

Contributed by Conrad J. Lee for  
Jerry Zachman USS Oahu 1945-46

SHIP'S-LOG

USS OAHU  
(ARG-5)

14 August 1943 - The keel was laid and at that time, the ship was named the Caleb C. Wheeler.

15 Sept. 1943 - The ship was taken over by the Navy from the Maritime Commission.

4 Apr. 1944 - Baltimore, Maryland, the Caleb C. Wheeler, RC-2, #2230, was commissioned the USS OAHU (ARG-5). The colors were hoisted and Commander Clyde Lovelace, USN, assumed command.

23 Apr. 1944 - The ship was underway, proceeding to the Chesapeake Bay area, to carry out shake-down schedule.

16 May 1944 - USS OAHU (ARG-5) accompanied by USS ZEUS (ARB-4) got underway, enroute to the canal zone by way of Guantanamo, Cuba.

27 May 1944 - Preparation was made for going through the Panama Canal. The USS Oahu (ARG-5) entered Gatun locks at 1112 and at 1610 the ship entered Balboa harbor.

29 May 1944 - The Oahu, accompanied by the Zeus got underway for San Diego; and on 10 June 1944 this destination was reached.

15 June 1944 - The Oahu and the Zeus was underway for Pearl Harbor; on 23 June 1944, 1200, the Oahu moored port side to berth 314, Pearl Harbor, T. H. The ship remained here for a period of four days.

27 June 1944 - The ship was underway from Pearl Harbor and shortly after departure the ship met up with a convoy of fourteen ships.

2 July 1944 - At 2359, the International Date Line was crossed.

8 July 1944 - Friendly planes approached the convoy and shortly after their appearance, the tower on Parry Island, Marshall Islands, was sighted. By evening of the same day, the Oahu was anchored in berth 537, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. Many units of the Pacific Fleet were present.

11 July 1944 - The first ship to come along side was the USS WESSON (DE-184) this event marked the beginning of an extended record of many repairs on many ships which anchored at Eniwetok.

9 Sept. 1944 - 24 Sept. 1944 - The OAHU worked on many ships for the Philippine Invasion; day and night the men worked and there were as many as fourteen ships tied along side for repairs. For the expedient and efficient work done on these ships, the entire personnel, later, was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific engagement star for assaults on the Philippine Islands.

4 Oct. 1944 - The first of the two trips to Ulithi Atoll, Caroline Islands, occurred. 15 October 1944, the ship anchored at Ulithi and on 17 October 1944 the ship was underway again for Eniwetok.

1 Nov. 1944 - The Commander and staff of the Escort Division 28, OFS 96.3, made their headquarters aboard the USS OAHU.

30 December 1944 - Commander Alex M. Loker, USN, assumed command of the ship, relieving Commander Clyde Lovelace, USN. The entire crew assembled around No. 2 hatch and heard the orders read by Commanders Loker and Lovelace.

2 Feb. - 6 Feb. 1945 - A twenty-four hour working day was necessary to prepare ships for the Iwo Jima Invasion. The ship received many commendations for the excellent work done.

28 Feb. 1945 - The second trip to Ulithi Atoll occurred. Commander A. M. Loker, USN, commanding officer, served as Convoy Commodore. There were twenty six ships in this formation.

11 March 1945 - While anchored at Ulithi, enjoying a movie topside, three Jap planes were sighted overhead. The planes passed by the Oahu and the carrier Randolph was hit and the direct hit caused extensive damages.

30 March 1945 - The ship was underway again for Eniwetok, Marshall Islands; 6 April 1945 - Arrived at Eniwetok and on the following day assumed duties of SOFA Administrative in this port.

15 Aug. 1945 - 1100, announcement of "V-J" Day. Throughout the ship a feeling of relief and gratitude permeated the minds of all hands.

19 August 1945 - The first man to be discharged under the point system left the ship for the United States.

6 Dec. 1945 - The OAHU was underway for San Pedro, Calif., for inactivation duties at this port.

2 April 1946 - The Oahu docked at U.S. Naval Drydocks, Terminal Island, San Pedro, California, and the process for her inactivation and eventual decommissioning began.

20 April 1946 - Commander S. Hansen, USNR, assumed command of the ship, relieving Captain A. M. Loker, USN. The entire crew assembled in the crew's mess hall and heard the reading of the orders by Captain A. M. Loker, USN, and Commander S. Hansen, USNR.

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The OAHU is equipped primarily for the repair of other ships using the internal combustion engines. The majority of her work has been with ships of this type. The ship's personnel has done everything from minor welding jobs to main engine overhauls, including repairs to guns, electronic equipment, gyro compasses, refrigeration plants, etc. The following figures give an overall picture of the amount of work done by the OAHU from 8 July 1944 to 30 September 1945: Number of ships serviced - 2,602; number of job orders on file - 13,832.

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COMMANDING OFFICERS

Commander Clyde Lovelace, USN. 4 April 1944 - 30 Dec. '44  
Captain Alex M. Loker, USN. 30 Dec. 1944 - 20 April '46  
Commander S. Hansen, USNR. 20 April 1946

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