



1 November 1945

HISTORY

of the

--- U.S.S. AREQUIPA (AF-31) ---

The U.S.S. Arequipa was built for the U.S.. Maritime Commission at the Pennsylvania Shipyards, Beaumont, Texas. The keel of the vessel was laid on January 17, 1944, and the vessel was launched on May 4, 1944. On December 19th, 1944 the Maritime Commission turned the vessel over to the Navy. The ship was ferried from Beaumont to Galveston on December 20, 1944. It Todd's Shipyards, at Galveston, the finishing touches were pt on the Arequipa, and on January 15, 1945, Commander C. Bell, acting hr the Commandant of the Eighth Naval District placed the U.S.S. Arequipa into full commission. Lt. R.E. Deckwa, U.S.N., assumed command. At this time here complement consisted of nine officers and seventy men. This was la-ger increased to nine officers and seventy-six men.

After commissioning the Arequipa fueled, and then reported to Aux-iliary Vessels, Gulf Shakedown Unit, for shakedown. A five day shakedown period commenced on January 20 and was completed on January 25. A favor-able report was forwarded by the Gulf Shakedown Unit upon the activities of the Arequipa during this period.

Upon completion of shakedown a post-shakedown availability was granted at Todd's Shipyards. After undergoing this period of the AF 31 set sail for Mobile, Alabama, departing Galveston of January 31 and ar-riving in Mobile on February 2. In Mobile the Arequipa received her initial load.

February 7, 1945, was a red-letter date in the diary of the U.S.S. Arequipa, for it was on that date that she sailed from the continental limits of the United States, and as it has proved to be, so far, the only time. Since that day she has made more than one voyage, and has seen more than one port. The voyage of the ship, the ports which she has visited, and the number of ships and shore activities which she provisioned at those ports, are enumerated in tabular form below.

Date		Miles
Feb 7-Feb 13	Mobile, Ala. to Balboa, C.Z. with 1823 tons of cargo.	1400
Feb. 14-Mar 20	Balboa, C.Z., to Manus Island, Admiralty Group with 1823 tons of cargo.	8220
Mar 21-Mar 25	Manus Island, Admiralty Group, to Biak Island, N.E.I., with 1823 tons of cargo and 100 bags of mail. Discharged mail at Biak.	710
Mar 25-Mar 28	Biak Island, N.E.I., to Morotai Island, Halmahera Group, with 1823 tons of cargo. Provisioned one shore activity at destination.	550
Apr 1-Apr 3	Morotai Island, Halmahera Group to Biak Island, N.E.I., with 1570 tons of cargo.	550
Apr 10-Apr 19	Biak Island, N.E.I., to Mangarin Bay, Mindoro Island, P.I., with 1570 tons of cargo. Provisioned 14 ships and one shore activity at destination.	1700
Apr 23-Apr 24	Mangarin Bay, Mindoro Island, P.I., Subic Bay, Luzon Island, P.I., with 1385 tons of cargo. Provisioned 70 ships and 2 shore activities at destination.	200

May 2-May 3	Subic Bay, Luzon Island, P.I., to Lingayen	185
-	Gulf, Luzon Island, P.I., with 330 tons of cargo. Provisioned 11 ships and 1 shore activity at destination.	
May 4-May 6	Lingayen Gulf, Luzon Island, P.I., to Subic Bay, Luzon Island, P.I., (diverted enroute to San Pedro Bay, Leyte I.) with 180 tons of cargo. Provisioned 9 ships at destination.	350
May 7-May 10	Subic Bay, Luzon Island, P.I., to San Pedro Bay, Leyte Island, P.I. with 80 tons of cargo. Provisioned 22 ships at destination.	665
May 14-May 21	San Pedro Bay, Leyte Island, P.I., to Manus Island, Admiralty Group, unloaded.	1,540
May 27-June 1	Manus Island, Admiralty Group, to Morotai Island, Halmahera Group with 2034 tons of cargo. Provisioned 252 ships and 1 shore activity at destination.	1,210
June 10-June 13	Morotai Island, Halmahera Group to Tawi-Tawi Island, Sulu Archipelago, with 1309 tons of cargo. Provisioned 21 ships at destination.	570
June 18-June 21	Tawi-Tawi Island, Sulu Archipelago to Morotai Island, Halmahera Group with 1219 tons of cargo. Provisioned 159 ships and 2 shore activities at destination.	570
June 29-July 1	Morotai Island, Halmahera Group, to Zamboanga, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands, with 220 tons of cargo. Provisioned 11 ships and one shore activity at destination.	
July 4th	Zamboanga, Mindanao Island, P.I., Santa Isabela, Basilan Island, P.I., with 70 tons of cargo. Provisioned 3 shore activities at destination.	

July 5th	Santa Isabela, Basilan Island, Philippine Islands, to Zamboanga, Mindanao Island Philippine Islands, with remnant cargo of submarine rations.	25
July 5-July 13	Zamboanga, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands to Manus Island, Admiralty Group with remnant cargo of submarine rations.	1875
July 26-July 30	Manus Island, Admiralty Group to Morotai Island, Halmahera Group with 2000 tons of cargo. Provisioned 43 ships and shore bases at destination.	1210
August 8-Aug 9	Morotai Island, Halmahera Group to Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island, Philippine Islands, with 1694 tons of cargo. Provisioned 11 ships and 4 shore activities at destination.	850
Aug 14-Aug15	Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island, Philippine Islands, to Iloilo, Panay Island, Philippine Islands, with 1507 tons of cargo. Provisioned 8 ships and 2 shore activities at destination.	250
Aug 17-Aug 18	Iloilo, Panay Island, Philippine Islands, to Cebu City, Cebu Island, Philippine Islands, with 1,450 tons of cargo. Provisioned 2 ships and 3 shore activities at destination.	250
Aug 20-Aug 22	Cebu City, Cebu Island, Philippine Islands, to Batangas Bay, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands (Diverted enroute Manila) with 1,328 tons of cargo. Provisioned 22 ships at destination.	500
Aug 24-Aug 25	Batangas Bay, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, to Manila, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, with 923 tons of cargo. Provisioned 100 ships and 8 shore activities at destination.	100
Aug 30-Sept 15	Manila, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, to Brisbane, Australia, unloaded.	3830

Sept 25-Oct 9	Brisbane, Australia, to Manila, Luzon Island, P.I., with 1,694 tons of cargo. Provisioned 123 ships and 3 shore activities at destination.	3775
Oct 19-Oct 28	Manila, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, to Manus Island, Admiralty Group, with remnant general cargo.	2181

A recapitulation on the figures presented above would show that the Arequipa has serviced 878 ships and 40 shore activities, has travelled 33,661 miles and has been underway for 50% of the time, since leaving the continental United States.

The Arequipa has lost no cargo, has had no machinery derangements, and has had only 13 days of unrestricted availability, one period of six days in July, and one of seven days, just completed. These periods of availability were granted for upkeep. All assignments have been met on schedule.

The service rendered by the Arequipa supplying the task forces involved in the Brunei Bay and Balikpapan operations, at Morotai and Tawi-Tawi, were classed by the Commander Task Group 72.2, in a message to the ship, as being of "the highest order." The Commander of Transport Squadron 16 considered the services rendered by the AF 31 as "excellent cooperation," when she provisioned that squadron in Batangas Bay. The officers and men of the Arequipa are entitled to the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

The U.S.S. Arequipa has shot down no enemy planes, sunk no enemy submarines, yet it is thought that she has done here part in helping to maintain the vastly important supply lines of the United States Navy. Her job was to see that the ships and shore activities in the forward areas received supplies without having to return to large supply bases. Whether or not it meant working around the clock, in fair weather or foul the Arequipa got her job done. When V-J day was declared by President Truman, every officer and man aboard her had the right to feel that they had done something, ever if only a small part, in making victory in the Pacific a reality.

(Signature)

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