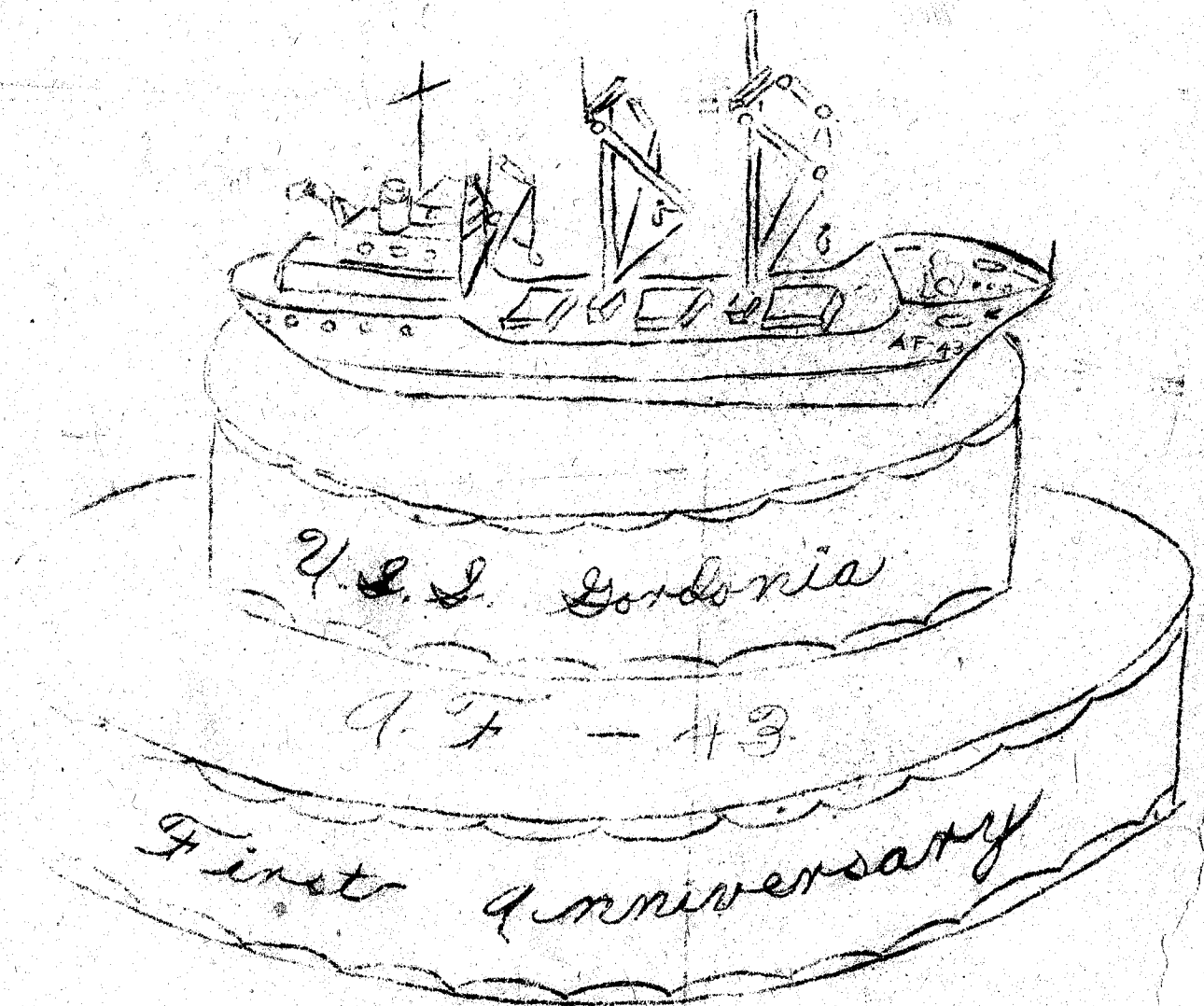


Contributed by James Thomas



RJ 7/7

HISTORY OF THE U.S.S. GORDONIA (AF-43)

May 14, 1945 a memorable day. The Commissioning ensign was hoisted and the Gordonia became part of the mightiest fleet afloat. Her commissioning was a pressing necessity for our Navy at this period of the war. Due to our armed forces penetrating deeper and deeper into the Japanese strong hold there came an immediate demand for more refrigerated ships. Consequently the Pennsylvania Shipyards in Beaumont Texas undertook the job of supplying the Navy's need.

Following commissioning, a period of ten days was allowed for a shakedown cruise. Considering that the majority of the crew were seeing their first sea duty, the shakedown officers were highly pleased with the performance of the Gordonia.

On 31 May the Gordonia put out from Galveston, Texas on the first lap of a voyage that was to take her half way around the world. Mobile, Alabama was the first port to greet the newly commissioned Gordonia. An expert crew of stevedores required only three days to load the Gordie to capacity. With 1624 tons of fresh, frozen and dry provisions the Gordonia on June 5th bid farewell to Uncle Sam. Our first cargo consisted of a dump load to be delivered to Pearl Harbor via the Panama Canal. Three days out of Mobile found the Gordonia encountering her first rough seas. On June 10th with the sea very rough the speed of advance cut to seven knots and a 35° roll to starboard was logged.

Dispatched immediately through the canal, the morning of the 12th found the Gordonia in Pacific waters bound for Pearl Harbor. On July 1st, after a smooth voyage, Diamond Head was sighted. Upon arrival the Gordonia was immediately unloaded and speedily reloaded for fleet issue. On July 10th the Gordonia left Pearl bound for Okinawa via Ulithi. After a hot and uneventful trip the small island of Ulithi was sighted and several days liberty were enjoyed while the Gordonia awaited a convoy north. Convoyed for the first time, the Gordonia pulled out for Buckner Bay, Okinawa on July 30.

Upon entering Buckner Bay the Gordonia met her first real air alert, an action which every one got used to in the next few days. From Buckner Bay the Gordonia was dispatched to Hagushi to commence fleet issue. Day and night for the next two weeks the Gordonia shoveled food to practically every landing craft in the Okinawa area. War's end found her discharging the last of her cargo in Ie Shima. The Gordonia was assigned as Convoy Commodore for the first lap of her trip back to Pearl.

With a full load the Gordonia again found herself bound for Okinawa. This time she pulled in on the tail end of a typhoon. Her stay here was short as she received orders to report to Yokosuka, Japan immediately. The anchor was let go off Yokosuka on October 23, 1945.

During the unloading period liberty was granted in Yokosuka and several of the crew were able to make it to Tokyo. While here, Japanese rifles and bayonets were obtained for each member of the ship. Sixteen days after arrival, upon completion of fleet issue the Gordonia received orders to report to San Pedro, U.S.A.

With her bow headed homeward for the first time since commissioning the old Nordberg (engine) really turned over and sent us home in 18 days. The lights of L.A. looked mighty good to all hands.

The following trip was again to Okinawa. The crew was beginning to think Okinawa was home port for the Gordonia. Over a month was required to reach port on this, the longest voyage in the short history of the ship, as the weather was as contrary as a woman. At that time Okinawa had all the food she could use and the Gordonia was sent on to Korea. Our stay in Korea, short as it was, enabled the crew to obtain more souvenirs.

A small portion of our cargo was fleet issued to the Naval vessels in the area. Upon leaving Korea the Gordonia headed further west for Taku, China. Extremely cold weather greeted the Gordonia's arrival in Taku as she plowed through ice to get to her anchorage. The Naval ships here were also supplied and the remainder of the cargo was issued to the Marine Garrison in Tientsin, China. While here the crew was able to

participate in recreation trips up to Tientsin, China.

Leaving China the Gordonia set sail, this time, for the Golden Gate, which port she arrived on 4 March 1946. As one-half of the crew were eligible to be wearing civics again, transfers were the order of the day.

Consequently many new faces were seen as the Gordonia sailed under the Golden Gate heading for the Philippines on what well may be her last voyage. Due to refrigerator trouble encountered about five days out of Manila she was rerouted to Samar Island. All of her fresh provisions were unloaded and partly reloaded to carry to several island bases in the Philippines.

May 14, 1945 --- Galveston, Texas

May 14, 1946 --- Puerto Princessa, P.I.

Anniversary Day finds the Gordonia still supplying the Navy's demand for fresh provisions to those who need them in the Pacific.

A total of 55,500 miles have been traveled and a total of 9,650 tons of food supplied in the Pacific.

COMMISSIONING CREW

Lieut. I.V. CHAPMAN, Jr., Commanding Officer
Lieut. S. MARSH, Executive Officer
Lieut. J.T. HANRY, III, Engineering Officer
Lt(jg) T. LIVINGSTONE, First Lieutenant
Lt(jg) J.H. TANDLER, Gunnery Officer
Lt(jg) R.E. JENSEN, Communication Officer
Lt(jg) D.C. KENYON, Ass't. Navigator
Lt(jg) J. ALLEGRETTI, Supply Officer
Pay Clerk K.D. BREAZEALE, Jr., Disbursing Officer

CREW

BOWERS, F.E., CEM
BOYD, W.N., Jr., SK2c
BRAND, V.A., SK3c
BURBANK, E.L., Jr., SK2c
CALLAHAN, N.B., F2c
CARBREY, M.G., SK3c
COLE, J.W., EM1c
COLEMAN, G.B., Jr., F2c
CONTI, S.T., F2c
DANIELSON, F.D., Slc(SK)
DE PETRIS, R., CBM(PA)
DERELLA, J.J., S2c
DOERR, F.W., GM3c
DORR, L.S., RM1c
EPSTEIN, R.N., MoMM2c
GOLD, G.W., SC1c
GOODALE, C.R., SM2c
HASTING, R.J., Slc
HAYES, H., SK2c
HUNTLEY, D.R., SK2c
HYTE, W., S2c
JOHNSON, F.D., S2c
JONES, E., S2c
JONES, W., StM2c
JUDY, C.W., S2c
KAHLBAUGH, J.A., Jr., S2c
KELLY, C.W., PhM2c
KILDOW, M.V., Jr., S2c
KING, E., Ck3c
LACERDA, J.F., Jr., MoMM3c
LANGE, G.A., Jr., EM3c
LASSITER, H.J., S2c
LEISHMAN, A.T., Jr., S2c
LIGUORI, D., S2c
MILBUR, C.F., MoMM1c
LUX, J.A., CSK
MACIAS, M., RM2c
MANN, J.D., Jr., SK1c
MARCHELOS, A.J., Slc
MC CRUTER, E.L., StM2c
MC CAULEY, J.E., S2c
MC DONALD, W., StM2c
MC LENDON, G.L., S2c
MC VEY, J.E., SC3c
MILLER, K.D., S2c
MILLER, R.B., EM2c
MOORE, J.C., S2c
MOORE, W.C., Jr., S2c
MOSER, "R" "J", S2c
MOSS, C.H., S2c
MULLINS, R.E., Slc
MURPHY, L.L., MoMM3c
MURPHY, W.K., S2c
O'BRIEN, W.F., MoMM2c
PADDLEFORD, J.R., F2c
PETER, E.L., SF2c
RAPP, K.E., SK3c
RENSCHLER, L.J., MoMM3c
RIBARRO, J.M., S2c
ROSS, R.R., Flc
SANDS, R.C., GM1c
SHAPIRO, A.I., Cox
SZELUGA, J.V., BM2c
SZWABOWSKI, V.W., BM1c
TAYLOR, T.C., Jr., QM3c
TERLICHER, C.A., CM2c
THOMPSON, R.H., F2c
WARREN, F.W., MoMM1c
WENNER, E.J., Jr., QM2c
WHARTON, J.M., Jr., Ylc
WILKIE, E.C., RM3c

THE CREW ONE YEAR LATER

Comdr. C.R. GIBSON, Commanding Officer
Lt(jg) E.J. BUTLER, Jr., Executive Officer
Lt(jg) C.P. ASSAD, First Lieutenant
Lt(jg) D.S. COOPER, Communication Officer
Ensign D.C. BERNARD, Engineering Officer
Ensign H.D. RUBINSTEIN, Gunnery Officer
Ensign D.E. CUDEKUNST, Supply & Disbursing Officer

CREW

ANARAL, J., S2c	JOSTES, G.C., RM3c
ANDERSON, E.C., SC3c	*JUDY, C.W., SK3c
AUSTIN, J., F2c	*KILDOW, M.V., Jr., MoMM3c
BELLO, A.J., Slc	KITTING, R.B., BM2c
BLACK, C.B., RM3c	*LASSITER, H.J., Slc
BLANKENSHIP, W., Slc	LEHMANN, R.G., Jr., Flc
BUICE, L., Jr., MoMM3c	LIPA, L.A., S2c
BURCH, E.E., CSK(PA)	LEWIS, G.N., Flc
CHAMBERS, C.M., BMlc	*MC CAULEY, J.E., Flc
CHAFFMAN, W.J., Flc	*MC CRUTER, E.L., St3c
CLARK, G.D., Slc	*MC LENDON, G.L., Y2c
CLARK, J.M., Slc	MICKLE, R.J., Slc
CLARK, R.G., Slc	MILLER, J.C., Slc
COE, J.A., S2c	*MILLER, K.D., Slc
COLEMAN, E.F., Flc	*MOORE, W.C., Jr., Slc
*COLEMAN, G.B., Jr., MMR3c	MORIN, J.O., Jr., CM2c
COLLETT, A.V., Jr., SK3c	MORTENSEN, C. "L", SC3c
COLLINS, M.H., StMlc	*MOSS, C.H., Flc
COLLINSWORTH, H.J., Slc	*MURPHY, W.H., Slc
CONNOR, R.F., F2c	PADGETT, W., StM2c
CCRONA, W.O., Flc	RIGSBEE, "O" "H", SK3c
CROSSGROVE, D.E., Slc	ROSSELMANN, P., Flc
*DANIELSON, F.D., SK2c	*RIBARRO, J.M., Slc
DELMERS, F., MoMMlc	ROCK, R.A., QM3c
ENGSTROM, D.W., S2c	ROOT, W.B., MoMM3c
*EPSTEIN, R.N., MoMMlc	RUDY, G.H., MoMM3c
FRESA, E.K., S2c	ROWLAND, O.H., CM3c
GIBSON, L., Slc	RYDEN, P.H., Slc
GREEN, R.V., EM3c	SCHWITZ, L.R., SF3c
GUY, D., S2c	SWAN, W. "M", PhMlc
HARRIS, A.W., CBM(PA)	TAMBLYN, T.M., Jr., EM3c
*HYTE, W., Cox.	*WARREN, F.W., CMoMM
ISLER, J.H., SM3c	WILLS, A.B., Slc
*DIRELLA, J.J., QM2c	ZITNERK, S., Jr., Slc

The 17 men marked with an asterisk are still aboard.

ANNIVERSARY DAY DINNER

Roast Young Tom Turkey

Sage Dressing

Mashed Potatoes with Giblet Gravy

Buttered Peas

Asparagus Tips

Cole Slaw

Apple Pie, Ala Mode

Iced Tea

Sweet & Sour Pickles

Ripe Olives

Nuts

Candy

Cigars

Cigarettes