

U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

AKA 81/A12-1

SERIAL 044

2 February 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary (9 January 1945 - 31 January 1945).

9 January 1945

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81) was placed in commission at 1530 on 9 January 1945 at the Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, Key Highway Plant, Baltimore, Maryland, in accordance with orders from Assistant Industrial Manager, Baltimore, Maryland (Reference: Conf. ltr. File No. AKAS1/A4-1 (MBC) Serial 00866). Lieut. Comdr. Rodney A. BLAKE, DM assumed command in accordance with orders from Commandant, Eleventh Naval District, reference ND11/00/B/jp; Serial Q-400078 of August 1944. The ship was placed in commission with a total of thirty-eight (38) officers and three hundred and twenty-four (324) men.

10 January 1945

2. On 10 January 1945, the ship proceeded to the Naval Outfitting pier, Pier #9, Port Covington, Baltimore, Maryland. It remained there until 0823, 15 January 1945 at which time it got underway, in accordance with AstIndMan (Balto.) Conf. ltr. AKAS1/L9-3(MBZ); Serial 00874 of 13 January 1945, to report to Commander, Amphibious Training Command, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Va. VALENCIA anchored that night off Cape Charles City at 2239.

16 January 1945

3. VALENCIA resumed passage to Norfolk, Va. from Cape Charles City at 0828, 16 January 1945 and anchored in Hampton Roads, Va. at 1123. During the period 16 January 1945 to 20 January 1945, the vessel loaded ammunition from Naval Ammunition Depot, St. Julien's Creek, Va., Conducted deperming at the Naval Deperming Station, Lambert Point, Norfolk, Va., and loaded stores and supplies at Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va.

20 January 1945

4. In accordance with orders from Commander, Amphibious Training Command, Atlantic Fleet, VALENCIA proceeded for shakedown period in Chesapeake Bay. 1200 Position: 37° 00' 10" N; 76° 14' 30" W. At 2000, the ship anchored in the Amphibious Training area anchorage off the Patuxent River entrance until 1249, 24 January 1945. For the next three days, the ship conducted amphibious training exercises with all its small craft; VALENCIA remaining at anchor. On 24 January 1945, VALENCIA proceeded to anchorage

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off the Severn River entrance, Annapolis, Md., and was unable to conduct exercises to obtain tactical data due to the high winds in the area. On 25 January 1945, at 0855, exercises to obtain tactical data were commenced off Kent Island, in Chesapeake Bay. Further exercises were conducted during a southerly run in the bay to anchorage off Cape Charles City at 2228 that night. 1200 Position: 39° 01' N; 76° 21' W. 2000 Position: 37° 25' 10" N; 76° 07' 40" W. On the 26th, VALENCIA was underway at 0630 for gunnery exercises in Area Baker, Chesapeake Bay, but due to poor visibility, 1,000 yards, the ship anchored in its assigned gunnery area at 0935 and waited for the visibility to improve to permit scheduled gunnery practice. At 1232, visibility improved to about four (4) miles and the ship proceeded to conduct its firing. Structural firing and short range day battle practice were conducted with the following expenditures of ammunition: 25 rounds of 5"/38 Cal., 27 rounds of 40 M/M, and 320 rounds of 20 M/M. At the conclusion of the gunnery exercises at 1515, paravanes were streamed and recovered. Anchorage off Cape Charles City was made at 1938. The 0800 position underway for this day was 37° 46' 20" N; 76° 07' 30" W. On the 27th, the ship was underway from anchorage at 1128 and prepared to conduct fueling at sea exercises with the U.S.S. WEEDIN (DE797). Exercises with WEEDIN were completed at 1220 and VALENCIA proceeded independently for continuation of scheduled gunnery exercises in Area Baker, Chesapeake Bay. Anti-aircraft firing exercises were commenced at 1447 and completed at 1650 with the following expenditure of ammunition: 43 rounds of 5"/38 Cal., 366 rounds of 40 M/M, and 2880 rounds of 20 M/M. At the conclusion of the exercises, the ship again returned to anchorage off Cape Charles City and anchored at 1846. The 1200 position underway was 37° 18' 12" N; 76° 03' 20" W. From 1359 to 1817 on the 29th, VALENCIA conducted exercises to obtain tactical data, in the area South and East of Wolf Trap, Chesapeake Bay. At 1030, 30 January 1945, VALENCIA concluded its shakedown training in Chesapeake Bay, and got underway from anchorage off Cape Charles City and proceeded to Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., for post-shakedown availability period. At 1509, the vessel was moored at the yard and work was commenced on authorized items.

31 January 1945

5. The vessel was moored at Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., for post-shakedown availability.

R. A. Blake
R. A. BLAKE
Lt. Comdr., USNR.

Reg. No.	71
R. S. No.	

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)

Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL
AKA 81/AL2-1

1 March 1945

SERIAL (067)

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

1. While on shakedown cruise in Chesapeake Bay during the latter part of January, 1945, this command received a dispatch from Chief of Naval Operation, 26 January 1945, ordering it to report to Commandant, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va., for loading of a commercial cargo destined for Pearl Harbor, T. H. Loading was scheduled to commence upon the completion of the vessel's post-shakedown availability at Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

2. The VALENCIA remained at Norfolk Navy Yard until 0951, 4 February 1945 when it got underway for Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia, where it moored at 1200. Loading of the commercial cargo commenced at 0800, February 1945 and continued until 1905, 9 February 1945 at which time a commercial load of approximately 4000 tons had been taken aboard. In addition, the ship carried a total of two (2) officers and forty-two (42) enlisted passengers.

3. At 0938, 10 February, VALENCIA got underway from Naval Operating Base Norfolk, Va. and proceeded in company with the U.S.S. MEDEA (AKA-31), Lt. Comdr. W. A. SHERBERTH, USNR, commanding, SOPA, and OTC to take passage to Cristobal, Canal Zone, Panama, and further passage to Pearl Harbor, T.H. pursuant to Commander Service Force Atlantic Fleet confidential dispatch of 9 February 1945. At 1600 took departure from the seaward end of the Chesapeake Swept Channel (Point "XS"). The ships made the rendezvous points set down by the Routing Officer at ComFive. At 2005, 12 February 1945, sighted San Salvador light bearing 182° T, distance 31 miles. At 1205, 13 February 1945, Cuba was sighted on the starboard bow, distance 40 miles and Cape Maysi Light was rounded at 1530. At 1503, 15 February 1945, sighted the mainland of Panama on the port bow. At 1653, entered Cristobal Harbor and local pilot came aboard to dock ship. At 1738, moored at Pier 9, Cristobal, Canal Zone, Panama. All Passengers were disembarked.

4. At Cristobal, MEDEA and VALENCIA reported for duty to CINCPAC HEBPEARL, ADVHEB via RADIO BALBOA. At 1202, VALENCIA got underway for passage through the Canal and further passage to Pearl Harbor, T.H. in accordance with basic orders. Passage was completed at 2126 and departure was made from TAMBOGUILLA Light at 2230.

1 March 1945

5. An uneventful passage was made to Pearl Harbor with MEDA continuing as SCPA and OTC as before. The end of the month found the ship approaching the Hawaiian Islands with an estimated time of arrival at Pearl Harbor 0900, 2 March 1945. (Zone time plus 9 $\frac{1}{2}$).

6. Positions of the ship during cruise from Norfolk, Va., to Panama:

All times Zone Plus 4:

11 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 33° 51' N.	32° 38' N.	30° 36' N.
Long. 73° 00' W.	73° 22' W.	73° 28' W.

12 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 27° 39' N.	26° 35' N.	24° 33' N.
Long. 73° 57' W.	74° 06' W.	74° 14' W.

13 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 22° 41' N.	21° 49' N.	20° 53' N.
Long. 74° 30' W.	74° 45' W.	74° 17' W.

14 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 16° 40' N.	16° 11' N.	14° 06' N.
Long. 76° 15' W.	76° 48' W.	77° 48' W.

15 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 11° 30' N.	10° 33' N.	Moored.
Long. 79° 19' W.	79° 51' W.	

7. Positions of the ship during the cruise from Panama to Pearl Harbor:

Time Zone Plus 5:

17 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 07° 06' N.	07° 03' N.	06° 57' N.
Long. 80° 11' W.	81° 10' W.	83° 13' W.

Time Zone Plus 6:

18 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 07° 02' N.	07° 22' N.	07° 52' N.
Long. 86° 05' W.	86° 51' W.	88° 40' W.

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1 March 1945

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Time Zone Plus 6:

19 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 08° 56' N.	09° 17' N.	09° 54' N.
Long. 91° 25' W.	92° 25' W.	94° 24' W.

20 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 10° 42' N.	11° 12' N.	11° 47' N.
Long. 97° 23' W.	98° 44' W.	100° 37' W.

21 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 12° 50' N.	13° 05' N.	13° 46' N.
Long. 103° 30' W.	104° 49' W.	106° 33' W.

22 February:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 14° 37' N.	14° 48' N.	15° 18' N.
Long. 109° 30' W.	110° 36' W.	112° 35' W.

Time Zone Plus 7:

23 February 1945:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 16° 06' N.	16° 27' N.	16° 51' N.
Long. 115° 52' W.	116° 50' W.	118° 51' W.

24 February 1945:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 17° 25' N.	17° 40' N.	18° 25' N.
Long. 121° 56' W.	123° 02' W.	125° 07' W.

25 February 1945:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 18° 56' N.	19° 07' N.	19° 18' N.
Long. 128° 15' W.	129° 06' W.	131° 31' W.

Time Zone Plus 8:

26 February 1945:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 19° 53' N.	20° 01' N.	20° 15' N.
Long. 134° 33' W.	135° 33' W.	137° 36' W.

Time Zone Plus 9:

27 February 1945:

0800	1200	2000
Lat. 20° 36' N.	20° 43' N.	20° 50' N.
Long. 140° 43' W.	141° 45' W.	144° 06' W.

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Time Zone Plus 9:

28 February:

0800

Lat. 20° 58' N.

Long. 147° 10' W.

1200

21° 01' N.

148° 12' W.

2000

21° 11' N.

150° 04' W.

R. A. Blake
R. A. BLAKE

98

Reg. No.	95
R. S. No.	
1 April 1945.	

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL
AKA 81/A12-1

SERIAL (094)

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary; March 1945.

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81), commanded by RODNEY A. BLAKE, Lieutenant Commander, USNR, was attached for the period 1 March 1945 to 7 March 1945 to the Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces Pacific Fleet, and from 8 March 1945 to 31 March 1945, to Transport Division 56, Transport Squadron 19, Pacific Fleet.

2. The first of March 1945 found the U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81) in company with the U.S.S. MEDEA (AKA-31) making a landfall on Hawaii. Both vessels were en route from Panama to Pearl Harbor in accordance with ComServLant despatch 090135 of February 1945. Prior to entering Pearl Harbor on 2 March, anti-aircraft firing was conducted south of Oahu in accordance with instructions from CincPac Headquarters, Pearl Harbor. The following ammunition was expended: 76 rounds of 40 M/M, 568 rounds of 20 M/M. Entry was made into the harbor and the vessel was moored fore and aft to buoys. At 1700, berth was shifted to the Naval Supply Depot dock, berth K-3 at Pearl Harbor and unloading commenced shortly thereafter. Unloading continued until 1156, 8 March 1945.

3. At 1201, 8 March, VALENCIA got underway for Honolulu, T.H., in accordance with instructions from Port Director Pearl Harbor. The purpose of the trip to Honolulu was to load the vessel in accordance with CincPoa Pearl Harbor despatch 022059 of March which directed the vessel report to ComServPac (JOSCO) for loading and Commander Transport Division 56 for operational control. VALENCIA reported for duty by secret despatch 081937. The vessel moored at Pier 26, Army Transport Service Dock, Honolulu, T.H., the same afternoon and commenced loading immediately. Loading continued until 1545, 10 March 1945.

4. At 1615, 10 March 1945, VALENCIA got underway to return to Pearl Harbor in accordance with Port Director, Honolulu, T.H., memorandum dated 10 March 1945. That afternoon the vessel moored in the stream at Pearl Harbor alongside the U.S.S. TROUSDALE (AKA-79). VALENCIA remained moored at Pearl Harbor until 14 March 1945. However, on 13 March 1945 officers and troops embarked for transportation in accordance with secret sailing orders. The total amount of troops embarked were: Five (5) Army Officers and one hundred six (106) enlisted men; two (2) Marine Corps Officers and thirty-two (32) enlisted men.

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Subject: War Diary; March 1945

1 April 1945

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5. 14 March 1945 found the VALENCIA underway from Pearl Harbor, T.H., to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands in accordance with Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier Confidential ltr. RJM/serial 02492 of 12 March 1945. The ship travelled singly and was escorted only for the first thirty miles after leaving Pearl Harbor by the FC 1139. Positions of the ship en route are given at the end of the diary. The following firing exercises were conducted en route with indicated expenditures of ammunition:

17 March - 10 rounds of 5"/38
 201 rounds of 20M/M
 50 rounds of 40 M/M
18 March - 702 rounds of 20 M/M
 132 rounds of 40 M/M
20 March - 79 rounds of 40 M/M
 163 rounds of 20 M/M

At 1004 on the 22nd of March, the ship arrived off Deep Entrance, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, but was forced to await entrance until 1800 due to a merchant tanker being aground off Parry Island. While at Eniwetok, VALENCIA fueled alongside U.S.S. YO-161, received a negligible amount of fresh provisions, and a moderate amount of dry provisions.

6. VALENCIA remained at anchor at Eniwetok until 1151, 25 March 1945, when the ship got underway for Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands in accordance with instructions from Port Director, Eniwetok, reference A4-3/JUB/wdc/mel dated 24 March 1945. The ship again travelled singly. Positions of the ship are given at the end of the diary. The ship arrived at a point approximately 10° 05' N., 140° E., early on the morning of 29 March 1945. However, neither entry nor approach to the island could be made due to weather conditions in the area. At 0950, typhoon condition 2 was set by ComServRon 10, and ten minutes later typhoon condition 1 was set. VALENCIA, along with other vessels, set reciprocal courses at slow speeds and headed away from the storm center. At 0130 on the 30th, VALENCIA turned about and headed for Ulithi inasmuch as the visibility had bettered and the seas had lessened to some degree. This time entry was made and the vessel anchored in the Southern Anchorage at 1251. The last day of the month found the vessel at anchor in Ulithi.

7. Positions of the ship during the month of March while underway.

Panama to Pearl Harbor, T.H.

1 March 1945 - Zone Plus 9½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	21° 16' N.	21° 21' N.	21° 27' N.
Long.	153° 00' W.	153° 59' W.	155° 44' W.

2

2 March 1945 - Zone Plus 9½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	21° 12' N.		
Long.	157° 37' W.		

Pearl Harbor, T.H. to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

14 March 1945 - Zone Plus 9½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.			25° 25' N.
Long.			158° W.

15 March 1945 - Zone Plus 10

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	19° 34.5' N.	19° 33' N.	19° 30.3 N.
Long.	160° 30' W.	161° 50' W.	164° 16.7' W.

16 March 1945 - Zone Plus 10½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	19° N.	18° 50' N.	18° 28' N.
Long.	167° 26' W.	168° 29' W.	170° 23' W.

17 March 1945 - Zone Plus 10½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	17° 49' N.	17° 36' N.	17° 07' N.
Long.	173° 34' W.	174° 44' W.	176° 54' W.

18 March 1945 - Zone Plus 11

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	16° 29' N.	16° 05.5' N.	15° 36' N.
Long.	180° W.	178° 58' E.	177° 05' E.

20 March 1945 - Zone -12

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	14° 54' N.	14° 32' N.	14° 02' N.
Long.	173° 52' E.	172° 43' E.	170° 46' E.

21 March 1945 - Zone -12

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	13° 13' N.	13° 03' N.	12° 28' N.
Long.	168° 21' E.	167° 26' E.	165° 27' E.

22 March 1945 - Zone -12

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	11° 33.5' N.	11° 24.5' N.	
Long.	162° 46' E.	162° 27' E.	

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Eniwetok, Marshall Islands to Ulithi, Caroline Islands.

25 March 1945 - Zone -12

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.			11° 30' N.
Long.			160° 24' E.

26 March 1945 - Zone -11½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	11° 57' N.	12° 07.8' N.	12° 37' N.
Long.	157° 34' E.	156° 33.5' E.	154° 16' E.

27 March 1945 - Zone -11

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	13° 08' N.	13° 10' N.	12° 32' N.
Long.	151° 30' E.	150° 29' E.	148° 26' E.

28 March 1945 - Zone -10½

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	11° 29' N.	11° 07' N.	10° 40' N.
Long.	146° 06' E.	145° 13' E.	143° 10' E.

29 March 1945 - Zone -10

	0800	1200	2200
Lat.	10° 04' N.	10° 06' N.	10° 13' N.
Long.	140° 04' E.	140° 13' E.	140° 26' E.

R. A. Blake
R. A. BLAKE

4

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Reg. No. 127

R. S. No. _____

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL
AKA 81/ A12-I

SERIAL (0113)

1 May 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.
Subject: War Diary; April 1945.

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81), commanded by Lieutenant Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR, was attached for the period 1 April to 22 April to Transport Division 56 (Captain Robert J. TOWNSEND, USN., Commander Transport Division 56, U.S.S. OKANOGAN (APA-220) flagship) for operational control. From 1 April to 17 April VALENCIA operated as part of Task Group 55.8 (Captain Robert J. TOWNSEND, USN., Commander Transport Division 56, U.S.S. OKANOGAN (APA-220) flagship).

2. From 1 April to 13 April VALENCIA was anchored in southern anchorage, Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands. On 3 April VALENCIA fueled alongside U.S.S. SCHYLKILL (AO 76).

3. At 1617, 13 April VALENCIA got underway from Ulithi in obedience to ComTransDiv 56 Top Secret operation order 3-45 dated 11 April 1945, enroute to Okinawa Shima, Nansei Shoto, to land embarked troops, equipment and supplies as directed by SOPA Okinawa. The composition of this task group was as follows:

Division Able:

U.S.S. OKANOGAN (APA 220), U.S.S. JERVAULD (APA 174),
S.S. KELSO VICTORY (XAK), S.S. TYPHOON (XAK), U.S.S. LENOIR (AKA 74),
U.S.S. LUMEN (AKA 30), U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA 81),

Division Baker:

U.S.S. GOSHEN (APA 108), U.S.S. CLEARFIELD (APA 142), S.S.
BOZENAN VICTORY (XAK), U.S.S. VENANGO (AKA 82), U.S.S. TROUSDALE
(AKA 79), S.S. GRETNA VICTORY (XAK).

Screen:

U.S.S. WILLIAM C. COLE (DE 641), U.S.S. MUSTIN (DD 413),
U.S.S. OBERRENDER (DE 344), and U.S.S. GILLIGAN (DE 508).

4. After passing through Mesgai channel in cruising disposition "Charlie Form One", anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted with indicated expenditures of ammunition:

128 Rounds of 40 M/M
339 Rounds of 20 M/M

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Subject: War Diary; April 1945.

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5. From 13 April to 17 April VALENCIA was enroute to Okinawa with Task Group 55.8. On 14 April the Task Group exercised at emergency turns in formation. At 0900 14 April zone time was changed to minus nine (-9). On 16 April a floating mine was passed abeam to port distance 400 yards from VALENCIA. Longitude 130° 50.5' East, Latitude 22° 23' North. One of the escort vessels was ordered to drop out of formation and attempt to locate and destroy the mine. On the same day, in the late afternoon, suspected submarine contact was made by one of the escort vessels and the formation executed an emergency turn away from direction of contact. VALENCIA went to General Quarters. Contact did not develop further and base course was resumed, VALENCIA securing from General Quarters.

6. On 17 April at 0921 VALENCIA was maneuvering independently approaching anchorage berth H-156 off Hagushi River entrance, Okinawa Shima, Nansei Shoto. At 1234 anchored in berth H-156. In the afternoon of the same day in accordance with letter of Commander Transport Division 56 file #CTD56/A4-3, Serial #039 dated 17 April 1945, Task Group 55.8 was re-constituted as task unit 51.22.8 (Captain R.J. TOWNSEND, USN., Commander Transport Division 56, U.S.S. OKANOGAN (APA 220) flagship). At 1815 pursuant to instructions from CTU 51.22.8 commenced discharging cargo. At 1945 ceased discharging cargo on orders from CTU 51.22.8. The night of 17 April at 2024 VALENCIA went to General Quarters as Flash Red was received from Air Raid Control, Okinawa. All ships including VALENCIA commenced making smoke and within a few minutes the coverage was complete. This smoke coverage as well as subsequent ones seemed very effective in concealing ships. During this condition enemy planes were in the vicinity two or three times and anti-aircraft fire from the beach was observed. At 2239 Flash "White" was received and VALENCIA secured from General Quarters.

7. At 0600, 18 April, received orders to commence discharging cargo. Discharging continued throughout the day and at 1700 thirty-nine (39) percent of cargo had been discharged. At 0300, 19 April it was necessary to discontinue discharging cargo as the beaches were closed and all available boats were loaded. At 0600 boats left for the beach and discharging was resumed. At 1248 orders were received from CTU 51.22.8 to discontinue discharging cargo as increasing winds had created surf on the beaches which prevented efficient unloading. At this time sixty (60) percent of cargo was discharged and discharging was not resumed until the next day.

8. At 0855, 20 April orders were received to commence discharging again. During the day, discharging was hindered by swells making it difficult to hold boats alongside. At 1500, 20 April eighty-one (81) marines and five (5) marine officers came aboard to act as stevedores. By 1730 seventy-five (75) percent of the cargo had been

discharged. Discharging continued throughout the night of 20 April - 21 April. During the night two "Red Alerts" were received. During the second alert enemy planes were fired on by shore batteries. Discharging continued throughout the day of 21 April and at 1830 VALENCIA was completely discharged. Throughout the night boats were hoisted aboard and VALENCIA was secured for sea.

9. At 0620, 22 April, eighty-one (81) Marines and five (5) Officers were disembarked. At 0710 another "Red Alert" was announced, At 0900 VALENCIA resumed hoisting boats, when flash white was announced. On the same day, in accordance with sailing orders of 22 April 1945 from Port Director, Okinawa, VALENCIA was assigned to Task Unit 51.29.20 (Captain R.W. ABBOTT, USN., Commander Transport Division 50, U.S.S. SARASOTA (APA 204), flagship). At 1317, 22 April, VALENCIA got underway from Okinawa enroute to Saipan, Marianas Islands in accordance with above sailing orders as part of Task Unit 51.29.20. The composition of this unit was as follows:

Column 01:

U.S.S. GOSHEN (APA 108), U.S.S. LENOIR (AKA 74), S.S. DASHING WAVE (XAP), U.S.S. TROUSDALE (AKA 79).

Column 02:

U.S.S. OKANOGAN (APA 220), U.S.S. RIXEY (APH 3), S.S. GREENBAY VICTORY (XAK), U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA 81).

Column 03:

U.S.S. SARASOTA (APA 204), U.S.S. TATE (AKA 70), S.S. CAPE GEORGIA (XAK), S.S. CLAREMONT VICTORY (XAK).

Column 04:

U.S.S. JERAULD (APA 174), U.S.S. VENANGO (AKA 82), S.S. AFOUNDRIA (XAP), U.S.S. LUMEN (AKA 30).

Screen:

U.S.S. GENDREAU (DE 639), U.S.S. POTTERFIELD (DD682), U.S.S. CROSBY (APD 17), U.S.S. BULL (APD 78), U.S.S. EISELE (DE 34), U.S.S. LAFFEY (DD 724).

10. From 22 April to 27 April VALENCIA was enroute to Saipan in the aforementioned disposition. At 1845, 22 April VALENCIA suffered a steering casualty losing oil pressure in the hydraulic system. Control was immediately shifted to after steering and position in formation was maintained until repairs were made and control shifted back to bridge. On 23 April the Task Unit exercised at emergency turns in formation. At 1225, 24 April, zone time was changed to minus ten (-10). On 24 April and 25 April emergency turn drills were again held.

11. At 0630, 27 April VALENCIA was maneuvering independently approaching anchorage berth M-38 off West Coast of Saipan. At 0830 VALENCIA was anchored. In accordance with CTF 51 Secret Despatch 240320 of April 1945 VALENCIA reported for duty to ComTransRon 15, (Commodore H.C. FLANAGAN, USN., Commander Transport Squadron 15, U.S.S. BAYFIELD (APA 33), flagship). On 30 April in accordance with CincPacAdvHq. Secret Despatch 290447 of April 1945 VALENCIA reported by despatch for duty to CincPac (Fleet Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, USN., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

12. While at Saipan, VALENCIA took dry and fresh provisions aboard and fueled alongside U.S.S. FLAMBEAU (IX-192). The end of the month found VALENCIA at anchor off Saipan.

13. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

Ulithi to Okinawa:

	13 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	10° 14' North
Long.			139° 58' East

	14 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	12° 29' N.	13° 24' N.	14° 58' N.
Long.	138° 07' E.	137° 23' E.	136° 17' E.

	15 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	17° 30' N.	18° 03' N.	14° 58' N.
Long.	138° 07' E.	137° 23' E.	136° 17' E.

	16 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	22° 20' N.	22° 59' N.	24° 20' N.
Long.	131° 06' E.	130° 44' E.	124° 29' E.

Okinawa to Saipan:

	22 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	25° 20' N.
Long.			128° 00' E.

	23 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	24° 11' N.	23° 43' N.	23° 45' N.
Long.	130° 23' E.	131° 10' N.	132° 36' E.

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	24 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	21° 40' N.	21° 12' N.	20° 35' N.
Long.	134° 33' E.	135° 39' E.	136° 48' E.
	25 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	19° 40' N.	19° 29' N.	18° 40' N.
Long.	138° 53' E.	139° 14' E.	140° 29' E.
	26 April 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	17° 14' N.	16° 53' N.	15° 19' N.
Long.	142° 35' E.	143° 07' E.	144° 14' E.

R. A. Blake

R. A. BLAKE

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Reg. No. 142
R. S. No.

CONFIDENTIAL
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1 June 1945

SERIAL (0133)

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.
Subject: War Diary; May 1945.

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR., operated during the month of May under the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (Fleet Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, USN., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet).

2. From 1 May to 3 May VALENCIA was anchored off Saipan Island. On 2 May VALENCIA transferred thirteen (13) LCV(P)'s, one (1) LCP(L), and eight (8) LCM(3)'s to boat pool, Saipan in accordance with CincPoa, Pearl Harbor secret despatch of 301829 April 1945.

3. On 3 May VALENCIA got underway from Saipan steaming independently enroute to Port Noumea, New Caledonia in obedience to CincPoa secret despatch 301829 April 1945, ordering VALENCIA to report to Commander South Pacific to load cargo. On 5 May 5"/38 firing exercises were conducted and ten (10) rounds of A.A. common and (1) round of special Mark 53 ammunition were expended. On 6 May zone time was changed to minus eleven (-11). On 8 May condition watch crew on 5"/38 caliber gun was exercised at firing at surprise surface target. Two (2) rounds of ammunition were expended. On 9 May 5"/38 caliber gun crew was exercised at firing and six (6) rounds of smokeless powder and six (6) rounds of A.A. common ammunition were expended. On 10 May firing exercises were held and twenty-four (24) rounds of 40 M/M ammunition, and three (3) rounds of 5"/38 caliber ammunition were expended. On 11 May firing exercises were again held and the following ammunition expended: Four (4) rounds of 5"/38 caliber A.A. common, 262 rounds of 40 M/M and 1782 rounds of 20 M/M.

4. At 1427 on 12 May VALENCIA was moored to Pier #9, Nickel Works, Port Noumea, New Caledonia and remained there until 20 May 1945 during which time Army Organizational equipment, Navy Construction Battalion vehicles and organizational equipment was loaded, and passengers for Guadalcanal, Guam and Saipan were embarked. Y.O. 114 came alongside during this period and fuel was taken aboard.

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5. At 1508 20 May VALENCIA got underway from Port Noumea steaming independently enroute for Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands in obedience to Commander South Pacific secret despatch 100351 May 1945 and Port Director, Noumea, secret letter of 20 May 1945.

6. VALENCIA was enroute to Guadalcanal until 23 May when at 1509 she anchored off Lunga Point. VALENCIA remained here until 25 May during which time some of the passengers disembarked and Army cargo was loaded as well as additional passengers embarked.

7. At 0726, 25 May VALENCIA got underway from Guadalcanal enroute for Tulagi, Florida Island in obedience to SOPA, Guadalcanal, confidential despatch 240458 May 1945. At 1010 same day anchored in Gavutu Harbor, Tulagi. In the afternoon of the same day sixteen (16) LCV(P)'s were loaded aboard from boat pool, Tulagi for transportation to Marianas in accordance with confidential despatch from SOPA, Guadalcanal, of 240458 of May 1945.

8. At 0703, 26 May 1945 VALENCIA got underway from Tulagi steaming independently enroute for Eniwetok, Marshall Islands for onward routing to Marianas in obedience to SOPA, Guadalcanal, confidential despatch 240526 of May 1945.

9. From 26 May to 30 May VALENCIA was enroute from Tulagi to Eniwetok. On 28 May firing exercises were conducted with the following expenditures of ammunition: 14 rounds 5"/38 A.A. common projectiles, 10 rounds 5"/38 Mark 53 special projectiles, 336 rounds 40 M/M A.A., and 1167 rounds 20 M/M A.A.

10. At 1015 on 30 May VALENCIA anchored in Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. At 1300 same day zone time was changed to minus twelve (-12).

11. The end of the month found the VALENCIA at anchor in Eniwetok.

12. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

Saipan to Noumea:

3 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	15° 04.8' N.	14° 59.7' N.	14° 46' N.
Long.	145° 45' E.	146° 48.2' E.	148° 03' E.

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4 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	14° 07' N.	14° 01' N.	13° 29.5' N.
Long.	151° 31.5' E.	152° 27.5' E.	154° 10' E.

5 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	12° 42' N.	12° 33' N.	12° 14.2' N.
Long.	157° 04' E.	157° 44' E.	159° 27' E.

6 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	11° 10' N.	10° 34' N.	08° 49' N.
Long.	162° 04' E.	162° 34' E.	153° 09.2' E.

7 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	06° 17.8' N.	05° 07.2' N.	03° 08.5' N.
Long.	164° 03.1' E.	164° 33' E.	164° 33.5' E.

8 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	00° 06.5' N.	00° 42' S.	02° 41' S.
Long.	164° 36' E.	164° 44' E.	164° 44.5' E.

9 May 45

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	05° 50.6' S.	06° 39.5' S.	08° 33.5' S.
Long.	164° 42' E.	164° 42' E.	164° 42.5' E.

10 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	11° 34.5' S.	12° 29.1' S.	14° 28' S.
Long.	164° 17' E.	163° 59' E.	163° 12' E.

11 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	17° 18' S.	18° 18.8' S.	20° 08.5' S.
Long.	162° 08' E.	162° 03' E.	162° 40' E.

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12 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	22° 00.6' S.	22° 28.8' N.	Moored
Long.	165° 23' E.	166° 24.5' E.	Moored

Noumea to Guadalcanal:

20 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Moored	Moored	22° 10.5' S.
Long.	Moored	Moored	165° 42.8' E.

21 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	20° 26.5' S.	19° 50.7' S.	18° 00.1' S.
Long.	163° 15' E.	162° 30.2' E.	162° 05' E.

22 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	15° 06' S.	14° 04' S.	12° 06' S.
Long.	162° 26' E.	162° 20.2' E.	162° 47' E.

23 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	09° 57' S.	Anchored	Anchored
Long.	161° 31.5' E.	Anchored	Anchored

Guadalcanal to Tulagi:

25 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	09° 19.5' S.	Anchored	Anchored
Long.	160° 03' E.	Anchored	Anchored

Tulagi to Eniwetok:

26 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	09° 09.5' S.	08° 27.4' S.	06° 48.5' S.
Long.	160° 08' E.	160° 18.1' E.	161° 09.9' E.

27 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	04° 18.9' S.	03° 25' S.	01° 36' S.
Long.	161° 52' E.	162° 08.4' E.	162° 43.5' E.

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28 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	01° 06.1' N.	02° 01' N.	03° 51' N.
Long.	163° 25' E.	163° 35' E.	163° 49.5' E.

29 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	06° 39.2' N.	07° 30' N.	09° 09.1' N.
Long.	163° 42.6' E.	163° 19.4' E.	162° 40' N.

30 May 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	11° 25' N.	Anchored	Anchored
Long.	162° 15.5' E.	Anchored	Anchored.

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U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL
AKA 81/ A12-1

1 July 1945

SERIAL 0148

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: War Diary; June 1945.

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR., operated during the month of June under the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (Fleet Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, USN., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet).
2. From 1 June to 26 June VALENCIA was anchored in Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, awaiting orders to proceed to Guam to unload vehicles, boats and cargo. During this period VALENCIA fueled alongside Y.O. 161.
3. On 26 June zone time was changed to minus eleven (-11) just prior to getting underway. At 1203 VALENCIA got underway from Eniwetok steaming independently enroute to Guam, Marianas Islands in obedience to Port Director Eniwetok, confidential operation order A4-3/JHB of 25 June 1945.
4. From 26 June to 29 June VALENCIA was underway for Guam. On 29 June just prior to entering Apra Harbor, zone time was changed to minus ten (-10).
5. At 1900 June 29 VALENCIA was moored to dock "X-ray", Apra Harbor, Guam, Mariana Islands. From 29 June until 30 June vehicles, general cargo, and LCVP's were unloaded.
6. The end of the month found VALENCIA moored in Apra Harbor, Guam.
7. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

	Eniwetok to Guam		
	26 June 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	11° 24' N.
Long.	Anchored	Anchored	160° 47.3' E.
	27 June 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	11° 57' N.	12° 02.7' N.	12° 20.4' N.
Long.	157° 47.8' E.	156° 45.7' E.	154° 47.4' E.

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	28 June 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	12° 43' N.	12° 54.4' N.	13° 14.1' N.
Long.	151° 41' E.	150° 43.1' E.	148° 45.1' E.
	29 June 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	13° 33' N.	13° 42.5' N.	Moored
Long.	145° 53.5' E.	145° 00.3' E.	Moored

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

NO 200
R. S. NO
REG. SHEET NO 80

CONFIDENTIAL

AKA81/A12-1

Serial: 0181

1 August 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.
Subject: War Diary; July 1945.

1. During the month of July the U.S.S. VALENCIA, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR., operated under Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (Fleet Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, USN., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet).

2. The first of the month found the VALENCIA unloading and loading cargo and boats at Apra Harbor, Guam. This loading and unloading continued until 10 July. During this period the VALENCIA left the dock for a few hours and went alongside Floating Drydock ABSD-6 to have the SA Radar antenna replaced with a new one. On 9 July YO 132 came alongside and the VALENCIA received fuel.

3. On 10 July loading and unloading was completed and VALENCIA moved out to an anchorage in Apra Harbor.

4. On 11 July VALENCIA got underway at 0600 for Saipan in obedience to Port Director, Guam, Confidential letter FDG1640 of 10 July 1945. At 1730 on the same day VALENCIA anchored in Saipan Harbor, Saipan. On 12 July VALENCIA moved in and moored to dock A-3, Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, for unloading.

5. VALENCIA remained moored to the dock unloading cargo and boats until 16 July. During this period, used LCVP's and LCM-3's were loaded aboard for transportation and eventual survey.

6. On 16 July VALENCIA got underway steaming independently from Saipan to San Francisco, California to report to Commander Western Sea Frontier for loading in accordance with CincPac Pearl confidential despatch of 010334 July. VALENCIA was underway until 31 July. On 17 July firing exercises were held with the following ammunition expenditures:

23 rounds	5"/38 cal. A.A. Common
338 rounds	40 M/M
1750 rounds	20 M/M

(On 18 July zone time was changed to minus eleven (-11). On 19 July the 5"/38 cal. Condition II Watch crew was ordered to fire on unidentified object in water expending one round A.A. Common. On 21 July zone time was changed to minus twelve (-12). On 22 July zone time was changed to plus twelve (plus 12). On 23 July zone time was changed to plus eleven (plus 11). On 25 July zone time was changed to plus ten (plus 10). On 25 July unidentified objects in the water were fired on by condition II watch crews expending the following ammunition:

135149

62 rounds 40 M/M
60 rounds 20 M/M

On 26 July firing exercises were held with the following ammunition expenditures:

18 rounds 5"/38 Cal. A.A. Common
265 rounds 40 M/M
1872 rounds 20 M/M

On 27 July tested Mark 53, 5"/38 Cal. ammunition and expended ten (10) rounds. On 28 July zone time was changed to plus nine (plus 9). On 30 July zone time was changed to plus eight (plus 8). On 31 July zone time was changed to plus seven (plus 7).

7. On 31 July the VALENCIA anchored in San Francisco Bay.

8. The end of the month found the VALENCIA anchored in San Francisco Bay.

9. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

Guam to Saipan:

11 July 1945

	0800	1200	1600
Lat.	13° 50' N.	14° 38.5' N.	Anchored
Long.	144° 44' E.	145° 11.5' E.	Anchored

Saipan to San Francisco:

16 July 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Moored	Moored	15° 30.6' N.
Long.	Moored	Moored	146° 41' E.

17 July 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	15° 30' N.	15° 37' N.	15° 45' N.
Long.	149° 24.6' E.	150° 36.5' E.	152° 31.1' E.

18 July 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	15° 57.8' N.	16° 00.5' N.	16° 02.8' N.
Long.	155° 16' E.	156° 14.9' E.	158° 13' E.

19 July 1945

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	16° 08.5' N.	16° 09.2' N.	16° 12.8' N.
Long.	161° 01.1' E.	162° 06.1' E.	163° 51.5' E.

	20 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	16° 18' N.	16° 18.4' N.	17° 11' N.
Long.	166° 49.5' E.	167° 49.5' E.	169° 30.6' E.
	21 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	18° 36.1' N.	19° 25.2' N.	20° 31' N.
Long.	171° 43' E.	172° 29.1' E.	174° 08' E.
	22 July 1945 (-12 time)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	22° 05.5' N.	22° 29' N.	23° 26.5' N.
Long.	176° 26.5' E.	177° 15.8' E.	178° 40.5' E.
	22 July 1945 (plus 12 time)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	25° 069' N.	25° 39.6' N.	26° 35' N.
Long.	178° 49.9' W.	178° 00.5' W.	176° 26' W.
	23 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	27° 30' N.	27° 34.9' N.	28° 29.5' N.
Long.	174° 11' W.	173° 34' W.	171° 57' W.
	24 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	29° 34' N.	30° 01.5' N.	30° 48' N.
Long.	169° 24.8' W.	168° 32' W.	166° 37.5' W.
	25 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	31° 54.8' N.	32° 20' N.	33° 08' N.
Long.	163° 17' W.	162° 00' W.	159° 34.7' W.
	26 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	34° 06' N.	34° 30.1' N.	35° 05.2' N.
Long.	156° 30' W.	155° 16' W.	153° 05' W.
	27 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	35° 51.3' N.	36° 07.9' N.	36° 37' N.
Long.	149° 27.8' W.	148° 17.1' W.	146° 02.4' W.
	28 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	37° 02.9' N.	37° 09.2' N.	37° 25.5' N.
Long.	142° 37' W.	141° 22' W.	139° 08.8' W.
	29 July 1945		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	37° 45.2' N.	37° 54.6' N.	38° 02.5' N.
Long.	135° 11' W.	134° 39.1' W.	132° 27.8' W.

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30 July 1945

0800

1200

2000

Lat.

38° 05.5' N.

38° 00.3' N.

Long.

128° 59' W.

127° 45' W.

R. A. Blake.

R. A. BLAKE

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)
 FLEET POST OFFICE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL
 AKA 81/A12-1

1 September 1945

SERIAL (0191)

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
 Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary; August 1945.

1. During the month of August the U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81), commanded by Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR, operated under Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet (Fleet Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, USN, Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet).

2. The first of the month found the VALENCIA anchored in San Francisco Bay where she remained until 9 August. During this period all the boats to be surveyed that the VALENCIA was carrying as cargo were unloaded and the following new boats were received: (1) LCPL, (2) LCVP's, (4) LCM-6's.

3. On 9 August VALENCIA went alongside pier 90-B, San Francisco, California and commenced loading general cargo for the Philippines. VALENCIA remained alongside the dock until 18 August. During this period the following new boats were received: (4) LCM-6's, (11) LCVP's.

4. On 18 August VALENCIA got underway for Samar, Philippine Islands in accordance with A4-3/464 confidential movement orders #662-C & R Headquarters Western Sea Frontier dated 2330 17 August 1945. VALENCIA was underway until 31 August. On 23 August firing exercises were conducted with the following ammunition expenditures:

5 Rounds of 5"/38 AA common
 120 Rounds of 40 M/M
 843 Rounds of 20 M/M

5. The end of the month found the VALENCIA enroute from San Francisco, California to Samar, Philippine Islands.

6. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

San Francisco to Samar:

	18 August 1945 (Changed zone time to plus 7 1/2)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Moored	San Francisco Bay	37° 40' N.
Long.	Moored	San Francisco Bay	123° 45' W.
	19 August (Changed zone time to plus 9)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	37° 41.3' N.	37° 40' N.	37° 42' N.
Long.	127° 22.8' W.	128° 29' W.	131° 17' W.

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	20 August		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	37° 34.4' N.	37° 22.3' N.	37° 03' N.
Long.	135° 02.5' W.	136° 15.5' W.	138° 45' W.
	21 August (Changed zone time to plus 10)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	36° 34' N.	36° 25' N.	35° 59' N.
Long.	142° 31' W.	143° 45.1' W.	146° 28.8' W.
	22 August		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	35° 11.6' N.	34° 55.6' N.	34° 24' N.
Long.	150° 08' W.	151° 15.9' W.	153° 34' W.
	23 August (Changed zone time to plus 11)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	33° 30.1' N.	33° 07' N.	32° 16.5' N.
Long.	157° 05' W.	158° 12' W.	160° 48' W.
	24 August		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	31° 09' N.	30° 49' N.	29° 56.7' N.
Long.	164° 09' W.	164° 15' W.	167° 16.2' W.
	25 August (Changed zone time to plus 12)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	28° 38' N.	28° 11' N.	27° 12.4' N.
Long.	170° 34.5' W.	171° 32.2' W.	173° 52.5' W.
	26 August (Changed zone time to minus 12)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	25° 33.5' N.	24° 57' N.	23° 49' N.
Long.	176° 32.6' W.	177° 45' W.	179° 35' W.
	28 August		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	22° 07' N.	21° 36.5' N.	20° 29' N.
Long.	177° 43.5' E.	176° 43.5' E.	174° 58' E.
	29 August (Changed zone time to minus 11)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	18° 39' N.	18° 09' N.	16° 48' N.
Long.	172° 26.1' E.	171° 36.2' E.	169° 41.5' E.
	30 August		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	14° 56' N.	14° 19.5' N.	13° 02.8' N.
Long.	167° 09.1' E.	166° 17.2' E.	164° 36.5' E.

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	31 August	1200	2000
Lat.	0800 11° 07.3' N.	10° 49.5' N.	10° 42.9' N.
Long.	162° 10.5' E.	161° 12.8' E.	159° 06.8' E.

R. A. Blake
R. A. BLAKE

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)

FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL
AKA 81/A12-1

SERIAL (0227)

1 October 1945



From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: War Diary; September 1945.

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81), commanded by Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR, operated under Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet (Fleet Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, USN, Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet) from 1 September to 19 September. From 19 September to 30 September, VALENCIA was attached to Commander Fifth Amphibious Force (Vice Admiral H. W. HILL, USN, Commander Fifth Amphibious Force, U.S.S. AUBURN (AGC-10) flagship) for duty with Commander Amphibious Group Eight (Rear Admiral A. G. NOBLE, USN, Commander Amphibious Group Eight) and attached to Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.), (Commodore H. W. GRAF, Commander Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.), U.S.S. MONTOUR (APA-101) flagship), for operational control.

2. The first of the month found the VALENCIA enroute from San Francisco, California to Samar, Philippine Islands arriving there on 6 September and anchoring in Guiuan Roadstead off Samar. On 10 September VALENCIA went alongside dock on Calicoan Island and commenced unloading all holds. VALENCIA remained here until 19 September.

3. When ready for sea at Samar VALENCIA was ordered by Commander Amphibious Group Eight to proceed to Manila for logistics, thence to Subic Bay to off load LCM-6's, and thence to Lingayen Gulf for onward loading. On 19 September VALENCIA got underway from Samar for Manila Bay, in accordance with Port Director, Navy 3149, Serial #373, of 19 September 1945. On 21 September VALENCIA anchored in Manila Bay. On the same day fuel was taken aboard after going alongside U.S.S. VICTORIA (AO-46).

4. On 22 September VALENCIA got underway from Manila Bay for Subic Bay in accordance with Manila Port Director's letter, Serial #0071655, dated 22 September 1945 arriving in Subic late that afternoon. Eight LCM-6's were transferred to Boat Pool, Subic Bay.

5. At 2200 on 22 September VALENCIA got underway from Subic Bay for Lingayen Gulf in accordance with Manila Port Director's letter, Serial #0071655, dated 22 September 1945. VALENCIA anchored off San Fabian, Lingayen Gulf on 23 September in Company with other ships of Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.). Loading cargo of the 25th Division, 6th Army was commenced on the same day in accordance with Commander Amphibious Group Eight secret dispatch #080854. Loading was completed on 26 September. During this period eight Army LCM's were taken aboard for transportation.

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6. On 28 September VALENCIA got underway with other ships of Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.) and shifted berth to typhoon anchorage off Lingayen, Lingayen Gulf, in accordance with Commander Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.) dispatch #272335 of 28 September 1945. On 29 September VALENCIA got underway with other ships of Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.) each proceeding independently, in accordance with TBS radio message from Commander Transport Squadron Twenty (Temp.), to another typhoon anchorage off Port Sual, Lingayen Gulf. At 1845 of the same day VALENCIA was anchored off Port Sual.

7. The end of the month found the VALENCIA anchored off Port Sual, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

8. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

San Francisco to Samar

1 September 1945 (Changed zone time to minus 10)

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	10° 44.5' N.	10° 31.4' N.	10° 26.6' N.
Long.	155° 42.8' E.	154° 42' E.	152° 17' E.

2 September

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	10° 18.1' N.	10° 15.4' N.	10° 09' N.
Long.	149° 07' E.	148° 01' E.	145° 52.8' E.

3 September (Changed zone time to minus 9)

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	10° 06' N.	10° 06.4' N.	10° 16.5' N.
Long.	142° 38.5' E.	141° 31' E.	139° 14.5' E.

4 September

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	10° 27.1' N.	10° 31.8' N.	10° 32.4' N.
Long.	136° 51' E.	135° 29.2' E.	133° 42' E.

5 September

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	10° 34.5' N.	10° 33.8' N.	10° 38' N.
Long.	130° 51' E.	129° 57' E.	128° 11' E.

6 September

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	10° 24.5' N.	10° 42' N.	Anchored
Long.	126° 07' E.	125° 41' E.	Anchored

Samar to Manila Bay

19 September

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Moored	Moored	11° 18' N.
Long.	Moored	Moored	126° 45' E.

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Serial: (0227)

Subject: War Diary; September 1945

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	20 September		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	12° 37.4' N.	12° 40' N.	13° 12' N.
Long.	124° 10.5' E.	123° 25' E.	121° 45' E.

Subic Bay to Lingayen Gulf

	23 September		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	16° 32' N.	Anchored	Anchored
Long.	119° 50' E.	Anchored	Anchored

R. A. Blake
R. A. BLAKE

14 DEC 1945

1st Endorsement
CinC Pacific Fleet
To: CNO

1. Forwarded.

ROUTED TO: 03
20 DEC 1945
File No. (C) AKA-81
Doc. No.
Copy No. 1 of 1
Rec. No. 3950.

E. L. Sackett
E. L. Sackett
By direction

U. S. S. VALENCIA (AKA-81)

FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL
AKA 81/A12-1

SERIAL (0296)

1 December 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: War Diary; November 1945.

1. The U.S.S. VALENCIA (AKA-81) commanded by Commander Rodney A. BLAKE, USNR, operated under Chief of Naval Operations, Naval Transport Service (Fleet Admiral Ernest J. KING, USN, Chief of Naval Operations) and was attached to Commander Western Sea Frontier (Admiral R. E. INGERSOLL, USN, Commander Western Sea Frontier) for operational control.

2. The first of the month found the VALENCIA anchored in transport area, Yokkaichi Ko, off Nagoya, Japan awaiting orders. The VALENCIA remained here until 14 November. On 13 November, one Naval Officer, fifteen Army Officers and two hundred fifty two Army enlisted men reported aboard for transportation to United States.

3. On 14 November, VALENCIA got underway from Nagoya enroute to San Francisco in accordance with Commander Western Sea Frontier despatch 302258 and Port Director's, Nagoya, confidential letter of 13 November.

4. From 14 November to 21 November VALENCIA was underway to San Francisco. On 21 November destination of this ship was changed to Portland, Oregon in accordance with Commander Western Sea Frontier despatch 220008. Appropriate course change was made and on 28 November VALENCIA was moored to dock in Portland, Oregon.

5. The end of the month found the VALENCIA moored to a dock in Portland, Oregon.

6. Positions of the ship during the month while underway:

Nagoya, Japan to Portland, Oregon

14 November

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	34° 34' N.	33° 36' N.
Long.	Anchored	136° 59.7' E.	138° 14.1' E.

15 November

	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	33° 35.1' N.	33° 49' N.	34° 35' N.
Long.	140° 05' E.	141° 09' E.	143° 41' E.

16 November (changed to minus 10 zone time)

	0800	1200	200
Lat.	35° 25.3' N.	35° 55' N.	36° 33' N.
Long.	146° 14' E.	147° 58.3' E.	150° 06.5' E.

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17 November
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 37° 17.4' N. 37° 48.7' N. 38° 33' N.
Long. 152° 42.2' E. 154° 31' E. 156° 32' E.

18 November (changed to minus 11 zone time)
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 39° 45.6' N. 40° 12.3' N. 40° 38' N.
Long. 159° 55' E. 160° 59.5' E. 162° 28.8' E.

19 November
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 42° 01' N. 42° 21' N. 42° 52.6' N.
Long. 166° 59' E. 168° 11.6' E. 170° 17.8' E.

20 November (changed to plus 12 zone time)
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 43° 21.6' N. 43° 33' N. 43° 55' N.
Long. 172° 36.1' E. 173° 19.8' E. 175° 09' E.

20 November
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 44° 25' N. 44° 34' N. 44° 56.4' N.
Long. 178° 30' E. 179° 17.1' E. 178° 31.1' W.

21 November
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 45° 03.8' N. 44° 49' N. 43° 56.7' N.
Long. 176° 12.6' W. 175° 09.3' W. 174° 53' W.

22 November (changed to plus 11 zone time)
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 44° 35.5' N. 44° 59' N. 45° 19' N.
Long. 173° 03.6' W. 171° 59' W. 170° 24.8' W.

23 November
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 46° 02.7' N. 46° 16' N. 46° 20.6' N.
Long. 165° 35.8' W. 164° 18' W. 161° 53' W.

24 November (changed to plus 10 zone time)
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 46° 11' N. 46° 08' N. 46° 05.8' N.
Long. 157° 38.9' W. 156° 21.8' W. 153° 26.5' W.

25 November
0800 1200 2000
Lat. 46° 20.8' N. 46° 07.5' N. 46° 07' N.
Long. 149° 17' W. 147° 28' W. 145° 34' W.

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Serial (0286)

Subject: War Diary; November 1945

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	26 November (changed to plus 9 zone time)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	46° 00.2' N.	46° 02.6' N.	46° 06.5' N.
Long.	140° 39' W.	139° 03' W.	136° 19.7' W.
	27 November		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	46° 11.5' N.	46° 09.8' N.	46° 08.4' N.
Long.	132° 05.1' W.	130° 40.5' W.	129° 06.2' W.
	28 November (changed to plus 8 zone time)		
	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	46° 11' N.	46° 09' N.	Moored
Long.	124° 12' W.	123° 23.5' W.	Moored

R. A. Blake

R. A. BLAKE