

VOL. 2 No. 28

ABOARD THE U.S.S. GENERAL A.W. GREELY AT SEA

22 JUNE, 1945

# AROUND THE WORLD!

When the U.S.S. Adolphus Washington GREELY docks in the States within a few hours she will have made new history by becoming the first Coast Guard transport to have circled the globe on her maiden voyage and one of the few in naval annals to have gone 'round the world in a single trip.

The keel of the GREELY was laid at Kaiser Shipyard #3, Richmond, Calif., on 15 July, 1944, the vessel was launched on 5 November of the same year, and was declared in commission by Capt. W. K. Scammell, 12th Naval District Coast Guard Officer, and now a Commodore, on 22 March, 1945. The ship was delivered to Comdr. George W. Stedman, Jr., Commanding Officer, at that time. The GREELY then left San Francisco on a brief shakedown cruise which was literally cut in half on 4 April, 1945.

Leaving San Pedro, Calif. on 16 April, 1945 the GREELY has crossed the Equator twice and docked at five ports, not counting the one we reach today.

Highlights of this 'round-the-world voyage were the Shellback initiation after crossing the Equator for the first time on 24 April, V-E Day on 8 May, and the Magellan ceremonies, conducted for the first time aboard any ship, on 20 June, 1945. But from the standpoint of all concerned the most important feature is reaching the United States today, thus marking for many of the troops and passengers the end of long tours of duty overseas, and for the crew of the GREELY the completion of the 'round-the-world tour after a voyage of approximately 23,219 miles.

The Shellback initiation with all its traditional fun-making and horse-play was observed on 25 April although the Equator was actually crossed the night before following the arrival of Davy Jones aboard.

V-E Day was a strange day. It passed simply, quietly, almost without notice. Except for the distribution of over 1200 pounds of hard candy by the Red Cross it was the same as any other day. The general feeling was one of relief, a day of giving thanks rather than of blatant celebration.

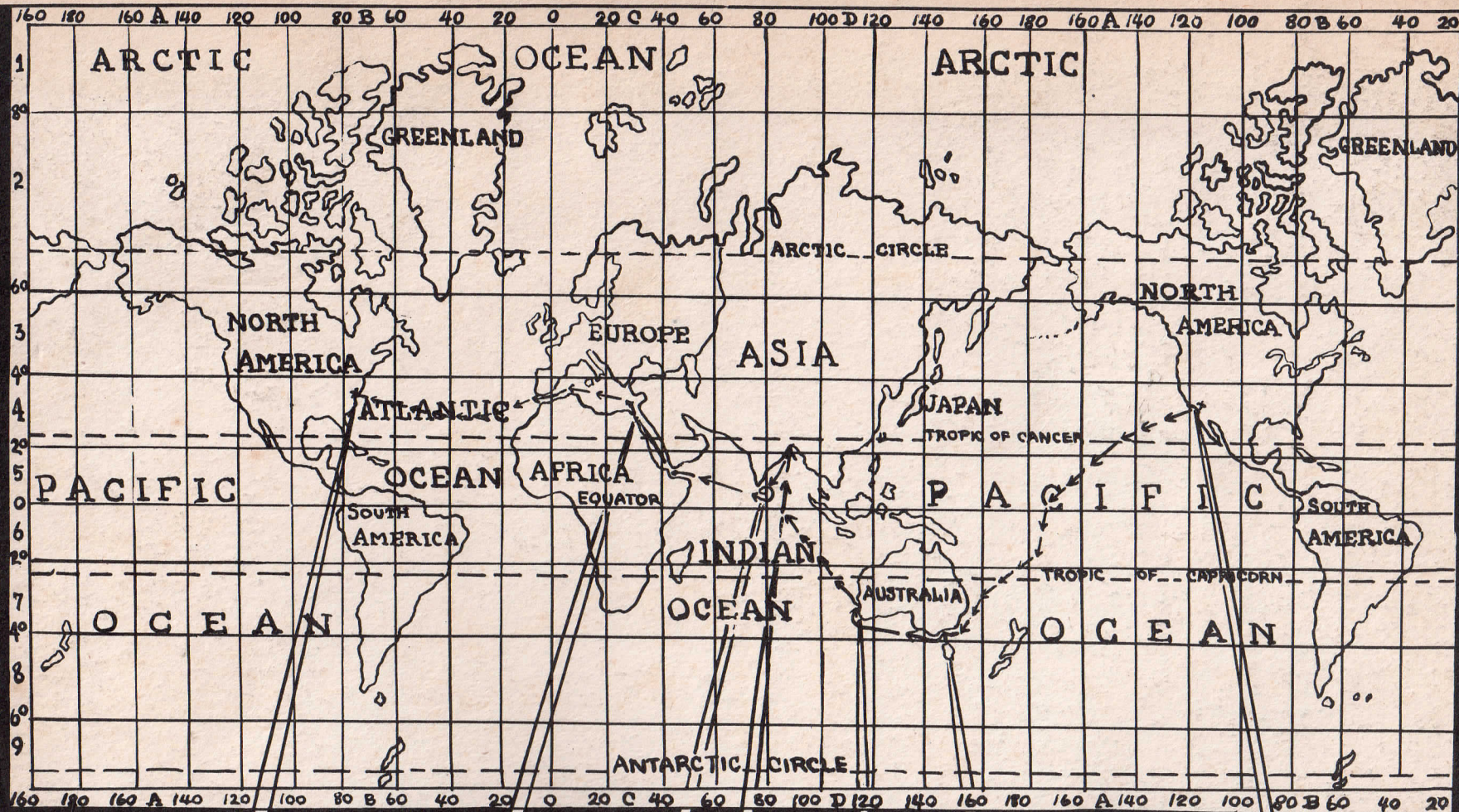
When the entire GREELY crew as well as many passengers were inducted into the Brotherhood of the Glorious and Illustrious Sons of Magellan on 20 June, 1945, the GREELY originated ceremonies which may well become as traditional as the Shellback initiation upon crossing the Equator.

With membership in this August society limited to those who have circled the globe, this select group conducted the first initiation ever held on any ship. During the ceremonies Magellan called upon representatives of each branch of the service aboard to set forth his (or her) reasons for being deemed worthy of membership in this new around-the-world brotherhood. The stories, most of them in a humorous vein, were the highlight of the ceremonies along with the introduction of representatives of countries passed or visited during the round-the-world voyage. The brilliant colors of the native costumes added to the pageantry of the occasion.

Among many "firsts" established by the GREELY during her long voyage were the transportation of the first Marine detachment and also the first rated Coast Guard band around the globe on any maiden trip.

And so tonight the U.S.S. General Adolphus Washington GREELY reaches port again!

Contributed by Jason Post



**NORFOLK**

**PORT SAID**

**CALCUTTA**

**MELBOURNE**

**CEYLON**

**FREMANTLE**

**SAN PEDRO**