

U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Journal of

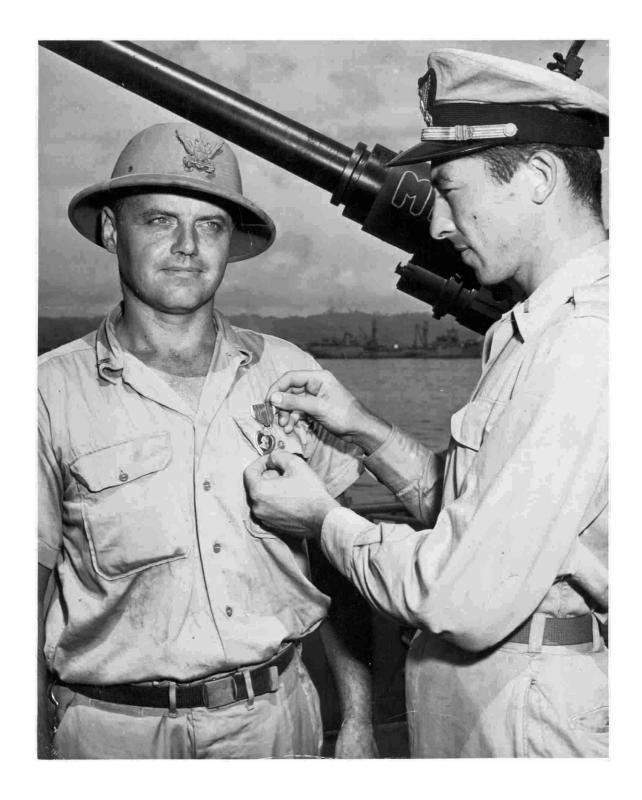
Charles E. Mashburn, USCGR

Commanding Officer USS FS-366, 1944-1945

Transcribed and Edited by Leslie Mashburn

By letter dated Feb. 20 1964 from Charles E. Mashburn to Roy L. Mashburn add the following:

I graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1941 with an A. B. degree in Political Science, and a minor in History, and attended one year of law school prior to the war, when I volunteered for service prior to the end of the academic year. I attended the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., and after training in antisubmarine warfare and training aboard the Danish square rigger training ship "Denmark", was commissioned an ensign. I was assigned to antisubmarine warfare in the Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras area of North Carolina. Subsequently I completed the Army Chemical Warfare training course at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, and was assigned as Chemical Warfare Officer in the 5th Naval District. After further advanced antisubmarine warfare training and damage control, I was assigned to the 5th Army. I had command of a ship which I commissioned in New Orleans, carried to Cuba, the Canal Zone, California, Hawaii, Ellice Islands, the Carolina Islands and New Guinea. After operation in New Guinea with the Army, I participated in the invasion of Biak and the Philippines. I returned to the states in 1946 and completed my legal education at the University of North Carolina. In 1948 I married Mattee Bufkin of Leland, Mississippi, and we are now living in Marshall where I practice law. We have three children.



LTJG Charles Mashburn, commanding officer of FS-366, awards the Purple Heart Medal to ENS Thomas Boal, USCGR. [Original photo caption on following page]

From:

Public Information Division U. S. Coast Guard Washington, D. C.

8 366

WINNETKA COAST GUARD ENSIGN WINS PURPLE HEART

For wounds received during enemy action off the coast of the Philippines, ensign Thomas Boal of WINNETKA, ILLINOIS receives the Purple Heart in a presentation seremony aboard a Coast Guard manned freight ship on which he is serving. The Coast Guard officer was at his battle station when hit by shrapnel. The presentation was made by his commanding officer, Lieutenant (jg) Charles Mashburn of MARSHALL, NORTH CAROLINA. shown as he is awaro... Heart medal for wounds



during enemy action off the Philippines. The presentation was made by his skipper, Lt. (i.g.) Charles Mashburn of North Carolina, aboard their Coast Guardmanned Army freight supply vessel. Journas, who is in charge of his ship's galley, was at his battle station, a 50 callbre machine gun, when he was struck by shrapnel. His wife, Shirley, and one-year-old son, Kan, whom he has never seen, make their home at 18907 Asbury Park avenue, Detroit. He entered the Coust Guard in Aug., 1942, and is now in the China Seas, having served three years oversess in the Phillippines, on Gundaleanal

Start Journal (Parenthesis and italics are mine or other info from web.

Leslie Mashburn

4/7/44 Ship man(n)ed by A.T.S. (Army Transportation Service)

Departed Stg. By. Wis. (Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin)

(Down the Mississippi, how do you get there??? Sturgeon Bay to Lake Michigan and down to Chicago to Calmut River to Illinois Waterway to Mississippi River through Chicago, Peoria, Grafton, St. Louis, Memphis to New Orleans.)

4/18/44 Arrived NOPE. La.

4/20/44 Assumed command. Crew aboardship – officially placed in commission.

- 5/8 Spent previous time completing supply & alterations of ship for active work. Loaded this date 176 tons (long) Navy cargo for Panama.
- 5/21 Departed NOPE for Pilot town, 70 miles seaward.
- 5/25 Depart Pilottown for Cuba.
- 5/31 Arrived Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- 6/3 Dept. Cuba for Panama
- 6/7 Arrived Cristobal. C.Z. (Canal Zone) discharging cargo. (Cristóbal, Colón, Panama)
- **6/9 Dept. thru Canal for Balboa C.Z. Alone.** (Cristóbal, Colón, Panama toBalboa, Panamá, Panama)
- 6/23 Arrived Wilmington Cal. (Los Angles) No cargo this trip. Undergoing alterations.
- 7/10 Took on cargo for ENDU. 143 DWT. (ENDU????, maybe New Herbrides????)
- 7/13 Dep. Wilmington alone.

- 7/21 Arrived Honolulu. T.H.
- 7/31/ Dept. Honolulu in company 3 FS-s name design. changed from FP to FS mid July by War. Dept.
- **8/10 Arrived Funifuti, Ellice Islands.** (Funafuti [Funafuti Atoll], Tuvalu) about 1000 miles north of Fiji Islands)
- 8/13 Waited till today for sailing orders. Dept. Funifuti Lagoon.
- 8/20 Childish vandal among crew during night threw overboard chair, life rings, grating & cut fire hose, punched oil drum on deck & started fire in Ex. quarters. No serious damage. Investigation made. No further information. Close watch ordered on ship for repetition.
- 8/21 Entered Milne Bay N.G. thru China Sts. Thence to Akoma, N.G Base (Funifuti to New Herbrides (Vanuatu) to Guadacanal (Solomon Islands) to Milne Bay) See FS-366
- 8/24 Embarked 65 soldiers and one officer for BIHO(?). Carrying cargo to BIHO.
- 8/25 Arrived Aro Bay N.C. (C?) discharged troops and cargo (Aro, Solomon Islands, Guadacanal)
- 8/26/ Took on app. 60 tons cargo and departed same date
- 8/27 Arrived Milne Bay
- 8/28 Discharged cargo. Cargo to date 366 DWT. Miles steamed to date app. 12,000. No major breakdown. No sailing held up. Carried to date 66 troops.
- 8/31 Took on cargo
- 9/1 Took on passengers app. 40 for Aro & departed.
- 9/2 Arrived Aro debarked troops, took on additional cargo for Nwdi (?) & departed Aro. Cargo total 170 DWT Eng. supply.

9/3 Arrived Finschofin N.G. to leave records of crew. (Finschhafen, Papua *New Guinea*) 9/4 **Departed** 9/7 Arrived Biak, Dutch N. G. Island N. Coast. Dischg. cargo begun. Total mileage to date 13,100. Total cargo 536 DWT. 9/11 Departed Biak with app. 50 tons cargo having been under air att. when [Japanese] planes raided air strips in area two times. No damage to ship or personnel. Arrived at night in Humbolt Bay N.N.G. at night. Took on cargo on 9/12/44 14th. Total ??? ??? under 100 tons. (Hollandia [Jayapura], Papua, Indonesia) 9/15 **Departed Hollandia Bay** 9/17 Arrived Finsch. Discharged cargo. We're required to wait 3 days for dock space. 9/21 9/22 Carried 2 passengers to Finsch. Took on cargo. Departed same date under 100 tons. 9/24 Arrived Milne Bay. Miles steamed to date 14,200 mi. 9/25 Discharged cargo 9/28 Took on cargo having fueled before going to dock & utilized 2 days for repair awaiting dock space. 9/29 Completed loading 212 DWT cargo. Took on 44 passengers. Departed Milne Bay 3:00 afternoon NG time. 9/30 Arrived Finsch – Night. Discharged troops following day. 10/2 Discharged cargo having waited for dock space. 10/4 Taking cargo 10/6 Finished taking cargo of app 200 DWT. Embarked 2 off & 7 men as passengers.

Total cargo to date 912 DWTons. Miles steamed 14,500 app. since May 21.

Carrying 5 ton truck on deck, 1 jeep, 3 trucks in Hole.

- 10/6 Departed Finschafen
- 10/8 Arrived Hollandia Dutch N.G.
- During stay in harbor repaired ship, painted ship, took on stores, discharged cargo, took on cargo.
- 11/7 Departed Hollandia 292 tons ammo for Philippines. Expect sub att. & bomb & strafing attacks by [Japanese] forces. Hope to operate around the islands.

Note added later (miles to date 17,021-Tons?)

11/18 Entered San Pedro Harbor (Leyte Gulf) with barge in tow – long trip (11 days) refueled SC at sea and saw few ??? planes/places? See notes on Leyte during this time.

Entered Gulf day light. Sighted intense anti-aircraft fire ahead.

[Japanese] mine seen dead ahead – altered course to port to avoid despite com. orders for emerg. turn stb. All ships missed mine. Later exploded. As entered in column ships all sides flying strange flags. Were at general quarters. We nonchalantly stranged fo anchor. Saw our first two planes, one shot down by ack-ack dove out of clouds. Raids continuously day night. Saw P-38 shoot down single seater plane with bomb. Was watching with glasses. To date Nov. 24 have seen many [Japanese] planes, many shot down. Saw one today launch bomb closely missed tgt (target). Saw him escape low level.

Nights are panorama of tracers, big guns & search lights. [Japanese] motors ?? over ??? Planes shot down in flames. Often recite 23rd Psalm. A hit on our ammo would leave no greasy spot.

Proj. (projectile) hit our gun deck today while at G.Q. 6 men hit by fragments, 4 hospitalized. No serious wounds. Very painful. One almost lost leg. I'll have no more trouble keeping my crew in helmets, jackets, & clothes from now on. Nor will they remain exposed unnecessarily. I'm sorry for my boys. Fragments had to be picked from legs. Some since will go home and keepers of toes & feet will stay in. (?) At least they will in later years be able to tell the weather – rain when the part throbs.

I pray we have no more casualties. I've seen war – its not nice! Many future nights will be filled with nightmares, cold chills for many.

Will be in Manila I think for New Years. I predicted in July we'd be here by Thanksgiving. I'd like some sleep.

My memories of the last week will be ever lasting, even tho now it is all as a dream. The shell today burst 3 feet or less from my head. I was protected by the deck.

We have smoke screen. Will foil the TBs & Dive Bombers now. A $^{3}\!\!/4$ moon too!

Nov 25 Several alerts today. Clear moonlight night. Ack ack should be very accurate. Smoke screen being laid tonight to cover shipping. We're being left out again.

Last night over 100 [Japanese] planes were coming over. They were intercepted. PTs & small craft engaged [Japanese] task force off coast last night. ???Our fleet on west Philippines supports left hig e fee blessing our last 10 24 hs later.????

Since last writing 1 hr ago four raids have been over. 2 [Japanese] bombers shot down. No bombs dropped for some reason. 3 planes straffed ships. 1 pane set afire passed over our stern with fire from over 50 ships directed at it. Momentarily I expected us to be riddled by friendly fire. We still have a cargo of TNT! Must call ships tomorrow & warn them to watch their fire.

Nov 26 Have been G.Q. over 15 hrs this day. Men worn out. Several attacks. Five Japs shot down at noon? today over docks. 1 parachuted. No damage. Several planes over high long (along coast???) Feceing spamatic no bay area.

Flash red contact yellow since 1 hr before dark. Now midnight. Expect several more attacks. Smoke screen effective. No bombs dropped in the area tonight.

27 Nov Several raids today. G.Q. till late in night. Bombers high above ack ack.

28 Nov 54 [Japanese] planed headed this way, detoured over Ormac thank goodness they did. Planes might have been interrupted (?) heavy rain and overcast helped us. No bombs dropped so far tonight. 2nd supr fort raid good news (Tokio). Damage (in Tokio) will show no results on this front for several months. [Japanese] mer. fleet dienlessng?? 3rd air arm (IV) has dealt Japs serious blow around Manila.

18 & 16 ships 126 & 72 planes dest. on to Manila by Christmas or New Years. I don't think it will be long till we shall look forward to entering China if we can ever get out? from sitting on this TNT.

(11/27/1944 In the Pacific, another B29 raid on suburban Tokyo is foiled by the jetstream when the high-altitude winds again scatter the Superfortress' bombs.)

Ashore mud gets worse & worse. Japs blew up water works in Tach (Tacloban).

??? ???? all fresh foods all frozen for the front. Today we drew supplies here. A few cans spam & lettlo?? Also. Where does the US bacon, beef, eggs, poultry & fresh food go? Since leaving the States & Honolulu we've aracen?? little fresh supplies. We have 1 turkey for our crew (four have been transferred to USS Mercy (hospital ship). Will I soon be in Pearl Harbor.) We've had two eggs each since coming here. The army has treated us worse than the natives. It seems everyone in the army attempts (& succeeds) in making everything hard for us.

No mail yet, has been $1\frac{1}{2}$ mo since mail. Last mail dated Oct. some time – 10 or 11. The war is personal to us here.

Five [Japanese] planes were shot down within sight noon the other day. One [Japanese] parachuted. A few days before a 38 shot one down close by, the bullets hit the water astern. I had my glasses trained on them. A FS got the first plane of our ships the other day. They now have its wing aboard. Saw a plane come out of clouds the other day. Watched him with glasses as he dove, dropped his bomb & escaped. A beautiful piece of work. That night I believe a [Japanese] plane was shot down in flames as he crossed our stern. Today we found several dints in our hull where shells had hit. One 20 mm hit 2 feet or 4 feet from my head & exploded. A great life! While it lasts.

29 Nov The moon is full – The bay is a mirror shimmering through the smoke screen with ship after ship, barge after barge silhouetted in silver light. The night is clear and cool. Were the war a million miles away the universe could seem no calmer – not a breeze ripples the water.

There has not been an enemy plane over head in over 36 hours.

A large flight of planes approached Ormac last night while a rain squall hid this bay. I believe the Japs bases on Cebu and Mindinao are devoid of planes and that the force of about 50 planes last night was the most that could be wrested (?). I may be wrong. This night of a bombers moon (full) may bring disaster. Or the fleets on Luzon & Manila (360 mi) away may be being saved for a repelling of our forth coming attack. I sincerely

hope & believe the Japs forces will be annihilated soon. Can we be in Manila by Christmas?

I've been in service 2 1/2 years most. Has it been 2 ½ years taken from me- has it been my whole life? The men who are spared by Gods grace must endeavor to make their lives worth while to humanity to recompense for the lives of gallant, just, and brave who have given their blood on foreign soil that our principals might prevail against aggression, violence and hate.

God grant us the strength!

(See the following)

(PRELUDES TO VICTORY: THE BATTLE OF ORMOC BAY IN WW II AUTHOR William L. Griggs

11/27/1944 USS SC-744 sunk by Kamikaze attack in Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands)

30 Nov All quiet. ???? today. Last night 3rd raid of 6 days over Tokio. Also today 4 [Japanese] transports sunk (5,000 men) coming to re-inforce Leyte & Ormac. A fighter (night) shot down two [Japanese] planes last night. We have 3 aces at our airbase – 1 – 44 planes, others 35, 38. In comparison our planes are many time better built than [Japanese] ones. I only recall one [Japanese] fighter pilot who used a parachute.

Dec 1 So far all quiet. 1 [Japanese] plane intercepted & shot down by 1 of our fighters.

12/02/1944 American destroyers bombard Ormoc and Palompon, Imperial army supply bases on Leyte.

(12/03/1944 Liddle (DE-206) embarked 141 troops 3 December for a flanking operation in the Leyte Gulf area. After landing her troops at Ormoc without casualty 7 December, Liddle came under attack from Japanese aircraft. Though splashing five attackers, she was h it on the bridge by a kamikaze and seriously damaged, necessitating her return to San Francisco 16 January 1945 for repairs. While she was being refitted, a sign on her quarterdeck read: "This Ship Lost 38 Officers and Men. She is Anxious to Get Back Into Action."

12/03/1944 Near Leyte, American destroyers Cooper and Japanese destroyer Kuwa are sunk during a night fight near Ormoc, the Imperial Army's main supply base. Another American destroyer is damaged.

12/03/1944 USS Cooper (DD-695) sunk after being torpedoed in Ormoc Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands.

12/05/1944 USS LSM-20 sunk by Kamikaze attack off Ormoc, Leyte, Philippine Islands.

12/07/1944 USS Mahan (DD-364) sunk after being hit by three Kamikaze aircraft in Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.

12/07/1944 PT-323 destroyed by Kamikaze attack, Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.)

Dec 2 thru

Dec 7 Little air activity over head several shot down when intercepted. Planes cover/over the 5th; one shot down over air strip.

Last few days flyers (USA & Navy) intercepted [Japanese] convoy at Ormac. Sunk?? 13 ships (5,000 troops) & shot down some 50 planes of Japs. Hit at Ormoc port 6 more ships of Japs they sunk. Colvery flanked Japs & made ??? ??? attack in rear of Japs with little opposition since Japs were all re-inforcing the Yamoshito line when US troops were exerting pressure on 3 sides. Was one of fastest ??? moments of the war. Part of Japs are isolated. Others are cut off from their supplies hence by am naval & air pabroles??? We announced loss of first supply ship today – lost by? ??? to aircraft attacking our convoy. Also lost dist. At Ormoc during a ?? raid ?? ?? & 1 PT Boat was announced by MC (MacArthur?????) 2 days ago.

Our fleet light ????? ????? to attack Ormoc shore installations and the isolated garrisons on N.G.

12/04/1944 The payoff battle for Leyte looms as U. S. 6th Army commander Walter Krueger issues orders for a three-pronged assault on Ormoc, the Imperial Army's biggest supply base.

12/06/1944 The Americans and Japanese launch simultaneous offensives on Leyte.

Australian Civs in US Merc. Mar. make immense salaries. Mess boy about \$600 per mo. \$10 for #1 was ??? (???) \$125 in port when in air att. Overtime over 8 hrs. We should pay our infantry more, foreigners less. Many who make \$600 per mo. Find war a pleasure?!! (Are Americans dumb – are they animals) who is responsible for these outlandish pays?

Dec 7-13 Few planes got thru our defenses. Those did no damage. Ormoc landing trapped Japs & folded Yamishita line back. Guess will be in ???? soon.

- Dec 13-31st Air activity light until holidays. Little damage. We made one trip thru San Juancaco Sts. (San Juanico Strait) (first is FS) to Caragara (Carigara). We almost have Leyte secure. Over 100,000 Japs have been killed. Caragara has an old & beautiful church. It is used for hosp. (a tragic sight) the cost of war)
- Jan 1-2 Returned to Leyte Gulf. More air activity. Little damage however a nuisance.
- Jan 2-8 Quiet loading cargo for trip 121,000 Japs killed to date on Leyte.

(01/02/1945 A task force of minesweepers and destroyers sorties from Leyte and heads for Lingayen Gulf, where next week MacArthur's 6th Army will begin the liberation of Luzon.)

(01/04/1945 Kamikazes begin a week-long assault on American naval forces transporting MacArthur's 6th Army to Lingayen Gulf, site of the upcoming landing on Luzon, the Philippines' most populous island.)

9 Jan to 12 Departed (*Leyte*) for a 4 day, 800 mile trip thru enemy waters for latest invasion spot (Lingayen Gulf??). Terrible weather, good in that it gave us perfect protection from [Japanese] planes as we steamed to Luzon west coast. Terrible days of bad visibility. Large convoy, no communications. We kept station by grace. Had we broken down or become lost the Japs would have found us. We had no stragglers points??? Thus all no stragglers in the Paupu??? week/war?.

We rolled in trough hour after hour. Cargo shifted & we were in danger of capsizing. Pumped water out to maintain equilibrium & kept from ???? convoy at Mindoro. I spent remainder of days sleepless & nervous for fear each roll would be our last. Our cargo was metal ???. I firmly intended to ???? here. We did. Our cargo is being discharged under adverse cond winds? presently.

01/07/1945 In the Pacific, a Japanese sub and a kamikaze barely miss Lingayen-bound cruiser Boise, which is transporting MacArthur and his staff.

We arrived D+4 no docks & is a heavy swell. Continuously running air att. two days out (Mindoro). We shot down some planes – 2 suicides were shot down less than 1,000 yards away both hit in next column over. Were shot down before they could hit tgts (targets?). Beautiful to see them aim for a ship & be shot down before they hit it? To fly thru the aa screen we can throw up. The largest Pacific convoy I've seen. Little air activity here as yet. Hear Clark field has ric. Airborne. Air ??? penetrated 30 mi inland. B & US on Burma, IndoChina.

We are in constant alert. Japs swim out & plant TNT on hull or house pipc??? ???Sporatic fun? each night as suspected [Japanese] saboteurs. We keep constant watch.

The war moves faster each day. Yesterday we saw war ships as they shelled [Japanese] positions on S of bay. We have been a part in the biggest Pac. landing to date.

(01/13/1945 The last Japanese kamikaze attack in the Philippines damages escort carrier Salamaua near Lingayen Gulf. During the past three months, kamikazes have sunk or damaged 128 vessels, including 17 carriers and five battleships.)

Jan 12-

March 11 All has been quiet. Manila secured and open to ships. [Japanese] resistance decreases. We land on islands commanding San Bernardino Stts. now Mindoro?????. Few raids by [Japanese] planes – many shot down. To Nasugbu. Manila refuges are quite hospitable & very Spanish.

200 tons ammo discharged.

Mar 13 Back yesterday to Subic Bay where stpd before.

Mar 27 Dept. Subic for Lemery, later to Batangas.

Mar 31 Entered Manila Bay.

Ap 3 Dept Manila Bay.

Ap 3 Arrived Batangas Bay. Batangas at 1535. Fast trip. A relief to clear mined harbor.

4/6/45 Batangas to Subic.

4/15/45 Subic to Manila

4/21 Manila to Lemery

4/22 to 4/24 Lemery to Legaspi

4/25 to 4/26 Legaspi to Manila

5/3 - 5/4 Manila to Legaspi

5/6//5/	7 Legaspi to Tacloban (San Pedro Bay)
6/7/45	Under repair in dry dock & top overhaul main engines
6/15/4	5 Repairs complete
6/18	To Batangas thru San Juanico Sts.
6/22	To Manila
7/5	To San Frenando
7/6	To Abulog
7/10	To San Fernando. 00 troops & convoy 9 LCMs
7/12	To San Fabian
7/13	To Damortis (in Lingayen Gulf)
7/14	To San Fabian
7/18	To Aparri load ammo & Es.y supply.
7/19	First ship to enter Cagayan River since 1941 (Except Jap). Unloading cargo.
7/21	Planted off shore a bit Aparri? By conrete blocks ridled 6 1 /2 ton each for mooring buoy for D.E To D. Fueled four navy ships.
7/22	Depart for Abalogu (Abulug???) to load hospital for further trans to Base M (Base M is possibly Army Base M at Poro Point, San Fernando north out of Lingayen Gulf, later becoming Wallace Air Station (former now).)
7/22	Loaded 35 tons med. Supplies and 38 passengers departed for San Fernando 1900
7/23	Passed through cyclone. Wind 35K all troops ill. Arrived 6 hours late in Base M. Radio out.
7/24	Discharged cargo and troops. To long on rations "B". Watered
7/26	Completed loading 300 tons. Took fuel 1800 departed for Aparri.
7/27	Arrived Apparri (Aparri), entered river began discharge.

7/28	Backloading & discharge comp. (oil drums 1200). 3 passengers aboard for Base M. $$
7/29	Completed backload. Fueled PC. 3 yms. 1800 dept. Apparri.
7/30	Arrived Base M. Moved to dock. Began discharge.
7/31	Continuing discharge.
8/1	Began loading PX, pumps, Rations, Jeep, tonnage: 218 tons
8/2	1300 departed Base M
8/3	0800 entered Apparri. 1100 entered river began discharge.
8/4 mail.	1130 completed discharge. 1700 departed for Base M. 1 pass., 1 ton
8/5	Arrived Base M.
8/6	Departed M and arrive San Fabian. Began taking water.
8/8	Began taking POL 1200 drums for Aparri. 180 tons.
8/9	Returned to Base M.
8/10	Departed Base M.
8/11	Arrived Apparri. Discharged.
8/12	Departed Apparri.
8/13	Arrived San Fernando.
8/14	Departed Base M

08/14/1945 Japan surrenders after a tearful Emperor Hirohito orders the Supreme War Council to "endure the unendurable."

8/15 Standing in to Subic Bay when VJ day was announced. All ships firing flares & rockets. Remain Subic to draw supplies and make minor repairs.

8/ Left Subic for Manila

8/

8/24	Left Manila for San Fernando.
8/25	Arrived San Fernando.
8/25	Loading lumber #2
8/26	Departed San Fern.
8/29	Arrived Agusan Mindinoa 680 miles, 230 tons cargo
9/1	Departed Augusan
9/3	Arrived Manila 540 miles, 25 tons
End of Trans	script

Addendum:

FS-366-- On her return to Manila her Coast Guard crew was taken off and she was decommissioned on 22 September 1945. A Philippine crew relieved the Coast Guard men.

FS-394---LTJG C.F. Mashburn, USCGR became commanding officer on 29 September 1945. She was assigned to and operated in the Pacific area.