

Long, Valiant Record of U.S.S. Anzio Told in Letter to Lewellens

The outstanding record of the U.S.S. Anzio, combatant escort carrier, was told in a letter sent to his parents, Capt. and Mrs. R. L. Lewellen, by Robert L. Lewellen, Jr., seaman, 1/c, quartermaster, who has served on the ship continuously for 18 months.

Young Lewellen has kept in constant touch with his parents, and has been in the vicinity of the China Sea and Okinawa during the final stages of the war. His letter follows:

"Now that the war is over, the Navy is allowing us to write about our experiences, and I'm glad this is possible, because it will let me tell you of the ship I'm on, the U.S.S. ANZIO, where she's been, what she's been through.

"As you may know, our ship, combatant escort carrier (CVE), built by Henry Kaiser, was first commissioned as the 'CORAL SEA' in August 1943. Since that time she's covered 160,000 miles of the blue Pacific launching fighters and torpedo bombers for a total of 7,000 sorties, and that ain't hay.

"She was in action for the first time in the Gilbert Islands campaign and there saw her sister ship, the LISCOMBE BAY, sunk by an enemy submarine.

"After the Gilberts she hit Kwajalein, and from there sailed down to Emirau Island in the Bismarck Archipelago. In each case she participated in the air support of the amphibious landing operations. During the occupation of the Marshalls she was the first American carrier to anchor in Japanese waters, and her aircraft were the first to land on captured Japanese soil.

"About this time Captain Herbert Watson Taylor, USN, her first skipper, was relieved by Captain Paul Wesley Watson,



ROBERT L. LEWELLEN, JR.
Tells of Carrier's Experiences

USN. The CORAL SEA then got in the thick of the bombardment and occupation of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. Here her gunners knocked down seven planes during what was called the 'Marianas Turkey Shoot.' Several bombs from Jap planes came pretty close, too close, but the ship came out without a scratch.

"In October, '44 the name of the CORAL SEA was changed to 'ANZIO,' and shortly thereafter Captain George Cannon Montgomery, USN, of Vallejo, California became her skipper. The ANZIO, or 'Big A' as we call her, then took on the job of clearing the western Pacific of submarines. She was doing this in the Philippine Sea last December when she went through the severe typhoon in which three destroyers sank. Though the wind whistled through the rigging at 110 M.P.H. and the 'Big A' rolled over 35 degrees, no serious damage was done; as

far as I know, no one even got seasick.

"Then the ANZIO went to Iwo Jima, and after she was sure that was taken, to Okinawa. During both of these actions she became quite versatile, hunting subs one day, sending planes in over the islands to bomb and strafe the enemy the next. Iwo Jima was rough and 'Big A' and the ships she was with were attacked by Japanese aircraft. The BISMARCK SEA, steaming close to the ANZIO, was sunk by Japanese air attack.

"The 'Big A' continued her offensive action against the Japs right up to the finish of the war, hunting subs within 240 miles of the Japanese homeland. When you heard the good news, that's where she was.

"Add up all her operations, folks, and you have some pretty impressive facts. The ANZIO participated in a total of 10 major operations, and with the four different composite squadrons of fighters and torpedo bombers she had aboard, she's shot down 27 Jap planes, was involved in the sinking of four Jap subs plus two possibilities, and her aircraft did plenty of damage to enemy installations and forces on lots of Pacific Islands. "The ANZIO pioneered 'jeep' carrier night flight operations in the Pacific and has built up an impressive record in this field. At one time she kept planes continuously in the air, day and night, for 175 hours, just a little more than one whole week."

L. A. BUILDING

Total building permits issued in the city during August amounted to \$7,288,286 as compared with \$3,268,796 in August, 1944.

NEW ENGLAND

The presidents of the six New England commonwealths, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, summoned all former residents, descendants and friends, to the all day autumn picnic, Saturday, October 6th, in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles.

CAR THEFT

Mrs. Alice Delong, 2343 Border ave., reported to police Sept. 21 that a 1941 Buick Sedan, belonging to her was stolen at the parking lot at El Prado and Cravens aves., adjacent to the Grand Theatre.

WORLD AVERAGE RAINFALL

It is interesting to know that the average rainfall the world over is about 40 inches and if it fell at one time, water would cover the face of the globe to a depth of more than three feet.

Shortage of Materials Slows Building Boom

Removal of restrictions on building Oct. 15 will bring only a "very slow improvement" in construction in Southern California, local War Production Board officials said.

Scarcity of suitable lumber and lack of manpower in lumber mills will hamper construction for from 60 to 90 days and it probably will be next spring before supplies in local yards are adequate to meet demands, they said. Inventories in lumber yards are now approximately 20 per cent normal.

Although military forces canceled orders for lumber, much of it was booked for advance delivery and has not reached lumber mills and much of the

MAIL EARLY

Christmas parcels for overseas delivery must be mailed by Oct. 15, Postmaster C. Earl Conner has announced. Only one parcel may be mailed by each donor each week, Smith said.

LARGEST PEACH?

Believed to be the largest this side of the state of Georgia, Russell Cotner, 1542 213th st., raised an 18-ounce peach measuring 13½ inches in diameter. Cotner claims that Mother Nature endowed the vitamins to this fruit giant and denied any chemicals were injected to prompt its growth.

material cut for military use is in odd sizes and not suited for home building, the WPB said.

While supplies of roofing materials are fairly good, there is still a shortage of nails in many sizes, cast-iron soil pipe, lath and lath wire and in mill work, such as doors and cabinets.

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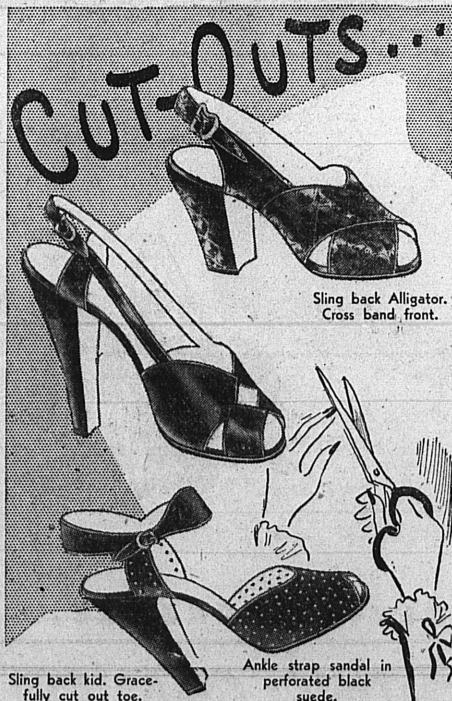
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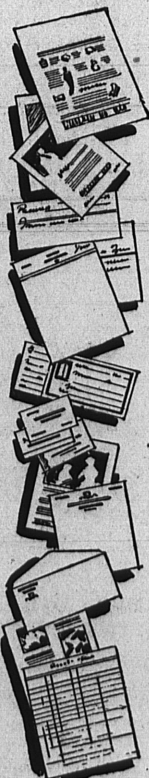
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