

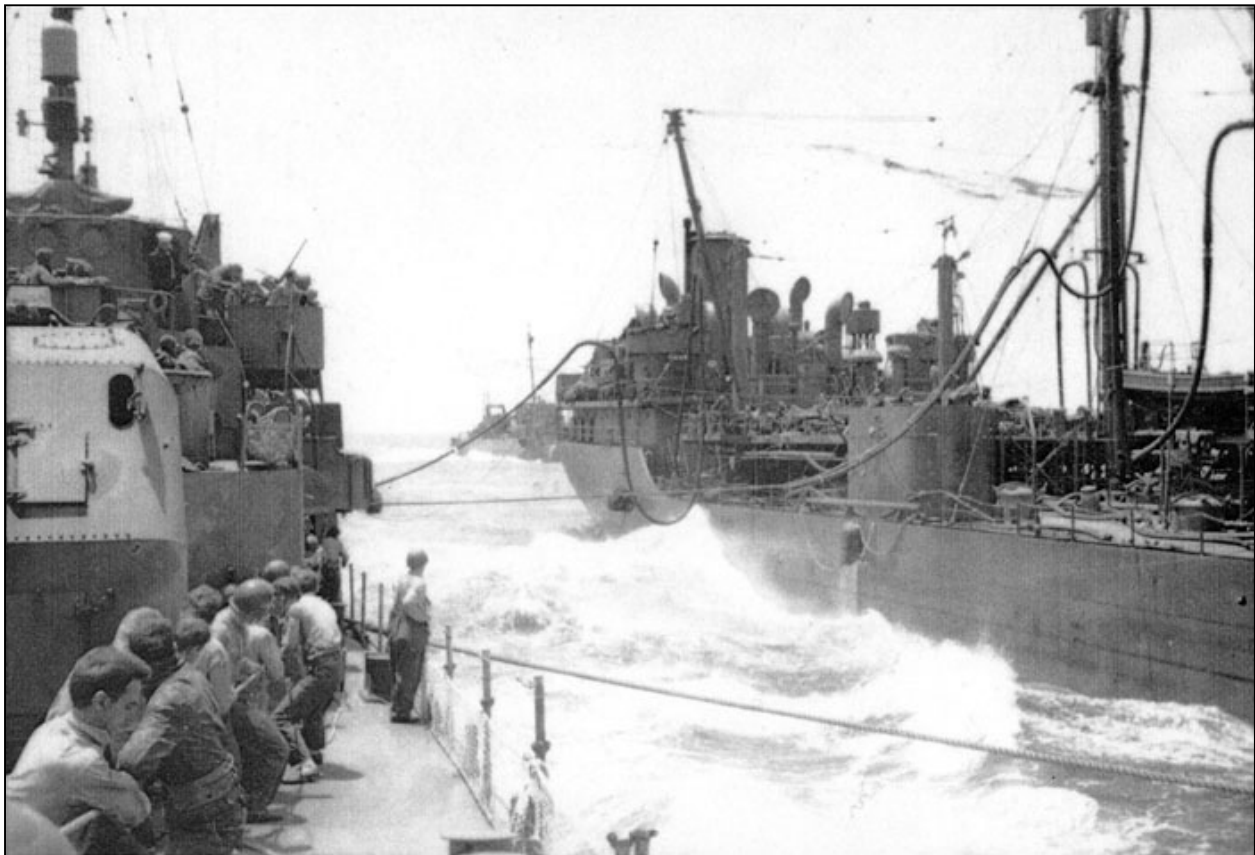
IV. HIROHITO SURRENDERS

War is Declared Over

August 15, 1945

At 8:00 am word was received that Washington officially declared the war was over. Emperor Hirohito finally had accepted surrender terms. Our whole transport division was then en route to Honshu, Japan. We were joining the rest of the Third Fleet to participate in the surrender and occupation of Japan.

August 19, 1945

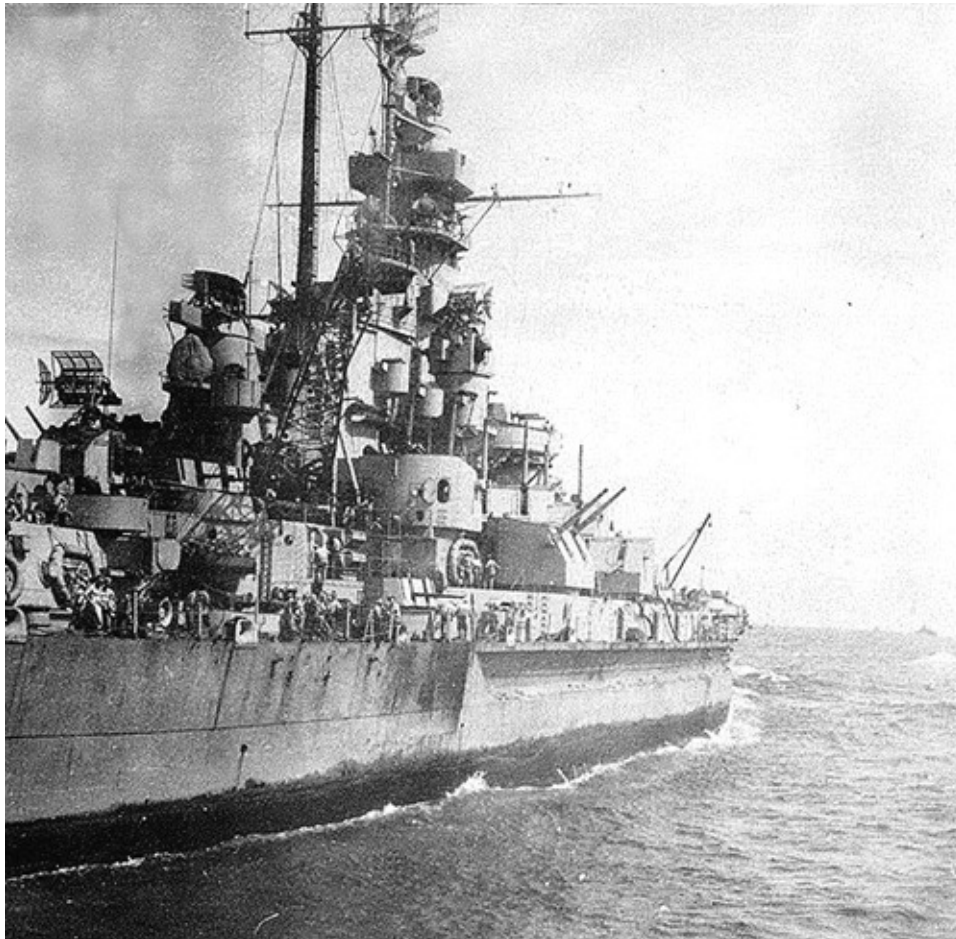


USS Pavlic refueling at sea

Our transport division was refueling from the **USS Cassetot** (AO 77) as we were sailing up to Honshu, Japan. The picture above shows Pavlic refueling at sea from such a tanker. Sometimes there would be a ship on either side of the tanker taking on fuel. In the background you can see another APD waiting her turn to come alongside the tanker. The crew is hauling on the rope to haul one fuel line aboard. It appears the rear fuel line is already aboard, but the same technique would be used to keep it taut while fueling is taking place. It gets pretty chancy if the seas get too rough.

August 20, 1945

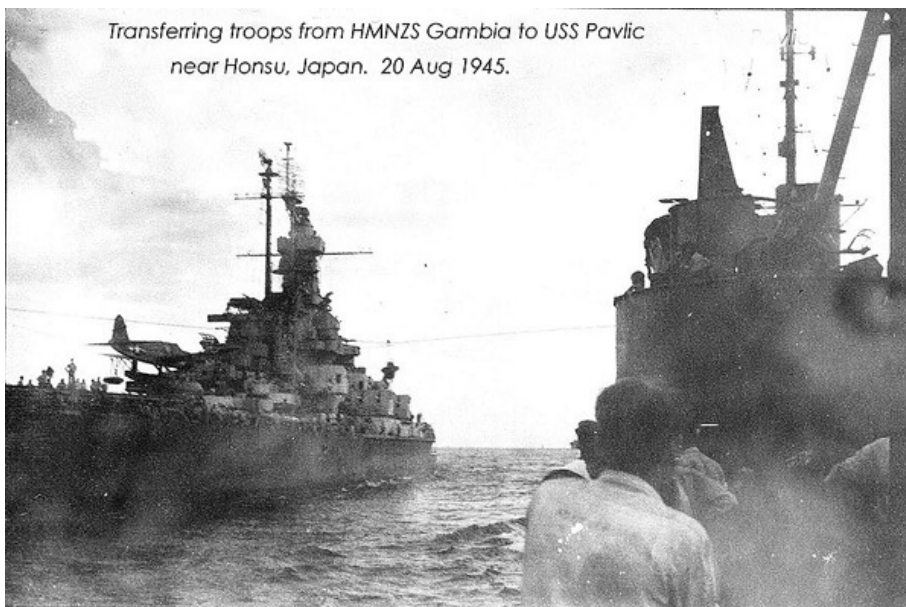
At 10:15 am we made preparations to load troops from **HMS Newfoundland** and



HMNZS Gambia, two British Colony-Class cruisers. The troops were British and Australian/New Zealand Royal Marines (ANZACS was a term used at the time). We took aboard 15 officers and 155 enlisted men. I believe I was on watch at the time and didn't actually witness the procedure. I believe the ship pictured left is the Gambia.

In the picture below, you can see a man in a boson's chair, suspended on a line between ships, just starting to be pulled across.

It's hard to believe we took aboard 155 men this way, but that appears to have been the case. We



had them aboard for the next 11 days, which made for a pretty crowded ship. We got along fine but they certainly did a job on our deck paint with their hobnail boots while doing calisthenics.

A closer look shows him coming across with his rifle and other gear.



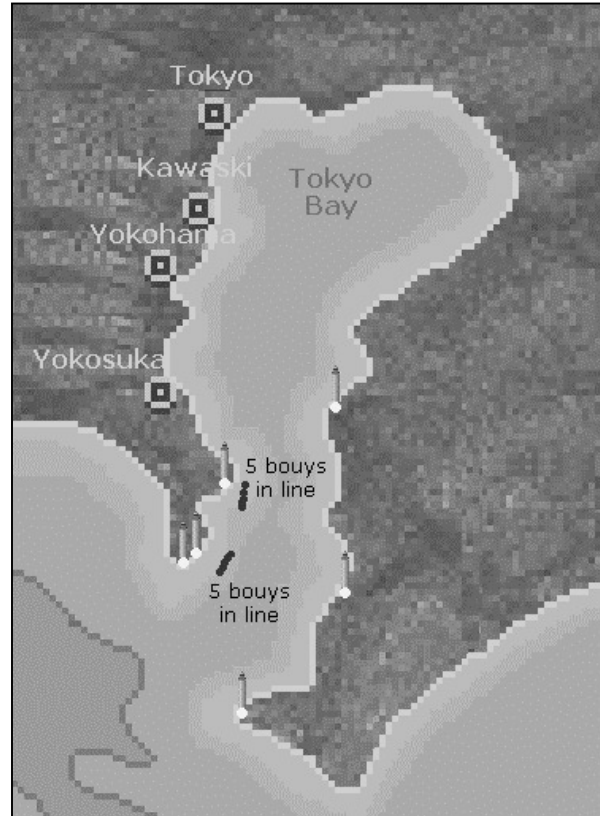
August 28, 1945

We anchored in berth 100 in Sagami Wan, Honshu, Japan, not far from the entrance to Tokyo Bay. The picture below of other destroyer escorts in our squadron was taken that evening.



#A1. APD'S in Sagami Bay, Japan, August 28, 1945. Mt. Fuji in the Background.

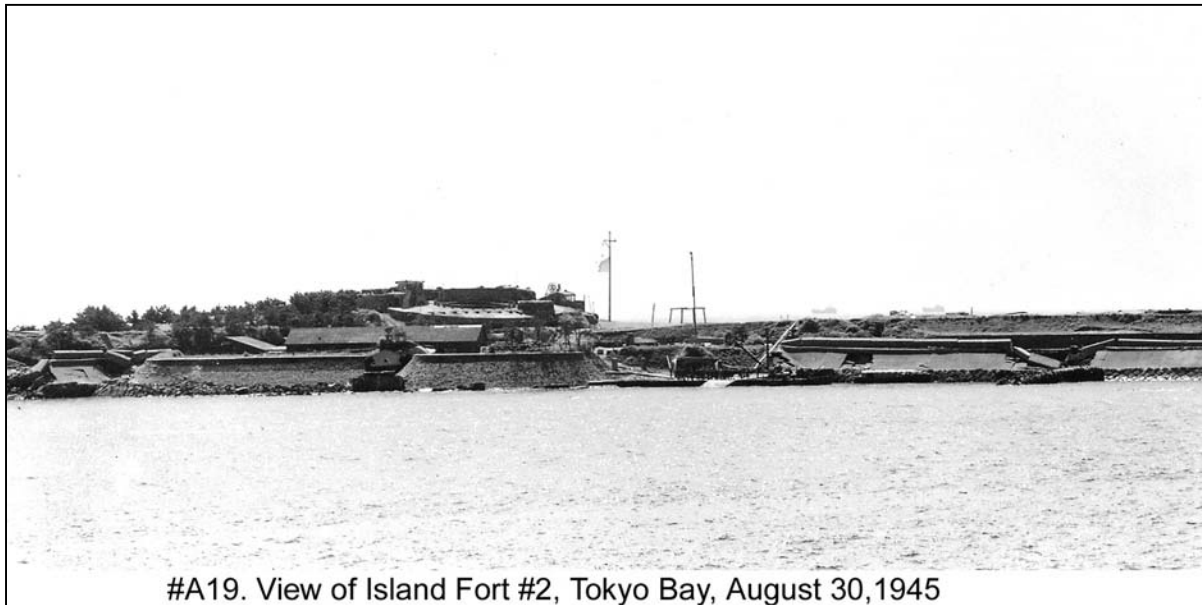
To get a picture of the layout of the region I have added a rough map. To the left of the entrance to Tokyo Bay, a wider bay opens out which is called Sagami Wan, or Sagami Bay. This is where we were anchored as shown above with Mt Fuji in the background while we were waiting for orders to go into Tokyo Bay. At the right side of the initial entrance to Tokyo bay is a smaller bay shaped like a right angle, called Tateyama Bay, which I will discuss later. As you go up into Tokyo Bay, near Yokosuka there was a fort called Fort #4, and further on in the middle of the bay was an island fort called Fort #2.



August 30, 1945

At 4:59 am we got underway for Tokyo Bay with orders to neutralize Fort #4 and Fort #2, both on islands in Tokyo Bay.

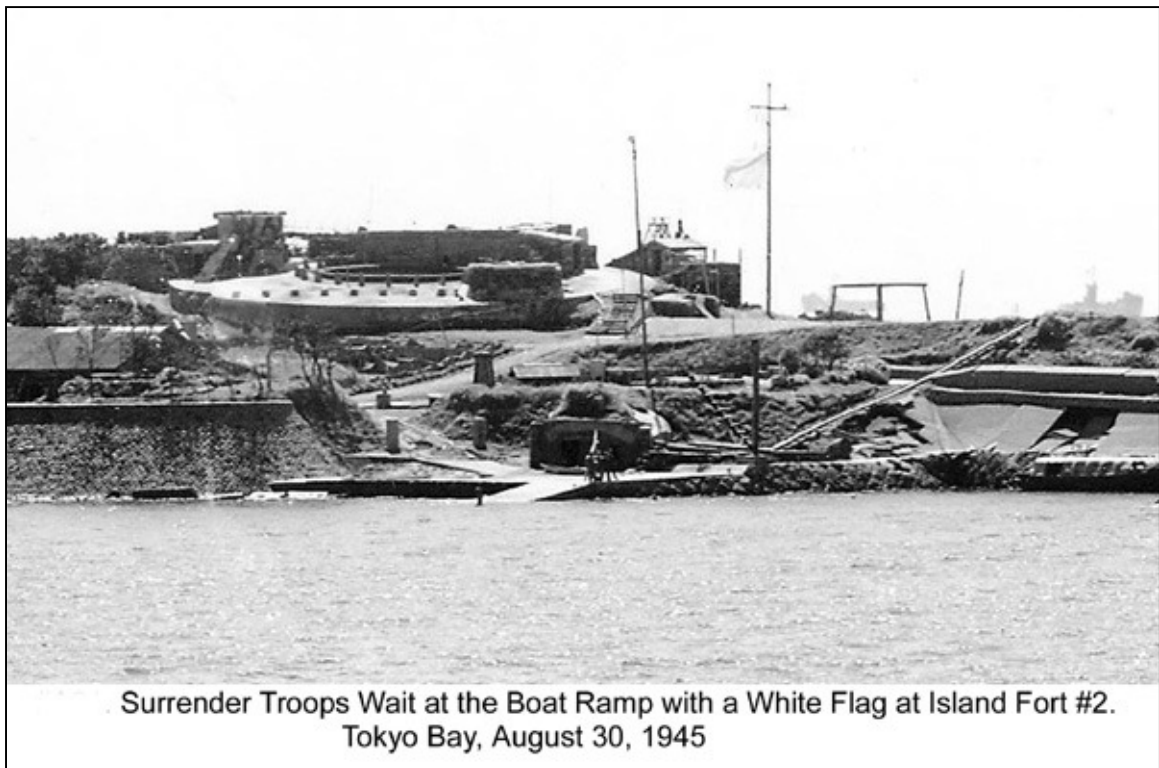
As we were entering Tokyo Bay and approaching Fort #4, close to Yokosuka Naval Base, all hands were at general quarters because no one knew how the Japanese were going to react. At 9:34 am two boatloads of British marines were under way for Fort #4. At 9:55 am we proceeded to Fort #2 on an island near the center of the bay. By 10:00 am we had word that Fort #4 was secured. By 10:16 am the other two boats were away with British marines to neutralize Fort #2, and we then anchored off Fort #2. The ship's camera went in the boats to Fort #2. Hence we have no pictures of Fort #4.



#A19. View of Island Fort #2, Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945



#A18. Preparing to Land Troops at Island Fort #2, Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945



Surrender Troops Wait at the Boat Ramp with a White Flag at Island Fort #2.
Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945

As the boats approached the island fort you could see the white surrender flag flying over it. There is also a small group of soldiers standing near the landing ramp with a surrender flag.



#83. This Japanese Surrender Committee Met the British and American Shore Party at the Dock at Fort #2, Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945

On landing at the boat ramp they found the four-man surrender committee waiting.

The British marines, shown left were apparently a seasoned group of guys who'd been at war for



#39. Royal Marines from HMNZS Gambia or HMS Newfoundland at the dock at Fort #2, an Island in Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945

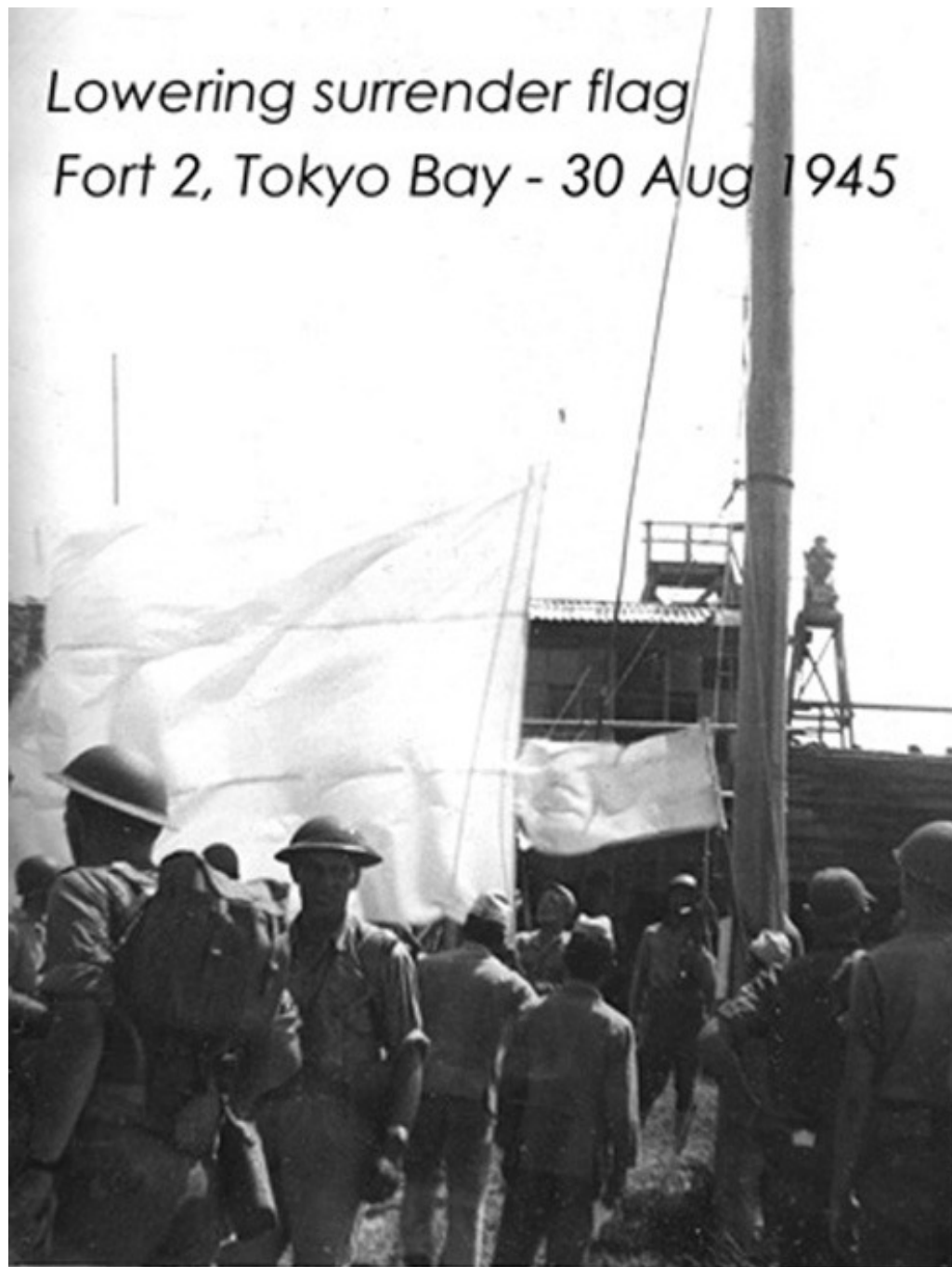
a good six years. In spite of their WW I steel helmets, you had to take them seriously. They really seemed to love the food we had on our ship—which we were not inclined to rate too highly. Actually, I thought it was ok except for the powdered milk and the coffee. They came ashore ready for trouble, but fortunately, there wasn't any.



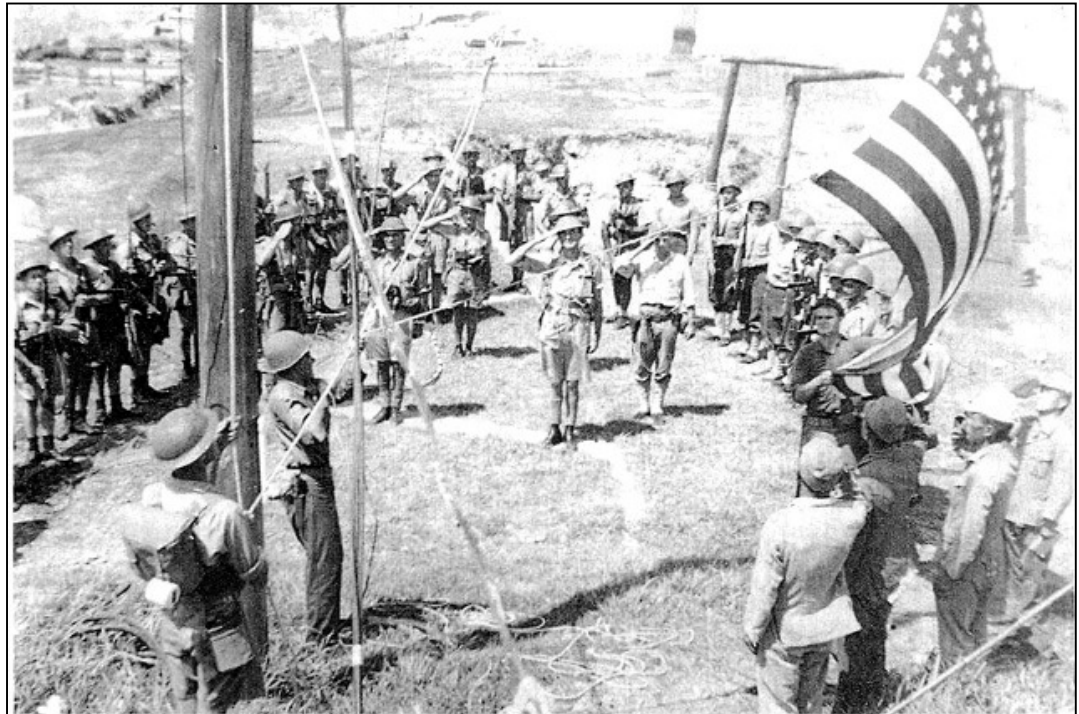
In addition to the boat crews, Pavlic's part of the landing party, shown above, was a group of volunteers, a mix of various ratings from gunner's mate to signalman to mailman. When they had asked for volunteers, they got lots of responses, but not from me. With the war over, I thought it would be silly to risk a sniper's bullet from some dedicated die-hard, unless there was a real need for me to get involved. Not pictured are our fellows in the boat crews, which also went ashore.

Pictured below is the formal surrender ceremony in which the big surrender flag is being lowered. This was supposed to be a surrender to the British landing party. However, the Japanese were willing to surrender to the Americans, not to the British. Consequently there was a hurried boat trip back to the ship to get an American flag. Everything then went smoothly and US colors were raised over Fort #2 shortly thereafter.

It wasn't as dramatic as the raising of the flag over Iwo Jima, but it was probably one of the first formal surrender ceremonies in the Tokyo area.

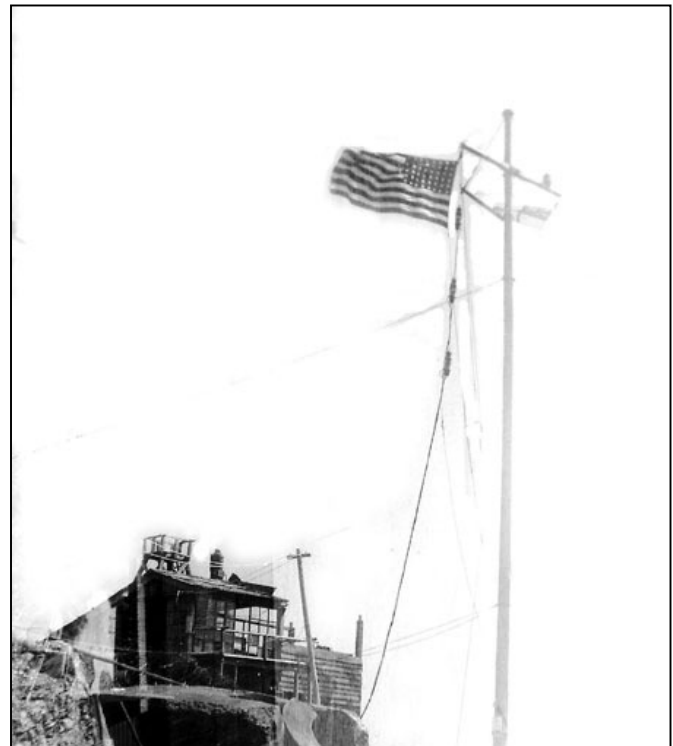


In the photo right, the British marines are arrayed to the left, our landing party plus some of the guys from the boat crews on the right, and the Japanese with their backs to the camera. The British officer was the senior man and Ensign George Miller is a step or two behind him.



Raising American Flag, Ft. #2, Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945.
(Japanese refused to surrender to the British.)

The final result.....
Our flag flying over Japanese Fort #2
on Okinawa. August 30, 1945

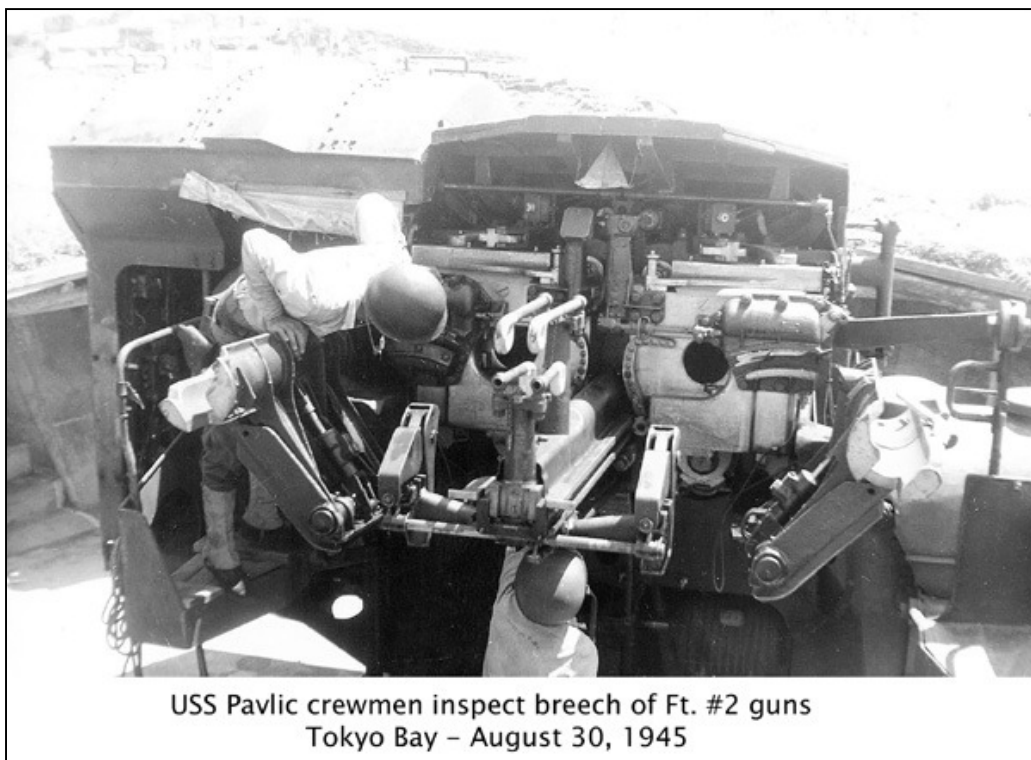
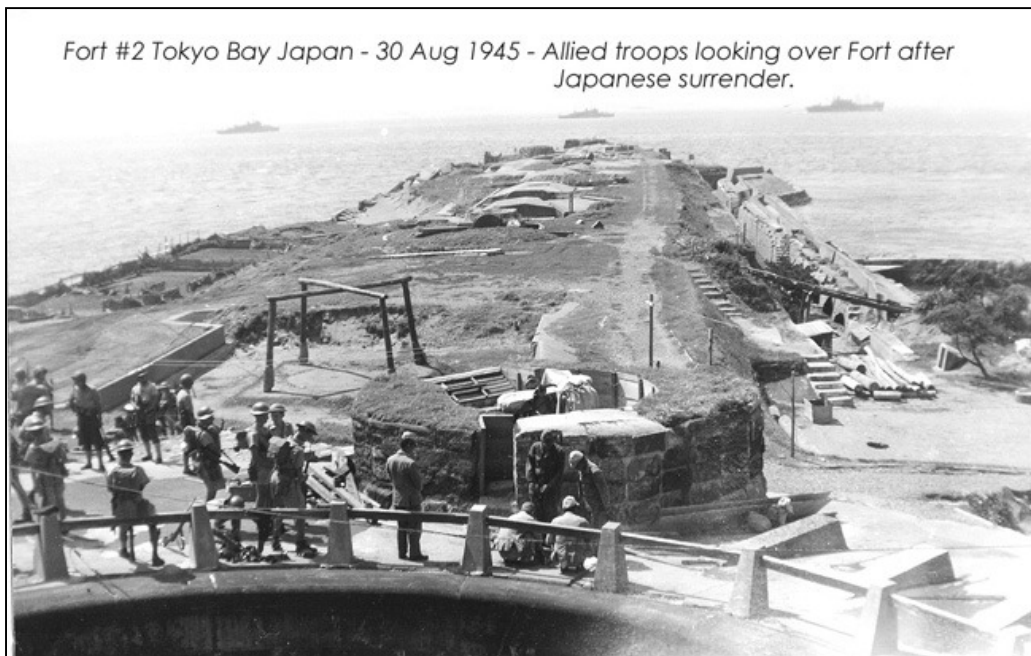


Our Flag flying over Fort #2, Tokyo Bay,
August 30, 1945

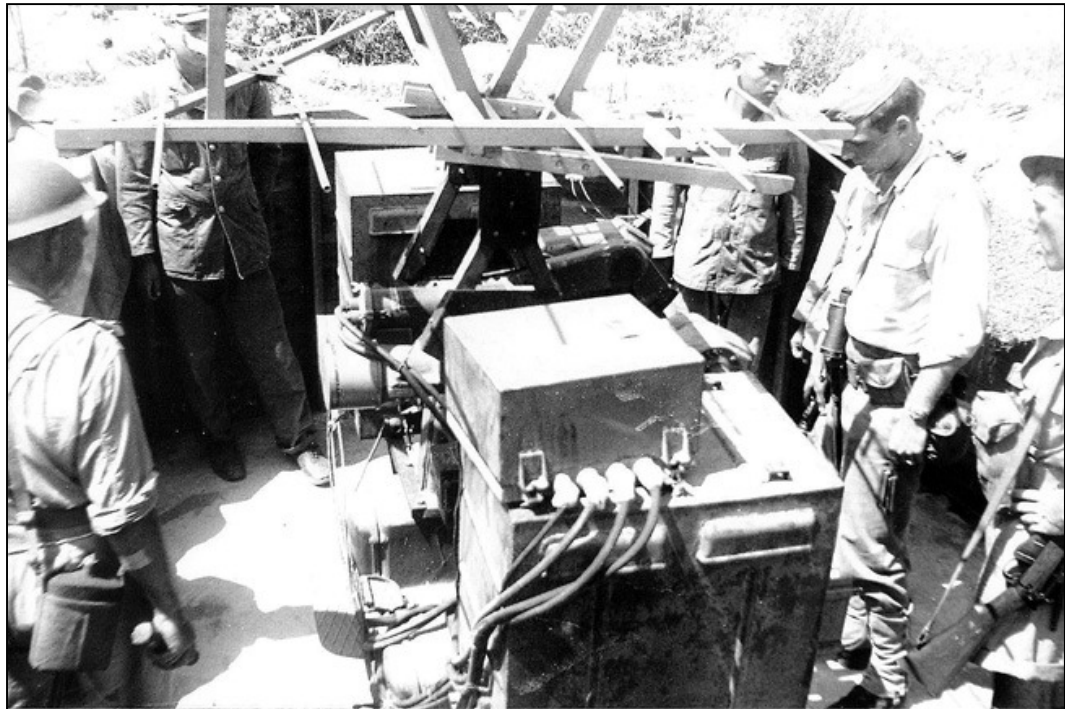
V. DISARMING THE TOKYO BAY FORTS

Ashore in Occupied Japan

I never was ashore at Fort #2 and never had any first-hand descriptions of the various elements of the fort. There were no descriptive notes with the photo negatives. However the following pictures, I think, are interesting. The above seems to have been taken from a gun emplacement. Disabling the guns was the primary purpose of our landing party.



I always assumed Japanese radar was inferior to ours, but I really don't know how good it was, or how this particular one was used.



Japanese Radar Equipment at Fort #2, Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945

The Japanese apparently had radar-controlled searchlights to track our planes coming over at night and illuminate them for the anti-aircraft gun crews.



Ken Mizell EM1c by a Japanese Radar Controlled Searchlight. Fort #2, Tokyo Bay, August 30, 1945

There were various pictures of our planes on the walls to help their men identify our aircraft raids



Japanese Identification Picture for an American P-38 Fighter Plane--at Gun Emplacement on Fort #2, Tokyo Bay

After returning all the Brits and the Japanese prisoners to the Pavlic, we got underway to Yokosuka Naval Base where we moored and transferred the British troops and Japanese prisoners to Asuma Shima, an island in Yokosuka harbor.



British-American shore party leave dock at Ft. #2 and prepare to return to the USS Pavlic with 4 Japanese soldiers.

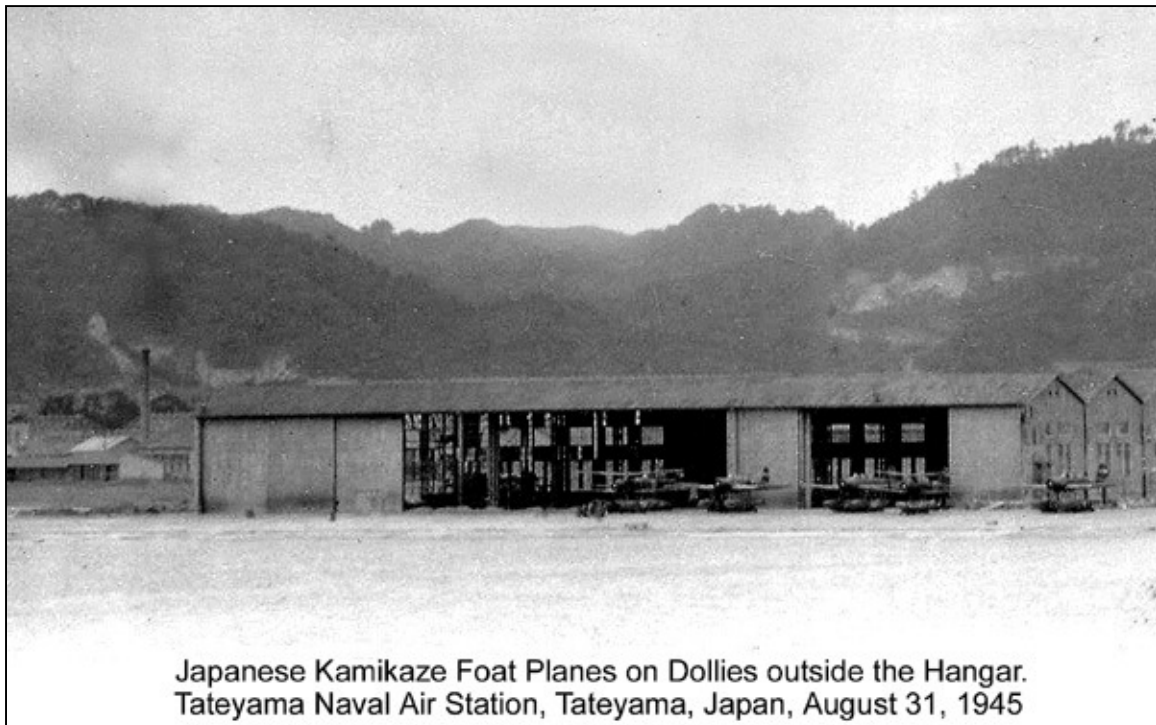
VI. SURRENDER AT TATEYAMA

August 31, 1945

The next morning we were moored at Yokosuka. At 10:30 am we now took aboard a US Marine landing force of 5 officers and 111 men. We immediately got underway for the Japanese Naval Air Station at Tateyama near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, arriving at 1:30 pm. We landed the marines without incident and anchored off shore.



Tateyama was a kamikaze base and several floatplanes were on the apron in front of some of the hangars on dollies, as shown in the photo below. I never have identified the particular make of these planes.



Closer views of the planes are shown below.

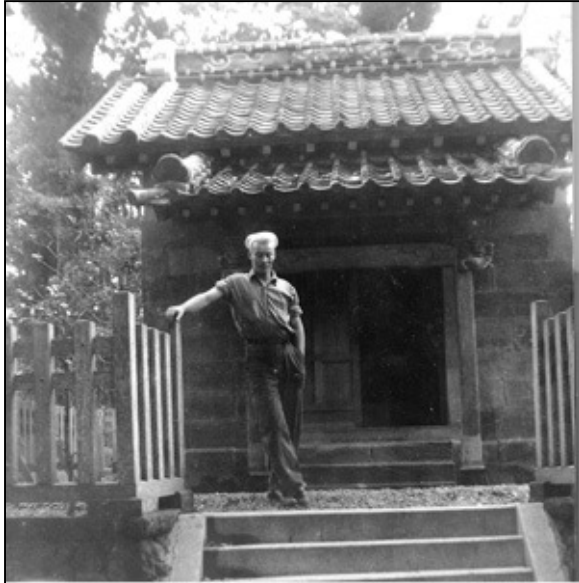


Four boatloads of Marines were put ashore, but we soon got an urgent message that they needed help. There was a whole Japanese army division that wanted to surrender, perhaps 10,000 men, and they needed a lot more manpower than 116 marines. The army

told them to accept the surrender and that they would send in additional troops. We were anchored there for the next couple of days while army reinforcements were brought in.



Arranging the Surrender at Tateyama Naval Air Station. They Found that a Whole Army Division (perhaps 10,000 men) Wanted to Surrender.

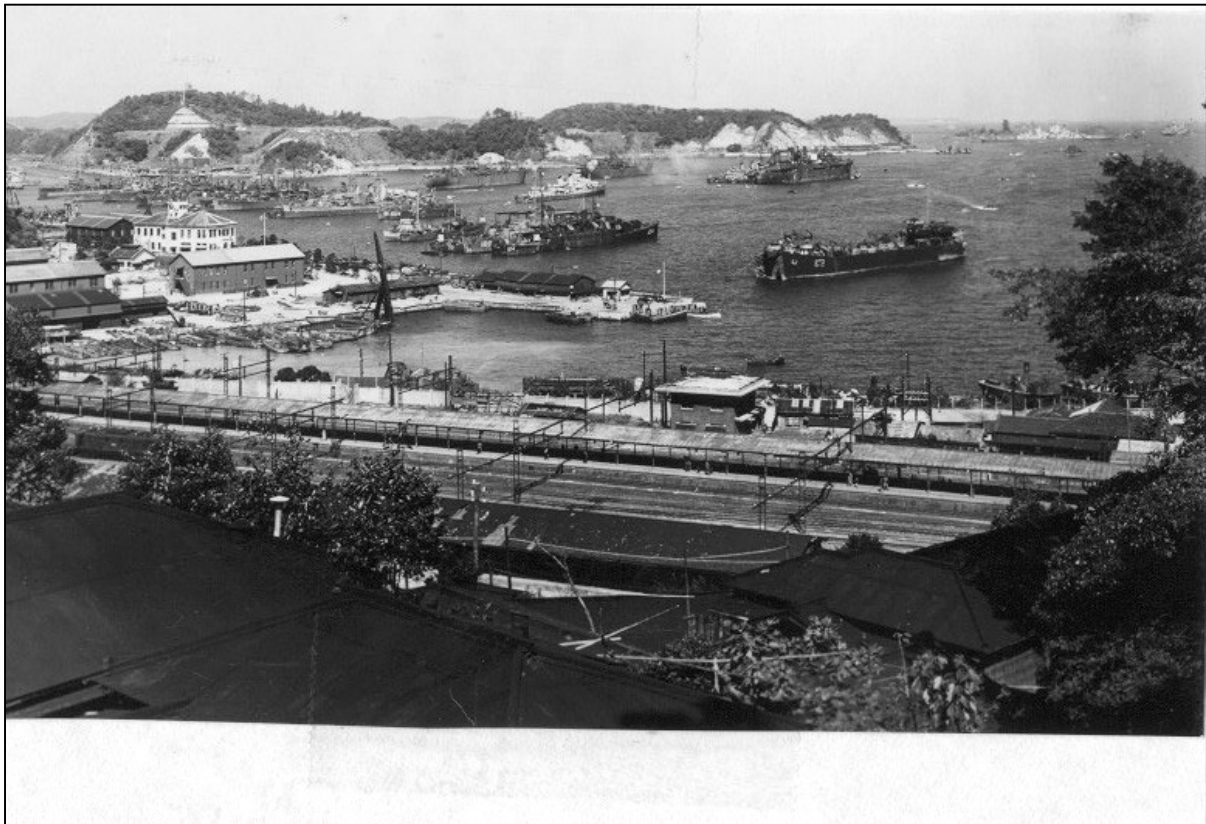


Clark Clugston MM3c outside the Kamikaze Shrine at Tateyama Naval Air Station, Japan

The reason I referred to the planes as kamikazes was because we did indeed find a kamikaze shrine there at the airbase. The individual shown below is Clark Clugston who took most, if not all, of the pictures on the ship's camera.

Meanwhile, on September 2nd, the formal surrender ceremonies were taking place aboard the USS Missouri on the other side of Tokyo Bay. The next day we took the Marines back to Yokosuka and we then became a temporary communications station and barracks ship for the port director at Yokosuka. In the picture below, Pavlic is the furthestmost of the three destroyer escorts (APD's) anchored in front of the white Port Director's building. Far out in the harbor you can see the pagoda-like superstructure of the last surviving Japanese battleship, the Nagato.

Below, in the top left background is the island of Asuma Shima where we dropped off the British troops. A better look at the Nagato in Yokosuka harbor is shown below, with the USS Missouri (BB 63) at the right.





#A10. Japanese Battleship Nagato (heavy pagoda tower), and USS Missouri in Yokosuka Harbor, Tokyo Bay, September, 1945.

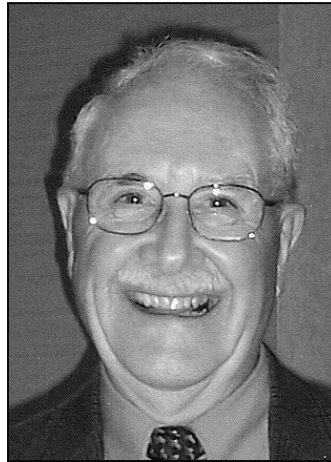
FINISHING UP AND THE TRIP HOME

We stayed in Japan for eight more months assisting in various ways at Yokosuka and Yokohama doing whatever the Navy needed in terms of help with the occupation. All of the Pavlic's crew had survived the war. On our return trip to the States, when we reached Eniwetok, we found that the battleship Nagato had been positioned there to be used as one of the targets in the upcoming atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll.

From Eniwetok we sailed to Hawaii, spent a few days, then went on to Long Beach, California. Many of the ship's officers and senior crew members had already left the ship in Japan which meant our trip home was accomplished with only a sprinkling of experienced people. As a result, I found I was in charge of the radio shack for the trip home. I was a radioman 2nd class and nineteen years old. We lost more experienced people when we arrived at the West coast. From Long Beach, we sailed on down through the Panama Canal and up to Philadelphia where the the rest of us remaining crew left the ship.

I started out like many of the men who served on the Pavlic, a small town kid, just out of high school, who had never been very far from home. I weighted in at 125 pounds and staggered under the weight of my bedroll and sea bag. I had survived Kamikaze attacks, mine fields, torpedo attacks, a bad typhoon, and I hadn't fallen overboard. I disembarked in Philadelphia in June 1946, 40 pounds heavier. I got on a train and headed home to Millinocket, Maine. The Pavlic was subsequently towed from Philadelphia to Green Cove Springs, Florida where it remained in the mothball fleet until it was scrapped in 1967.

VII. RALPH HARRIS BIOGRAPHY



This account of the Wartime Cruise of the USS Pavlic was written by Ralph Harris, a radioman on the ship. Ralph grew up in Millinocket, Maine. Upon graduation from high school in June 1944, he joined the Navy. He served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. After discharge from the service, Ralph attended Harvard University on the G.I. bill, obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Physics in 1950. Following graduation, he worked for Raytheon in Waltham, Massachusetts

for 2 years before attending the University of Wisconsin, obtaining a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1954. He met his first wife, Mildred Enerson, while attending the University of Wisconsin. After graduation, he accepted a position as an engineer at the Boeing Company in Seattle where he enjoyed a 35-year career. He worked on a number of projects, including: the Lunar Orbiter, the BOMARC Missile, and the AWACS programs. Ralph and his first wife had three children before she died in 1967. He married Carol Wilson in 1982. Ralph retired in 1990 from the Boeing Company. He and Carol live in Olympia, Washington where he is active in the local Lion's organization, his backyard garden, and in maintaining a large contingent of wild birds that visit his ample feeders. Ralph enjoys time with his son and two daughters, two stepsons, and eight grandsons. Photos of Ralph Harris were taken in 1944 at age 18 yrs. and in 2005 at age 79 yrs. (e-mail: ralph.harris1@comcast.net)

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