

T H E H O M E W A R D / B O U N D E R

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RECORD ATLANTIC CROSSING BRINGS US HOME

THE BIG TRIP IS JUST ABOUT OVER FOR 6,424 PASSENGERS WHO HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MAKE THE JOURNEY FROM NAPLES TO NEW YORK CITY ABOARD THE USS RANDOLPH, A REAL QUEEN AMONG AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.

BARRING LAST MINUTE CHANGES, THE RANDOLPH IS SCHEDULED TO TIE UP AT A STATEN ISLAND PIER ABOUT 9:30 THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING, ENDING A RECORD RUN FROM NAPLES WHICH BEGAN AT 1 O'CLOCK LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 24TH. DEBARKING WILL GET UNDER WAY AT ONCE AND WITHIN A SHORT TIME 6,245 GI'S, 120 OFFICERS (INCLUDING ONE B.G.), THE SHIP'S GLAMOUR DETACHMENT OF 13 ARMY NURSES, 38 CIVILIANS AND 8 NAVY EM'S, WILL STEP FOOT AGAIN ON AMERICAN SOIL. FOR MOST THE TRIP CONTINUES ON TO SEPARATION CENTERS AND THEN ON HOME, THE ALL-IMPORTANT DESTINATION. FOR MOST OF THE MORE THAN 1100 NAVY MEN OF THE SHIP'S COMPANY WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH TO PROVIDE A QUICK AND PLEASANT CROSSING, ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK WILL MEAN HOME LEAVE.

THE TRIP HAS INCLUDED CALM SAILING THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN, WITH BOTH STORMY AND FAIR WEATHER SINCE GIBRALTAR WAS PASSED SUNDAY NIGHT. FOR MANY SEASICKNESS WAS MORE THAN SOMETHING YOU READ ABOUT.

SLEEPING, SWEATING OUT LONG CHOW LINES AND WORK DETAILS WERE NOT THE ONLY DIVERSIONS. THERE WERE MOVIES, FOOTBALL AND OTHER SPORTS ON THE DECK, INCLUDING SOME ARMY-NAVY GAMES LONG TO BE REMEMBERED. A HOBBY LOBBY FOR HANDICRAFT, QUESTION AND ANSWER PROGRAMS ON G.I. PROBLEMS, PERSONAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCES AND OTHER INFORMAL PAST-TIMES.

FEATURE ENTERTAINMENT WAS THURSDAY NIGHT'S AMATEUR SHOW, INCLUDING M.C.ING BY FRANK TAYLOR AND DUKE CARROLL, SINGING AND DANCING BY TOMMY BENSON, SONGS BY LT. CARMEN SARRY, A NC AND LONE MEMBER OF THE DISTAFF SIDE ON THE PROGRAM, AND COWBOY DITTIES BY GROVER VETETO, FORMER RADIO SINGER FROM NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. BETWEEN NUMBERS THE BAND FURNISHED PLEASING MELODIES.

ABOUT ONE HALF OF THE SHIP'S G.I'S AND SAILORS WERE HANGING FROM THE RAFTERS, STANDING ON LADDERS AND ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE WATCHING THE SHOW ON THE HANGAR DECK. IN SPITE OF HAVING A SHORT TIME ONLY FOR REHEARSALS AND PREPARATION, THE PERFORMERS DID REMARKABLY WELL.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS BECAME WELL ACQUAINTED DURING THE WEEK'S TRIP AND THE TWO SERVICES FOUND OUT THAT THEY HAD MUCH IN COMMON AND THAT EACH HAD BEEN FIGHTING THE SAME WAR IN ITS OWN SPECIALIZED FIELD.

SO MORE THAN 6,000 FROM THE ARMY JOIN IN A "THANKS, NAVY, FOR BRINGING US BACK HOME!"

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*** THE HOMEWARD BOUNDER ***

PUBLISHED ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME (WE HOPE) BY AND FOR RETURNING MILITARY PERSONNEL ABOARD THE USS RANDOLPH FROM NAPLES, ITALY, TO NEW YORK, U.S.A., BETWEEN 24 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 1945.

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MEMBERS OF THE STAFF WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE GIVEN THEM BY MEMBERS OF THE SHIP'S COMPANY IN PUBLISHING THIS SPECIAL EDITION.

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RANDOM REVERIES

OF RALPH KENDLER

REMEMBER WHEN ??
(IT WONT BE LONG NOW)

YOU USED TO TAKE THE GIRL FRIEND FOR A SPIN SUNDAY AFTERNOONS. (IN THE ARMY YOU COULDN'T EVEN BORROW A JEEP)... YOU WERE PAID SATURDAY AND BROKE BY MONDAY (YEAH, WE VISIT THE DICE TABLES TOO)... YOU USED TO GRIPE ABOUT THE FOOD NOT BEING READY ON TIME (NOW YOU JUST GRIPE ABOUT THE FOOD WELL, WE NEVER HAD 'C' RATIONS EITHER). (ASIDE TO THE NAVY CHEF-WE'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT ARMY CHOW. WE DON'T WANT TO START ANOTHER WAR WITH YOU FELLOWS, AFTER ALL, WE ARE ALLIES)... MOST OF THE LETTERS YOU GOT WERE BILLS (IN THE ARMY YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED GETTING THAT. AFTER ALL, THEY COULDN'T MAKE YOU PAY)... YOU WORE YOUR VERY FIRST PAIR OF LONG TROUSERS. YOUR FIRST DATE. YOUR FIRST DAY IN THE ARMY (WHO WANTS TO REMEMBER THAT?)

DID YOU EVER FEEL THIS WAY TOO ??

WE WERE USUALLY BLUE WHEN WE FAILED TO GET MAIL FROM THE WIFE OR GIRL FRIEND. WHEN WE GOT SOME, IT STILL MADE US FEEL BLUE AND LOWDOWN.

DIRTY TRICK DEPARTMENT !!!

A GUY WHO'D WAKE ANOTHER GI 45 MINUTES BEFORE HIS TOUR OF GUARD DUTY BEGAN. WE OUGHT TO KNOW 'CAUSE IT HAPPENED TO US IN ALGIERS. (GO AHEAD AND LAUGH, IT'S ON ME).

INTRODUCING CAPTAIN JACKSON R. TATE, "RANDY" SKIPPER

THE "SKIPPER" OF THE "RANDOLPH", CAPT. JACKSON R. TATE, USN, HAS BEEN SUCH A BUSY MAN DURING THE WEEK HE WAS BRINGING MORE THAN 6,000 SOLDIERS BACK HOME THAT HE HAS NOT HAD THE TIME TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH HIS "GUESTS" ON THIS MEMORABLE VOYAGE. IN ORDER THAT THOSE IN O.D. MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR HOST, THIS BRIEF ARTICLE WILL SET FORTH A FEW FACTS ABOUT CAPT. TATE, SO THAT, AS WE LEAVE HIS SHIP, ALL MIGHT FEEL THAT THEY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE MAN PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING US HOME IN RECORD TIME.

CAPTAIN TATE IS A PERSON OF CONTRASTS. BEETLE-BROWED AND POWERFULLY BUILT, HE HAS THE FORCEFUL MANNER ONE WOULD EXPECT OF A MAN WHO HAS SPENT HIS LIFE BATTLING THE SEA AND THE HAZARDS OF FLYING. HE ALSO HAS AN IRISHMAN'S GRACEFUL WIT AND IMAGINATION; HE CAN TELL AN ANECDOTE OR WRITE A SONNET WITH THE SAME SKILL HE CAN BRING A SHIP THROUGH A STORM.

HIS NAVAL CAREER DATES TO WORLD WAR ONE. TWICE AWARDED THE NAVY'S LEGION OF MERIT FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICES, HE HAS IN ADDITION EARNED THE ARMY'S LEGION OF MERIT, AND THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. HIS DUTIES WITH MANY WIDELY SEPARATED COMMANDS AND IN NUMEROUS FOREIGN STATIONS HAVE ADDED MANY OTHER CAMPAIGN AND COMBAT RIBBONS TO HIS DECORATIONS.

CAPTAIN TATE ENTERED THE NAVAL RESERVE IN AN ENLISTED STATUS IN 1917 AND WAS COMMISSIONED ENSIGN IN 1918. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING EXAMINATIONS FOR A NAVAL CAREER, HE RECEIVED HIS PERMANENT COMMISSION WHILE IN BOMBAY, INDIA.

IN 1922, UPON GRADUATION FROM FLIGHT TRAINING AT PENSACOLA, HE WENT ABOARD THE NAVY'S FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THE OLD LANGLEY, WORKING WITH SEVERAL OF THE NAVY'S ORIGINAL FIGHTING SQUADRONS AS A PILOT, TEST PILOT, INSTRUCTOR, SQUADRON COMMANDER, HE ADVANCED TO AIR OFFICER ON THE OLD USS YORKTOWN IN 1939.

IN 1940, THEN A COMMANDER, CAPT. TATE WAS SENT TO ALASKA TO ESTABLISH AND COMMAND THE NAVAL AIR STATION AT SITKA WHERE HE RECEIVED A "READINESS FOR WAR" COMMENDATION FROM ADMIRAL KING WHEN THE JAPS ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR. IN THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN, AS COMMANDER OF A BABY FLATTOP, HE WAS AWARDED A SECOND LEGION OF MERIT AND A THIRD LEGION OF MERIT FOR HIS CONSPICUOUSLY MERITORIOUS SERVICES IN THE ATTACK ON THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

LAST YEAR HE BECAME DEPUTY COMMANDANT OF THE NAVAL TRAINING BASE, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, SERVING FOR FIVE MONTHS BEFORE BEING ORDERED TO MOSCOW AS A MEMBER OF A MILITARY MISSION. TRAVELING HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD TO JOIN THE RANDOLPH OFF THE COAST OF JAPAN, HE RELIEVED CAPT. FELIX BAKER, USN, ON 26 JULY. CAPT. TATE TOOK COMMAND OF THE FIGHTING SHIP FOR THE FINAL SMASHING ATTACKS IN THE TOKYO AREA.

IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT HE SHOULD NOW COMMAND A BIG AIRCRAFT CARRIER. HE LITERALLY GREW UP WITH NAVAL AVIATION. THE RANDOLPH IS THE LATEST OF HIS LONG CHAIN OF IMPORTANT AVIATION'S COMMANDS.

NAVY GIVES ARMY ITS SECOND THANKSGIVING

ALTHOUGH CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR, THANKSGIVING HAD ITS "ENCORE" WITH THE ARMY PERSONNEL ABOARD THE USS RANDOLPH. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 22ND, THE FEAST ABOARD SHIP WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY OWING TO THE FACT THAT THE SHIP WAS IN DOCK AT NAPLES. ARMY PERSONNEL AT THE 7TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT HAD ENJOYED THEIR FIRST HELPING OF TURKEY ON NOVEMBER 22ND, LITTLE REALIZING THAT THERE WOULD BE A REPEAT PERFORMANCE SEVEN DAYS LATER.

THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF APPROXIMATELY 284 ARMY AND NAVY COOKS, BAKERS AND BUTCHERS, APPROXIMATELY 7,500 PERSONS WERE SERVED ON NOVEMBER 29TH. STARTING AT 1400 HOURS, THE CHOW LINES RAN UNTIL ALL MEN HAD BEEN SERVED.

STATISTICS OBTAINED FROM W. B. THIEL, CHIEF COMMISSARY STEWARD, SHOWED THAT FOR THIS ONE MEAL THOSE ABOARD THE RANDOLPH CONSUMED 800 GALLONS OF CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP, 7,000 POUNDS OF ROAST TOM TURKEY, 1,600 POUNDS OF MASHED SWEET POTATOES, 160 GALLONS OF GIBLET GRAVY, 100 GALLONS OF CRANBERRY SAUCE, 400 POUNDS OF SAGE DRESSING, 1,800 POUNDS OF BUTTERED PEAS AND CARROTS, 1,500 POUNDS OF WALDORF SALAD, 8,000 PARKER HOUSE ROLLS, 800 POUNDS OF BUTTER, 8,500 PORTIONS OF APPLE PIE, 1,200 POUNDS OF FRUITCAKE, 1,000 POUNDS OF HARD CANDY, 1,000 POUNDS OF MIXED NUTS AND 1,000 GALLONS OF COFFEE, AS WELL AS 7,300 PACKS OF CIGARETTES AND COUNTLESS BOXES OF CIGARS.

DIS YOU KNOW.....

.....THAT THE USS RANDOLPH'S KEEP WAS LAID MAY 10TH, 1943 - LAUNCHED JUNE 1944 AND COMMISSIONED OCTOBER 9TH OF THE SAME YEAR?

.....THAT, WITH AN ACTUAL GROSS TONNAGE OF 38,000, SHE DRAWS A 28 FOOT DRAFT AND HAS A TOP SPEED OF 32 KNOTS?

.....THAT, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE INJURY AT SEA IN BATTLE, IT WAS ONLY WHEN PUT INTO HARBOR, WHICH WAS SUPPOSEDLY SAFE, SHE SUFFERED DAMAGE? ONCE, WHILE ANCHORED AT ULITHI, SHE WAS HIT BY A JAP SUICIDE PLANE AND AGAIN, ANCHORED IN LEYTE GULF, SHE WAS CRASHED BY AN ARMY P-38 WHICH WENT OUT OF CONTROL WHILE STUNTING OVERHEAD?

.....THAT SHE HAS A FLIGHT DECK 881 FEET LONG AND 137 FEET WIDE, EQUAL TO THE SIZE OF TWO FOOTBALL FIELDS?

.....THAT, FIGURING ONE OUT OF EVERY TEN IS A WAVE-OFF, IT IS ESTI:ATED 103 PLANES CAN BE LANDED AND RESPOTTED FOR TAKE-OFF IN 110 MINUTES FROM THE RANDOLPH'S DECK?

.....THAT, AS OF NAVY DAY, STEAMING 100,000 MILES IN 268 DAYS, THE RANDOLPH CONSUMED 14,070,000 GALLONS OF FUEL AND HAD A DAILY CONSUMPTION OF 72,000 GALLONS OF WATER?

.....THAT THE POWER GENERATED BY HER POWER PLANTS IS SUFFICIENT TO SERVICE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA?

CARRIER OF PLANES OR MEN, THE RANDOLPH BREAKS RECORDS

BY CPL. DON HOSMER

THE USS RANDOLPH HAS DONE IT AGAIN. IT HAS BROKEN THE RECORD FOR CARRYING THE LARGEST NUMBER OF TROOPS TO BE RETURNED TO THE STATES ABOARD A NAVAL VESSEL.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS SET BY THE "RANDY" WAS THE TIME, DIRECTLY AFTER COMMISSIONING, WHEN SHE PROCEEDED FROM THE GULF OF PARIA, WHERE THE SHAKEDOWN WAS CONDUCTED, DIRECTLY TO THE PANAMA CANAL ON HER WAY TO THE PACIFIC. SHE WAS THE FIRST OF THE "BIG" CARRIERS NOT TO RETURN TO HER HOME YARD OR BUILDERS FOR ADJUSTMENTS AFTER A SHAKEDOWN. AND WHEN SHE SORTIED FROM THE NAVAL ANCHORAGE AT ULITHI, IN THE WESTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, ON THE 10TH OF FEBRUARY, ONLY FOUR MONTHS AND ONE DAY AFTER COMMISSIONING, A NEW RECORD WAS HUNG UP. THIS WAS THE SHORTEST PERIOD EVER TO INTERVIEW BETWEEN COMMISSIONING OF A LARGE CARRIER AND CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.

THROUGHOUT ALL OF HER NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS, SHE WAS KNOWN ONLY AS "ANOTHER CARRIER". THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THE NAVY DEPARTMENT DID NOT WANT TO PUBLICIZE TO THE JAPS THE FACT A NEW CARRIER HAD REACHED COMBAT AREA SO QUICKLY AND HAD REMAINED THERE WITH SUCH A TELLING EFFECT. EVEN WHEN ADMIRAL MARC MITCHER ESCAPED FROM THE "BUNKER HILL" TO THE "RANDOLPH", SHE WAS KNOWN ONLY AS "ANOTHER CARRIER".

EVEN THOUGH ONE YEAR OLD IN OCTOBER, THE "RANDY" HAS PACKED INTO ONE YEAR THE EXPERIENCE THAT IS USUALLY SPREAD OVER SEVERAL YEARS. SHE HAD BEEN AS FAR EAST AS JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES; TAKEN PART IN THE FIRST CARRIER RAIDS ON TOKYO AND ALL SUCCEEDING CAMPAIGNS, NOTABLY IWO JIMA AND OKINAWA.

SHE HAS BEEN TWICE CRASHED AND SET ON FIRE BY AIRCRAFT, FIRST AT ULITHI BY A JAP SUICIDE BOMBER WHICH SMASHED THE AFTER END OF THE FLIGHT DECK, KILLING 29 AND WOUNDING 105, THEN IN LEYTE GULF BY AN ARMY PLANE WHICH ACCIDENTALLY CAROMED OFF THE FORWARD PART OF THE FLIGHT DECK, KILLING 15 AND INJURING 11. MANY TIMES SHE HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY WOULD-BE SUICIDE JAP PLANES, HER OWN GUNS ALONE DOWNING FOUR OF THEM. HER AIR GROUPS HAVE DESTROYED 143 JAPANESE PLANES IN THE AIR AND 160 ON THE GROUND, BESIDES SINKING 27,000 TONS OF JAP SHIPPING. ALSO SHE WEATHERED TWO TYPHOONS AND TRAVELED APPROXIMATELY 100,000 MILES.

THE RANDOLPH WAS PART OF THE "FLEET THAT CAME TO STAY". THROUGHOUT THE BATTLE FOR OKINAWA SHE LENT SUPPORT TO THE GROUND TROOPS ON THAT ISLAND, DESPITE THE ALMOST DAILY VISITS OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

A MARINE DETACHMENT AND A MAINTAINANCE FORCE FROM THE RANDOLPH TOOK PART IN THE HISTORIC FIRST LANDINGS AUGUST 29TH ON THE COAST OF JAPAN. STREAMING OUT OF SMALL BOATS RUN UP ON THE BEACH, THEY WENT ASHORE AT THE YOKOSUKA NAVAL AIR STATION, AT THE SOUTH END OF TOKYO BAY. THE MARINES BECAME PART OF A COMBAT REGIMENT WHICH OCCUPIED THE AIR STATION AND THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY, INCLUDING THE TOWN OF YOKOSUKA. THE MAINTAINANCE FORCE WENT TO THE NAVY YARD WHERE IT HELPED PUT THE MACHINERY, SUCH AS POWER PLANTS, BACK IN OPERATION.