

Reg. No. 2388
R. S. No.

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

8 January 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of November, 1944.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY

11 - 12 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

At 1300 this ship was placed in commission as a U.S. Naval Vessel by Lt. Comdr. Emmett F. O'NEIL, U.S.N.R. in accordance with orders from Commandant Twelfth Naval District, File No. A4-1, Serial 48863 of 8 November 1944. Lt. Comdr. Dudley A. DURRANT, (DM), U.S.N.R. accepted the vessel and assumed Command in accordance with orders from Commandant Twelfth Naval District File A4-1, Serial 48864 of 8 November 1944. Ceremony took place at Parr #3 dock, Richmond, California. Fourteen (14) Officers and eighty three (83) men reported on board for duty. At 1518 underway for Pier 4, Naval Supply Depot, Oakland, Calif. to take on board Commissioning allowance of stores, provisions and equipment which was commenced at 1750 and continued until 1400 on 13 November 1944.

13 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

At 1505 underway from Pier 4, Naval Supply Depot, Oakland, Calif. to Pier 31, San Francisco for deperming, which took three (3) hours.

14 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Underway at 0821 to calibrate R.D.F. in general vicinity of Explosive Anchorage buoy #14 off Hunter Point in South San Francisco Bay. Completed calibration and anchored in Naval Anchorage #12 at 1121.

15 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Underway at 0810 to compensate the magnetic compasses in vicinity of Explosive Anchorage buoy #14. Upon completion again anchored in Naval Anchorage #12 at 1145.

16 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

At 0720 underway from San Francisco, Calif. enroute to San Pedro for shakedown cruise in obedience to orders from Commander, Western Sea Frontier, Serial O2251, dated 15 November 1944. At 1010 arrived at seaward end of swept channel and steadied on course 201° T., standard speed 100 RPM's. From 1100 to 1500 steamed at

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Subject: War Diary for month of November 1944, (cont.)

full speed developing a maximum of 105.3 R.F.M.'s and an average of 104.7 R.F.M.'s for the four hours. At 1213 commenced firing structural tests which were completed satisfactorily having expended 4 rounds of 5"38, and 4 rounds of 3"50 and 160 rounds of 20MM ammunition. At 1500 resumed standard speed of 100 RPM's and changed course as necessary to conform to routing instructions contained in sailing orders. Sea smooth with moderate westerly swell. Positions: 1200 - 36-13N, 122-21W, 2000- 34-57N, 121-27W.

17 - 19 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Steaming as before. 0800 position: 33-35N, 118-29W on 17 November 1944. Entered San Pedro Harbor at 1119 and anchored in berth W-3 at 1148. Reported to San Pedro Shakedown Group and remained at anchor balance of day and for the next two days. Exercised at various drills during that time.

20 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Underway at 0800 standing out of harbor for measured mile range off Point Vicente. During the day completed measured mile runs and tactical turning circles. Returned to anchorage in San Pedro at 1937.

21 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Remained at anchor until 1301 when underway and returned to area off Point Vicente to obtain further data on tactical turning circle. Back at anchorage in San Pedro Harbor at 1638.

22 - 23 November 1944 (Zone 07 00)

Underway at 0801 for fueling at sea drill off Santa Catalina Island with PCE 868. Drill successfully completed. Returned to San Pedro Harbor and anchored at 1550. Remained at anchor the following day holding various drills and exercises.

24 - 26 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Underway at 0847 in company with APA 200 and APA 198 to conduct tactical exercises for two days. These included AA and surface firing at towed targets during which the following ammunition was expended:

	5"38	3"50	20MM
24 November 1944	65 rounds	65 rounds	2365 rounds
25 November 1944	65 rounds	65 rounds	1197 rounds
	<u>65 rounds</u>	<u>65 rounds</u>	<u>3562 rounds.</u>

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Subject: War Diary for month of November 1944, (cont.)

Returned to anchorage in San Pedro Harbor on 26th November 1944 at 1249 and spent balance of day taking on fuel and water. Final inspection by San Pedro Shakedown Group took place between 1700 and 1800. Ship Received an "Above average" rating.

27 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

0812 underway from San Pedro enroute to San Francisco, in obedience to CotcPac despatch orders 241733 of November 1944. At 0905 reached seaward end of swept channel and proceeded on various courses to conform to routing instructions received from Port Director, Serial 23330 of 26 November 1944. Standard speed 97 R.F.M.'s, 17½ knots.

Positions: 1200 24°03'N
119°14'W

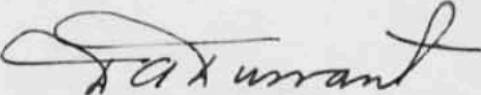
2000 34°56'N
121°26'W.

28 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Steaming as before. At 0741 passed through defense net in San Francisco Harbor and anchored in Naval Anchorage #12 at 0820. Pilot aboard and at 1152 got underway for Port Chicago in accordance with visual message 281450 of November 1944 from Commandant, Twelfth Naval District. Moored port side to Berth #2 at the Ammunition Depot at 1455, Preparing to load ammunition.

29 - 30 November 1944 (Zone plus 07 00)

Moored as before loading various calibers and types of ammunition for fleet issue.


D.A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.

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 San Francisco, Calif.

15 January 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary for December 1944.

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1 - 12 December 1944 (Zone plus 7)

Moored port side to Berth No. 2 at the Naval Ammunition Depot, Port Chicago, Calif. loading ammunition for Fleet issue a brief recapitulation of which is given below:

Projectiles and charges for 6" to 16" caliber guns (over 99% is H.C.)	- - - - -	-3,801.2 tons
Projectiles and charges for 3" and 5" caliber guns (80% is AA)	- - - - -	-1,625.4 tons
4.2 Chemical mortars	- - - - -	329.9 tons
40MM Ammunition	- - - - -	260.0 tons
Balance, consisting of approximately 75 different types which can be generally classified as machine gun projectiles, bombs, fuses, detonators, rockets, smoke pots, depth charges and chemicals		
		<u>910.1 tons</u>
	TOTAL	6,926.6 tons

13 - 14 December 1944 (Zone plus 7)

Underway at 1127 and at 1445 moored starboard side to Parr #4 dock, Richmond, Calif. to take on deck cargo of seven TEM-3 aircraft. Balance of this day and all of the next were spent loading and securing these planes.

15 - 21 December 1944 (Zone plus 7 to plus 9 1/2)

Underway at 1022 from Richmond, Calif. enroute to Pearl Harbor, T.H. in obedience to Commander Western Sea Frontier Movement Order No. 399 C&R. At 1348 reached seaward end of swept channel and steadied on course 243°T. Steaming independently at 89 RPM, 15.5 knots and changing course as necessary to pass through routing points given in our orders. Zigzagged according to plans 6 and 8 during daylight hours west of 135th meridian. Head winds and rough seas were encountered throughout voyage causing ship to roll heavily and occasionally necessitating reduction in speed. Three times shoring gave way and 5"38 projectiles and powder tanks broke loose. Also the tails of three planes were damaged by shipping heavy seas. Otherwise voyage was uneventful.

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Subject: War Diary for December 1944.

	POSITIONS		
	0800	1200	2000
15 December	--	--	36°52'N 124°58'W
16 December	35°45'N 127°45'W	35°23'N 128°39'W	34°37'N 131°01'W
17 December	33°39'N 133°32'W	33°12'N 134°38'W	32°25'N 136°27'W
18 December	31°07'N 139°30'W	30°46'N 140°19'W	29°48'N 147°00'W
19 December	28°24'N 144°57'W	27°51'N 145°54'W	26°49'N 147°50'W
20 December	24°56'N 150°53'W	24°27'N 151°50'W	23°25'N 153°57'W
21 December	21°51'N 156°19'W	21°18'N 157°16'W	--

Ships clocks were set back $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on 17, 18, and 19 December and one hour on 21 December.

At 0810 on the 21st we sighted Molokai Island of the Hawaiian group bearing 195°True. From 1000 until 1150 firing practice was held on sleeve towed by plane. Ammunition expended: 50 rounds 5"38, 70 rounds 3"50, and 1611 rounds 20MM. At 1529 were moored in Pearl Harbor, T.H., starboard side to SS Santiago Iglesias in berth XII.

22 - 29 December 1944 (Zone plus 9 $\frac{1}{2}$)

Remained in Pearl Harbor during this period. On 23 December the deck cargo of seven TBM-3 planes were unloaded and on 27 December shifted to berth V-2 to take on another deck cargo consisting of 141 tons of mine sweeping gear and Quonset huts.

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Subject: War Diary for December 1944.

30 December 1944 (Zone plus 9½)

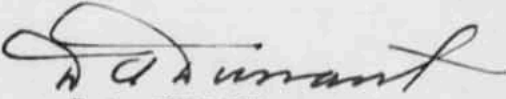
Underway at 0805 from Pearl Harbor, T.H. enroute to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands in obedience to despatch orders of Commander, Service Force 300213 of December, 1944 and in accordance with routing instructions of Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier, Serial 0381 of 29 December 1944. 0953 reached seaward end of swept channel and steadied on course 197°T to area appointed for gunnery exercises. Joined by U.S.S. CABLUM, AK-106, at 1106 and both ships practiced anti-aircraft firing at sleeves towed by planes for a period of two hours. Ammunition expended: 34 rounds 5"38, 62 rounds 3"50, and 1000 rounds 20 MM. Proceeded independently upon completion of firing and at 1557 steadied on course 265°T making 15.5 knots, 90 RPM, zig-zagging according to plan #6 which was changed to plan #8 after dark.

Positions:	1200	20°56'N
		158°00'W
	2000	19°59'N
		159°05'W

31 December 1944 (Zone plus 9½ to plus 10½)

Steaming as before. Retarded ships clocks one hour during the day, ½ hour at 1000 and ½ hour at 1400. Test fired 4 rounds 5"38 and 2 rounds 3"50 ammunition.

Positions:	0800	19°40'N
		162°00'W
	1200	19°32'N
		163°03'W
	2000	19°28'30"N
		165°15'W


D.A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.

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c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

2 February 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY

1 - 6 January 1945 (Zone plus 10½ to minus 11)

Steaming independently enroute from Pearl Harbor, T.H. to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, in obedience to despatch orders of Commander Service Force 300213 of December 1944 and on various courses to conform with routing instructions of Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier, Serial 0381 of 29 December, 1944. Average speed 89 R.P.M., 15.5 knots. Zig-zagging day and night according to plan #25 until 6 January when plan was changed to No.7. Generally speaking sea was smooth with light easterly breezes throughout voyage. Test fired 3 rounds of 5"38 and 2 rounds of 3"50 ammunition. At 0730 4 January crossed International date line having dropped 3 January from the calendar. Ships time was retarded ½ hour on January 1st, 2nd, 4th, and one hour on the 6th.

Positions.

	0800	1200	2000
1 January	18°59'N 168°12'W	18°53'N 169°16'W	18°23'N 171°18'W
2 January	17°45'N 174°12'W	17°31'N 175°21'W	17°05'N 177°26'W
4 January	16°29'N 179°53'E	16°11'N 178°48'E	15°36'N 176°51'E
5 January	14°52'N 173°50'E	14°32'N 172°46'E	13°47'N 170°54'E
6 January	13°11'N 167°57'E	12°52'N 166°50'E	12°15'N 165°05'E

7 January 1945 (Zone minus 11 to minus 12)

Steaming as before. At 0730 sighted Eniwetok atoll and passed through Deep Entrance at 0833. Anchored in berth Queen 7 at 1007. Voyage uneventful. Ships time advanced one hour to conform to minus 12 zone time kept at Eniwetok.

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Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945, (cont.)

Remained at anchor balance of day.

Position: 0800 11°28'N
162°25'E

8 - 11 January 1945 (Zone minus 12 to minus 10)

Underway at 1259 and passed through Deep Entrance at 1403 enroute to Saipan Island, Marianas, in obedience to orders of Port Director, Navy 3237, File A4-3/JHB/wde of 8 January 1945, in convoy with SS Mormachawk, S.S. Afoundria, S.S. H. George, S.S. G.B. Porter, S.S. Leonatus, and S.S. Samuel G. Howe. Commanding Officer of this ship acting as Convoy Commodore. Escort commander aboard U.S.S. SILVERSTEIN (DE 534). Other escorts U.S.S. RAYMOND (DE 341), U.S.S. PC 1172, and U.S.S. PC 581. Proceeding on various courses to conform to routing instructions and at 60 R.P.M., 10.5 knots. Not zig-zagging. Moderate easterly sea and breezes with generally overcast skies throughout voyage. Convoy time retarded one hour on the 8th and ½ hour on the 10th and 11th.

Positions.

	0800	1200	2000
8 January	-----	-----	11°21'N 161°39'E
9 January	11°52'N 159°11'E	11°59'N 158°30'E	12°28'N 157°01'E
10 January	12°48'N 154°50'E	12°54'N 154°07'E	13°12'N 152°42'E
11 January	13°44'N 150°31'E	13°54'N 149°47'E	14°12'N 148°16'E

12 January 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Steaming as before. At 0625 sighted Saipan Island and when entering Saipan channel at 1010 convoy formation was changed to single column. At 1050 increased speed to 80 R.P.M. and signaled convoy to proceed independently as some ships were bound for Tinian. Entered Saipan harbor at 1110 and anchored at 1201 in Berth Love 78, Garapan anchorage. Voyage uneventful. Remained at anchor balance of day.

Position: 0800
14°56'N
146°07'E

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Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945, (cont.)

13 January 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Underway at 0620 to dock Able 7, Tanapag Harbor, where deck cargo, consisting of 141 tons of mine sweeping gear and Quonset huts, was unloaded. Underway from dock at 1600 and anchored at 1653 in berth Love 35.

14 January 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Underway at 1654 and 1706 passed through net entrance enroute to Ulithi, Western Carolines, in obedience to previous orders and in accordance with Port Directors routing instructions of 14 January, 1945. Steaming at 80 R.P.M. - 14 knots, with U.S.S. RAYMOND (DE341) as escort on course 221°T.

Position: 2000
14°44'N
145°16'E

15 January 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Steaming as before changing course as necessary to conform to routing instructions. Zig-zagging occasionally according to Plan #25. Moderate easterly sea and breeze.

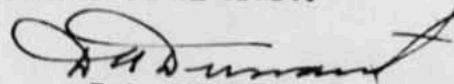
Positions.		
0800	1200	2000
12°50'N	12°19'N	11°34'N
143°33'E	142°53'E	141°24'E

16 January 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Steaming as before. Sighted Ulithi at 0655 and at 0836 entered Mugai Channel. Anchored in berth 150 at 0929. Shifted to berth 528 at 1323. Remained at anchor balance of the day. Voyage uneventful.

17 - 31 January 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Remained at anchor during this period with two exceptions: (1) Shifted to smoother anchorage in berth 173 on the 24th; (2) Went alongside U.S.S. CHESTER (CA27) in berth 20 on the 28th to receive and discharge ammunition. Returned to berth 173 at 2047. During balance of period received and discharged small lots of various types of ammunition to LCT's and other small craft.


D.A. DURRANT.

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c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

8 March 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of February 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY

1 - 9 February 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Anchored in Northern Anchorage, Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands. During this period ammunition was issued to various ships and various types were received for reissue. Net result about 10% discharged. On February 8th this vessel went alongside U.S.S. ARKANSAS to discharge ammunition. Due to the bulge of her hull below the water line camels did not prevent the hulls of the two vessels from coming into contact and since there was a moderate sea running at the anchorage this vessel suffered minor hull damages a complete report of which has been made to the proper authorities. The operating efficiency of the ship was not impaired.

10 February 1945 (Zone minus 10 to minus 9)

Anchored as before. Underway at 1319 enroute to Kossol Roads in accordance with Port Directors order A4-3 dated 10 February 1945 in company with U.S.S. BUTTE (APA 68) and with U.S.S. GLADIATOR (AM 319) as escort. 1449 steadied on course 180°T 900 yards on port beam of U.S.S. BUTTE at 70 RPM, 12.5 knots. 1533 increased speed to 90 RPM, 15.5 knots. Zig-zagged from 1625 to 1930 using plan #6 and changing base course as necessary to conform to routing instructions. Position at 2000: 9°11'N, 138°55'E.

11 February 1945

Steaming as before on base course 219°T. Zigzagged in accordance with plan #6 after daylight until 1330. Ordered to proceed independently at 1405 and at 1423 entered Kossol Passage. Anchored in berth 28 at 1505. Position at 0800: 07°45'N, 136°15'E.

12 - 14 February 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Remained at anchor.

15 February 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Anchored as before. Underway at 1335 enroute to San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands in accordance with Port Directors orders dated 14 February 1945 in company with U.S.S. WYANDOT (AKA92) and U.S.S. LAPRADE (DE409) as escort. At 1455 steadied on course 069°T 750 yards on port beam of guide at 93 RPM, 16 knots. Zig-zagged,

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8 March 1945

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Subject: War Diary for month of February 1945.

using plan 10Z from 1446 to 2100 and changed base course as necessary to conform to routing instructions. Retarded clocks one hour at 2100 to minus 9 Zone time. Position at 2000: 9°04'N, 134°37'E.

16 February 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Steaming as before on base course 278°T. Zig-zagged during daylight in accordance with plan 10Z. Clear weather with light easterly breeze and slight sea. POSITIONS:

0800	1200	2000
9°54'N	10°02'N	10°20'N
131°26'E	130°19'E	128°21'E

17 February 1945

Steaming as before on base course 279°T. Sighted Homonhon Island at 0605 bearing 315°T. At 0918 changed to column formation and followed guide on various courses to conform to swept channel. Anchored in berth 112 at 1148 but shifted anchorage in the afternoon. Dropped anchor in berth 119 at 1855. Voyage uneventful with good weather throughout.

18 - 27 February 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Remained at anchor during this period discharging ammunition to various ships and small craft which came alongside. Discharged 1200 tons of our cargo leaving us about 27% unloaded. At 2120 on February 25th condition red was announced over the harbor circuit but no attack materialized and the "all clear" was sounded at 2235. Also condition blue was announced at 2136 on the 27th followed by the "all clear" at 2200.

28 February 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Anchored as before. Underway at 1130 enroute to Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands in accordance with Philippine Sea Frontier movement order 35-45 of 27 February 1945. 1233 steadied on course 149°T 700 yards astern of U.S.S. FOMALHAUT (guide) making 74 RPM, 13 knots. Escort consists of U.S.S. COOLBAUGH (DE217)(O.T.C.), U.S.S. DARBY (DE218), U.S.S. BLACKWOOD (DE219), U.S.S. HARMON (DE678), and U.S.S. GREENWOOD (DE679). Commenced zig-zagging at 1600 and since the moon was nearly full continued to zig-zag according to plan #6 throughout the night. Partly cloudy sky with occasional squalls and fresh easterly breeze, moderate sea. Position at 2000: 10°29'N, 126°29'E.

D. A. Durrant
D. A. DURRANT

cc: CinCPac.

Reg. No.	<i>None</i>
A. S. No.	

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

8 April 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of March 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY

1 - 3 March (Zone minus 9)

Steaming at 74 RPM, 13 knots en route from San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands to Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands in accordance with Philippine Sea Frontier movement order 35-45 of 27 February 1945, on course 092°T in position 700 yards astern U.S.S. FOMALHAUT (O.T.C.) with the following escorts: U.S.S. COOLBAUGH (DE217), U.S.S. DAREY (DE218), U.S.S. BLACKWOOD (DE219), U.S.S. HARMON (DE678), and U.S.S. GREENWOOD (DE679). Zig-zagged according to plan #6 day and night as there was a full moon. Encountered fresh to strong easterly winds and a rough head sea throughout the voyage which reduced our speed of advance about 3.5 knots. Changed course as necessary to conform with routing instructions.

	0800	1200	2000
1 March 1945	10°23'N 128°24'E	10°18'N 128°59'E	10°17'N 130°13'E
2 March 1945	10°16'N 131°52'E	10°24'N 132°39'E	10°21'N 133°53'E
3 March 1945	10°24'N 136°03'E	10°21'N 136°52'E	10°03'N 138°16'E

4 March 1945 (Zone minus 9 to minus 10)

Steaming as before. At 0100 advanced clocks one hour to minus 10 zone time. Sighted lights on ships in Ulithi Harbor, bearing 060°T at 0405 and ceased zig-zagging at 0439. Entered Mugai Channel at 0720 and anchored at 0755 in berths 166-167 Ulithi, Northern Anchorage. Remained at anchor balance of day.

5 - 18 March 1945 (Zone minus 10)

This period was spent in Ulithi discharging and receiving various types of ammunition. About 2400 tons were discharged and 187 tons received of which 180 tons is for reissue and 7 tons is unserviceable.

19 March 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Underway at 0745 en route to Saipan, Marianas Islands in accordance with Port directors orders and routing instructions dated 18 March 1945 in company with the U.S.S. CHAS (AK-234) as escort. Steamed on course 049°T at 0830 making 93 R.P.M., 16 knots.

POSITIONS:	1200	2000
	10°27'N	11°26'N
	140°22'E	141°55'E

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

AK231/A12-1/DAD

8 April 1945

Serial: 045-45

CONFIDENTIAL

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of March 1945.

20 March 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Steaming as before. Passed 3 miles west of Orote Point, Guam at 1030. Sighted Tinian Island bearing 060° T at 1752 and arrived in outer Saipan harbor at 2000. Anchored in outer harbor at 2055. Encountered fresh to strong northeasterly breezes throughout with rough head sea which combined to reduce our speed of advance to 14 knots.

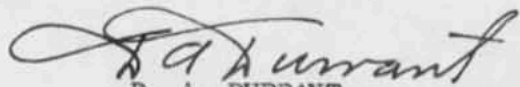
	0800	1200
POSITIONS:	$13^{\circ}01'N$	$13^{\circ}50'N$
	$144^{\circ}10'E$	$144^{\circ}43'E$

21 March 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Remained at anchor in outer harbor. Northeasterly breeze continued strong and sea rough. Ship pitching and rolling considerably at anchorage.

22 - 31 March 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Moved to smooth anchorage in inner harbor during morning of 22nd and remained at anchor in inner harbor for balance of the month. During this period we discharged 76 tons of cargo and received for reissue 1004 tons the greater part of which consisted of 500 lb. bombs. Thus during the entire month a total of about 2500 tons of ammunition was issued and about 1200 additional tons received leaving the vessel about 65% loaded for fleet issue.


D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.

AK23/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0060-45

Reg. No. 9755
R.S. No. 6594

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

SECRET

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of April 1945.

1945 JUN 11 9 02
24 May 1945

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY

1 April (Zone minus 10)

Anchored in Saipan Harbor, Marianas Islands loading ammunition from LCTs alongside.

2 April (Zone minus 10)

Anchored as before. Completed loading 2600 - 500 lb. G.P. bombs and 8000 star shells. Underway at 1806 from Saipan to Port Apra, Guam, Marianas Islands in accordance with orders and routing instructions of Port Director, dated 2 April 1945. At 1829 passed through defense net gate and set course 237°T. Steaming independently at 12 knots (72 RPMs).
2000 Position: 15°02'N, 145°25'E.

3 - 7 April (Zone minus 10)

Steaming as before. Arrived off entrance to Apra Harbor at 0615, 3 April, and steamed at reduced speed in vicinity until 0844 when Navy pilot came aboard and piloted ship to mooring in harbor. Moved to dock at Cabras Island on 5 April and commenced receiving ammunition and general cargo.

8 April (Zone minus 10)

Underway at 0657 and passed through defense net gate at 0729 en route to Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands, in accordance with Port director's orders and routing instructions dated 6 April 1945. Steadied on course 194°T at 0737 making 16 knots, (95 RPMs). Steaming independently and zig-zagging according to plan #25 which was changed to plan #7 at 1200.
POSITIONS: 1200 - 12°43'N, 143°46'E; 2000 - 11°37'N, 142°05'E.

9 April (Zone minus 10)

Steaming as before. Entered Mugai Channel, Ulithi at 0745 and anchored in Northern Anchorage at 0905. At 1430 commenced discharging general cargo into barges alongside.

10 - 24 April (Zone minus 10)

This period spent in Ulithi issuing small lots of ammunition and loading additional cargo for reissue to CVEs. On 14 April the National Ensign and Jack were half masted in honor of the late President Roosevelt.

124797

6594

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0060-45

24 May 1945

SECRET
S-E-C-R-E-T

Subject: War Diary for month of April 1945.

25 - 30 April (Zone minus 10)

Underway at 0517 on the 25th. Passed through nets at 0710 and took position in task group 50.8.5 in accordance with dispatch orders of Commander Task Group 50.9 dated 24 April 1945, en route to rendezvous with Task Group 50.8 in latitude 25°00'N, longitude 133°00'E. Unit consists of U.S.S. MERRIMAC (AO37), U.T.C., U.S.S. CHIPOLA (AO63), U.S.S. MARIAS (AO57), U.S.S. GUADALUPE (AO32), U.S.S. KANKAKEE (AO39), U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK231), and the following escorts: U.S.S. HANK (DD702), U.S.S. TWINING (DD540), U.S.S. BORIE (DD704), U.S.S. KALK (DD611), U.S.S. STOCKTON (DD646), U.S.S. SILVERSTEIN (DE534), U.S.S. HILBERT (DE742). Conducted firing exercises shortly after leaving Ulithi during which the following ammunition was expended: 741 rounds 20MM, 20 rounds 3"50, 19 rounds 5"/38. Joined Task Group 50.8 as scheduled at 0730 on 28 April and steamed in formation with them for balance of month. On April 30th this ship passed 42 tons of ammunition to the U.S.S. SARANAC in two hours while steaming at 10 knots.

POSITIONS:	0800	1200	2000
25 April	-----	10°46'N	12°13'N
		139°27'E	138°45'E
26 April	14°40'N	15°35'N	17°31'N
	137°29'E	137°09'E	136°27'E
27 April	20°11'N	20°53'N	22°12'N
	135°18'E	134°31'E	133°03'E
28 April	23°55'N	24°05'N	24°13'N
	130°49'E	131°15'E	132°22'E
29 April	23°01'N	24°05'N	23°33'N
	131°44'E	131°15'E	132°23'E
30 April	23°07'N	23°18'N	23°32'N
	131°11'E	131°13'E	132°05'E

The following is a statement of approximate amount ammunition handled during the month exclusive of some general cargo transported from Saipan to Guam and from Guam to Ulithi:

	Received for	Issued	Balance on
	<u>reissue</u>		<u>hand.</u>
In Saipan	100 Tons	-----	4642 tons
In Guam	400 tons	-----	5042 tons
In Ulithi	1600 tons	100 tons	6542 tons
Underway	-----	42 tons	6500 tons

cc: CinCPac.

D. A. Durrant
D. A. DURRANT.

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0082-45

Reg. No. 7 789
R.S. No. 995

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

25 June 1945

SECRET
S-E-C-R-E-T

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of May 1945.

1945 JUN 17 14 04

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY

1 May 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Steaming in company with Task group 50.8 (Rear Admiral D. B. BEARY, U.S.N., Commander Service Squadron SIX, U.S.S. DETROIT, Flagship) in accordance with Basic Operation Plan, Commander Logistic Support, group No. 6/1/1-44. Until 20 May cruised at average speed of 10 knots on various courses but returning each morning at daybreak to rendezvous position at 24°30'N, 129°30'E to meet and service various units of the Fleet.

20 May 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Steaming as before. At 0807 received despatch orders 192115 May, 1945 of Commander Task group 50.8 to proceed to Kerama Retto, Nansei Shoto. In accordance with these orders left Task group 50.8 at 0818 and took position 1000 yards astern of U.S.S. AKUTAN (AE-13)(O.T.C.) on course 125°T, speed 11 knots (67 RPM). Screen consists of U.S.S. THUMB (DD-647) and U.S.S. STURGEON (DD-646).

POSITIONS:
1200 2000
23°25'N 24°29'N
129°53'E 129°11'E

0800
22°39'N
130°16'E

21 May 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Arrived at Kerama Retto and entered anchorage at 0847. Remained in anchorage until 1000 when received orders to proceed to Kerama Retto anchorage for balance of day and receiving small amounts of food and receiving small amounts of mail. During this ten day period we received over the harbor radio circuit "Flash Red" 23 times, spending about thirty hours at general quarters, nine of which were on the night of 24-25 May. No enemy planes came within range of our guns except at night while under smoke screen so none were fired at.

During the month approximately 1485 tons of ammunition were issued and 37 tons received as unusable leaving about 5000 tons on hand.

130254

cc: CinCPac
ComServRon 8.

D. A. Durrant
D. A. DURRANT.

995

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

9 July 1945

CONFIDENTIAL
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of June 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

1 - 5 June 1945 (Zone minus 9)

This period was spent in Kerama Retto, Nansei Shoto issuing and receiving ammunition in accordance with instructions of Representative "B" of Commander Service Squadron TEN. During these five days between five and six hours were spent at general quarters due to proximity of enemy planes. None came within range of our guns except at night while under smoke screen so none were fired at.

6 - 12 June 1945 (Zone minus 9 to minus 10)

In accordance with orders of Commander Task group 31.15 dated 6 June 1945 got underway at 1055 on the 6th to rendezvous with convoy OKS #7 bound for Saipan, Mariannas Islands. Met convoy at 1320 and took position #53 on course 157°T, speed 8.5 knots (54 RPM). Changed course and speed as necessary to conform to routing instructions. At 1800 on June 6th advanced clocks one hour to minus 10 zone time. At 0100 on June 9th advanced clocks one hour to minus 11 zone time. At 0700 on June 12th retarded clocks one hour to minus 10 zone time. Arrived off Saipan Harbor at 0820 June 12th, entering the net gate at 0935 and anchoring in the harbor at 1025. Voyage uneventful with smooth to moderate seas and prevailing easterly breezes.

POSITIONS:

	0800	1200	2000
6 June	- - - -	26°05'N	25°29'N
	- - - -	127°26'E	127°52'E
7 June	24°26'N	24°14'N	23°33'N
	129°31'E	130°13'E	131°39'E
8 June	22°43'N	22°23'N	21°50'N
	133°27'E	134°03'E	135°30'E
9 June	20°30'N	20°15'N	19°54'N
	137°10'E	137°41'E	138°28'E
10 June	19°08'N	18°50'N	18°09'N
	139°44'E	140°09'E	140°51'E
11 June	17°07'N	16°50'N	16°06'N
	142°15'E	142°45'E	143°45'E
12 June	15°14'N	- - - -	- - - -
	145°26'E	- - - -	- - - -

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

AK231/A12-1/DAD

9 July 1945

Serial: 088-45

CONFIDENTIAL

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of June 1945.

13 - 17 June 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Remained at anchor in Saipan taking on board 20 tons of general cargo for transportation to Ulithi.

18 - 19 June 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Underway at 0537 en route to Ulithi in accordance with Port Directors orders dated 17 June 1945. Passed through net entrance at 0600 and steading on course 240°T at 0602. Steaming independently at 16 knots (92 RPM) and changing course as necessary to conform to routing instructions. Zig-zagging day and night. Entered Mugai Channel, Ulithi at 1419 on the 19th and anchored in Northern Anchorage at 1521. Voyage uneventful.

POSITIONS:

	0800	1200	2000
18 June	15°02'N	14°16'N	12°43'N
	145°14'E	144°31'E	143°44'E
19 June	10°56'N	10°21'N	- - - -
	141°05'E	140°10'E	- - - -

20 - 25 June 1945 (Zone minus 10)

Remained at anchor in Ulithi discharging ammunition as instructed.

26 - 30 June 1945 (Zone minus 10 to minus 9)

Underway at 1727 on the 26th en route to San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands in accordance with Port Directors orders dated 26 June 1945. Passed out through Mugai Channel at 1758 and steadied on course 085°T. Steaming independently at 16 knots (92 RPM) and changing course as necessary to conform to routing instructions. Zig-zagging day and night. Voyage uneventful and arrived at entrance to San Pedro Bay at 0630 on the 29th. After proceeding to head of Bay to unload 356 sacks of mail received in Ulithi returned to Explosive anchorage and anchored in berth A-17 at 1221. Remained at anchor balance of day and the 30th.

POSITIONS:

	0800	1200	2000
26 June	- - - -	- - - -	10°11'N
	- - - -	- - - -	139°29'E
27 June	10°36'N	10°40'N	10°35'N
	136°26'E	135°25'E	133°34'E
28 June	10°27'N	10°29'N	10°31'N
	130°32'E	129°34'E	127°36'E

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

AK231/A12-1/DAD

9 July 1945

Serial: 088-45


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of June 1945.

The following is a resume of ammunition handled during the month.

	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Rec'd for reissue</u>	<u>Rec'd as unserviceable</u>
At Kerama Retto	646 tons	41 tons	35 tons
At Ulithi	291 tons	-----	-----
Total	937 tons	41 tons	35 tons

This leaves a balance on hand of about 4000 tons.


D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.
ComServRon 8.

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0100-45

REG. NO 3167
R. S. NO
REG. SHEET NO 117

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

1 August 1945

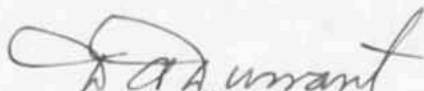
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of July 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
1 - 31 July 1945 (Zone minus 9)

The entire month was spent in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands restowing cargo and receiving additional items suitable for issue to CVEs. About 2000 tons (mostly rockets and bombs) were taken on board and 250 tons of unserviceable ammunition discharged. Present load approximately 5000 tons.

Of principal interest during the month were three trips alongside three different types of CVEs in the harbor; namely: U.S.S. SUWANNEE, converted tanker type, U.S.S. HOGGATT BAY, Kaiser built, U.S.S. GILBERT ISLANDS, converted C-3 hull. The purpose of this was to determine, by actual trial, the most efficient rig for booms and king posts to permit passage of ammunition from any of this vessels holds. No trial at sea has yet been made.


D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac
ComServRon 8.

135398

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0120-45

NO 6945
R. S. NO
REG. SHEET NO 31

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

8 September 1945

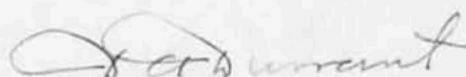
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of August 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
1 - 31 August 1945 (Zone minus 9)

This month was spent at anchor in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. Less than 50 tons of ammunition was loaded and none was discharged so there are still approximately 5000 tons aboard.

On 3 August this vessel left the harbor in company with the U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27) to conduct re-arming at sea exercises in Leyte Gulf. The sea was smooth with a very light southeasterly breeze. Loads were successfully passed from our No. 2 and No. 3 holds to their flight deck using their boom forward of the island and a temporary king post set up aft of the island. The best time was five (5) two thousand pound loads transferred in six (6) minutes and forty five (45) seconds. An attempt to pass a load from our No. 4 hold to their hangar deck aft was unsuccessful due to the smallness of the opening and lack of sufficient height above the water.


D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.

140780

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0139-45

REG. NO 7559
R. S. NO
REG. SHEET NO 135

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

7 October 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of September 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

1 - 30 September 1945 (Zone minus 9)

This month was spent at anchor in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. Approximately 1500 tons of ammunition were loaded and 800 tons discharged in the consolidation of ammunition in the area.


D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.
ComSerFerPac.

147174

REG. NO 26392
R. S. NO
REG. SHEET NO 48

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

5 November 1945

CONFIDENTIAL
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of October 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

1 - 27 October 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. During this period, approximately 500 tons of ammunition was offloaded and 1375 tons of ammunition was loaded in the consolidation plan for ammunition in the area. 6062 tons of ammunition are still aboard.

28 October 1945 (Zone minus 9)

Anchored as before. Underway at 0624 en route to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, in accordance with orders of the Port Director, Serial 1641 of 28 October 1945, on various courses and speeds to conform to the harbor. At 1124 steadied on course 089°T at a speed of 90 RPM, 15.5 knots.

29 - 31 October 1945 (Zone minus 9 to minus 10)

Underway as before. Increased speed to 95.5 RPM, 16.4 knots.

POSITIONS

	0800	1200	2000
28 October	- - -	10°31.5'N 126°02.5'E	10°30'N 128°00'E
29 October	10°40.5'N 130°48'E	10°41' N 131°40' E	10°43'N 133°36'E
30 October	10°49' N 136°21' E	10°50' N 137°18.5'E	10°51'N 139°18'E
31 October	10°57' N 142°10' E	10°59' N 143°01.5'E	10°59'N 145°04.5'E


D. A. DURRANT.

148955

cc:
CinCPac
ComServForPac

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0183-45

RECEIVED S-C FILES

Room 2033

DATE TO: 03

21 DEC 1945

A12-1/AK-231

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Copy No. 1 of 1

Reg. No. 2037

9 December 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: War Diary for month of November 1945.

U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

1 - 3 November 1945 (Zone minus 11)

Steaming at 95 RPM, 14.5 knots en route from San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands in accordance with orders of the Port Director, Serial 1641 of 28 October 1945.

POSITIONS

	0800	1200	2000
1 November	11°-03'N 148°-04'E	11°-05'N 148°-57'E	11°-08'N 150°-57'E
2 November	11°-05'N 153°-47'E	11°-06'N 154°-44'E	11°-06'N 156°-42'E
3 November	11°-16.5'N 158°-38'E	11°-19'N 160°-41'E	11°-18'N 162°-22'E

4 November 1945 (Zone minus 12)

Steaming as before. 0550 passed through deep entrance and at 0654 anchored in berth G-481, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

5 - 6 November 1945 (Zone minus 12)

Remained at anchor.

7 - 18 November 1945 (Zone minus 12 to plus 8)

Underway at 1542 en route to Seattle, Washington in accordance with orders of Port Director, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands of 7 November 1945 at speed of 95 RPM, 14.5 knots. On 12 November, clocks were retarded 24 hours to conform to plus 11 zone time.

POSITIONS

	0800	1200	2000
7 November	- - -	- - -	11°-48'N 162°-50'E
8 November	13°-55'N 164°-51'E	14°-37'N 165°-34'E	16°-01'N 166°-58'E
9 November	18°-02.5'N 169°-07'E	18°-44'N 169°-50'E	20°-10'N 171°-27'E
10 November	22°-12'N 173°-49'E	23°-01'N 174°-33'E	24°-29'N 176°-09'E
11 November	26°-28'N 178°-15'E	27°-04'N 179°-01'E	28°-18'N 179°-12'W

153527

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

AK231/A12-1/DAD
Serial: 0183-45

9 December 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-LSubject: War Diary for month of November 1945.

POSITIONS (Cont.)

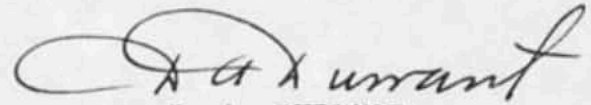
	0800	1200	2000
12 November	30°-09'N 176°-26'W	30°-49'N 175°-37'W	32°-02'N 173°-40'W
12 November	33°-38'N 171°-00'W	34°-15'N 170°-10'W	35°-15'N 168°-34'W
13 November	36°-47'N 166°-09'W	37°-17'N 165°-14'W	38°-14'N 163°-13'W
14 November	39°-33'N 160°-00'W	40°-04'N 159°-05'W	41°-07'N 156°-33'W
15 November	42°-28'N 153°-04'W	42°-51'N 151°-56'W	43°-39'N 149°-10'W
16 November	44°-51'N 145°-54'W	44°-58'N 144°-45'W	45°-38'N 142°-02'W
17 November	46°-28'N 138°-09'W	46°-32'N 136°-27'W	46°-59'N 133°-52'W
18 November	47°-32'N 130°-35'W	47°-23'N 129°-10'W	48°-02'N 126°-37'W

19 November 1945 (Zone plus 8)

Steaming as before. At 0107 sighted cape Flattery light bearing 089° T, distance 17 miles. 0249 Passed Tatoosh Island abeam to starboard. 0715 Passed Port Angeles Control station. 0940 Anchored in berth "C", Port Discovery Bay, Puget Sound, Washington.

20 - 30 November 1945 (Zone plus 8)

At anchor for remainder of the month.



D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac.
ComSerForPac.

AK231/AL2/DAD
Serial: 157-45

NOV 5 3 55 AM

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.



JOR

SO11 5 212

27 October 1945
Navy Department
Secy's Office - Records Div.

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

Reference: (a) A L P A C #202.

Enclosure: (A) History of the U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231).

ALL INFO CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (A) is
herewith submitted.

D. A. Durrant
D. A. DURRANT.

cc: CinCPac(Pearl).



156179

PRINT

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

HISTORY OF THE U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

Recently a noted war correspondent said, "A floating supply and repair base is the Navy's solution to the immense problem of servicing a fleet that must operate thousands of miles from home in an area where conditions neither warrant nor permit the building of great bases ashore. Now that I have seen it I no longer wonder why it was that Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz recently referred to the Service Forces afloat as the 'secret weapon' which knocked Jap strategy into a cocked-hat and contributed so much to the elimination of Japan as a sea power and to her ultimate defeat". The U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY may proudly claim to have been an integral part of this secret weapon. As a ship of the train, she played an important role in supplying first-line ships with ammunition.

She began life as the S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY, contracted for by the U.S. Maritime Commission, and constructed in the yards of the Permanente Metals Corporation, Richmond, California. One of ten early Victory ships built in this yard that the Navy decided to lease from the Maritime Commission for a series of AK's to be used as an emergency measure in carrying ammunition to the rapidly growing fleet, she was destined to become AK-231 of the series AK227-AK236.

The BEDFORD VICTORY'S keel was laid in August, 1944, and she slid down the ways on September 30 of the same year. Fitted out in record time she was ready for the Navy on November 11. On the same morning the crew came aboard from the Pre-Commissioning Training Center at Treasure Island, where it had been assembled days previous. A few key men of the crew had visited the ship while still fitting out, but, as on most newly commissioned ships, the majority of the crew had never been to sea before. That morning of November 11 was the first time they set foot on the deck of a ship. The ceremonies followed shortly, and as the commission pennant was hoisted, Commander D. A. Durrant, USNR, of Seattle, Washington, took command of the ship. An hour later the ship was underway to the Naval Supply Depot at Oakland.

There were many things yet to be done before joining the Pacific Service Forces, and these were taken care of in rapid succession. First, provisions and equipment at the Naval Supply Depot were taken on board. This was followed by two days of tests and additional fitting out in the San Francisco Bay Area, at the conclusion of which the U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY sailed for San Pedro, California, for a short, but intensive period of shakedown training. It was here that the fourteen officers and eighty-five members of the crew really got to know each other and to learn the qualifications and limitations of their shipmates.

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

Upon completion of its shakedown cruise on November 27, the ship returned to San Francisco Bay to take on nearly 7,000 tons of miscellaneous ammunition at Port Chicago.

Ten days before Christmas the BEDFORD VICTORY left San Francisco, not to return for nearly a year. Christmas at Pearl Harbor, New Year's at sea, the old fleet anchorage at Eniwetok, the B-29 strips at Saipan - Then on January 16, the great, secret Naval Anchorage at Ulithi. Ships were anchored as far as the eye could see. This was the center of Commander Service Squadron Ten's far flung service units, the BEDFORD VICTORY'S home port for many months.

It was here that the ship came under the operational control of Commander Service Squadron Ten, and the days that followed were among the busiest in the BEDFORD VICTORY'S career. In addition to the regular ship's upkeep duties, a full-time job in itself, there was cargo unloading to be done by all hands. It was a rare occasion when a Seabee working party arrived aboard to assist in these operations. For the next month the crew of 85 men worked six hours on and six hours off for twenty-four hour stretches as long as a week at a time. Engineers, cooks, stewards, storekeepers, yeomen, and the Chief Pharmacist's Mate all worked with the deck force. Ship's regular watches were on a four-on-four-off-basis. It was back-breaking work arming the fleet for the Iwo invasion. Slow because ammunition handling is dangerous business, but the crew soon became experts in handling all types of explosives as swiftly as possible, and yet safely. There were brief intervals of rest (the ship's work was kept up during these periods), no movies, no recreation. Everyone felt they were making a contribution to the business of war.

From February 11 to April 15, the BEDFORD VICTORY conducted cargo operations in Leyte Gulf, Saipan, Guam, and home at Ulithi, loading and unloading ammunition. During March and April the first recreation parties were sent ashore to the little island of Mog-Mog in Ulithi. Also at Ulithi, the ship had her first encounter with a Jap.

One evening in March the BEDFORD VICTORY was passing ammunition to the Battleship U.S.S. COLORADO, cargo lights blazing, several holds open, beautiful target. About 2100 two Japanese suicide planes boldly flew toward the atoll with running lights on, following closely behind one of our own patrol planes. The ruse was highly successful; not until they began their attack were their presence discovered. One came to a glorious end by plunging into the after part of the flight deck of the U.S.S. RANDOLPH, one of the fleet's newest Essex class carriers, inflicting several casualties and some damage. The other mistook one of the small islands for a ship but found it unsinkable. Had he picked the well lighted BEDFORD VICTORY and COLORADO, he would have hit the jackpot.

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

Loaded almost to capacity, she joined a convoy of fleet oilers on the morning of April 25, bound for the Ryukyus. Little did those on board realize that it would be nearly a month before land would be sighted again. On the 27th this convoy rendezvoused with and became a part of Task Group 50.8, and with this task group the BEDFORD VICTORY operated in the vicinity of Okinawa until late in May. Nearly every day a task group of Admiral Spruance's famed Task Force 58, then supporting the Okinawa campaign, would be encountered, and at these times various fleet oilers, ammunition ships and provisions ships would break out of formation to replenish our fleet units at sea.

Finally, the U.S.S. BEDFORD VICTORY and the U.S.S. AKUTAN broke formation and sailed for Kerama Retto. On May 21, the BEDFORD VICTORY anchored at Kerama Retto in the unpopular "suicide corner", so called because several ships had been hit by suicide planes while anchored in that vicinity. Unloading was a steady job during the day to DD's and DE's - ships that were spending much time bombardment duty and who had gruesome stories to tell. At times the work went on well into the night, lighted by dim red lights. The work would continue through the "blue alert", when planes were approaching, and only stopped during the "red alert" when the raid was actually on.

Nearly every evening at dusk the advanced picket craft would warn of approaching Jap planes. The BEDFORD VICTORY, along with all other ships present would go to General Quarters. Small craft with smoke pots and smoke generators were assigned to make a smokescreen for her, but due to the fact that the "suicide corner" anchorage was generally on the windward side of the anchorage, adequate smoke coverage was difficult. The raids grew more numerous until on the night of May 24, there were so many that General Quarters stations were manned throughout the night. The combat air patrol shot down most of the enemy planes before they could reach the important installations on Okinawa and the Kerama Retto anchorage. Every day some of the battered picket craft who had caught one suicider too many were towed past the ships into the repair anchorage.

And so, on June 6, with a sigh of relief, we left these picturesque islands in the sunset and joined a convoy for Saipan. There had been no mail for the ship for nearly two months, and the sacks of mail waiting to be read when Saipan was reached on the 12th constituted the most beautiful sight since leaving the States. From Saipan, the ship steamed to Ulithi, and from there to Leyte, where Commander Service Squadron Ten had in the meantime been transferred. Here at Leyte she was loaded with escort carrier ammunition, and in fact participated in some passing at sea exercises with the U.S.S. SUWANNEE out in the Gulf, during which some new ideas for this operation proved successful.

U. S. S. BEDFORD VICTORY (AK-231)

The next operation was expected, and everyone wondered if it would be as bad as Okinawa. Then, on Friday, August 10, during the movies, someone from the bridge shouted, "Hey, you guys, Japan has surrendered"! The ship and the harbor went wild in celebration. The next operation was only a matter of idle curiosity.

There followed three months of monotony. The ship was loaded with ammunition, and there were no Japs to dump it on. Time was filled in with recreation parties, minor cargo operations, and volley ball tournaments aboard ship. Many of the older men left for the States under the demobilization plan.

During her period of service, 17,268 tons of ammunition were handled. Fifty per cent of this amount was handled by the crew alone. In handling twenty per cent, they were assisted by Seabees, and with the other thirty per cent they received help of working parties from other ships.

Finally, the great word was received. About November 1, the BEDFORD VICTORY would leave for Uncle Sugar to discharge her ammunition and go out of commission. She would then be returned to the Maritime Commission - her job well done!

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