

Contributed by Frank Gerhardt

REG. NO 20739

R. S. NO

REG. SHEET NO 238

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

AK-183/A16
Serial 011

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. GLACIER

To: Commander In Chief, U. S. Fleet

Subject: War Diary, April, 1945

14. (ZD Plus 5) At 1530 placed ship in commission pursuant to Chief of Naval Operations Confidential Letter, Serial 039739 of 13 April 1944. In availability status under Industrial Manager Eighth Naval District at Brown Shipbuilding Company, Houston, Texas.

15-18 Brown Shipbuilding Company, Houston, Texas

19. Proceeded through Houston Ship Channel to Galveston, Texas. Underwent deperming and degaussing calibration, Pier 41, Galveston.

20-21. Pier 42, Galveston, Texas.

22. Released by Industrial Manager, Eighth Naval District from availability status. Operating independently swung ship off Galveston, Texas to calibrate RDF and adjust magnetic compasses.

23. Conducted fuel consumption runs off Galveston, Texas.

24-28 Pier 38, Galveston, Texas.

29. Reported to Commander Gulf Shakedown Unit, Auxiliary Vessel Shakedown Group, U. S. Atlantic Fleet for shakedown. Got underway for 24 hour test run. 1200- 28 33N 9439W. 2000 27 53N 94 39W.

30. Underway on 24 hour test run. 0800- 29 08N 94 49W. 1150 Pier 20, Galveston, Texas for On Reporting Inspection.



G. L. HITCHCOCK
Lieut. (d), USNR
Commanding

132805

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

AK-183/A16
Serial 010

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. S. GLACIER

To: Commander In Chief, U. S. Fleet

Subject: War Diary, May, 1945

1-3. (ZD Plus 5) Undergoing shakedown in Galveston, Texas under Commander, Gulf Shakedown Unit, Auxiliary Vessels Shakedown Group, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Daily conducting general drills underway off Galveston, Texas under Shakedown Unit.

4. Ran measured mile off Galveston Island for speed-RPM data.

5. Conducted gunnery exercises off Galveston, Texas expended 45 rounds 3"50; 1080 rounds 20MM at surface and air targets. 1600 Completed shakedown under Gulf Shakedown Unit. Moored Berth 1. Texas Coast Shipyards, Galveston, Texas under Industrial Manager, Galveston.

6-10 Berth 1, Texas Coast Shipyards, Galveston in post-shakedown availability.

11. Underway Galveston, Texas to New Orleans, Louisiana pursuant to Chief of Naval Operations Confidential Despatch 041415 of 4 May 1945. 0800- 29 32N 93 47W. 1200- 2922N 92 56W. 2000- 28 43N 91 16W.

12. Standing up Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana. 1826 Moored Naval Supply Depot, New Orleans.

13-17 Section 3, Naval Supply Depot, New Orleans loading general cargo of lumber & metal drums.

18-22 Underway proceeding independently from New Orleans, Louisiana to Colon, Canal Zone pursuant to Commandant, Eighth Naval District Operation Order 8-45 of 14 May 1945. Attached to Commander, Service Squadron 8, Pacific Fleet.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

18: 0800- 27 08N 88 23W	1200- 26 27N 88 01W	2000- 25 16N 87 11W
19: 0800- 23 22N 86 11W	1200- 22 42N 85 49W	2000- 21 47N 85 02W
20: 0800- 19 50N 83 40W	1200- 19 14N 83 13W	2000- 17 59N 82 15W
21: 0800- 16 22N 81 05W	1200- 15 49N 80 50W	2000- 14 17N 80 37W
22: 0800- 12 11N 80 25W	1200- 11 20N 80 17W	2000- 9 56N 79 57W

23. Underway through Panama Canal. 1600 Moored Pier 1, Naval Operating Base, Balboa, Canal Zone.

24. Pier 1, N. O. B., Balboa, C. Z..1300 Underway Balboa, C.Z., to Pearl Harbor, T. H. pursuant to orders of Port Director, Balboa; proceeding independently. 2000- 7 51N 79 29W

25-31. Underway Balboa, C. Z. to Pearl Harbor, T. H.

25: 0800- 6 46N 80 42W	1200- 6 47N 81 26W	2000- 6 33N 83 00W
26: 0800- 6 55N 85 12W	1200- 6 55N 85 58W	2000- 7 23N 87 24W
27: 0800- 8 09N 89 49W	1200- 8 23N 90 31W	2000- 8 56N 91 43W
28: 0800- 9 34N 92 09W	1200- 9 46N 92 51W	2000- 10 20N 94 25W
29: 0800- 10 40N 96 26W	1200- 10 51 N 97 06W	2000- 11 13N 98 46W 1300 ZD Plus 6
30: 0800- 11 57N 100 51W	1200- 12 14N 101 31W	2000- 12 47N 102 55W
31: 0800- 13 29N 104 35W	1200- 13 37N 105 30W	2000- 14 02N 106 57W

C. L. Hitchcock

C. L. HITCHCOCK
Lieut., D, USNR
Commanding

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

AK-183/A16
 Serial 09

c/o Fleet Post Office
 San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. S. Glacier

To: Commander In Chief, U. S. Fleet

Subject: War Diary, June, 1945

1-11. (ZD Plus 6) Underway proceeding independently from Balboa Canal Zone, to Pearl Harbor, T. H., pursuant to orders of Port Director, Balboa. Attached Commander, Service Squadron 8, Pacific Fleet.

1: 0800- 14 39N 109 09W	1200- 14 51N 109 54W	2000- 15 16N 111 33W	
2: 0800- 15 53N 113 39W	1200- 15 48N 113 37W	2000- 16 12N 115 05W	1200 ZD Plus 7
3: 0800- 16 49N 117 21W	1200- 16 40N 117 40W	2000- 17 03N 119 08W	
4: 0800- 17 38N 121 26W	1200- 17 49N 122 11W	2000- 18 03N 123 27W	
5: 0800- 18 36N 125 43W	1200- 18 37N 126 27W	2000- 18 55N 128 00W	
6: 0800- 19 22N 130 16W	1200- 19 22N 131 12W	2000- 19 42N 132 50W	
7: 0800- 20 01N 135 04W	1200- 20 10N 136 04W	2000- 20 22N 137 37W	1000 ZD Plus 8
8: 0800- 20 41N 140 02W	1200- 20 42N 140 50W	2000- 20 56N 142 25W	
9: 0800- 20 59N 144 46W	1200- 21 01N 145 40W	2000- 21 10N 147 28W	1900 ZD Plus 9
10: 0800- 21 11N 149 51W	1200- 21 13N 150 40W	2000- 21 20N 152 20W	
11: 0800- 21 26N 154 32W	1200- 21 17N 154 57W	2000- 21 22N 156 26W	

12. Underway Balboa, C. Z., to Pearl Harbor, T. H. 0600 ZD Plus 9
 9 $\frac{1}{2}$. 0630 Conducted anti-aircraft firing practice; expended 27

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

rounds 3"50; 1,240 rounds 20MM. 0800 20 58N 157 42W. 1055 Entered Pearl Harbor; moored Berth K-8, Naval Supply Depot. 1900 Commenced discharging cargo.

13. Berth K-8, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

14. Berth K-8, Pearl Harbor. 2250 Completed discharging cargo.

15-20 Berth X-9, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

21. Shifted berths to Pier 32, Honolulu, T. H. 1405 Commenced loading general cargo.

22. Pier 32, Honolulu, T. H.

23. Pier 32, Honolulu, T. H.. 1600 Completed loading cargo; shifted berths to W-6, Pearl Harbor, T. H. 1900 Commenced loading general cargo of building supplies.

24-27. Berth W-6, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

28. Berth W-6, Pearl Harbor, T. H. 1700 Completed loading cargo.

29. Berth W-6, Pearl Harbor, T. H. 1404 Underway proceeding independently from Pearl Harbor to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands pursuant to Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier letter 0921. 1410 ZD Plus 9. 2000- 20 27N 157 58W.

30. 0800- 19 21N	1200- 19 12N	2000- 18 44N
159 27W	160 07W	161 25W



C. L. HITCHCOCK
Lieut. D, USNR
Commanding

Serial 11
CONFIDENTIAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

1 August 1945

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. S. Glacier

To: Commander In Chief, United States Fleet

Subject: War Diary, July, 1945

1-8. (ZD Plus 9) Attached Commander, Service Squadron 8, Pacific Fleet. Underway proceeding independently from Pearl Harbor, T. H. to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands pursuant to Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier letter 0921.

1:	0800- 17 57N 163 19W	1200- 17 55N 164 05W	2000- 17 28N 165 27W	0830 ZD Plus 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
2:	0800- 16 52N 167 31W	1200- 16 42N 168 01W	2000- 16 18N 169 42W	
3:	0800: 15 42N 171 47W	1200- 15 24N 172 29W	2000- 14 51N 173 58W	0900 ZD Plus 10
4:	0800- 14 02N 175 54W	1200- 13 45N 176 20W	2000- 13 02N 177 42W	0900 ZD Plus 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
5:	0800- 12 20N	179 57E	0800 Crossed 180 Meridian ZD Minus 13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
6:	1200- 11 55N 179 12E	2000- 11 28N 177 48E		
7:	0800- 10 36N 175 47E	1200- 10 16N 174 51E	2000- 10 07N 173 32E	0900 Minus 13 ZD
8:	0800- 9 57N 171 22E	1200- 9 52N 170 30E	2000- 9 31N 169 07E	

9. Berth 15, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands 0900 ZD Minus 12.

10-13. Berth 15, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, discharging general cargo to LCTs.

138875

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

14. Berth 15, Kwajalein. 1700 Underway from Kwajalein to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands pursuant to Port Director, Kwajalein letter, Serial K-00374 dated 14 July 1945. 1800 ZD Minus 13.

15. Underway Kwajalein to Eniwetok.
 0800- 9 40N 1200- 9 54N 2000- 10 34N
 165 41E 164 43E 163 31E

16. Underway Kwajalein to Eniwetok. 0935 Anchored Berth 0-3, Eniwetok. ZD Minus 12.

17-19. Berth 0-3, Eniwetok, discharging general cargo to LCTs.

20. Berth 286, Eniwetok. 1700 Underway from Eniwetok, Marshall Is. to San Francisco, California pursuant to Port Director, Eniwetok letter AA-3 of 19 July 1945. 2000- 11 35N 162 39E.

21-31. Underway Eniwetok to San Francisco, conducting General Quarters one hour prior to sunrise, steering by gyro pilot during daylight. Excessive pounding of the ship in moderate sea indicates the inadvisability of extended trips in an empty condition.

21: 0800- 13 05N 1200- 13 32N 2000- 14 19N
 164 10E 165 00E 165 51E 1900 ZD Minus 13.

22: 0800- 15 43N 1200- 16 10N 2000- 16 57N
 167 26E 168 10E 169 25E
 1006 Conducted antiaircraft firing practice; expended 7 rounds 3"50, 360 rounds 2012.

23: 0800- 18 24N 1200- 18 35N 2000- 19 26N
 171 03E 171 35E 172 43E

24: 0800- 20 30N 1200- 20 53N 2000- 21 38N
 174 25E 175 02E 176 09E 1900 ZD Minus 14

25: 0800- 22 54N 1200- 22 59N 2000- 23 35N
 178 07E 177 52E 178 39E

25: 0800- 24 32N 1200- 25 16N 2000- 25 45N
 179 57W 179 16W 178 10W
 0700 Crossed 180 meridian changed ZD minus 14 to Plus 10.

26: 0800- 26 32N 1200- 26 58N 2000- 27 48N
 176 24W 175 51W 174 03W

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

27:	0800-	28 41N 171 48W	1200-	28 57N 171 07W	2000-	27 29N 169 55W	1900 ZD Plus 9
28:	0800-	30 16N 167 50W	1200-	30 32N 167 08W	2000-	31 22N 164 05W	
29:	0800-	31 57N 162 13W	1200-	32 53N 160 55W	2000-	33 21N 159 30W	1900 ZD Plus 8
30:	0800-	34 01N 157 00W	1200-	34 21N 156 13W	2000-	34 39N 154 24W	
31:	0800-	35 20N 152 04W	1200-	35 35N 151 07W	2000-	36 04N 149 22W	



C. L. HITCHCOCK
Lieut. (D), USNR
Commanding

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

AK-183/A16-3
Serial 013

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

1 September 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleets.
Subject: War Diary , August, 1945.

1-5 (2D Plus 8) Attached Commander, Service Squadron EIGHT, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Underway proceeding independently from Eniwetok, Marshall Islands to San Francisco, California, pursuant to Port Director, Eniwetok letter A4-3 of 19 July 1945.

1. 0800 36-32 N 1200 36-58 N 2000 36-51 N
146-02 W 145-42 W 143-46 W

2. 0800 37-12 N 1200 37-18 N 2000 37-32 N
141-02 W 140-08 W 138-17 W

3. 0800 37-48 N 1200 37-45 N 2000 37-74 N
135-34 W 134-58 W 133-08 W

4. 0800 37-53 N 1200 37-54 N 2000 37-58 N
130-23 W 129-26 W 127-50 W

1900 ± 72 D

5. 0800 38-08 N 1200 37-59 N 2000 - 2015 Anchored - anchorage 12,
125-07 W 124-24 W San Francisco, California.

6. - 7. Anchorage 12, San Francisco, Calif.

8. - 22. Clay Street Pier, Oakland, California undergoing Voyage Repairs.

23. - 27. Pier 50-A San Francisco, California, loading general cargo.

28. Pier 50A, San Francisco. 1825 Underway from San Francisco, California to Pearl Harbor, T.H., pursuant to Commander Western Sea Frontier Movement Order No. 722 dated 28 August 1945.

138584

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

Subject: War Diary, August, 1945.

29-31 Underway. San Francisco to Pearl Harbor.

29: 0800	36-53 N	1200	36-29 N	2000	35-54 N
	124-21 W		125-01 W		126-45 W
30: 0800	35-06 N	1200	34-52 N	2000	34-21 N
	129-26 W		130-11 W		131-43 W
31: 0800	33-30 N	1200	33-12 N	2000	32-13 N
	133-55 W		134-41 W		136-48 W



C. L. HITCHCOCK
Lieut. (D), USNR.
Commanding Officer.

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

AK-183/A16-3
Serial 333

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

15 November 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleets.
Subject: War Diary, September, 1945.

1-5 Attached Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet. Underway proceeding independently from San Francisco, California to Pearl Harbor, T.H. pursuant to Commander Western Sea Frontier Movement Order 722 dated 28 August 1945.

1.	0800	31-20 N 139-11 W	1200	31-02 N 139-57 W	2000	30-17 N 141-27 W
2.	0800	29-08 N 143-48 W	1200	28-45 N 144-31 W	2000	28-06 N 146-12 W
3.	0800	26-54 N 148-21 W	1200	26-28 N 149-04 W	2000	25-43 N 150-32 W
4.	0800	24-35 N 152-36 W	1200	24-13 N 153-17 W	2000	22-24 N 154-36 W
5.	0800	22-14 N 156-42 W	1200	21-40 N 157-20 W	0500	(± 9½ ZD).

6-22. Pearl Harbor, T.H. at various berths.

23-26. Honolulu, Hawaii, 1600 Underway enroute Honolulu, Hawaii to Tarawa Gilbert Islands pursuant to Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier letter dated 25 September 1945.

27-30. Enroute Honolulu to Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.

27.	0800	19-06 N 159-21 W	1200	18-59 N 159-52 W	2000	18-04 N 160-58 W
28.	0800	16-53 N 163-00 W	1200	16-34 N 163-39 W	2000	15-47 N 164-57 W
				0500	(± 10 ZD)	
29.	0800	14-35 N 166-51 W	1200	14-18 N 167-31 W	2000	13-22 N 168-52 W
30.	0800	12-06 N 170-52 W	1200	11-48 N 171-35 W	2000	10-50 N 171-54 W

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C. L. HITCHCOCK, Lt. Cdr. (D), USNR.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

AK-183/A16-3
Serial 334

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

15 November 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleets.
Subject: War Diary, October, 1945.

1-5 Attached Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet. Underway enroute Honolulu, Hawaii to Tarawa, Gilbert Islands pursuant to Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier letter dated 25 September 1945.

1.	0800	9-40 N 174-44 W	1200	9-13 N 175-27 W	2000	8-20 N 176-41 W
2.	0800	7-05 N 178-24 W	1200	6-42 N 179-00 W	2000	5-45 N 179-49 E

Crossed International date line changed ZD from ± 11 to -13 .

4.	0800	4-38 N 177-58 E	1200	3-53 N 177-35 E	2000	3-32 N 176-18 E
5.	0800	2-13 N	1200	1-50 N	0500 (ZD -12).	

1800 Anchored in Berth 12, Betio Anchorage, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.

6. 1300 Pursuant to Port Director, Gilbert Islands, orders dated 6 October 1945 underway from Tarawa to Majuro, Marshall Islands.

2000 02-30 N 17-27 E

7. Underway Tarawa to Majuro.

0800	4-35 N 171-27 E	1200	5-30 N 171-15 E	2000	6-56 N 170-44 E
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8. Underway Tarawa to Majuro - 1000 Moored to Rita Pier, Majuro, Marshall Islands.

9-10. Rita Pier - Majuro, Marshall Islands.

11. Rita Pier - Majuro, Marshall Islands. 1435 Stern Lines parted due to high winds. Cast free all lines and stood into lagoon. 1500 Anchored in Berth 23, Majuro.

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

Subject: War Diary, October, 1945.

12. Berth 23, Majuro. 1230 Underway to Tarawa, Gilbert pursuant to Port Director, Majuro letter dated 11 October. 2000 6-20 N 171-04 E.

13-14. Underway Majuro to Tarawa.

13.	0800	4-28N	1200	3-45 N	2000	2-19 N
		171-27E		171-37 E		171-55 E

14.	0800	0-09N	1200	0-26 S	2000	1-24 N
		172-13E		172-20 E		172-49 E

15. Underway Majuro to Tarawa.

0749 Anchored in Berth 11, Betio Anchorage, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.

16. Berth 11, Betio Anchorage, Tarawa.

17. Berth 11, Betio Anchorage, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands. 1326 Underway from Tarawa, Gilbert Islands to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands pursuant to Port Director, Gilbert Islands letter dated 16 October 1945. 2000 2-08 N 172-02 E.

18-20 Underway Tarawa to Eniwetok:

18.	0800	3-50 N	1200	4-37 N	2000	5-41 N
		170-37 E		169-41 E		165-37 E

19.	0800	7-11 N	1200	7-44 N	2000	8-45 N
		166-57 E		166-30 E		165-25 E

20.	0800	10-21 N	1200	10-50 N		
		163-41 E		162-44 E		

1732 Anchored Berth P-4, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

21-31 Berth P-4, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.



C. L. HITCHCOCK,
Lieut. Comdr. USNR.
Commanding Officer.

AK-183/A16-3
Serial 343

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

9 December 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleets.
Subject: War Diary, November, 1945.

1-4 Attached Commander, Service Force, Pacific Fleet.
Berth P-4, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

5-8 Underway pursuant Port Director, Eniwetok letter dated
4 November 1945.

5. 1200 11 19 N 2000 11 31 N
161 28 E 159 58 E

6. 0800 12 04 N 1200 12 11 N 2000 12 23 N
157 22 E 156 32 E 155 03 E
0500 ZD-11

7. 0800 12 52 N 1200 12 56 N 2000 13 10 N
152 44 E 151 47 E 150 17 E

8. 0800 13 22 N 1200 13 33 N 2000 13 42 N
148 13 E 147 32 E 145 51 E
0500 ZD-10

9. Anchored in Agana Bay, Guam, Marianas Islands. Reported to
Commander Service Squadron TEN, for duty.

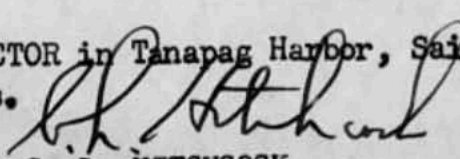
10-23 Moored - Sugar Dock, Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands.

24. Sugar Dock, Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands. 1800
Underway pursuant to Port Director, Guam letter dated 24 November 1945
to Saipan, Marianas Islands.

2000 13 49 N
144 44 E

25-28 Anchored Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Marianas Islands. Berth
Love 69.

29-30 Moored to U.S.S. HECTOR in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan,
Marianas Islands, Undergoing repairs.


C. L. HITCHCOCK,
Lt. Comdr. (D), USNR.

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OCT 16 1945 AM



U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisc, Calif.

26 September 1945

SO10 16 47

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Ship's History.

Reference: (a) ALPac 202.

Enclosure: (A) Ship's History - U.S.S. GLACIER (AK-183).

1. Inaccordance with reference (a), enclosure (A) is hereby forwarded.

cc: CinCPac



C. L. HITCHCOCK,
Lieut. (D), USNR.

156998

U.S.S. GLACIER (AK 183)

SHIP'S HISTORY - U.S.S. GLACIER (AK-183)

The U.S.S. GLACIER was placed in commission 14 April 1945 at Brown Shipbuilding Company and Lieutenant C.L. HITCHCOCK, (D), USNR took command at 1630. The ship was built for the U.S. Maritime Commission by Walter Butler Shipbuilders, Inc., Superior, Wisconsin. Her Design was in accordance with Maritime Commission Class Cl-M-AVI hull type. The ship complement consists of EIGHT (8) Officers and SIX-ONE (61) men.

The GLACIER underwent shakedown at Galveston, Texas, under Gulf Shakedown Unit, Auxiliary Vessel Shakedown Group, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, during the period 15 April to 11 May 1945.

The first cargo was loaded at New Orleans, Louisiana and on 18 May the GLACIER proceeded independently from New Orleans through the Panama Canal enroute to Pearl Harbor arriving June 12. The vessel was attached to Commander Service Squadron EIGHT, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

On 29 June the GLACIER got underway carrying building materials to the Marshall Islands arriving at KWAJALEIN on 9 July and ENIWETOK on 16 July. On 20 July she got underway for San Francisco arriving 5 August. On 28 August the GLACIER got underway for Pearl Harbor carrying general cargo arriving 5 September 1945.



C. L. HITCHCOCK,
Lieutenant (D), USNR.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

10 Jan 1946

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
PUBLIC RELATIONS

28 JAN

HISTORY OF THE U.S.S. GLACIER (AK-183)

ROUTE TO

The U.S.S. GLACIER, named for Glacier County, Montana, is a naval cargo ship that was placed in commission, 14 April 1945, at Houston, Texas. She was originally built for the U.S. Maritime Commission by the Walter Butler Shipbuilding Company of Superior, Wisconsin. In order to get this deep draft vessel from the Great Lakes to the ocean by means of the Mississippi River, it was necessary to fit buoyant pontoons to her hull, and to remove masts and most of the deck house in order to ~~to~~ ^{fit} the ship to pass under bridges. After a brief period of shakedown training in April 1945 at Galveston, Texas, the GLACIER and her crew were pronounced ready for cargo and defensive operations by the inspection officers and the Commanding Officer, Lt. Comdr. C. L. HITCHCOCK, USNR of Gilman, Illinois. The Ship was then assigned to the Pacific Theater of Operations under the Administrative control of the Commander, Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet. The GLACIER then proudly sailed with a self sufficiency in fuel that would take her around the world and with enough food in her own lockers to remain at sea for months at a time.

The mission of the AK-183, the Navy designating symbol for the ship, was to support the Pacific Island bases of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps with the materials of war in amounts needed, when needed, and where needed as determined by the logistics experts whose brains fathomed problems that were almost as difficult of solution as Einstein's theory of relativity.

The GLACIER was an important part of the gigantic, but little heard of service fleet that accumulated on the stepping stone bases to Japan, the overwhelming stockpiles of war supplies that were to bulwark the attacking forces in successive drives and the all important final decisive blow against the diabolical and fanatical enemy.

In the GLACIER'S task to transport supplies to the staging areas, supply bases, and stepping stone island in the Hawaiian, Gilbert, Marshall, and Marianas groups of islands, the ship's travels reached practically the span of the Pacific which at its maximum is 12,000 land miles in extent, or the equivalent of 3½ trips from New York to Liverpool.

While the restless GLACIER was equipped with fire power to defend herself, yet her main armament were the fourteen 50 foot barrel-like booms of 1½, 5, 20, and 30 tons capacity which spewed forth from her two freight train capacity holds Quonset huts, foodstuffs (frozen and dry), spare parts, ammunition, and 500 other separate types of material all of which were as important in the final victory over the enemy as the action of the more glamorous and spectacular combatant ships. Take for instance a look at the cargo manifests where it is discovered that items effecting vital morale had a top priority in space. One shipment of \$25,000,000 in U.S. small demonination paper currency, enough to fill a box car, was received by as much acclaim as was news of a victory at sea. The Navy realized that regular pay days, even if there was no place to spend the money, was one of those very important intangible factors that build up and maintain the will-to-win spirit of the men.

Following V-J Day the never idle GLACIER aided in the redistribution of cargo incident to the occupational activities, demobilization, and the roll-up of bases that were not to be retained in the post war defense periphery.

On 12 December 1945 the personnel of the U.S.S. GLACIER received with mixed feelings the news of the order to return the ship to New Orleans, Louisiana for de-commissioning. All men with high discharge points were happy to head for Uncle Sugar as the U.S.A. is affectionately called in Navy vernacular. Yet, in recollections arising over the never empty Navy coffee(java) cup or from the barter and reports of a game of Acey-Ducey, all felt in some way that de-commissioning was somewhat of a inglorious finale for a ship that had produced results. It was natural for the men to feel a certain amount of disappointment at the ship's fate for certainly the crew had a moral proprietary interest arising out of satisfaction of a job well done.

On 13 December 1945 the Commanding Officer ordered the ship to sea from Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, Marianas Islands. The course of 080° was then set on the first leg of a great circle course to Panama Canal. The next day, while still 40 to 50 days from home, it was noted that those liberty dress blue uniforms were being broken out from the bottom of sea bags to be made spic and span for a regal and happy entry on U.S. soil.

And so ends the saga of the U.S.S. GLACIER (AK-183).

W. H. H. H. H.
Lt. Comdr. (D), U.S.N.
Londg, U.S.S. Glacier (AK-183)