

C O N F I D E N T I A LReg. No. 20814

P. S. No. _____

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

WAR DIARY

Ser.:

MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

8 October 1944

1605 - U.S.S. SOUTHAMPTON, AKA66, was placed in full commission at Charleston Navy Yard, Charleston, S. C., by the Captain of the Yard under orders from the Chief of Naval Operations. Lt. Comdr. Lester V. COOKE, D-M, USNR, accepted the ship and took command.

9 October 1944

0805 - Shifted ship to Clyde Mallory Dock pier, Charleston, S. C. to load outfit and stores.

10 October 1944

Continued loading outfit and stores.

11 October 1944

1432 - Shifted ship to Charleston Navy Yard, Charleston, S. C. Loaded Ship's allowance of ammunition.

12 October 1944

Moored as before.

13 October 1944

0831 - Shifted ship to Deperming Station, Charleston, S. C. Depermed ship.

14 October 1944

0806 - Underway in accordance with orders received from Commissioning detail, Charleston Navy Yard, for sea trials. 1200 position: Latitude 32° 34' N; Longitude 79° 28' W. Made approximately 75 mile sea trial run. Exercised at emergency drills. Fired the following rounds of ammunition for structural test: 900 rounds 20 MM anti-aircraft; 112 rounds 40 MM anti-aircraft; 4 rounds 5"/38 caliber anti-aircraft; no casualties to either personnel or material; structural test firing satisfactory. 1731 - Returned to Charleston Navy Yard.

15 October 1944

Continued outfitting ship for sea.

16 October 1944

Continued outfitting ship for sea.

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MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

17 October 1944

Continued outfitting ship for sea.

18 October 1944

Continued outfitting ship for sea. 2400 - Completed fitting out. Reported to Cominch; COTClant, ComPhibTraLant for duty.

19 October 1944

Moored as before.

20 October 1944

Moored as before.

21 October 1944

0743 - Underway for Hampton Roads, Va. in accordance with orders from Commander, Amphibious Training Command, Atlantic Fleet to report for shakedown cruise. 1200 position: Latitude 32° 54' N; Longitude 79° 58' W.
2000 position: Latitude 33° 51.5' N; Longitude 76° 54' W.

22 October 1944

0800 position: Latitude 35° 32' N; Longitude 74° 48' W. 1200 position: Latitude 36° 48' N; 74° 52' W. 1902 - Arrived Hampton Roads, Va. Anchored in Navy Anchorage.

23 October 1944

Anchored as before.

24 October 1944

1327 - Military and material inspection was made by Captain Shea, USN, accompanied by his staff from Administrative Command, ComPhibTraLant. Loaded landing craft (12 LCVP, 1 LCVL, and 8 LCM) aboard.

25 October 1944

0724 - Underway for shakedown cruise in Chesapeake Bay under orders from ComPhibTraLant. Exercised at emergency drills. 1902 - Anchored off Amphibious Training Base, Solomon's, Maryland.

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MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

26 October 1944

Anchored as before. Exercised at emergency drills.

27 October 1944

Anchored as before. Set condition 1-Able; exercised crew at debarkation stations. Unloaded all landing craft. Exercised landing craft in maneuvers.

28 October 1944

0514 - Underway for firing practice in area "Charlie" Chesapeake Bay. Held day spotting practice, short range battle practice and AA firing. Fired 24 rounds 5"/38 caliber, 123 rounds 40 MM, and 710 rounds 20 MM. No casualties.
2022 - Returned to anchorage off ATB, Solomon's Island, Maryland.

29 October 1944

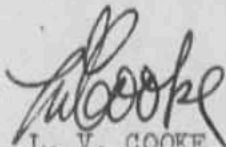
0500 - Underway for firing practice in area "Charlie" Chesapeake Bay. Fired 18 rounds 5"/38 caliber, 229 rounds of 40 MM and 1165 rounds 20 MM at towed sleeve. No casualties. 1236 - returned to anchorage off ATB, Solomon's Island, Maryland.

30 October 1944

0300 - Resumed exercising crew at condition 1-Able - lowered all landing craft - exercised at loading light tanks and palletized cargo and discharging same into landing craft. 1723 - Hoisted landing craft aboard. Go underway for Hampton Roads, Va. in accordance with ComPhibTraLant despatch 301433.

31 October 1944

0140 - Anchored in Hampton Roads; Va. 1524 - Got underway for anchorage off Charles City, Va. in accordance with orders received from ComPhibTraLant to continue shakedown. 1815 - Anchored off Charles City, Va.



L. V. COOKE

Commanding Officer.

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Month of November 1944

1 November 1944

0727 - Got underway from anchorage off Charles City, Va. to continue shakedown cruise in Chesapeake Bay. Streamed and retrieved paravanes. Made full power run. Exercised at emergency drills. Recorded tactical characteristics of ship. 1900 - Returned to anchorage in Hampton Roads, Va.

2 November 1944

0837 - Lowered landing craft and dispatched them to Naval Boat Depot, Berkley, Va. 1008 - Got underway for Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. in accordance with ComPhibTraLant despatch 311940. 1300 - Entered Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. for 3 days post-shakedown availability. Navy yard workmen commenced working on various jobs.

3 November 1944

Moored as before. Navy yard workmen on board at various jobs.

4 November 1944

Moored as before. Navy yard workmen on board at various jobs.

6 November 1944

1150 - Navy yard availability completed. Got underway for anchorage in Hampton Roads, Va. 1359 - Anchored in Hampton Roads, Va. 1520 - Loaded landing craft aboard.

7 November 1944

0817 - Got underway for Canal Zone, Panama in accordance with ComServLant

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7 November 1944 (Continued)

DESPATCH 021817 in Task Unit 29.6.11. 1200 - posit latitude 36°
54' N, longitude $75^{\circ} 17'$ W. 2000 - posit latitude $36^{\circ} 03'$ N,
longitude $73^{\circ} 15'$ W.

8 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $33^{\circ} 18'$ N - $73^{\circ} 03'$ W.

1200 posit $32^{\circ} 14'$ N - $73^{\circ} 15'$ W.

2000 posit $30^{\circ} 24'$ N - $73^{\circ} 36'$ W.

9 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $27^{\circ} 20'$ N - $74^{\circ} 07'$ W.

1200 posit $26^{\circ} 13'$ N - $74^{\circ} 18'$ W.

2000 posit $24^{\circ} 11'$ N - $74^{\circ} 07'$ W.

10 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $21^{\circ} 16'$ N - $74^{\circ} 35'$ W.

1200 posit $20^{\circ} 14'$ N - $74^{\circ} 04'$ W.

2000 posit $18^{\circ} 37'$ N - $74^{\circ} 58'$ W.

11 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $15^{\circ} 52'$ N - $76^{\circ} 21'$ W.

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11 November 1944 (Continued)

1200 posit $14^{\circ} 56' N - 76^{\circ} 49' W$.

2000 posit $13^{\circ} 17' N - 77^{\circ} 52' W$.

12 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $10^{\circ} 43' N - 79^{\circ} 26' W$.

1009 - Sighted Panama bearing 190° true - distance 40 miles. 1400 -

Task Unit 29.6.11 dissolved. 1450 - Commenced transit of Panama Canal.

2208 - Completed transit of canal - moored to Pier I NAD, Balboa,

Canal Zone.

13 November 1944

1808 - Got underway from Balboa, C.Z., for Pearl Harbor, T.H., in accordance with Port Director, Balboa, C.Z. despatch 131521. Steaming independently.

14 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $07^{\circ} 05' N - 81^{\circ} 18' W$.

1200 posit $07^{\circ} 04' N - 82^{\circ} 08' W$.

2000 posit $06^{\circ} 42' N - 84^{\circ} 18' W$.

15 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $07^{\circ} 10' N - 86^{\circ} 57' W$.

1200 posit $07^{\circ} 30' N - 87^{\circ} 52' W$.

2000 posit $08^{\circ} 09' N - 89^{\circ} 43' W$.

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16 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $09^{\circ} 11.0'$ N - $92^{\circ} 40.0'$ W.

1200 posit $09^{\circ} 25'$ N - $93^{\circ} 41.0'$ W.

2000 posit $10^{\circ} 03'$ N - $95^{\circ} 45'$ W.

17 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $10^{\circ} 56'$ N - $98^{\circ} 50'$ W.

1200 posit $11^{\circ} 24'$ N - $99^{\circ} 53'$ W.

2000 posit $12^{\circ} 04'$ N - $102^{\circ} 01'$ W.

18 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $12^{\circ} 55'$ N - $105^{\circ} 02'$ W.

1200 posit $13^{\circ} 09'$ N - $106^{\circ} 02'$ W.

2000 posit $13^{\circ} 44'$ N - $107^{\circ} 51'$ W.

19 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $14^{\circ} 38'$ N - $110^{\circ} 33.5'$ W.

1200 posit $14^{\circ} 46'$ N - $111^{\circ} 34'$ W.

2000 posit $15^{\circ} 11'$ N - $113^{\circ} 43'$ W.

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20 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $15^{\circ} 52' N - 116^{\circ} 43' W$.

1200 posit $16^{\circ} 03' N - 117^{\circ} 40' W$.

2000 posit $16^{\circ} 26' N - 119^{\circ} 37' W$.

21 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $17^{\circ} 22' N - 122^{\circ} 29' W$.

1200 posit $17^{\circ} 30' N - 123^{\circ} 30' W$.

2000 posit $17^{\circ} 56' N - 125^{\circ} 33' W$.

22 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $18^{\circ} 29' N - 127^{\circ} 57' W$.

1200 posit $18^{\circ} 45' N - 129^{\circ} 03' W$.

2000 posit $19^{\circ} 08' N - 131^{\circ} 14' W$.

23 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $19^{\circ} 29' N - 134^{\circ} 18' W$.

1200 posit $19^{\circ} 33' N - 135^{\circ} 20' W$.

2000 posit $19^{\circ} 49' N - 137^{\circ} 11' W$.

24 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit $20^{\circ} 15' N - 140^{\circ} 02' W$.

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24 November 1944 (Continued)

1200 posit 20° 17' N - 141° 04' W.

2000 posit 20° 26' N - 143° 12' W.

25 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit 20° 16' N - 146° 19' W.

1200 posit 20° 48' N - 147° 22' W.

2000 posit 20° 57' N - 149° 28' W.

26 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0800 posit 21° 11.0' N - 152° 25' W.

1200 posit 21° 12.0' N - 153° 18' W.

2000 posit 21° 24' N - 155° 10' W.

27 November 1944

Steaming as before.

0300 - Sighted Molakai Island bearing 230° true - distance 19 miles.

0645 - Commenced AA firing practice off Diamond Head, Kaiwi Channel.

Fired 15 rounds 5"/38, 186 rounds 40 MM, and 623 rounds 20 MM at towed sleeve. No casualties. 1200 - Entered Pearl Harbor, T.H., and at

1227 - moored fore and aft to mooring buoys, Berth X-14.

28 November 1944

Moored as before.

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29 November 1944

Moored as before.

30 November 1944

1526 - Shifted berths from X-14 to BAKER 22.



L.V. COOKE, Lt. Comdr. D-M, USNR
Commanding Officer.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

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Month of December 1944.

1 December 1944

Moored to Berth "BAKER 22", Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H. Navy Yard workmen on board at various jobs.

2 December 1944

Moored as before. On this morning 40 cases of septic sore throat were admitted to sick list. Within a period of 24 hours from onset of first case, 75 more cases were admitted to the sick list.

3 December 1944

Moored as before. By the end of this day 139 men were on sick list suffering from septic sore throat.

4 December 1944

Moored as before. 141 men were on sick list.

5 December 1944

Moored as before. 144 men were on sick list. 0900 - Shifted berths to X-Ray 6, Pearl Harbor, T. H. Moored fore and aft to buoys.

6 December 1944

Moored as before. 146 men were on sick list.

7 December 1944

Moored as before. 149 men were on sick list.

8 December 1944

Moored as before. 152 men were on sick list. On this day 51 men were discharged and returned to duty.

100625

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9 December 1944

Moored as before. Discharged 26 more men to duty.

10 December 1944

Moored as before. Discharged 31 more men to duty.

11 December 1944

Moored as before. Discharged 13 more men to duty.

12 December 1944

Moored as before. Discharged 4 more men to duty.

13 December 1944

Moored as before. Discharged 15 more men to duty.

14 December 1944

Moored as before.

15 December 1944

Moored as before. Discharged 2 more men to duty.

16 December 1944

Moored as before. Transferred remaining 7 men suffering from septic sore throat to Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

17 December 1944

Moored as before.

18 December 1944

Moored as before. 0746 - Got underway for training exercises off Maui Island, T. H. in accordance with AdComPhibsPac training order 232-44 dated 13 December 1944, and Commander Task Unit 13.10.12 training order 1-44 dated 14 December

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18 December 1944 (Continued)

1944. Commander Task Unit 12.10.12 C. L. ANDREWS, Capt., USN in U.S.S. TALLEDEGA (APA-208). Task unit steaming on various courses and speeds enroute to Area Charlie Seven for AA firing practice, conducting tactical exercises enroute. 1033 - Formed steaming formation Charlie I. 1200 - posit - latitude 20° 59' N, longitude 157°53' W. 1402 - Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with zigzag plan #1 USF 10A. 1451 - Sounded general quarters. 1459 - Ceased zigzagging. 1507 - Commenced Anti-Aircraft firing practice at towed sleeve in Area Charlie Seven, steering various courses and speeds conforming to area. 1708 - Secured from Anti-Aircraft firing and General Quarters, having fired 13 rounds 5"/38 cal., 383 rounds 40 MM and 1026 rounds 20 MM ammunition. No casualties. Resumed steaming for training exercise area off Maui Island. Hoisted out eight (8) LCVP's to rail. 1900 - Formed steaming formation Charlie II. 2000 - posit - 20° 28' N, 157° 20' W.

19 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0736 - Changed formation to Charlie III. 0800 - posit 20° 54' N, 156° 48' W. 0815 - Commenced steering various courses and speeds approaching anchorage. 0832 - Anchored in berth 6, Transport Area, Lahaina Roads, T. H. - latitude 20° 55' N, longitude 156° 47' W. 1020 - Lowered landing craft and exercised at operation T-3 as set forth in Amphibious Doctrine. Wind, northeast, force 6, moderately rough sea. 1411 - Got underway for Lahaina Harbor for anchorage to load landing craft. 1438 - Anchored

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in Lahaina Harbor - latitude $20^{\circ} 52' N$, longitude $156^{\circ} 43' W$. 1655 - Loaded all landing craft on board. 1735 - Got underway to conduct night tactical maneuvers, using various courses and speeds forming steaming formation Charlie II. 2000 - posit - Latitude $20^{\circ} 41' N$, Longitude $156^{\circ} 46' W$.

20 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0612 - Changed formation to Charlie III. 0737 - Anchored in Transport Area, Lahaina Roads. 0930 - Lowered landing craft and exercised at operation T-3 as set forth in Amphibious Doctrine. 1028 - Got underway for Lahaina Harbor. 1235 - Loaded landing craft on board. 1322 - Lowered landing craft and again exercised at operation T-3. 1802 - Loaded landing craft on board. 1824 - Got underway to conduct night tactical maneuvers on various courses and speeds - formed steaming formation Charlie I. 2000 - posit - latitude $20^{\circ} 42' N$, longitude $156^{\circ} 35' W$. 2112 - Formed steaming formation Charlie II.

21 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0110 - Changed formation to Charlie III. 0750 - Anchored in Transport Area, Lahaina Roads. 0805 - Lowered landing craft and exercised at operation T-4 as set forth in Amphibious Doctrine. 1015 - Got underway for Lahaina Harbor to load landing craft. 1106 - Anchored in Lahaina Harbor. 1445 - Loaded landing craft on board. 1816 - Got underway for night tactical maneuvers steaming in formation Charlie I. 1908 - Formed steaming formation Charlie II. 2000 - posit - latitude $20^{\circ} 40' N$, longitude $156^{\circ} 48' W$. 2102 - Changed formation to Charlie III.

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22 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0700 - Arrived Transport Area, Lahaina Roads, and lowered landing craft. Exercised at operation T-4 and G-20 as set forth in Amphibious Doctrine. 0857 - Laid smoke screen. 0915 - Set course for Lahaina Harbor to load landing craft. 0952 - Anchored in Lahaina Harbor. 1604 - Loaded landing craft. 1731 - Got underway to conduct night tactical maneuvers, steaming in formation Charlie I. 1800 -- Formed steaming formation Charlie II. 2000 - posit - latitude $20^{\circ} 36' N$, longitude $156^{\circ} 52' W$.

23 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0800 - posit - latitude $20^{\circ} 07' N$, longitude $156^{\circ} 48' W$. 0829 - Made preparations for streaming paravanes. 1005 - Paravane downhaul chain parted, suspending streaming of paravanes. Continued to exercise at tactical maneuvers throughout the day. 1200 - posit - $20^{\circ} 09' N$, $156^{\circ} 30' W$. 2000 - posit - $20^{\circ} 09' N$, $156^{\circ} 23' W$. 2222 - Changed formation to Charlie III.

24 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0625 - Arrived Transport Area, Lahaina Roads, lowered landing craft, exercised at operations T-4 and G-20. 0850 - Set course for Lahaina Harbor to load landing craft. 0818 - Anchored in Lahaina Harbor. 1511 - Loaded landing craft. 1740 - Got underway to conduct night tactical maneuvers. Steaming in formation Charlie II. 2000 - posit - latitude $20^{\circ} 36' N$, longitude $156^{\circ} 31' W$.

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25 December 1944

Steaming as before. 0426 - Changed formation to Charlie III. 0700 - Arrived Transport Area in Maalaea Bay and lowered landing craft. Exercised at operations T-4 and G-20 as set forth in Amphibious Doctrine. 1219 - Loaded landing craft aboard. Set course for Lahaina Harbor. 1337 - Anchored in Lahaina Harbor.

26 December 1944

Anchored as before. 0001 - Got underway for Pearl Harbor, T. H., steaming in formation Charlie I. 0800 - posit 21° 02' N, 157° 41' W. 1040 - Task unit 13.10.12 dissolved; units commenced entering Pearl Harbor swept channel independently. 1342 - Moored fore and aft to buoys, berth X-Ray 7, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

27 December 1944

Moored as before.

28 December 1944

Moored as before.

29 December 1944

Moored as before.

30 December 1944

Moored as before.

31 December 1944

Moored as before.

L. V. COOKE, Lt. Comdr., DM, USNR
Commanding Officer.

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

WAR DIARY

1 February 1945

Crossed 180th Meridian - set clocks ahead to Feb. 2, thereby eliminating Feb. 1, 1945.

2 February 1945

Steaming in task unit 51.11 C.T.U. Vice-Admiral R. K. TURNER, USN, Transron 15, ComTransRon 15 - Commodore FLANAGAN, USN, Transdiv 44, ComTransDiv 44 - Capt. J. H. SEYFRIED, USN, enroute from Honolulu, T. H. to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. 0800 Posit 16° 13' N - 177° 35' E; 1200 Posit 15° 58' N - 176° 41' E. Exercised at tactical maneuvers and emergency drills. 2000 Posit 15° 26' N - 175° 03' E.

3 February 1945

Steaming as before. 0800 Posit 14° 40' N - 172° 34' E. Exercised at emergency drills. 1200 Posit 14° 16' N - 171° 41' E. 1345: Held anti-aircraft firing practice - expended 6 rounds 5"/38 cal., 129 rounds 40 MM and 360 rounds 20 MM ammunition. 2000 Posit 13° 48' N - 169° 50' E.

4 February 1945

Steaming as before. 0800 Posit 13° 14' N - 167° 08' E. Exercised at emergency drills and tactical maneuvers. Streamed paravanes. 1200 Posit 12° 55' N - 166° 23' E. 2000 Posit 12° 16' N - 164° 26' E.

5 February 1945

Steaming as before. 0745: Arrived Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. 1025: Anchored in Berth 331. Commenced refueling and provisioning.

6 February 1945

Anchored as before. Completed refueling - continued provisioning.

7 February 1945

Completed provisioning and at 1130 got underway for Saipan, Marianas Islands in accordance with Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. PacFleet sortie order A36-44 dated 5 February 1945, in Task Unit 51.11. 2000 Posit 11° 09' N - 161° 47' E. Conducting tactical exercises enroute.

8 February 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. 0800 Posit 11° 56' N - 159° 18' E. Exercised at emergency drills - including damage control drills against simulated suicide plane crashes. 1200 Posit 12° 06' N - 158° 34' E. 2000 Posit 12° 25' N - 156° 54' E. Held dusk alert.

110535

9 February 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. 0800 Posit 13° 00' N - 154° 27' E. Exercised at emergency and damage control drills. 1200 Posit 13° 02' N - 153° 37' E. 2000 Posit 13° 24' N - 151° 53' E. Held dusk alert.

10 February 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. 0800 Posit 13° 55' N - 149° 28' E. Exercised at tactical maneuvers and emergency drills. 1200 Posit 13° 40' N - 148° 40' E. Held dusk alert. 2000 Posit 14° 31' N - 147° 20' E.

11 February 1945

Steaming as before. 0900: Entered Saipan harbor and anchored in Berth M-4.

12 February 1945

At 1716 got underway for operation rehearsal in accordance with ComTransDiv 44 despatch 120357, task unit 51.11.

13 February 1945

0650: Arrived transport area off Tinian Island and commenced lowering landing craft and despatched them to transports for duty. 1507: Loaded landing craft on board and got underway for Saipan. 1759: Anchored in berth M-20 Saipan outer anchorage.

14 February 1945

Anchored as before. Air Raid Alert - set condition I - laid smoke screen. No enemy planes sighted.

15 February 1945

Anchored as before. In accordance with CTU 51 order, laid smoke screen.

16 February 1945

At 1438 got underway for Iwo Jima, Bonin Islands in accordance with ComPhib Force U.S. PacFleet sortie movement order A-37-44 dated 14 February 1945 in task unit 51.11. Held dusk alert. 2000 Posit 15° 27' N - 145° 50' E.

17 February 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert - exercised at damage control drills against simulated suicide plane crash. 0800 Posit 16° 30' N - 143° 02' E. Exercised at tactical maneuvers. 1200 Posit 17° 10' N - 143° 03' E. Held dusk alert. 2000 Posit 18° 20' N - 142° 07' E.

18 February 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert - exercised at emergency drills. 0800 Posit 20° 38' N - 142° 38' E. 1200 Posit 21° 11' N - 142° 20' E. Held dusk alert. 2000 Posit 22° 58' N - 142° 15' E.

19 February 1945

0646: Arrived Transport area off Iwo Jima, Bonin Islands - lowered landing craft; commenced carrying out amphibious operation plan A25-44 against enemy positions. At 1620 commenced unloading cargo. 1845: Got underway for night retirement. 2000 Posit 24° 30' N - 141° 28' E.

20 February 1945

0618: Again entered transport area off Iwo Jima. Commenced unloading cargo. 1644: Attacked by Japanese aircraft. Attack repelled - no damage to vessel. 1845: Got underway for night retirement. 2000 Posit 24° 36' N - 141° 37' E. 2134: Held burial at sea for 2 Marine casualties wounded at Iwo Jima. On this date received 53 Marine casualties from beach.

21 February 1945

0715: Again entered transport area off Iwo Jima. Continued unloading cargo. 1712: Attacked by Japanese aircraft - attack repelled - no damage to vessel.

22 February 1945

Continued unloading cargo. 1506: Air raid alert - Japanese aircraft in vicinity - no actual attack made. 1624: LCM #5 was damaged by coral reef, filled with water and sank. 1850: Got underway for night retirement. 2000 Posit 24° 41' N - 141° 35' E. 2115: Held burial at sea for one Marine casualty wounded on Iwo Jima.

23 February 1945

0920: Again entered transport area. Continued unloading cargo. 1128: Moved inshore and anchored 2000 yds off Iwo Jima. Continued unloading cargo. 1824: Got underway for night retirement. 1928: Attacked by Japanese aircraft - went to general quarters. Air attack repelled by screen. Secured from general quarters. 2000 Posit 24° 38' N - 141° 38' E.

24 February 1945

1000: Again anchored 2000 yds. off Iwo Jima - continued unloading cargo. 2034: Air attack by Japanese aircraft - attack repelled - no damage to vessel. Discharged 11 Marine casualties to duty.

25 February 1945

Anchored as before. Continued unloading cargo. Discharged 3 Marine casualties to duty.

26 February 1945

Anchored as before. Continued unloading cargo. Received 11 Marine casualties from beach and discharged 3 to duty.

27 February 1945

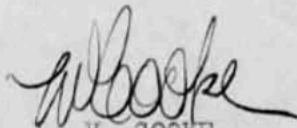
Anchored as before. Continued unloading cargo. Received 31 Marine casualties from beach.

28 February 1945

Anchored as before. Received following damage to ship's hull by LSMs alongside: 1 small hole #1 hold, frame 40, third deck - #5 hold - one 18 inch gash second deck. Continued discharging cargo.

Additional remarks:

Due to adverse surf conditions on the beaches the following landing craft were lost to this date during the operation against Iwo Jima: LCVP 10, LCVP 14, LCVP 20, LCVP 21, LCVP 23, LCVP 18, LCM 2, LCM 5, LCM 7, LCM 8.
One LCVP - AKA-66 15 - was transferred to LST 634 by order of OTC 53.2.



L. V. COOKE
Lieut. Comdr., USNR
Commanding Officer.

4

WAR DAIRY

Reg. No. _____

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R. S. No. _____

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

MONTH OF MARCH 1945

1 March 1945 (-10 zone time)

Anchored in Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, anchorage. Attached to T. U. 51.11, C.T.U., Vice Admiral R. K. TURNER, USN, in U.S.S. ELDORADO (AGC 11). Transron 15, Comtransron 15, Commodore FLANAGAN in U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA 33), Transdiv 44, Comtransdiv 44, Capt. J. H. SEYFRIED, USN, in U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120). Unloading cargo and despatching same to beach for use by assault forces. 0240: Air raid alert - went to general quarters and commenced laying smoke screen by means of generators on ship and on smoke boat. 0425: All clear - attacking planes driven off by night fighters and screen - no damage to this vessel. Continued unloading cargo. 1021: Received report of one (1) 18 inch hold starboard side #5 hold frame 160; damage caused by landing craft alongside. 1145: Transferred 17 "white" casualties to APA 90. 1731: Completed discharging all ship's cargo. All marine passengers and working party left ship. Transferred the body of HALL, Thomas William, 018398, 1st Lt., USMC, who died of wounds received on Iwo Jima, to the LSM 48 for delivery to Marine Corps on Iwo Jima for burial. 1746: Got underway for Saipan, Marianas Islands, in task unit 51.29.2, Transron 15, O.T.C. ComTransRon 15, Commodore FLANAGAN, in U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA 33) in obedience to CTF 51 despatch 0110425 dated 1 March 1945. 2140: Commenced zig zagging in accordance with plan #8, USF 10A. Position: 2000 - 24° 42' N; 141° 19' E.

2 March 1945

Steaming as before. 1155: Ceased zig zagging in accordance with plan #8 USF 10A and at 1210 commenced zig zagging in accordance with plan #6 USF 10A. 1847: Ceased zig zagging. Positions: 0800 - 22° 31' N; 141° 39' E; 1200 - 22° 12' N; 141° 30' E; 2000 - 20° 24' N; 142° 19' E.

3 March 1945

Steaming as before. 0631: Commenced zig zagging in accordance with plan #6 USF 10A. 1855: Ceased zig zagging. Positions: 0800 - 18° 42' N; 142° 55' E; 1200 - 18° 02' N; 143° 19' E; 2000 - 16° 43' N; 144° 07' E.

4 March 1945

Steaming as before. 0600; Sighted Saipan bearing 110° T - distance 15 miles. 0739: Passed through anti-submarine nets and entered Saipan Harbor. 0824: Anchored in berth L-66.

5 March 1945

Anchored as before. 0950: Lt. (jg) SADLER from U.S.S. VESTAL (R 4), repair ship, came on board and made inspection of damage to ship's hull caused by LSMs & LSTs alongside during unloading operations off Iwo Jima. Recommendation: Inspection by naval construction officer. At 1555 commenced provisioning ship, preparing for amphibious operation. 1916: Commander BATCHELDER, USN, and party from Service Squadron 10 came on board and made inspection of damage to hull referred to above. Findings: Vessel in a seaworthy condition.

6 March 1945

Anchored as before. Continued provisioning.

7 March 1945

Anchored as before. Continued provisioning.

8 March 1945

Anchored as before. Continued provisioning.

9 March 1945

Anchored as before. Continued provisioning. On this date received 2 LCMs and 5 LCVPs from U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120) to replace those lost at Iwo Jima.

10 March 1945

Anchored as before. Continued provisioning. 1530: Got underway for Tanapag Harbor, Saipan to load cargo. 1635: Moored to Pier A-4. 2250: Commenced receiving fuel oil from AO-44.

11 March 1945

Moored as before. 0450: Completed refueling. 1400: Marine working parties from 2nd Marine Division came on board and at 1440 commenced loading cargo.

12 March 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo. 20 men from the 130th Naval Construction Battalion reported on board for transportation and temporary duty.

13 March 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

14 March 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo. 1500: Received on board two (2) officers and fifteen (15) men of the Malaria & Insect Control Unit, Second Medical Battalion, Second Marine Division.

15 March 1945

Moored as before. 0830: Received on board eleven (11) officers and one hundred fifty six (156) men from the Second Marine Division for transportation and temporary duty. 1230: Completed loading cargo. 1305: Got underway for anchorage. 1405: Anchored in berth L-72 Saipan Harbor.

16 March 1945.

Anchored as before. 1649: Got underway from Saipan Harbor for rehearsal area in accordance with Comtransron 15 despatch 150400 dated 15 March 1945

16 March 1945 (Continued)

1745: Took position in Task group 51.2 Transron 15, Transdiv 44, O.T.C. Rear Admiral Jerauld WRIGHT, USN, in U.S.S. ANCON (AGC 4), Comtransron 15 - Commodore FLANAGAN in U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA 33). Comtransdiv 44 - Captain J. H. SEYFRIED in U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120). Task group formation 3 AS - transport formation U 4.

17 March 1945

0725: Arrived in rehearsal transport area off Tinian Island, Marianas, lowered landing craft and despatched them to APAs for duty, carrying out rehearsal orders. Exercised at emergency drills. 1346: Loaded landing craft on board and got underway for night retirement. Transgroup formation 3 AS; transport formation U 4.

18 March 1945

0100: Changed transport formation to U 3. 0702: Arrived in rehearsal transport area off Tinian Island, Marianas, lowered landing craft and despatched them to APAs for duty, carrying out rehearsal exercises according to C.T.U. 51 rehearsal order. 1303: Commenced laying smoke screen. 1320: Ceased laying smoke screen. 1354: Exercised at general quarters and damage control drills against suicide plane crash and dive bombing attacks. 1545: Loaded landing craft on board and got underway for night retirement. Transgroup formation 3 A 3, transport formation U 3. 1735: Changed transport formation to U 4. 2000 Position: 15° 15' N; 145° 10' E.

19 March 1945

0150: Changed transport formation to U 3. 0607: Arrived in rehearsal transport area off Tinian Island, made preparations to lower landing craft to carry out rehearsal order. Because of rough seas and high winds, did not lower landing craft. Rehearsal order carried out without small craft. 1200: Got underway for AA firing practice - formation U3. 1300: Changed formation to U 2 for AA Firing practice. 1356: Commenced AA firing practice at towed sleeve. Fired 24 rounds 5"/38; 659 rounds 40 MM; 3711 rounds 20MM. Exercised at damage control and fire drills against suicide plane crash. 1538: Completed AA Firing practice - proceeded to anchorage in Saipan Harbor. 1856: Anchored in Berth L-53 Saipan Harbor.

20 March 1945

Anchored as before. 1740: Got underway and went alongside U.S.S. ENOREE (AO 69) in Berth L-60 for fuel. 2128: Completed fueling and returned to Berth L-53.

21 March 1945

Anchored as before.

22 March 1945

Anchored as before. Exercised at emergency drills against simulated suicide plane crash.

23 March 1945

Anchored as before. Exercised at emergency drills against simulated suicide plane crash.

24 March 1945

Anchored as before. Exercised at emergency drills against simulated suicide plane crash.

25 March 1945

Anchored as before.

26 March 1945

Anchored as before. Exercised at damage control drills against suicide plane crash. 1850: Received on board for transportation 5 men from Commander Amphibious Group 5.

27 March 1945

0859: Got underway from Saipan in obedience to Comtransron 15 mailgram 250135 dated 25 March 1945. 0926: Cleared anti-submarine nets and took position in Transgroup 51.2, Transron 15, Transdiv 44, Formation 3 AS, Transport formation U 4. O.T.C. Rear Admiral Jerauld WRIGHT, USN, in U.S.S. ANCON (AGC 4), Comtransron 15, Commodore FLANAGAN, in U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA 33), Comtransdiv 44 Captain J. H. SEYFRIED in U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120). 1635: Commenced zig zagging in accordance with plan #7 of USF 10A. 1200 Posit: 14° 49' N; 145° 15' E; 2000 Posit: 13° 39' N; 144° 23' E.

28 March 1945

Steaming as before. Exercised at fire and damage control drills simulating suicide plane crash. Conducted tactical maneuvers. 1700: Retarded all clocks to conform to -9 zone time. Zig zagging in accordance with plan #7. 0800 Posit: 14° 35' N; 142° 16' E; 1200 Posit: 14° 51' N; 141° 32' E; 2000 Posit 15° 45' N; 140° 00' E.

29 March 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at damage control and fire drills against suicide plane crash. 0824: Transron 15 refueled destroyer screen in accordance with ComPhibTrans doctrine A-503, Annex Able. 0800: Posit: 16° 52' N; 138° 16' E; 1200 Posit: 17° 13' N; 137° 36' E; 2000 Posit: 17° 57' N; 136° 20' E.

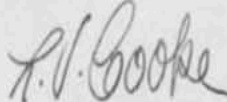
30 March 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at damage control and fire drills against suicide plane crash. 0822: Screen had sonar contact. Executed emergency turns. Contact lost. Test fired 20 MM gun #13 - condition satisfactory. Expended 14 rounds of ammunition. 0800 Posit: 19° 08' N; 134° 28' E; 1200 Posit: 19° 33' N; 133° 49' E; 2000 Posit: 20° 35' N; 132° 23' E.

4

31 March 1945

Steaming as before. 0150; Screen had sonar contact - executed emergency turns. Contact lost. Exercised at damage control and fire drills against suicide plane crash. 1732; Changed transport formation to U 3. 1815; Energized de-gaussing system. 0800 Posit: 20° 44' N; 130° 46' E; 1200 Posit: 23° 32' N; 130° 14' E; 2000 Posit: 24° 50' N; 129° 25' E.



L. V. COOKE
Lieut. Comdr., DM, USNR
Commanding Officer.

WAR DIARY

C O N F I D E N T I A LMONTH OF APRIL 1945

Reg. No.	371
R. S. No.	

1 April 1945 Zone Time (-9)

Steaming in Transgroup 51.2, TransRon 15, Transdiv 44, Rear Admiral Jerauld Wright, USN in U.S.S. ANCON (AGC 4), O.T.C. Division guide in U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120). Enroute to Okinawa Shima, Ryukus Group. 0545 Went to general quarters and commenced approaching transport area off Southeastern coast of Okinawa. 0607 U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120) suffered hull damage by enemy attack and U.S.S. PICKENS (APA 190) assumed division guide. 0626 Sighted Okinawa Shima bearing 310 degrees true - distance 12 miles. 0628 Arrived transport area - squadron commenced carrying out ComPhibGroup Five Demonstration Landing Order A502-45. 0812 In response to despatch from ComTransRon 15 commenced lowering landing craft and despatched them to U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120) to aid in the debarkation of troops. 1430 Hoisted landing craft aboard and got underway for night retirement, leaving one LCM at HINSDALE. Transport formation U-3. 1741 Changed transport formation to "U-4".

2 April 1945

0545 Went to general quarters and again approached transport area off South eastern Okinawa. 0630 Arrived transport area off Okinawa. 0633 Opened fire on enemy aircraft crossing transport area. 0635 Ceased firing at enemy aircraft, having expended 32 rounds of 40 MM; 206 rounds of 20 MM ammunition. No hits were made on plane. 1045 Received LCVP #14 from the U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA 120), and the crew (3 men) reported on board for temporary duty. 1200 Got underway for awaiting area; transport formation Uncle 3. 1821 Test fired 5"/38 caliber gun. Expended one (1) round 5"/38 ammunition. Test satisfactory.

0800 Posit: 26° 00' N - 127° 52' E
 1200 Posit: 25° 53' N - 127° 54' E
 2000 Posit: 25° 13' N - 128° 56' E

3 April 1945

Steaming in awaiting area as assigned by C.T.U. 51. 0545 Held dawn alert. Exercised at damage control drills and instruction against suicide plane crash. Zig zagging in good visibility according to plan #7 USF 10A.

0800 Posit: 25° 00' N - 128° 50' E.
 1200 Posit: 24° 58' N - 129° 59' E.
 2000 Posit: 25° 22' N - 128° 43' E.

4 April 1945

Steaming as before. 0545 Held dawn alert. Exercised at damage control and fire drills. 1814 Executed emergency turn when screen had sonar contact. 2105 Contact lost, resumed base course.

0800 Posit: 24° 54' N - 130° 09' E
 1200 Posit: 24° 51' N - 130° 41' E
 2000 Posit: 25° 07' N - 129° 10' E

5 April 1945

Steaming as before. 0530 Held dawn alert. Exercised at damage control and fire drills and instructions against suicide plane crash. 1538 Exercised at fire drill.

0800 Posit: 24° 36' N - 130° 50' E

1200 Posit: 25° 03' N - 130° 28' E

2000 Posit: 25° 12' N - 129° 30' E

6 April 1945

Steaming as before. 0530 Held dawn alert. Exercised damage control parties at fire quarters against simulated suicide plane crash. 1821 Sounded general quarters - unidentified aircraft in vicinity. 1947 Plane identified as friendly - secured from general quarters.

0800 Posit: 25° 17' N - 129° 50' E

1200 Posit: 25° 18' N - 129° 25' E

2000 Posit: 24° 37' N - 129° 20' E

7 April 1945

Steaming as before. 0530 Held dawn alert. Exercised damage control parties at fire drill. 0700 Dropped 1000 yards astern of formation and commenced fueling the U.S.S. BROWN (DD 546). 1436 Completed fueling the U.S.S. BROWN and resumed position in formation. 1527 Exercised damage control parties at damage control and fire drill against simulated suicide plane crash.

0800 Posit: 23° 34' N - 131° 14' E

1200 Posit: 23° 46' N - 131° 46' E

2000 Posit: 23° 25' N - 132° 35' E

8 April 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at emergency drills.

0800 Posit: 23° 44' N - 132° 02' E

1200 Posit: 23° 14' N - 132° 39' E

2000 Posit: 23° 36' N - 133° 52' E

9 April 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at damage control drills against simulated suicide plane crash. 1526 Exercised general quarters repair parties at damage control drill simulating suicide plane crash.

0800 Posit: 23° 37' N - 132° 05' E

1200 Posit: 23° 15' N - 132° 42' E

2000 Posit: 22° 41' N - 133° 04' E

10 April 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at emergency drills. 0730 Designated APAs dropped astern of formation to fuel screen. 1430 APAs completed fueling screen, resumed station in formation. 1632 Made emergency turns to clear screen due to sonar sound contact. Contact lost. Resumed base course.

0800 Posit 23° 13' N - 133° 01' E

1200 Posit 22° 57' N - 133° 36' E

2000 Posit 22° 37' N - 133° 54' E

11 April 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at emergency drills against simulated suicide plane crash. 1300 In accordance with C.T.U. 51 despatch of 11 April 1945 set course for Saipan, Marianas Islands. 1530 Exercised crew at fire drill.

0800 Posit: 23° 14' N - 132° 03' E

1200 Posit: 22° 56' N - 132° 40' E

2000 Posit: 22° 17' N - 134° 12' E

12 April 1945

Steaming as before. 1600 Advanced clocks one hour to conform with (-10) zone time.

0800 Posit: 20° 56' N - 136° 34' E

1200 Posit: 20° 24' N - 137° 19' E

2000 Posit: 19° 40' N - 138° 23' E

13 April 1945

Steaming as before. Held dawn alert. Exercised at emergency drills against simulated suicide plane crash.

0800 Posit: 18° 16' N - 140° 39' E

1200 Posit: 17° 54' N - 141° 20' E

2000 Posit: 17° 04' N - 142° 50' E

14 April 1945

Steaming as before. 1131 Detected Saipan, Marianas Isles by radar, bearing 120 degrees true - distance 33 miles. 1137 Sighted Saipan bearing 102 degrees true, distance 32 miles. 1432 Entered Saipan Outer Anchorage and anchored in berth N-25.

0800 Posit 15° 43' N - 144° 40' E

1200 Posit 15° 18' N - 145° 18' E

15 April 1945

Anchored as before.

16 April 1945

Anchored as before.

17 April 1945

Anchored as before. In accordance with Commanding Officer 2nd Marine Order #12-45 debarked members of the Second Marine Division, leaving one platoon on board to care for cargo.

18 April 1945

Anchored as before. 1045 Received 3313 gallons diesel oil from YO 174.

19 April 1945

Anchored as before. 0610 Got underway to go alongside oiler. 0733 Moored alongside U.S.S. FLAMBEAU in Berth L-33. Received 286,000 gallons fuel oil and returned to Saipan Outer Anchorage Berth M-25.

20 April 1945

1300 Lowered all landing craft. 1332 In accordance with Port Director, Saipan, despatch 202000 got underway for Tanapag Harbor, Saipan to shift cargo. 1449: Moored port side to Pier A-7. 1530 Received on board troops of the 2nd Marine Division to assist in shifting cargo. 1635 Set condition I-Able and commenced shifting cargo.

21 April 1945

Continued shifting cargo.

22 April 1945

0039 Completed shifting cargo, debarked marine working parties, and loaded all landing craft aboard. 0938 Got underway for Saipan Outer Anchorage, in accordance with Port Director despatch of 22 April 1945. 1055 Anchored in Berth M-14

23 April 1945

Anchored as before.

24 April 1945

Anchored as before.

25 April 1945

Anchored as before. 0800 Captain J. H. SEYFRIED, USN, ComTransDiv 44 and staff and an inspection board from the U.S.S. SANBORN (APA 193) came on board and made a material and personnel inspection. 1045 Got underway for Saipan Inner Harbor in accordance with Port Director despatch of 24 April 1945. 1105 Held steering casualty drill. Drill satisfactory. 1154 Anchored in Berth L-52. 1212 Inspection party left the ship.

4

26 April 1945

Anchored as before.

27 April 1945

Anchored as before.

28 April 1945

Anchored as before.

29 April 1945

Anchored as before.

30 April 1945

Anchored as before.



L. V. COOKE,
Lieut. Comdr., DM, USNR,
Commanding Officer.



USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

Reg. No. 401

R. S. No. _____

File:

Ser.:

WAR DIARY

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

MONTH OF MAY, 1945

Zone Time -10

Attached to TransDiv 44, Transron 15. ComTransDiv 44 - Captain J. H. SEYFRIED, USN. ComTransRon 15 Commodore FLANAGAN, USN.

1 May 1945

Anchored in Berth L-52, Saipan, Marianas Islands.

2 May 1945

0820 Got underway for Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, Marianas to discharge contaminated fuel. 1000 Commenced discharging fuel into Tanapag Pipe Line.

3 May 1945

0130 Completed discharging fuel, having discharged 108,863 gallons.
0640 Eleven landing craft left ship to participate in practice maneuvers.
0805 Got underway for outer anchorage area, Saipan. 1113 Anchored in Berth M-5, Saipan Outer Anchorage.

4 May 1945

Anchored as before.

5 May 1945

1633 Got underway and went alongside U.S.S. FLAMBEAU in Berth L-33 for fuel.
2315 Completed fueling, having received 194,221 gallons of fuel oil.

6 May 1945

0654 Got underway for outer anchorage. 0742 Anchored in Berth M-5 Saipan Outer Anchorage.

7 May 1945

0710 Got underway to compensate magnetic compasses. Compass adjustors from YDG-9 on board. 1037 Completed compensating magnetic compasses and returned to Berth M-5, Saipan Outer Anchorage.

8 May 1945

Anchored as before.

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USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

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9 May 1945

Anchored as before.

10 May 1945

Anchored as before.

11 May 1945

Anchored as before.

12 May 1945

Anchored as before.

13 May 1945

2105 Air raid alert - went to General Quarters. 2135 All clear - secured from General Quarters. No planes sighted - no rounds fired.

14 May 1945

Anchored as before.

15 May 1945

Anchored as before.

16 May 1945

Anchored as before.

17 May 1945

1041 Got underway in obedience to Port Director's despatch 162352 for Tanapag Harbor to discharge vehicles. 1330 Commenced discharging vehicles.

18 May 1945

0205 Completed discharging vehicles. 0608 Got underway for Saipan outer anchorage. 0716 Anchored in Berth M-5, Saipan Outer Anchorage. 0938 Received 5,111 gallons diesel oil from YO 174.

19 May 1945

Conducted Battle Problem simulating suicide plane crash. Held officer critique after problem pointing out errors and making commendations and recommendations.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

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20 May 1945

Anchored as before.

21 May 1945

Anchored as before.

22 May 1945

0951 Got underway for Tanapag Harbor to discharge cargo in obedience to Port Director's despatch 212154. 1138 Moored starboard side to Pier A-6, Tanapag Harbor, 1357 Commenced discharging cargo.

23 May 1945

Continued discharging cargo.

24 May 1945

Continued discharging cargo.

25 May 1945

0728 Completed discharging cargo. 0817 Got underway for anchorage in accordance with Port Director's despatch 240536. 0907 Anchored in Berth L-60, Saipan Harbor. 1300 Debarked all Second Marine Division Troops.

26 May 1945

Anchored as before.

27 May 1945

Anchored as before.

28 May 1945

Participated in practice landing craft maneuvers in accordance with ComTransRon 15 Training Order No. A7-45.

29 May 1945

Battle Problem simulating torpedo hit. Held officers critique after problem pointing out errors and making commendations and recommendations. Again participated in practice landing craft maneuvers in accordance with ComTransRon 15 Training Order No. A7-45.

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USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

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30 May 1945

Participated in practice landing craft maneuvers in accordance with ComTransRon 15 Training Order No. A7-45.

31 May 1945

Participated in practice landing craft maneuvers in accordance with ComTransRon 15 Training Order No. A7-45.



L. V. COOKE,
Lieutenant Commander, DM, USNR,
Commanding Officer.

4

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File: WAR DIARY

Ser.: MONTH OF JUNE 1945

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

Time Zone -10

1 June 1945

Anchored in berth L-60, Saipan Harbor, Marianas Islands. Attached to TransDiv 44, TransRon 15. 0730 In accordance with ComTransRon 15 training order No. A7-45, carried out boat exercises.

2 June 1945

Anchored as before. 0715 Carried out boat exercises in accordance with Com TransRon 15 training order No. A7-45. 0905 Captain J. H. SEYFRIED, ComTransDiv 44 came on board and inspected personnel.

3 June 1945

Anchored as before.

4 June 1945

Anchored as before. 1523 Got underway for Tulagi, Solomon Islands, in accordance with ComTransRon 15 movement order No. A9-45 of 3 June 1945 in Taskgroup 12.2, in TransDiv 44, TransRon 15. 1548 Cleared Saipan Harbor, and took position in Formation Charlie Four.

5 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0200 Commenced zig zagging in accordance with USF 10A Plan #6. 0450 Went to General Quarters, dawn alert. Exercised at damage control drill simulating mine explosion forward and bomb hit aft. 0900 Exercised at abandon ship stations. 1026 Ceased zig zagging and at 1036 exercised at tactical maneuvers. 1119 Ceased tactical maneuvers and resumed zig zagging according to Plan #6. 1235 Ceased zig zagging and maneuvered into formation "Charlie 2". 1258 Commenced firing exercises at 5" shell bursts in accordance with Paragraph 13 (A) (B) (C), USF 10A. 1354 Completed exercises having fired 19 rounds 5"/38, 360 rounds 40 MM, 1205 rounds 20 MM. 1402 Maneuvered into formation Charlie 4 and 1430 resumed zig zagging accordance with Plan #6. 1632 Ceased zig zagging and again exercised at tactical exercises. 1723 Completed tactical exercises and resumed zig zagging in accordance with Plan #6. 1840 Ceased zig zagging. 1900 Commenced tactical exercises. 1939 Completed tactical maneuvers.

0800 Posit	14° 52' N	149° 04' E
1200 Posit	14° 38' N	149° 52' E
2000 Posit	14° 12' N	151° 24' E

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6 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0300 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10A. 0430 Went to General Quarters - dawn alert. Exercised at damage control drills. 0820 Exercised at abandon ship drill. 1024 Ceased zigzagging and commenced tactical exercises. 1136 Completed tactical exercises and resumed zigzagging according to plan #6. 1252 Ceased zigzagging and maneuvered into Formation Charlie 2. 1320 Commenced firing exercises in accordance with USF 10A, Paragraph 13 (A), (B), (C). 1349 Completed firing exercises having expended 18 rounds 5"/38, 236 rounds 40 MM and 13 rounds 20 MM BL&P and 692 rounds HE-I and HE-T 20 MM. 1419 Maneuvered into formation Charlie 4 and resumed zigzagging accordance with Plan #6. 1625 Ceased zigzagging and exercised at tactical maneuvers. 1935 Completed tactical maneuvers. 2000 Advanced clocks one (1) hour to conform with -11 zone time.

0800 Posit	13° 34' N	153° 55' E
1200 Posit	13° 20' N	154° 41' E
2000 Posit	12° 56' N	156° 16' E

7 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0500 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10A. 0515 Went to General Quarters - dawn alert. Exercised at damage control drills. 1023 Ceased zigzagging and exercised at tactical maneuvers. 1131 Completed tactical exercises and resumed zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6. 1250 Ceased zigzagging and maneuvered in formation Charlie 2. 1300 Exercised fire and rescue parties. 1315 Commenced firing exercises at bursts in accordance with USF 10A, Paragraph 13 (A) (B) (C). 1345 Completed firing exercises having fired 15 rounds 5"/38, 224 rounds 40 MM, 649 rounds 20 MM. 1348 Maneuvered into formation Charlie 4, and resumed zigzagging in accordance to plan #6. 1622 Ceased zigzagging and exercised at tactical maneuvers. 1707 Completed tactical exercises and resumed zigzagging. 1840 Ceased zigzagging. 1855 Commenced tactical exercises. 1934 Completed tactical exercises.

0800 Posit	12° 18' N	158° 36' E
1200 Posit	12° 07' N	159° 23' E
2000 Posit	11° 45' N	160° 58' E

8 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0500 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10A. 1030 Exercised fire and rescue parties. 1030 Commenced tactical maneuvers and ceased zigzagging. 1149 Ceased tactical maneuvers and resumed zigzagging. 1840 Ceased zigzagging. 1859 Commenced tactical maneuvers. 1938 Completed tactical maneuvers.

0800 Posit	10° 00' N	162° 39' E
1200 Posit	09° 13' N	162° 51' E
2000 Posit	07° 37' N	163° 20' E

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

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9 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0500 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10A. 0950 Ceased zigzagging. 1010 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6. 1830 Ceased zigzagging.

0800 Posit	05° 07' N	164° 18' E
1200 Posit	04° 24' N	164° 17' E
2000 Posit	02° 44' N	164° 01' E

10 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0500 Commenced zigzagging according to Plan #6, USF 10A. 0800 Crossed equator, entered southern latitudes. 1830 Ceased zigzagging.

0800 Posit	00° 00	163° 28' E
1200 Posit	00° 51' S	163° 18' E
2000 Posit	02° 30' S	163° 09' E

11 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0530 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10A. 1600 Exercised at fire drill. 1720 Ceased zigzagging, resumed base course.

0800 Posit	04° 43' S	162° 28' E
1200 Posit	05° 27' S	162° 15' E
2000 Posit	06° 44' S	161° 39' E

12 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0127 Made radar contact of Ndai Isle, Solomon Islands. 0630 Sighted Florida Island bearing 204° T distance 28 miles. 1120 Task group 12.2 dissolved; commenced steaming independently for assigned anchorage in Purvis Bay, Solomon Islands. 1246 Entered Purvis Bay and at 1310 anchored in Berth 11.

0800 Posit	08° 41' S	160° 03' E
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13 June 1945

Anchored as before. 0335 Received 123,940 gallons fuel oil from yard oiler. 0636 Got underway for anchorage in Gavutu Harbor. 0715 Anchored in berth 32, Gavutu Harbor. 1400 Received from Naval Magazine, Tulagi, 45 rounds 5"/38 ammunition, 920 rounds 20 MM.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.:

14 June 1945

Anchored as before.

15 June 1945

Anchored as before.

16 June 1945

Anchored as before. 0706 Got underway for Noumea, New Caledonia, in Guada-Noumea 3 Convoy, in accordance with C.T.U. 11.5.6 despatch 142140 of 15 June 1945. O.T.C. ComTransDiv 45, Captain Sabalot in U.S.S. LOGAN (APA 196). 1331 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10A. 1830 Ceased zigzagging. 1905 Commenced tactical exercises. 1930 Completed tactical exercises. 2005 Resumed zigzagging according to Plan #6.

0800 Posit	09° 14' S	160° 10' E
1200 Posit	09° 35' S	160° 50' E
2000 Posit	11° 15' S	161° 05' E

17 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0630 Commenced zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10A. 0954 Ceased zigzagging and exercised at tactical maneuvers. 1027 Completed tactical maneuvers and resumed zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6. 1321 Ceased zigzagging. 1330 Commenced firing exercises in accordance with USF 10A, Paragraph 13 (A) (B) (C). 1400 Completed firing exercises having expended 10 rounds 5"/38, 290 rounds 40 MM and 1866 rounds 20 MM. 1403 Resumed zigzagging according to plan #6. 1855 Ceased zigzagging and commenced exercising at tactical maneuvers. 1930 Completed tactical maneuvers and resumed zigzagging in accordance with Plan #6.

0800 Posit	14° 04' S	161° 27' E
1200 Posit	14° 47' S	161° 39' E
2000 Posit	16° 21' S	161° 40' E

18 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0001 Ceased zigzagging. 0630 Resumed zigzagging according to Plan #6. 0955 Ceased zigzagging and commenced tactical maneuvers. 1102 Completed tactical maneuvers and resumed zigzagging. 1325 Ceased zigzagging and commenced firing exercises in accordance with USF 10A, Paragraph 13 (A) (B) (C). 1400 Completed firing exercises, having expended 2119 rounds 20 MM, 545 rounds 40 MM, 30 rounds 5"/38. 1402 Resumed zigzagging. 2137 Radar contact of New Caledonia bearing 050° T, distance 38 miles. 2250 Ceased zigzagging.

0800 Posit	18° 45' S	161° 57' E
1200 Posit	19° 23' S	162° 16' E
2000 Posit	20° 31' S	163° 14' E

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.:

19 June 1945

Steaming as before. 0900 Exercised at general quarters and fire and damage control drills simulating suicide plane crash. 1220 Commenced steering various courses and speeds approaching Bulari Passage. 1239 Passed through Bulari Passage and entered harbor, proceeding up harbor toward anchorage. 1450 Anchored in Great Road, Noumea, New Caledonia. 1935: Received 48,420 gallons fuel oil from yard oiler.

0800 Posit 22° 11' S 165° 28' E

20 June 1945

Anchored as before. 0649 Lowered all land craft and got underway for pier. 0722 Moored to port side to Pier 9, Nickel Works, Noumea, New Caledonia.

21 June 1945

Moored as before.

22 June 1945

Moored as before.

23 June 1945

Moored as before.

24 June 1945

Moored as before. 1930 Commenced loading cargo.

25 June 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

26 June 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

27 June 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.:

28 June 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

29 June 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

30 June 1945

Moored as before. 1137 Completed loading cargo. 1450 Loaded all landing craft aboard. Secured ship for sea.



L. V. COOKE,
Lieut. Comdr., DM, USNR,
Commanding.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

WAR DIARY

Ser.:

MONTH OF JULY 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Zone Time (-11)

Sunday 1 July 1945

Moored to Pier #9, Nickel Works, Noumea, New Caledonia. 0617 Got underway for Guam, Marianas Islands, in accordance with Port Director routing instructions of 29 June 1945. 0825 Took departure from Amedee Lighthouse bearing 050° and wrecked ship bearing 010° T; set course 287° true. 0947 Changed course to 310° true. 1000 Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10A. 1327 Exercised crew at general quarters. Exercised damage control repair parties at drills and instructions. 1344 Exercised at abandon ship stations. 1800 Ceased sig-zagging and resumed base course. 2000 Changed course to 304 degrees true. 2300 Commenced sig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10A.

0800 Posit 22-29 S	166-29 E
1200 Posit 22-08 S	165-44 E
2000 Posit 21-00 S	164-17 E

2 July 1945

0430 Changed course to 348 degrees true. 0813 Increased standard speed to 14.5 knots (85 RPM). 1335 Ceased zig-zagging--resumed base course. 1345 Changed course to 016° true. 1400 Resumed zig-zagging in accordance with USF 10B Plan #6. 1825 Ceased sig-zagging and resumed base course.

0800 Posit 19-12 S	162-28 E
1200 Posit 18-18 S	162-15 E
2000 Posit 16-32 S	162-29 E

3 July 1945

0000 Commenced sig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10B. 1830 Ceased sig-zagging and resumed base course.

0800 Posit 13-45 S	163-17 E
1200 Posit 12-50 S	163-33 E
2000 Posit 11-00 S	164-04 E

4 July 1945

0000 Changed course to 001 degrees true. 0430 Commenced sig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10B. 1330 Changed course to 003° true. 1900 Ceased sig-zagging and resumed base course

0800 Posit 08-12 S	164-12 E
1200 Posit 07-21 S	164-21 E
2000 Posit 05-36 S	164-13 E

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.: 2.

5 July 1945

0230 Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10B. 1000 In obedience to ComSoPac All-1(75), #01116 of 7 May 1944, the ship was sprayed with Freon Pyrothreum for prevention of malarial and dengue mesquitoses.

0800 Posit 02-43 S	164-14 E
1200 Posit 01-47 S	164-13 E
2000 Posit 00-06 N	164-14 E

6 July 1945

1725 Ceased zig-zagging and resumed base course. 1730 Changed base course to 343° true. 1740 Resumed zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10B.

0800 Posit 02-53 N	164-12 E
1200 Posit 03-47 N	164-10 E
2000 Posit 05-29 N	164-05 E

7 July 1945

0800 Ceased zig-zagging and reduced standard speed to 14 knots (82 RPM). Changed course to 347° true. Resumed zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #7 USF 10B. 0820 Exercised crew at general quarters and held damage control drills simulating suicide plane crash. 2209 Sighted Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, by radar bearing 344° true, distance 22 miles. 2240 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course. 2245 Changed course to 307° true. 2251 Resumed zig-zagging in accordance to plan #7 USF 10B. 2357 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course.

0800 Posit 08-07 N	163-05 E
1200 Posit 08-52 N	162-53 E
2000 Posit 10-30 N	162-23 E

8 July 1945

0000 Changed base course to 279° true. 0002 Resumed zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #7 USF 10B.

0800 Posit 11-30 N	160-12 E
1200 Posit 11-37 N	159-20 E
2000 Posit 11-49 N	157-40 E

9 July 1945

0530 Sounded general quarters - dawn alert. Conducted damage control drills against simulated plane crash. 0800 Changed course to 280° true. 1725 Ceased zig-zagging and resumed base course. 1745 Resumed zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #7 USF 10B.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.: 3.

1800 Retarded ship's clocks one hour to conform with (-10) zone time. 2000 Changed base course to 279° true.

0800 Posit 12-13 N	155-08 E
1200 Posit 12-29 N	154-08 E
2000 Posit 12-48 N	152-09 E

10 July 1945

0500 Sounded general quarters - dawn alert. Held damage control drills against simulated suicide plane crash. 1232 Changed course to 277° true. 1930 Changed course to 274° true. 2000 Reduced standard speed to 13.5 knots (79 RPM).

0800 Posit 13-11 N	149-30 E
1200 Posit 13-22 N	148-40 E
2000 Posit 13-34 N	146-54 E

11 July 1945

0111 Contacted Rota, Marianas Islands, by radar bearing 308° true, distance 50 miles. 0233 Contacted Guam, Marianas Islands by radar bearing 266° true, distance 36 miles. 0250 Sighted Guam, Marianas Islands, bearing 254 degrees true, distance 33 miles. 0412 Decreased standard speed to 13.0 knots (74 RPM). 0500 Ceased zig-zagging and resumed base course 274° true and reduced standard speed to 70 RPM. 0545 Changed course to 225° true, commenced using various courses and speeds approaching Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas. 0759 Passed entrance buoy #1 abeam to port close aboard and entered Apra Harbor. 0823 Moored fore and aft to buoys S-6 and S-8, berth No. 19.

12 July 1945

Moored as before.

13 July 1945

1725 Shifted berths to Dock "Zebra." 2000 Commenced discharging cargo.

14 July 1945

Moored as before. Continued discharging cargo.

15 July 1945

Moored as before. Continued discharging cargo.

16 July 1945

Moored as before. Continued discharging cargo.

17 July 1945

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.: 4.

17 July 1945

Moored as before. Shifted berths to No. 561 and continued discharging cargo. Completed discharging cargo.

18 July 1945

0913 Got underway for Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, in accordance with Port Director, Guam, routing instructions 1735 of 17 July 1945. 0918 Exercised crew at general quarters. 0920 With Apra Harbor entrance buoy abeam to starboard, close aboard, took departure from Guam. Set course 270° true, standard speed 14 knots (82 RPM). 0923 Changed course to 200° true. 0940 Changed course to 180° true. 1040 Changed course to 140° true. 1100 Changed course to 091° true. 1200 Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10B. 2100 Changed course to 098° true.

1200 Posit 13-08 N	144-51 E
2000 Posit 13-12	146-35 E

19 July 1945

0040 Ceased zig-zagging - resumed base course. 0500 Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6 USF 10B. 1800 Advanced ship's clocks one hour to conform to minus eleven zone time.

0800 Posit 12-52 N	149-12 E
1200 Posit 12-43 N	150-06 E
2000 Posit 12-31 N	151-31 E

20 July 1945

0200 Ceased zig-zagging - resumed base course. 0530 Resumed zig-zagging. 0800 Changed base course to 096° true. 1320 Changed course to 097° true. 1900 Ceased zig-zagging and resumed base course. 2036 Changed base course to 100° true. 2255 Reduced standard speed to 13 knots (78 RPM).

0800 Posit 12-03 N	153-54 E
1200 Posit 12-02 N	154-50 E
2000 Posit 11-56 N	156-30 E

21 July 1945

0002 Changed standard speed to 14.0 knots (82 RPM). 0530 Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with plan #6, USF 10B. 2000 Ceased zig-zagging - changed base course to 111° true. 2245 Changed course to 160° true. 2300 Commenced zig-zagging in accordance with Plan #6, USF 10B.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.: 5.

21 July 1945 (Continued)

0800 Posit 11-36 N	159-13 E
1200 Posit 11-23 N	160-10 E
2000 Posit 11-14 N	161-51 E

22 July 1945

1233 Decreased standard speed to 13.5 knots (80 RPM). 2000 Changed course to 150° true.

0800 Posit 09-08 N	162-59 E
1200 Posit 08-14 N	163-17 E
2000 Posit 06-38 N	163-43 E

23 July 1945

0440 Ceased zig-zagging - resumed base course. 0445 Changed base course to 190° true. 0447 Resumed zig-zagging. 0836 Exercised crew at general quarters, simulating battle problem. Completed battle problem and secured.

0800 Posit 04-43 N	164-22 E
1200 Posit 03-34 N	164-15 E
2000 Posit 01-59 N	163-57 E

24 July 1945

1525 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course. 1530 Changed course to 171° true complying with a change of destination to Noumea, New Caledonia, in accordance with ComSoPac despatch 230931 of July 1945. 1535 Resumed zig-zagging.

0800 Posit 00-34 S	163-22 E
1200 Posit 01-26 S	163-12 E
2000 Posit 03-13 S	163-10 E

25 July 1945

0801 Decreased standard speed to 13 knots (78 RPM). 1235 Changed course to 172° true.

0800 Posit 05-53 S	163-33 E
1200 Posit 06-42 S	163-41 E
2000 Posit 08-24 S	163-53 E

26 July 1945

0125 Ceased zig-zagging - resumed base course. 0130 Changed course to 192° true. 0135 resumed zig-zagging. 1900 Ceased zig-zagging - resumed base course. 1911 Changed course to 185° true.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

Ser.: 6.

26 July 1945 (Continued)

0800 Posit 10-53 S	163-42 E
1200 Posit 11-30 S	163-34 E
2000 Posit 12-56 S	163-06 E

27 July 1945

0700 Changed course to 188° true and increased standard speed to 14.0 knots (82 RPM). 1229 Changed course to 190° true. 2300 Changed course to 168° true.

0800 Posit 15-13 S	162-46 E
1200 Posit 15-59 S	162-34 E
2000 Posit 17-35 S	162-10 E

28 July 1945

0739 Increased standard speed to 14.5 knots (85 RPM). 1200 Changed course to 137° true. 2000 Changed course to 126° true.

0800 Posit 19-42 S	162-14 E
1200 Posit 20-11 S	162-48 E
2000 Posit 21-13 S	163-48 E

29 July 1945

0549 Increased speed to 15 knots (88 RPM). 0600 Changed course to 105° true. 0702 Changed course to 110° true. 0938 Sighted Amedee Island Light bearing 098° true, distance 20 miles. Commenced steering various courses approaching Bulari Passage. 1145 Passed through Bulari Passage and commenced steering various courses approaching Port Noumea. 1238 Passed through Little Entrance and entered Port Noumea harbor. 1304 Moored portside to Grand Quay docks #2, Port Noumea, New Caledonia.

0800 Posit 22-22 S	165-47 E
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30 July 1945

Moored as before. 1040 Commenced loading cargo. 1325 Shifted to Grand Quay Dook #1.

31 July 1945

Moored as before. Continued loading cargo.

L. V. COOKE, Lt. Comdr., DM, USNR
Commanding Officer.

REG. NO 713

R. S. NO

REG. SHEET NO 7

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

File:

Ser.:

WAR DIARY

Month of September 1945

Attached to Transport Division 44, Transport Squadron 15

Zone Time -10

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

1. September 1945

Moored starboard side to pier A-6, Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, Marianas Islands. Discharging roll-up cargo from South Pacific. 0620 - Commenced loading cargo for Guam.

2 September 1945

Moored as before. Continuous loading and discharging of cargo.

3 September 1945

Moored as before. 0245 - Completed discharging cargo. 0300 - Completed loading cargo. 0708 - Got underway in obedience to Port Director, Saipan dispatch of 2 September 1945, for Guam. 1629 - Passed Orote Point abeam to starboard, distance 700 yards. Entered Apra Harbor, Guam. 1652 - Moored fore and aft to buoys in berth #10.

1200 Posit 14° 26' N 144° 58' E

4 September 1945

Moored as before.

5 September 1945

0620 - Moored as before. Underway in obedience to port director's dispatch 040927 from mooring berth #10, to dock "Peter", inner harbor. 0650 - Moored starboard side to dock "Peter." 1005 - Commenced discharging cargo.

6 September 1945

Moored as before. Continuous discharging of cargo.

7 September 1945

Moored as before. Continuous discharging of cargo.

8 September 1945

Moored as before. Continuous discharging of cargo.

148592

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

II

Ser.:

9 September 1945

Moored as before. 0325 - Completed discharging cargo. 0803 - Got underway for Leyte, Philippine Islands, in obedience to port director's routing instructions #2298 of 8 September 1945. Steaming independently.

1200 Posit 13° 24' N 143° 50' E
2000 Posit 13° 03' N 141° 48' E

10 September 1945

Steaming as before. 1800 - Retarded all ship's clocks one hour to conform with minus nine zone time.

0800 Posit 12° 37' N 138° 50' E
1200 Posit 12° 24' N 137° 34' E
2000 Posit 12° 05' N 135° 29' E

11 September 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit 11° 41' N 132° 30' E
1200 Posit 11° 31' N 131° 18' E
2000 Posit 11° 10' N 129° 14' E

12 September 1945

Steaming as before. 0813 - Passed Suluan Island light abeam to starboard, distance $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Entered Leyte Gulf. 0815 - Exercised crew at general quarters. Exercised damage control parties simulating mine hit. 0843 - Exercised at fire quarters. 0913 - Commenced lying to off HECP, Homonhon Island. 1036 - Received Harbor entrance instructions and got underway for San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. 1253 - Entered San Pedro Bay Channel. 1404 - Anchored in berth 64, San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippines. Reported to Commander, Amphibious Group THREE.

13 September 1945

Anchored as before. 0616 - Underway to refuel. 0724 - Moored port side to oiler IX-142 in berth #76, San Pedro Bay, and refueled. 1020 - Underway in obedience from ComPhibsGrp 3 dispatch 111308 dated September 1945, enroute Abuyog Area, Leyte Gulf. 1327 - Anchored in berth #1027 Abuyog Area. Reported to CTF 34 for duty.

14 September 1945

Anchored as before. 1630 - Commenced combat loading supplies and equipment of 81st Infantry Division (4), IX U.S. Army.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

III

Ser.:

15 September 1945

Anchored as before. Continuous loading.

16 September 1945

Anchored as before. Continuous loading.

17 September 1945

Anchored as before. 1855 - Completed loading.

18 September 1945

Anchored as before. 0628 - Got underway in obedience to CTF 34 sortie plan 1-45, dated 15 September 1945, enroute from Leyte, Philippine Islands to Aomori, Honshu, Japan. Steaming in Transport Division 44, the fourth ship in a column of five. Task Unit guide in U.S.S. KERSHAW (APA-176). CTF 34 Flag in U.S.S. APPALACHIAN (AGC-1). 1343 - Exercised crew at general quarters. Commenced scheduled AA firing at towed sieve. 1401 - Exercised repair parties at damage control stations. 1432 - Secured from general quarters and damage control drills and scheduled AA firing, having expended five (5) rounds of 5"/38 ammunition.

1200 Posit 10° 35' N 126° 00' E
2000 Posit 12° 05' N 126° 55' E

19 September 1945

Steaming as before. 0820 - Exercised crew at abandon ship drill.

0800 Posit 14° 27' N 128° 08' E
1200 Posit 15° 16' N 128° 34' E
2000 Posit 16° 52' N 129° 27' E

20 September 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit 19° 23' N 130° 50' E
1200 Posit 20° 16' N 131° 21' E
2000 Posit 22° 03' N 132° 24' E

21 September 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit 24° 29' N 133° 41' E
1200 Posit 25° 24' N 134° 13' E
2000 Posit 27° 10' N 135° 16' E

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

IV

Ser.:

22 September 1945

Steaming as before. 0820 - Exercised crew at general quarters and damage control problem. 0850 - Exercised crew at fire drill.

0800 Posit 28° 41' N 136° 50' E
1200 Posit 30° 26' N 137° 18' E
2000 Posit 32° 03' N 138° 20' E

23 September 1945

Steaming as before. 0312 - Stopped engines due to engine room casualty caused by loss of lube oil pressure. 0313 - Regained lube oil pressure. Casualty completely repaired. Resumed standard speed. 0842 - Reduced speed to two-thirds due to engine room casualty caused by failure of forced draft blower to #2 boiler. 0852 - Engine room casualty repaired. Resumed standard speed.

0800 Posit 34° 20' N 140° 38' E
1200 Posit 35° 16' N 141° 11' E
2000 Posit 37° 07' N 141° 55' E

24 September 1945

Steaming as before. 0900 - U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA-33) assumed tactical command. Commenced tactical maneuvers. 1128 - U.S.S. KERSHAW (APA-176) resumed tactical command. Completed tactical maneuvers. 1617 - Executed formation 1-T, and commenced streaming paravanes. 1757 - Resumed formation From 2-T.

0800 Posit 39° 48' N 142° 32' E
1200 Posit 40° 25' N 142° 32' E
2000 Posit 41° 41' N 141° 55' E

25 September 1945

Steaming as before. 0200 - With Oma Saki, abeam to port, distance 8 miles, entered Aomori Wan swept channel. 0500 - Cleared swept channel. Commenced steering various courses at various speeds approaching transport area, Aomori, Japan. 0502 - Retrieved paravanes. 0510 - Passed O Shima point abeam to port, distance five miles, entered Aomori Wan. 0621 - Anchored in berth 14, transport area anchorage "A", Aomori, Japan. 0825 - Commenced discharging cargo. 1140 - Ceased discharging cargo. 1159 - Underway for inner Aomori Harbor. 1229 - Anchored in inner Aomori Harbor. Resumed discharging cargo.

26 September 1945

Anchored as before. Continuous discharging of cargo. 1145 - Completed discharging cargo. 1600 - Underway shifting anchorage. 1641 - Anchored in anchorage "A", berth 14, Aomori Wan, Aomori, Japan.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

V

Ser.:

27 September 1945

Anchored as before.

28 September 1945

Anchored as before.


29 September 1945

Anchored as before.

30 September 1945

Anchored as before. 0555 - Underway in obedience to ComTransRon 15 movement order 10-45 in Task Unit 34.3.7, the third ship in a column of four ships, enroute Aomori, Wan, Honshu, Japan to San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. 0630 - Launched paravanes.

2000 Posit 40° 30' N 142° 13' E


L. V. COOKE,
Lt. Comdr., USNR
Commanding Officer.

REG NO 723
REG. SHEET NO 49

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File: c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California
Ser.:

WAR DIARY

Month of October 1945

Attached to Task Force 34 Task Unit 34.3.17

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

1 October 1945

Steaming in task unit 34.3.17 enroute from Aomori, Japan to San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. Our position is third ship in a column of four ships. Officer in tactical command and guide in U.S.S. Theenim, AKA63.

0800 Posit 37-53 N 141-53 E
1200 Posit 36-28 N 141-33 E
2000 Posit 34-46 N 140-40 E

2 October 1945

Steaming as before. 1112 - In obedience to CTF 34's 020118 dispatch, destination altered to Tokyo Bay in order to avoid typhoon.

0800 Posit 33-11 N 139-00 E
1200 Posit 33-02 N 138-30 E
2000 Posit 35-35 N 139-34 E

3 October 1945

Steaming as before. 0000 - Entered Tokyo Bay swept channel. 0144 - Anchored bearing 210° (T) distance 700 yards from berth #27, anchorage "F", Tokyo Bay. 1540 - Underway in obedience to dispatch orders from CTG 34.3 enroute from Tokyo Bay, Japan to Manila, Philippine Islands. Our position is third ship in a column of four ships comprising task unit 34.3.17. Officer in tactical command and guide in U.S.S. Theenim, AKA63.

2000 Posit 34-42 N 139-16 E

4 October 1945

Steaming as before. 0957 - In obedience to CTF 32's dispatch 032350 destination altered to Tokyo Bay to avoid typhoon. 1801 - Passed Ira Saki light abeam to port, distance 12 miles. 2015 - Entered Tokyo Bay swept channel.

0800 Posit 33-00 N 138-29 E
1200 Posit 33-02 N 138-30 E

5 October 1945

150208 Steaming as before. 0007 - Commenced steaming independently for anchorage. 0200 - Anchored in berth Baker 21, Tokyo Bay.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

II

Ser.:

6 October 1945

Anchored as before. 0755 - Got underway in task unit 34.3.17 for Manila, Philippine Islands in obedience to ComThirdPhib Force dispatch 051204. Our position third ship in a column of five ships. Guide and OTC in U.S.S. Theenim, AKA63.

1200 Posit	34-56 N	139-21 E
2000 Posit	33-49 N	137-54 E

7 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	32-15 N	137-54 E
1200 Posit	32-02 N	135-52 E
2000 Posit	30-56 N	134-10 E

8 October 1945

Steaming as before. 0815 - Exercised crew at general quarters stations. 0855 - Exercised crew at fire quarters. 0913 - Exercised crew at fire and rescue stations.

0800 Posit	30-06 N	132-56 E
1200 Posit	30-02 N	132-44 E
2000 Posit	29-24 N	132-36 E

9 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	28-28 N	133-49 E
1200 Posit	27-50 N	134-26 E
2000 Posit	26-42 N	135-29 E

10 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	25-22 N	136-20 E
1200 Posit	24-48 N	135-47 E
2000 Posit	23-28 N	135-14 E

11 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	22-34 N	132-28 E
1200 Posit	22-17 N	131-27 E
2000 Posit	21-47 N	129-23 E

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

III

Ser.:

12 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	21-18 N	126-49 E
1200 Posit	20-47 N	125-40 E
2000 Posit	20-21 N	123-42 E

13 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	19-42 N	120-42 E
1200 Posit	18-52 N	120-11 E
2000 Posit	17-04 N	119-25 E

14 October 1945

1110 Entered south channel, Manila Bay. Commenced steaming independently to anchorage. 1417 - Anchored in berth 612, Manila Bay.

0800 Posit	14-26 N	119-59 E
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15 October 1945

Anchored as before.

16 October 1945

Anchored as before.

17 October 1945

Anchored as before. 1254 - Underway in obedience to orders from CTU 34.3.17 proceeding to oiler to refuel ship. 1711 - Completed fueling ship. Underway for anchorage berth 612. 1754 - Anchored in berth 612.

18 October 1945

Anchored as before.

19 October 1945

1325 - Underway in obedience to orders from Port Director Manila, dispatch #27160143 enroute anchorage #45 to pick up pilot. 1430 - Anchored in berth #45 waiting pilot. 1735 - Pilot came on board. Underway in obedience to Port Director dispatch #2716/0143 for pier #1 berth 2, inner Manila harbor. 1907 - Moored portside to pier #1 berth #2. 2115 - Commenced loading 8th Army 1329 Engineer general service regiment supplies and equipment.

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

IV

Ser.:

20 October 1945

Moored as before. Continuous loading. 1700 - 163 officers and men of the 1329 Engineering regiment of the 8th Army reported aboard as passengers for transportation to Yokohama, Japan.

21 October 1945

Moored as before. Continuous loading. 0325 - Completed loading 8th Army 1329 Engineering regiment supplies and equipment. 0710 - Underway in obedience to orders from Port Director Manila, to anchorage #51. 0802 - Anchored in berth #51. 1735 - Underway in obedience to ComPhib Group 9 movement order #A919-45 dated 21 October 1945 in task unit 33.2.17 enroute Manila, Philippine Islands to Tokyo Bay. Our position second ship in a column of three ships. OTC and guide in U.S.S. Theenim, AKA63.

22 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	16-38 N	119-46 E
1200 Posit	17-28 N	119-57 E
2000 Posit	18-51 N	120-26 E

23 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	20-09 N	122-18 E
1200 Posit	20-35 N	122-38 E
2000 Posit	21-33 N	123-52 E

24 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	23-08 N	125-30 E
1200 Posit	23-50 N	126-16 E
2000 Posit	25-13 N	127-37 E

25 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	27-18 N	129-51 E
1200 Posit	27-55 N	130-41 E
2000 Posit	29-13 N	132-25 E

USS SOUTHAMPTON, AKA-66

File:

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Ser.:

26 October 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	30-57 N	134-48 E
1200 Posit	31-30 N	135-32 E
2000 Posit	32-43 N	137-11 E

27 October 1945

Steaming as before. 0554 - Entered Tokyo Bay swept channel. 0854 - By order of the OTC, task unit 33.2.17 dissolved. Commenced steaming independently for anchorage. 1111- Anchored in berth #31 Baker, Tokyo Bay, Japan.

28 October 1945

Anchored as before. 1230 - Underway in obedience to port director dispatch #VH61, dated 27 October 1945, enroute South Pier "Charlie", Yokohama, Japan. 1349 - Pilot came aboard. 1450 - Moored port side to pier. 1620 - Commenced discharging 8th Army 1329 Engineer general service regiment cargo.

29 October 1945

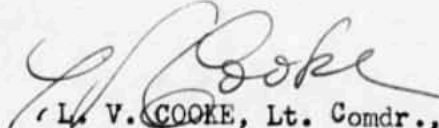
Moored as before. Continuous discharging of cargo. 1540 - Disembarked all troop officers and men. 1600 - Anchor Availability granted till 3 November 1945 for boiler cleaning. Reference CTF 33 dispatch 290024.

30 October 1945

Moored as before. Continuous discharging of cargo. 1220 - Completed discharging cargo. 1315 - Underway in obedience to orders from port director, Yokohama dated 30 October 1945 enroute anchorage berth B-24, Tokyo Bay. 1412 - Anchored in berth B-24, Tokyo.

31 October 1945

Anchored as before. Awaiting further orders.


L. V. COOKE, Lt. Comdr., USNR
Commanding Officer.

U.S.S. SOUTHAMPTON (AKA-66)
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California

WAR DIARY

Month of November 1945

Attached to ComPhibsGroupTHREE

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

1 November 1945

Anchored in berth Baker 24, Tokyo Bay, Japan, cleaning boilers. Availability granted by CTF 33.

2 November 1945

Anchored as before.

3 November 1945

Anchored as before. 1100 - Completed cleaning boilers. Reported ready for sea. 1500 - Pursuant to CinCPac/CinCPoa, despatch #032351, this vessel attached to ComWesSeaFron for operational control.

4 November 1945

Anchored as before.

5 November 1945

Anchored as before.

6 November 1945

Anchored as before.

7 November 1945

Anchored as before.

8 November 1945

Anchored as before. 0425 - Observed S.S. TRINIDAD VICTORY dragging anchor. Stationed all special sea and anchor details. 0434 - Bridge of S.S. TRINIDAD VICTORY touched this vessel approximately 10 feet from port bow, causing slight damage to this vessel's rail and bulwark. 1234 - Ensign B.A. HENDRIX from Port Director's office, Yokohama, and Captain OLSEN, of the War Shipping Administration came aboard to investigate the causes of the collision and to determine the extent of damage. 1607 - Underway in obedience to orders from Port Director, Yokohama, dated 8 November 1945 to change berths. 1707 - Anchored in berth Baker 139 to load passengers for United States.

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11 DEC 1945

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Reg. No. 1937

153002

9 November 1945

Anchored as before. 1005 - Two hundred and forty-one (241) enlisted men and twenty-three (23) officers reported on board as passengers for transportation to the United States.

10 November 1945

Anchored as before.

11 November 1945

Anchored as before. 1058 - Underway in obedience to orders from Port Director, Navy 3923. Steaming independently enroute from Tokyo Bay, Japan to San Francisco, California, U.S.A. 1205 - With Taurugi light abeam to starboard, distance 3.5 miles, departed from Tokyo Bay. Commenced steering great circle course for San Francisco,

2000 Posit 35° 25' N 141° 18' E

12 November 1945

Steaming as before. 1300 - Wind force 7 to 8. Seas becoming progressively heavier. This vessel rolling 42° degrees to port, 40° starboard.

0800 Posit 37° 08' N 143° 47' E

1200 Posit 37° 31' N 144° 44' E

2000 Posit 38° 21' N 146° 28' E

13 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced ship's clocks one hour to conform with minus ten zone time.

0800 Posit 39° 43' N 149° 40' E

1200 Posit 39° 53' N 150° 52' E

2000 Posit 40° 50' N 153° 14' E

14 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced ship's clocks one hour to conform with minus eleven zone time. 0900 - Exercised crew and passengers at fire and abandon ship drill.

0800 Posit 42° 16' N 156° 24' E

1200 Posit 42° 44' N 157° 26' E

2000 Posit 43° 37' N 160° 13' E

15 November 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit 44° 52' N 164° 02' E

1200 Posit 45° 13' N 165° 24' E

2000 Posit 45° 55' N 168° 19' E

16 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced all ship's clocks one hour to conform with minus twelve zone time.

0800 Posit	46° 44' N	172° 13' E
1200 Posit	46° 54' N	173° 47' E
2000 Posit	47° 14' N	176° 42' E

17 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced all ship's clocks one hour to conform with plus eleven zone time. 0923 - Pursuant to ComWesSeaFron despatch F4990, dated 17 November, ship's destination changed to Portland, Oregon. Commenced steering great circle course for Portland.

0800 Posit	47° 56' N	170° 25' W
1200 Posit	47° 55' N	168° 58' W
2000 Posit	48° 22' N	166° 09' W

18 November 1945

Steaming as before.

0800 Posit	48° 53' N	161° 32' W
1200 Posit	48° 58' N	159° 16' W
2000 Posit	48° 58' N	156° 08' W

19 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced all ship's clocks one hour to conform with plus ten zone time.

0800 Posit	48° 58' N	151° 26' W
1200 Posit	48° 58' N	150° 15' W
2000 Posit	48° 58' N	147° 09' W

20 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced all ship's clocks one hour to conform with plus nine zone time.

0800 Posit	48° 29' N	142° 55' W
1200 Posit	48° 17' N	141° 23' W
2000 Posit	47° 58' N	138° 37' W

21 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0100 - Advanced all ship's clocks one hour to conform to plus eight zone time.

0800 Posit	48° 14' N	134° 35' W
1200 Posit	47° 57' N	133° 00' W
2000 Posit	47° 20' N	130° 15' W

22 November 1945

Steaming as before. 1337 - Sighted Oregon Coast bearing $125^{\circ}(T)$ distance eleven miles. 1358 - Passed Japanese type horned mine abeam to port, close aboard. Sounded general quarters. Commenced maneuvering at various courses and speeds in effort to sink mine. 1408 - Commenced firing at mine. 1452 - Ceased firing at mine. Mine determined sunk by puncturing. Resumed base course. 1715 - Pilot H. J. SCHROEDER came aboard and took Conn. 1743 - Steering casualty caused by failure of rudder indicator. Shifted steering to truck wheel. 1816 - Steering casualty repaired. Resumed steering control in wheelhouse. 1819 - Entered Columbia River. 1952 - Pilot left ship. Pilot S.V. WINSLOW came aboard and took Conn.

0800 Posit $46^{\circ} 41' N$ $126^{\circ} 52' W$
1200 Posit $46^{\circ} 24' N$ $125^{\circ} 27' W$

23 November 1945

Steaming as before. 0140 - Entered Willamette River. Proceeding to Inter-State Docks, Portland, 0412 - Moored starboard side to Inter-State Docks, Portland, Oregon. 0900 - All passengers left the ship for further transportation to various stations. 1305 - Conducted arrival conference.

24 November 1945

Moored as before.

25 November 1945

Moored as before.

26 November 1945

Moored as before.

27 November 1945

Moored as before.

28 November 1945

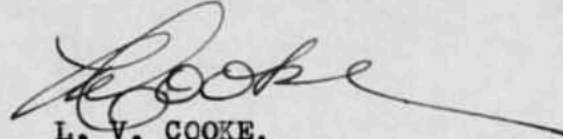
Moored as before. 0723 - Pilot T.S. REEDER came aboard. 0757 - Underway for Astoria, Oregon, in obedience to verbal orders from Lt. Comdr. RUSSELL, USNR, to discharge ammunition. 0806 - Stopped all engines due to engine room casualty caused by damage to the reduction gears. Tug WILAVIS took a line and commenced towing. 0843 - Anchored in Willamette River off Swan Island. 1834 - Underway in tow for Inter-State Docks. 2000 - Moored starboard side to USS APPLING (APA-58) Inter-State Docks.

29 November 1945

Moored as before.

30 November 1945

Moored as before. 0420 - Pilot O. G. GRAHAM came aboard. 0515 - Got underway in tow for anchorage in Columbia River to discharge ammunition in accordance with Port Director's despatch #291928 dated 29 November. 0730 - Entered Columbia River. 0733 - Anchored with Kelly Pt. bearing 305(T) distance 9 miles. 0830 - LST 270 made fast to starboard side to receive ammunition. Commenced discharging ammunition. 1645 - Completed discharging all ammunition. LST 270 cast off. 2050 - Underway in tow for Municipal terminal #1, Pier B, Kaiser Co. Portland. 2059 - Entered Willamette River.



L. V. COOKE,
Lt. Comdr., USNR
Commanding Officer.



HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP SOUTHAMPTON (AKA-66)

The U.S.S. SOUTHAMPTON, a Maritime Commission C-2 type hull, converted to Navy specifications as an Attack Cargo Vessel (A.K.A.), was built by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, at Wilmington, North Carolina, and launched July 28, 1944.

The ship was sponsored by Ensign Rama V. BLACKWOOD, USNR (W), stationed at Charlotte, North Carolina, and two enlisted Waves, Dorothy LAZAIR, Y1c, and Mary BLACKWELL, Y2c, both of Raleigh, North Carolina, commemorating the second anniversary of the Women's Naval Reserve.

The ship was accepted by the Navy on September 16, 1944 from the Maritime Commission after successfully completing ship yard trial runs. The U.S. Navy Ferry Crew #1 came aboard and sailed the ship to the Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina the same day. Here the vessel was outfitted and armament installed.

The ship's crew was assembled at the U.S. Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island, and the Landing Boat Crews at Fort Pierce, Florida.

On October 8, 1944, the U.S.S. SOUTHAMPTON was placed in full commission and Lieutenant Commander Lester V. COOKE, D-M, USNR, accepted the ship and took command. The complement totalled 35 officers and 326 enlisted men. Of these, 24 officers and 207 were ship's personnel, while 11 officers and 119 enlisted men were landing boat personnel.

On October 14, 1944, the ship got underway from the Charleston Navy Yard to make a trial run and test fire newly installed armament. All tests were successful and the ship returned to the Navy Yard to complete outfitting. The following armament was installed: one (1) 5"/38 Dual Purpose, four (4) 40mm twin mounts, and sixteen (16) 20 mm single mounts.

On October 18, 1944, outfitting was completed and the ship reported for duty, orders having been received to proceed to Norfolk, Virginia, for shakedown cruise. October 21, 1944, underway for Hampton Roads, Virginia, proceeding independently. Arrived October 22, 1944, and reported for shakedown cruise. A military and materiel inspection of the ship was conducted by Commander, Amphibious Forces Training Command, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and we received out landing craft consisting of eight (8) (L.C.M.'s) Landing Craft Mechanical, fifteen (15) (L.C.V.P.'s) Landing Craft Vehicles, Personnel, and one (1) L.C.-L) Launch.

From October 24, 1944 to November 2, 1944, held shakedown cruise in Chesapeake Bay. During this period the crew was exercised at handling landing craft, anti-aircraft target practice at towed sleeves, streaming paravanes and various drills. Cargo handling and hoisting and lowering of landing craft were carried out under most adverse weather and sea conditions, due to gale-force winds.

November 2, 1944, ship entered Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia, for three day post-shakedown availability. On November 5, 1944, got underway for Canal Zone, Panama, in Task Unit 29.6.11, arriving November 12, 1944, after an uneventful voyage. We immediately proceeded to Balboa, Canal Zone, the passage through most of the Panama Canal being made during darkness.

November 13, 1944, we got underway from Balboa, Canal Zone, for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, steaming independently, and arriving there on November 26, 1944, after an uneventful voyage. Japanese submarines were active during this period between the Hawaiian Islands and the West Coast. From November 27, 1944 to January 2, 1945, the ship conducted training exercises in preparation for amphibious assault under Commander, Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Training Command in the Hawaiian Area.

On January 3, 1945, two officers and sixty-seven enlisted men of the 442nd Port Company, U.S. Army reported on board for transportation and to assist in handling cargo. On January 4, 1945, underway from Pearl Harbor for Kahului, Maui, Territory of Hawaii, arriving the same day, commenced combat loading supplies and equipment of the 25th Regiment, Fourth Marine Division for the assault upon Iwo Jima. January 8, 1945, completed loading. Seven officers and one hundred and forty-three enlisted men of the Fourth Marine Division, with 20 USMC par dogs and eleven enlisted men from D Company, 133 Naval Construction Battalion reported on board as troop passengers for the Iwo Jima invasion. January 9, 1945, underway from Kahului, Maui, for Honolulu, arriving same day.

On January 12, 1945, underway for final amphibious training exercises in the Hawaiian Area, in Task Force 51, Vice Admiral R. K. TURNER, USN, Commander, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Officer in Tactical Command. We are permanently assigned to Transport Squadron Fifteen (15) under Commodore H. A. FLANAGAN, USN, and to Transport Division 44, Captain J. H. SEYFRIED, USN, Division Commander. January 13, 1945, exercises completed, we returned to Honolulu.

On January 27, 1945, we departed from Honolulu, for Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, arriving February 5, 1945. No enemy forces were encountered during the voyage, though enemy submarines were known to be operating along our course. Much valuable time was spent enroute holding tactical maneuvers, educational movies and lectures in first aid, and recognition training; also conducted target practise at drones, (radio-controlled planes).

On February 7, 1945, underway from Eniwetok for Saipan, Marianas Islands, arriving February 11, 1945. From February 13 to 15, 1945, off Tinian Island, conducted final rehearsals for the assault on Iwo Jima.

On February 16, 1945, got underway from Saipan for our objective. While enroute numerous underwater sound contacts were made by our destroyer screen, but progress of the Task Force was undeterred on its course to Iwo Jima.

On February 19, 1945, we arrived off Iwo Jima in our assigned Transport Area. Landing craft were lowered on schedule and dispatched to other ships in our division to carry assault troops to the beach. During the initial landing, one of our LCVP's had a mortar shell explode close aboard, wounding the Coxswain, J. M. FISCHER of St. Louis, Missouri, and injuring Q. M. CILBERTSON, Slc, of Chicago, Illinois. These were the only casualties to our personnel in this operation by enemy action. We lost four LCM's and six LCVP's, all of which were swamped in the rough surf on the beaches. On D plus one, fifty-three casualties from the beach were evacuated to the ship. By the time we departed from Iwo Jima eleven days later, we had taken on a total of ninety-eight casualties.

Unloading operations were interrupted by enemy air activity and by nightly retirement of the transports. Due to rough sea conditions, the ship sustained considerable damage to its hull plating and frames by LST's, LSM's, and LCT's alongside receiving cargo. Many of our crew witnessed the raising of Old Glory on Mount Suribachi.

On March 1, 1945, having completed unloading cargo, we got underway for Saipan, arriving March 4, 1945.

At Saipan on March 11, 1945, we again began loading combat cargo, this time supplies and equipment of the Second Marine Division for the assault upon Okinawa. March 16, 1945, eleven officers and fifty-six enlisted men of the Second Marine Division, two officers and fifteen men from the Malaria and Insect Control Unit, Second Marine Division, and twenty men from the 130th Naval Construction Battalion reported on board for transportation to the objective. Simulated amphibious landings were conducted off Tinian Island and on March 27, 1945, the ship got underway for the Okinawa operation in Task Group 51.2, Rear Admiral J. WRIGHT, USN, in command.

On L-Day, April 1, 1945, we arrived off the southeast coast of Okinawa in our assigned Transport Area. Our mission was to conduct a demonstration landing (feint attack) and retire. On the approach at dawn the U.S.S. HINSDALE (APA-120) with our Division Commander aboard was hit by a suicide plane. We were ordered to dispatch our landing craft to assist in transferring her troops to other ships of the squadron. On April 2, 1945, a second feint attack was made in the same area. During this approach a Japanese plane flew over the transports. It was fired upon by all ships, but escaped apparently undamaged into the clouds. This was the only occasion we had of firing at the enemy during the war. We retired with our Task Group to an area about 150 miles from Okinawa to await orders. While cruising in this area, numerous floating mines were destroyed by our screen. Several air raid alerts and underwater sound contacts were encountered but no action resulted therefrom.

On April 11, 1945, the Task Group was ordered to return to Saipan, arriving April 14, 1945. Here the Second Marines were disembarked and their cargo unloaded. We remained at Saipan awaiting orders, and on June 4, 1945, Transport Squadron Fifteen was ordered to the South Pacific Area to carry roll-up cargo to the Marianas. On June 12, 1945, we arrived in Tulagi, Florida Island, Solomon Islands. On June 16, 1945, departed for Noumea, New Caledonia, arriving June 19, 1945. Here we loaded cargo for the Marianas. On July 1, 1945, steaming independently, got underway for Guam, arriving July 11, 1945. The voyage was uneventful, though submarines were active along our route, and a week earlier a ship had been torpedoed on our course.

On July 18, 1945, having completed discharging cargo at Guam, we got underway for Noumea for another load, arriving July 29, 1945. On August 10, 1945, we left Noumea for Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, arriving August 17, 1945. Here we discharged part of our cargo. Enroute Noumea to Kwajalein we intently listened to all radio news of the Japanese surrender negotiations with the greatest pleasure. On August 18, 1945, we left Kwajalein for Saipan, arriving August 22, 1945. At this port more of our cargo was discharged. On September 3, 1945, we sailed to Guam. There we completed discharging our cargo from the South Pacific.


On September 9, 1945, with orders to report to Commander, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet, GROUP THREE, we got underway for Leyte, Philippine Islands. September 12, 1945, arrived Leyte and joined Task Force 34, Rear Admiral R. L. CONOLLY in command. On September 15, 1945, we began combat loading of supplies and equipment of 81st Infantry Division IX Army Corps for landing at Aomori, Northern Honshu, Japan.

On September 18, 1945, we got underway from Leyte, in Task Group 34.3, Commodore W. S. POPHAM, in Tactical Command, for Aomori, arriving in Transport Area on the morning of September 25, 1945. Occupation of Aomori was carried out without incident. Working around the clock, we completed unloading our cargo on September 26, 1945, and awaited further orders. All hands were given an opportunity to go ashore on sightseeing parties while at Aomori.

On September 30, 1945, underway from Aomori, Japan, for Leyte, in Task Unit 34.3.17. While enroute we received orders to proceed to Tokyo Bay to avoid a typhoon raging along our course. On October 3, 1945, our destination was changed to Manila.

Today, October 8, 1945, the first anniversary of the U.S.S. SOUTHAMPTON finds her steaming from Tokyo Bay enroute Manila. It has been a year of constant travel and activity, a year which included two major amphibious operations and a role in the occupation of Japan.

It is a pleasant feeling to have come through the war as we did, and to know that the manner in which the SOUTHAMPTON executed her assignments was at all times in keeping with the highest traditions and standards of the United States Navy.


L. V. COOKE,
Lt. Comdr., DN, USNR
Commanding Officer.