

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Reg. No.	79
R. S. No.	

23 April 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary 5 March to 31 March 1945, Incl. -
submission of.

1. 5 March 1945: Moored port side to Pier K, berth 19 in U.S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York with pre-commissioning detail aboard. At 1200 the Captain of the Yard, Captain Harold V. McKittrick representing the Commandant of the Third Naval District, came aboard with commissioning party. At 1209 the Captain of the Yard read his orders (CNO conf. ltr. OP-23E-3-TM(SC) A44, Serial 0307223 of 23 May 1944) from Chief of Naval Operations, accepting the vessel from the contractor, for the Navy and ordered that it be placed in full commission by the prospective commanding officer with appropriate ceremony. The SOPA was CTU 29.5.3, Captain H. M. Branham, USN.

2. Organization to which attached:

- a. Commandant Third Naval District.
- b. Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
- c. Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

3. 6 March 1945 to 16 March 1945: Moored as before, Navy Yard workmen aboard working on authorized alterations and necessary repairs. All departments fitting out and receiving commissioning allowance of stores and equipment.

4. 17 March 1945: Completed necessary repairs and alterations; 1221 underway in obedience to Commandant Third Naval District's confidential letter, Serial 05598 of 13 March 1945, proceeding to deperming station, Bayonne, New Jersey; 1445 moored in assigned berth deperming station, Bayonne, New Jersey and at 1615 commenced deperming operations which were completed at 1715. Underway at 1830 and anchored in Gravesend Bay at 1912 for night.

5. 17 March 1945: Anchored as before. Commenced loading ammunition from barge at 0845 and completed loading at 2050 having received 300 rounds of 5"38 cal. projectiles and powder cases, 19,200 rounds of 40MM projectiles and 38,880 20MM projectiles, 30,000 cal. M2 ball cartridges, 19,800-.45 cal. ball cartridges and ship's allowance of pyrotechnic shakedown and structural firing ammunition. At 1652 reported by dispatch

23 April 1945.

Subject: War Diary 5-31 March 1945, Incl. - submission of.

for duty and shakedown to Commander Amphibious Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Commander Fifth Naval District, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

6. 18 March 1945: Position at 2000 Lat. 39°13' N., Long. 73°50' W. 0924 underway pilot and compass adjusters aboard. Proceeding to lower bay to swing ship. 1112 commenced swinging ship. 1354 completed swinging ship. Compass adjusters left ship. Proceeding to Hampton Roads, Virginia in obedience to Commandant Third Naval District's confidential letter (Ser. 05598 of 13 March 1945).

7. 19 March 1945: Position at 0800 Lat. 36°54' N, Long. 75°26' W. At 0526 entered swept channel for Chesapeake area. 0958 anchored in channel because of dense fog. 1357 fog lifted. Underway. Anchored in berth #5 Hampton Roads at 1625 awaiting orders.

8. 20 March 1945: Anchored as before. At 1320 the Material Inspection Board from the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Training Command with Lieut. Comdr. G. M. Christianson as senior member came aboard to hold shakedown inspection. The inspection party left the ship at 1512, the inspection having been completed.

9. 21 March 1945: Anchored as before. 1011 set condition I Able, exercised crew at launching landing craft. 1500 secured from condition I Able; 1513 underway for Lynnhaven Roads, Virginia in obedience to orders from Commander Amphibious Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. 1656 anchored in Lynnhaven Roads for night.

10. 22 March 1945: Anchored as before. 0715 set condition I Able and launched all landing craft. At 0931 LSM 296 came alongside for practice in discharging cargo. Various landings were made and cargo transferred and at 1315 the exercise was completed and preparations were made for hoisting aboard all boats. At 1637 all boats were aboard and we proceeded to Hampton Roads, anchoring at 1816.

11. 23 March 1945: Anchored as before. 0805 underway in accordance with shakedown schedule for Cape Charles, Va., anchoring at 1446. The crew was exercised at tracking planes and general drills for the remainder of afternoon.

12. 24 March 1945: Anchored as before. 0649 underway for upper Chesapeake Bay to hold gunnery exercises and structural test firing. 0830 commenced structural test firing. 0930 completed

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Ser. 0122

23 April 1945.

Subject: War Diary 5-31 March 1945, Incl. - submission of.

test firing after expending 4 rounds 5".38 AA ammo., 64 rounds 40MM blind loaded and 360 rounds 20MM high explosive incendiary. 1300 exercised at direct spotting practice, short range battle practice and anti-aircraft firing at drone target. Three drones were shot down. 1739 secured from gunnery exercise after expending 65 rounds of 5".38 cal. AA common, 1600 rounds 40MM high explosive incendiary and 7560 rounds of 20MM high explosive incendiary ammunition, proceeding to anchorage off Bloody Point for the night.

13. 25 March 1945: Anchored off Bloody Point Bar at 0055. Underway at 0730 and commenced speed trials over measured mile which were completed at 1402 after making twelve runs. Commenced full power run to Cape Charles City. Anchored off Cape Charles City at 2109.

14. 26 March 1945: Anchored as before. Underway at 0803 to obtain tactical data. Completed maneuvers for obtaining tactical data at 1137 and commenced fueling at sea exercise with USS BRAY (DE 709) which was completed at 1150. Proceeded to Hampton Roads and anchored in Berth #4 at 1530.

15. 27 March 1945: At 0945 Commander T. L. JERMAN, USN, shakedown officer from Amphibious Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet came aboard with staff to conduct battle problem. The problem was successfully completed at 1120. Underway at 1347 for Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia. Moored port side to berth 39 at 1551.

16. 28-31 March 1945: Moored as before in Navy Yard for post shakedown availability. Navy Yard workmen making authorized alterations and repairs.

C. A. Thorwall
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U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Reg. No.	120
R. S. No.	

3 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, April 1945 - submission of.

1. Organization to which attached: Amphibious Training Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
2. 1 April 1945: Zone plus four: Moored starboard side to Pier 3, Berth 24, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia. Cleaning up ship upon completion of Navy Yard repairs and alterations. Underway at 1316 and at 1500 moored port side to Pier 4, Berth 42, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia.
3. 2 April 1945: Moored as before. 0800, reported to CTF 29 (ComServLant) for loading and onward routing. 0800, commenced loading general cargo for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, consisting mainly of beer, structural steel, net units and mattresses. 1800, commenced loading ammunition.
4. 3 April 1945: Completed loading ammunition at 0110, having received 65 rounds 5"/.38 projectiles and powder cases, 1600 rounds 40MM, 6760 rounds 20MM, 129,000 rounds .30 caliber cartridges, and 32,280 rounds .50 caliber cartridges. 0800, continued loading general cargo.
5. 4-7 April 1945: Moored as before. Continued loading general cargo.
6. 8 April 1945: Moored as before. 1330, completed loading 3270 long tons cargo. Embarked 4 U.S. Naval Officers and one Naval Officer instructor (Loran), and 80 enlisted men for transportation. 1546, underway for Canal Zone in accordance with ComServLant's dispatch orders 061605, April 1945. Task Unit 29.6.1 formed; Commander C. A. THORWALL, USNR Commander Task Unit 29.6.1 in U.S.S. MATHEWS (AKA96) in company with U.S.S. SEMINOLE (AKA104) escorted by U.S.S. BROCK (APD93). Standard cruising formation, U.S.S. MATHEWS, guide, U.S.S. SEMINOLE bearing 270 relative, distant 1000 yards and U.S.S. BROCK patrolling ahead, distance 2000-3000 yards. Standard speed 14 knots. Position at 2000, Lat. 36-53 N, Long. 75-28 W.

CONFIDENTIAL

Al2-1/gww
Ser. 0143

3 May 1945.

Subject: War Diary, April 1945 - submission of.

7. 9 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	35 33 N	34 45 N	32 54 N
Longitude	73 16 W	73 17 W	73 21 W

8. 10 April 1945: Changed time to Zone plus 4½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	30 07 N	29 19 N	27 28 N
Longitude	73 45 W	73 55 W	74 09 W

9. 11 April 1945: 1300, held anti-aircraft gunnery practice. Expended: 6 rounds 5"/.38 AAC, 247 rounds 40MM HEIT-SD, 520 rounds 20MM HEI, 260 rounds 20MM HET.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	24 37 N	23 50 N	22 05 N
Longitude	74 22 W	74 17 W	74 46 W

10. 12 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 5.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	19 36 N	18 43 N	17 03 N
Longitude	74 23 W	74 59 W	75 59 W

11. 13 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	14 34 N	13 46 N	12 01 N
Longitude	77 48 W	78 25 W	79 24.5 W

12. 14 April 1945: 0717, entered Colon Harbor, Canal Zone and commenced transit of Panama Canal. Task Unit 29.6.1 dissolved. 1515, moored portside to Pier 1, Berth CD, N.A.D., Balboa, Canal Zone. Fueled and provisioned ship. Detached 3 officer passengers, including Loran instructor, U.S. Navy; transferred 47 U.S. Navy enlisted passengers.

13. 15 April 1945: Zone plus 5. Moored as before. Reported to CinCPac for duty by dispatch 151430, April 1945. 1218, underway for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii in accordance with ComPaSeaFron's orders 150112, April 1945, in company with U.S.S. SEMINOLE (AKA104), U.S.S. MANTA (SS299), and U.S.S. QUILLBACK (SS424). Commander C. A. THORWALL, USNR, Commander

CONFIDENTIAL

Al2-1/gww
Ser. 0143

3 May 1945.

Subject: War Diary, April 1945 - submission of.

Task Unit in U.S.S. MATHEWS. 1428, exercised at shore bombardment with 5"/.38 gun off Valladolid Rock. Expended 11 rounds 5"/.38 AAC and 11 cartridges. Standard cruising formation, U.S.S. MATHEWS, guide, U.S.S. SEMINOLE, bearing 270 relative, interval 1000 yards; U.S.S. MANTA bearing 225 relative, and U.S.S. QUILLBACK bearing 135 relative, distance 4000 yards. Standard speed 13 knots. During cruise Task Unit zigzagged in accordance with various plans and in different formations to train deck officers in station keeping. Submarines exercised at simulated torpedo attacks. AKA's exercised CIC, radar teams and visual lookouts at tracking and spotting submarines during daylight and night attacks. Position at 2000 Lat. 07 46 N, Long. 79 30 W.

14. 16 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 5.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	07 04 N	06 57 N	06 34 N
Longitude	81 42 W	82 30 W	83 56 W

15. 17 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 6.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	06 44 N	06 52 N	07 12 N
Longitude	86 34 W	87 05 W	88 38 W

16. 18 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	07 54 N	08 11 N	08 43 N
Longitude	91 43 W	92 30 W	04 08 W

17. 19 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 6½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	09 35 N	09 44 N	10 16 N
Longitude	97 02 W	98 10 W	99 52 W

18. 20 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 7.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	11 17 N	11 32 N	12 06 N
Longitude	102 52 W	103 42 W	105 18 W

19. 21 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	12 52 N	12 54 N	13 27 N
Longitude	107 53 W	108 37 W	110 01 W

3

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Ser. 0143

3 May 1945.

Subject: War Diary, April 1945 - submission of.

20. 22 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 7½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	14 03 N	14 12 N	14 38 N
Longitude	112 46 W	113 29 W	115 10 W

21. 23 April 1945: 2300, changed time to Zone plus 8.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	15 13 N	15 22 N	15 47 N
Longitude	118 14 W	119 06 W	120 39 W

22. 24 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	16 24 N	16 32 N	17 04 N
Longitude	123 32 W	124 13 W	125 46 W

23. 25 April 1945: 1408, U.S.S. MANTA and U.S.S. QUILLBACK left formation and proceeded independently to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii by separate route, in accordance with orders. 2300, changed time to Zone plus 8½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	17 39 N	17 50 N	18 10 N
Longitude	128 48 W	129 50 W	131 33 W

24. 26 April 1945: 1321, practiced making smoke with boilers, then with smoke generators and finally with smoke pots. Expended four smoke pots. Results, good. 2300, changed time to Zone plus 9.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	18 55 N	19 08 N	19 30 N
Longitude	134 43 W	135 42 W	137 36 W

25. 27 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 13 N	20 25 N	20 33 N
Longitude	140 50 W	141 48 W	143 43 W

CONFIDENTIAL

Al2-1/gww
Ser. 0143

3 May 1945.

Subject: War Diary, April 1945 - submission of.

26. 28 April 1945: Exercised at anti-aircraft gun drill using balloons for targets. Expended 16 rounds 5"/38 Cal. AAC and cartridges, 350 rounds 40MM HEIT-SD, 100 rounds 20MM HET and 201 rounds 20MM HEI. 2300, changed time to Zone plus 9½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 44 N	20 48 N	20 58 N
Longitude	146 49 W	147 50 W	149 33 W

27. 29 April 1945:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	21 08 N	21 11 N	21 14 N
Longitude	152 24 W	153 22 W	155 10 W

28. 30 April 1945: Underway as before. 0709 exercised at gun drills. Practiced firing all guns at towed sleeve targets in area A-9, north of Molokai Island, T.H. Ammunition expended: 5"/38 Cal. AAC and cartridges 18 rounds; 40MM HEIT, 1129 rounds; 20MM HET, 1286 rounds; 20MM HEI, 2572 rounds. 1257, moored starboard side to Berth M-3, Merry Point Pier, U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. Detached 2 officer passengers, and 33 enlisted passengers. 1400, reported verbally to Commander Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet for duty. 2005, commenced unloading cargo with stevedores from U.S. Naval Special Construction Battalions 26 and 37.

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U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

247

Reg. No.	189
R. S. No.	

11 June 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, May 1945 - submission of.

1. Organization to which attached: Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

2. 1-6 May 1945: Zone plus nine and one half. Moored starboard side to Berth M-3, Merry Point Pier, U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. Unloading cargo with stevedores from U.S. Naval Special Construction Battalions 26 and 37.

3. 7 May 1945: 1630 - Completed discharging 3270 long tons general cargo. 1806 - Underway to shift berth. 1840 - moored starboard side to Berth F-3, Pearl Harbor T.H.

4. 8 May 1945: Moored as before. 0658 - Underway in accordance with AdComPhibsPac dispatch orders 080210 May. 1300 - Joined Task Unit 13.10.1 in Maalaea Bay, Maui, T.H. and reported to ComTransRon 19, and on his orders to ComTransDiv ABLE for duty. Commenced training exercises in accordance with Commander Task Group 13.10 (ComAdComPhibsPac) Secret Training Order No. A98-45, serial No. 00453 of 4 May 1945, and also Commander Task Unit 13.10.1 (ComTransRon 19, Commodore C.D. EDGAR, USN, in U.S.S. MENDOCINO) Training Order No. A5-45, serial No. 00143 of 4 May 1945. 1401 - Anchored in Berth 9, Maalaea Bay, Maui, T.H. 1602 - Underway for night cruising in areas C-1, 2, and 4, with Task Unit 13.10.2 in Cruising Disposition "3T". C.T.U. 13.10.1 in U.S.S. MENDOCINO stationed ahead of formation. C.T.U. 13.10.2 in U.S.S. WESTMORELAND, formation guide, column one, TransDiv BAKER, U.S.S. LAURENS (F), NOBLE, NAVARRO, AND CIRCE; column two, TransDiv ABLE, U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (F), RIVERSIDE, MERIWETHER, MATHEWS; column three, TransDiv CHARLIE, U.S.S. NESHOPA (F), MENARD, BINGHAM, and SEMINOLE; screened by PC's 569 (F), and 782; standard speed 12 knots, standard distance 600 yards, standard interval 1000 yards.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	21 13 N	20 58 N	20 21 N
Longitude	157 52 W	156 53 W	157 05 W

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Serial 0204

11 June 1945.

Subject: War Diary, May 1945 - submission of.

5. 9 May 1945: Underway as before. 0715 - Arrived in Transport Area "A". 0724 - Conducted scheduled landing exercises, from Berth 5, with Task Unit 13.10.1, in accordance with Training Order No. A5-45. 1143 - Anchored in Berth 9, inner anchorage, Maalaea Bay, Maui, T.H. Task Unit anchored independently. 1502 - Underway with Task Unit 13.10.2 for Night Cruising in Areas C-1, 2, and 4 in Cruising Disposition "3T". U.S.S. WESTMORELAND, formation guide. Column one, TransDiv BAKER, U.S.S. LAURENS (F), NOBLE, NAVARRO, and CIRCE; column two, TransDiv ABLE, U.S.S. WESTMORELAND, RIVERSIDE, MERIWETHER, MATHEWS and BURIE SON; column three, TransDiv CHARLIE, U.S.S. NESHOPA (F), MENARD, BINGHAM, and SEMINOLE; screened by PC's 569 (F), 718, and 782. 1530 - Task Unit conducted tactical maneuvers until 2000. 2047 - conducted Damage Control Problem No. 1. 2100-2200 - Night fighters and torpedo planes made simulated attacks on transports. Flares were dropped. Task Unit maneuvered evasively. C.I.C. held radar tracking drills during exercise. 2300 - Completed all exercises.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 38 N	20 46 N	20 22 N
Longitude	156 37 W	156 30 W	156 57 W.

6. 10 May 1945: Underway as before. 0715 - Arrived in Transport Area "A". 0749 - Conducted scheduled landing exercises from Berth 5, with Task Unit 13.10.1 in accordance with Training Order. 0824 - Conducted Battle and Damage Control Problems. 1149 - Anchored in Berth 9, inner anchorage, Maalaea Bay, Maui, T.H. Task Unit anchored independently. 1329 - Conducted smoke making exercises. Expended 26 smoke pots from boats and 3 from ship. Smoke generators inoperative due to faulty spark plugs. 2125 - Motor Torpedo Boat Unit supported by night fighters and torpedo planes conducted simulated attack on transports at anchor. Planes illuminated ships with parachute flares. Torpedo boats attacked using multi-colored pyrotechnics, smoke and flares. 2214 - Used 24" searchlights to illuminate torpedo boats when within range. 2300 - Underway with Task Unit in Cruising Disposition "3T" for night cruising.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 41 N	Anchored	Anchored
Longitude	156 38 W	Anchored	Anchored

7. 11 May 1945: Underway as before. 0643 - Arrived in Transport Area "A". 0730 - Conducted scheduled landing exercises from Berth 6, with Task Unit 13.10.1 in accordance with Training Order. 1146 - Anchored in Berth 9, inner anchorage, Maalaea Bay,

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Serial 0204

Subject: War Diary, May 1945 - submission of.

Maui, T.H. Task Unit anchored independently. 1518 - Underway with Task Unit in Cruising Disposition "3T". 1618 - Conducted streaming paravane exercise. 1740 - Exercised at Tactical Maneuvers until 1800. 2000 - Conducted radio procedure and operations exercises. 2011 - Conducted Battle and Damage Control Problems. 2200 - Completed all exercises.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 38 N	20 46 N	20 22 N
Longitude	156 40 W	156 30 W	156 56 W

8. 12 May 1945: Underway as before. 0637 - Arrived in Transport Area in Kealaikahiki Channel, off Kahoolawe Island. 0735 - Conducted scheduled landing exercises from Berth 6, with Task Unit 13.10.1 in accordance with Training Order. 1029 - Planes conducted combined strafing and torpedo attacks on transports (simulated). 1407 - Underway with Task Unit in Cruising Disposition "3T", for night cruising. First column, TransDiv BAKER, U.S.S. LAURENS (F), NOBLE, NAVARRO, MELLENA; column two, TransDiv ABLE, U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (F), RIVERSIDE, MERIWETHER, EDGEComb, MATHEWS; column three, TransDiv CHARLIE, U.S.S. NESHOPA (F), BINGHAM, MAGOFFIN, NEW KENT, SEMINOLE. U.S.S. MENDOCINO (C.T.U. 13.10.1 in station ahead of column two). 1536 - Conducted tactical maneuvers until 1651. 2045 - night fighters and torpedo planes conducted simulated attacks on transports using flares for illumination. Task Unit maneuvered evasively. 2159 - Completed all exercises.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 38 N	20 38 N	20 36 N
Longitude	156 37 W	156 37 W	157 00 W

9. 13 May 1945: Underway as before. 0537 - Conducted Damage Control Problem. 0750 - Task Unit formed Cruising Disposition "1T", as directed in C.T.U. 13.10.2 Training Order No. A5-45, Annex A. 0820 - LSM 332 and PG 42 joined formation to act as drone control vessels. 0900 - Ships in formation, firing ships in column ahead, U.S.S. MENDOCINO guide, non-firing ships in column astern, U.S.S. RIVERSIDE guide, U.S.S. MATHEWS third ship in second column. 0903 - Ships conducted AA gunnery exercises, firing at drones. 1100 - Task Unit completed exercises, and formed cruising Disposition "3T". 1342 - conducted exercises with submarine attack units as directed in C.T.U. 13.10.1 Training Order A98-45, Annex "I". Submarines fired practice torpedoes at transports as the latter maneuvered evasively. Planes assisted trans-

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Serial 0204

Subject: War Diary, May 1945 - submission of.

9. 13 May 1945: Underway as before. 0537 - conducted Damage Control Problem. 0750 - Task Unit formed Cruising Disposition "1T", as directed in C.T.U. 13.10.2 Training Order No. A5-45, Annex A. 0820 - LSM 332 and PG 42 joined formation to act as drone control vessels. 0900 - ships in formation, firing ships in column ahead, U.S.S. MENDOCINO guide, non-firing ships in column astern, U.S.S. RIVERSIDE guide, U.S.S. MATHEWS third ship in second column. 0903 - ships conducted AA gunnery exercises, firing at drones. 1100 - Task Unit completed exercises, and formed Cruising Disposition "3T". 1342 - conducted exercises with submarine attack units as directed in C.T.U. 13.10.1 Training Order A98-45, Annex "I". Submarines fired practice torpedoes at transports as the latter maneuvered evasively. Planes assisted transports by locating torpedoes and submarines. 1450 - conducted Damage Control Problem No. 3. 1519 - completed exercises. 1850 - submarine attack units and night fighter planes conducted combined simulated attacks on Task Unit in accordance with C.T.U. 13.10.1 Training Order A98-45, Annex "I". Ships maneuvered evasively. 2214 - completed all exercises.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 10.5 N	20 42 N	21 10 N
Longitude	158 15 W	158 08 W	159 01 W

10. 14 May 1945: Underway as before. 0628 - Task Unit formed Cruising Disposition "1T", column of divisions in columns, Trans Divs "A", "B", and "C", U.S.S. MENDOCINO (F) at head of formation. 0730 - U.S.S. WESTMORELAND designated formation guide. 0752 - Task Unit conducted AA gunnery practice. Sleeves were towed by two TBF's. Following ammunition expended: 2 rounds 5"/38 AAC and cartridges, 379 rounds 40mm HEIT-D, 417 rounds 20mm HET, and 834 rounds 20mm HEI. 1025 - C.T.U. 13.10.1 ordered Task Unit to form single column, as follows: U.S.S. LAURENS, NOBLE, NEW KENT, EDGEComb, MAGOFFIN, MENDOCINO, MATHEWS, WESTMORELAND, MERIWETHER, BINGHAM, NAVARRO, NESHOPA, SEMINOLE, RIVERSIDE, and MELLENA. Task Unit organization dissolved upon entering Pearl Harbor. 1436 - moored in Berth X-13, East Loch, Pearl Harbor, T. H. 1535 - U.S.S. SEMINOLE moored alongside to port, starboard side to.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 58 N	21 12 N	Moored
Longitude	158 20 N	157 58 W	

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Serial 0204

Subject: War Diary, May 1945 - submission of.

11. 15-18 May: Moored as before. Cleaning and painting ship.

12. 19 May: Moored as before. 1438 - underway to shift berths in accordance with Port Director, Pearl Harbor's Dispatch Orders 191916 May. 1659 - moored port side to Berth 39-B, Honolulu Harbor, T.H., in compliance with AdComPhibsPac Airmailgram No. 192317 reported to JDSCO for loading and to Port Director for onward routing.

13. 20 May: Moored as before. 1515 - commenced loading cargo. Stevedores from Port Companies of the U.S. Army.

14. 21 May: Moored as before. The following ship's ammunition was loaded on board: 100 rounds 5"/38 AAC, 10 rounds 5"/38 Illum, 5 rounds 5"/38 W.P., 115 5"/38 powder cartridges, 1600 rounds 40mm HEIT-SD, 1800 rounds 20mm HEI, 3600 rounds 20mm HET, 10,000 rounds 22 cal. cartridges, 16,000 rounds 30 cal. carbine cartridges, and 29 Mk 4 smoke pots from Naval Ammunition Depot, Oahu, T. H.

15. 22-24 May: Moored as before. Loading cargo.

16. 25 May: Moored as before. 1200 - underway to shift berths. 1226 - moored portside to Pier 28, Honolulu Harbor, T. H. 1445 - resumed loading cargo. 2330 - completed loading 1544 tons general cargo.

17. 26 May: Moored as before. 0755 - underway to shift berths. 1018 - moored port side to S.S. WILLIAM STEWART in Berth X-15, East Loch, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

18. 27 May: Moored as before.

19. 28 May: Moored as before. 1550 - pursuant to Headquarters, Army Port and Service Command, (A.P.O. 455) Orders No. A. G. 370.5 of 28 May 1945, 8 officers and 78 men of the U.S. Army came aboard for transportation. 1758 - underway independently in obedience to Port Director, 14th Naval District Orders of 28 May 1945 for Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. Speed of advance, 14 knots. 2300 - changed time to zone plus ten (+10). During stay in port officers and men were sent to attend the following training classes: Two officers to Signal Officer's School, Pacific Fleet School, Camp Catlin, Oahu, T. H.; two officers and eight men to Fire Fighters School, Pearl Harbor, T. H.; two officers and eight men to Waimonalo Amphibious Training Base, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

CONFIDENTIAL

A12-1/gww
Serial 0204

Subject: War Diary, May 1945 - submission of.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	Moored	Moored	21 02 N
Longitude	Moored	Moored	157 57 W

20. 29 May: Steaming independently, enroute to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. 0720 - U.S.S. SEMINOLE (AKA-104) requested permission to steam in company with this ship. Permission granted at 0915, she took station bearing 090° relative, interval 1000 yards. 1336 to 1355 - conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises at balloons and 5" shell bursts. Ammunition expended; 3 rounds 5"/38 AAC and 3 cartridges, 86 rounds 40mm HEIT-SD, 573 rounds 20mm HEI, 286 rounds 20mm HET, 800 rounds 50 cal. 2300 - changed time to zone plus ten and one half ($\neq 10\frac{1}{2}$).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20 05 N	19 58 N	19 49 N
Longitude	159 55 W	160 47 W	162 20 W

21. 30 May: 2300 - changed time to zone plus eleven ($\neq 11$).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	19 26 N	19 10 N	18 56 N
Longitude	165 26 W	166 23 W	168 26 W

22. 31 May: 2300 - changed time to zone plus eleven and one half ($\neq 11\frac{1}{2}$).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	18 33 N	18 18 N	17 56 N
Longitude	171 30 W	172 33 W	174 33 W

C. A. Thorwall

C. A. THORWALL

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1 July 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, June 1945 - submission of.

1. Organization to which attached: Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

2. 1 June: Zone time plus eleven and one half ($+11\frac{1}{2}$). Enroute Pearl Harbor, T. H. to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, in obedience to Port Director, 14th Naval District's orders of 28 May 1945; speed of advance 14 knots, with 1544 tons of cargo and the following passengers: 8 officers and 78 enlisted men of U. S. Army, under Army Port and Service Command (A.P.O. 455) orders No. A.G. 370.5 of 28 May 1945. 1927 - conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises. Ammunition expended: 5"/38 - 4 illuminating and 2 window, 6 cartridges; 40mm - 224 rounds HEIT-SD; 20mm - 411 rounds HEI, 205 rounds HET. 2300 - changed time to zone plus twelve ($+12$). 2400 - changed date to 3 June and time zone to minus twelve (-12), having crossed International Date Line at 1620.

3. 3 June: 2300 - changed time to zone minus eleven and one half ($-11\frac{1}{2}$).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	15-46 N	15-27 N	14-55 N
Longitude	175-53 E	174-52 E	172-49 E

4. 4 June: 2300 - changed time to zone minus eleven (-11).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	13-56 N	13-40 N	13-10 N
Longitude	169-47 E	168-44 E	166-48 E

5. 5 June: 0912 - conducted anti-aircraft firing drill. Ammunition expended: 5"/38 - 2 rounds WP and 2 cartridges; 40mm - 57 rounds HEIT-SD. 1250-1255 - conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises. Ammunition expended: 5"/38 - 1 round WP, 1 cartridge; 40mm - 43 rounds HEIT-SD. 1623 - anchored in Berth D-3, Anchorage "A", Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	12-03 N	11-38 N	Anchored
Longitude	163-57 E	163-00 E	Anchored

6. 6-16 June: Anchored as before. 0800 June 6 - changed time to zone minus twelve (-12).

130603

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, June 1945 - submission of.

7. 17 June: Anchored as before. 1430 - three U.S. Naval enlisted personnel were received on board for transportation. 1500 - changed time to zone minus eleven (-11). 1432 - underway for Ulithi, Caroline Islands, in accordance with Port Director, Eniwetok's orders of 17 June 1945.

Position 2000 - Latitude: 11-23 N Longitude: 161-23 E

8. 18 June: 2300 - changed time to zone minus ten and one half (-10½).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	11-51 N	11-55 N	12-20 N
Longitude	158-22 E	157-21 E	155-20 E

9. 19 June: 1130 - conducted surprise firing of 5"/38. Ammunition expended: 1 round WP and 1 cartridge. 1303 - conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises. Ammunition expended: 5"/38 - 12 rounds AAC and 12 cartridges; 40mm - 236 rounds of HEIT-SD; 20mm - 582 rounds HET and 1163 rounds HEI. 2300 - changed time to zone minus ten (-10).

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	12-55 N	12-40 N	11-59 N
Longitude	152-17 E	151-13 E	149-18 E

10. 20 June:

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	10-57 N	10-36 N	10-17 N
Longitude	146-29 E	145-28 E	143-29 E

11. 21 June: 1323 - anchored midway between berths 36 and 37, Ulithi Atoll, Caroline Islands.

Position 0800 - Latitude: 10-05 N Longitude: 140-34 E

12. 22 June: Anchored as before. 1228 - underway to fueling berth in accordance with Port Director, Ulithi's dispatch orders 212235. 1328 - moored starboard to portside U.S.S. MANATEE (AO 58) in berth 14. Fueled ship. 1729 - completed fueling, having received 160,258 gallons Navy Special fuel oil, and 2395 gallons diesel oil. Underway to return to berth. 1811 - anchored midway between berths 36 and 37, Ulithi Atoll, Caroline Islands.

13. 23-30 June: Anchored as before.

C. A. Thorwall
C. A. THORWALL

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. **AUG 25 09 49**

1945
 1 August 1945.

SECRET

From: Commanding Officer.
 To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
 Via: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: War Diary, July, 1945; submission of.

1. Organization to which attached: Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

2. 1-9 July (Zone time -10) - anchored midway between berths 36 and 37, ULITHI ATOLL, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Various units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, merchant ships, and small craft present. SOPA is Commander Service Squadron Ten Representative, ULITHI, in USS PRAIRIE. In accordance with Army Port and Service Command's (A.P.O. 455) orders No. A.G. 370.5 of 25 May 1945, eight officers and seventy eight enlisted men of the U. S. Army are embarked as passengers. Four enlisted passengers of the U. S. Navy are aboard under separate orders, and 1544 tons of cargo.

3. 10 July - Anchored as before. 0721 - got underway for OKINAWA, NANSEI SHOTO, in accordance with Port Director, ULITHI's orders of 9 July 1945, in company with Task Unit 94.18.20. Commander Task Unit is ComTransDiv 53, in USS MARATHON (formation guide). Standard Cruising Disposition "A" is five columns as follows: column one; USS LA PORTE, USS SEMINOLE, SS TRINITY VICTORY, SS PARK VICTORY, USS MATHEWS; column two; USS GRUNDY, USS STORM KING, USS LYON, SS CAPE ELIZABETH, USS NIOBRARA, SS ALAMO VICTORY; column three; USS MARATHON (F), USS GILLIAM, USS VINTON, SS LONGVIEW VICTORY, SS SOUTH AFRICAN VICTORY, SS DOUGLAS VICTORY; column four; USS PRESIDENT MONROE, USS COMET, USS GEORGE F. ELLIOT, SS SEA DEVIL, USS SUAMICO, SS PRATT VICTORY; column five; USS LATIMER, USS WAUKESHA, SS MILLS VICTORY, SS ALCOA POINTER, USS RENATE. Escorted by USS MAYRANT (F) (ComDesDiv 14), USS RHIND, USS BENSON, and USS MAYO patrolling on stations. Standard distance 600 yards, standard interval 1000 yards, standard speed is 14 knots. 1000 - after standing out of ULITHI ATOLL, Task Unit formed Cruising Disposition "G", of two columns of divisions as follows: column one; divisions 3, 2, and 1; column two; divisions 4 and 5; USS MARATHON formation guide, and conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises at towed sleeve targets. 1032-1155 - held gunnery exercises and expended the following rounds of ammunition: 5"/38 - 9 AAC, 9 cartridges; 40mm - 695 HEIT-SD; 20mm 2393 HEI, 1197 HET. 1300 - formed Cruising Disposition "A". 1420-1611 - Task Unit exercised at tactical maneuvers.

Positions								1200	2000
Latitude								10°-37' N	11°-57' N
Longitude								139°-42' E	138°-41' E

Officer	37	371	372	373	374	375	376	Yes	Yes
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SECRET

Subject: War Diary, July, 1945; submission of.

4. 11 July - 1400 - changed time to zone -9.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	14°-12' N	14°-49' N	16°-26' N
Longitude	137°-00' E	136°-36' E	135°-28' E

5. 12 July -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	18°-36' N	19°-13' N	20°-38' N
Longitude	133°-53' E	133°-18' E	132°-13' E

6. 13 July -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	22°-45' N	23°-18' N	24°-37' N
Longitude	130°-43' E	130°-11' E	129°-06' E

7. 14 July - (Zone time -9) - 0547 - Task Unit split into two sections and formed Cruising Disposition "B" and "C", proceeding separately. 0640 - this ship took station in Cruising Disposition "C". The formation consisted of two columns; column one - USS LA PORTE, USS LYON, SS LONGVIEW VICTORY, SS DOUGLAS VICTORY, SS SOUTH AFRICAN VICTORY, SS PRATT VICTORY; column two; USS LATIMER (formation guide and O.T.C.), USS GRUNDY, USS VINTON, USS MATHEWS, SS MILLS VICTORY. 0853 - Task Unit commenced proceeding independently to anchorages. 1359 - anchored in berth X-15, HAGUSHI BAY, OKINAWA SHIMA, NANSEI SHOTO. Ships present: Various units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, merchant ships, and small craft. SOPA is Commander Task Unit 99.1.2, in USS CRESCENT CITY. 1615 - U. S. Army passengers were disembarked on OKINAWA, with the exception of twelve men who remained on board to handle cargo.

8. 15 July - (Zone -9) - 0900 - transferred four U. S. Navy enlisted passengers to USS CRESCENT CITY (Receiving Ship). 1901 - commenced discharging cargo, using ship's boats and lighters from the 28th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion.

9. 16 July - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo.

10. 17 July - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 1637-1900 - PC 1128 alongside for fuel, water, and provisions. 1845 - made all preparations to execute Typhoon Plan in accordance with Commander Task Group 99.1's dispatch 170506. 2159-2247 - red alert in area; made smoke.

11. 18 July - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 2047-2110 - red alert in area; made smoke.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary, July, 1945; submission of.

12. 19 July - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 0645 - ceased discharging cargo. 0700 - disembarked twelve remaining Army men. 0741 - got underway from HAGUSHI BAY to execute Commander Task Group 99.1's Typhoon Plan X, serial 060 of 10 July 1945, in accordance with Commander Task Group 99.1's dispatch 181616. By order of Commander Task Unit 99.1.2, 4 LCM's, 4 LCVP's, 4 officers, and 35 enlisted men were sent to NAHA HARBOR, OKINAWA. 0822 - joined Task Unit 99.1.211 (Transport Unit "A"). Cruising Disposition, single column, USS GRUNDY (Commander Task Group 99.1.211, O.T.C. and guide), USS ALKAID, USS NAOS, USS MATHEWS, USS SABIK, USS VINTON, SS G. E. HALL, and SS ASA DUNCAN, standard distance 700 yards, standard speed 9 knots (48 rpm). 1302 - USS SABIK and ships astern ordered to form second column 1500 yards to port. Task Unit proceeded to south east of OKINAWA to avoid typhoon.

Position 2000
Latitude 25°-58' N
Longitude 128°-49' E

13. 20 July -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	25°-20' N	25°-48' N	25°-40' N
Longitude	129°-47' E	129°-23' E	129°-21' E

14. 21 July - Task Unit reversed general course during the night and proceeded to return to OKINAWA. 0732 - USS SABIK and port column ordered to drop astern and form single column, USS GRUNDY (guide). 0931 - this ship was granted permission by Commander Task Unit to proceed independently to NAHA HARBOR to pick up landing craft and men. 1028 - anchored in HAGUSHI BAY ANCHORAGE, OKINAWA, NANSEI SHOTO. All ships previously in anchorage returned to former berths. 1100 - resumed discharging cargo.

15. 22 July - (Zone -9) - Anchored as before. 0210 - 0352 - red alert in area; made smoke. Radar contacted several enemy planes during this period. 0600 - completed discharging 1544 tons of cargo. 1008 - got underway for ULITHI, CAROLINE ISLANDS, in accordance with Port Director, OKINAWA's dispatch orders 200312, July, and USS LATIMER (Commodore of Convoy OKU 14) dispatch orders 211618, July. 1040 - took station in Cruising Disposition "A", single column as follows: USS LATIMER (formation guide and O.T.C.), USS MATHEWS, SS DEFIANCE, USS GRUNDY, and USS LA PORTE. USS MADISON, escort, patrolling ahead. Standard speed 15 knots (80 rpm), standard distance 600 yards. 1300 - additional ships from BUCKNER BAY joined convoy. New cruising disposition as follows: column one - USS MONROE, USS GILLIAM, USS STORM KING, and USS COMET; column two; USS LATIMER (convoy guide and O.T.C.), USS MATHEWS, and SS DEFIANCE; column three - USS GRUNDY, USS LA PORTE, and SS CALVIN VICTORY. Standard distance 600 yards, standard interval

SECRET

Subject: War Diary, July, 1945; submission of.

15. (cont'd) - 100 yards, standard speed 15 knots (80 rpm). Escorts USS MADISON and USS GEORGE patrolling on stations ahead of convoy.

Position	2000
Latitude	24°-47' N
Longitude	128°-28' E

16. 23 July -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	22°-20' N	21°-42' N	20°-13' N
Longitude	130°-20' E	130°-56' E	132°-11' E

17. 24 July -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	17°-56' N	17°-11' N	15°-46' N
Longitude	133°-58' E	134°-22' E	135°-29' E

18. 25 July - 0300 - USS STORM KING and USS COMET detached from convoy and left formation. 0615 - SS DEFIANCE changed station to third and last ship in column one.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	13°-33' N	12°-48' N	11°-27' N
Longitude	137°-10' E	137°-42' E	138°-41' E

19. 26 July - 0300 - changed zone time to -10. 0400 - radar landfall on ULITHI ATOLL bearing 078°(T), distant 20 miles. 0635 - convoy OKU dissolved; all ships proceeded independently to anchorages. 0834 - moored port side to USS SEPULGA in URUSHI ANCHORAGE, ULITHI ATOLL. Fueled ship. 1106 - completed fueling after receiving 2093 gallons of fuel oil. 1207 - cast off and stood away. 1249 - anchored in berth 439, ULITHI ATOLL, CAROLINE ISLANDS. Ships present: Various units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, merchant ships, and small craft. SOPA is Commander Service Squadron Ten Representative, ULITHI, in USS PRAIRIE.

20. 27 July - (Zone -10) - 0843 - got underway from ULITHI ATOLL for GUADALCANAL, B.S.I., in accordance with CINCPAC, Pearl's confidential dispatch 242114, July, and Port Director, ULITHI's secret routing instructions and orders of 26 July 1945, and proceeded independently at 14.5 knots (77 rpm) speed of advance.

Positions	1200	2000
Latitude	09°-20' N	07°-51' N
Longitude	140°-01' E	171°-11' E

Reg. No. *Om 29720*
647
R.S. No.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary, July 1945; submission of.

21. 28 July -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	05°-35' N	04°-52' N	03°-25' N
Longitude	142°-40' E	143°-05' E	144°-11' E

22. 29 July - 1338 - crossed the equator at longitude 146°-29' East. His Royal Highness Neptunus Rex and Royal Party boarded the ship and initiated all Pollywogs into the mysteries of his realm. 1920 - radar landfall on MANUS ISLAND bearing 182° (T), distant 50 miles.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	01°-04' N	00°-19' N	01°-15.5' S
Longitude	145°-43' E	146°-15' E	147°-03' E

23. 30 July - 1620 - passed between LONG and TOLOKIWA ISLANDS, and thence through VITIAZ STRAITS. 2300 - changed time to zone -10½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	03°-42' S	04°-28' S	05°-48' S
Longitude	147°-13' E	147°-10' E	147°-32' E

24. 31 July - 2300 - changed time to Zone -11.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	06°-52.5' S	07°-13' S	07°-51' S
Longitude	149°-13' E	149°-55' E	151°-42' E

C. A. Thorwall
C. A. THORWALL

A12/July
004163 12 SEP 1945

1st Endorsement
CinC Pacific Fleet
To: Cominch

1. Forwarded.

G. E. Prall
G. E. PRALL
by direction

RECEIVED
17 SEP 17 9 58
9 647

REC 321
NO 21

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 September 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, August, 1945 - submission of.

1. Organization to which attached: Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

2. 1 August (Zone time -11) - underway in passage from ULITHI ATOLL to GUADALCANAL in compliance with CINCPAC, Pearl's confidential dispatch 242114 July and Port Director ULITHI's secret routing instructions and order of 26 July 1945, proceeding independently at 14.5 knots (77rpm) speed of advance. 1300 - 1323 - conduct anti-aircraft firing practice on target balloons. Expended 6 rounds 5"/38 Cal. AAC and cartridges, 586 rounds of 40MM HEIT-SD, 1037 rounds of 20MM HEI, and 519 rounds of 20MM HET.

POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	08°46'S	09°07'S	09°21'S
LONGITUDE	154°01'E	154°48'E	156°26'E

3. 2 August - 0320 - made Radar landfall on BURAKU ISLAND, bearing 066°(T), distant 40 miles. 0643 - made Radar landfall on GUADALCANAL, bearing 090°(T), distant 40 miles. 1129 - arrived LUNGA Point, GUADALCANAL. Received orders from Commander Task Unit 11.5.6, to proceed to RUSSELL ISLANDS for loading. 1700 - anchored off BANIKA ISLAND, RUSSELL ISLANDS; one merchant vessel and various harbor craft present. SOPA is Commander C.A. THORWALL in U.S.S. MATHEWS.

4. 3 August - 0700 - moved to North Dock, WHITE Beach, RUSSELL ISLANDS, in accordance with Port Director RUSSELL ISLANDS' dispatch orders 020740 August. 0800 - moored port side to North Dock. 1130 - stevedores from the 9th Special Construction Battalion commenced loading general cargo.

5. 4 - 8 August - moored as before; continued loading general cargo.

6. 9 August - moored as before. 1505 - completed loading 3,937.9 tons of general cargo; including 6,791 drums of 80 octane gasoline. Embarked one enlisted man, two Marine guards and one Marine prisoner for transportation. 1521 - underway for GUAM in accordance with Commander Task Unit 11.5.6 dispatch orders 030452 August, proceeding independently at 15.2 knots (81rpm) speed of advance.

POSITION at 2000 - 08°46'S 159°59'E

7. 10 August

POSITION	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	06°26'S	05°22'S	03°33'S
LONGITUDE	161°43.5'E	161°56'E	162°21.5'E

143397

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, August, 1945 - submission of.

8. 11 August - 0923 - crossed the Equator at 162°53'E

POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	00°21'S	00°40'N	02°31.5'N
LONGITUDE	161°51'E	163°20'E	163°32'E

9. 12 August

POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	05°26'N	06°20.5'N	08°10'N
LONGITUDE	164°02'E	163°37'E	162°57'E

10. 13 August - 0856 - sighted ENIWETOK ATOLL, bearing 000 (T), distant, about 20 miles. 2300 - changed time to Zone -10½.

POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	10°56'N	11°18'N	11°38'N
LONGITUDE	162°13.5'E	161°22.5'E	159°34'E

11. 14 August - 2300 - changed time to Zone -10

POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	12°03'N	12°10'N	12°26'N
LONGITUDE	156°35.5'E	155°41'E	153°51'E

12. 15 August - 0907 - The President of the United States announced to the Nations of the World that Japan had accepted the terms of the United Nation's unconditional surrender offer. 1300 - 1330 - conducted anti-aircraft firing practice on target balloons. Expended 11 rounds 5"/38 Cal. AAC and cartridges, 352 rounds 40MM HEIT-SD, 769 rounds 20MM HEI, and 384 rounds 20MM HET.

POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
LATITUDE	12°52'N	12°56.5'N	13°14'N
LONGITUDE	150°57'E	150°01'E	148°25'E

13. 16 August - 1030 - passed between ROTA ISLAND and GUAM. 1454 - entered APRA Harbor. 1523 - moored fore and aft in Berth No. 23, Port APRA, GUAM. Ships present: various units of the U.S.PACIFIC and Allied Fleets, merchant vessels and harbor craft. SOPA is Vice Admiral LOCKWOOD, ComSubPac in U.S.S. HOLLAND. 1617 - U.S. Marine passengers were disembarked. 1845 - one U.S. Navy enlisted passenger was transferred to U.S.S. LSM 215.

14. 17 August - moored as before.

15. 18 August - moored as before. 1402 - underway in accordance with Port Director, GUAM's dispatch orders 172333 August to shift berths to Dock "FOX". 1429 - moored starboard side to Dock "FOX", Port APRA, GUAM. 1645 - stevedores from 34th Special Construction Battalion, augmented by ship's force, commenced unloading cargo.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, August, 1945 - submission of.

16. 19 - 20 August - moored as before. Discharging cargo.
17. 21 August - moored as before. Discharging cargo. 1245 - completed fueling ship, having taken aboard 7,000 gallons of diesel oil and 3,539 barrels of fuel oil at 60°F. 2155 - commenced loading hold No. 2 with general cargo.
18. 22 - 24 August - moored as before. Discharging cargo for GUAM and loading general cargo for TINIAN and SAIPAN.
19. 25 August - moored as before. 0520 - completed unloading 2,711.9 tons of general cargo.
20. 26 August - moored as before. 1140 - completed loading 1,099.5 tons of general cargo. 1400 - underway, enroute from GUAM, MARIANA ISLANDS to TINIAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, in compliance with Port Director GUAM's confidential order serial 2148 of 26 August, proceeding independently at 10 knots (53rpm) speed of advance. 2305 - sighted ROTA ISLAND bearing 060°(T), distant 20 miles.
21. 27 August - 0300 - made Radar landfall on TINIAN ISLAND bearing 055 (T), distant 31 miles. 0643 - anchored in TINIAN Harbor, MARIANA ISLANDS. Various merchant vessels and amphibious craft present. SOPA is Commander C.A. THORWALL in U.S.S. MATHEWS. 1456 - underway to more suitable anchorage, having dragged anchor, in compliance with Port Director TINIAN's visual dispatch of 270518 August. 1547 - anchored off TINIAN ISLAND.
22. 28 August - 0546 - underway in compliance with Port Director TINIAN's visual dispatch of 270836 August to enter Harbor. 0705 - moored starboard side to Berth "2", TINIAN Harbor. 0730 - stevedores from 180th Coast Artillery Battalion commenced unloading cargo.
23. 29 August - moored as before. discharging cargo.
24. 30 August - 1150 - completed unloading 828.1 tons of general cargo 1302 - underway from TINIAN enroute SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS in compliance with Port Director TINIAN's visual dispatch of 292317 August. 1544 - moored starboard side to Pier "A-4", TANAPAG Harbor, SAIPAN. Various units of the U.S. PACIFIC and Allied Fleets, merchant vessels and harbor craft present. SOPA is ComLSTFlot-23 in LCI 790. 1810 - stevedores of the 590th Port Company commenced unloading cargo.
25. 31 August - moored as before. Discharging cargo.

cc: CINCPAC.


C.A. THORWALL.

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 October 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, September 1945 - submission of.

1. Organization to which attached: Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
2. 1 September (Zone time -10) - Moored starboard side to Pier A4, TANAPAG Harbor, SAIPAN. Various units of the U.S. Pacific and Allied Fleets, merchant vessels are present. SOPA is ComLSTFlot-23 in LCI 790. Stevedores of the 590th. Port Company are discharging cargo. 1159 - completed fueling ship, having taken aboard 58,388 gallons of Navy Special fuel oil at 60°F.
3. 2-5 September - Moored as before. Discharging cargo.
4. 6 September - 0700 - Completed unloading 1,644.5 tons of general cargo. 0802 - underway from Pier A4 in compliance with Port Director SAIPAN's dispatch orders of 050440 September. 0930 - anchored in Berth M2, SAIPAN Outer Harbor. 1307 - underway from SAIPAN enroute to LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS in compliance with Port Director Navy 3245's confidential routing instructions of 5 September and ComSevenPhibs dispatch of 281158 August.

Position at 2000 14°04'N, 144°39'E.

5. 7 September - 2300 - changed time to Zone -9½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	13°05'N	12°57'N	12°39'N
Longitude	147°05'E	141°08'E	139°17'E

6. 8 September - 2300 changed time to Zone -9.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	12°12.5'N	12°05'N	11°56'N
Longitude	136°26'E	135°38'E	133°51'E

AKA96/A12-1/JLH:rn

0313

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, September 1945 - submission of.

7. 9 September.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	11°36'N	11°33'N	11°04'N
Longitude	131°02'E	130°07'E	128°13'E

8. 10 September - Underway as before. 0626 - Reported by dispatch, 092125 September, to ComTransRon-21 for duty. 0639 - arrived LEYTE GULF. 1013 - anchored in Berth 38, SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Various units of the U.S. Pacific and Allied Fleets, merchant vessels, and harbor craft are present. SOPA is ComSerDiv-77 in U.S.S. STRATFORD. 1103 - underway to shift berths in compliance with Port Director TACLOBAN's dispatch orders of 100130 September. 1148 - anchored in Berth 276, SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE.

9. 11 September - 1340 - Underway from Berth 276 to go alongside IX 131 to refuel. 1640 - moored port side to IX 131. 1826 - completed fueling ship, having received aboard 48,531 gallons of Navy Special fuel oil at 60°F. 1844 - underway from alongside IX 131. 1902 - anchored in Berth 77-92, SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE.

10. 12 September - Anchored as before. 0647 - underway from SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, enroute to GUIUAN, SAMAR, in compliance with ComTransRon-21 secret orders, serial 0022 of 11 September. 0923 - anchored off GUIUAN Roadstead, SAMAR. 0924 - Transferred eight LCM's and four LCV(P)s to NAVAL OPERATING BASE, SAMAR, in accordance with ComTransRon-21 secret orders, serial 0022, of 11 September. 1527 - underway from GUIUAN Roadstead, SAMAR, enroute to ILOILO, PANAY in compliance with ComTransRon-21 secret orders, serial 0022, of 11 September.

11. 13 September - Underway as before. 1231 - arrived ILOILO, PANAY. 1326 - anchored in Berth 8, ILOILO STRAITS, PANAY, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Various units of U.S. Pacific Fleet and amphibious craft are present. SOPA is ComPhibGroup-13 in U.S.S. ESTES. 1340 - reported by dispatch 130440 September, to ComPhibsGroup-13 for duty and loading.

12. 14 September - Anchored as before. 0740 - various units of the 180th. Regimental Combat Team came aboard to load the ship. 1025 - commenced loading cargo ammunition.

13. 15-16 September - Anchored as before. Loading ammunition, gasoline and rations.

AKA96/A12-1/JLH:rn
0313
CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, September 1945 - submission of.

14. 17 September - Anchored as before. 0914 - underway from Berth 8 to go alongside Liberty Dock, ILOILO, in compliance with Port Director ILOILO's dispatch orders of 160735 September. 0935 - moored starboard side to Liberty Dock, ILOILO, PANAY. 1015 - various units of the 108th. Regimental Combat Team commenced loading vehicles aboard. 1240 - in accordance with Headquarters, 40th. Infantry Division Field Order No. 20 Baker 40 of 5 September 1945, nine Army officers, 2 American Red Cross Field Representatives, and 130 Army enlisted personnel were received aboard for transportation.

15. 18 September - Moored as before, loading aboard Army vehicles. 0702 - underway from ILOILO STRAITS in compliance with Port Director ILOILO's dispatch of 170725 September. 0726 - anchored in Berth 12, ILOILO, PANAY. 0945 - resumed loading cargo.

16. 19 September - Anchored as before; loading cargo. 1805 - in accordance with verbal orders of the Commanding Officer 108th. Regimental Combat Team, fifteen Army enlisted men were transferred ashore.

17. 20 September - Anchored as before; loading cargo.

18. 21 September - Anchored as before; loading cargo. 1145 - transferred 19,539 gallons of Navy Special fuel oil to U.S.S. NEWMAN (APD-59).

19. 22 September - Anchored as before. 0915 - loaded aboard eight Army LCMs for transportation. Received sixteen Army boat crew personnel aboard for transportation. Completed loading ship, have taken aboard 1,947.4 tons of military equipment and supplies. 1611 - underway from ILOILO, PANAY, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS enroute to JINSEN, KOREA in compliance with ComPhibGroup-13's dispatch orders of 201650 September and ComTransRon-21's secret operation order, serial 00102 of 21 September. 1800 - took position as third ship in column natural order of Task Unit 78.22.31. Cruising formation is as follows: U.S.S. RIVERSIDE (OTC), U.S.S. BANDERA, U.S.S. MATHEWS, U.S.S. BRULE, and U.S.S. CLEBURNE, escorted by U.S.S. NEWMAN, patrolling station ahead. Standard distance 600 yards. Speed of advance is 12 knots. 2000 Position: Latitude 10°22'N, Longitude 122°08'E.

AKA96/A12-1/JLH:rn

0313

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, September 1945 - submission of.

20. 23 September.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	08°49.5'N	09°02'N	09°48.5'N
Longitude	123°12'E	123°56'E	125°21.5'E

21. 24 September.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	11°20'N	12°20'N	13°46'N
Longitude	126°19'E	126°28'E	126°30'E

22. 25 September - 1200 - Assumed surface Radar guard for Task Unit 78.22.31 for twenty-four hours.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	16°15'N	17°09'N	18°49'N
Longitude	126°51'E	126°56'E	127°02'E

23. 26 September.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	21°06'N	21°51'N	23°26'N
Longitude	127°36'E	127°40'E	127°43'E

24. 27 September - 0810 - Sighted KOKA JIMA bearing 013°T, distant forty miles. 0906 - sighted KUME SHIMA bearing 350°T, distant thirty-eight miles. 2225 - loss of steam pressure caused by water in the fuel necessitated leaving formation. 2330 - ship dead in water. 2338 - steam pressure regained; commenced maneuvering to take position as last ship in column, as ordered by OTC. 2345 - regained assigned station in column.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	25°31'N	26°10.5'N	27°22'N
Longitude	126°56'E	126°34'E	125°23'E

25. 28 September.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	29°21.5'N	30°03'N	31°30'N
Longitude	125°01'E	125°22'E	125°50'E

AKA96/A12-1/JLH:rn
0313
CONFIDENTIAL

REG. NO 408
R. S NO
REG. SHEET NO 1

Subject: War Diary, September 1945 - submission of.

26. 29 September - Convoy escort destroyed three floating mines at 0905 - 1010 - 1214 respectively.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	33°43'N	34°17'N	35°27'N
Longitude	125°04'E	124°58'E	125°15'E

27. 30 September - 0500 - Entered channel to JINSEN, KOREA. 1500 - Anchored in Berth C8, JINSEN Harbor, KOREA. Ships present: various units of the U.S. PACIFIC Fleet, merchant vessels and harbor craft. SOPA is ComTskGrp-70.2 in U.S.S. SIERRA.

ca Thorwall
C.A. THORWALL.

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 November 1945

From: Commanding Officer
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet
Subject: War Diary, October 1945 - submission of.

1. Organizations to which attached: Transport Squadron Twenty-one, Amphibious Group Thirteen, and Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U. S. PACIFIC Fleet.

2. 1 October (Zone time -9) - Anchored in JINSEN HARBOR, KOREA. Various units of the U. S. PACIFIC Fleet, Merchant vessels, and harbor craft are present. SOPA is ComTask Group 70.2 in USS SIERRA. 0800 - Disembarked nine Army officers, two American Red Cross Field Representatives, and one hundred and thirty-one Army enlisted personnel, in accordance with Headquarters, 40th Infantry Division Field Order No. 20 Baker 40 of 5 September 1945. 0905 - Commenced discharging cargo to lighters alongside. 1145 - Five officers and one hundred and seventy-nine men from "F" Company, 108th Regimental Combat Team reported aboard for temporary duty to discharge cargo.

3. 2 October - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo.

4. 3 October - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 0230 - Underway, having dragged anchor in rough swells. 0300 - Anchored in Berth C 5.

5. 4 October - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 1435 - Received aboard five U. S. Coast Guard enlisted personnel for transportation.

6. 5 October - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo.

7. 6 October - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 1630 - Received aboard one U. S. Marine officer and two enlisted personnel for transportation.

8. 7 October - Anchored as before. Discharging cargo. 0840 - Four officers and one hundred and sixty-two men of Company "F", 108th Regimental Combat Team completed temporary duty aboard and left the ship. 1130 - Completed unloading, having discharged 1947.4 tons of military supplies and equipment. 1237 - Underway in passage from JINSEN, KOREA to LEYTE GULF, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS in compliance with Port Director JINSEN'S dispatch orders of 062350 October, in company with Task Unit 78.27.1 Com Task Unit 78.27.1 is ComTransDiv 103 in USS LLOYD. Cruising formation is column natural order as follows: USS LLOYD (OTC), USS MATHEWS, SS EL SALVADOR VICTORY, SS SARA TEASDALE, and USS NEWMAN. Speed of advance is 10 knots.

2000 Position: Latitude, 36° 46' N; Longitude, 125° 35.5' E.

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U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 November 1945

Subject: War Diary, October 1945 - submission of.

9. 8 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	34° 52.5' N	34° 07.5' N	32° 57.5' N
Longitude	125° 04' E	124° 54' E	125° 19' E

10. 9 October - Steaming as before. 0941 - Convoy commenced maneuvering on various courses and at various speeds to avoid heavy seas of approaching typhoon.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	31° 07' N	30° 58.5' N	30° 52' N
Longitude	125° 31.5' E	125° 05' E	124° 22' E

11. 10 October - Steaming as before. 1610 - USS NEWMAN left this unit and proceeded independently on duty assigned.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	29° 27.5' N	28° 44' N	27° 45' N
Longitude	124° 27' E	124° 23' E	124° 55' E

12. 11 October - Steaming as before. 0300 - SS SALVADOR VICTORY and SS SARA TEASDALE left this unit and proceeded independently on duty previously assigned. 1750 - USS NEWMAN rejoined convoy, taking position 800 yards astern of USS MATHEWS.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	26° 20' N	25° 33' N	23° 51' N
Longitude	126° 17.5' E	126° 52' E	127° 27' E

13. 12 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20° 41' N	19° 51.5' N	17° 49' N
Longitude	126° 58' E	126° 55' E	126° 42' E

14. 13 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	14° 49' N	13° 58' N	12° 05' N
Longitude	126° 27' E	126° 20.5' E	126° 09' E

15. 14 October - Steaming as before. 0339 - Task Unit 78.27.1 dissolved, proceeding independently. 0618 - Received orders from HECF, HOMONHON ISLAND, to proceed to TACLOBAN. 1012 - Moored starboard side to USS TRINITY (AO 13), SAN PEDRO BAY, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Various units of the U. S. PACIFIC

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 November 1945

Subject: War Diary, October 1945 - submission of.

and Allied Fleets, merchant vessels, and harbor craft are present. SOFA is ComSerDiv 72 in USS STRATFORD. 1045 - Three U. S. Marine passengers and five U. S. Coast Guard passengers were disembarked. 1225 - Received aboard 4,400 gallons of diesel oil. 1310 - Received aboard 150,243 gallons of Navy Special fuel oil. 1328 - Underway to assigned anchorage. 1417 - Anchored in Berth 300, SAN PEDRO BAY.

16. 15 October - Anchored as before.

17. 16 October - Anchored as before. 1403 - Underway in passage from SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS to SAN FERNANDO, LUZON in accordance with ComPhibGroup 13's dispatch of 130800 and Port Director TACLOBAN'S Confidential routing instructions of 16 October. Proceeding independently in accordance with Com Task Unit 72.22.32's dispatch of 160502 October until joined by USS LLOYD (ComTransDiv 103 and OTC) and USS NEWMAN. 1702 - Took position 600 yards astern of USS LLOYD. 1745 - USS NEWMAN took position 600 yards astern of USS MATHEWS.

2000 position: Latitude, 10° 59' N; Longitude, 126° 02' E.

18. 17 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	12° 54' N	12° 34.5' N	13° 06' N
Longitude	124° 30.5' E	123° 54' E	121° 57.5' E

19. 18 October - Steaming as before. 1540 - Arrived SANFERNANDO, LUZON. 1649 - Anchored in LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Various units of the U. S. PACIFIC Fleet, merchant vessels, and amphibious craft are present. SOFA is ComPhibGroup 13 in USS ESTES.

Positions	0800	1200
Latitude	14° 54' N	15° 57.5' N
Longitude	119° 46.5' E	119° 38.5' E

20. 19 October - Anchored as before.

21. 20 October - Anchored as before. 0605 - Under way to go alongside dock in SAN FERNANDO HARBOR. 0911 - Moored starboard side to Pier 2. 1310 - Commenced loading military vehicles, ammunition, and military supplies. 1830 - Received aboard eleven officers and one hundred and fifty-five enlisted personnel of the 6th Infantry Division for transportation.

22. 21 October - Moored as before. Loading cargo.

23. 22 October - 0705 Underway from Pier 2, SAN FERNANDO HARBOR, LUZON to shift berth to anchorage B 7, in accordance with Army Port Control dispatch of

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 November 1945

Subject: War Diary, October 1945 - submission of.

211600 October. 0802 - Anchored in Berth B 7, LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON. 1040 - USS IST 996 came alongside to starboard to discharge cargo.

24. 23 October - 1840 - Completed loading ship, having taken aboard 901.9 tons of military cargo.

25. 24-25 October - Anchored as before.

26. 26 October - 1849 - Underway in passage from LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON to JINSEN, KOREA in accordance with ComPhibGroup 13's dispatch orders of 260630 October and ComTransDiv 103's dispatch orders of 260645 October, in company with Task Unit 78.22.4. Com Task Unit is ComTransDiv 103 in USS LLOYD. Cruising formation is column open order as follows: USS MATHEWS (guide), USS TORRANCE, and USS BRULE, escorted by USS LLOYD (OTC) patrolling station ahead.

27. 27 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	18° 33' N	19° 12' N	20° 03' N
Longitude	120° 21' E	120° 42' E	121° 54' E

28. 28 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	19° 58' N	19° 55.5' N	20° 51.5' N
Longitude	124° 18' E	125° 09' E	126° 21' E

29. 29 October - Steaming as before. 1138 - USS LLOYD sighted and destroyed a floating mine.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	23° 01' N	23° 55' N	25° 25' N
Longitude	127° 34' E	127° 36' E	126° 54' E

30. 30 October.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	27° 32' N	28° 08.5' N	29° 28' N
Longitude	125° 15' E	124° 46' E	125° 12' E

31. 31 October - Steaming as before. 0718 - USS LLOYD exploded a floating mine. 1050 - USS LLOYD left station to destroy floating mine sighted 200 yards on port beam of convoy.

AKA96/ A12-1/JLH:ep
SERIAL: 0343-45

REG. NO 446
R. S. 10
REG. SHEET NO 92

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

1 November 1945

Subject: War Diary, October 1945 - submission of.

31. 31 October - Continued -

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	31° 53' N	32° 43' N	34° 16' N
Longitude	125° 43' E	125° 24' E	124° 54.5' E

C. A. Thorwall
C. A. THORWALL,
Commander, USNR.,
Commanding.

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

~~SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA~~

New York, New York

1 December 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet
Subject: War Diary, November 1945 - submission of.

1. Organizations to which attached: Transport Squadron Twenty-one, Amphibious Group Thirteen, Administrative Command Amphibious Forces, U. S. PACIFIC Fleet, and Commander-in-Chief U. S. PACIFIC Fleet.
2. 1 November - Underway from LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS to JINSEN, KOREA, with Task Unit 78.22.4. Steaming in column open order as follows: U.S.S. MATHEWS (Guide), U.S.S. TORRANCE, and U.S.S. BRULE, with U.S.S. LLOYD (OTC) patrolling station ahead. Speed of advance is 14 knots. 0728 - By order of OTC, U.S.S. MATHEWS assumed tactical command of convoy, proceeding to Anchorage "C" JINSEN. 1218 - By order of OTC, Task Unit 78.22.4 was dissolved. 1232 - Anchored in Berth C 6, JINSEN, KOREA. Ships present: various units of U. S. PACIFIC Fleet, merchant vessels and harbor craft. SOPA is Rear Admiral LOW, ComTaskUnit 71, in U.S.S. GUAM. 1430 - In accordance with ComPhibGroup 13 dispatch of 260630 October, reported by dispatch 010525 November to ComTaskGroup 78.16 for duty.
3. 2 November - Anchored as before. Commenced discharging cargo into Landing Craft alongside. Completed discharging cargo 4 November.
4. 5-19 November - Vessel remained at JINSEN awaiting orders, in compliance to ComSeventhPhib dispatch of 030213 November.
5. 14 November - In compliance with ComTaskForce 78 dispatch 131001, reported by dispatch to CincPac and requested orders.
6. 17 November - Ordered by ComSeventhFleet to report to Port Director, JINSEN for maximum personnel lift to East Coast via PEARL HARBOR and CANAL ZONE. On arrival at CANAL ZONE to report by dispatch to CincLant for duty in accordance with CincPac dispatch 152253.
7. 18 November - Anchored as before. 1200 - In accordance with ComTaskUnit 70.2.2 dispatch 171045 of November 1945, 53 U. S. Navy enlisted personnel, 3 U. S. Navy Officers, and 4 U. S. Coast Guard enlisted personnel were received on board for passage to Separation Centers, East Coast, Continental United States; also one U. S. Navy enlisted man for passage to a base hospital and two U. S. Navy enlisted personnel for passage to Receiving Station, East Coast, Continental United States for emergency leave.

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U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
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New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

1 December 1945

Subject: War Diary, November 1945 - submission of

8. 19 November - Anchored as before. 0930 - In accordance with ComTaskUnit 70.2,2 dispatch 171015 of November 1945, received on board one U. S. Navy enlisted man for passage to Separation Center, continental United States, and two U. S. Navy Officers for passage to port of entry, Continental United States to report to Commandant Nearest Naval District. In accordance with same dispatch received on board 9 officers and 113 enlisted men of the U. S. Army for passage to a port of entry in the Continental United States. 1516 - Underway from JINSEN, KOREA, enroute to PEARL HARBOR, T. H., in company with Task Unit 78.16.6 consisting of U.S.S. MATHEWS (CTU and Guide) and U.S.S. CHIKASKIA, in accordance with ComSeventh Fleet dispatch 170300 November 1945 and Fort Director, JINSEN, KOREA dispatch 190245 November 1945. 1551 - With KACHIBI Light bearing 355°T, took departure from JINSEN, KOREA and set course 255°T; speed of advance 15 knots.

2000 Position: Latitude, 36° 43' N; Longitude, 125° 36' E.

9. 20 November - 1445 - By order of ComTaskUnit, Task Unit 78.16.6 was dissolved and U.S.S. CHIKASKIA ordered to proceed independently.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	33° 56.5' N	33° 03.5' N	31° 05' N
Longitude	124° 56' E	125° 19' E	125° 36' E

10. 21 November - 0934 - Stopped Engine. Casualty suffered by main engine, caused by loss of steam pressure due to water in fuel line. 1020 - Repairs completed, resumed speed of 15.5 knots. 2300 - Changed time to Zone -9½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	28° 22' N	27° 48' N	26° 21' N
Longitude	124° 34' E	124° 56' E	126° 34' E

11. 22 November - 2300 - Changed time to Zone -10.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	26° 14' N	26° 24' N	26° 30.5' N
Longitude	129° 41' E	130° 46' E	132° 51.5' E

12. 23 November - 1113 - Sighted JAP Mark 93 Mine and destroyed it, without exploding. Ammunition expended: 192 rounds of 40MM HET-SD, 240 rounds 20MM AA-HET, and 480 rounds of 20MM AA-HEI. 2300 - Changed time to Zone -10½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	27° 24' N	27° 31' N	27° 45.5' N
Longitude	136° 12' E	137° 09' E	139° 33' E

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

~~SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA~~

New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

1 December 1945

Subject: War Diary, November 1945 - Submission of

13. 24 November - 2300 - Changed time to Zone -11.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	28° 12.5' N	28° 13' N	28° 23.5' N
Longitude	142° 51.5' E	144° 02' E	146° 24.5' E

14. 25 November - 2300 - Changed time to Zone -11½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	28° 34' N	28° 37.5' N	28° 40.5' N
Longitude	149° 35' E	150° 36' E	153° 00' E

15. 26 November - 1055 - Destroyed object resembling a mine, identified as a JAPANESE Net Buoy. Ammunition expended: 60 rounds HET 20MM and 120 rounds HEI 20MM. 2300 - Changed time to Zone -12.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	28° 46' N	28° 58' N	28° 57' N
Longitude	156° 25' E	157° 38' E	158° 44' E

16. 27 November

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	28° 48.5' N	28° 42' N	28° 36' N
Longitude	163° 04.5' E	164° 12' E	166° 35' E

17. 28 November

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	28° 21' N	28° 11' N	27° 55.5' N
Longitude	169° 27' E	171° 02.5' E	173° 09' E

18. 29 November

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	27° 27' N	27° 01.5' N	25° 35' N
Longitude	176° 09' E	176° 58' E	178° 37' E

19. 29 November - 0130 - Crossed International Date Line. 2300 - Changed time to Zone Plus 11½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	24° 18.5' N	24° 03' N	23° 42' N
Longitude	178° 18.5' W	177° 09' W	175° 02' W

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SERIAL: 0369-45

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

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New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

1 December 1945

Subject: War Diary, November 1945 - submission of

20. 30 November - 2300 - Changed time to Zone Plus 11.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	23° 13' N	23° 13' N	22° 54' N
Longitude	171° 56' W	170° 50' W	168° 38.5' W

R A Thorwall

C. A. THORWALL,
Commander, USNR.,
Commanding.

RECEIVED SC FILES
Room 2055
ROUTE TO: 03
18 DEC 1945
File No. (SG) A12-1/AKA 96
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Reg. No. 468

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
New York, New York

1 January 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, December 1945 - Submission of.

1. Organizations to which attached: Commander-in-Chief U. S. PACIFIC Fleet; Commander-in-Chief U. S. ATLANTIC Fleet; Commander-Operational Training Command, U. S. ATLANTIC Fleet.

2. 1 December - Underway from JINSEN, KOREA to PEARL HARBOR, T. H. Steaming independently. Speed of advance 14.5 knots. 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	22° 21' N	22° 05.5' N	21° 44' N
Longitude	165° 08' W	164° 13' W	162° 06.5' W

3. 2 December - 1000 - Made preparations for AA firing practice. 1030 - Firing practice cancelled due to unsuitable weather conditions. 1351 - Arrived at PEARL HARBOR. 1520 - Moored starboard side to S.S. MISSION SANTA ANA in Berth X 6.

4. 3 December - 0915 - Disembarked one officer and five enlisted personnel of the U. S. Navy and twenty-eight enlisted personnel of the U. S. Army, all passengers. 1620 - Underway from PEARL HARBOR, T. H. in accordance with orders of Port Director, enroute to BALBOA, PANAMA, CANAL ZONE.

Position	2000
Latitude	21° 17' N
Longitude	157° 29' W

5. 4 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 10.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	21° 29' N	21° 21.5' N	21° 11' N
Longitude	154° 46' W	153° 39' W	151° 47.5' W

6. 5 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	21° 11' N	21° 10' N	21° 06' N
Longitude	148° 57' W	147° 55.5' W	145° 46' W

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

~~NEW ORLEANS, LA 70001~~
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CONFIDENTIAL

1 January 1946

Subject: War Diary, December 1945 - Submission of.

7. 6 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 9.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	21° 00' N	20° 58.5' N	20° 49' N
Longitude	142° 54' W	141° 54' W	139° 54' W

8. 7 December

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	20° 33.5' N	20° 26' N	20° 11' N
Longitude	137° 11.5' W	136° 14' W	134° 09' W

9. 8 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 8½. 2345 - Reduced speed to eleven knots due to casualty in boiler No. 2.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	19° 46' N	19° 35.5' N	19° 16' N
Longitude	131° 07' W	130° 08' W	128° 01' W

10. 9 December - Steaming at two-thirds speed until boiler No. 2 repaired. 1951 - Resumed standard speed, fifteen knots, boiler having been repaired.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	18° 52.5' N	18° 39.5' N	18° 22' N
Longitude	125° 53' W	125° 11' W	123° 50' W

11. 10 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 8.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	17° 51' N	17° 40' N	17° 16.5' N
Longitude	120° 54.5' W	119° 49' W	117° 42' W

12. 11 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 7½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	16° 36' N	16° 14' N	15° 39.5' N
Longitude	114° 46' W	113° 49' W	111° 49' W

13. 12 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 7.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	14° 47.5' N	14° 44' N	14° 13' N
Longitude	108° 57' W	107° 51' W	105° 47' W

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

~~SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA~~

New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

1 January 1946

Subject: War Diary, December 1946 - Submission of.

14. 13 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 6½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	13° 22.5' N	13° 08' N	12° 37.5' N
Longitude	102° 45' W	101° 46.5' W	99° 31.5' W

15. 14 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 6.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	11° 30' N	11° 14' N	10° 34' N
Longitude	96° 37' W	95° 35.5' W	93° 38' W

16. 15 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 5½.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	09° 39' N	09° 17.5' N	08° 41.5' N
Longitude	90° 53.5' W	89° 55' W	87° 47' W

17. 16 December - 2300 - Changed time to Zone plus 5.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	07° 55' N	07° 35' N	07° 07' N
Longitude	84° 37.5' W	83° 35' W	81° 26' W

18. 17 December - 0957 - Arrived at BALBOA, PANAMA, CANAL ZONE.
1102 - Moored port side to Pier 1, West Bank, BALBOA. 1300 - In accordance with Com SEVENTH Fleet dispatch 170300 of November 1945, reported by dispatch to Commander-in-Chief U. S. ATLANTIC Fleet.

19. 18 December - 0738 - In accordance with verbal orders of Port Director BALBOA, PANAMA, CANAL ZONE, got underway for passage through PANAMA CANAL. 1600 - Left GATUN Locks. 1635 - Took departure from PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

Position	2000
Latitude	10° 09' N
Longitude	79° 31' W

20. 19 December - 1346 - In accordance with dispatch 171903 of December 1945 of Commander of Operational Training Command, U. S. ATLANTIC Fleet, vessel is proceeding to NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. 1705 Stopped engine; casualty to boiler No. 1. 1714 - Engine ahead standard, casualty having been repaired.

U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

~~SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA~~

New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

1 January 1946

Subject: War Diary, December 1945 - Submission of.

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	12° 49' N	13° 35' N	15° 06' N
Longitude	78° 08' W	77° 43' W	76° 39' W

21. 20 December

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	17° 23' N	18° 31' N	20° 32' N
Longitude	75° 08' W	74° 45' W	74° 00.5' W

22. 21 December

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	23° 43' N	24° 42' N	26° 49' N
Longitude	74° 32.5' W	74° 39' W	74° 47.5' W

23. 22 December

Positions	0800	1200	2000
Latitude	30° 07' N	31° 09' N	33° 15.5' N
Longitude	75° 00' W	75° 02.5' W	75° 10' W

24. 23 December - 1044 - Arrived at NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. 1230 - Moored port side to Pier 3, Berth 32, N.O.B., NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. 1400 - Disembarked all passengers. 1700 - Granted leave to starboard watch of crew.

25. 24 December to 31 December - Moored as before.

C. A. Thorwall
C. A. THORWALL.

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6 JAN 1946

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U. S. S. MATHEWS (AKA-96)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

NOV 26 1945



13 November 1945

RECEIVED
Navy Department
Secy's Office - RECORDS

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Subject: Ship's History - Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) ALPac 202-45.
Enclosure: (A) Three (3) copies of Ship's History -
U.S.S. MATHEWS (AKA-96).

All encls. rec'd
EX-105 Mail Room

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith in accordance with reference (a).

C. A. Thorwall

C. A. THORWALL.

Copy to:
Cincpac - PEARL
(with (3) copies of Enclosure (A)).



157652

U.S.S. MATHEWS (AKA 96)
C/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

SHIP'S HISTORY

The U.S.S. MATHEWS (AKA 96), first ship of her name in the United States Navy, was authorized to be built by the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company of Kearny, New Jersey. The 16th ship of her class completed by that Yard, she has a C2 hull, originally designed for the U. S. Maritime Commission but transferred upon completion to the U. S. Navy for wartime service as an auxiliary cargo attack vessel. Her keel was laid on 15 September 1944 and she was christened on 22 December 1944 by Miss Margaret McBride, radio commentator, of New York, N. Y. The ship is named for Mathews County, Virginia. She is 459 feet in length and 64 feet in width, with a draft of 24 feet. Her armament consists of one 5" 38 caliber dual purpose gun mounted aft, four twin-mount 40MM anti-aircraft guns and eighteen 20MM anti-aircraft guns. In addition each of her 24 landing boats carry two machine guns. She carries a complement of 25 officers and 209 enlisted personnel as ship's company plus 11 officers and 117 enlisted personnel as crew and repair units for the Landing Craft (8 LCMs and 16 LCVPs) carried aboard.

The MATHEWS was commissioned in the service of the United States Navy on 5 March 1945 at the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York. At noon on that date the officers and men of the ship were paraded aft for the commissioning ceremonies. After an invocation of the care and protection of Almighty God, the Captain of the Yard, Captain Harold V. McKittrick, USN, representing the Commandant of the Third Naval District, accepted the vessel for the service of the Navy and ordered that it be placed in full commission. Commander Charles A. Thorwall, USNR, assumed command of the ship and on his orders the Executive Officer, Lieut. Commander Charles F. Troxel, USNR, set the first watch. Department Heads at the time of commissioning were Lieutenant Edward C. Schroeder, USNR, Navigating Officer; Lieutenant Joseph A. Roseman, Jr., USN, First Lieutenant; Lieutenant William Furlow, USNR, Engineering Officer; Lieutenant Francis M. Anglim, USNR, Gunnery Officer; Lieut. Commander Albert J. Rettenmaier (MC), USNR, Medical Officer; and Lieutenant (jg) John G. Life (SC), USNR, Supply Officer.

During the latter part of 1944 the nucleus and pre-commissioning crews of the ship were selected and ordered to report. The nucleus crew reported to the building yard at Kearny, New Jersey, to organize the necessary work aboard the ship and the pre-commissioning crew reported to the U. S. Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island, for an intense training course in seamanship, gunnery, communication, engineering, and cargo handling. The Boat Group, assigned to the ship to operate the landing craft, received its preliminary training at the U. S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Fort Pierce, Florida, and joined the pre-commissioning crew at Newport two weeks before the ship was commissioned.

SHIP'S HISTORY

Because of the urgent need for this type of ship, pre-commissioning training was short and intensive and little time was available after commissioning to make her and her crew ready for their duties in the Pacific. Eighty percent of the crew had never been aboard ship before, but they quickly accustomed themselves to shipboard routine and on the 16th of March, less than two weeks after commissioning, the MATHEWS left the Navy Yard on the first leg of her journey to the Pacific war zone. The usual shakedown cruise, in the Chesapeake Bay area, was considerably shortened because of the exigencies of the time and the necessity for the ship's services in the war against Japan. Despite these factors and the greenness of the crew, the results of intensive training were immediately apparent on this shakedown cruise. Their quickly acquired familiarity with their ship and its routine was apparent in General Drills and their gunnery training more than proved itself in splashing four drone planes in their first actual gunnery practice.

March 27th found the shakedown cruise completed and on April 1st loading operations commenced at Norfolk Navy Yard. One week later, on April 8th, the MATHEWS shoved off from Norfolk, loaded for the Pacific with the materials of war. She was accompanied by the U.S.S. SEMINOLE, another new Cargo Attack Auxiliary. Passing through the Panama Canal she made a short stopover at Balboa in the Canal Zone on April 15th, before heading for Pearl Harbor. On this leg of the voyage the MATHEWS and the SEMINOLE were joined by two newly commissioned submarines, the U.S.S. MANTA and the U.S.S. CULLBACK. The four ships were under the tactical command of the Commanding Officer of the MATHEWS. During the passage from Balboa to Pearl Harbor tactical exercises in offensive and defensive submarine warfare provided valuable experience for the crews of the submarines and the AKAs.

On arrival at Pearl Harbor, on April 30th, the MATHEWS reported to Commander, Transport Squadron Nineteen and preparations were made to discharge her cargo. After unloading was completed, and on orders from Commander, Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet, the MATHEWS reported to Commander Task Group 13.10.1 as a part of Task Unit 13.10.2 for realistic war maneuvers off the Hawaiian Island of Maui. During the week from 8 May to 15 May intensive training was conducted in amphibious landings, emergency convoy maneuvering, and defense against attack by planes, submarines and surface craft, both at anchor and while underway. On return to Pearl Harbor after these maneuvers, the ship was loaded there and at Honolulu with Army cargo. Army personnel was then embarked and on May 28th the MATHEWS headed independently for Eniwetok, arriving on June 5th. Twelve days were spent in Eniwetok, awaiting orders which depended on the progress of operations farther west. On 17 June course was shaped for the then still secret base of Ulithi, the hub of the ever increasing naval attack upon Japan itself. Landfall was made on Ulithi on 21 June where the MATHEWS joined Task Unit 94.18.20. The Task Unit comprised personnel attack (APA) and cargo attack (AKA) ships under the tactical

SHIP'S HISTORY

command of Commander Transport Division 53 in U.S.S. MARATHON (AFA 200), which ship was later to be severely damaged by underwater explosions during an enemy night air attack on shipping at Okinawa. The destination of Task Unit 94.18.20 was Okinawa with occupational troops and supplies. Its movement from Ulithi depended upon the progress of the Okinawa operation. On 10 July Task Unit 94.18.20 got underway to its destination. The 14th of July found the MATHEWS anchored in Hagushi Bay, Okinawa (North of Naha), where the original landings were made. Condition ONE ABLE was set on the following day and all hands turned to discharging cargo and disembarking personnel in the ship's landing craft. On the 19th of July unloading operations were interrupted by a typhoon and by order of the Senior Officer Present Afloat, Commander Task Group 99.1, all ships present got underway to ride it out at sea. Two days were spent cruising on the edge of the typhoon, after which the MATHEWS returned to Hagushi Bay to complete discharging. Rhino barges assisted the ship's landing craft and the ship was completely unloaded on 22 July and immediately joined a convoy for the return trip to Ulithi.

While at anchor in Hagushi Bay the enemy made several night air attacks but our own air superiority was by then so great that few enemy planes got through our outer defenses and no direct attacks were made on the ships in the immediate vicinity of the MATHEWS. At night some of the ship's landing craft were assigned to lay smoke screens around vessels in the immediate vicinity which were not provided with their own means of smoke protection. The voyage from Okinawa to Ulithi brought forth some evidence of enemy air or submarine activity in the path of the convoy in the form of drifting mines, three of which were destroyed by the escort in or near the columns of ships in one twenty-four hour period.

The MATHEWS arrived at Ulithi for the second time on 26 July and on the following morning got underway independently for Guadalcanal to transport cargo farther north. The Equator was crossed at noon on Sunday, 29 July, at longitude 146° 29' East and appropriate ceremonies were held. On arrival at Guadalcanal the ship was rerouted to Banika Island in the Russells, where the anchor was dropped the same day, 2 August.

Loading of general cargo commenced on the following day and was completed on the 9th, on which date the ship set sail for Guam. On 15 August (East Longitude Time) news of the acceptance of the Potsdam Peace Terms by the Japanese was received by radio. Guam was reached on 16 August. Partial discharging of cargo and loading of additional cargo commenced the following day and was completed 10 days later. On 26 August the ship proceeded to Tinian, arriving the next day, where partial discharging took until the 30th. That day saw departure from Tinian and arrival at Saipan where the balance of the cargo was discharged. On completion of unloading at Saipan and on 6 September, the MATHEWS got underway independently for Leyte, Philippine Islands, for logistics and further assignment under Commander, Seventh Fleet. Anchor was dropped in San Pedro Bay, Leyte

SHIP'S HISTORY

on 10 September. After fueling and provisioning, the ship got underway on 12 September for Guiuan, Samar, where 12 landing craft (8 LCMs and 4 LCVPs) were transferred ashore to the Naval Base, to make room for Army landing craft on the next trip. This completed, the ship proceeded to Iloilo, Panay, and anchored there the following day. On arrival at Iloilo the ship was reported for duty to Commander, Amphibious Group 13, Rear Admiral R. O. DAVIS, in U.S.S. ESTES (AGC 12). On 13 September the loading of general cargo and embarking troops of the 40th Infantry Division was commenced. Loading and embarkation were completed on 22 September and on the same day the ship got underway to Jinsen, Korea, as a part of Task Unit 78.22.31. The officer in Tactical Command was Commander Transport Division 21, Commodore J. R. PALMER, USN, in U.S.S. RIVERSIDE (APA 102). While proceeding through the minefields of the Yellow Sea, off the Southwest coast of Korea, on 29 September, the escort U.S.S. NEWMAN (APD 59) destroyed three drifting mines in the path of the Task Unit. On 30 September, Task Unit 78.22.31 anchored off Jinsen, Korea, and commenced discharging cargo and disembarking troops. Since the MATHEWS was the only AKA in the Task Unit, the completion of her unloading took considerably longer than that of the other ships, which departed 2 October for Leyte, and she did not get underway again until Sunday, 7 October. In company with two merchant ships, the S.S. EL SALVADOR VICTORY and the S.S. SARA TEASDALE, and escorted by the U.S.S. LLOYD (APD 63), and U.S.S. NEWMAN (APD 59), the MATHEWS got underway for Leyte as part of Task Unit 78.27.1, under the tactical command of Captain W. S. FARSONS, USN, Commander Transport Division 103, in U.S.S. LLOYD (APD 63). A typhoon with reported winds of 160 knots in its center, and which destroyed the Fleet Post Office and Army installations at Okinawa, caused a 24-hour delay to the Task Unit. On 11 October the two previously mentioned merchant ships left the convoy to head for Okinawa.

On 14 October orders were received from HECF, Homonhon Island to proceed to Tacloban to take on fuel and discharge passengers. Received orders on 16 October to proceed in company with U.S.S. LLOYD (APD 63) and U.S.S. NEWMAN (APD 59) to San Fernando, Luzon, arriving 18 October and commenced the loading of cargo and troops of the 6th Infantry Division. Loading and embarkation were completed on 23 October, and on 26 October the ship got underway to Jinsen, Korea as a part of Task Unit 78.22.4 with Commander Transport Division 103 in U.S.S. LLOYD as Commander Task Unit.