

Transcriber Notes: The diary is transcribed line by line so that the reader can follow the written document. The diary is printed and is almost entirely in capital letters. The transcription is done in capital letters except where the diarist used small case letters. Spelling, spacing and punctuation are transcribed as written. The spelling of names is verified where possible.

Transcriber: Jerrie Hinchman

DIARY OF MY MARINE CORPS LIFE  
WHEREABOUTS FROM DAY 1 - Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> 1949  
John K. Homan

JOINED THE MARINES AUG. 9<sup>TH</sup> 1949 AT ALBANY, N.Y. ARRIVED AT PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. BOOT CAMP WED. AUG. 10<sup>TH</sup> 1949 SPENT 11 WEEKS AND LEFT FOR FURLOW ON 29<sup>TH</sup> OF OCT. I ARRIVED AT CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. ON NOV. 9<sup>TH</sup>. WENT TO TENT CAMP AND WAS IN SUPPLY CO. 2<sup>ND</sup>SERVICE BN. 2<sup>ND</sup> MARINE DIV. LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> OF FEB. 1950 FOR DUTY WITH "H" CO. 3<sup>RD</sup> BN. 6<sup>TH</sup> MARINES, BACK AT CAMP LEJEUNE. ON MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 1950 LEFT FOR 5 MONTH CRUISE TO MEDITERRANEAN ABOARD U.S.S. WORCHESTER [WORCESTER] C.L. 144. FIRST PORT CALL LISBON PORTUGAL THEN A LANDING ON THE ISLAND OF MALTA THE 23<sup>RD</sup> OF MAY. FROM THERE TO AUGUSTA BAY SICILY ARRIVING ON 26<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY. THEN TO BIZERTE TUNISIA [TUNESIA] AROUND THE 2<sup>ND</sup> OF JUNE 1950 THEN TO NAPLES, ITALY. FROM THE 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, VISITED A CASTLE WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1279. FIVE DAYS OUT TO SEA ARRIVING IN GENOA ITALY ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, FROM GENOA TO LASPEZIA [LA SPEZIA], ITALY, ARRIVING ON 26<sup>TH</sup>. NEXT PORT CALL GOLFE JUAN, FRANCE ARRIVING THE 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 1950. VISITED CANNES AND NICE DURING THE 12 DAYS. OUT TO SEA FIVE DAYS MADE LANDING ON SUDABAY [SUDA BAY] CRETE, 19<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY 1950. NEXT PORT ATHENS GREECE ARRIVING ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY. WE ANCHORED AT PIRAEUS [PIREAUS], SEAPORT OF GREECE, ON JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY LEFT FOR DUTY ABOARD MIDWAY #41, ARRIVING ON THE CARRIER AND STAYED UNTILL [UNTIL] THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AUG., WE COMPLETD DUTY ON THE U.S.S. WORCHESTER [WORCESTER] 29<sup>TH</sup>JULY 1950. NEXT PORT CALL FAMAGUSTA, CYPRUS AUG. 10-11 1950. WE THEN TRANSFERED [TRANSFERRED] FROM MIDWAY TO LEYTE C.B. 32, ON 12<sup>TH</sup> AUG. STAYING ABOARD THE LEYTE UNTILL [UNTIL] AUG. 14<sup>TH</sup> TRANSFERED [TRANSFERRED] WAS MADE FROM MIDWAY TO THE LEYTE AT BERUT [BEIRUT], LEBANON. TRANSFERED [TRANSFERRED] FROM LEYTE TO BAXTER ON 14<sup>TH</sup> AUG. AT SUDA GAY, CRETE, LEFT THE 15<sup>TH</sup> FOR PORT SAID, EGYPT ARRIVING ON 17<sup>TH</sup> WENT THROUGH SUEZ CANNEL [CANAL] AT 11<sup>00</sup> AM CAME OUT AT 5<sup>00</sup> PM. FROM THERE TO COLUMBO [COLOMBO], CEYLON ARRIVING ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF AUG. FOR REFULEING [REFUELING] WHICH TOOK ABOUT

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7 HRS. THEN PASSED SINGAPORE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT. 1950 AND ON TO KOBE JAPAN ARRIVING ON 9<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPT. STAYED AT KOBE UNTILL [UNTIL] 17<sup>TH</sup> WHEN FIRST MARINE DIV. ARRIVED. THEN BOARDED U.S.S. BAXTER (BEAR) APR 237 [USS Bexar APA 237] 3 DAYS AT SEA AND ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF SEPT. 1950 MADE INCON [INCHEON] LANDING

NOW THE REST IN HISTORY AS BEST AS I RECALL"  
LANDED AT INCHON [INCHEON] 21<sup>ST</sup> OF SEPT. 1950, FOUGHT UP TO AND PASSED SEOUL UNTILL [UNTIL] THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF OCT. FROM THERE WENT BACK TO INCHON [INCHEON] STAYED ABOUT WEEK AND BOARDED SHIP HENRICO APA 45 ON OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup> AM HEADED FOR WONSON [WONSAN], LANDED IN NOV. AND PUSHED HARD AND FOUGHT FOR 14 DAYS FROM NOV. 27<sup>TH</sup> TO DEC 11<sup>TH</sup> 1950 AT WHICH TIME WE GOT SURRONDED [SURROUNDED] WITH 120,000 CHINESE TROOPS. TEMPERATURES 30 BELOW ZERO WIND CHILL ABOUT 100 DEGREES. WE WERE 16,000 MARINE, 4,000 ARMY, BRITISH ROYAL MARINES AND SOUTH KOREANS, FOUGHT 14 DAY DOWN SINGLE ROAD 76 MILES TO SEA. GOT ABOARD SHIPS AT HAMHUNG. THE SULTAN USNS GEN. DANIEL I SULTAN. STAYED UNTILL [UNTIL] 14<sup>TH</sup> DEC. LANDED AT PUSAN LEFT ABOARD LSD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FOR MASON ON 16<sup>TH</sup> DEC. STAYED UNTILL [UNTIL] 13<sup>TH</sup> JAN 1951. FROM THERE WENT ABOARD JAPNESE [JAPANESE] LST. FOR POHANG ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JAN. ON 23<sup>TH</sup> LEFT ON A 23 DAY PATROL AND MET SOME GOOKS. WHILE THERE OUR CO. WAS GIVING CREDIT 4 TIMES FOR THERE [THEIR] OUTSTANDING WORK ON 21<sup>ST</sup> OF FEB. WE LEFT POHANG BY TRUCKS FOR WANJO [WANJU?], WHICH TOOK US 2 DAYS. STAYED THERE UNTILL [UNTIL] THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF FEB. FROM THERE TO HOENGSONG WHERE WE MET ENEMY AND FOUGHT UNTILL [UNTIL] THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH. FROM THERE WENT TO KONGSUNMY[?] AREA FIGHTING IN THE HILLS AND PUSHING THE ENEMY BACK. ON 17<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH WE WERE AT HONG CHOW WAITING FOR FURTHER WORD. ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH WE WERE RECEIVED [RELIEVED] BY THE 5 MARINES AND WENT INTO RESERVE. ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> OF APRIL 1951 MOVED OUT BY TRUCKS TO CHUNCNON [CHUNCHEON] THEN WALKED 5 MILES, AND SET UP FOR A FEW DAYS THEN ON 5<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL AT 5 MIN THREE WE CROSSED THE 38<sup>TH</sup> PARALLEL AND

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SET UP FOR NIGHT BY THE BLOW OUT BRIDGE. IN MORNING MOVED OUT TO KANSAS LINE, SET UP ON 8<sup>TH</sup> AND DUG IN GOOD POSITIONS. ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1951 I WENT INTO BN. AND WITH 4 OTHERS WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR, I RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR COL. HOMER LIZTENBURG [LITZENBERG]. WENT ON PATROL THE 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, WE RECEIVED SMALL ARMS AND MORTAR FIRE, NO ONE HURT, CLIMBED A 1500 FT. MOUNTAIN. THE 13<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL WAS MADE CPL. WE STAYED AT THE KANSAS LINE UNTILL [UNTIL] THE 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, AT WHICH TIME WE WENT AND MOVED OUT ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FOR THE QUANTICO LINE, STAYED FOR A FEW DAYS. SET UP 5 MILES NORTH FROM HONGCHOW[?] FROM APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> TO MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MOVED OUT ON A PATROL ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup>. THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY AT NOON I RECIVED [RECEIVED] WORD I WAS GOING HOME. WE WERE ON A HILL INGAGED [ENGAGED] IN A FIRE FIGHT. I LEFT THE BOYS AT 5 PM AND HEADED FOR BN. ON THE MORNING OF 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY WE BOARDED TRUCKS FOR AIRPORT, STAYED ALL NIGHT AT AIRPORT IN THE AFTERNOON BOARDED PLANES FOR AND LANDED AT FIELD NINE MILES FROM PUSAN. THEN TOOK TRUCKS INTO PUSAN AND SET UP A TENT. FROM 5<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY. THEN WE BOARDED GEN. W. F. HASE [GENERAL W.F.HASE] AT PUSAN SAILING FOR KOBE JAPAN AT MIDNIGHT OF 9<sup>TH</sup> ARRIVING AT KOBE 11:15 AM. THE 11<sup>TH</sup>, STAYED UNTILL [UNTIL] 12:30 WAS THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT WHICH TIME WE HEADED FOR STATES. ARRIVED AT TREASURE ISLAND, CALIF. ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY. WE PASSED UNDER THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE AT 10:15 STAYED AT TREASURE ISLAND FOR 5 DAYS AND BY T.W.A. HEADED FOR N.Y. AIRPORT, AT LGA THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY WENT ON 30 DAY LEAVE THEN IN JUNE HEADED FOR SCOTIA N.Y. NAVAL SUPPLY BASE WHERE I STAYED UNTILL [UNTIL] MY DISCHARGED ON NOV. 1952 AS A S/SGT. CIVILIAN LIFE.

SHIPS ABOARD WHILE SERVING  
WITH MARINES FROM 1950-1951

- ① SHIP ON DURING CORSSOVER - CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. APRIL 22-28  
RANDELL APA 224 [RANDALL APA 224]
- ② TO MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> TO AUG 27<sup>TH</sup> 1950  
USS WORCESTER -(CL-144)
- ③ FOR 2 DAYS IN MAY WHILE MAKING LANDING ON THE ISLAND  
OF MALTA 21<sup>ST</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup>  
USS DYRESS (DD880) [USS DYESS DD880]
- ④ MADE TRANSFER FROM WORCESTER TO LEYTE JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> TO AUG 12<sup>TH</sup>  
USS MIDWAY (CVB41)
- ⑤ OFF MIDWAY AUG 12<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> TO THE  
USS LEYTE (CB32) [USS LEYTE CV-32]
- ⑥ GOING FROM SUDA BAY CRETE TO KOBE JAPAN AUG. 14<sup>TH</sup> TO SEPT 9<sup>TH</sup>  
USS BAXTER (BEAR) APA 237 [USS BEXAR APA-237]
- ⑦ FROM HUNGNAM - PUSAN KOREA 11-14 DEC. 1950  
USNS GEN. DANIEL I. SULTAN
- ⑧ USNS GEN. W. F. HASE [USS GENERAL W.F.HASE AP-146] - FROM PUSAN TO KOBE JAPAN AND ON  
TO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1951

"PLACES I WAS STATIONED AT"

- ① PLT. 64 CO. G. 2<sup>ND</sup> REG. BN. MCRD PARRIS ISLAND  
SOUTH CAROLINA
- ② SUPPLY CO. 2<sup>ND</sup> SERVICE BN. 2<sup>ND</sup> MARINE DIV. (F.M.F.)  
CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.
- ③ "H", CO. 3<sup>RD</sup> BN. 6<sup>TH</sup> MARINES, 2<sup>ND</sup> MARINE DIVISION  
(F.M.F.) CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.
- ④ "H", CO. 3<sup>RD</sup> BN. 7<sup>TH</sup> MARINES  
1<sup>ST</sup> MARINE DIVISION  
C/O F.P.O. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
- ⑤ KOBE JAPAN 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPT UNTILL [UNTIL] 17<sup>TH</sup> ON TO INCHON [INCHEON] 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPT  
1950
- ⑥ NAVAL SUPPLY BASE AT SCOTIA, N.Y. UNTILL [UNTIL] MY DISCHARGE  
NOV. 1952