

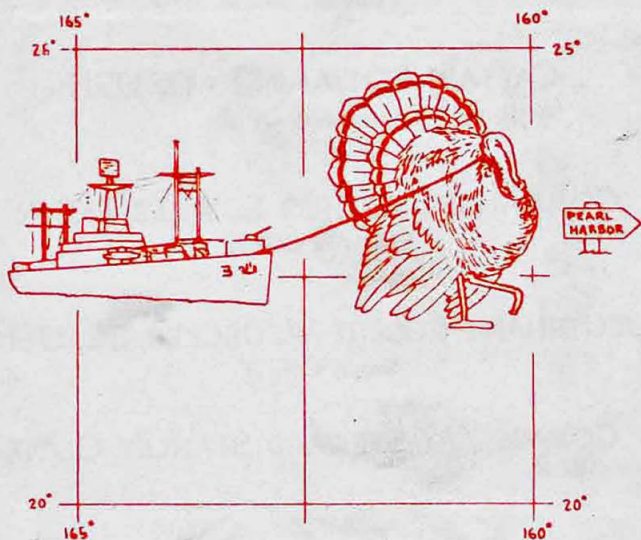


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# THANKSGIVING

## 1945



# U.S.S. ROCKY MOUNT



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REAR ADMIRAL RALPH O. DAVIS, USN

Commander, Amphibious Group THIRTEEN

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN KATZ, USN

Commanding Officer

COMMANDER ARTHUR E. WILLS, USNR

Executive Officer

LIEUTENANT ROBERT W. DECKER, SC, USN

Supply Officer

CHIEF COMMISSARY STEWARD STANLEY GLOD, USN

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#### ABOUT "THE ROCK"

One New Jersey Friday, just exactly two years, one month, and one week ago today, the U.S.S. ROCKY MOUNT was commissioned--converted in Hoboken from a Maritime C-2 hull. Down the East Coast of the United States, through the Panama Canal and west to Pearl Harbor.....and still westward she fought across the Pacific

The fightin' career, the bad times thick as rickshas in Shanghai, and the good times scarce as nylon stockings in the States--all that is old stuff to the crew of "The Rock". But there is a lot that those salty old characters do not know about their ship.

For instance, that in covering the 48,469 sea miles of her 25 months cruise, she burned 2,847,856 gallons of fuel--imagine that in trips to the corner filling station, where the average car owner buys only five to ten gallons of gasoline on each trip. Or that the ship used 18,512,000 gallons of water, enough water for hot showers for the entire population of Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Out of the ovens of the ship's bakery, without considering the pies and cakes, rolls and cookies, came 140,000 loaves of bread. Cut into 3,240,000 slices and spread generously with peanut butter and jelly, that bread would make enough sandwiches to mount into a stack over 30 miles high. Nobody ever tried to count the hair-cuts done by the barber, but more than 500,000 man-hours went into the shaving that used up the



800,000 razor blades sold by the Ship's Store.

Cleanliness becomes a habit; and 76,000 bars of soap were used in the daily scrub downs of the officers and men during the 769 days the ROCKY MOUNT has been in commission. If cigarettes are coffin nails, well.....the crew smoked 24,100,000 cigarettes, which, if laid end to end, would mark the airway's path from New York to Miami--no short trip.

Big city that it may be, Los Angeles could burn its lights, play its radios, run its streetcars, show its movies and light its streets --could readily get by for a year and three months on the electricity generated by the ship, 2,674,246 Kw. The ROCKY MOUNT could tie up to a Hoboken, New Jersey, dock and supply the entire city with its daily requirement of electricity. For that matter, the ship's laundry washed and dried 907,200 pounds of clothing, enough for the week's wash of a city of over 100,000 people.

One of the most important days on any ship is payday. On the ROCKY MOUNT, the paymaster issued a total of \$1,532,556.39.....easily enough money to send 1500 men to the University of Ohio for four years--that's a lot of BA's and BS's. And in addition, he expended \$1,478,102.77 in cash for supplies and stores. In turn, Ship's Store sales (\$148,012.44) and Clothing and Small Stores sales (\$93,040.12) are sufficient to take care of the mustering out pay of all the officers and men now in ship's company.

Aerial pictures are mighty important in the time preceding an amphibious invasion--right up to the last hours. During the nine operations in which "The Rock" has participated, so many pictures were taken that the entire United States

could have been pictured on printing paper. The Photography Laboratory has used 132,337 square feet of printing paper, paper to cover amply three football gridirons.

It has been said that an army travels on its stomach, but, then, so does the Navy, if the approximate quantities of provisions used for the 2307 meals served are any indication. Minneapolis and St. Paul together could be well fed for a day on the 875,000 pounds of meat (chicken, beef, pork, turkey, lamb, veal) consumed by the energetic, hardworking men of "The Rock". And at least 11,600,000 precious red points would have been needed for the 72,500 pounds of butter used.

It took a great many hens a great many days to lay the 300,000 eggs that were eaten; although fresh provisions are a rarity in the far reaches of the Pacific, the ROCKY MOUNT managed to secure and do away with 150,000 pounds of fruits and 250,000 pounds of fresh vegetables. Add the 2,900,000 pounds of dry provisions, and the ship used a total of 4,295,000 pounds of food in all. It takes 15 to 16 hours of work each day to prepare the meals for the crew. Multiply the hours by the days the ship has been in commission and add to that the time spent preparing food for the officers, and it can be easily seen that eating becomes the most important item on any ship's work list.

Keeping the men well on board ship is of tremendous, vital importance. Working on the premise that an ounce of prevention is worth much more than a pound of cure, Sick Bay has injected men of the ROCKY MOUNT 8299 times with immunization and inoculation shots--more preventive needle work than is done in the city of St. Louis in a year. Sick Bay treated 27,600 men, and 295



of those who reported for sick call were operated on, successfully.

For the dentist, who may practice what he preaches but can't drill himself, and his one corpsman, it was no easy or slack time, either. In six months alone, 1699 patients gingerly sat down in the dentist's chair and none too eagerly faced his equipment. Local anesthetics were given 564 times, 2450 teeth were filled and 383 painlessly removed. That's a practice to keep any dentist happy.

While the ROCKY MOUNT is no fighting ship in the strict sense of the word, she, too, often had the opportunity to fight back, as is evidenced by the count of ammunition expended: 806 5 inch, 13,604 40 millimeter, 30,913 20 millimeter, 5610 50 caliber projectiles.

In her 25 months of constant, unrelieved Pacific duty, the ROCKY MOUNT has transferred 722 enlisted men and 82 officers. Beginning with the taking of the Marshall Islands, the start of the long and bloody trek across the Central Pacific, "The Rock" fought her way through nine operations and led the return of Allied ships to China for the first time in four years. She came through without a scratch--despite bombs, torpedoes, and shells.

## Menu



### *Turkey and Noodle Soup*

*Sweet Pickles*

*Saltines*

*Ripe Olives*

### *Roast Tom Turkey, Bread Dressing*

*Giblet Gravy*

*Cranberry Sauce*

*Snowflaked Potatoes*

*Candied Sweet Potatoes*

*French Peas*

*Carrot and Raisin Salad*

*Hot Mincemeat Pie*

*Vanilla Ice Cream*

*Rolls and Butter*

*Iced Orangeade*

*Mixed Nuts*

*Cigars*

*Cigarettes*