

LIFE ON CONVOY TELLS OF WAR

Fireworks Are Missing But
All Precautions Taken
To Avert Peril.

By FRANK SMOOTHES
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HONOLULU, Jan. 2—Life on a
Navy transport in convoy between
California and Hawaii is a realistic
if very partial introduction to the
war in the Pacific.

A large number of Navy and
Marine officers and men, as well as
our correspondent, learned that

such is the case
aboard a trans-
port recently ar-
rived at Pearl
Harbor.

Only once be-
tween the main-
land port and our
arrival here
were there any
fireworks—depth
charges loosed
by one of our
escorting de-
stroyers not very
long after sailing
from the California Coast. We could
feel the force of their explosions
aboard our transport where we had
hurriedly been sumoned to general
quarters, our lifejackets neatly tied.

Take All Precautions

Whether the enemy craft were
actually in the vicinity was never
established. No oil was sighted after
the depth charges—but presumably
the destroyers' listening devices had
detected grounds for reasonable
suspicion. Otherwise the journey was
“uneventful” but the absence of
greater difficulties undoubtedly was
the result of full precautions of
war.

We zigzagged our course, had right
blackouts at night, burned garbage
so no trace of our passage would be
left on the surface of the sea, main-
tained a radio blackout and the
engineers kept the smoke from the
ship's stacks at a minimum.

Our ship's official radios received
news which the officers read later
in summarized and mimeographed
form daily. Other radio sets had
to be turned in before the voyage
lest a regenerated wave disclose our
presence.

Blackout at Supper

The first night's blackout began
in the midst of supper in the pas-
senger's and officers' mess—a big
room in which Marine and Navy
officers, unattached to the ship,
shared meals.

The bright lights suddenly shifted
to a mournful blue, a chorus of
“ahs” went up from the gloom of
the tables, and the officers peered
close at their plates just brought to
them to discover the nature of the
evening fare. Eating chicken—as
the main dish proved to be—in the
near darkness was a considerable
feat. Thereafter dinner was served
before 5 p. m. so that the blackout
usually didn't catch us until dessert.

Below decks, where it was safe to
have a few lights, some of the en-
listed men gathered night after
night around an improvised sailor
jazz band possessed with unlimited
vigor. The listeners sang loud and
demanded their favorite selections.

Sailors Swap Yarns

On the decks where some of the
sailors slept, others gathered in
groups each night to gaze at the
stars and swap yarns and tell where
they came from and what ships
they hoped soon to be helping to
man.

The sailors' heads went close to-
gether to raise close, low-toned har-
mony and many a chorus learned in
American school rooms not so
long ago helped while away the even-
nings.

The singers—like all the others
on deck any hour day or night—
were bulky in life jackets, ready, in
accordance with standing orders, for
an emergency any time.

First Trip for Many

For many of the boys this was the
first trip at sea and seasickness
bothered plenty the first few days.
Later spirits were good, despite all
the discomforts of the crowded ship.

The sailors were eager to get to
Hawaii and be assigned ships of
their own and start their part in
winning the war.

Seeing how they kept their spirits
up on the transport augured well
for their morale later on, on their
own ships, for a man-of-war where
each man has his place, knows
where it is and what he has to do
is a wonderful place compared to a
craft where sitting room was some-
times at a premium and where for
most of those aboard, no duties
were available to break the mo-
notony.

Chins were up and confidence
high when we came to shore.

SOUP, FIRE, DESSERT

ALLENTHON, Pa. (U. P.)—
Delegates to the 71 annual conven-
tion of the Pennsylvania Council of
Deliberation of the Scottish Rite had
a novel meal during their
conclave. While eating their fruit
cup and soup, a fire in the kitchen
destroyed the main course. They
ended the meal with ice cream and
coffee.

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**THE
MORRIS
PLAN
LOAN**

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Borrow \$75 to \$5,000 & to 18 months
to pay & 6 weeks to make 1st payment

COST REDUCED 1/4

on entire amount of all \$1 to \$100
from \$250 to \$6 per year

which is only one per cent more than regular balance.

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Block's January Sales DOWNSTAIRS STORE



For Jaded
January
Wardrobes
\$5

Vivid rayon crepes, wool mixtures, novelty rayon crepes,
spring-like prints and duco rayons... tailored to put
much-needed spirit in mid-winter wardrobe! Sizes
9 to 15, 12 to 20, 38 to 44, 46 to 52, 18½ to 24½.

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January Sale! Women's

BETTER HOUSE SLIPPERS

Originally Higher Priced

Beautiful qualities... fur scuff, embro-
dered rayon satins, fur-trimmed rayons...
in broken size and style assortments, from
our holiday selling! Dramatically reduced!

\$1

Pleated all-around
styles that lay flat over
the hips! Gored skirts,
too! In pastel plaids and
pastel plain colors that
look good enough to
eat! Wool mixtures and
rayon alpacas. Sizes 24
to 32.

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