



HISTORY
of the
U.S.S. HOPE (AH 7)

COMMISSIONED 15 AUGUST, 1944

A "SHELL-BACK" is a creature hardened by the sea, able to stand the shock of work and weather. The Hope, having crossed the Equator twenty-two times taking patients to New Guinea and the Admiralties, has a real crew of "Shell-backs" aboard. To each one the Captain says "Well done", . . . and best wishes for a happy cruise through life.

ALBERT E. RICHARDS, Commander, USNR

HISTORY OF U.S.S. HOPE (AH7)

- 15 Aug 1944 USS HOPE (AH7) commissioned at US Naval Drydocks, Terminal Island, California by Captain Schuyler F. HEIM, USN, Commander of the Naval Operating Base.
- Commander Albert E. RICHARDS, USNR, assumed command of the HOPE, Lieutenant Commander Elmer C. HURLEY, USNR, Executive Officer.
- 23 Aug 1944 215th Hospital Ship Complement, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas B. PROTZMAN (MC), USA, reported aboard for duty with 17 male officers, 38 nurses, 2 Red Cross workers and 447 enlisted men.
- 27 Aug 1944 Open-house held on the ship. More than 3,000 people inspected the ship at the USN Drydocks, Terminal Island, California.
- 30 Aug to 13 Sep 1944 Builder trials and shakedown standardization trials.
- 23 Sep 1944 USS HOPE sailed from San Pedro, California at 0800.
- 29 Sep 1944 After uneventful journey ship arrived at Pearl Harbor, T. H.
- 5 Oct 1944 After 4 days availability for minor repairs and adjustments, ship left Pearl Harbor, T. H. for Guadalcanal.
- 9 Oct 1944 Orders changed underway, new destination, Manus, Admiralty Islands.
- 10 Oct 1944 Davy Jones came aboard for Shellback initiation.
- 17 Oct 1944 Arrived Manus Island in the Admiralty Group. Found that Fleet, destined for the invasion of the Philippine Islands, had recently left Manus.
- 18 Oct 1944 HOPE sailed from Manus in wake of Invasion Fleet, with Kossol Passage in the Palau Group as destination.
- 21 Oct 1944 Arrived at Kossol Passage.
- Lying off island of Babelthuap in the Palau Group the hospital received a few patients and gave medical and dental treatment for personnel from ships in the anchorage.
- 21 Oct to 5 Nov 1944 While at anchor, Kossol Roads, witnessed daily bombing and strafing of Japanese forces on Babelthuap and bombardment by PT boats and LCI gunboats.
- 5 Nov 1944 The HOPE sailed from Kossol Passage.
- 7 Nov 1944 Arrived Leyte Gulf in the Philippine Islands. During the following two days 447 patients were admitted to the hospital. The HOPE waited until

9 November when sailed leaving behind 200 wounded soldiers from front lines on Leyte who could not be evacuated due to rain and impassability of roads.

- 9 Nov 1944 Ship sailed from Leyte Gulf for Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, N. G.
- 13 Nov 1944 Arrived at Hollandia, New Guinea, where patients were discharged to various Army and Navy Hospitals.
- 14 Nov 1944 Departed from Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea.
- 17 Nov 1944 Arrived again at Kossol Passage, Palau Group.
- 21 Nov 1944 Left Kossol Passage for forward battle area.
- 23 Nov 1944 Arrived at Leyte Gulf, P. I. Embarked 602 patients. Departed same day for Hollandia, New Guinea.
- 27 Nov 1944 Arrived at Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea, where the patients were discharged to various hospitals.
- 29 Nov 1944 Embarked 120 nurses for Leyte.
- 30 Nov 1944 Departed from Hollandia, N. G. for Philippines.
- 3 Dec 1944 Exhaust smoke from sub-surface vessel sighted at 1000 astern of the HOPE. Presumed to be from a sub equipped with "Schnorkel" for underwater operation, which was shadowing the HOPE.
- 120 Army Nurses aboard as passengers. Enroute to Leyte, P. I. Japanese plane approached ship off coast of Mindanao and attacked with aerial torpedo. Attack was unsuccessful as torpedo missed ship. The plane did not close in for strafing attack. Attack took place at 1600 in full sunlight.
- 4 Dec 1944 Arrived Leyte Gulf, P. I. Discharged 120 nurse passengers.
- 6 Dec 1944 Departed Leyte Gulf with 655 patients aboard. At 1900 while 50 miles south of Tacloban and fully illuminated in accordance with international requirements, attacked by Jap plane which dropped a bomb off starboard beam.
- 11 Dec 1944 Arrived Manus Island in Admiralty Group, discharging 654 patients to Base hospitals.
- 13 Dec 1944 Ship left Manus for the Philippines.
- 18 Dec 1944 Arrived Leyte Gulf, P. I.
- 19 Dec 1944 Departed Leyte Gulf, P. I. with 708 patients aboard.
- 23 Dec 1944 Arrived at Hollandia in New Guinea with 705 patients aboard.
- 24 Dec 1944 Ship left Hollandia for the Philippines.
- 25 Dec 1944 (Christmas Day) ... Distress signals received during day.

Shortly after midnight 4 Army Flyers whose plane had crashed thirty hours previously, were picked up at sea.

- 26 Dec 1944 Four men, the crew of a C46 transport plane, which had been en route from Finschafen to Biak and got lost, recovered at 0200. Their "Mae West" distress transmitter was heard for 220 miles and bearings taken, which led us to the downed fliers in their two rubber rafts after they had been floating around for 30 hours.
- 28 Dec 1944 Arrived at Leyte Gulf, P. I. with four fliers aboard.
- 1 Jan 1945 Left Leyte Gulf with 313 patients aboard.
- 5 Jan 1945 Arrived at Hollandia, New Guinea, with 312 patients aboard.
- 15 Jan 1945 The HOPE left Hollandia for the Philippines.
- 19 Jan 1945 Ship arrived at Leyte Gulf, P. I.
- 1 Feb 1945 Loaded 691 patients and departed for Hollandia.
- 5 Feb 1945 Arrived at Hollandia and discharged patients.
- 8 Feb 1945 Left Hollandia for Philippines.
- 12 Feb 1945 Arrived Leyte Gulf, P. I.
- 16 Feb 1945 Ordered to take route through Surigao Straits and northward to Luzon, P. I. with 246 nurses.
- 16 Feb 1945 Ship arrived at Subic Bay, just as Paratroops were being landed on Corregidor. LST brought casualties from Corregidor and the HOPE received 574 patients. Discharged 150 nurses to Army Hospital, Subic Bay.
- 19 Feb 1945 Ship left Subic Bay for Lingayen Gulf.
- 20 Feb 1945 The HOPE arrived Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, P. I. Debarked remaining nurses and loaded 146 more patients.
- 21 Feb 1945 Ship left Lingayen Gulf, having been the first hospital ship in the Luzon area during the war, with 720 patients aboard.
- 28 Feb 1945 Arrived in Hollandia, New Guinea and discharged 716 patients.
- 1 Mar 1945 Left for Philippines.
- 5 Mar 1945 Arrived in Leyte Gulf, P. I. and loaded 761 patients.
- 6 Mar 1945 Departed with patients for Finschafen, N. G.
- 12 Mar 1945 The HOPE arrived at Finschafen and debarked 761 patients.
- 15 Mar 1945 The HOPE left Finschafen for Ulithi in the Caroline Group. En route an overnight stop was made at Manus in the Admiralties.

20 Mar 1945 Arrived fleet anchorage at Ulithi in Carolines for Okinawa invasion.

5 Apr 1945 54th Portable Surgical Unit, U. S. Army, transferred to USS HOPE from USS MERCY. Three doctors and 26 enlisted men.

9 Apr 1945 Ship ordered to leave fleet anchorage at Ulithi in the Carolines for Okinawa in company with the USS SAMARITAN.

13 Apr 1945 The HOPE reached Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands. Heavy bombardment of the island was in progress by battleships, cruisers and destroyers offshore. Ship stayed at Okinawa four days during this trip, sailing at night from the combat area, fully illuminated, returning to port in the morning.

17 Apr 1945 Ship left Okinawa with 646 patients, many from ships which had been hit by Kamikaze planes.

22 Apr 1945 The HOPE arrived at Saipan with 640 patients aboard. Debarking patients immediately, the ship left the same day for Okinawa.

26 Apr 1945 Arrived at Okinawa. Bombardment offshore and fighting ashore still severe. On evening of 27 April shore battery opened fire on shipping. Shells fell within 100 yards of ship. Captain ordered ship underway, and within eight minutes the crew had the HOPE on its way to northern end of anchorage. During night a ship, anchored close by, the CANADA VICTORY, was hit by a Kamikaze plane. The ship, loaded with ammunition, was sunk immediately before it exploded, and only 3 of the 97 crew members were lost. Many of the survivors were brought aboard the HOPE. The COMFORT, 60 miles away, was hit this night by a Kamikaze plane.

29 Apr 1945 The HOPE was ordered to Kerama Retto. The USS PINKNEY (APH2) had been hit by a Kamikaze plane. The PINKNEY had patients aboard. 250 patients were loaded by the HOPE and the ship departed for Okinawa.

1 May 1945 The ship left Okinawa, trailed by destroyer which was to pick up survivors in case the HOPE met a fate similar to that of the COMFORT. Trip proved uneventful. 448 patients aboard.

5 May 1945 The HOPE arrived at Saipan in the Marianas with 446 patients.

6 May 1945 Departed Saipan for Okinawa.

10 May 1945 Arrived at Okinawa. Many patients from ships which were sunk or damaged on the "Picket Line". 186 Jap planes had been splashed during our stay at Okinawa.

12 May 1945 Loaded with 676 patients, the HOPE left Okinawa.

16 May 1945 The ship arrived at Guam in the Marianas, discharging 675 patients.

19 May 1945 Left Guam for the Philippines.

23 May 1945 The HOPE arrived in Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.

- 1 Jun 1945 Departed from Leyte Gulf, arriving at Manila, Luzon, P. I., on 3 June.
- 5 Jun 1945 With 669 patients aboard, the HOPE sailed from Manila for Netherland East Indies.
- 10 Jun 1945 Ship arrived at Biak, N.E.I., debarking 669 patients. Left next day for Philippines, stopping overnight at Wuxudl Island.
- 16 Jun 1945 The HOPE arrived at Manila, Luzon, P. I.
- 24 Jun 1945 The ship sailed with 635 patients aboard.
- 29 Jun 1945 Arrived at Biak in the N.E.I. and debarked 635 patients. Sailed same day from Biak with Borneo as destination.
- 3 Jul 1945 The HOPE arrived at Tarakan Island, off the coast of Borneo, to assist, if needed, in invasion of Balikpapan.
- 9 Jul 1945 Ship left Tarakan, an Australian hospital ship having arrived and removed patients, making it no longer necessary for the HOPE to stand by for Australian casualties.
- 11 Jul 1945 Arrived at Morotai, N.E.I.
- 17 Jul 1945 Left Morotai for the Philippines.
- 19 Jul 1945 The HOPE arrived at Tacloban, Leyte, P. I. Remained in Leyte Gulf until 9 August 1945 when 125 personnel, including 63 nurses of an Army General Hospital, were loaded for transportation to Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, P. I.
- 9 Aug 1945 Left Leyte Gulf for northern Luzon.
- 12 Aug 1945 The ship reached San Fernando, Luzon, P. I. in Lingayen Gulf where medical personnel were discharged the same day and the ship was underway again.
- 13 Aug 1945 The HOPE arrived in Manila Bay, Luzon, P. I.
- 15 Aug 1945 PRESIDENT TRUMAN ANNOUNCED THAT JAPAN HAD SURRENDERED. This was the Anniversary of the Commissioning of the Ship and reason for double celebration.
- 20 Aug 1945 Having embarked some 400 personnel of the 364th Station Hospital, including 63 nurses, the ship sailed for Okinawa with Japan her ultimate destination.
- 23 Aug 1945 The HOPE arrived at Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands.
- 20 Sep 1945 The ship left Okinawa for Nakanoura Wan, Wakayama, Honshu, Japan.
- 22 Sep 1945 The HOPE arrived at Wakanoura Wan, Wakayama, Japan. Began to unload cargo and personnel of the 364th Station Hospital on 2 October 1945. Kept nurses aboard until 17 October 1945. Received 80 patients from local ships at this time.