

Veteran Tanker wins Tokyo Bay assignment.

Mrs. Cecil Tucker of Eastside has received an interesting account of the participation of her son's ship in the surrender of Japan. William R. Tucker, coxswain, USNR, has served on the USS Neches, a tanker, for 34 months, and participated in every operation she has been assigned to. The original Neches was sunk by enemy action west of the Panama canal in the early days of the war with the Japanese. Another Eastside man, Malcolm Moisan, had served on this ship and had been transferred to the Whitney shortly before the Neches sank. Not many months after this, the old Neches was replaced by a larger tanker, which has made a record for herself. C. S. Forrester wrote the story of her operations in the Aleutians during the days of action there in the Collier's Jan. 1, 1944, issue, entitled "Rendezvous."

The article sent by Tucker to his mother reads as follows:

"White Horse Fueled"

"Tanker Neches arrives at Tokyo to fuel Halsey's white horse." "Neches requests permission to fuel your white horse before your scheduled ride." Commander 3rd fleet: "Affirm, use stern method." This exchange of messages took place on Aug. 11 off northern Honshu where the USS Neches (A047) pride of the tanker fleet, was fueling Admiral Halsey's 3rd fleet. The fleet was tensely, yet jubilantly awaiting the U.S. reply to the Japanese surrender offer.

Today Cmdr. H.G. Hensen, USNR, and his officers and crew are the proudest men in the tanker fleet. They are the 11th major fleet unit and the first fleet tanker to put in at Tokyo Bay, Aug. 29, four days before the surrender ceremonies, and have anchored in company with Admiral

Halsey's flagship and other selected ships of the United States and British navies.

Special Assignment Earned

For a time it looked like the Neches would lose out on her special assignment. Following the exchange of messages with Admiral Halsey, she had to return to port to reload. However, the same luck that followed her through nearly every major campaign from Guadalcanal to Okinawa carried her on to Tokyo. It was natural that one of the first tankers in the China sea, the first tanker at Iwo Jima, and the first tanker to down a suicide plane at Okinawa should be the representative of the tanker fleet at the surrender of Japan.

On her rejoining Rear Adm. D. B. Beary's logistic support group, the Neches lost no time in requesting assignment to the coveted duty at Tokyo. Rear Adm. Beary thrilled every man aboard when he replied, "Be prepared to proceed on a special assignment this afternoon in regard to fueling Halsey's white horse by the stern method."

New Insignia Added

Then, with the entire logistic group of dozens of ships listening in, he sent us on our way with, "Goodbye. Good luck. You are our representative at the surrender. We won't be there. Be sure to tell us all about it when you come back."

"Wilco. We will do our best," replied the Neches.

With the fueling of Admiral Halsey's white horse already a legend, the crew of the Neches has lost no time in painting a proud new insignia on her bridge, a frightened buck-toothed white horse being chased by a winged oil can, obviously about to make contact by the "stern" method.

Excerpt from an editorial written in 1970 for the World by E. McKean Smith

(McKean-Smith, now known for his running ability, during the war on one occasion served on special assignment at the Paris Opera House as a guard to the late General Charles de Gaulle)

"The first time I ever saw General Charles de Gaulle was under stimulating circumstances. It was springtime in Paris. The weather was ideal

and the whole town was out to watch a parade. There is nothing quite like a parade and no better place to hold one than on Europe's most magnificent avenue, Les Champs Elysees. This parade celebrated Victory in Europe, May 4, 1945."

This is only a small excerpt from "Mac's" most interesting life.

ENOLA GAY



The "Enola Gay" a B-29 from the 509th Composite Group commanded by Colonel Paul W. Tibbets Jr. and a specially trained crew with Bernard Amdahl, Coquille, a member of the non-combat ground crew dropped the first Atomic bomb which ended the war in a matter of days. Navy Captain William S. Parsons an ordinance expert on the Enola Gay said, "We all said 'My God' and couldn't believe what had happened when it dropped." A quote from Colonel Paul Tibbets, Jr. pilot, "...we made our turn and as we leveled out of our turn the flash occurred. The man in the tail gunner's position said, 'I can see it coming'...meaning the shock wave...well, by the time he said that, the first one hit us. It was a real wallop of a bang. It made a lot of noise and really shook the airplane."

Photo courtesy Bernard Amdahl.

Marvin Barkley, killed in action in Germany, one of finest soldiers —

Corporal Marvin L. Barkley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Barkley of Broadbent, who was killed in action in Germany on March 3, 1945, was born April 4, 1918, in Myrtle Point, Oregon. He was a member of Company A, 70th Tank Battalion with the 1st Army.

His principal hobbies and sports consisted of hunting game, varmints, and riding. At the age of 16 he entered into professional competition in saddle broncs at the fair and was recognized as a skilled rider and horseman. While in training he had participated in boxing and wrestling and entered in exhibition bouts at Ft. Knox.

He had been in the front lines for some time and returned many souvenirs of belt buckles, German officers' insignia stripes, knives and other paraphernalia bearing the marks of

battle. In his last letter to his parents, he stated, "Well, there are a few guys in the outfit now I can talk horses, hounds, mountains, traps, etc. to pass the time away."

THIS CAFE & LOUNGE was located under the old Liberty Theatre building. Can you imagine jumbo hamburger and fries for 35¢, or a deluxe dinner with everything for \$2.25?...and keep cool if there is an air raid alarm...stay where you are and await instructions unless you are on emergency duty, leave quietly.

THE DIMOUT Cafe and Cocktail Lounge



HAROLD HOAR, Prop.

THIS IS YOUR SOUVENIR

Should the Air Raid Alarm sound — KEEP COOL. Do not lose your head. All those required to report for emergency duty leave quietly. All other patrons remain where you are and await instructions.

Excerpts of the articles on these pages were taken from news clippings over 50 years ago and brought in by family members.