

Seasons Greetings...Navy Net Tender, the odd looking ship with horns on its bow. Described by a navy man with 20 years of experience at sea as the most useful and versatile of all minor navy craft.

When not laying or maintaining nets during World War II and the Korean War these ships were used as cargo, salvage, buoy and tug vessels as well as in the performance of many other duties.

One of these ships that performed many of the above duties was USS TEAK AN-35.

Milt "Moose" Meehan a crewman on this ship has written an interesting book about his ship. He has shared some of the information with us in the following story. It is about the first 3 assignments given the ship when she arrived in the South Pacific.

TEAK arrived at Milne Bay in New Guinea in April 1944. It's first assignment was to go to Woodlark Island about 150 miles east of Milne Bay. The island had recently been liberated from the Japanese. The TEAKS mission was to retrieve some of the damaged landing craft that the marines had left behind, and return them to Milne Bay. This was accomplished without incident.

Their next assignment was to escort a beautiful schooner, which had been refitted to be a weather ship, up the New Guinea coast to Hollandia Harbor. This was a long trip. The enemy was a threat, but the TEAK traveled on as if it was a walk in the park, and the trip was uneventful.

The TEAKS 3rd mission was rather dangerous. General McArthur's New Guinea operations had bypassed many Japanese bases. At night Japanese barges would try and move needed supplies and replacement troops to these locations. Our PT boats would try to intercept and sink these barges. The TEAKS assignment was to haul high octane gasoline to the PT boat basis in hidden coves along the coast. A huge gas barge traveled behind the TEAK at the end of it's towing cable. A few well placed shots by the enemy could have created a nice fire works show. It could have also resulted in the end of the TEAK and her crew. The enemy still held most of the area that they passed by. The TEAK was on this assignment for several months without incident. A tug that relieved them later was attacked by Japanese planes which blew up the gas barge and sank the ship

We hope to have more stories on the TEAK about enemy action in the Philippines and a treasure hunt in Corregidor Bay for silver pesos..