

Contributed by Tommy Trampp







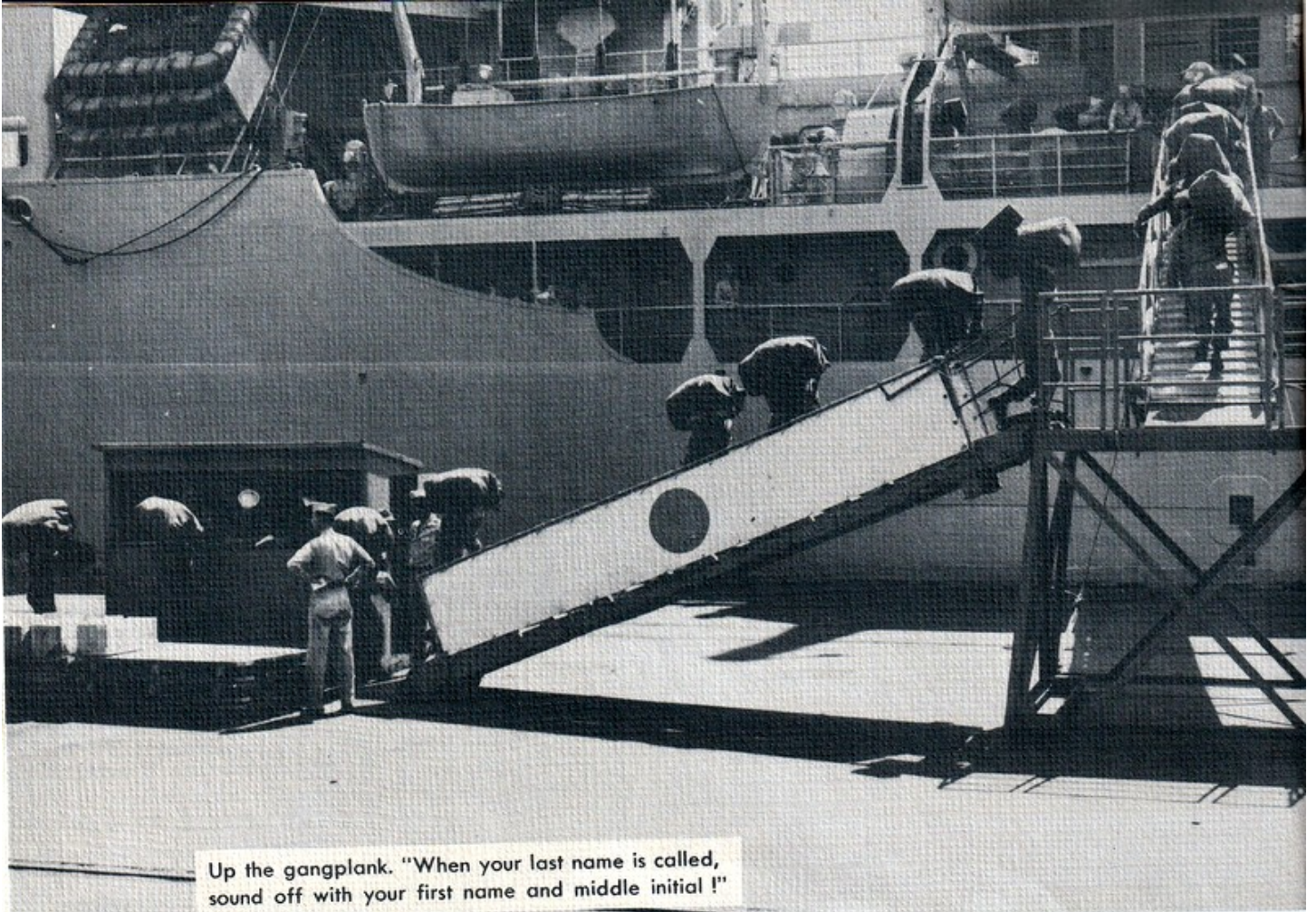
Men carrying duffel bags,  
Bulging with  
Close possessions,  
Trode heavily up a gangplank  
And then sail away.  
It is with these men—  
The men on foot,  
The young men,  
Where dwells the heart  
Of America's strength  
And security.





Embarkation Day. Whether going or coming, sailing time brings mixed feelings of excitement, expectancy, and sadness.





Up the gangplank. "When your last name is called, sound off with your first name and middle initial!"





The bunks are four high; not exactly the Waldorf, but at least a small piece of the ship to call home.





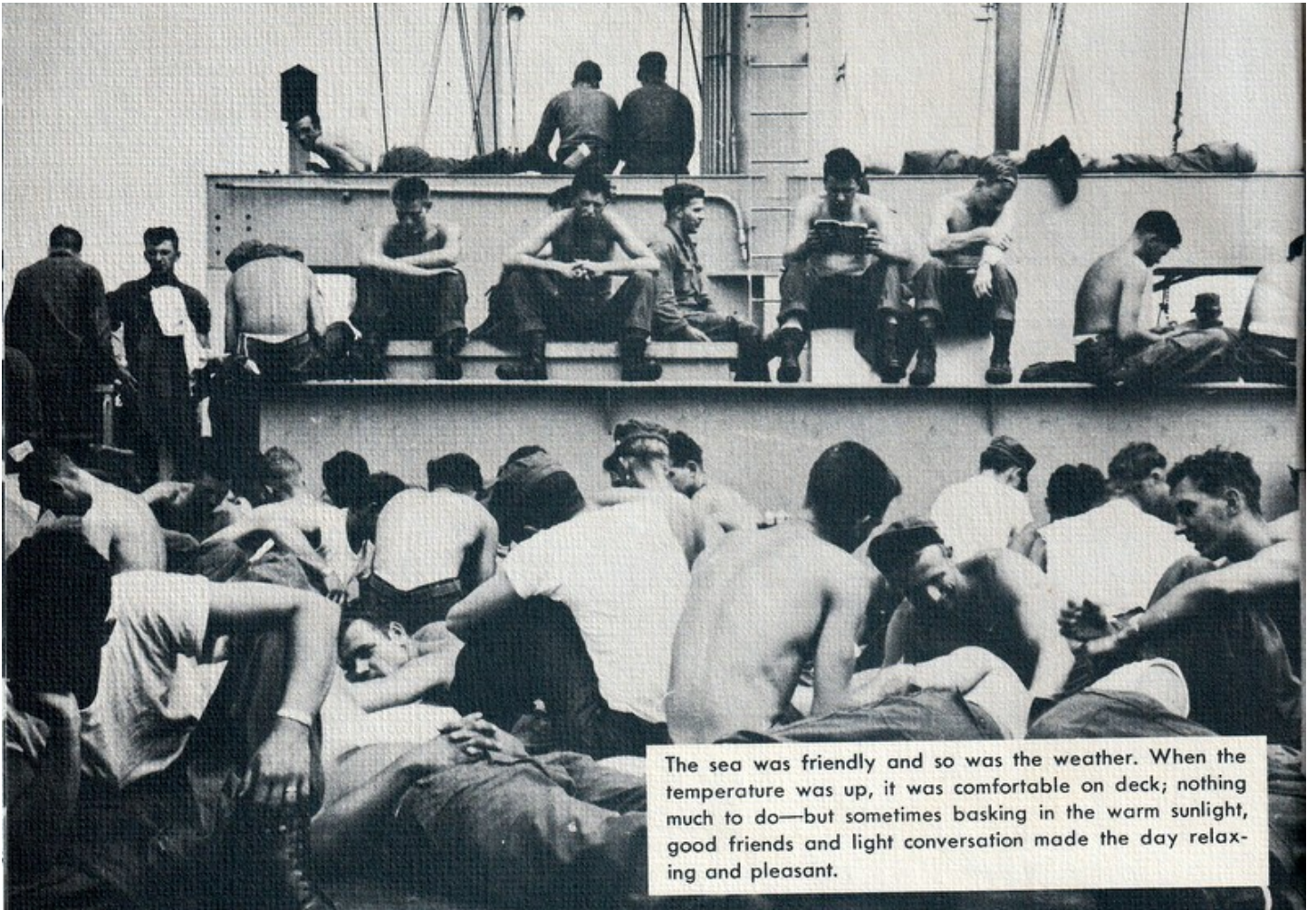
The ship's mess hall—busy from early morning till late in the evening.





K. P.'s dish up chow on an assembly line basis, and keep the long lines moving quickly and smoothly.





The sea was friendly and so was the weather. When the temperature was up, it was comfortable on deck; nothing much to do—but sometimes basking in the warm sunlight, good friends and light conversation made the day relaxing and pleasant.



COMPT. 2B CAE 258



Jam session in the recreation hall. Musical instruments are furnished by MSTs Special Services.









It was a lazy, slow day; the sun was warm; just sitting around, thinking, talking, playing cards, looking out to sea . . . waiting . . . waiting.





Writing tables in the recreation room are crowded. Letters will be mailed when the ship hits port.

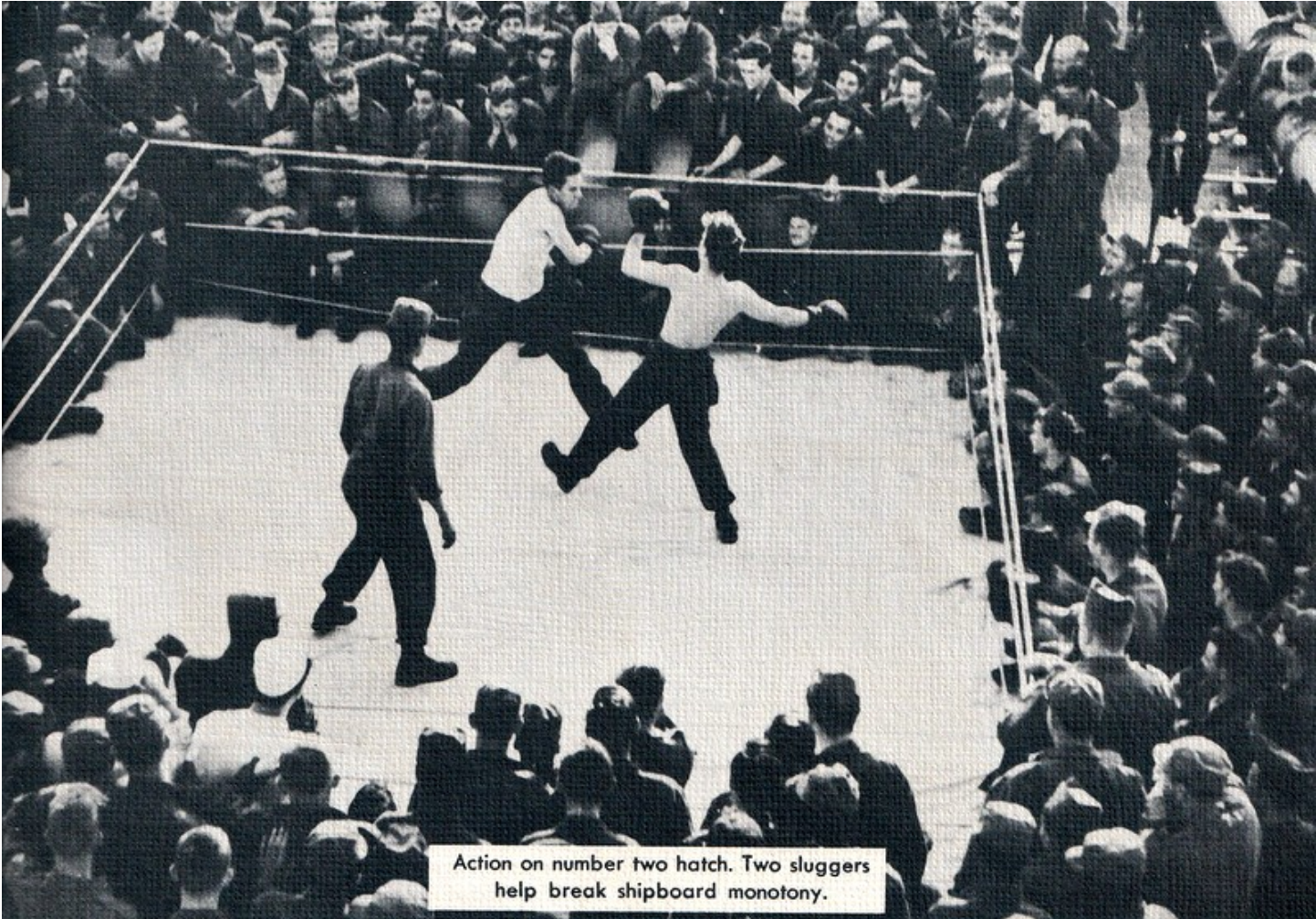


"Dear Mom, . . . sorry I haven't written sooner, but . . ."



MSTS stationery packets, purchased from ships' stores profits, are given to troops free.





Action on number two hatch. Two sluggers help break shipboard monotony.





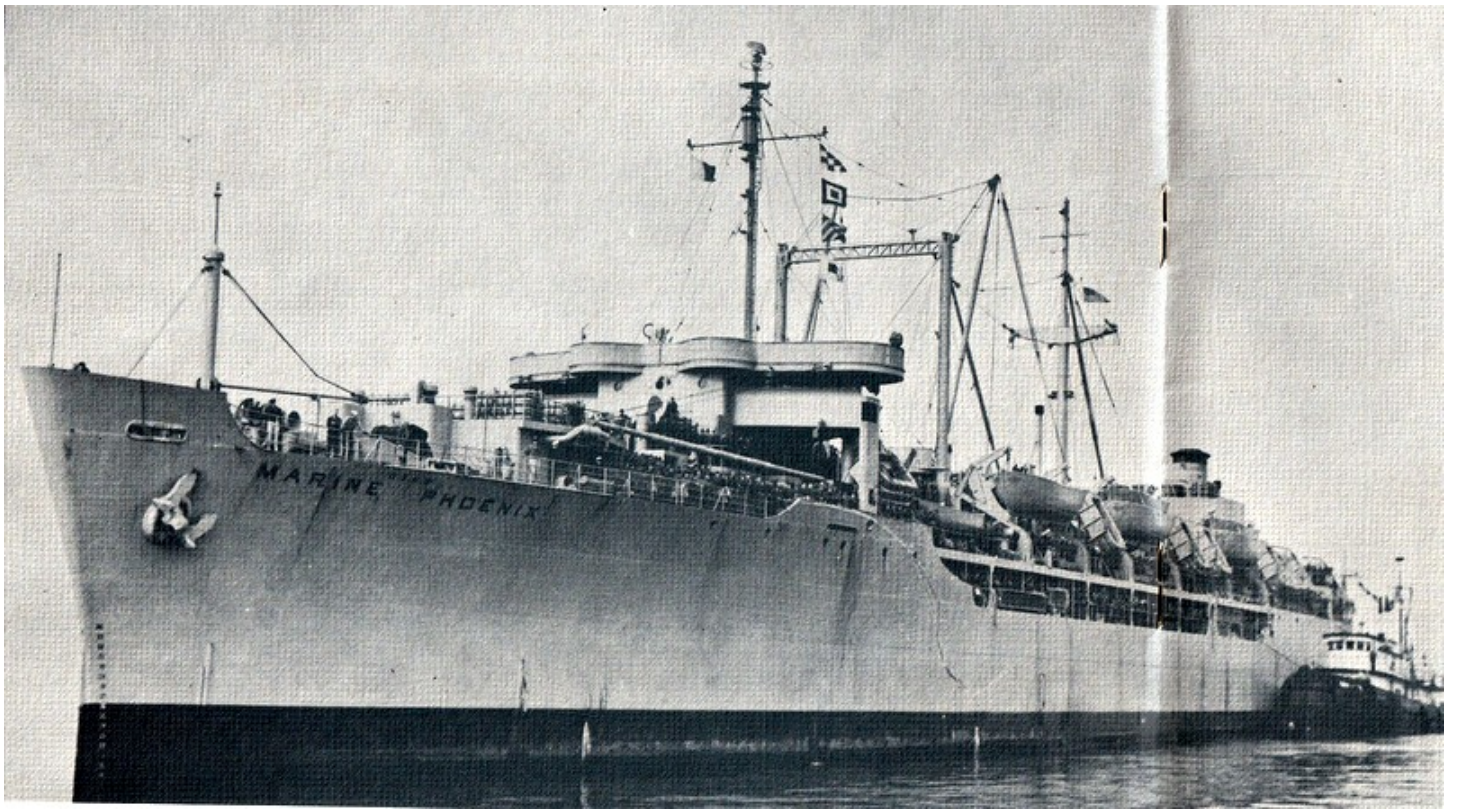
Friendly bull sessions on deck;  
a major shipboard pastime.



A popular spot on any Navy transport is the ship's exchange. For sale: everything from razors to radios.









# *The Story of*

## U. S. NAVAL SHIP MARINE PHOENIX

**T**HE USNS MARINE PHOENIX, operated by the Military Sea Transportation Service, Department of the Navy, was built in 1945 by Kaiser Co., Inc., at Vancouver, Washington.

Her maiden voyage began on December 12, 1945, and took her from Seattle to Nagoya, Japan. Continuing to sail out of Seattle as a troopship, the Phoenix called at Inchon, Shanghai, Yokohama, Honolulu, Guam, and Saipan.

When the need for troopships in the Pacific decreased, the Marine Phoenix was among many others to be laid up at Suisun Bay, California, in 1947.

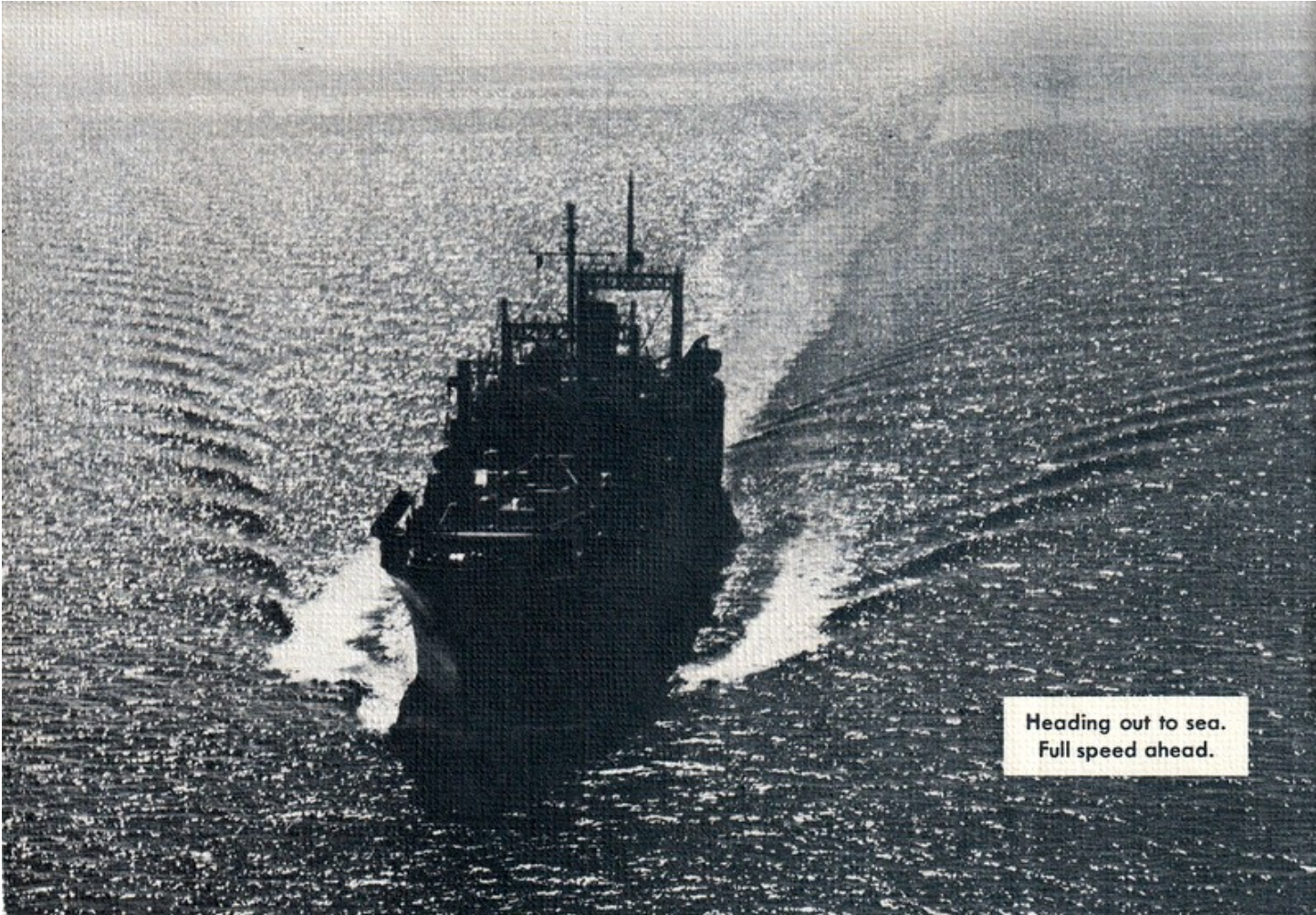
However, in August, 1950, shortly after the outbreak in Korea, the Phoenix was called back to active service and assigned to the Military Sea Transportation Service for duty in the Pacific. From May to July, 1950 the Phoenix was in Portland, Oregon, where she underwent conversions to increase her troop carrying capacity and add to her safety-at-sea equipment.

A C-4 type ship the Phoenix has an overall length of 523 feet, a width of 72 feet, and a gross weight of 12,410 tons. Her cruising speed is 17 knots. The word "Phoenix" comes from the name of a miraculous and immortal bird in Egyptian legend. The bird was fabled to have lived for 500 years, to have been consumed in fire by its own act, and to have risen in youthful freshness from its own ashes.

Many modern facilities are found on the Phoenix, including a store, a hospital, well equipped galleys, new navigational devices and life saving gear. The Phoenix has up-to-date recreational facilities and provides an opportunity for all to follow religious and educational pursuits while at sea.

The crew of the Phoenix are civil service employees and members of the military department are U. S. Navy personnel.





Heading out to sea.  
Full speed ahead.





" . . . I stood on the upper deck and looked down over the bow. The sea was calm, and the air was crisp and cold. . . ."





A long chow line on deck; some who feel the effects of the turbulent sea, don't eat much; others look forward to meals as a major event of the day and eat heartily.





Feeding thousands of troops at sea is a big job and calls for a modern galley, and the best in food and equipment.





Ho, hum . . . wonder how many more days till we get in; wonder what the "poor people" are doing.



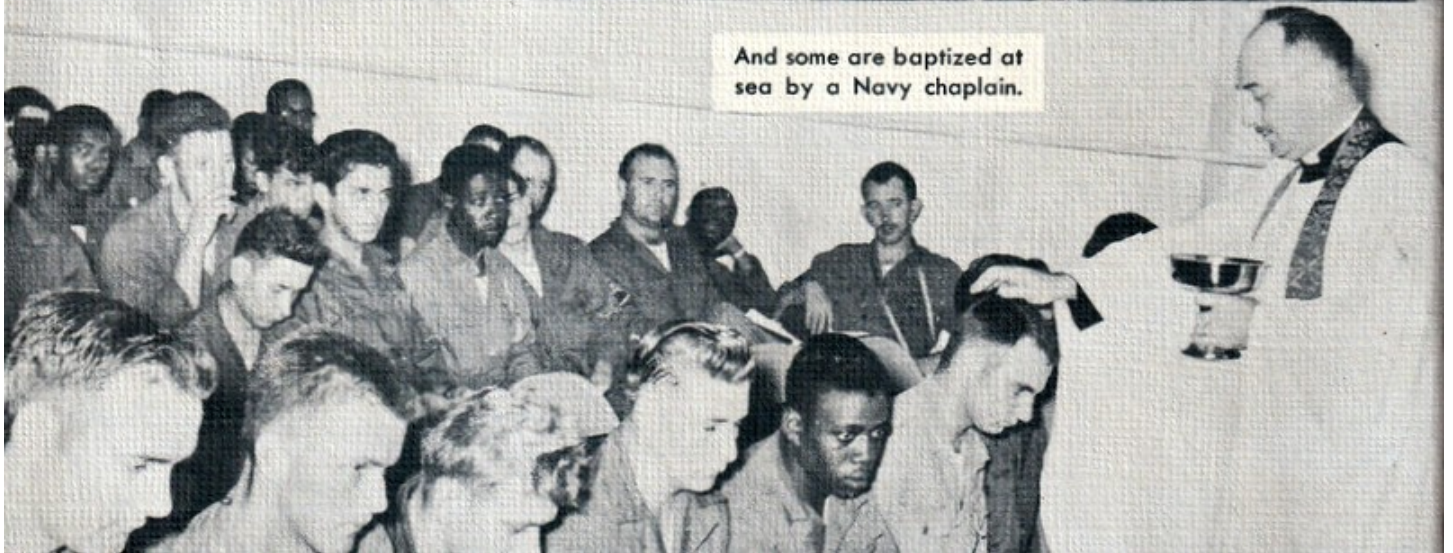


The ship's hospital is well equipped and staffed with trained Navy medical officers and enlisted hospital men.





On land or sea, God is not forgotten; men of all faiths may find a place to worship.



And some are baptized at sea by a Navy chaplain.





" . . . and this is the kid brother, and this is my sister. Your sister? Wow! Where did you say you were from? . . ."





A full load of troops always means close quarters. Under these conditions good humor and high spirits make the voyage more pleasant.



Those white things are not price tags, but debarkation numbers (in the service most everything is by the numbers, especially embarking and debarking); in this case it will be debarking in about 30 minutes when the Navy transport hits port.







Down on the pier the smiling faces of young dancing girls add sparkle to the festivity of a joyous homecoming. These are the famed Barclay Girls whose performances of the cancan caused a storm of national controversy. Here they are doing a collegiate number.





A good old American custom; pretty girls welcome troops returning from overseas.



... and some are singled out for special honors.



It's a two-way ocean; some hugging the rail on the stern are waiting for the ship to pull out for overseas, while others—on an inbound transport pulling in—are coming home.







At dusk a large twin-stack Navy transport passed by; a trail of sea, churned milky white, caught the setting sun.

*Message*

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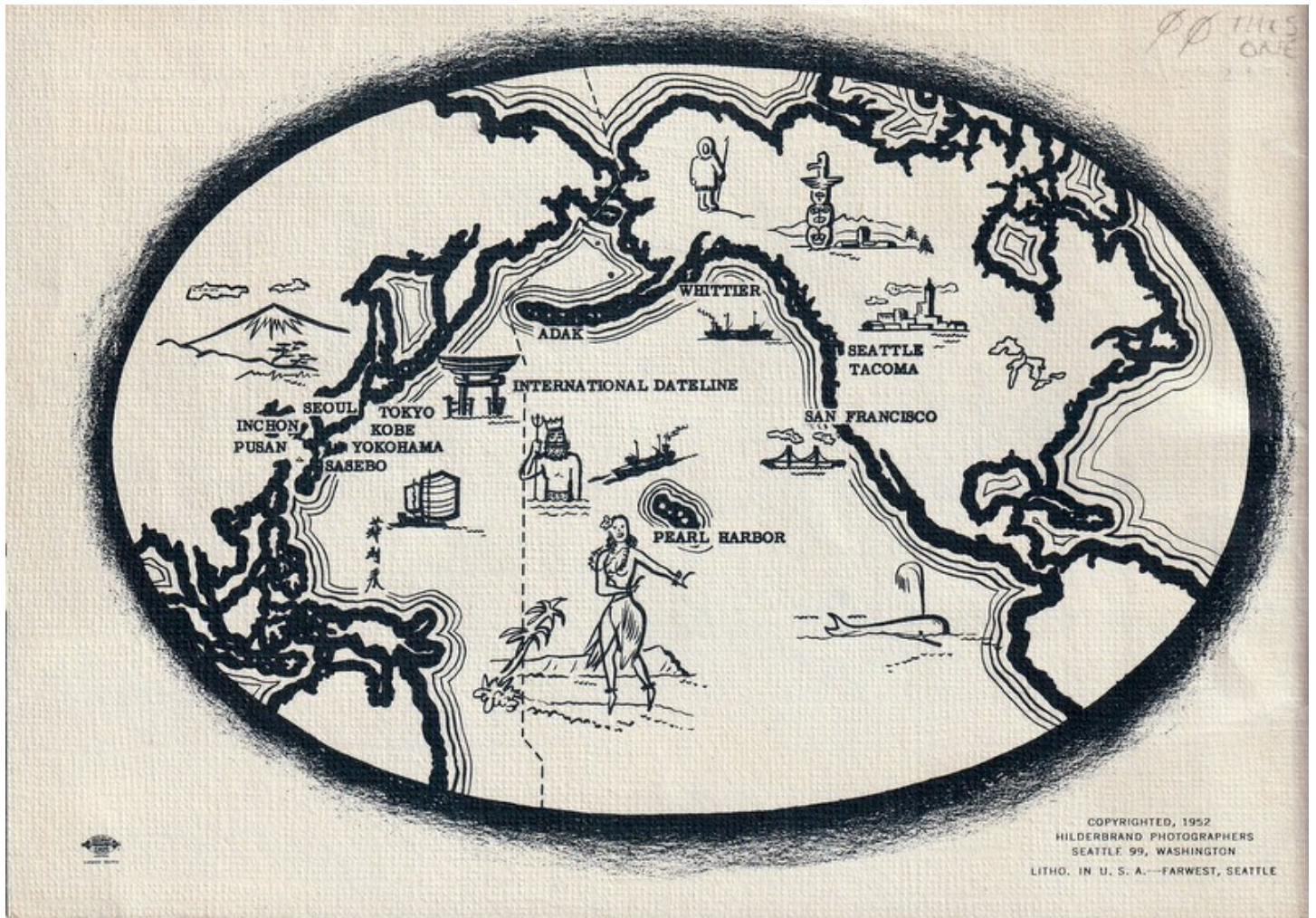
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