

At 1450, 27 September 1944, Commander JOHN F. WARRIS, 27056, USN, reported board to relieve Captain R.T. STRONG, as Commanding Officer.

On 1 October 1944 this vessel observed the ceremony of Commander WARRIS relieving Captain STRONG as well as several medals and awards being presented to officers and men of the ship's company.

From 3 October through 14 October the CALVERT was anchored in Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island. At 0100, 9 October, TG 33.1 was dissolved and TG 79.1 became effective. This ship was an element of TU 79.3.2 (TransDiv 30, under Captain C.A. MISSON, USN), TU 79.3.2 is an element of TG 79.3, Transport Group whose Commander was Captain RICHARDSON, USN. TF 79.3 was an element of TG 79.1, Attack Group Able, under the command of Rear Admiral R.L. CONNOLLY, USN.

On 14 October 1944, the TG sortied from Manus and proceeded toward Leyte with Jig Hour, Able Day set for 1000(I), 20 October 1944. Embarked on the CALVERT was the 3rd Battalion, 17th Regiment, 7th Army Infantry Division reinforced composed of 70 officers and 1261 men.

During the period 1000(I) 20 October (Jig Hour, Able Day) and 1625(I), 20 October, this vessel successfully unloaded 756.5 tons of supplies and equipment, embarked all of the assault personnel and dispatched all the unloaded cargo and embarked troops to Violet and Yellow Beaches in the Dulag area in support of the assault on the Central Eastern Coast of Leyte Island, Philippines, in order to assist in the capture of the Island from the Nipponese.

The unloading and debarking was continuous throughout hours of daylight and darkness and was accomplished under handicaps of intermittent heavy protective smoke screens with visibility zero, flash red alerts and during actual air attacks. The vessel sustained no battle damage although two members of the crew suffered wounds and were subsequently awarded the Purple Heart.

While at the objective orders to make smoke were given on 10 different occasions. Smoke was called for and was made for a total of 6 hours. Complete embarkation of troops and equipment of the assault waves was accomplished in 2 hours and 5 minutes.

On 23 October the CALVERT departed in company with ships of its TransDiv from Seeadler Harbor, Manus, arriving there on 27 October 1944 and remaining at that harbor until 3 November at which time this vessel proceeded independently to Lemak Bay, 2 miles south of Finschhafen, New Guinea on 4 November. On 7 November following Army elements were embarked in the Langemak Bay area: 3 companies 187th Airborne, 1 Battalion of 102nd automatic weapon, 30th portable hospital unit and 17th portable hospital unit. On 11 November a rendezvous was made with TG 79.15.1 for return to Leyte, where the convoy arrived on 18 November. Debarkation of cargo and personnel commenced and 0750 and was concluded at 1910. The convoy then proceeded to return to Manus. With TU 79.15.1, the CALVERT arrived at Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island, Bismarck Archipelago. The next three days were devoted to receiving provisions and stores. From 29 November to 9 December, the CALVERT was in the Cape Gloucester, New Britain area. During this period the personnel of the First Battalion, 160th Regiment, 40th Infantry Division were embarked on the CALVERT. The CALVERT then returned to Seeadler Harbor, Manus and departed from there on 16 December for the Huon Gulf area, New Guinea to conduct relaxation exercises for the troops aboard who were later to participate in the Huon Gulf operation.

On 31 December, TG 79.2 departed for the assault on the Lingayen Area, Luzon Island, Philippine Islands in which she participated as a part of TG 79.4, TG Baker, TG 79.2.