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1943 - In New Orleans I had several duty assignments at the Base, sometimes giving speeches at Bond and Blood Rallies, supervising the barracks with weekly inspections, running a War Bond campaign, and signing up men for the government Life Insurance program. I also drilled the Officers in marching until they got to be pretty good at it. I learned this in Boy Scouts!

June, 1943 - Transferred to Sub Chaser school in Miami, where I was taught more seamanship and anti-submarine weapons.

Sept., 1943 - Transferred to Little Creek, Virginia, where I practiced handling landing craft (LCT's).

Oct., 1943 - Went to Boston with a large group to go to England where we would have been in the Normandy invasion. I was replaced before sailing (got pneumonia).

Nov., 1943 - Sent to Solomons, MD training base, where I organized and ran an Officers Gunnery School. Promoted to Lieutenant. Then worked on "Shakedown" training for new ships and crews (LCI and LCS types.)

Nov., 1944 - Became Chief of Staff, Operations, and Gunnery Officer for a Flotilla of LCS ships (a small LCI size ship with 79 officers and men.) They had rockets, anti-aircraft guns, and fireboat gear. Capt. Aylward was the Commanding Officer. Our command ship was the LCI (FF) 988 which carried the Flotilla Staff and crew (58 people).

Dec., 1944 - Left San Diego with the first 12 of our ships for Hawaii, where we trained for Iwo Jima invasion.

Jan., 1945 - Went to Saipan for final provisions, and then went to Iwo Jima.

Feb. 19 to March 16, 1945 - Rocketed beaches for 90 minutes and then escorted first 3 waves of Marines to shore. Stayed on flanks shooting at enemy. One ship damaged. Kept rocketing and shooting enemy for 5 weeks.

March 1945 - Went to Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands, to prepare for Okinawa. By then we had 24 ships.

April 1, 1945 - Landing on West Coast of Okinawa was preceded by a fake landing on a Southern beach. Went much better than Iwo. No casualties on my ships, but Japanese artillery chased us all about for 30 minutes, recognizing us as the command ship of the support ships covering the first waves. Our greatest contribution here was in defending Radar Picket stations against Kamikaze attacks (we lost 2 ships and had about 5 damaged). Two ships had 3 planes hit each one of them - and survived! Our fireboat equipment saved a lot of destroyers that were hit. Our 24 LCS accounted for 109 Kamikaze planes during the 3 month

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battle. We also shot up a lot of Japanese suicide boats.

June 21, 1945 - Went to Leyte (Philippines) again for repairs and provisions for coming invasion of Japanese island of Kyushu.

Aug 15, 1945 - War ended. We were ordered to Tokyo for the surrender ceremony and to cover landings. A typhoon delayed us at sea and we arrived late. Captain Aylward transferred, and I became the Flotilla Commodore. Ordered to Hokkaido to rescue U.S. POW's. When we got there, they were gone. AAF had beaten us there. Proceeded to Aomori and took over port supervision. Still had with me about 15 ships.

Nov., 1945 - Ordered to Tokyo, then to Sasebo, in the South. Detached 7 or 9 ships to duty there for mine sweeping duties, cleaning up a large minefield with the Japanese Navy.

Nov. 16, 1945 - Arrived Jinsen, Korea (now called Inchon). Took command of city and supervised a "smugglers patrol" - which became a project of helping more than a hundred small boats loaded with Japanese civilians who were driven from Korea, and had to get back to Japan or be killed. The title, "Smugglers Patrol", was to hide our real purpose, because the Army and Koreans wanted them to be robbed of everything they had while en route. These were the first "boat people" in the Orient, and our little ships towed dozens of them to safety.

Dec., 1945 - --Had to leave Korea with my last 6 ships because the port would ice in soon. Went to Tsingtao, China, and operated from there.

Dec., 1945 - Ordered home via Shanghai, China for decommissioning of the Flotilla. Received promotion to Lt. Commander. Sailed for Shanghai.

Feb. 1946 - Sailed from Shanghai to San Diego via Pearl Harbor.

March, 1946 - Arrived San Diego. Ordered myself and all flotilla staff personnel to reception centers for reassignment or discharge.