

The following photos were sent by Russell Weaver, the grandson of Russell Paul Rexrode, L Co, 35th Infantry Regiment, 1939 to 1941. Sgt Rexrode had many photos from his time in the Army, but they are mixed with his service time with the 35th and then the 81st Division. I have tried to separate out his 35th Infantry photos but one or two from the 81st might be included. The pictures are combined in groups:

Schofield Barracks

Christmas Menu 1939

Ships and Planes

Postcards of Hawaii

Beach and Landscape Photos

News Clippings Regarding Sgt Rexrode

Russell Paul Rexrode was born in Highlands County, VA in 1919. He spoke very little of his time in the service, so we are piecing it together the best we can with documentation he kept. He spoke fondly of his time in Hawaii and was very proud to have been a part of the color guard with the 35th. Carrying the flag was a great honor to him.

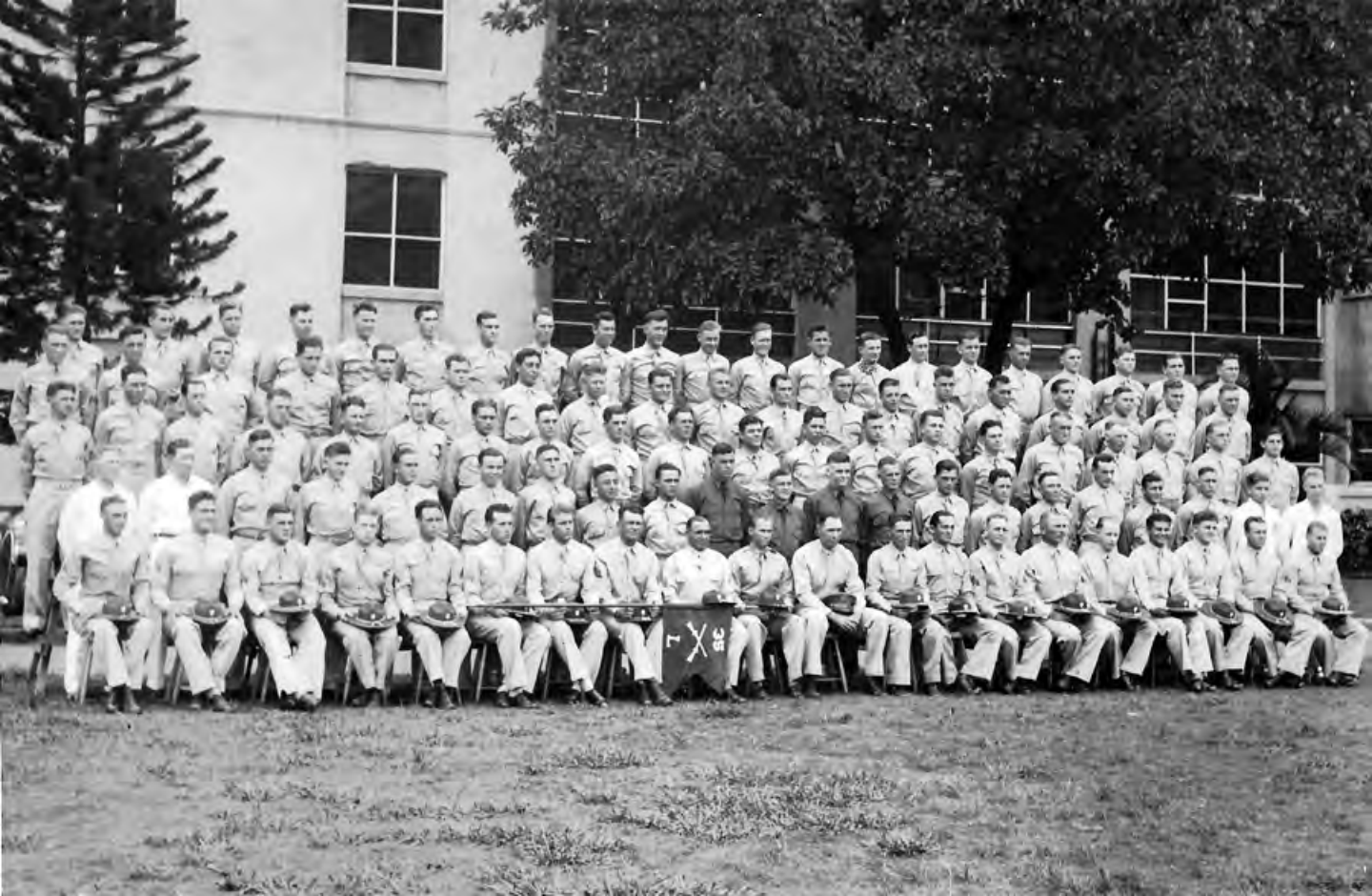
He would join the Army in March of 1939. I found a muster roll with his name as a Recruit passenger on the USS Republic transport ship leaving out of NY and several weeks later landing in Hawaii where he would join the 35th Infantry. He was with the 35th's L Company until the fall of 1941. I have his promotion certificate to the rank of Corporal with the 30th Infantry at Presidio of San Francisco. He told us that after he left Hawaii, he had to return for a short time to guard against possible Japanese invasion. The next record we have of him is his promotion certificate to Sgt with the 30th Infantry Anti-Tank CO at Ft. Lewis, Washington in April of 1942. From there he would go to Camp Rucker, AL in May or June of 1942 to serve with the 81st Division as the Anti-Tank platoon leader in HQ Co 2nd Bat 323rd. He remained with the 81st till the end of the war seeing action at Ulithi and Peleliu. He met my grandmother while at Camp Rucker, she grew up about 45 mins from Rucker. After the war, my grandparents would settle back in Lower AL where they lived until they passed away.

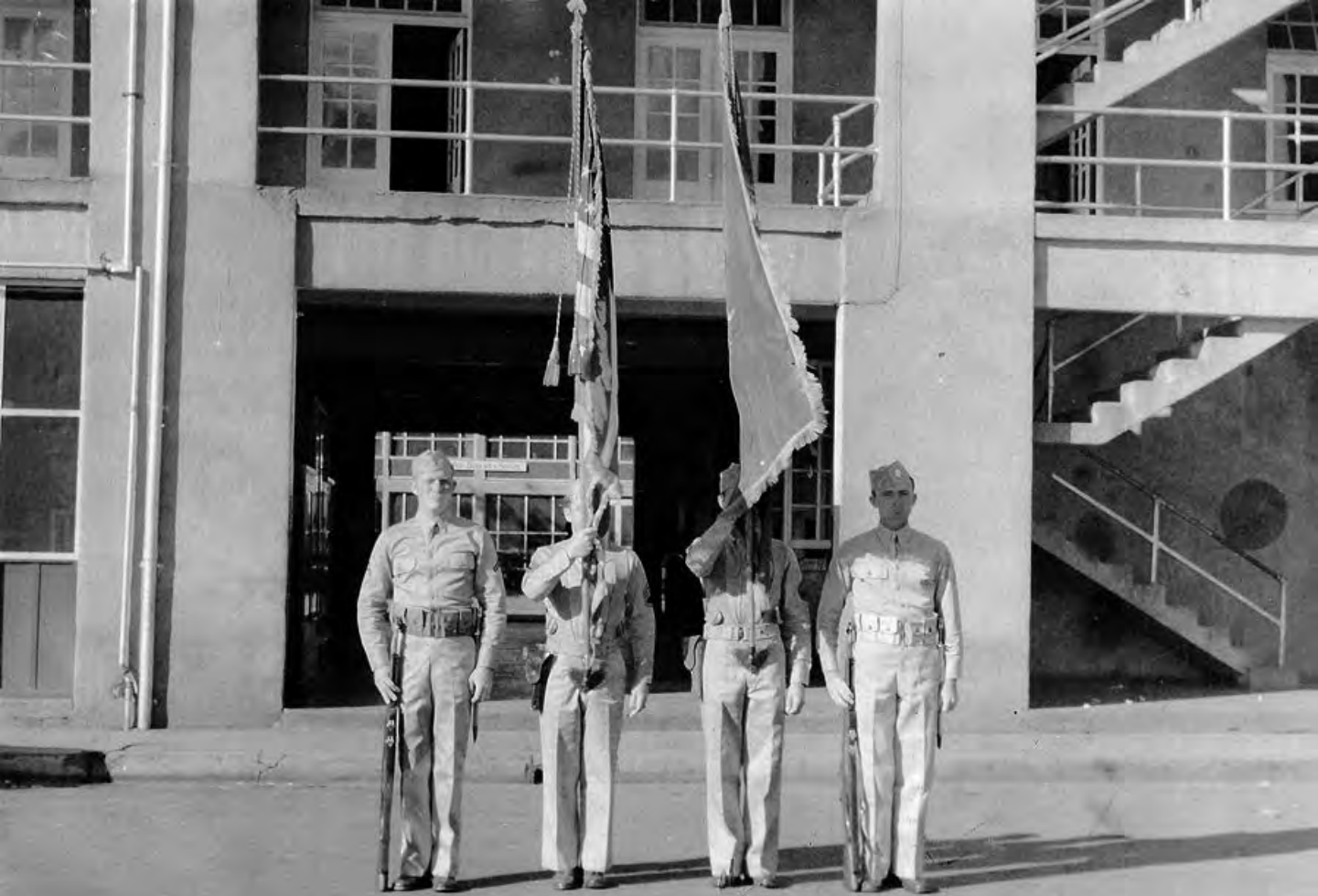
From the web:

The original name of the post was Ozark Triangular Division Camp, but before the camp was officially opened on 1 May 1942, the War Department named it Camp Rucker. The post was named in honor of Colonel Edmund W. Rucker, a Civil War Confederate officer, who was given the honorary title of "General," and who became an industrial leader in Birmingham after the war. Fort Rucker (situated on 58,000 acres (235 km²) of sub-marginal farmland, and formerly a wildlife refuge) was opened on 1 May 1942 as "Camp Rucker", and had quarters for 3,280 Officers and 39,461 Enlisted Personnel.

The 81st Infantry Division was reactivated for World War II service in June 1942 at Camp Rucker, Alabama. As in World War I, the division was filled primarily with inducted men. The division trained at locations in Tennessee, Arizona, and California before embarking for Hawaii in June 1944. After completion of amphibious and jungle training, the 81st Infantry Division departed for Guadalcanal in August 1944. There the division was attached to the III Marine Amphibious Corps reserve. In September 1944, the 321st and 322nd Infantry Regiment of the 81st Infantry Division performed a combat landing on Angaur Island as part of the operations to secure the Palau Islands chain. After finishing the battle of Angaur, the 81st Infantry Division was ordered to assist the 1st Marine Division in their efforts to seize Peleliu. The 81st Infantry Division eventually relieved the 1st Marine Division and assumed command of combat operations on Peleliu. The 81st Infantry Division remained engaged in the Battle of Peleliu until the end of organized Japanese resistance on 18 January 1945. In early February 1945, the 81st Infantry went to the Philippines to take part in mopping up operations on Leyte Island, and to prepare for the planned invasion of Japan. After the end of World War II, the 81st Infantry Division deployed to Aomori Prefecture in Japan as part of the Allied occupation force. The 81st Infantry Division was inactivated in Japan on 30 January 1946.























U.S.A.
W-34616

35th let 3









SCHOPFIELD RIFLE RANGE











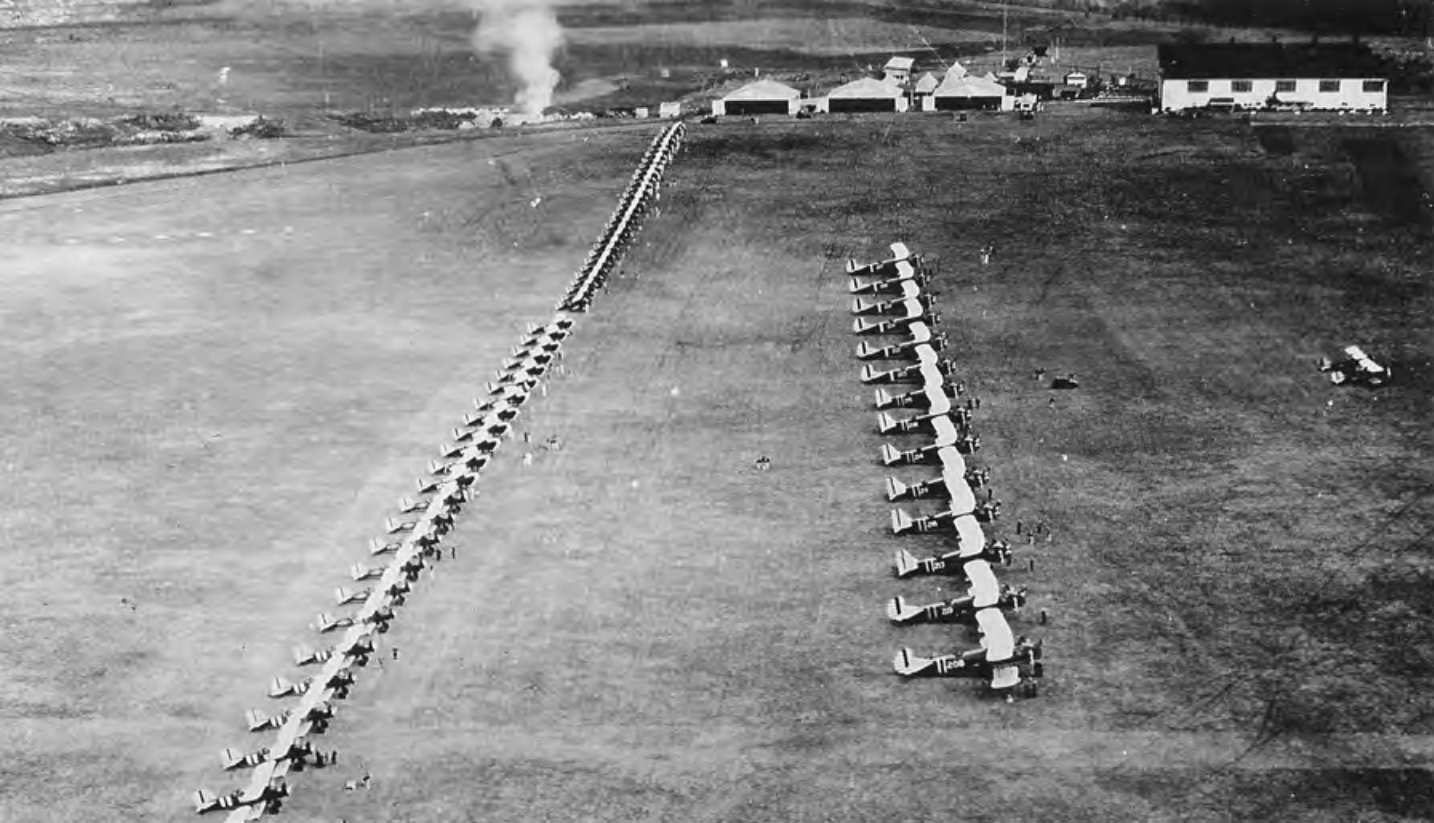
















Russell Rexrode with the 81st Division









Russell Paul Rexrode



RUSSELL
AND
SHIRLEY

DE MICK



DE MICK

CHOTIN
OF
GUNNER

BLACK

DE HILD

By

7X

LOHA - FOOT

LAST - DAY

HA HA NO MO

GDVS





"You Can't Take It With You" September 1938





35th Infantry



27th Infantry



21st Infantry



19th Infantry



Special

Troops



Hawaiian

Division



Quartermaster

Corps



11th Med. Reg.



8th Field Artillery



11th Field Artillery



13th Field Artillery



Chemical Bat.



3rd Engineers



18th Pursuit Group



Christmas with the Hawaiian Division
Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii





Maj. Gen. William H. Wilson
Com. Harv. Div.



COMPANY "L" 35TH INFANTRY

Schofield Barracks, T. H., December 25, 1939

CAPTAIN
H. L. Rogers, Jr., Commanding
FIRST LIEUTENANT
John G. Coughlin
FIRST SERGEANT
Lewis H. Nokes

SERGEANTS

J. H. Martin
P. Pyne
W. A. Strother
M. Velez
M. Vinich
F. E. Waguespack
P. Zarudny

MESS SERGEANT

B. P. Holmes
R. G. Johnson

SUPPLY SERGEANT

F. A. Kruse

COMPANY CLERK

J. Vida

CO. MECHANIC

F. Schroeder

CORPORALS

F. M. Baldwin
J. S. Bonkowski
R. E. Deland
D. Faligan
L. G. Long
E. J. Martin
W. Maslankowski
O. Prestbo
S. Schultz

D. B. Ward
L. R. Vogel

PVTs. 1ST CLASS

A. F. Ayres
P. J. Belko
A. P. Benzino
J. A. Bogueess
F. R. Collins
L. F. Collins
E. R. Coon
P. W. Cromwell
D. C. Cummings
E. Deloach
W. H. Elbel
L. A. Haley
F. C. Hammond
V. R. Johnson
W. T. Jones
C. A. Lindsey
R. R. Mayo
J. L. McCormick
T. L. McCu
W. B. Miller, Jr.
D. Nelson
B. F. Reynolds
E. O. Schler
O. E. Tichnell

C. L. Wagner
J. H. Walraven
O. Webb
R. V. Young

PRIVATES

F. Argento
J. E. Asher, Jr.
M. A. Baird
C. L. Baker
W. A. Barnhouse
W. F. Bartch
P. Bodnarczuk
J. R. Bokan
H. E. Bonesteel
H. J. Caplenor, Jr.
R. K. Carter
C. S. Chmielewski
P. Chomko
D. A. Cuccia
H. G. Douglas
R. A. Dreibeibies
H. Dutton
R. E. Lee Edgell
D. W. Etheridge
G. Fowler
L. E. Frederick
F. E. Green

L. P. Grizzle
C. E. Grubbs, Jr.
E. J. Hadaway
J. M. Hendrix
K. E. Hertz
J. J. Hicks
B. F. Hogston
W. F. Hummel
C. W. Jenkins
A. J. Kudrick
N. J. Mac Intyre
R. F. Malone
C. E. McCormick
O. W. Morgan
E. T. Orosco
J. S. Palkon
N. Z. Poindexter
J. J. Punaka
C. A. Ramsey
R. P. Rexrode
H. R. Shalen
A. E. Shelton
M. Srabo
N. E. Umble
C. Wheeland, Jr.
H. B. Williams
E. L. Wolfe



Col. William R. Scott
Com. 35th Inf.



*Brig. Gen. Dan I. Sultan
Com. 22nd Brigade*

»» CHRISTMAS DINNER ««

Queen Olives	Green Onions	Sweet Pickles	Hearts of Celery
Puree of Tomato Soup		Crackers	

ROAST TURKEY

Oyster Dressing	Giblet Gravy
Baked Ham	

Candied Sweet Potatoes	Buttered Peas	Corn on Cob	Snowflake Potatoes
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Hot Cross Buns	White Bread
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Mincemeat Pie	Apple Pie	Pumpkin Pie
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Nuts	Fruits	Candy
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Coffee	Fruit Punch
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Cigars	Cigarettes
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*Maj. Eugene N. Frakes
Com. 3rd Bat. 35th Inf.*

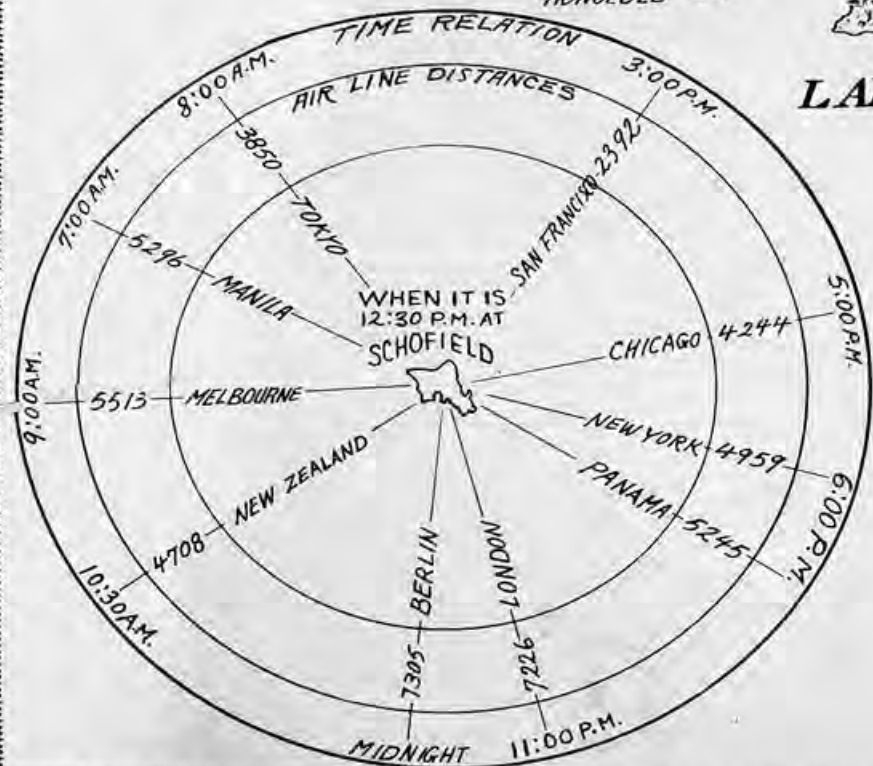
KAUAI
NIHAU

OAHU
SCHOFIELD
HONOLULU

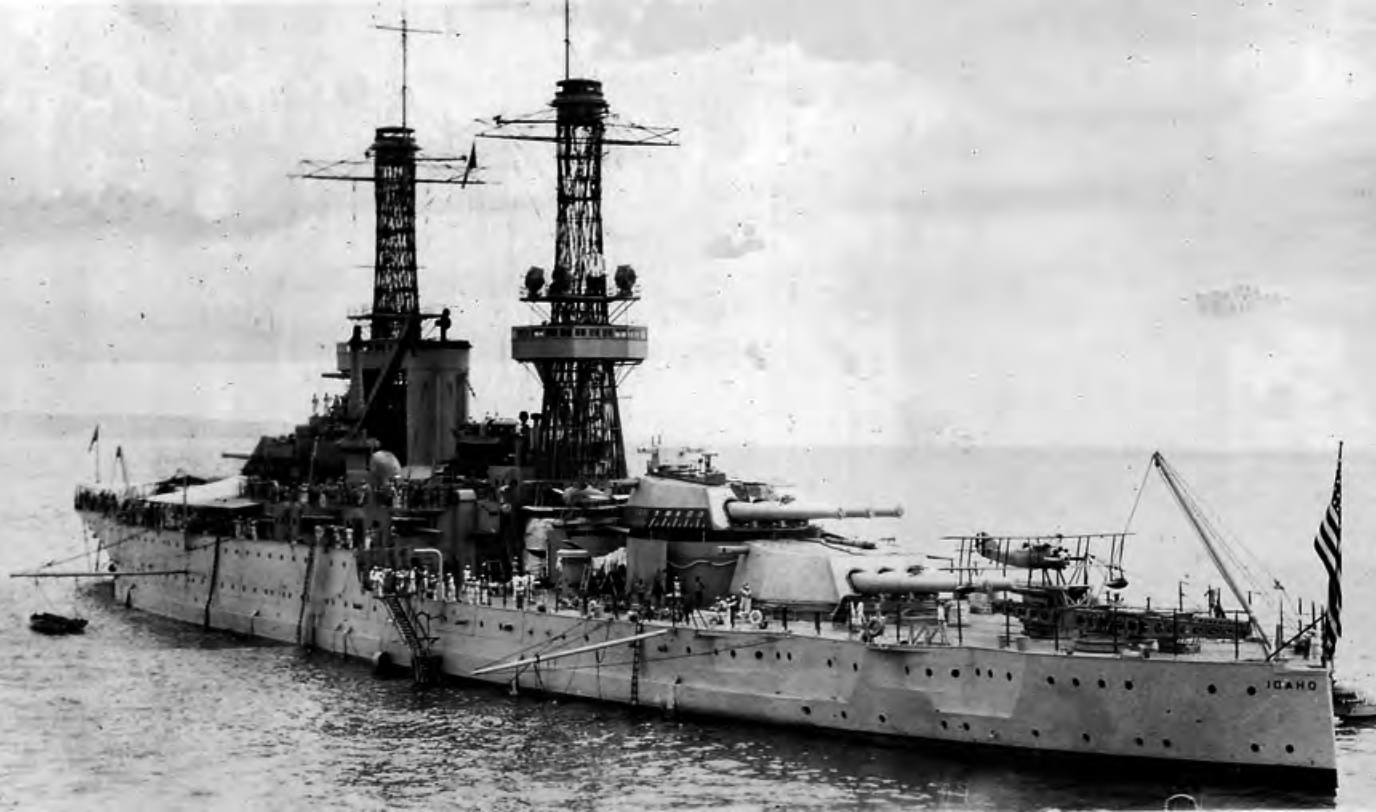
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
RELATION TO TIME AND DISTANCE
By Schofield Studio

MOLOKAI

LANAI
MAUI
HALEAKALA



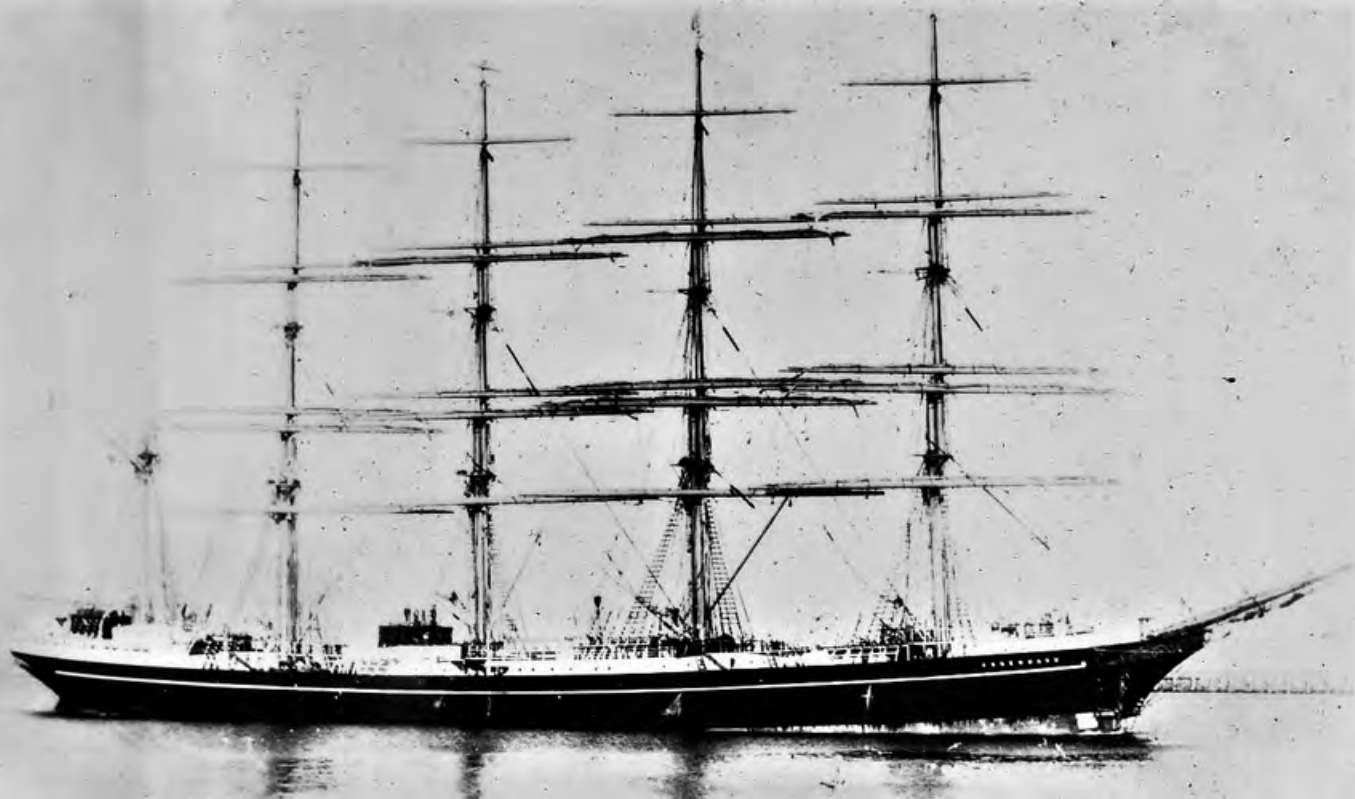
HAWAII
MAUNA KEA
HILO
MAUNA LOA
KILAUEA
MIL CAMP



SS Lurline used as a troop transport in WWII





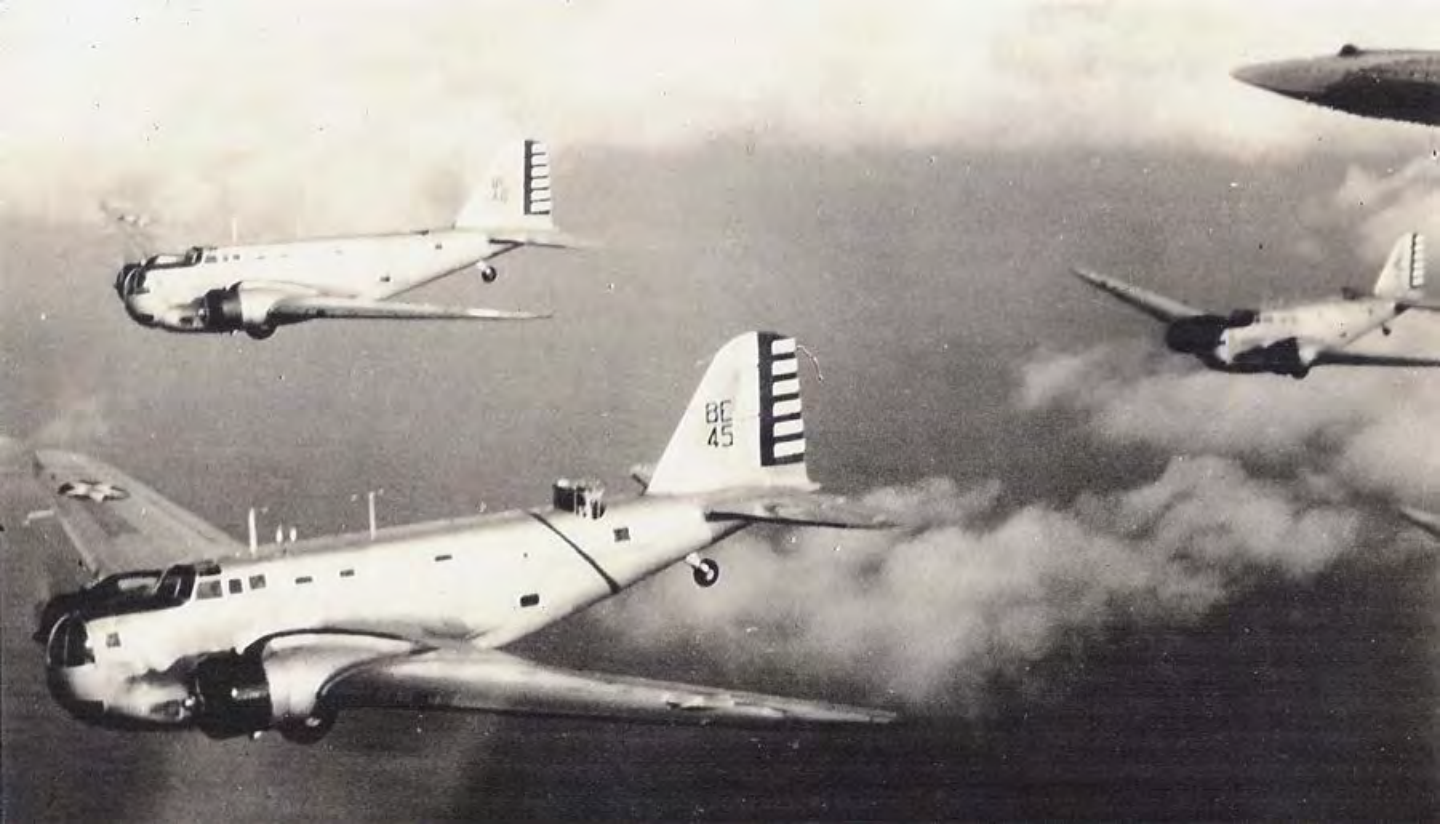


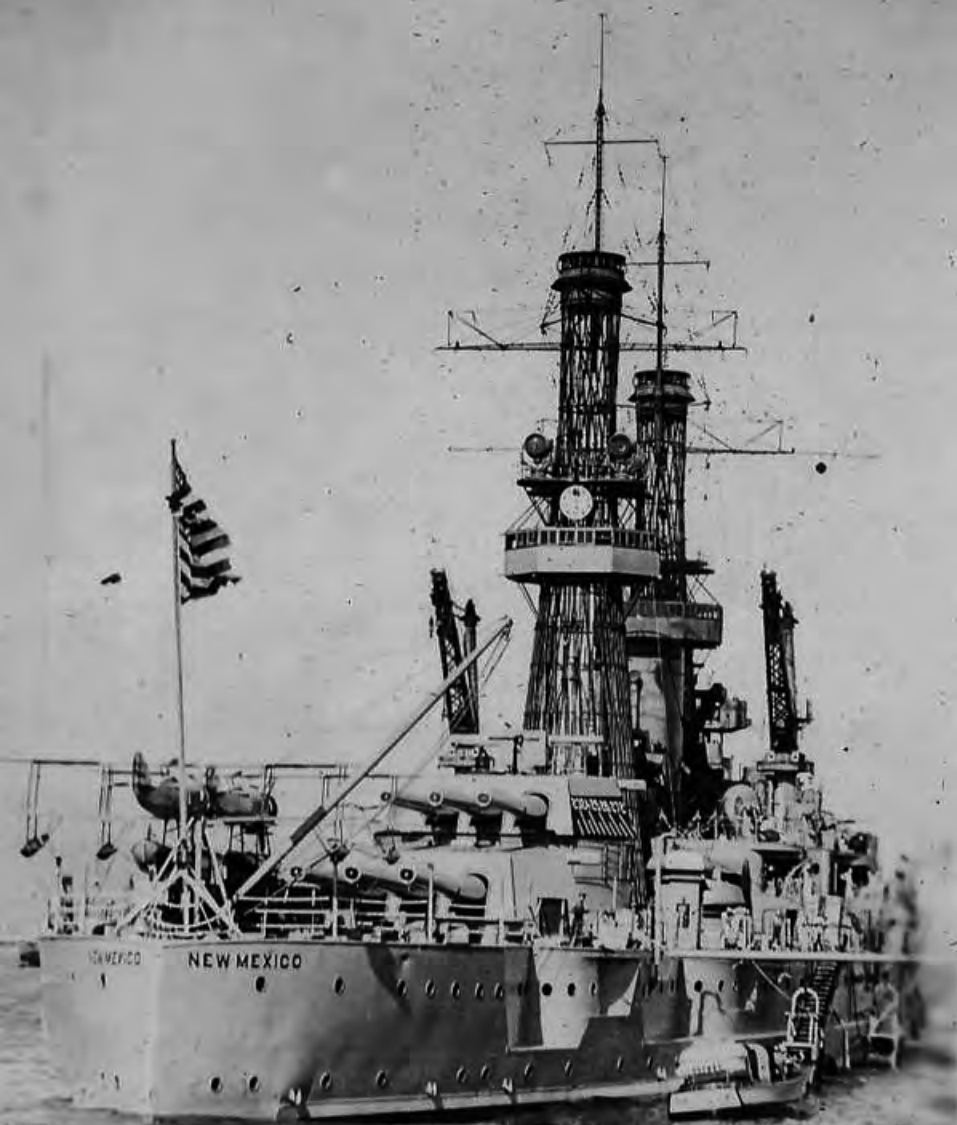


U.S. NAVY
PIER 5A



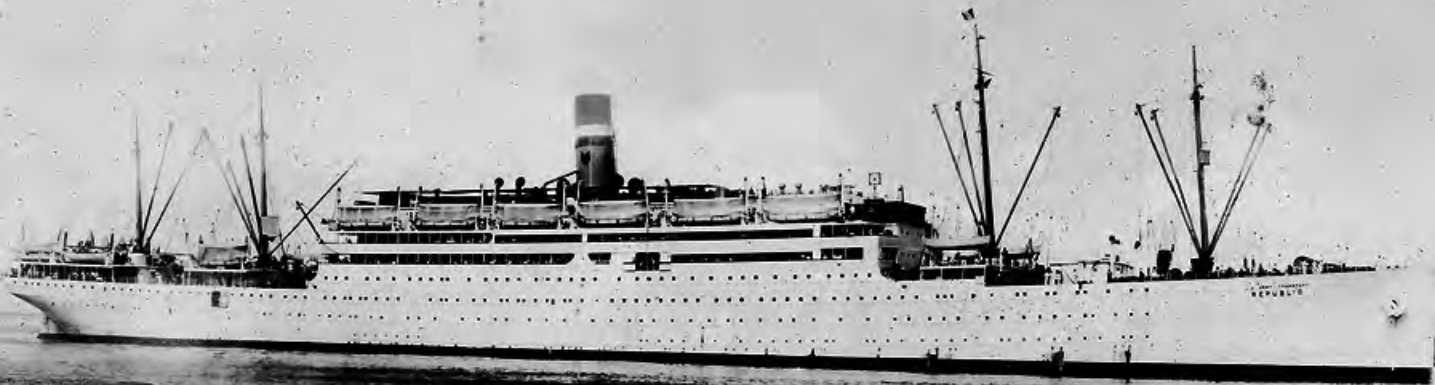








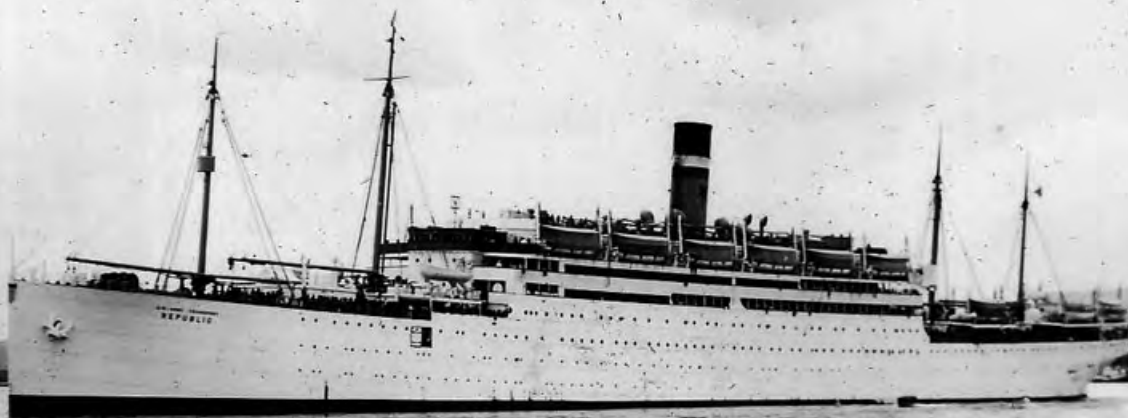




ARRIVING IN HONOLULU



Saratoga



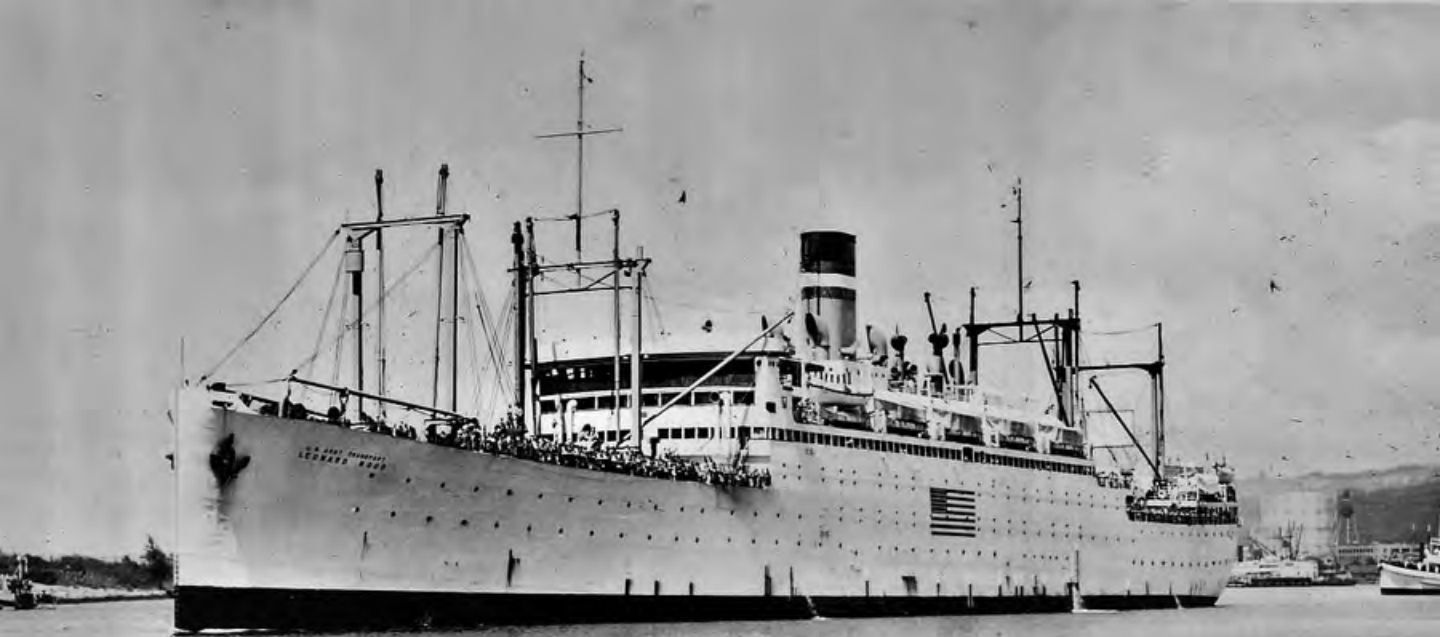
Troop ship Russell took from NY to Hawaii



USS Hunter Liggett military cargo ship







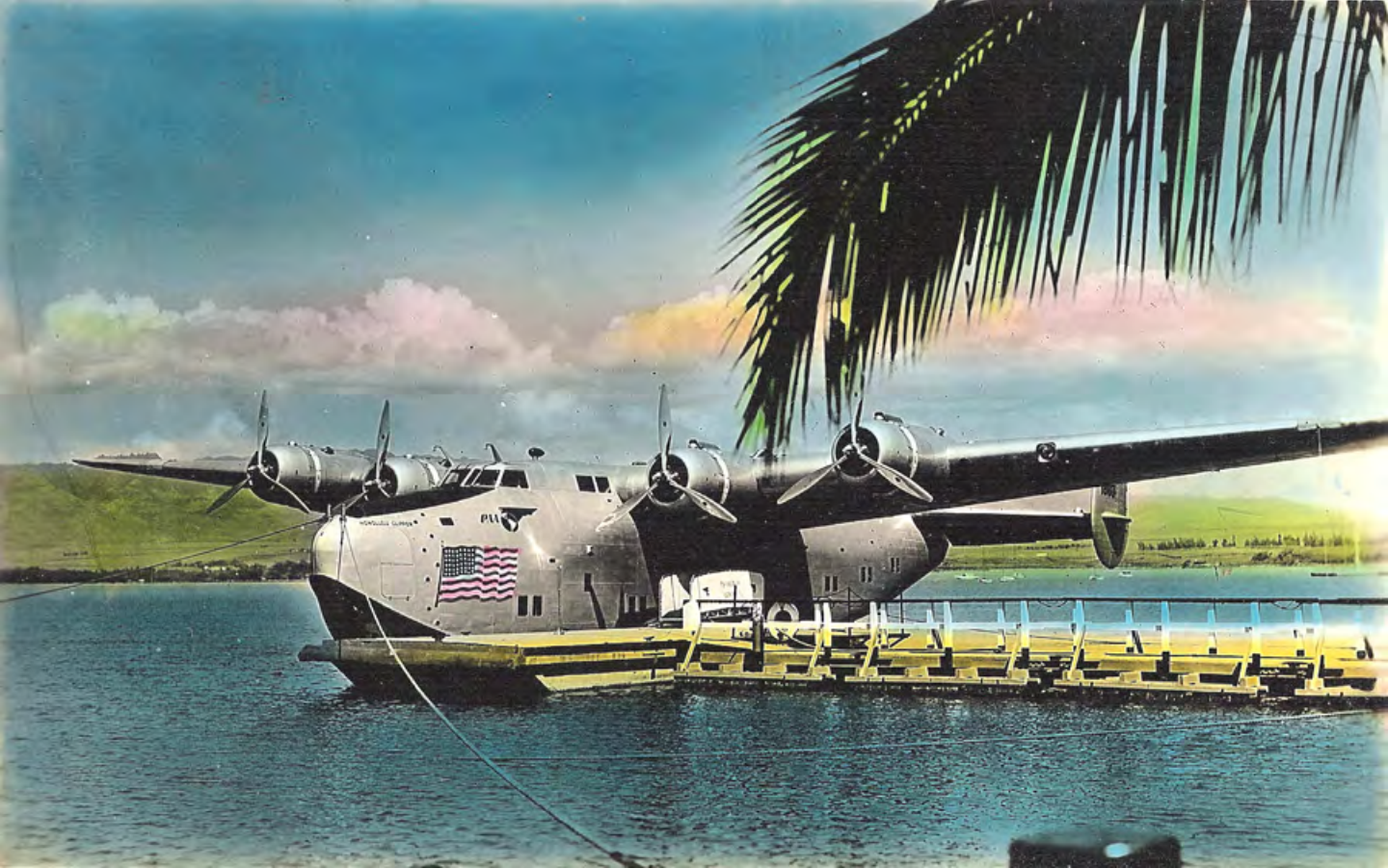
USNS Leonard Wood troop transport



Norwegian freighter Torny sunk by U-boat 507 in 1942



















































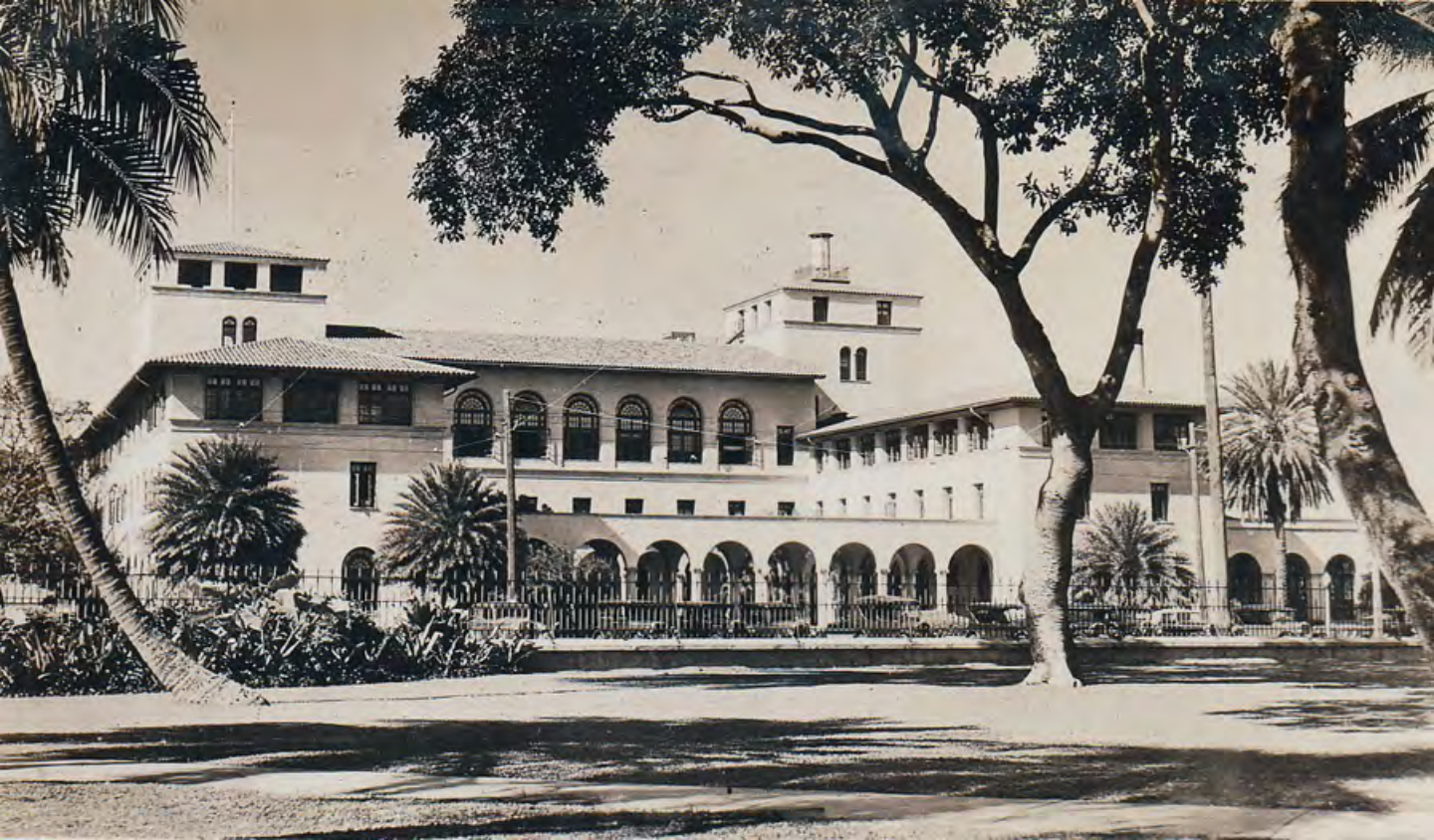


















Rucker-Trained 81st Makes History In Pacific Battle

The Japs on the Palau group felt the weight and might of a Rucker trained division recently when Gen. Douglas MacArthur directed his forces against that strong-hold in the ever advancing march toward the land of the Rising Sun. It was the Wildcats of the 81st Division, led by Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller, that swarmed ashore on Angaur Island and battered the Nipponese fanatics out of the Northern half of that island. Smashing several Japanese counterattacks in their path, the 81st quickly over-ran the northern half of the island with the exception of

some few strong points on the western shore. Naturalization of this resistance is expected hourly.

The Wildcats are the first Camp Rucker trained to prove their mettle on the battle field and they did so in a manner to make us proud of their achievement.

Camp Rucker feels very close to the 81st, because they were activated here just one month after this camp opened its doors. For 10 months they were seen daily undergoing the tortuous gruelling the modern man-at-arms receives. Under the guidance of Maj. Gen.

(Turn to No. 6, Page 2)

The late Lt. Gen. McNair paid the honor of a visit in December, and with a critical and experienced eye, noted the fitness and training of the men.

In Feb., Lt. Gen. Ben Lear watched the most spectacular display of armed might ever seen in Alabama. Gen. Lear, Gen. Richardson and Gov. Sparks witnessed the realistic "Battle of Lake Tholocco" in which 50,000 pounds of live ammunition was exploded in a demonstration of team work by the Ground and Air Forces.

Gen. Lear expressed his satisfaction at the conclusion of this maneuver, and in March, Camp

Mrs. Ambrose Rexrode had the following letter from her son, Russell, of Central Pacific, dated Dec. 22, 1944. It reads:

Dearest Mother,

I hope these few lines find all of you well. I am getting along O. K. My morale is much higher since I have received my Xmas packages. I have received seven so far but have more coming. The two you sent were awfully nice, the candy was delicious and the boys were crazy about it, and the fruit cake looks so nice I am saving it for Xmas day.

They were not mashed one bit, the tin boxes are sure the thing for mailing. The packages from the Citizens of Highland were also nice, the fruit cake and nuts were delicious. Mother, if you see the ones who are responsible for sending me the box please express my appreciation for I really did appreciate it, and thanks a million for the ones you sent. I don't know of anything that I could have used better for I mean the food is terrible over here. Well Mom there isn't much to write about so guess I had better say bye for this time. Trusting that all of you are real well.

Love from your son in the Armed Forces, Russell.

P. S. I am in the Palau group of Islands at the present.

No.

(Continued from Page One)

Gustave H. Franke, then Commanding General of the Division, they drilled, sweat and swore through the Alabama summer.

Early in August, 1942, Brigadier General (now Maj. Gen.) Paul J. Mueller assumed command and on the 25th, the Wildcats celebrated "Organization Day" — the 25th anniversary of the activation of the original 81st Div., which had such an eviable record in World War I. Before Alabama's Senator, Lister Hill, and other dignitaries of this section, the 81st paraded its might of men and machines in an awesome display of America's growing armed forces.

AWARDED BADGE

Staff Sergeant Russell P. Rexrode, who is serving with the 81st Division in the Pacific Theater of Operations, has been awarded the combat infantryman's badge for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy on Pelelin Island, it was announced here Saturday by his wife, the former Gladys Lane who is residing with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Noah M. Lane, of Ashford. Sergeant Rexrode is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Rexrode, of Headwaters, Va.

AWAITING DISCHARGE

Staff Sergeant Russell Paul Rexrode, husband of Mrs. Gladys Lane Rexrode of Ashford, is now in Baltimore, Md., awaiting discharge from the service, his wife is reported.

In service about five years, he served 11 months overseas with the 81st Division. While there he was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge for heroism under fire on Pelelie and Anguar Islands. He was in the Philippines when he received order to report back to the States.

After his discharge he will join his wife and daughter, Drena, of Ashford.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Rexrode, lived in Headwaters, Va.

Marines On Peleliu

Complete Memorial

For Fallen Buddies

Marines, soldiers, and sailors, many of them veterans of the assault and capture of Peleliu, recently volunteered to complete a memorial cemetery there as tribute to their fallen comrades.

With nearly 1,300 white crosses marking the fresh graves of men who died on the island, Peleliu's armed forces cemetery is nearing completion less than three months after assault units established the first beachhead nearby.

Work of final beautification of the tiny site, solemn monument to fighting men of America's three services, is under the direction of a Navy lieutenant and his crews of volunteer workers who devote off-duty hours to the task.

On Site Of Jap Garrison.

Site for the cemetery, known on pre-invasion charts as "Orange Beach," once bristled with the strongest defenses the island's enemy garrison could improvise.

Shattered amphibian tanks on the nearby reef are a grim reminder that veteran units of the First Marine Division established the initial beachhead less than 300 feet away.

Today, across war-scarred Peleliu on the Jap-built airstrip, systematic aerial neutralization of enemy-held Caroline bases by marine airmen is continuing on a round-the-clock schedule.

Leatherneck plane crews, together with infantrymen from the Army's "Wildcat" Division, are completing the work of grading white coral sand and planting wild flowers on the site.

Seabees Furnish Scrapers.

A Seabee unit furnished sand-scraping equipment not in use on the expanding airstrip, while a marine air group assigned all available trucks to hauling coral.

"Although we haven't anything but local materials and volunteer help on the job," the officer observed, "we've determined to make the site attractive as possible—even to a white coral chapel designed by Seabees and Army engineers."

As evidence of the success of his cooperative venture, he pointed to a hard-working group of sailors from a supply ship unloading nearby.

The sailors, who had volunteered for an afternoon of work, were planting small shrubs on two adjoining graves—a colonel and private killed in the same action early in the assault.