

Dated: July 31, 2013

US Navy War Diaries

This document contains selected documents from the US Navy War Diary for various ships.

The **War Diary** is a daily log of a ship's travel. Using these documents, you can trace the movement of a ships cruise and identify the ports it departed and docked.

The diaries included herein are records related to ships that transported the **US 85th Infantry Division** from the US to Europe and back home. I've included a photo of the ships.

For the records contains herein, each diary entry contains details on 7 items or N/A.

1. Unit assigned.
2. Task Organization.
3. Positions at 0800, 1200, 200 LCT. Meteorological and sea information.
4. Brief of days operations.
5. Summary of important orders received and decisions reached.
6. Report of ammunition expended.
7. Pertinent remarks not included in an action report.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

US Navy War Diary

USS General Alexander A Anderson (AP111)

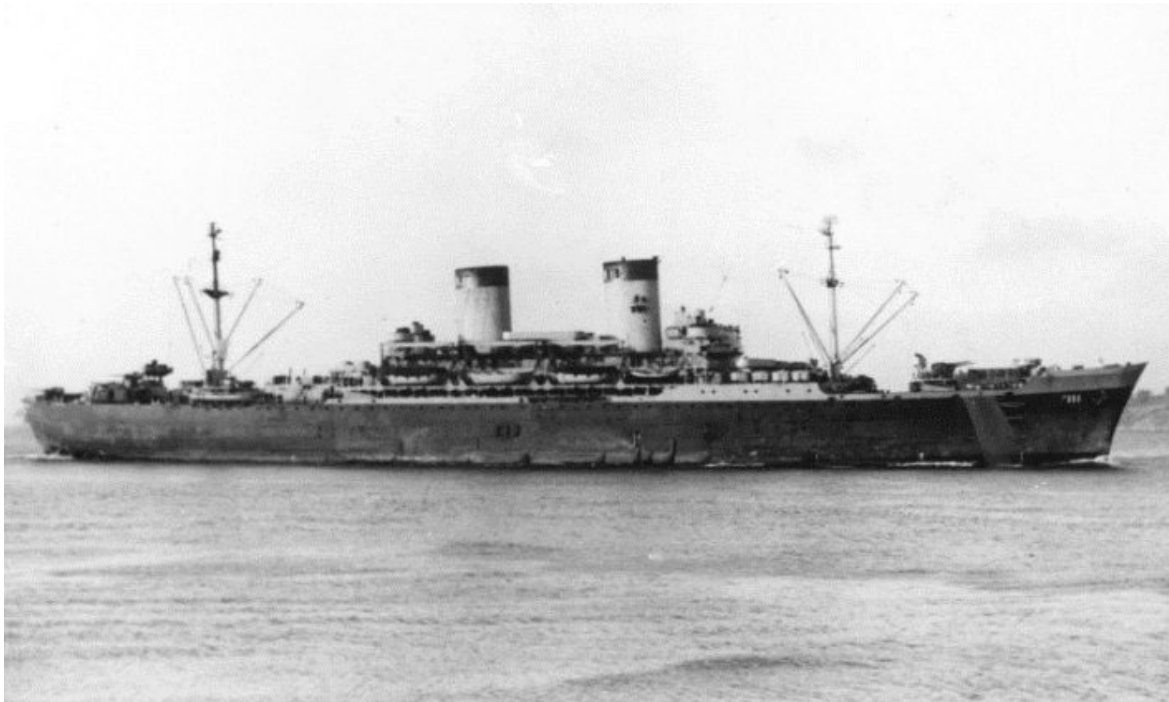
Diary entries for December 24, 1943 to Jan 2, 1944. The **USS Gen. A. E. Anderson** transported a portion of the US 85th Infantry Division from Newport News, VA to Casablanca, Morocco, North Africa.

The **USS Gen A. E. Anderson** carried the troops from the following units:

- 339th Infantry Regiment
- Divisional HQ
- 328 Field Artillery Battalion

Source: Schultz's "The 85th Infantry Division in WW2", page 41

The War Diary dated March 8, 1945 describes its entry into San Francisco Bay carrying the rescued Prisoners of War from the Bataan Death March. This story was told in the book "Ghost Soldiers". This voyage left New Guinea in February 1945 and took a month to go the long & safe route. Film footage of this voyage can be seen in the ending credits in the movie "The Raid".



In Reply
Refer to AP111/A12-1(03)/g
Serial No. 08

Reg. No. 124
U.S. No. 01056

U. S. S. GENERAL A. E. ANDERSON (AP 111)

C/o Fleet Post Office.
New York, N.Y.

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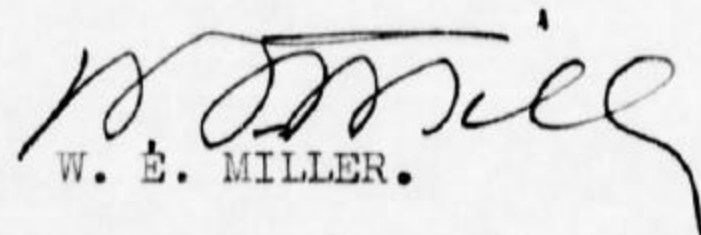
This memo explains the numbered paragraphs on each Diary page.

2 February 1944.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: ~~Commander in Chief~~, U.S. Fleet, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.
Subject: War Diary, January 1944, forwarding of,
Reference: CominCh rest. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 Serial 7152, 29 Oct. 1943
Par. 3(a)
Enclosure: (A) Daily War Diaries.

1. In compliance with reference, enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

- ① Unit assigned.
- ② Task Organization.
- ③ Positions at 0800, 1200 and 2000 LCT. Meteorological and sea information.
- ④ Brief of days operations.
- ⑤ Summary of important orders received and decisions reached.
- ⑥ Report of ammunition expended.
- ⑦ Pertinent remarks not included in an action report.


W. E. MILLER.

64285

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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

22 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. Moored to Pier #6, Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad piers, Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Va.,
4. Upkeep. Embarked Advance party of Army troops.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

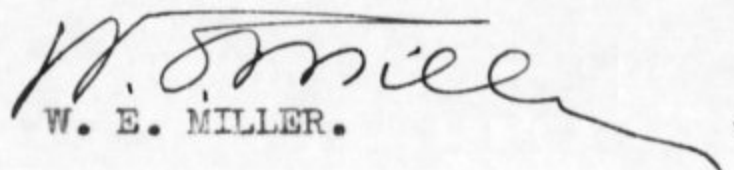
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U. S.S GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

23 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. Moored to Pier #6, Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Piers, Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Va.,
4. Upkeep. Loading stores and provisions. Loading Army cargo & mail.
5. Routing Orders recieved :- Ref:- COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3 (HAL:ab) Serial No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

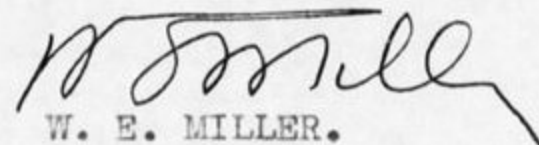
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U. S. S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

24 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. Moored at Pier #6, Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Piers, Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, Newport News, Va., 1544 Underway. 2000 Steaming Mine swept channel, entrance to Chesapeake Bay.
4. Embarking Army personnel and passengers. Loading cargo & mail. Passage from Newport News to sea via "XS", seaward end of mine swept channel. 2213 Cleared Mine swept channel, entrance to Chesapeake Bay. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Operating in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3 (HAL:ab) Serial No.UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

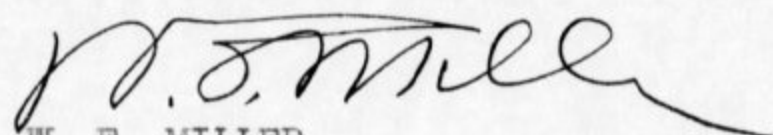
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

25 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 35-13N 71-43W. 1200 34-38N 70-34W. 2000 33-17N 68-10W.
Weather:- Cloudy to overcast. Occasional light rain showers. Light variable breezes. Smooth sea, Gentle swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3 (HAL:ab) of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. Practice firing. Expended 1 round 5"/33 cal. Target.
7. None.


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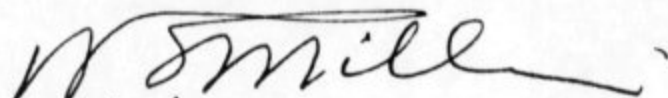
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY

26 December 1943

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 31-16N 64-55W. 1200 31-19N 63-30W. 2000 31-37N 60-33W.
Weather:- Partly cloudy, Clear. Light NE'ly breeze. Smooth sea,
moderate NE'ly swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating
in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) of 23
December 1943.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

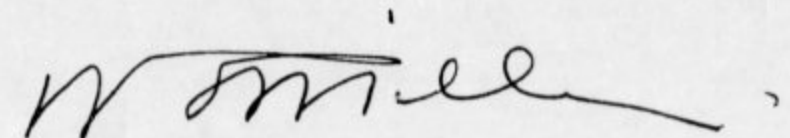
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

27 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 31-46N 56-15W. 1200 31-45N 54-55W. 2000 32-12N 52-09W.
Weather:- Partly cloudy, Clear. Fresh N'ly Breeze. Moderate N'ly
sea, heavy N'ly swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating
in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) of 23
December 1943.
5. 1525Z - Recieved radio message from Comtenthfleet C & R. NSS NR695
271315. Quote "CHANGE POINT EASY TWENTY MILES NORTHWARD" Unquote.
6. None.
7. None.


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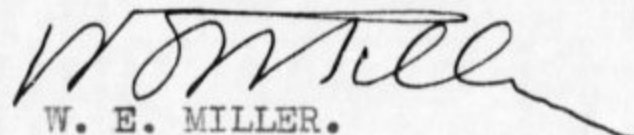
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

28 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 32-30N 48-04W. 1200 33-26N 46-45W. 2000 32-27N 44-00W.
Weather:- Partly cloudy, Clear. Fresh NE'ly, shifting to fresh NW'ly
wind. Rough N'ly sea and swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zigzagging. Operating
in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) Serial
No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. Practice Firing. Ammunition expended: 16 rounds 5"/38 cal. 349
rounds 1.1", 443 rounds 20 mm.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

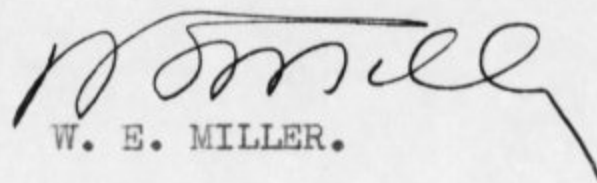
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

29 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 32-16N 39-53W. 1200 32-16N 38-28W. 2000 32-04N 35-45W.
Weather:- Cloudy to overcast. Fresh SW'ly wind. Rough SW'ly sea
and swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zi-zagging. Operating
in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter NB5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) Serial
No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

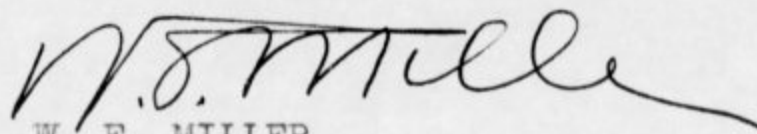
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

30 December 1943

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 31-47N 31-31W. 1200 31-41N 29-53W. 2000 31-24N 27-09W.
Weather:- Partly cloudy, clear. Light variable winds, becoming fresh ESE'ly wind. Small sea, moderate swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) Serial No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. Practice firing. Ammunition expended:- 5 rounds 5"/38 cal. and 110 rounds 1.1".
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

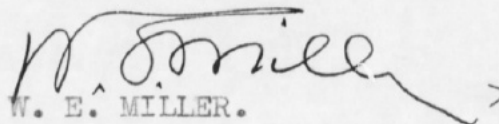
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U.S.S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

31 December 1943.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 31-16N 23-30W. 1200 31-25N 22-11W. 2000 31-25N 19-20W.
Weather:- Cloudy to overcast. Fresh ESE'ly wind moderating. Moderate sea and swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) Serial No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

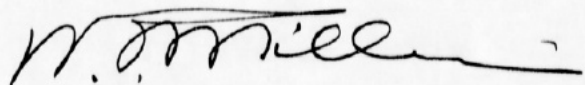
U. S. S. GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

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1 January 1944.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0800 31-37N 15-27W. 1200 32-07N 14-15W. 2000 32-58N 11-43W.
Weather:- Partly cloudy, clear. Moderate ENE'ly breeze. Small
ENE'ly sea and swell.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating
in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) Serial
No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.



W. E. MILLER.

U.S.S. GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON (AP111)

WAR DIARY.

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2 January 1944.

1. Naval Transportation Service.
2. None.
3. 0820 Entered mine swept channel, approaches to Casablanca.
1049 Moored to dock, Pier #8 Mole Du Commerce, Casablanca, French
Morocco.
4. Steaming independently with troops embarked. Zig-zagging. Operating
in accordance with COMFIVE secret letter ND5(15)/A4-3(HAL:ab) Serial
No. UG-13 of 23 December 1943. Passage through mine swept channel.
Entered port, docked ship. Disembarked troops. Discharging cargo
and mail. 1030 Advanced clocks one (1) hour to Minus 1 Zone time.
5. None.
6. None.
7. None.


W. E. MILLER.

4. Steaming independently with returning troops, naval personnel, and ex-prisoners of war on board, enroute from Hollandia, NG, to San Francisco, California. Operating in accordance with sailing orders dated 19 February issued by Hdqtrs Base "G", USA Services of Supply, Hollandia, NG, and as per routing instructions issued by Port Director, Hollandia, dated 20 February 1945.

At dawn vessel was approaching San Francisco, with Farallones in sight. Day extremely clear and visibility excellent. Met by blimp escort. At 0806 passed Buoy "A" and entered mine-swept channel; thence to pilot station for pilot, thence up Main Ship Channel to under the Golden Gate Bridge at 1001. Passed through the nets at 1012 to accompaniment of whistles and sirens from welcoming ships and reception parties for ex-prisoners of war. At 1036 dropped anchor to await berthing instructions. Reception committees came aboard. At 1135 docking pilot came aboard and at 1148 anchor was aweigh and vessel proceeding to dock. At 1210 first line went ashore and vessel made fast starboard side to south side of Pier 15, San Francisco, California. Dock crowded with friends and relatives of ex-prisoners of war. Dis-embarkation began almost immediately and continued throughout afternoon until all passengers were off the ship. Liberty for the crew.

US Navy War Diary

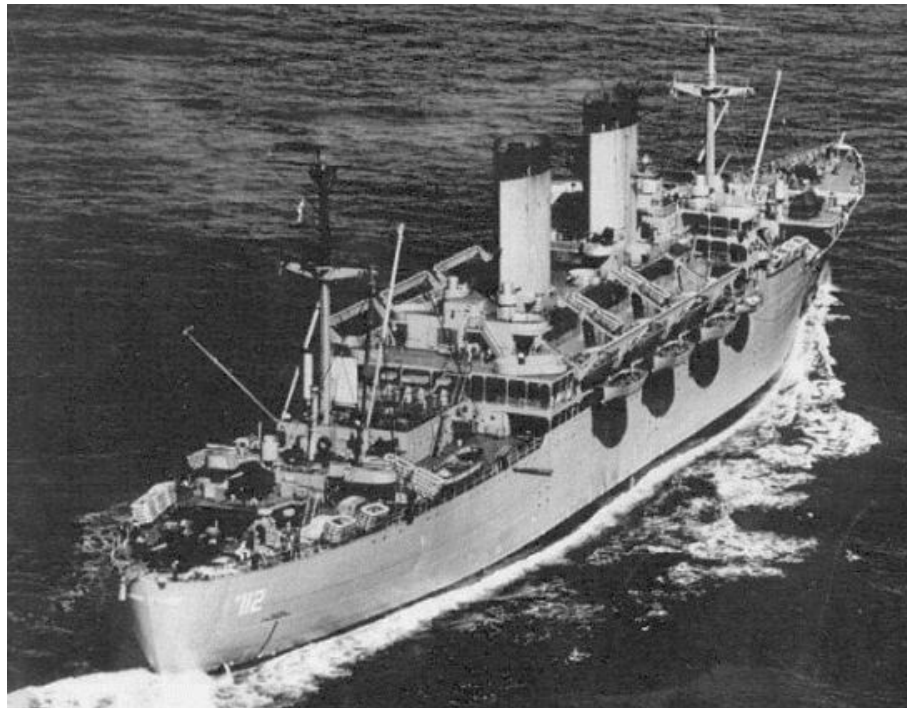
USS General William A. Mann (AP112)

Diary entries for December 29, 1943 to Jan 7, 1944. The **USS Gen. W. A. Mann** transported a portion of the US 85th Infantry Division from Newport News, VA to Casablanca, Morocco, North Africa.

The **USS William A. Mann** carried the troops from the following units:

- 338th Infantry Regiment
- 329 Field Artillery Battalion
- 310th Medical Battalion
- 310th Engineer Battalion
- Special Troops

The **MS Andes** was the third ship transporting the 85th Infantry Division and departed on New Year's Day, 1944. It carried the troops from the 337 Infantry Regiment, remainder of the 85th Divisional Artillery, including the 910 FA Battalion and the remainder of the Special Troops.



07134

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

January 2 1944

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 31°-00N 46°-24W Zone + 3
1200 30°-58N 45°-15W
2000 30°-56N 43°-28W
Wind Light to Moderate Variable Visibility very good
Sea Slight to moderate
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-zagging.
5. NONE
6. NONE

Paul S. Maguire
PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

F48
B

Reg. No.	90
U.S. No.	03346

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

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Zone + 4 Time

December 24 1943

Reported to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commander in Chief of the U. S. Fleet for duty in the Naval Transportation Service.
1709 Secured to Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia.

December 25 1943

Secured to Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia.

December 26 1943

Secured to Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia.

December 27 1943

Secured to Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia.

December 28 1943

Secured to Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia. Embarked 5281 officers and men of the U. S. Army.

Paul S. Maguire
PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

63014

NOV 30 1943
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1

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U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)

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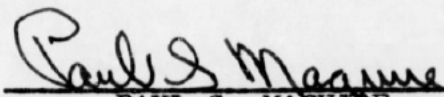
Zone + 4

Reference: R-1531-War Diaries

December 29 1943

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia
1200 Pier 6, Newport News, Virginia
2000 36°-44N 74°20W
Wind N5
Sea Rough Visibility good
4. Underway at 1219 in accordance with orders - 1610-1654. Conducted anti-aircraft short range firing practice while steaming outward bound from Cape Henry in swept channel between buoys "S"12 and "S"9. At 1850 cleared swept channel, took departure.
5. NONE
6. Ammunition expended:

5"/38 AA Common	40 rounds
20 MM	1792 rounds
1.1/10 Target	1044 rounds
BL & T	


PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

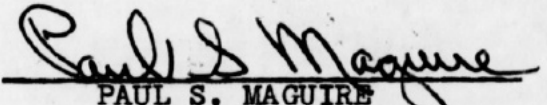
WAR DIARY

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Zone † 4

December 30 1943

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 34°-20N 70°-42W
1200 33°-41N 69°-25W
2000 32°-16N 67°-20W
Wind NE 4
Sea Moderate Visibility very good
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-zagging.
5. NONE
6. NONE


PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

Reg. No. 134
S.S. No. 12134

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

F48
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January 1 1944

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 30°-58N 55°-02W Zone + 3 time
 1200 30°-56N 53°-37W
 2000 31°-02N 50°-45W
 Wind Variable 3
 Sea Slight Visiblity very good
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-sagging.
5. NONE
6. NONE

Paul S. Maguire
PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

64891

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)

% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

January 3 1944

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 30°-53N 38°-54W Zone + 2
1200 30°-54N 37°-31W
2000 30°-54N 34°-42W
Wind Gentle variable Visibility very good
Sea Slight
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-zagging
5. NONE
6. NONE

Paul S. Maguire
PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)

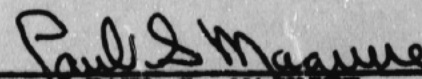
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

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January 4 1944

1. U.G.-14.
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43.
3. 0800 31°-00N 30°-23W Zone # 2
1200 30°-59N 29°-07W
2000 31°-01N 28°-31W
Wind SE 4
Sea Moderate Visibility very good
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-zagging.
5. Ammunition expended in test firing.
2 Rounds of 5"/38 AA common
6. NONE


PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

4

File No.:

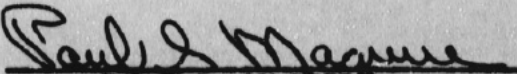
U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

January 5 1944

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 31°-01N 22°-53W Zone + 1
1200 31°-10N 21°-31W
2000 31°-25N 19°-03W
Wind SE 4 Visibility very good
Sea Moderate
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-zagging
5. NONE
6. NONE


PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

File No.:

U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

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January 6 1944

1. U.G.-14
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27-43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 32°-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ N 14°-51W
1200 32°-27N 13°-29W
2000 33°-07N 11°-16W
Wind SE 4 Visibility very good
Sea Moderate
4. Steaming singly with troops embarked. Zig-zagging.
5. NONE
6. NONE

Paul S. Maguire
PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

File No.:

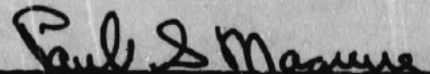
U. S. S. GENERAL W. A. MANN (AP112)
% Fleet Post Office,
New York City, New York.

WAR DIARY

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January 7 1944

1. U.G. - 14.
2. CNO Secret Letter Serial #0163739 and Movement Order Number 27 - 43 of December 1943.
3. 0800 Z 33°-56N 08°-20W
1200 Z Casablanca Harbor, French Morocco
2000 A Casablanca Harbor, French Morocco
4. Steaming with troops embarked escorted by U.S.S. Thompson. 0900 Entered Casablanca Harbor swept channel and secured to Pier Delpit, Mole de Commerce at 1137. Disembarked troops.
5. NONE.
6. NONE.


PAUL S. MAGUIRE
Commander, USNR
Commanding Officer

US Navy War Diary

USS Lyon (AP71)

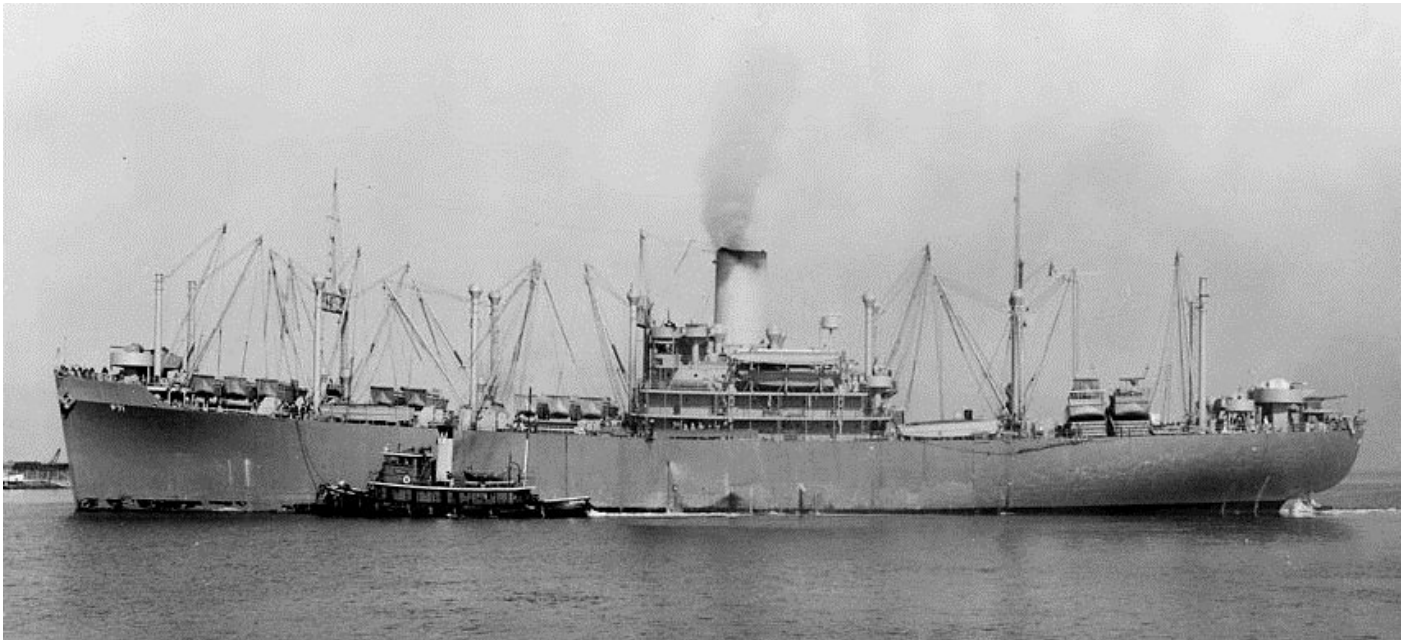
Diary entries for March 1944. The **USS Lyon** was part of a convoy that transported the 85th Infantry Division from Tunisia, North Africa, to the port of Naples, Italy. The convoy steamed 4 abreast and then in single file. The convoy passed within 18 miles of Ustica Island and 1-1/2 miles of Isle of Capri before docking in Naples on 27 March. Commenced disembarking soldiers at 1540 .

The following entries details on the positions and actions of the convoy.

The first unit to depart for Italy was the 339 Infantry Regiment that left on 10 March aboard the **HMS Letitia**. The bulk of the 85 Infantry Division were aboard the convoy that sailed on 24 March 1944 and arrived on 27th. The ships in this convoy included: **SS Nightingale**, **SS Lyon**, **SS Stanton**, **HMS Almanzora**.

Source: Schultz's "The 85th Infantry Division in WW2", page 49.

USS Lyon was built in Mississippi and originally launched as the ***Mormactide***, She was turned over to the Navy and departed for North Africa in October 1942. She was named in honor of Mary Lyon, a pioneer in women's education in America, who founded Mount Holyoke Seminary, now Mount Holyoke College, in 1836.



Subject: _ _ _ War Diary - Month of March 1944. _ _ _ _ _

21 March 1944:(continued) ended disembarking passengers. 1315
Commenced discharging passenger baggage onto lighter. 1620
Finished discharging baggage. 1815 Completed discharging pass-
engers. Total 548.

22 March 1944: Moored as before. 0700 General Quarters -
red alert. 0714 Secured from general quarters. 0800 Draft
forward 18'06", aft. 24'09". 1250 Commenced taking fresh water
from French barge "Torrent". Amount received 33,000 gallons.
1250 General quarters - red alert. 1307 10 U.S. Army Officers
and 48 enlisted men reported aboard as advance detail. 2225
Commenced loading Army barracks bags and rations and equipment
in #3 hatch from barges.

23 March 1944: Moored as before. 0550 Army stevedores fin-
ished loading #3 hatch. 0940 - 1000 Captain's inspection
of ship. 0957 Commenced embarking U.S. Troops. 1140 Finished
embarking troops. Total aboard 99 U.S. Army Officers, 1 French
Army Officer, 1 French Naval Officer, 1414 U.S. Army enlisted
men. 1610 Captain left ship to attend convoy conference. 1735
Captain returned aboard. Weather partly cloudy - clear.
Moderate variable breezes.

24 March 1944: Moored as before. 0900 - 0950 Held emergency
drills. 1100 Prepared for getting underway. 1205 Pilot
aboard. 1220 Left berth - ship underway in accordance with
sailing orders of 3-23-44 issued by Routing Officer, Oran.
Lyon to be in convoy NSF-18 transporting troops to Italy. 1245
Passed through anti-submarine nets. 1248 pilot left ship.
1315 Let go port anchor. Anchored in convoy assembly area as
per sailing orders awaiting remained of ships in convoy to
assemble. 1615 Anchor aweigh - left anchorage and proceeded in
single column through swept channel in company with ships of
convoy NSF-18. Lyon 5th ship in column. 1655 Left Oran swept
channel. Took departure. Cap de l'Aiguille ϕ 174 $^{\circ}$ T, distance
7 miles. S/C 341 $^{\circ}$ T. Speed 13 knots. 1707 A/C to 060 $^{\circ}$ T. 1710
Commenced forming convoy formation. Lyon position #12. Ships
in company: SS Letitia, guide and Convoy Commodore #31, HMS
Glengyle, USS Stanton, SS Winchester Castle, SS Almanzora, SS
Hai Lee, USS F. Nightingale, SS Leopoldville. Escorted by 6
destroyers, 2 mine sweepers, and 1 British light cruiser. 1740
Convoy speed 13 knots. 1800 Commenced zig-zag plan #15. 1958
Ceased zig-zag and resumed base course 060 $^{\circ}$ T. Weather partially
cloudy - clear. Fresh NE'ly breeze - moderate sea and swell.

25 March 1944: Steaming as before. 0000 A/C by wheeling to
083 $^{\circ}$ T. 0600 Commenced zig-zagging - plan #15. 0630 Cease
zig-zag and resumed base course 083 $^{\circ}$ T. 0640 Secured SG radar.
0700 A/C to 076 $^{\circ}$ T. 0715 Cape Caxine L.H. ϕ 173 $^{\circ}$ T distance 5
miles. 0740 S/S Sobieski and SS Ascania(Br.) joined convoy
from Algiers, forming 4th column. 0751 Convoy speed 14 knots.

Subject: --- War Diary - Month of March 1944. ---

25 March 1944:(continued) 0800 Commenced zig-zagging - plan #15. 0900 Ceased zig-zag and resumed base course 076°T. 0925 A/C by wheeling to 090°T. 0930 Commence zig-zag plan #15. 1040 Convoy speed 13.5 knots. 1130 Rigged barrage balloon at haul. Noon position: Latitude 37°-00'N, Long. 04°-10½'E. 1745 Ceased zig-zag and resumed base course 090°T. 1750 Lat. 36°-58'N, Long. 5°-39'W. A/C by wheeling to 068°T. 1800 Commenced zig-zag - plan #15. 1835 Streamed barrage balloon at 1000 feet. 1852 Sunset. Manned SG radar. 1945 Ceased zig-zag and resumed base course 068°T. 2100 A/C by wheeling to 093°T. Weather partly cloudy - clear. Fresh to light NE'ly breeze. Moderate to smooth sea. Moderate swell.

26 March 1944: Steaming in convoy as before. 0233 A/C by wheeling to 080°T. 0534 Convoy commenced forming into two columns - approaching the Tunisian War Channel. Lyon 5th ship in first column. 0948 Ras Enghela L.H. Ø 192, distance 3 3/4 miles. A/C to 114°T. 1105 Cani Rock Lt. abeam to port, distance 4½ miles. A/C to 100°T. Noon position: Lat. 37°-15'N, Long. 10°-19½'E. 1215 A/C to 061°T by wheeling. 1220 Left Tunisian War Channel. Commenced forming into four columns. 1550 Convoy speed 13 knots. 1731 A/C to 046°T. Weather cloudy. Fresh NE'ly breeze. Moderate sea and swell.

27 March 1944: Steaming as before. 0031 Ustica Island Lt. Ø 092°T, distance 18 miles. A/C to 035°T. 0522 Convoy speed 14 knots. 0530 Commenced zig-zag - plan #15. 0548 Secured SG radar. 0930 Ceased zig-zag and resumed base course 035°T. 1012 A/C to 017°T. 1030 Commenced forming in single column. 1105 Arrival. Isle of Capri abeam to port, distance 1½ miles. Entered Naples swept channel. Various courses and speeds to harbor. 1320 Anchored in Naples Bay in 35 fathoms water - awaiting pilot and berth clearance. 1355 Pilot aboard - proceeded to berth. 1530 All secured - starboard side to berth #48 Naples. Secured degaussing. Condition IIMA maintained. 1540 Commenced disembarking troops. 1600 Draft: Forward 17'03", aft 26'00". 1650 Commenced unloading Army baggage and equipment from #3 hold. 1850 Finished disembarking troops. Total disembarked - 101 officers and 1414 enlisted m3n. 2300 Finished discharging all Army equipment.

28 March 1944: Moored as before - Vittorio Emmanuel Basin, starboard side to Jetee Elena d'Aosta, berth #48. 0646 Pilot aboard. 0650 Degaussing coils energized. 0730 Left berth and proceeded to anchorage in accordance with orders from the Admiralty Routing Officer Naples, dated 3-28-44. 0752 Anchored in 18 fathoms water in Naples Bay. 1750 Left anchorage - underway and proceeding as unit of Convoy SNF-18 in accordance with NCSO Naples sailing orders dated 3-28-44. Commodore in S/S Volendam(Commodore Hubbard R.N.R.), Vice Commodore in S/S Letitia. Other ships in convoy: S/S Ascania, USS Stanton, USS

US Navy War Diary

USS West Point

(AP-23)

The **USS West Point** transported the 85th Infantry Division home after the war. These diary entries detail the cruise from Naples Italy back to Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, VA. It arrived on Sunday 26 August, 1945. My father arrived at his home on 30 August.

The **USS West Point** began her career as the ocean liner **SS America**. She was acquired by the US Navy in June 1, 1941 and used as a troop transport and renamed. She was configured to carry 7,678 troops.

After Germany surrendered, she took part in some of the initial "Magic Carpet" voyages, bringing home American troops from the European battlefronts.

After the war, she sailed under various names: the **SS America**, the **SS Australis**, the **SS Italis**, the **SS Noga**, the **SS Alferdoss**, and the **SS American Star**.



USS West Point passing the Statue of Liberty

Friday, 17 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Held Fire Drill for crew.

Held "Abandon Ship" drill for troops.

Retarded clocks one (1) hour to zone minus 1 time.

Positions:	0800	38-12N.	08-53E.
	1200	37-59N.	07-06E.
	2000	37-28N.	03-31E.

Distance made good from mooring, 16 August, 1945, to noon, 17 August, 1945. ----- 394 miles.

Saturday, 18 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Retarded clocks one (1) hour to zone \emptyset time.

Held "Abandon Ship" drill for troops.

Positions:	0800	36-21N.	02-04W.
	1200	36-08N.	03-44W.
	2000	36-07N.	06-59W.

Distance made good from noon, 17 August, 1945, to noon, 18 August, 1945. ----- 531 miles.

Sunday, 19 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Summary of personnel on board for transportation as follows: -

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Total</u>
U.S. ARMY	732	6969	7701
U.S. Navy	2*		2
U.S. Marine Corps.	1		1
	<u>735</u>	<u>6969</u>	<u>7704</u>

<u>CIVILIAN - MALE</u>	<u>FIRST CLASS</u>	
U.S. Army (A.R.C.)	3	3
CASUAL	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

STOWAWAY - MALE
Petrag RISTANI - Albanian 1
Age Fourteen.

* Temporary duty status - 1 Naval Officer.

* One CSK(D) also on board for temporary duty.

Sunday, 19 August, 1945. (continued)

Held "Abandon Ship" drill for troops.

Retarded clocks one (1) hour to zone plus 1 time.

Positions:	0800	37-05N.	12-31W.
	1200	37-23N.	14-24W.
	2000	38-02N.	17-57W.

Distance made good from noon, 18 August, 1945, to noon,
19 August, 1945. ----- 529 miles.

Monday, 20 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Held "General Quarters" and expended the following ammunition during Gunnery Drill - 7 rounds - 5"; 10 rounds - 3"; 435 rounds - 1.10"; 709 rounds - 20MM.

Retarded clocks one (1) hour to zone plus 2 time.

Positions:	0800	39-05N.	23-48W.
	1200	39-25N.	25-36W.
	2000	40-00N.	29-08W.

Distance made good from noon, 19 August, 1945, to noon, 20 August, 1945. ----- 532 miles.

Tuesday, 21 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Retarded clocks one (1) hour to zone plus 3 time.

Positions:	0800	40-29N.	35-08W.
	1200	40-24N.	37-02W.
	2000	40-20N.	40-51W.

Distance made good from noon, 20 August, 1945, to noon, 21 August, 1945. ----- 538 miles.

Wednesday, 22 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Retarded clocks one (1) hour to zone plus 4 time.

Positions:	0800	40-19N.	47-01W.
	1200	40-20N.	48-45W.
	2000	39-51N.	52-25W.

Distance made good from noon, 21 August, 1945, to noon, 22 August, 1945. ----- 533 miles.

Thursday, 23 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Held "General Quarters" for crew, and expended the following ammunition during gunnery drill. - 8 rounds - 5"; 10 rounds - 3"; 540 rounds - 1.10"; 730 rounds - 20MM.

Positions:	0800	39-11N.	58-26W.
	1200	38-56N.	59-58W.
	2000	38-40N.	63-20W.

Distance made good from noon, 22 August, 1945, to noon, 23 August, 1945. ----- 529 miles.

Friday, 24 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Positions:	0800	37-56N.	68-22W.
	1200	37-44N.	69-53W.
	2000	37-11N.	73-00W.

Distance made good from noon, 23 August, 1945, to noon, 24 August, 1945. ----- 480 miles.

Saturday, 25 August, 1945.

Underway singly from Naples, Italy, to Norfolk, Va.

Moored Port side to Pier #8, Newport News, Va.

Debarked passengers.

Sunday, 26 August, 1945.

Moored Port side to Pier #8, Newport, News, Va.

Underway on various courses and speeds.

Anchored in Hampton Roads, Va.

Underway towards drydock.

Moored in Drydock #4, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

Monday, 27 August, 1945.

Moored in Drydock #4, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

Tuesday, 28 August, 1945.

Moored in Drydock #4, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

Wednesday, 29 August, 1945.

Moored in Drydock#4, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

Thursday, 30 August, 1945.

Moored in Drydock #4, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

Friday, 31 August, 1945.

Moored in Drydock #4, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.