

AKA 97/ Al2-1

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 New York, N.Y.

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 142

Reg. No.	C-9
R. S. No.	

Serial: 021

5 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To : The Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary.
 Reference: (a) CominCh Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. On 31 March 1945 the U.S.S. MERRICK was placed in commission at Pier 10-J, Navy Yard, New York. Captain H.V. McKettrick, U.S.N., ordered ship placed in commission. Walter E. Reed, Lieutenant Commander, U.S.N.R., assumed command by authority of BuPers dispatch dated 31 December 1944. Moored to Pier 10-J, making alteration repairs and receiving supplies on board. At 1400 9 April 1945, cast off all lines from Pier 10-J and underway to Deperming Station at Navy Yard Annex, Bayonne, New Jersey. At 0705 underway to Gravesend Bay. 0825 Anchored at Gravesend Bay.

2. At 0940 on 11 April 1945 underway to Hampton Roads, Virginia by authority of and in accordance with dispatch to ComInCh, CinCLant, ComPhibTraLant(action), CNO, ComServLant (info) "Reporting for duty and shakedown as of 1200 April 12 1945," and Departure Report dated 10 April 1945. At 1112 fog made it unsafe to continue because of junction with large incoming convoy. Anchored until 1519 and proceeded on voyage in mine swept channel on various speeds. At 1700 fog set in and by 1725 visibility less than 1000 yards. At 2000 estimated position 40°35' N, 74°01' W. At 2020 departed mine swept channel and proceeded towards Hampton Roads. April 12 at 0800 estimated position 36°58' N, 75°08' W. At 1020 entered Chesapeake Bay Entrance mine swept channel and at 1030 passed Buoy 5-2 abeam to starboard on course 270° T. Continued on various courses to conform with channel. Fog lifted and settled intermittently throughout morning. At 1250 buoy P-S abeam to starboard, on course 265° T. 1540 abeam to Cape Henry. Continued in channel to Hampton Roads. Arrived Hampton Roads 1720 and ordered by Administrative SOPA, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va., dispatch 121728 April, to moor in berth 45, Pier 4, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va. At 1812 moored starboard side to Pier 4.

119366

3. At 1125 13 April 1945, ComPhibTraLant Shakedown Inspection party aboard to make material inspection. Comdr. T.L.Jermann, senior member. From 13 April 1945 until 1200 22 April 1945 carried out shakedown operations in accordance with TSG-319 Shakedown Schedule in Chesapeake Bay as ordered by ComPhibTraLant. At 1356 22 April 1945 underway to Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. by authority of ComPhibTraLant dispatch 191423 of April. At 1550 moored portside to Pier 4, Berth 26, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. availability period for alterations and repairs until 2400 of 26 April 1945.

4. On 27 April towed to Pier 4, Berth 45, to load cargo, by authority of ComPhibTraLant dispatch 251615 of April and CNO Radio Washington D.C. dispatch 201605 of April. Moored to Pier 4, Berth 45 for remainder of month.

Walter E. Reed
WALTER E. REED.

CC:
BuPers
ComPhibTraLant
ComServLant

A12-1

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BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
NAVY DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

127
REG. NO. W-62
REG. SHEET NO. 279
2 June 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL:

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
Subject: War Diary.
Reference: (a) CominCh Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. At 0000, 1 May 1945 ship alongside Pier 4, Berth 45, Naval Supply Depot, Norfolk, Virginia to load cargo by authority of ComPhibTrolant dispatch 251615 of April and CNO Radio, Washington, D.C. dispatch 201605 of April. Moored to Pier 4, Berth 45 until morning of 4 May 1945. On morning of 4 May this ship towed to Norfolk Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia on extended availability to replace defective throttle valve on main engine by authority of ComPhibTrolant dispatch 301448 of April 1945. Moored in Berth 26, Pier 4 for duration of availability.

2. At 0900, 13 May 1945 departed from Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia to make full power trial runs north of the Tail of the Horseshoe Buoy 2-T. About 1300 trial runs proved satisfactory and proceeded to anchorage, Hampton Roads, Virginia. Remained at anchor until afternoon of 15 May 1945.

3. At 1530, 15 May 1945 underway from Norfolk area in accordance with ComServlant dispatch 141545 of May and proceeding Panama Canal Zone with the U.S.S. Catamount, LSD 17 unit guide ship with Commander Weiss, USN, Commodore, position 1.1, the U.S.S. Merrick, AKA 97 position 1.2 and the U.S.S. H.R. Kenyon, DE 683 as escort ship. Estimated time of departure from Cape Henry Light was set at 1800 this date and instructed to proceed at a speed of 14.5 knots and to arrive at Breakwaters, Panama Canal 0400 Queentime, 21 May 1945. The total distance along given course via Windward Passage 1889 miles. At 2130, Chesapeake Bay mine-swept channel buoy, X-S abeam to port, set course 131°T and proceeded to Panama Canal Zone as directed.

4. On 16 May ship's positions as follows:

0800 34°-59N
73 -00W

133953

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Subject: War Diary. (Con't.).

1200	34-06N 73-01.5W
2000	32-12N 73-29W

On 17 May proceeded as before with the following positions:

0800	29-31N 74-06W
1200	28-35N 74-08W
2000	26-42N 74-21.3W

On 18 May ship's positions as follows:

0800	25-56N 74-13W
1200	23-03N 74-22W
2000	21-15N 74-25W

At 2325, 18 May 1945 sighted Cape Maysi Light bearing 234.5T, distance of twenty-two miles. At 0040 on 19 May Cape Maysi Light abeam to starboard distance ten miles. At 0125 Punta Caleta Light sighted bearing 262T and abeam to it at 0154 distance seventeen miles. Positions as follows:

0800	18-48N 75-00W
1200	17-55N 75-35W
2000	16-15N 76-15W

On May 20, 0800 position:

13-17N 77-38W

At 1000 exercised at general quarters and gun fire practice with 18 rounds of 5"38 caliber, 79 rounds 40MM and 783 rounds of 20MM ammunition expended.

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

2 June 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.).

Positions:	1200	12-37N
		78-17W
	2000	11-09N
		19-00W

At 0208, 21 May, Isla Grandi Light sighted bearing 153T and proceeding towards Panama Canal Zone Entrance Mine-Swept Channel. 0558 detached and released from convoy formation on flashing light signal from U.S.S. Catamount, LSD 17; and proceeded independently in Limon Bay Harbor. Moored at 0644 to Pier 9 Able, Cristobal Mole, Cristobal. Throughout the morning took on supplies, water and fuel. At 1542 cast off from Pier 9 Able and underway to Limon Bay Merchant Anchorage upon orders from port director. Anchored at 1605.

5. Underway at 0600, 22 May to Balboa, Canal Zone and thence to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii in obedience to Port Director, Balboa, Canal Zone dispatch 212132 of May paraphrased for information, "Proceed to Pearl Harbor, T.H. when in all respects ready for sea on 22 May, speed 14.5 knots and upon arrival report AdComPhibPac". Upon arrival at Balboa at 1240, moored to Buoys Z so that superheater hand hole plate could be repaired. Repairs completed at 1505 and at 1621 underway to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii previously quoted authority. 1737 departed channel and set course for Pearl Harbor.

6. Proceeding independently from 23 May until end of month from Balboa, Canal Zone to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. Daily positions as follows:

23 May	0800	06-46N
		81-23W
	1200	06-47N
		82-32W
2000		06-53N
		84-28W
24 May	0800	07-25N
		86-31W
	1200	08-02N
		88-10W
	2000	08-39N
	90-02W	
25 May	0800	09-08N
		91-43W

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
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2 June 1945.

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.).

1200 09-29N
 93-14W

At 1225 25 May, established visual communications with, and identified U.S.S. Catamount, LSD 17. Position at 2000 as follows:

2000 10-19N
 94-55W

26 May and thereafter proceeding independently but within visual range of U.S.S. Catamount, LSD 17 with the following positions:

26 May 0800 11-13N
 97-49W
 1200 11-41N
 99-23W
 2000 12-18N
 101-11W

27 May 0800 13-11N
 104-07W
 1200 13-30N
 105-02W
 2000 14-00N
 106-55W

28 May 0800 14-47N
 109-44W
 1200 15-05N
 110-39W
 2000 15-35N
 112-21W

29 May 0800 16-18N
 115-36W
 1200 16-31N
 116-37W
 2000 16-54N
 118-27W

30 May 0800 17-29N
 121-26W

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

2 June 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.).

30 May	1200	17-37N 122-23W
	2000	18-10N 124-18W
31 May	0800	18-38N 126-46 W
	1200	18-49N 128-23W

At 1300 had gunnery practice fire at surface target and balloons and expended 69 rounds of 5"38 caliber, 1070 of 40MM, and 2776 rounds of 20MM ammunition. At 2000 our position:

2000	19-05N 130-13W
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WALTER E. REED.

Copy to:

BuPers.
ComPhibTralant
ComservLant

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 San Francisco, Calif.

1 July 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL:

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary.
 Reference: (a) CominCh Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. 1 June 1945. Underway and proceeding from Balboa, Canal Zone to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii in obedience to Port Director, Balboa dispatch 212132 of May. Daily positions as follows:

1 June	0800 U	19-41N
		133-25W
	1200 U	19-50N
		134-27W
2000 U		20-08N
		136-26W
2 June	0800 V	20-24N
		139-48W
	1200 V	20-31N
		140-56W
2000 V		20-45N
		143-03W
3 June	0800 V	20-59N
		145-35W
	1200 V	21-97N
		147-14W
2000 V		21-13N
		149-15W
4 June	0800 V	21-20N
		152-17W
	1200 V	21-21N
		153-23W
2000 V		21-24N
		155-19W

CONFIDENTIAL

1 July 1945.

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

2. 5 June. At 0018 V-W * Molakai Light sighted, Molakai, T. H. At 0630 sounded general quarters and commenced anti-aircraft target practice in accordance with CincPac dispatch 050101 of May. 0812 secured gunnery practice having fired 22 rounds of 5"38, 1410 rounds of 40MM and 5820 rounds of 20MM ammunition. Proceeded on various courses and speeds toward Pearl Harbor, T. H. Mine Swept Channel. 1010 Pilot J. B. BLAIR aboard, entered Pearl Harbor, T. H. and proceeded to Mooring X-7. 1155 moored to X-7 and remained there until 1745 when underway to K-3, Naval Supply Depot, Pearl Harbor, T.H. in obedience to Port Director's Dispatch 052319 of June. Moored to K-3 at 1821 for purposes of unloading cargo. At 2000 stevedores aboard to unload cargo.

3. Remained at K-3, Naval Supply Depot to unload cargo until 11 June, 1945. At 0615, 11 June completed unloading cargo and at 0715 underway with tugs and pilot for Mooring X-8, Pearl Harbor in obedience to Captain of Yard's Dispatch 110427 of June. 0742 moored port side to S. S. PENNANT in Berth X-8, and remained in X-8 until 13 June.

4. 0630, 13 June underway for Maui, T. H. in obedience to AdComPhibsPac Training Order No. A 125-45. Upon arrival Moalaea Bay, Maui, T. H. reported to ComTask Unit 13.10.1 and ready to carry out training order as prescribed by C. T. U. and Training Order No. A 125-45. 1400 anchored in Moalaea Bay, and commenced carrying out exercises as directed in training order. At 2015 underway to conduct night exercises with ComTask Unit 13,10.1 aboard U. S. S. BARNETT (APA-5), the U.S.S. BARNETT as guide, U. S.S. WHEATLAND (AKA-85) in No. 2 position, and own ship in No. 3 position. At 2105 set Condition I and commenced night air and surface mock attack operations with U. S. planes and motor torpedo boats in Area C-5. 2240 secured Condition I and operated throughout the night in C-4. Positions as follows:

13 June	0800	21-13N
		157-53W
	1200	21-00N
		156-53W
	2000	20-43N
		156-28W

* All times unless otherwise designated will be "Victor-William", plus 9½ Z. D.

CONFIDENTIAL

1 July 1945.

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

14 June	0800	20-42N 156-34W
	1200	20-43N 156-43W 20-35N 157-15W

0730, 14 June 1945 returned Moalaea Bay, Maui, T.H. to conduct boat drills as scheduled in ComPhibsPac Training Order A 145-45. 0731 Set Condition 1-Able and remained at that condition until 1552. 0946 anchored in Berth 7. 1552 underway and in "T-1" formation, U.S.S. BARNETT (APA-5) guide, U.S.S. WHEATLAND (AKA-85) in No. 2 position, U.S.S. BURLSON (APA-67) in No. 3 position, U.S.S. MERRICK (AKA-97) in No. 4 position. Carried out tactical maneuvers and zig-zag plan No. 6.

5. 15 June. Held dawn General Quarters from 0520 until 0628. Throughout morning held tactical exercises in Area C-12 and C-11 with friendly submarines using us as targets for torpedo drill. 1231 conducted gunnery drill firing at drone. Drone hit after firing 6 rounds 40MM and 128 rounds of 20MM. 1304 secured from drill and proceeded toward Pearl Harbor, T.H. 1712 Pilot W. K. FAULKNER aboard and proceeded into Pearl Harbor. Moored to Berth X-14.

Positions	0800	21-08N, 158-41W
	1200	21-00N, 158-28W

6. Remained in Berth X-14, Pearl Harbor, T. H. until 1400 June 18 at which time underway for Honolulu Harbor, Honolulu, Oahu, T.H. in obedience to Port Director, Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor dispatch 171928 of June. 1614 tied to Pier 2, Honolulu Harbor and made preparation to load cargo. 19 June until 0600, 26 June loaded U. S. Army cargo consisting of lumber, asphalt, refrigeration units and general cargo to be shipped to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands and 6 LCVP's and 4 LCM's to be shipped to Erwetok, Marshall Islands; total weight tons 5,848.7, measurement tons 6,309. Five officers and sixty-one enlisted personnel aboard for transportation to Kwajalein.

7. 0700, 26 June underway for Kwajalein, Marshall Islands in obedience to Commander Sea Frontier Serial 0893 of 29 June, 1945 paraphrased for information:

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1 July 1945.

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

"When ready for sea, depart Honolulu, T. H. for Kwajalein, Marshall Islands - - speed of advance 14 knots, distance 2171 miles."

8. Daily positions for remainder of month as follows:

26 June	0800 VW	21-11N 157-56W
	1200 VW	20-15N 157-59W
	2000 VW	19-31N 159-37W
27 June	0800 WX	18-48N 162-27W
	1200 WX	18-24N 163-30W
	2000 WX	19-56N 165-38W
28 June	0800 X	17-14N 168-30W
	1200 X	17-01N 169-32W
	2000 X	16-27N 171-27W
29 June	0800 X	15-36N 174-18W
	1200 X	15-15N 175-14W
	2000 X	14-32N 177-07W

30 June. Crossed International Date Line at 0745 at 13-23N.

W. E. Reed
W. E. REED.

cc: CincPac.

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 San Francisco, Calif.

RJVB:fk

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 4 1945

From: Commanding Officer. REG. NO 299
 To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet. R. S. NO
 Subject: War Diary. REG. SHEET NO 119
 Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. 1 July 1945. Steaming independently enroute from Honolulu, T. H. to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands in accordance to orders of Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier serial 0893 of 25 June 1945. At 0745, 30 June crossed International Date Line at 13-23N and changed date to 1 July, minus twelve zone description.** Daily positions for remainder of cruise as follows:

1 July	0800	13-24N 179-56.5E
	1200	12-59N 179-02E
	2000	12-14N 179-09E
	2 July	0800
2 July	1200	10-51N 173-21E
	2000	10-15N 171-19E
	3 July	0800
3 July	1200	08-48N 167-33E

2. 3 July 1945. 1230 entered Gea Pass, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands and at 1324 anchored in Berth K-19, Kwajalein Anchorage. 1545 all passengers detached from ship. 1700 all cargo LCM's and LCVP's sent to NOB Pier, Kwajalein for safe keeping until cargo discharged.

3. 4 July 1945. Discharged refrigeration units. Remained at anchor.

4. 5 July 1945. Remained at anchor.

** All times unless otherwise designated in - 12ZD (Mike)

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 4 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

5. 6 July 1945. Commenced discharging cargo. The ship was unloaded by CB's with the exception of winch operators which were furnished from ship's company.

6. 20 July 1945. Lieut. Comdr. Walter E. REED, Commanding Officer, left ship and departed on twenty day emergency leave. Lieut. R. B. OGILBY assumed command.

7. 21 July 1945. 1020 completed unloading all cargo scheduled for Kwajalein. 1040 all cargo LCM's and LCVP's aboard to be discharged at Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. 1145 underway in obedience to Port Director, Kwajalein, Serial No. K-00380 and CincPOA Despatch 090053 of July. 2000 position 09-55N, 166-47E.

8. 22 July 1945. 0800 position 11-17N, 163-41E. 1056 passed through Deep Entrance, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. 1226 anchored in Anchorage Able, Berth C-3, Eniwetok. Cargo LCM's and LCVP's sent ashore. 2000 took on 35 tons of dry provisions, 20 tons of fresh and frozen provisions and 10 tons of general issue and ship's store supplies.

9. 23 July 1945. 0954 underway to Guadalcanal in accordance with orders from Eniwetok Port Director's confidential letter A4-3 and CincPOA Despatch 090053. Daily positions as follows:

23 July	1200	10-59N 162-25E
	2000	10-10N 163-01E
24 July	0800	06-12N 163-02E
	1200	05-22N 164-18E
	2000	03-22N 164-11E
25 July	0800	00-22.5N
	0932	Crossed equator at 163-28E
	1200	00-35S 163-20E (Ship's clocks retarded one-half hour to minus 11½ Z. D. (LOVE Mike) time.
	2000	02-27S 162-55E

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 4 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

26 July	0800	05-07S	
		162-17E	
	1200	05-59S	
		162-05E	(Ship's clocks retarded one-
half hour to - 11	Z. D. (LOVE time)		
	2000	07-09S	
		161-05E	
27 July	0800	09-12S	
		159-58E	

10. 27 July 1945. 0936 anchored in Berth 22, Lunga Roads, Guadalcanal, Soloman Islands. 1127 underway to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides in accordance to ComSoPac serial RO-0165, 27 July 1945. 1500 encountered 35-40 knot south-easterly winds and heavy seas which reduced advance speed from 15 knots to 10 knots. Storm and heavy seas continued throughout trip causing 24 hour delay in time of arrival Espiritu Santo. Daily positions as follows:

27 July	1200	09-23S	
		160-08E	
	2000	10-31S	
		161-03E	
28 July	0800	12-05S	
		162-21E	
	1200	12-43S	
		163-01E	
	2000	13-33S	
		164-00E	
29 July	0800	14-55S	
		165-24E	
	1200	15-12S	
		165-57E	
	2000	15-50S	
		167-09E	

11. 29 July. 2000 entered Malo Straits, clearing by 2100. Cruised remainder of night east of Espiritu Santo.

12. 30 July. 0630 entered Second Channel, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides. 0843 anchored in Second Channel, Berth 3.

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 4 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

13. 31 July. 1228 underway from Berth 3 to Pier
No. 5, Espiritu Santo. 1306 moored to Pier No. 5. 1400
commenced loading ship.

R. B. Ogilby
R. B. OGILBY

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

SEP 11 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary.
 Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. August 1 through 4, 1945. Moored to Dock Five, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides Islands loading general cargo for shipment to Pearl Harbor, T. H. by orders Commander, South Pacific despatch 260011 of July. Navy Construction Stevedores loading ship.

2. August 5, 1945. Completed loading general cargo at 1025 and underway at 1050 * to Pearl Harbor, T. H. in obedience to Port Director, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides Islands serial number NB 13109/A4-3. Daily 0800, 1200, 2400 positions as follows:

5 August	1200	15-37S 167-19E
	2000	14-57S 169-03E
6 August	0800	13-25S 171-23E
	1200	13-01S 172-11E
	2000	12-05S 173-49E
7 August	0800	10-35S 12 Z.D. 175-58E
	1200	10-02S 176-44E
	2000	08-52S 178-29E
8 August	Crossed International date line at 0330 and changed from minus twelve to plus twelve zone description	
7 August	0800	07-06S plus 11½ Z. D. 179-08W
	1200	06-35S 178-22W
	2000	05-32S 176-45W

143416

* All times - 11 Z.D. until otherwise designated.

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

SEP 11 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

8 August	0800	03-26S plus 11 Z. D.
		174-47W
	1200	02-45S
		174-12W
	2000	01-16S
		172-57W
9 August	0315	Crossed equator at 171-50W
	0800	00-58N
		171-09W
	1200	01-46N
		170-36W
	2000	03-29W
		169-36W

3. August 9. 0810 to 0850 conducted firing practice at balloons. Expended 22 rounds of 5"/38AAG, 408 rounds 40MM, 2560 rounds of 20MM.

10 August	0800	05-47N plus 10½ Z. D. *
		168-10W
	1200	06-48N
		167-22W
	2000	08-30N
		166-02W
11 August	0800	10-45N
		164-38W
	1200	11-27N
		164-06W
	2000	13-00N
		163-58W
12 August	0800	15-38N
		161-07W
	1200	16-34N
		160-31W
	2000	18-16N
		159-21W
13 August	0800	18-16N
		159-21W

* Plus 10½ Z. D. used for remainder of month

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIALSubject: War Diary. (Con't.)

4. 0730 to 0930, 13 August 1945. Conducted firing practice at sleeves towed by plane at various altitudes and on various approaches. Expended 51 rounds 5"/38, 1396 rounds of 40MM, 4225 rounds 20MM. 1100 approached entrance channel to Pearl Harbor, T. H. 1331 moored in berth C-3, Pearl Harbor, T.H.

5. August 14 to 19. Remained in berth C-3 awaiting orders to discharge cargo.

6. August 20. 1525, underway to Berth M-4 by orders of the Captain of the Yard. 1625 moored starboard side to dock for purposes of discharging cargo. 2000 commenced discharging cargo.

7. August 21 to 24. Discharging cargo.

8. August 25. Completed discharging cargo. 1430 underway to Hilo, Hawaii, T. H. in accordance with AdComPhibsPad secret despatch No. 250033 of August with Transport Division 64 made up of the following ships: WESTMORELAND (APA 104), HAMBLEN (APA 114), MERRICK (AKA 97), SEVIER (APA 233), KINGSBURY (APA 177), MONTROSE (APA 212). 2000 position 21-21N, 156-55W.

9. August 25, 0630. Approached Hilo entrance and at 0740 moored port side to Pier 2, Hilo, for purposes of combat loading. 0800 commenced loading.

10. August 27 and 28. Loaded cargo.

11. August 29. Loaded cargo and at 1500 commenced taking 5th Division Marines aboard. 1840 completed loading cargo and taking on Marines. Underway to Pearl Harbor in company with SCANIA (AKA 40) in accordance with ComHailianSeaFrontier confidential letter No. PD 601 of 28 August.

12. August 30. 0800 approaching entrance channel to Pearl Harbor and awaiting permission to enter. 1010 entered mine-swept channel and at 1120 moored in berth X-8.

AKA 97/ A12

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

RJVD:fk

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL

San Francisco, Calif.

SEP 11 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't)

Commenced disembarking 5th Marine Division passengers. 17 Officers and 115 men aboard for transportation to unknown destination.

13. August 31. Moored in Berth X-8.

W E Reed
W. E. REED

cc:

ComTransRon 24
ComTransDiv 64

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

OCT 8 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary.
 Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. This vessel operated throughout the month with ComPhibsGroup FOUR, in accordance with No. A411-45 operation plan under Commander Task Group 54.1, Rear Admiral L. F. REIFSNIDER, U.S.N., aboard U.S.S. MOUNT MCKINLEY (AGC-7) flag; Commander Task Unit 54.12, Commodore S. P. JENKINS, U.S.N., ComTransRon 22, ComTransDiv 64, aboard U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104), flag.

2. The purpose of the operation was to occupy and defend, if necessary, Sasebo, Japan, by V Amphibious Corps Headquarters and Corps troops, the Fifth Marine Division, and assigned naval units. The occupation of Sasebo-Nagasaki was designated as BAKER TWO of the "Campus Operation."

3. 1 September 1945. Moored in berth X-8, Pearl Harbor, T.H., combat loaded for occupation of Sasebo, Japan by the Fifth Marine Division. On board were the following Fifth Marines: First Lieutenant William J. DONNELLY, senior officer; Headquarters and Service Co., 28th Marines with 37 enlisted men, 6 officers; Company "C", 5th Engineering Btn. with 22 enlisted men, 1 officer; Detachment I Battery, 3rd Btn., 13th Marines with 8 enlisted men, no officers; Detachment H & S Battery, 3rd Btn., 13th Marines with 17 enlisted men, 1 officer; Bomb Disposal Company, H & S Corps Troops, V Amphibious with 5 enlisted men, 1 officer; Detachment "G" Battery, 3rd Btn., 13th Marines with 7 enlisted men; Headquarters, 1st Btn., 28th Marines with 1 officer; 6th Separate Laundry Platoon, 5th Service Btn. with 5 enlisted men; 2nd Btn., 28th Marines with 1 officer; Company "C", 5th Medical Btn. with 5 enlisted men; Ordnance Company, 5th Service Btn. with 1 enlisted man; "H" Battery, 3rd Btn., 13th Marines with 6 enlisted men.

4. 1023 (plus 9½ Z.D.), underway for Saipan, Mariannas Islands in obedience to Commander Transport Squadron 22 secret despatch 312305 of August. 1400 Task Unit 54.12 comprised of Transport Division 39, Transport Division 72, Transport Division 64 and Transport Division 22 sortied. Commodore S. P. JENKINS, convoy commander on board U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104). U.S.S. MERRICK attached to Transport Division 64, assigned position three-six in convoy.

0800, 1200, 2400 positions as follows:

1 September	1200 (plus 9½ Z.D.)	21-12N, 157-59W
	2000 (plus 10 Z.D.)	20-01N
		158-21W

147537

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, California

OCT 8 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

2 September	0800	19-57N 160-32W
	1200	19-55N 161-52.5W
	2000 (plus 11 Z.D.)	19-54.5N 163-58W
3 September	0800	19-47N 166-50W
	1200	19-43N 167-47W
	2000	19-40N 169-45W
4 September	0800	19-35N 172-12W
	1200	19-30N 173-37W
	2000 (plus 12 Z.D.)	19-20N 175-41W
5 September	0800	19-12N 177-49W
	1200	19-08N 179-26W
	1428	Crossed International Date Line, westward bound, at latitude 19-08N
	0000	Changed zone discription from plus 12 to minus 12 making date 7 September 1945.
7 September	0800 (minus 12 Z.D.)	18-59N 176-05E
	1200	18-58N 175-15E
	2000	18-35N 173-09E

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

OCT 8 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

8 September	0800	18-11N
		170-25E
	1200	17-58N
		169-32E
	2000 (minus 11 Z.D.)	17-41N
		167-46E
9 September	0800	17-04N
		165-06E
	1200	16-55N
		164-18E
	2000	16-31N
		163-03E
10 September	0800	15-29N
		160-08E
	1200	15-22N
		160-08E
	2000 (minus 10 Z.D.)	15-13N
		157-18E
11 September	0800	15-16N
		154-33E
	1200	15-13N
		153-45E
	2000	15-06N
		152-04E
12 September	0800	14-55N
		149-28E
	1200	14-54N
		148-37E
	2000	14-48N
		147-00E
13 September	0800	15-12N
		145-41E

0845. Entered Saipan Harbor and proceeded to assigned berth. After anchoring twice and heaving in anchor, finally anchored at 1139 in Berth 17.

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

OCT 8 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

5. September 14, 1945. 1616 underway to U.S.S. CARIBOU. 1655 alongside port side to and commenced taking on fuel. 1835 completed fueling and underway to anchorage. 1848 anchored in Berth L-36. 2100 took aboard 10 1/2 tons of fresh stores and 2 1/2 tons of dry stores.

6. 15 September 1945. At anchor as before.

7. 16 September 1945. 1700 underway to Sasebo, Japan in company with Task Force 54.12 in compliance with Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, Transport Squadron 22 order number A4-3/G1, Serial 0024 of 14 September 1945. Rear Admiral L. F. REIFSNIDER, U.S.N., aboard the U.S.S. MOUNT MCKINLEY (AGC-7), Commander Task Force 54.1; Commodore JENKINS aboard U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104), Commander Task Unit 54.12. Our position in convoy three-five. Ship's positions until arrival Sasebo as follows:

16 September	2000 (minus 10 Z.D.)	15-28N 145-17E
17 September	0800	16-45N 143-31E
	1200	17-40N 142-47E
	2000 (minus 9 Z.D.*)	19-16N 141-50E
18 September	0800	21-27N 140-42E
	1200	22-37N 140-24E
	2000	23-31N 139-30E
19 September	0800	25-11N 137-38E
	1200	25-38N 136-59E
	2000	26-10N 135-58E
20 September	0800	27-44N 133-31E
	1200	28-04N 132-45E

* All times for remainder of this report are minus 9 Zone Description.

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, California

OCT 8 1945

CONFIDENTIALSubject: War Diary. (Con't.)

20 September (Con't.) 2000

31-16N
129-03E

8. 22 September 1945. Approaching Sasebo, Japan and within sight of lights on land throughout the night. 0600 entered Transport Area which lies northwest of Shira Si Light near entrance to Sasebo Ko. 0630 anchored in Transport Area and awaited orders to enter harbor. Condition "One-Able" was set and 8 LCM's, 8 LCVP's and Captain's gig, LCP(L), lowered into water. The 8 LCM's underway to the U.S.S. FALLON (APA-81) to assist discharging cargo.

9. 0946 Underway to entrance Sasebo Harbor; 1010 entered Sasebo Harbor and at 1056 anchored in Berth 34. We encountered no resistance from the Japanese and remainder of day was uneventful. 1830 secured from Condition "One-Able", set Condition III. From sunset until sunrise the next morning we set an armed harbor patrol by means of LCVP. This was done every night while at Sasebo.

10. September 23, 1945: Remained at anchor until 0930 and then moved to mooring berth 8. At 1650 underway to Item docks and went alongside, port side to Berth I-4, Naval Repair Basin, Sasebo at 1742 for purposes of discharging all cargo. 1900 commenced discharging cargo, 5th Marine Division furnishing stevedores.

11. September 24 and 25. Discharging cargo.

12. September 26. 1000 completed discharging all cargo and all Marine troops disembarked. 1042 underway to anchorage B-4. 1214 anchored. 1311 underway for Lingayen, P.I. in accordance with Commander, Amphibious Group FOUR despatch 260108 of September 1945, in company with Task Unit 54.21.3. Commodore JENKINS, ComTransRon 22, aboard U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104). Various ships of TransDiv 22, 64 and 79 present. Ship's positions for the remainder of month as follows:

26 September	2000	31-51N 129-07E
27 September	0800	29-24N 128-17E
	1200	28-48N 128-02E
	2000	27-15N 127-35E

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 San Francisco, California

OCT 8 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

2340 convoy altered course to starboard of original routing plan to avoid expected typhoon by authority of ComTask Unit 54.21.3, despatch 271120 of September 1945.

28 September	0800	24-36N
		126-19E
	1600	23-53N
		125-37E
	2000	22-28N
		124-29E

September 29. According to C.T.U. 54.21.3 despatch 29220 of September, ordered to Lingayen via Manila for logistics.

	0800	20-21N
		122-15E
	1200	20-03N
		121-38E
	2000	19-10N
		120-38E
30 September	0800	17-09N
		119-30E
	1200	16-33N
		119-25E
	2000	15-17N
		119-39E

W. E. Reed
 W. E. REED.

Copy to:

ComTransRon 22
 ComTransRon 24
 ComTransDiv 64
 ComTransDiv 72

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 San Francisco, California

NOV 4 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary.
 Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. October 1, 1945. Traveling with Task Unit 54.21.3 to Manila, P. I. for logistics. 1017 anchored in berth 668 Manila Bay, P. I.
2. October 2, 1945. Underway during morning to take on fuel oil from IX-122 in berth 51Z. Returned to anchorage 668 in afternoon. 1830 underway with Task Unit 54.21.3 to Lingayen, Luzon, P. I. in obedience to ComTransDiv 64 despatch 020637 of October. 2000 position 14-20N, 121-02E.
3. October 3, 1945. 0800 position 16-09N, 119-40E enroute to Lingayen Gulf, P. I. 1508 anchored off White Beach, Lingayen Gulf. 2040 commenced combat loading of cargo for 32nd Infantry Division, U. S. Army in preparation for the second phase of the "Campus Operation." Cargo moved from White Beach TWO to ship in LCM's; LCM's unloaded by ship's company personnel and sixty-four (64) 32nd Infantry Division soldiers doing stevedore work. Work of combat loading continued on a twenty-four hour routine.
4. October 4 through October 6, 1945. Loading as before. Completed combat loading at 2225, October 6, 1945.
5. October 7, 1945. 1940 set Typhoon Condition II by order of ComTransRon 22 as precautionary measure against possible typhoon headed on a westerly course in our direction. At time Typhoon Condition II was set there was a six (6) knot N.N.W. wind, slowly rising bareometer and overcast skies.
6. October 8, 1945. At anchor as before; remained at Typhoon Condition II.
7. October 9, 1945. Underway at 1000 in obedience to ComTrans Ron 22 order number A3-45 from Lingayen Gulf, P. I. to Sasebo, Japan. Sailed in company with Task Unit 54.4, Captain M. Y. COHEN as commodore aboard U.S.S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104). Various units of the 32nd Army Division aboard for transportation. Daily positions for movement as follows:

9 October	1200	16-17N
		120-15E

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, California

NOV 4 1945

CONFIDENTIALSubject: War Diary. (Con't.)

10 October	0800	19-45N
		121-00E
	1200	19-59N
		121-42E
	2000	20-42N
	122-59E	
11 October	0800	21-49N
		124-23E
	1200	22-26N
		125-11E
	2000	23-18N
	126-30E	
12 October	0800	25-09N
		127-40E
	1200	25-40N
		127-26E
	2000	27-04N
	127-42E	
13 October	0800	29-04.5N
		128-26E
	1200	30-13N
		128-52E
	2000	31-26N
	129-12E	

8. October 14, 1945. Arrived west coast of Kyushu and ordered to anchor in Matsu Shima berths to await orders to go into Sasebo Ko anchorage. 0638 anchored off Matsu Shima.

9. October 15, 1945. Underway to Sasebo Harbor at 1200 in obedience to ComTransRon 22 despatch 150900 of October. 1629 anchored in berth H-11, Sasebo. October 16, 1945. Anchored as before.

10. October 17, 1945. Discharged 25 vehicles by means of landing boats and set ashore at seaplane ramps in vicinity of Green Beach One.

11. October 18 and 19, 1945. Anchored as before.

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

San Francisco, California

NOV 4 1945

CONFIDENTIALSubject: War Diary. (Con't.)

12. October 20, 1945. Commenced discharging 32nd Army Division cargo with assistance of LCT's. Army and ship's company furnishing stevedore labor.

13. October 21, 1945. Completed discharging cargo at 1720. Reported by despatch number 210505 to CincPac for duty as directed by ComTransRon 22 despatch 200001 of October.

14. October 22, 1945. Anchored. Upon receipt of CincPac despatch 212258 of October detached from Task Group 54.1 and Transport Squadron 22 (Temporary) and reported to Port Director, Sasebo.

15. October 23, 1945. 0630 underway to Guam in obedience to Cinc Pac restricted despatch 212258 of October. Port Director, Sasebo sailing instructions dated 22 October 1945. Upon arrival Guam destined to load Marine War Dogs and staff personnel of War Dog Training and Administrative Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Daily positions as follows:

23 October	0800	32-59N
		129-29E
	1200	32-01N
		129-17E
	2000	30-30N
		129-31E

24 October	0800	27-59N
		132-50E
	1200	27-19N
		133-48E
	2000	26-11N
		135-27E

25 October	0800	24-24N
		138-15E
	1200	23-37N
		139-03E
	2000	21-54N
		140-02E

26 October (0000 advanced ship's clocks one (1) hour to minus 10 Z.D.)

26 October	0800	19-18N
		141-21E
	1200	18-25N
		141-56E
	2000	16-41N
		143-00E

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
 CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
 San Francisco, California

NOV 4 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary. (Con't.)

27 October	0800	14-01N 144-31E
	1200	13-29N 144-45E
	1222	Anchored in berth 618, Agana Bay, Guam.

16. 28 October 1945. Anchored. 1250 commenced loading Marine War Dogs in number three (3) hold.

17. 29 October 1945. Completed loading dogs and embarking eight (8) officers and two hundred and seventy-six (276) enlisted men of the War Dog Training and Administrative Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Five (5) naval officers on board for transportation to continental United States. 1422 underway to Pearl Harbor as directed by Port Director, Guam sailing orders dated 28 October 1945. Daily positions as follows:

29 October	2000	14-07N 145-49E
30 October	0800	14-57N 148-43E
	1200	15-09N 149-55E
	2000	15-43N 152-04E
31 October	0800	16-18N 155-15E
	1200	16-30N 156-23E
	2000	16-56N 158-27E

W. E. Reed
 W. E. REED.

Copy to:

ComTransRon 22
 ComTransRon 24
 ComTransDiv 64
 ComTransDiv 72

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
New York, New York**CONFIDENTIAL**

DEC 7 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary.
 Ref: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. November 1, 1945. Underway enroute Guam, Mariana Islands to Pearl Harbor, T.H., in obedience to Port Director, Guam, sailing orders dated 28 October 1945, carrying eight (8) officers, 276 enlisted men, and 243 dogs of the War Dog Training and Administrative Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Five (5) Naval officers on board for transportation to Continental United States. Steaming independently. Daily positions as follows:

1 November	0800	17-25N
		161-23E
	1200	17-35N
		162-26E
	2000	15-55N
		164-28E
RECEIVED S-C FILES Room 2055 ROUTE TO: 03		
2 November	2200: -12 Z.D.)	
File No. (GC)	A12-1/AKA 97	
Doc. No.	0800	18-24N
		167-40E
Copy No.	1200	18-33N
		168-40E
Reg. No.	2000	18-50N
		170-40E
3 November	0800	19-08N
		173-37E
	1200	19-19N
		174-36E
	2000	19-18N
		176-19E
4 November	0800	19-30N
		178-30E
	1200	19-41N
		179-21E
	2000	19-58N
		179-23W

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

New York, New York

CONFIDENTIAL

DEC 7 1945

Subject: War Diary. (Cont'd.)

4 November	(0000: † 12 Z.D. 2200: † 11 Z.D.)	
	0800	20-05N
		175-20W
	1200	20-07N
		174-11W
	2000	20-09N
		172-13W
5 November	0800	20-28N
		168-48W
	1200	20-22N
		167-40W
	2000	20-13N
		165-23W
6 November	(2200: † 10½ Z.D.)	
	0800	20-12N
		162-04W
	1200	20-03N
		161-03W
	2000	20-04N
		159-01W
7 November	0800	21-02N
		156-21W
		1154 Moored berth C-6 Pearl Harbor, T.H.
8 November		Receiving supplies and fuel.
9 November		Moored to Dock W-8 Pearl Harbor, T.H., to load cargo.
13 November		Transferred six (6) LCM's and seven (7) LCVP's to Waipio Boat Pool.

2. November 14, 1945. 0630 underway enroute Pearl Harbor, T.H. to Balboa, Canal Zone, in obedience to AdComPhibsPac dispatch 140331. Carrying Marine War Dog Command and eight (8) Naval officers to Continental United States. Steaming independently. Daily positions as follows:

14 November	(2200: † 10 Z.D.)	
	0800	21-05N
		157-59W
	1200	21-01N
	- 2 -	158-01W

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
New York, New York

DEC 7 1945

CONFIDENTIALSubject: War Diary. (Cont'd.)

14 November (Cont'd.)	2000	18-18N 156-40W
15 November	0800	15-56N 154-59W
	1200	15-10N 154-17W
	2000	13-38N 152-56W
16 November	0800	11-19N 150-56W
	1200	10-33N 150-11W
	2000	09-53N 148-35W
17 November	(2200: 1 9 Z.D.)	
	0800	09-46N 145-30W
	1200	09-41N 144-29W
	2000	09-30N 142-30W
18 November	0800	09-41N 139-32W
	1200	09-37N 138-31W
	2000	09-27N 136-26W
19 November	(2200: 1 8 Z.D.)	
	0800	09-12N 133-25W
	1200	09-10N 132-24W
	2000	09-11N 130-29W

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
New York, New York

DEC 7 1945

CONFIDENTIALSubject: War Diary. (Cont'd.)

20 November	0800	09-03N 127-22W
	1200	08-59N 126-20W
	2000	08-54N 124-16W
21 November	0800	08-53N 121-04W
	1200	08-43N 119-56W
	2000	08-35N 117-42W
22 November	(2200: ± 7 Z.D.)	
	0800	08-16N 114-29W
	1200	08-16N 113-30W
	2000	08-09N 111-19W
23 November	0800	07-57N 108-22W
	1200	07-55N 107-17W
	2000	07-55N 105-13W
24 November	0800	07-38N 101-56W
	1200	07-32N 100-43W
	2000	07-26N 98-38W
25 November	0800	07-16N 95-36W
	1200	07-12N 94-31W
	2000	07-07N 92-21W

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
New York, New York

DEC 7 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary. (Cont'd.)

26 November	(2200: ± 5 Z.D.)	
	0800	07-08N 89-13W
	1200	07-09N 88-10W
	2000	07-04N 85-44W
27 November	0800	06-43N 82-48W
	1200	06-41N 81-42W
	2000	Piloting
28 November	Passed through Panama Canal. 1729 Moored dock 1-B, Coco Solo Naval Reservation, Panama Canal Zone.	
3.	November 29, 1945, 0809 Underway enroute Coco Solo, C.Z., to Norfolk, Va., in obedience to CinCLant Dispatch 150317 of November. Steaming independently. Daily positions as follows:	
29 November	0800	08-21N 79-55W
	1200	10-15N 79-31W
	2000	12-11N 78-27W
30 November	0800	15-03N 77-10W
	1200	15-50N 76-41W
	2000	17-35N 75-18W


W. E. REED.

Copy to:

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ComServForLant
CinCLant

AKA97/ A9/A12 (275)

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, California

NOV 1945 AM

WLW:fk



gok

25 October 1945.

RECEIVED
Navy Department
Secy's Office

From: Commanding Officer.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.
Subject: U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97), History of.
Reference: (a) ALPac 202-45.

1. In compliance with reference (a), subject history is submitted herewith.
2. The U. S. S. MERRICK, 14,000 ton C-2 Navy attack cargo ship, was launched 13 February 1945 at the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Kearny, New Jersey, and placed in commission 31 March 1945 at the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York by Captain H. V. McKEPTRICK, U. S. N. Lieutenant Commander Walter E. REED, (DM), U. S. N. R. assumed command.
3. The period 1 April through 11 April was occupied in outfitting, taking on of stores and ammunition, deperming, etc. During this period, the ship was formally adopted in an appropriate ceremony by the Newark Chapter of the American Red Cross at Newark, New Jersey, the first Naval ship to be so honored by a chapter of the Red Cross.
4. During the week of April 11 - 22, the ship underwent shakedown training, gunnery practices, and amphibious rehearsals. Post-shakedown availability and cargo loading, primarily beer, occupied the time until the 15th of May when the ship sailed in company with the U. S. S. CATAMOUNT (LSD-17) and U. S. S. KENYON (DE-683) for Pearl Harbor, T. H. via the Panama Canal.
5. An additional refresher training period was undergone off the island of Maui, T. H. after all cargo and passengers had been discharged at Pearl Harbor.
6. On 26 June 1945 the MERRICK with 135 passengers and 5,400 tons of general cargo, primarily lumber and asphalt, sailed for Kwajelain, Gilbert and Marshalls area, arriving July 12, 1945. Upon completion of discharge 26 July 1945, the ship sailed for Espiritu Santos, stopping enroute at Eniwetok and Guadalcanal and crossing the equator on 25 July.
7. General cargo was loaded at Espiritu Santos and the ship returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving 13 August 1945 in time to witness the premature celebration of V-J day.

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U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, California

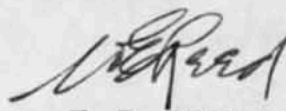
25 October 1945.

Subject: U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97), History of. (Con't.)

8. Assigned to Transport Division 64, Transport Squadron 22 (Temporary), the MERRICK proceeded to Hilo, Hawaii after discharge to combat-load troops and equipment of the 28th RGT, 5th Marine Division. She sailed in company with TransRon 22 (Temporary) under Commander Amphibious Group 4 and Commander Task Group 54.1 on the 1st day of September 1945 for Sasebo Harbor, Kyushu, Japan. A brief stop was made at Saipan, Mariannas Islands, for logistics (September 13 - 16). The Task Group arrived at Sasebo on September 22, 1945 as per schedule. Anchored overnight in the harbor, the MERRICK moved the following day to the dock area for unloading. Discharge was completed on 26 September 1945 and the ship sailed in company with ComTransRon 22 for Manila, P. I. for logistics purposes.

9. After fueling and provisioning at Manila, TransRon 22 proceeded to Lingayen Gulf where the 32nd Infantry Division was combat loaded. Getting underway 9 October 1945, a second arrival was made at Sasebo on 14 October 1945 and the 32nd Division disembarked.

10. At present this vessel is steaming independently, via Guam, Pearl Harbor and Canal Zone to join the Atlantic Fleet, to which it was assigned on 22 October 1945.


W. E. REED.

Copy to:
CincPac Pearl

AKA97/

A9/A16 (043)

U. S. S. MERRICK (AKA-97)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE

WLD:fk

San Francisco, California

OCT 22 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer,
 To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
 Via: (1) Commander Task Unit 54.2.11 (ComtransDiv 64 (Temp.)),
 (2) Commander Task Unit 54.2.1 (ComtransDiv 72 (Temp.)),
 (3) Commander Task Group 54.2 (Commander SASFBO Group),
 (4) Commander Task Force 54 (ComFIFTHFleet),
 (5) Commander, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report of U.S.S. MERRICK (AKA-97), "CAMPUS" Operation,
 25 August to 21 October 1945 - Submission of.

References: (a) Commander FIFTH Fleet operation plan No. 6-45.
 (b) Pacific Fleet Conf. Ltr. 161-45.

Enclosure: ✓ (A) Subject report.

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the enclosed action report is hereby submitted concerning this vessel's participation in the "CAMPUS" operation for the period from 25 August 1945 to 21 October 1945.

W. E. REED,

Advance copies to:
 CominCh ✓
 CincPac (3)
 ComAdComFibPac

145057

21 October 1945.

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

Subject: Action Report.

Part I. Brief Summary.

A. The period included by this report, which covers this vessel's participation in the "Campus Operation", commenced 25 August 1945 and terminated 21 October 1945.

No enemy opposition was encountered during this period.

Part II. Preliminaries.

A. This vessel operated with Transport Division 64 (Temp.), in company with Transport Division 39 (Temp.) and 72 (Temp.) which composed Transport Squadron 22 (Temp.), under the command of Commodore S. P. JENKINS, U. S. N. Captain M. Y. COHEN assumed command of this squadron 7 October 1945. This operation was governed by the following operation plans.

- (1) Commander FIFTH Fleet - Operation Plan No. 6-45.
- (2) Commander Task Force FIFTY-FOUR and Commander FIFTH Amphibious Force - Operation Plan No. A1501-45.
- (3) Commander Task Group 54.1 and Commander Amphibious Group FOUR - Operation Order No. A411-45.
- (4) Commander Task Group 54.2 and Commander Transport Squadron 22 - Operation Order 42-45.

B. No action encountered.

C. Prior to this operation, the Japanese had accepted the terms of surrender of the allied powers and the Joint Chiefs of Staff had directed that certain strategic areas of Japan proper be occupied by United States Forces.

The purpose of the occupation was to occupy and defend, if necessary, Sasobo, Japan by V Amphibious Corps Headquarters and troops, Fifth Marine Division, U. S. Army, 32nd Infantry Division and assigned naval units. Utmost speed was demanded to prevent disorder, sabotage and treachery. The occupation was accomplished on a "Prepared for Combat" basis.

Possible attack by isolated Kamikazee Units had to be considered together with minor resistance from the few remaining operative units of the Japanese Navy. Units of the FIFTH Fleet were present for force but ships were ordered not to open fire unless in self defense.

Both allied and Japanese mines were a constant threat to the safety of the ships and all channels were to be swept prior to the invasion force.

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D. No action encountered.

Part III. Chronological Account of Events.

On 25 August 1945 this vessel departed from Pearl Harbor, T. H. and in company with Transport Division 64.

Arrived Hilo, Hawaii, T. H., 26 August 1945 and commenced combat loading and embarking elements of the Second and Third Battalions of the Twenty-Eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division.

On 28 August 1945 sailed from Hilo, Hawaii, T. H. in company with U.S.S. SCANIA (AKA-40), and arrived Pearl Harbor, T. H. on 29 August 1945.

On 1 September 1945, 1023 (plus 9 1/2 z.d.), underway for Saipan, Mariannas Islands in obedience to Commander Transport Squadron 22 despatch 312305 of August 1945. Transport Squadron 22 (Temp.) consisting of Transport Divisions 39 (Temp.), 72 (Temp.), and 64 (Temp.), Commodore S. P. JENKINS, U. S. N., convoy commander on board U. S. S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104). This vessel attached to Transport Division 64 (Temp.) and assigned position three-six in convoy.

The entire trip to Saipan, Mariannas Islands was uneventful. The weather was favorable during the entire time.

Entered Saipan Harbor 0845 (minus 10 z.d.), 13 September 1945 and proceeded to assigned berth. Logistics were completed and at 1700 (minus 10 z.d.), 16 September 1945 underway for Sasebo, Japan in company with Task Force 54.12 in compliance with Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, Transport Squadron 22 (Temp.), order number 44-3/CI, serial 0024 of 14 September 1945. Rear Admiral L. F. REIFSNIDER, U. S. N. aboard U.S.S. MOUNT McKinLEY (AGC-7), Commander Task Force 54.1; Commodore S. P. JENKINS, U. S. N. aboard U. S. S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104), Commander Task Unit 54.12. Our position in convoy three-five.

On 22 September 1945, approached the vicinity of Sasebo, Japan and steered within sight of lights on land throughout the night. At 0600 (minus 9 z.d.), entered the outer Transport Area which lies northwest of Shiri Si Light near entrance of Sasebo Ko. At 0630 anchored in Transport Area and awaited orders to enter harbor. Condition "One-Able" was set and 8 LCM's and 1 LCPL were lowered into the water. The 8 LCM's proceeded to the U. S. S. FALLON (APA-81) to assist discharging of cargo. 0946 underway to entrance Sasebo Harbor and at 1056 anchored in berth 34. No resistance from the Japanese was encountered and the remainder of the day was uneventful. 1830 secured from condition "One-Able" and set condition III. From sunset to sunrise while at

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Sasebo an armed LCVP was employed as an armed harbor patrol boat and circled the ship. Remained at anchor until 0930, September 23 and then moved to mooring berth 8. At 1630 underway to "Item" docks and went alongside, port side to berth I-4, Naval Repair Basin, Sasebo for purposes of discharging marines and cargo.

At 1000, 26 September 1945, discharging of personnel and cargo was completed and at 1024 underway for anchorage B-4. Anchored in B-4 at 1214.

At 1311, 26 September 1945 underway for Lingayon, P. I. in obedience to Commander, Amphibious Group FOUR despatch 260106 of September 1945 in company with Task Unit 54.21.3. Commodore S. P. JEMKINS, U. S. N., ComTransRon 22, aboard U. S. S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104). Various ships of Trans Div 22, 64 and 39 present.

On 27 September 1945, 2340, convoy altered course to starboard to avoid expected typhoon.

On 29 September 1945 the convoy was diverted to Manila, P. I. for logistics purposes.

Anchored in berth 668, Manila Bay, P. I. at 1017, 1 October 1945, and made preparations for logistic. Due to the rough seas and inclement weather, few provisions were taken aboard during this period. Ship was refueled on 2 October 1945 from IX-112 in berth 517.

At 1830, 2 October 1945 got underway in company with Task Unit 54.21.3 and proceeded to Lingayon, Luzon, P. I. in obedience to ComTrans Div 64 (Temp.) despatch 020637 of October 1945. Voyage uneventful.

Arrived off Lingayon Gulf, P. I. on 3 October and anchored off "White Beach" at 1508. At 2040 commenced combat loading of cargo for 32nd Infantry Division, U. S. Army in preparation for the second phase of this "Campus Operation". Cargo was moved from "White Beach" to this vessel employing this ship's LCM's and personnel, the 32nd Infantry Division furnishing the beach party and stevedores. Difficulty was experienced at the beach during the unbeaching of the LCM's and salvage boats had to be employed at various times. The loading was continuous on 24 hours basis and was completed at 1900 on 7 October. Various units of the 32nd Army Division aboard for transportation.

(All times minus 9 z.d.)

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At 1940 on 7 October 1945 set "Typhoon Condition II" as a precautionary measure against a possible typhoon which was headed in a westerly direction north east of our location and all ships were prepared to get underway on thirty minutes notice. Remained at this condition of readiness until 9 October.

On 9 October got underway at 1000 in obedience to ComTransRon 22 movement order number A-3-45 from anchorage in Lingayon Gulf, P. I. in company with Task Unit 54.4. Captain H. Y. COHEN, U. S. N., as task group commander aboard the U. S. S. WESTMORELAND (APA-104), for Sasabe, Japan. During this trip one mine was sighted 200 yards off port beam and later destroyed by gunfire by a destroyer astern of convoy.

Arrived off the west coast of Kyushu early on 14 October and ordered to anchor in Matsushima berths to await further orders. Anchored at 0638 and remained at anchor until 1200, 15 October when underway for Sasabe Ko Harbor in obedience to ComTransRon 22 despatch 150900 of October 1945.

Anchored in berth H-11 at 1629.

During the 17th of October, 25 vehicles were discharged by means of our LCM's to the Green Beach Area. Remained at anchor and commenced unloading remaining cargo at 0830 on 20 October; two LCT's assisting in the operation. Completed unloading cargo Sunday, 21 October 1945 and report to CincPac in obedience to ComTransRon 22 despatch 200001 of October 1945.

(All times minus 9 Z.D.)

W. E. Reed
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