

Contributed by Tommy Trampp
Courtesy
USS LST Ship Memorial, Inc.



KAISER YARDS
Portland Ore.

JANUARY 30, 1943
F. C. HUNTOON, Captain, USNR,
Commissioning Officer

**Crew U.S.S. L.S.T. 455 -- Attention To Orders
Order Of The Day**

Men of 455 you now have a ship of your own. Care for her and handle her well and she will be your haven of refuge and rest and your home during times of stress and storm. You have often said, "It will be different when we get our own ship." Let that difference be manifest in the military precision with which you deport yourselves and man this ship. The standing Order for this ship is, "Every man must do his job promptly and completely at all times." Excuses and alibis are non-military and shall never be offered in lieu of work well done. For your own security you must be quick in the head, versatile, imaginative, adaptable, and ingenious; remembering that the word "CAN'T" has been torn from all American military dictionaries. If you find your ship is not all that you had thought and hoped she would be, be not discouraged nor dismayed, but believe in her and believe so strongly and completely that you will do something about it and thus contribute to the making of her all that you believe she should be. The true measure of your versatility will be found in your ability to improvise and if need be transform weakness into strength. She is yours for the duration. "Take her for better or worse", was her and treat her well and she will shelter and protect you in times of distress and battle.

Be not concerned with what may happen to you but be so intent on making things happen to the enemy that you will be oblivious to your own situation. If you force the enemy to die for his country it will not be necessary for you to die for yours. Be more afraid of failure than of possible personal harm. You must have confidence in your self, and your ability to do your job, confidence in your shipmates, and your officers. Let the rest be-- If others do not know their job any better than you know yours would you like to sail with them, if they know theirs as well as you know yours are you ready and anxious to get under way? If every man does his job fully and completely further orders or rules for this ship will be unnecessary, for this includes personal conduct, a man with a poor or bad conduct record will not be in a position to do his job well.

This ship has a limited complement of officers and men, this situation necessitates the utmost in co-operation, co-ordination, and teamwork on the part of all hands at all times. A man's job on this ship is much more than the ability to do one thing, it includes the ability to do any and all things necessary to enable this ship to carry out her mission. Every man must learn his job, and promptly thereafter become familiar with the entire ship and the workings thereof.

There is a decided tendency to backslide and slack off in military bearing when on a base or ashore. This tendency must be eliminated immediately. Military bearing and courtesy between men, and men and officers is not a personal matter, throughout the ages it has been found essentially necessary for military success; clean, clean-cut military bearing at all times and under all circumstances means that a man is mentally alert, awake, and ready for all eventualities and emergencies. Men should read and study the Bluejacket's Manual and all other material having any bearing upon their assignment and work.

It is likely that in many instances this ship will sail with sealed orders. All orders from Officers or Petty Officers require prompt, implicit, and unquestioned obedience. Most military movements do not permit time for explanations as to why being made. Many times the execution of an order or command will clearly indicate why given but in those instances when such is not the case there will be ample time to ignore why when off duty. There may be cases in which failure to promptly carry out an order or command will result in the man not living long enough to obtain such failure. At sea or when approaching an enemy beach head, even though the enemy attacks in clouds of smoke, dust, and gas amidst the rain of shot, shell, and bombs, the ORDER OF THE DAY is to stand, and carry out the mission of your ship at all hazards or die. Those who are military in bearing and conduct and do their jobs will have opportunity for advancement; those who fail themselves, their shipmates, and this Ship may find themselves sailors without a ship. The inflexible LAW of this Ship at all times is and shall be, "OBEY, BE MILITARY, DO YOUR JOB".

Benj. F. Stephenson
BENJ. F. STEPHENSON, Lieut. USNR.

2018.028

A Wish, a Hope, a Promise and a Prayer for **U.S.S. L.S.T. 455**

* * *

Today is the Day! The Day for which we have worked, trained, and waited. From this Day and hour may all our thoughts and deeds be far better and nobler than any heretofore. From this moment may every aim, impulse, and act be wholly unselfish and primarily and unalterably directed to the extermination of the enemy, so that he may die for his treacherous infamy and our Nation may live; but let our determination, zeal, and devotion to the task at hand be such, that come what may, it shall not be a mere anticlimax of idle words, but rather a grand and glorious climax of action with hope, grim, red throated engines of war bent on a righteous crusade for liberty and the right to live.

Under our direction may this ship become a living entity carrying out the mission for which designed. The importance of this Day, to us, shall be surpassed only by that Day, when through the instrumentality of this Ship we deliver those implements of war, which shall bring devastation, death and destruction to the enemy.

Let's never forget the infamy and treachery, which has prostrated the people of this good earth, so that we may have the determination and strength to avenge the cruel, perfidious, and unprovoked blows of alien aggressors; and avenge them with an unquenchable, unconquerable, and all consuming fire and desire to fight, to fight, and fight until right prevails and we have avenged the assassin's perfidy. Let's carry on and fight on knowing full well that eternal sleep, on foreign strands, is preferable to the chains of haughty and arrogant pagan infidels and unbelievers bent on world wide rape and pillage, and the destruction of America and the American way of life. Even though our heads may become bloody, let them be anointed to the foe.

When and if we find ourselves, weak, uncertain, or afraid, let's be noble enough in our hearts to pray God each night and day to give us the strength to be the men we should be and the ones our People and America rightfully believe us to be. With a love for Home and Country that passeth all understanding let's carry on and fight on to final victory when there may be nothing left but an all consuming fire and determination with which to forge the sword of Victory.

May this Ship be our heads and under our direction and guidance so carry out her mission as to spread terror, consternation, death and destruction to the enemy, thus bringing credit and honor to the Navy and the American People. And with the help of Almighty God may she become the living emblem of those eternal virtues and virtues upon which this Nation was founded and which are as everlasting as the hills, thus contributing to the making of our Country and her Flag a symbol of mercy to the Peaceful but terrible as a meteor to unwarranted perfidious aggressors.

Program of Commissioning

- Mastering of all hands on quarter-deck.
- Commissioning Officer addresses officers and crew.
- Commissioning Officer publishes his orders.
- Commissioning Officer causes the national ensign and the proper insignia of command to be hoisted and turns the ship over to the officer ordered to command.
- Commanding Officer publishes his orders and assumes command.
- Commanding Officer addresses officers and crew.
- Commanding Officer causes a watch to be set.

* * *

Officers - - U.S.S. L.S.T. 455

Benj. F. Stephenson, Lieut. USNR.	- - - - -	Commanding
Abraham John Alexander, Jr., Ens. USNR.	- - - - -	Executive
Francis Earl Young, Ens. USNR.	- - - - -	First Lieutenant
Edward Duthal Steffe, Ens. USNR.	- - - - -	Engineer
Hall Storace Dillon, Ens. USNR.	- - - - -	Communication
James W. Ferris, Jr., Ens. USNR.	- - - - -	Supply
		Gunnery

* * *

Mustering List - - L.S.T. 455 - - Crew

Lindsay C. Ballows	Sea 2/c	Joseph Edwin Phillips,	EM 3/c
Richard Asher Beauregard	F 1/c	C. W. Phillips	A S
James Louis Bussell	Sea 2/c	Robert Beckman Round	Sea 2/c
James John Duffy	F 1/c	Francis Walter Roy	F 2/c
John Daniel Bliss	F 1/c	Donald Eugene Rutledge	A S
Bonny Eugene Farmer	Sea 2/c	William R. Schollenberger	BM 2/c
Clyde Burton Fogus	Sea 2/c	Marilyn Charles Schult	A S
Edward W. Glover	F 1/c	Merlin Marvin Sackora	A S
Jack Henkle	Sea 2/c	Chester Mildred Sibert	A S
Delmer Roy Haynes	PhM 1/c	Robert Eugene Singer	A S
Hayden Nathaniel Hill	QM 3/c	James Charles Smetana	F 1/c
Gordon Elery Huskey	F 2/c	Woodrow Lloyd Sitenberger	F 2/c
James Raymond Kieft	A S	Merlin Theodore Strecker	A S
Major Cyrus Kline	EM 3/c	Robert Mitchell Summers	Sea 2/c
William Charles Kohnowick	Sea 2/c	James Edward Taylor	Sea 2/c
Marion Harry Lasater	F 1/c	Earl Henry Trackwell	SC 3/c
Myron Irwin Liber	Sea 2/c	Emory Charles Trowsek	Sea 2/c
Harvey Joseph Ludaig	F 1/c	James Robert Treasurer	F 2/c
Charles Alva Malone	Sea 2/c	Harry Summency Tyre	Cox
Ernest Norton Matthews	F 2/c	George Uhall	A S
Barrett Claude Mallen, Jr.	Sea 2/c	Terry Waldron, Jr.	RM 3/c
Albert William Noren	A S	James Edmar Walzer	A S
Del Roger O'Callaghan	F 2/c	Clifford Yoorhies Weatherly	F 2/c
R. L. Peavey	F 2/c	William A. Wood	F 2/c