mar. 20 - Mar. 22: Still at Diego.

Mar. 23: Left San Diego en route to Seattle, Washington.

Mar. 24 - Mar. 30: We had the roughest trip we've ever had. Stormy & rough from the time we left Diego until we reached Puget Sound.

Mar. 31 - April 10: Still at Seattle. Main Engine trouble. Our time of departure is very uncertain, anywhere up to a month. We dropped four LCT here at Bremerton, W. Y.

April 11 - 20: Still in Seattle

April 21: Got underway for Pearl Harbor

April 22 - April 30: Underway to Pearl Harbor, had various exercises.

May 1 - 31: Arrived at Pearl Harbor. Had fuel at Hord in Kewalo Basin and unloaded cargo. Went to West Loch, they were 128 LCT's tied up in there. More work on our reduction gear. Went into drydock. The 19th we celebrated our 1st anniversary. Had a trial run the 29th.

June 1-3: Had a trial run the
west. Part of the time was
tied up at Kewalo Basin.

June 4-7: Out on maneuvers
Had firing practice, night
S. B., and all sorts of exercises.

June 9 - Went to Island of Hawaii
and picked up a load of troops
and equipment to bring back to
Oahu.

June 11 - Unloaded troops at
Kewalo Basin.

June 12 - ~~12~~²² - Tied up at West Loch.

June ~~15~~²³⁻²⁵ - Went to Iagoiwa Point
and took on a load.

June 26 - Back West Loch waiting
to leave. 100 troops and 10 officers
came on board.

June 27 - At 1600 we started on
our way. Our first stop

I love you

will be Eniwetok in the
Marshall Island. Then, on to
the Philippines.

June 28 - July 8 - Still at sea.
We had no 4th of July as
we passed over the International
Date Line and lost a day. Early
in the morning of 7th we
reached the first islands in
the Marshall group. We passed
within 7 miles of Wotje, Japhehd
island.

July 9-12. Arrived at Eniwetok
on the 9th. They have enough
ships here to sustain numerous
ships of every type from carriers
down to LST's.

July 12. - Started out again. Our
next destination is Saipan.

July 13-14: Still on our way. As
I write this we are within
350 miles of Saipan, the Jap
Base Harbor of the Pacific. At

is supposed to have been neutralized by our planes. We hope so. So far we have gone more than half way across the Pacific, without any escort.

July 15 - Still on our way to Saipan.

July 16 - Arrived at Saipan about 0700 just in time to see B-29's taking off for Japan. There are quite a few ships about. About 80 or 90 LST's alone.

July 17-19 - Still at Saipan.

July 20 - We left today for the Philippines.

July 20-25 - On our way to the Philippines.

July 26 - Arrived about 1600 at anchorage off Luzon. Samar is about 10 miles east of us. We can see plenty of ships in the port like at Saipan &

Eniwetok. The invasion fleet is gathering.

July 27. At 0800 we hit the beach at Sute. Even after almost a years time, the scars of past Japanese invasion are visible. A Catholic Mission, that had been shelled by both the U.S. & Japs is a total wreck. Yet despite this fact, Mass is celebrated there every day. We stayed on the beach all night. The natives are a pathetic sight.

July 28. - Pulled off the beach at 0800 and went to anchorage just off Taalban, the capital of Sute. Yesterday we told that within 48 hours we would be on our way to Okinawa. In the past month I have set foot on dry land for only about 2 1/2 hours.

July 29: Proceeded off beach
at 0730 and went to anchorage
in San Pedro Bay, just
off Tacubana.

July 29: Our trip to ~~Tacubana~~
Okinawa is off. We need
repairs on our dethd. boat
davit.

July 30 - Aug. 4: Still at anchor
in San Pedro Bay. We
expect sailing ~~at~~ any day
now.

Aug. 4 - Aug 9: Still in Leyte Gulf.
Made a couple of trips down to
Kerinan, largest city on Samar.

Aug. 10: We were at the magazines
when the news of the Japs
offer to surrender came over the
radio. Before they shot off flames
just like the 17th of June. On
board everyone is getting stiff.
I thank God that I have
come through this war safe.

Aug. 11: We are now awaiting news of the Allied acceptance of the Jap offer. Everyone is hoping for the best.

Aug. 12: Still waiting.

Aug. 13: Still waiting.

Aug. 14: At last they've given their answer. Immediately everyone started to think about getting home again.

Aug. 15: Still in Leyte Gulf.

Aug. 16: The Navy just released its new point system. Out of 121 officers and men only three are eligible for discharge. I only have 27½ points. I feel as though I'm being cheated. Men who have only been in for a year and a half will get out long before I will. Of all the 1st class P.O.'s on board I have the least number of points and I've been in the service longer than a lot of them.

Aug. 17: We are on the degaussing
range testing our degaussing
system. We have been practically
so quiet for a week can't
understand it.

Aug. 18: Went down to Gunnar Bay
to have pontoons put on the
side of the ship.

Aug. 19: Still at Gunnar Bay, Samar.

Aug. 19-23: Hoisting getting pontoons &
supplies.

Aug. 24: Went up to White Beach
Tom Leyte took on part of a load.
The troops on board are going to
Hong Kong, China. Went back down
to Samar.

Aug. 25: Came back up to White
Beach and loaded on 197
Negro troops. We are taking them
up to Majila and bringing back
an equal number of white boys.
Bachy Mc came on board and
stayed for about five hours.

Aug 26: We left around 0845 for
Manila. It is a beautiful day.
Today is my birthday & I've
spent the entire day sleeping.

Aug 27-28: On our way to Manila.

Aug 29 - Arrived at Manila. Saw the
famed "Rock" and Batagan. Manila
has been hard hit. Ships sunk
all over the harbor. Dropped the
troops off about 1800 and immediately
proceeded to pick up more troops
for the return trip to Leyte.

Aug 30: Left for Leyte around 1500.
It is rumored that our next trip
will be to Shanghai.

Aug 31: Still on our way to Leyte.

Sept 1 Arrived at Guinan this
morning. Went in on the beach
at 1500 to complete our cargo
load.

Sept 2: V-J Day. Not much of a

celebration and here except for the shooting off of rockets and flares.

Sept. 3: Still taking on cargo. Our destination is Shanghai, China. The troops we are bridging up there are going to set up an advanced base. We are supposed to stay up there for several months and then take these troops back to the States. I don't know, it doesn't sound right.

Sept. 4: Came off the beach today at 0700. Tied up alongside the LST 226 and discharged 70 odd troops to the 226. Went up to the waterhole.

Sept. 5: Went up to anchorage in San Pedro Bay.

Sept. 6: Left today for Shanghai. Our first stop will be at Okinawa.

Sept 7-10 Underway to Okinawa.
We hit a typhoon. What a
storm. Lost most of our
portmanteaus.

Sept. 12 - Arrived at Okinawa.
Anchored in Buckner Bay.

Sept. 13-14 Still at Okinawa. On
the 14th we went ~~to~~ over to
the other side of the island &
anchored off Naha.

Sept. 15: Still at Naha.

Sept. 16: Left today for Shanghai,
and stepped right into another
typhoon. This one is worse than
the first.

Sept. 16-18. Still on our way to
Shanghai & fighting the typhoon.
On the 18th we finally vanquished
the typhoon.

Sept. 19: We anchored off the
mouth of the Yangtze River today.
Tomorrow we enter Shanghai. The

Yangtze is as muddy as the old
Mississippi.

Sept. 20: We went up the mouth of
the Yangtze today to Shanghai
through heavily mined waters.
One of the LST's was damaged
when a mine exploded off its
starboard side. ~~We~~ We went off
the Yangtze into the Wangpoo River.
Shanghai is situated on the Wangpoo.
All the way up the river the
Chinese people came out in
small boats to cheer us. They
were certainly glad we had
arrived. The Japs still maintain
a police force in Shanghai. We
stayed up at an old Navy dock.

Sept. 21: Started unloading our
cargo

Sept. 22: Went on liberty in
Shanghai. The people are
really funny. I saw some
Japs cleaning up the town. The
Chinese just stand and watch
them, never saying a word.

Sept. 23-27: Still tied up at
Shanghai and still unloading.

Sept. 23-Oct. 9: Still at Shanghai.
Had two Summary Court Martials
on board the 8th.

Oct. 10: Still at Shanghai:

Oct. 11: Left for Ningpo to
pick up Chinese troops.

Oct. 12: Anchored somewhere off
the Chinese coast all day.

Oct. 13: Arrived at Ningpo.

Oct. 14: Anchored off Ningpo.
Took 500 Chinese troops on
board.

Oct. 15: Left for Zamboanga
today in convoy of 7
LST's and 22 LCI's. 7900
Chinese troops in all.

Oct. 16: Still underway.

Oct. 17: Arrived at Kiuam, on the
Northern tip of Formosa. Band, flags,
shews, the whole town was out.
The town was well bathed. Not one
building in the city was still
in one piece. One of our
Chinese soldiers died last night
and the ship was quarantined
due to the belief he died from Cholera.
But he didn't.

Oct. 18-28: Still at Kiuam. Not
a damn thing has happened.
Especially No. 10.

Oct. 29: Got underway today for
Subic Bay, P. I.

OCT 30 - Nov. 1 - Still Underway.

Nov. 2 - Arrived at Subic.

Nov. 3 - Transferred 4 men back to
the States.

Nov. 4-6 - Still at Subic. 3 yrs in
the Navy on the 6th.

Nov 7 Still at Subia.

Nov 8: Went down to Manila today. Transferred 13 more men back to the States.

Nov 9 - Captain Tracy was relieved today by Mr. Bennett. He leaves tomorrow, Hate to see him go, a good guy.

Nov 10 - Left today for Haiphong, French Indo-China.

Nov 11-14 - Underway to Haiphong.

Nov 15 - Arrived at Haiphong. Had liberty on a small island off the coast. No liberty in the town because of the unrest among the Natives.

Nov 16-18 - Still at anchor. On the 18th moved into a sheltered spot to load.

Nov 19 - Took on 550 troops of the Chinese 67th route Army.

Nov. 20 Got underway for
Tahao, Pohnopea. 7 LST's, 3
Libertias and one DE.

Nov. 21-22 - Still underway.

Nov. 23-24 - Still underway.
One year ago the 24th we left
Oman for the States.

Nov. 25 - Arrived today at Tahao.
Unloaded all the troops.

Nov. 26 - Still at Tahao.

Nov. 27 - Left today for Hong-Kong.
Good weather today.

Nov. 28 - Still Underway.

Nov. 29 - Arrived at Hong Kong
this morning. Immediately given
orders to go to Haiphong. Took on
fuel and left Hong Kong at 1600
for Haiphong.

Dec. 1 - Still Underway.

Dec. 2 - Anchored off Haiphong
for the night.

Dec. 3 - Went to a little town
60 miles north of Haiphong.
Hit the beach, took on a load
of Chinese & trucks. Anchored
out for the night.

Dec. 4-6 - Loading the Liberty ships
with Chinese troops and trucks.

Dec. 7-8 - Still loading the
Libertys. We left the 8th for
Chinwangtao, China. Our next job,
as far as we know, will be
taking Jap troops back to Japan.

Dec. 9-12 - Still underway and
barely making headway. We
have a strong wind and heavy
seas against us. In 17 hours we
have travelled 49 miles. 120 ~~hours~~
miles in the last 24 hours.
Anyway ago this time, we had
just arrived back at the States
from the Mediterranean.

Dec. 13: Today we had our first
breakdown in nineteen months
and only lasted about two
minutes. Just a power failure.
Our main deck is starting to
crack and a few leaks have
developed in the engine beams.
We are making better speed
the weather is a little better
now.

Dec. 14-16 - Still underway. Weather
is getting quite a bit rougher.

Dec. 17: Still underway. The
ship is taking a heavy
pounding from the waves and
a very strong wind. A
couple of beams have split
and more leaks have started.

Dec. 18: What a rite we went
through! No sleep for anyone
because of the pounding. A
new split, five foot long, in
the main deck. We have been
ordered to go to Shanghai for
repairs. We could never have

finished this trip on top of the water.

Dec. 19 Finally got into calm water. We have to ^{wait} until a man fell overboard from the destroyer. Anchored off the Yangtze for the night.

Dec. 20: Arrived at Shanghai. Plenty of ships in harbor now. Got rid of the Chinese troops, transferred them to the 1044.

Dec. 21-25: Still in Shanghai. Have not started any repair work yet. Not such a ^{big} Christmas.

Dec. 26 - Jan 16: Celebrated the coming of the New Year on board ship. Weather is getting pretty chilly. Met Jim Kelly. We are leaving the 17th for Manchuria. Suppose there will be to take China and take some Japs to Sasebo, Japan.

Jan 17 - Left today for Manchuria with 779 Chinese on board. 6th Army.

Jan
Dec. 18-19 - Still underway. Nice
trip so far. Getting colder.

Jan
Dec. 20: Arrived at Chinweingao
around 1000. Anchored off the beach.
It is pretty cold up here. We can
see the harbor is covered with
ice. In the afternoon we went in on
the beach. An ice-breaker led us
through the ice.

Jan
Dec. 21: Commenced unloading.
Really cold today. At 2:30 pm
left for Takeu.

Jan
Dec. 22 Arrived at Takeu around
1500. We have anchored about
10 miles from the city. The
docks in there can only handle
3 ships at a time so we have to
wait our turn.

Jan
Dec 23-24 - Still at anchor.

Dec. Jan 25: Went into dock at
Takeu and loaded up with 974
Japanese troops.

Jan. 26: Left today for Sasebo,
Japan. Our ship is O.T.C. of
T.R. 78.11.12.(B) - consisting of us,
the 797 and 934.

Jan. 27-28 Still underway.

Jan 29: Arrived at Sasebo today.
Got rid of the japs. This
place is one of Japan's largest
Naval Bases. There are plenty of
jap ships in here. Also there
jap carriers, all sunk.
Jan. 30-31 Still at Sasebo. Pretty
nice looking country.

Feb. 1 Left today for Shanghai

Feb. 2-3 - Still underway. Hit
a little rough weather.

Feb. 4: Anchored off the mouth
of the Yangtze this evening.

Feb. 5 Moved up to the pilot
anchorage.

Feb. 6: Proceeded up the Whangpo and tied up alongside the LST 1070.

Feb. 7-10 - Still at Shanghai.

Feb. 11 - Left Shanghai today for Hong Kong.

Feb. 11-14 Still en route to Hong Kong. Good weather and a nice trip.

Feb. 15: Arrived at Hong Kong

Feb. 16-17 Still at Hong Kong. Went to Mass on the USS VESTAL and met Hack Peely.

Feb. 18: Still at Hong Kong.

Feb. 19: Left Hong Kong today for Chingwangtao with a load of Chinese troops.

Feb. 20-24 Still underway. Have been having a nice trip so far.

Feb. 25 Arrived at Chingwangtao this afternoon. Went into the dock.

Feb. 26: Unloaded the Chinese troops today. Went out and anchored.

Feb. 27: Left today for Tsingtao. Detoured so we could see the Great Wall of China which comes right to the water's edge.

Feb. 28 - Still underway to Tsingtao.

Mar. 1 - Arrived at Tsingtao today. Nothing here.

Mar. 2-3: Still at Tsingtao. We leave the 5th for Shanghai.

Mar. 4: 4 men sent back for discharge. I should have been one of them.

Mar. 5: Left today for Shanghai.

Mar. 6 Still underway.

Mar. 7: Arrived at the Whangpoo anchorage at the mouth of the Yangtze.

Mar. 8 - Still out in anchor.

Mar. 9: Went up to Shanghai today. Received orders to proceed to the States. Will take a load of Japs over to Sasebo, then go to Okinawa, Guam or Saipan, back and then the States. Happy Day!

Mar. 10-14: Still at Shanghai.

Mar. 15: Went down the Whangpoo to the Jipsong Wharf & loaded on 1030 Japs.

Mar. 16: Today we started on the 1st leg of our long journey home. What a glorious feeling to know we are at last headed for home.

Mar. 17 Still underway for Japan.

Mar. 18: Arrived at Sasebo at 1900. Anchored outside the harbor for the night.

Mar. 19 - Went inside and unloaded the Japs troops.

Mar. 20 Still at Sasebo.

Mar. 21: At last we received our orders. We will go to Suo Jima and then to Great Harbor. Left at 1500 today for Suo.

Mar. 22-24 Still underway for Suo.

Mar. 25: Arrived at Suo Jima at 0800 this morning. There are still signs of the great battle fought here. Tanks, guns, shell-trucks, and wrecked ships and planes. There are two graveyards containing about 6000 dead.

Mar. 26-28: Still at Suo waiting for our load. Heavy swell and high winds. Moved over to the other side of the island due to

the wind & sea.

4/12/46 - Lost toes of R. foot.

5/13/46 - Lost half of foot.

6/12/46 - Skin graft on foot.

8/4/46 - Got syms.

11/12/46 - First flap lifted.

12/2/46 - Second time on flap.

12/18/46 - Flap to 3rd time on flap.

1/8/47 - Flap to stump - came apart later.

1/30/47 - Flap to stump.

2/17/47 - Worked on flap.

2/24/47 - Transferred rest of flap to stump.

Twice to surgery on Guam.

3/6/47 - Skin graft on place where flap was taken from.

On March ~~24~~³⁰, 1946, while going ashore to play softball at Lido Jimo my right foot was smashed between the side of the steps and an LCVP.

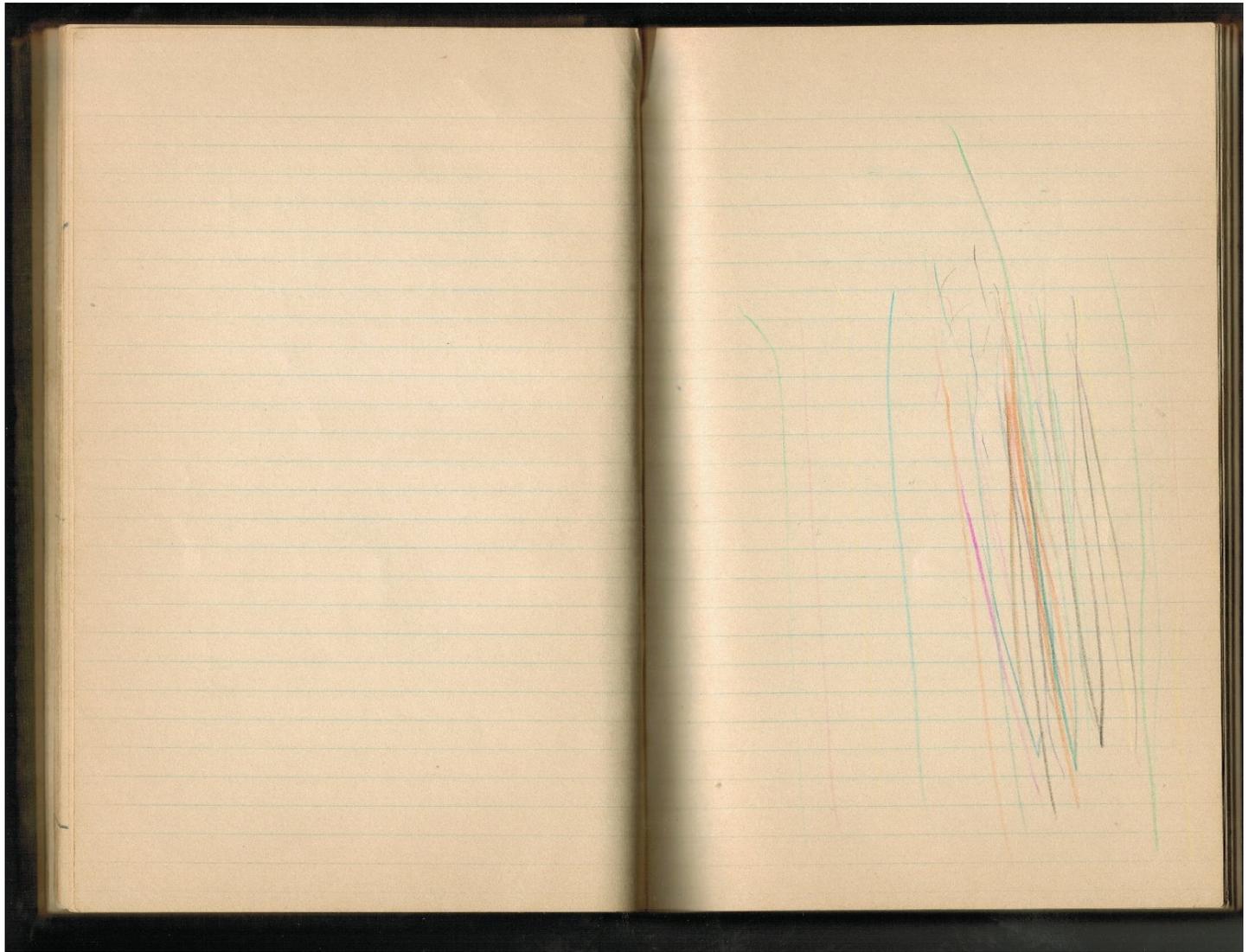
4/2/46 - Trimmied dead skin off stumps.

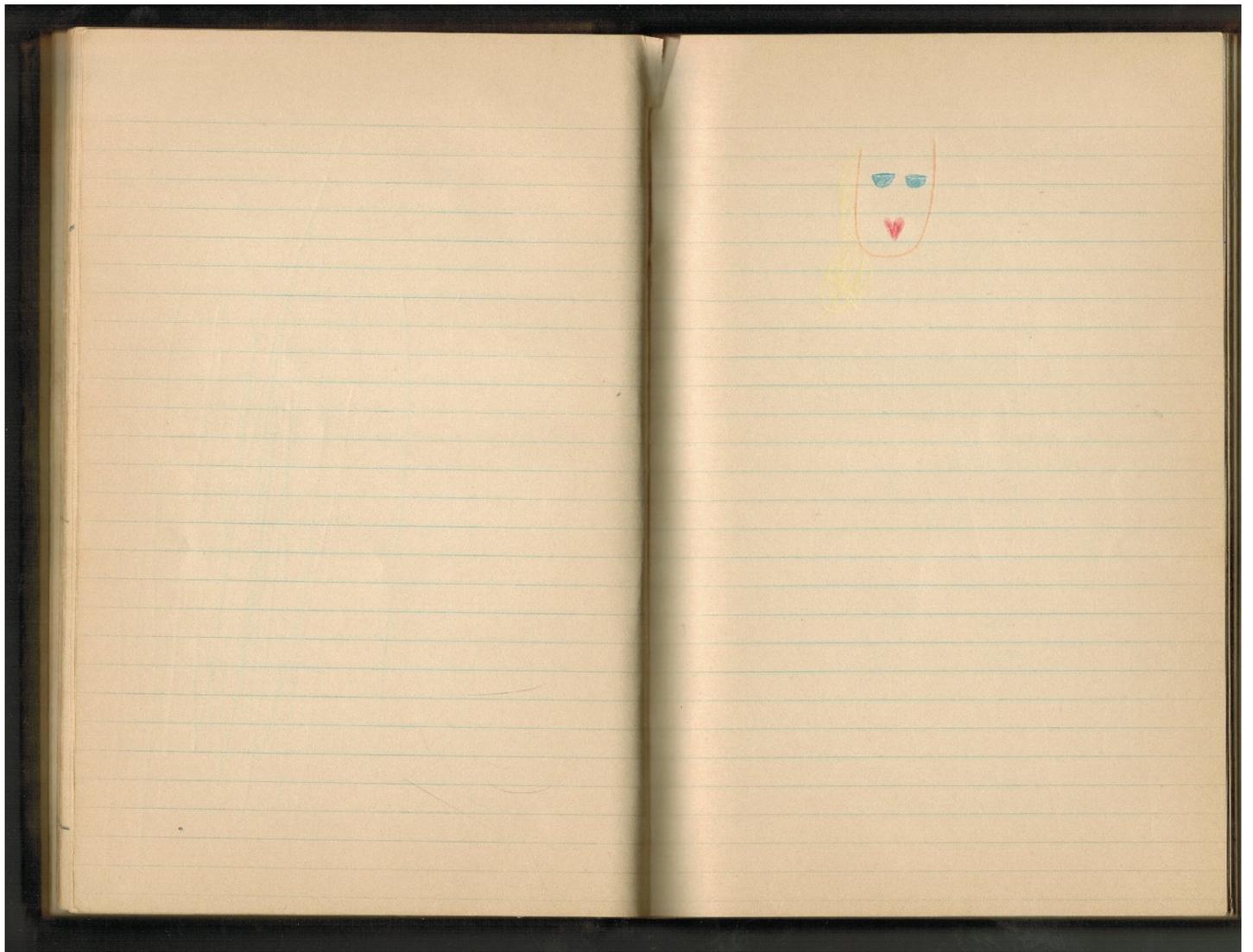
6/13/47 - Got prosthesis.

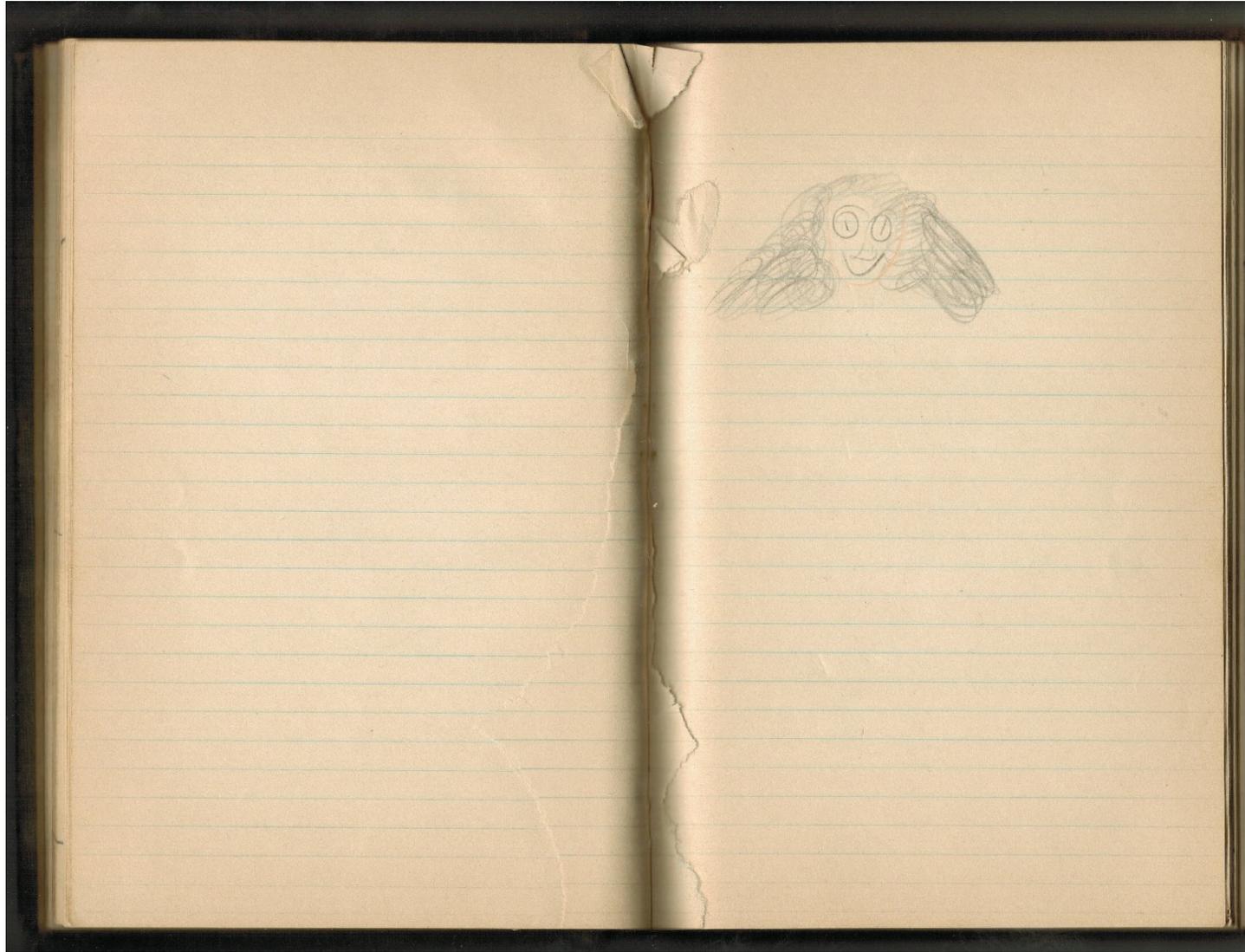
8/25/47 - Left hospital.

Dec. 25, 1945. Became
engaged Christmas Eve,
to Catherine Mary Reid.

~~Engaged to Catherine Mary Reid
Dec. 25, 1945.~~







Mr. Paul Welby
74 Eaton Road
Needham, Mass.

Miss Eleanor F. Hanna
430 Washington St.
Amherst, Mass.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Davis (Ethel)
40 Hillcrest
Bericia, Calif.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ball x
512 Wallace Ave.,
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Miss Nancy McHale x
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M.O. V.S.N. Sitsma Com.
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S.M. 3-6990.

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