

was, to say the least, thrilled at the splendid and well-planned entertainment. It was almost professional, but far better 'cause they are our very own boys. It will long be remembered how Mr. Garlington put over his version of "Casey at the Bat; the Tarquinio-McAllister-Kouba hot licks playing in their own inimitable style; "I'd-rather-be-right-than-be-President" McEwen; the V-girls ("V" for velcome); the Pizzeria boys, Severino, Perfetto, Bauer and the whole shooting match, not to forget Harwood, our very able MC. All in all you couldn't find better entertainment anywhere within three thousand miles, so there! The happy hour committee was composed of Mr. Garlington, Chief Micklas, Borthelotet, Verhaar (size special 14's), Macelis (the male Martha Ray), and Mitulski (the Polish Ambassador of Godwill). These men put forth considerable effort not only in planning the show, but in manufacturing appropriate gifts and costumes. May there be many more happy hours with happy hours.

December 27, 1944

Was called down to the Captains stateroom this pm and asked if I would take over the job as mail clerk for this ship, because the man who had it, Dick James, was too busy to give much time to it. So starting the first of the year, I will have the job and receive \$20 extra a month, which isn't hay. More mail today.

December 28, 1944

Went ashore this morning with the mail and learned where to pick it up and all about the job. This pm my section went ashore on a beer party and had a great time with our four cans of beer. We walked around and I went down to where all the ammo had blown up and picked up a few shells and some Dutch money. Got a letter from Mae, a swell day in all.

December 29, 1944

Took mail ashore again today. The whaleboat broke down and we had to paddle in. Got ashore about 0930 and stayed ashore till 1500. I really looked the place over. All there is are warehouses and food depots. Saw "Two Girls and a Sailor" on board tonight. Loaded stores about midnight and got my share of fruit juices.

December 30, 1944

Took mail ashore early. The ship went to fuel while I was ashore. We depart Hollandia about 1430 bound for Morotai to meet a convoy and escort it to the Philippines. Even with our stores we are still eating canned meat. They tell us fresh isn't available.

December 31, 1944

Doing 16 knots, bound for Morotai. New Year starts at midnight. Crossed the Equator again at 1600 - 10th time.

(Amazing Wreckord)

Well, here we are again, one more day before New Year's Day. Tonight is New Year's Eve and your last chance to make a resolution will be long gone. Here are some that we have picked up from the officers.

I hereby solemnly resolve to ---

COMMODORE Not to sit in the Captain's Chair on the Flying Bridge any more.

CAPTAIN To grow a moustache.

MR. CARDWELL Not to sell insurance to anyone from the State of Washington.

MR. BEALL To cease using my whip and offer a more sympathetic ear to complaints.

MR. DUGAN To buy some stock in the Standard Stainless Steel Stretcher Basket Co. at first opportunity - foreseeing a new and popular use for them.

MR. LANE To stop dressing like a "LIMEY"

MR. UPHAM To find time.

DR. ESLICK To give up wine, women, and women - women in any case - until we get back to the states (unless I meet some nurses out here).

MR. MAILIE To take a course from Charles Atlas.

MR. GATES Not to talk so loudly and to hold bigger and better recognition classes with more slides of those super-drooper jobs.

MR. BELL To shave my moustache off.

MR. EMERY To try to get more Westerns and Jane Withers' pictures for the crew

MR. GARLINGTON Not to talk about Chaucer, Shakespear or California for the duration of this cruise.

MR. LINCOLN Not to compute any more canteen bills by picking them out of a hat.

MR. EARNEST To devote my entire efforts to the fulfillment of my extension of enlistment contract, even if so doing means giving up my bird dogs and plans for shipbuilding (Laying Keels); I also resolve to more from the State of Washington.

MR. DUVALL Not to talk so much.

MR. WALLACE To buy a farm in Kansas with my profits from the General Mess.

and now for the Crew's - -

I hereby solemnly resolve - -

CHIEF WILLIAMS to quit turning the water off.

CHIEF HORNER to get that job in St. Louis.

CHIEF HUG to quit making shoes for Mr. Dugan.

CHIEF (STRIKER) MITULSKI not to ride Haggstrom anymore.

CHIEF MILLSLAGLE to serve pie and ice cream with plenty of milk as a drink at every meal when we get back to the states.

CHIEF MCCARTON to quit standing my watches in the Wheelhouse at night.

DANNY SHEA to give bigger and better Neptune clips in my shop.

SEAMAN ADAMS to use my Christmas gift often.

ADMIRAL BEGBIE to get another star on my hat.

RISKY DUTY CARTY not to wear any campaign bars in the U.S.

THE CALICO ROCK KID to learn how to bos the compass so I can go home when we reach the states.

DEACON CAMPBELL to take it easier on the Censors.

FOOTSIE VERHAAR to stay on the Allentown at all costs.

T. D. BRENNAN to use soap in the laundry

DOC DAVIS to give less shots.

January 1, 1945

Here it is, 1945. We were given the day off except for cruising watches. At 1800 we met our convoy off Morotai. It contains 13 LST's and one converted 4-stack destroyer. Started for Leyte. We will meet the Machias and Sandusky somewhere along the line.

January 2, 1945

Making 10 knots. I am kept busy with the post office. I now have \$235 in the ship's safe, which is my pay since September. Due to meet another convoy tomorrow.

January 3, 1945

Met convoy at 1600 There are about 60 ships in all with about 10 escorts. Really a large convoy of LST's, transports and tankers.

January 4, 1945

Easy watches. We are 7 miles ahead of the convoy.

January 5, 1945

Met two more convoys of LST's and a task force of two carriers and destroyers. We now have over 200 ships. The biggest part of this convoy is to be used in the invasion of Luzon.

January 6, 1945

Got our orders today and all morning we four frigates gave orders to different ships and took off mail. We would pull up close to them and throw a line over and pass orders and receive their last mail. It seems we are going into Leyte with about 30 merchant ships while the others go on to Luzon. Took a sick soldier off one LST. Left with our ships at 2500 for Leyte. Only 30 miles from land but we won't be in port till tomorrow because convoy is so slow.

(Amazing Wreckord)

Happy birthday to: Leroy F. Myers - January 2
Jerome J. Lindstrom - January 6
Samuel J. Housner - January 6

The Mighty "A" since commissioning has used 1,443,030 gallons of fuel oil and 7,479 gallons of lube oil.

January 7, 1945

Arrived San Pedro Bay, Leyte at 0700. Didn't get ashore as we expect to leave about 1600. Mail boat brought us 28 sacks of mail - old mail and Christmas packages. Most packages were worthless due to spillage and breakage.

January 8, 1945

Went ashore with the mail today. What a place. It's just like a boom town you see in the movies. The streets are about six inches of very soft mud. We had to wear boots and believe it or not, it came over the boots and I had a bad time getting out. The army has taken over all the buildings and have the natives working for them. The women are small and not bad to look at. Maybe it's because we haven't seen an American girl in so long. Came back after dark and had a hard time finding the ship.

January 9, 1945

Today we heard that the invasion isn't going well and if we didn't get more air support they would have to call it off. We have lost an aircraft carrier, one cruiser dead in the water and the battleship New Mexico in bad shape. The Japs are using all suicide planes. I'm sorry for the fellows up there. Went ashore again.

January 10, 1945

Didn't get ashore. We expect a storm and it has rained all day, as usual. Changed anchorage to nearer the mouth of the bay. Expect to leave for Hollandia tomorrow.

January 11, 1945

Managed to give our mail to the cutter Spencer before pulling out for Hollandia at 1400 with 22 ships in convoy. Have our usual sister ships and APC. Doing 8 knots but should do 10 starting at noon tomorrow. Slower ships are left behind.

(Amazing Wreckord)

War news - Successful landings have been made on Luzon with very little loss to the Americans.

In Europe, the German winter offensive has been stopped.

Church services will be resumed this week after a temporary halt last week, on account of vital work caused by coming into port. There was just too much to be done to have time for services and although it is regretted by everyone, there was nothing else we could do. This week will start them again and we hope that nothing will interfere in the future. Davis, Phlc will lead the Protestant service and the Catholic service will be conducted by McEwen, RM3c.

AD LIB NO. 8704-7-1/2

Jesse Hayden (Swamp Water) sure is quite a popular man when he opened his locker.

Reason - the most complete collection of pin-ups. Ask Paulius, he knows, he saw them on Jess's locker door.

(Amazing Wreckord)

ODE TO DR. ESLICK -

The ward was full of ailing men,
The air was full of groaning.
The doctor enters full of fun:
"Good moaning, men,
Good moaning."

Radle - "Do you learn fast in the CIC school at Little Creek?"

McGrath - "Why, the first day I was there I leaned down to pick up a pencil and missed a whole year of college geometry."

Where the ordinary person uses Kreml or Vaseline, Torquinio now used Glo-Coat.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a certain five gallons of white paint get in touch with Mr. Dugan by the nearest grapevine phone. He must think there are persons on this ship who would actually steal some!

January 12, 1945
(Jim Godlesky)

Usual day at sea, no excitement!

"Who's Who in the News" - Prophecies of 1952

(Written by Jim Godlesky in January 1945) for the "Wreckord".

Robert O'Kelly has taken his fifth wife and in his statement to the press, assured them that this time it's the real thing. His newly wedded wife is the heir to the Fuggelstein fortune and Kelly assures all that he can live and drink comfortably on his new resources. As you know, he is the famous Crash O'Kelly of racing fame.

J. D. Rockefeller has announced he will back Stan Young in his production of a new car. Young's Deluxe, with a back seat built for armorus couples is expected to be a big success.

Vice Admiral, G. W. Collins, has announced plans to restore the famous USS Allentown, the ship which drew such fame in single-handedly sinking the Jap sub fleet and the first to enter Tokyo Bay. It is said that Admiral Collins has so many bars, medals and ribbons that he has to wear a back brace to keep him from bending over.

George Kouba's orchestra has opened at Wellivers Coca Cabana Club, the most popular night spot in the east, and is assured of a long successful run. He is the new swing king of 1952. His success is due to his own drumming, the trumpet of Jackson and the vocals of Frank Piazza, the current women's craze.

John Dean's prohibition movement has the backing of the well known Rev. Ace Emery and may be successful. It is approved by Horny H. Barton of Barton Distilleries whose motto is "A pint a day, keeps you happy and gay".

W. H. Millslagle, warden of Western Penitentiary has announced that he keeps

his prisoners well fed on 15 cents a day. It is believed he learned such economy while serving in the U. S. Coast Guard.

January 14, 1945

Charlottesville had a sub contact in the a.m. but nothing came of it. Doing 0 knots and sea is like glass.

(The Amazing Wreckord)

VIOLETS AND VITRIOL

Leon, A. Shea, "Tripp County's gift to the Coast Guard" is back in business at the old stand. Lee had to taper off the last few months of 1944 to keep from going into a higher income bracket. A few new items have been added for 1945 and Shea has set a high goal for himself - \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

Ens. George Earnest will deny this, but we have every reason to believe he is under cover working for the Washington State Chamber of Commerce; everything George does smacks of home. The birds are bigger, the bees make more honey, the mountains are higher, and the swamps are swampier. The Ensign was very much put out when discovered regulations forbade him to wear his Lions Club pin while in uniform.

The success of the Christmas entertainment should call for an encore, with a committee of Mr. Garlington, Chief Micklas, "Footsie" Ver Haar, "Bolt" Bertholot, and "ACE" Macelis. Bill Harwood, M.C. and the Torquinio-McAllister-Kouba combine would put it over. I think another Happy Hour would be well received.

Clarence "Beethoven" Langley, Musician striker umpteenth class is working on a new secret weapon. He says it looks like what a piano never looked like and plays like you never heard before in your life. It's purpose is to lure the enemy into an ambush so that the Amazing "A" can destroy them. Just call him a "Siren" in memory of those seducing Mermaids of the Greek Mythology".

January 15, 1945

Sandusky and Machias left us today to join a convoy going back to Leyte, leaving only us and Charlottesville as escorts. Saw two whales close aboard at 20 feet and they were about 40 feet long.

January 16, 1945

Crossed the equator again about our twelfth time. It's getting to be a frequent affair.

January 17, 1945

Arrived Hollandia about 0800. Took mail ashore with first boat. In turn picked up 16 sacks for us. Had a hard time getting them as they were at the bottom of a huge pile. Carl Fockler was along as helper. Spent time looking over the place and ate at the N.S.D. Had a fresh fruit salad for dessert. It was the first in over four months. Also tasted a fresh orange and it was

really good. Had a movie aboard at night. Paul LaFrance was visited by his sister, Jeannette.

January 18, 1945

Good news today! We have fresh meat and potatoes aboard, the first in three months. We have been living on canned beef and if I ever hear Mom or my wife say they are serving either, I will become violent. Also got fresh butter to replace the grease. Believe we got a thousand pounds of potatoes. Had a movie aboard.

January 19, 1945

Went ashore with the Captain and Commodore. I went for mail while they went to a convoy conference. Left Hollandia at 1500 with Charlottesville and a convoy of 26 ships. They are LST's, freighters, transports and tankers. We are bound for Leyte.

January 20, 1945

At about 0300 we met the Sandusky and Machias coming down from Leyte and they joined us with the convoy.

January 21, 1945

Picked up six more ships this AM from Biak, making a total of 32 ships and four escorts. Crossed the equator again (13th).

January 22, 1945

Leyte bound, doing about 10 knots.

January 23, 1945

Leyte bound. One of the transports is from the Claude Malory Lines that made the New York to Florida run. I believe it's the ship they used on their trip to Florida. (Myers)

January 25, 1945

The Charlottesville left us at shortly after midnight last night to join a convoy bound for Manus. At 1800 we picked up a DE to replace Charlottesville. Very quiet trip so far, expect to arrive Leyte in the morning. My birthday, 22nd (Godlesky)

January 26, 1945

Arrived San Pedro Bay, Leyte about noon. Went ashore with the mail to Tacloban. Place was deserted, most of the army has moved out and they are loading a large transport. Streets were dry. Was in the Machias whaleboat with no officers. Had a great time. No mail!

(Amazing Wreckord)

Redegharo: Do you know what happens when you grab a ghost?

Harry Barton: No, what?

Rod: You get a handful of sheet.

Mr. Emery says it isn't ice that makes people slip, it's what they mix with it.

Happy Birthday: Jim Godlesky, January 25.

January 27, 1945

The first words spoken to me today were happy ones. "The old man is going back to the States". We don't know who will take his place. Went ashore again but to a new place, the 7th Fleet Filipino Sea Frontier under whom we operate. No mail today. There were over 500 WACS ashore and they sure looked good. It's funny but they all have a yellow color due to the quinine they take. (Atabrin)

January 28, 1945

Went ashore for mail. Take our whaleboat to a sub chaser then wait for a "duck" to come from shore to take us ashore. It was my first time in a "duck", really a lot of fun. No mail. Went to church with Army men and WACS. Sat next to a cute blonde. Had movies this eve and an air raid.

January 29, 30, 31

At Leyte. Still no mail.

(Jerry Panske)

Something unique about my home town of Oshkosh was that seven men served in the four ships of Com Cor Div. 33.

February 1, 1945

Mr. Cardwell is now Captain of the Allentown. It took place January 31, 1945 at 1300 when Captain Collins turned over the command to Cardwell. Took Collins to Tacloban and the airfield where we had a hell of a time getting him a plane to Guam, and from there to the states. Lucky guy!

Comment concerning Captain Collins - Phil Garlington.

(Amazing Wreckord)

The Second Division echoes the sentiments of all divisions aboard in extending congratulations to Lieutenant Commander Cardwell on his promotion to Captain of "The Mighty A". We know of no one who is more deserving of the honor than Mr. Cardwell, as he has been with the ship since its infancy. Very few members of the crew know how our new Captain toiled during those hectic days at New Orleans. At that time, Mr. "C" was First Lieutenant, and they were trying days for all who were attached to the yet-to-be commissioned Allentown.

We believe, and we know, that we express the sentiments of the entire crew, when we salute our new Skipper, and say "WE ARE ALL BEHIND YOU, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT".

To Mr. Cardwell's predecessor, Commander Collins, we wish Godspeed and a lot of luck performing his duties at his new station. Good tailwinds and a swift journey home!

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD
Dedicated to Mr. Cardwell

AS OFT WE CONTEMPLATE LIFE'S CHANGING TRENDS
AND HOW OUR PLANS ARE OFTEN LED ASTRAY,
WE CANNOT HELP BUT MARVEL AT THE WAY
OUR LIVES ADJUST TO MEET LIFE'S ODDS AND ENDS
HOW JOY, THE SCAR OF SORROW QUICKLY MENDS
AND MEM'RIES HELP TO LIVEN LONELY DAYS
EACH TRIBULATION IS A MINOR PHASE
THAT STINGS AND STRENGTHENS LIFE THEN QUICKLY MENDS.
A CHANGE ENCOMPASSING OUR WORK AND LIVES
HAS COME TO US AMID A WORLD OF STRIFE
ACCOMPANIED BY HOPE FOR LIFE TO COME,
A LEADER NEW UPON THE SCENE ARRIVES
TO LEAD US IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM'S LIFE
AND TAKE US BACK TO HOMES WHICH WE ARE FROM.

February 1 continued
(Jim Godlesky)

On the first day that Capt. Cardwell took over, he summoned each man on the ship, one by one, to his cabin where he stated his aims, asked for ideas and cooperation, and promised to get us home. What a difference from the unreasonable, undoubtedly mentally disturbed, no confidence Captain Collins. The crew was drawn together closer than most crews due to a common hatred of this man. His insults, his degrading of junior officers, his lack of concern for seamen's welfare, his poor ship handling, his vindictiveness were all things which failed to get him respect such as given to Captain Cardwell. Most crew members have some instance to remember of this man's abuse. The good he did came many years later in the 1960's-70's-80's when annual reunions of the crew created a family of very close friends, with a common bond.

February 2,3,4,5, 1945

Went ashore every day for mail. Had several beer parties and generally it was a good rest period.

(Amazing Wreckord, Feb. 4, 1945)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Homer Nichols, Jr. - January 27	- Joe W. Falkenheimer - January 28
Royal Greer - January 26	- Ernest J. Mones - January 26
Frank E. Wysocki - January 27	- Nathan D. Kile - February 4
Robert C. Elsasser - January 30	- Johnson - January 30

ABOARD THE ALLENTOWN - 1944

The following is a summary of some of the places we visited last year just in case you've forgotten: New Orleans, Burrwood, Bermuda, New York, Norfolk, Charleston, Christobal, Balboa, Bora Bora, Finnschhafen, Hollandia, Woendi Lagoon, Morotain, Halmaherra, and Leyte (Tacloban, Tolosa, Palo, and Samar). This might be a good addition to the Seabags.

February 6, 1945

Left Leyte about 1330 with a convoy of 40 ships bound for Hollandia as usual. With us is the Sandusky and 2 DE's from the division that was to have relieved us. We have on board 30 men from a merchant ship (armed guard) going back to states because their ship was hit by a Jap bomb. I picked up a Jap rifle while going for mail. Crossed equator for 14th time.

(Name of ship's newspaper changed to "Allentown Record" to go along with the new regime and Captain Cardwell)

(The Allentown Record - Feb. 11, 1945)

The "Amazing Wreckord" has given way to the "Allentown Record" with the change in command of this ship. The "Amazing" part of our tour of duty is over and we have survived. A new spirit pervades the Allentown.

SHORT TAKES

The standings in the Chief's aceydeucy marathon haven't been posted as yet but, according to one of our kibitzer operatives, everything seems to be going along in great style up forward. Some play because they are regulars - others because they enjoy it....the fantail boys are looking forward to bigger and better chipping and painting parties, with a new star, "Whitey" Carlson, entering the cast. It isn't known as yet whether "Whitey" will wield a whip or a paint brush, but "Chuck" Chamlee will find a spot for him.....Joe (T.H.A) Micklas is branching out as a commission man buying up odd lots, old Christmas gifts, remnants of fire sales, etc. All articles will be sold at a 15% markup to cover expenses and allow a small margin of profit. Chief Micklas, whose motto is, "Service with a smile", can be seen anytime during the day between 0700 and 2100.....There is no basis of truth to the rumor that Tom (Iceland) Doyle will take "Amazing", the pooch, home to his kennels for stud service. Wonder if the kennel show programmes would have read "by Doyle out of Amazing".....Leon D. Shea, itinerant carpenter, ship's barber, homespun philosopher, authority on the American Indian, and ex-vaudeville hooper, announces his retirement from the novelty gift field. Leon has a deal on with Ovington's Fifth Avenue to take over his "Ye Olde Gift Shoppe", including the goodwill. Competition in this field has been too keen of late, what with rival outfits underselling and even catching the hot shells as they come out of the breech...Tom "Rags" Brennan is considering entering the photography field, which is causing the bigtime photogs like Paul Hesse no little concern. "Rags" is trying to line up "Roll Your Own" Stavis, former Powers Agency and ex-Arrow collar ad model to pose for him. A series of French postcard pictures is contemplated by the Jackson Heights laundry tycoon.....Chet "Admiral"

Begbie longs for the good old civilian days when he ran a one-man printing