

# THE COAST GUARD AT WAR

## AIDS TO NAVIGATION XV

JULY 1, 1949

### APPENDIX A

NOTE: *ETCM Bill Dietz, USCG (Ret.) transcribed the following from the **Coast Guard at War** official history series.*

*NOTE: UNIT 335 was located at Point Ritidian, Guam as the Group Office.*

HEADQUARTERS  
314<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT WING  
APO 334, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

2 October 1945

335.15

SUBJECT: Testimonial

TO: CO, CG Unit 335  
Navy No. 926, San Francisco, California

1. The high degree of accomplishment of this Wing's navigators was made possible to a great extent by the Loran services available to them.

2. During long periods of over water flight under difficult weather conditions, the navigator has often had but one aid – Loran – with which to make an accurately timed and positioned landfall. The Guam-Saipan-Ulithi rates provided excellent means of position fixing from the Marianas to Iwo Jima; while the Iwo-Okinawa rate was of particular value in covering the difficult phase of operational missions between Ito Jima and the Japanese Empire.

3. The confidence placed in the accuracy of Loran is evidenced by the fact that an average of 21 Loran fixes per mission were taken by each navigator. In addition to straight Loran fixes, many navigators used Loran lines in conjunction with sun and radio lines to provide an auxiliary means of position fixing.

4. The ever present and seemingly never failing operation of Loran facilities will always be remembered by navigators who flew unprecedented distances in combats operations against the enemy. To those of you who manned the ground facilities of Loran goes our deepest admiration and gratitude.

/s/ Carl R. Storrie  
CARL R. STORRIE  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

APO 902  
25 October 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Unit 335  
Navy No. 926, Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

1. The fine work performed by Coast Guard units in maintaining Loran stations throughout the forward area in the Pacific has greatly assisted the Eighth Air Force in the conduct of its operations.
2. To an organization just beginning operations in a new and forward, adequate navigational aids are of first importance. The present habitual dependence of Eighth Air Force air crews on the Loran service in the western Pacific and the confidence they have come to place in its accuracy and dependability attest both to its value and to the quality of the service rendered by those who maintain it.
3. The officers and men of the Eighth Air Force would like to extend to the Coast Guard personnel whose faithful efforts in isolated and personally inconvenient surroundings have been of such constant benefit to them their sincere appreciation for a job well done

/s/ E. E. Partridge  
E. E. PARTRIDGE  
Major General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY STRATEGIC AIR FORCES  
APO 234

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD:

One of the major problems facing this command when it began long range bombing missions against the Japanese homeland was the accurate crossing of a vast expanse of ocean to and from the target. Precise navigation was a necessity as airplane fuel reserves were critical. With minimum of island check points, Loran facilities were immediately recognized as a dependable major aid to maintain accurate courses. The simplicity and speed with which an accurate fix could be obtained made Loran a favorite of all B-29 navigators. It developed into one of the most important single navigational aids in the Pacific.

The excellence of the Loran facilities and the confidence expressed by the navigators in the use thereof is a direct result of the superior job performed by the Loran ground station personnel. Their record of equipment in continuous operation is outstanding.

I wish to commend all officers and men of the United States Coast Guard connected with Loran operations for their untiring efforts, their zeal and dependability. The result of their work constituted a direct contribution to the success of the long range bombing operations of this command and to the successful conclusion of the war against Japan.

/s/ N. F. Twining  
N. F. TWINING  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS  
73<sup>RD</sup> BOMBARDMENT WING  
APO 237, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

452 ARDCO

22 September 1945

SUBJECT: Loran Service

TO: Commanding Officer, United States Coast  
Guard Unit 335, Navy No. 926, FPO, San  
Francisco, California  
(Thru: Commanding General, Twentieth  
Air Force, APO 234)

1. One of the most valuable services rendered this Wing and one that is perhaps the least known and recognized is the Loran Service furnished by the United States Coast Guard. At the beginning of operations against the Japanese Empire this Wing, the first in the Marianas, was dependent solely on Celestial and Dead Reckoning Navigation. Due to the presence of Japanese forces in the islands of the North, it was necessary to plan the flights far to the West of these islands. This meant fifteen hundred miles of open water flight with no radio or radar check points until within one hundred miles of the Japanese coast. A sun line was the only position check. Since attacks were being conducted at extremely high altitudes, where winds up to two hundred knots were encountered, accurate navigation was essential. A landfall made too far downwind meant a mission failure since the fuel supply at those high altitudes would not permit long upwind runs. The advent of the Loran Stations in this area added a definite position check to the difficult navigation problem. The Loran became the navigation aid on which the navigator leaned most heavily and simplified his problem unmeasurably.

2 I desire to express to the officers and men of the Coast Guard, who were responsible for the establishment and manning of the Loran stations, the deep appreciation of the combat crew members of the Wing or the fine service rendered to it. Not once did the Loran fail us and in many instances it was instrumental in saving our planes and crews when weather and flak damage combined to render our normal navigation methods inaccurate. The personnel of the Coast Guard may be justly proud of their contribution to the success of our combat missions against the Japanese Empire, which assisted in bringing the war to a speedy conclusion.

/s/ Morris J. Lee  
MORRIS J. LEE  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding

AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND  
CENTRAL PACIFIC WING

22 September, 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation for Loran Service

TO: CO, CG Unit 335  
Navy No. 926, FPO  
San Francisco, California

1. It is a source of genuine pleasure to commend the personnel of the United States Coast Guard who have been responsible for Loran Service. Operating from lonely stations in the Marianas Islands, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima, these men have materially contributed to the successful prosecution of the war by maintaining Loran signals suitable for navigation 99.60% of the twenty four hour day during the last four critical months. Their work, albeit unglamorous, tedious, monotonous, and requiring painstaking exactitude in maintaining transmission of Loran signals within a tolerance of two millionths of a second, is of equal, and in many cases, of greater importance than the work of personnel in other arms and branches of the service.

2. Insofar as the Air Transport Command is concerned, Loran service has been used regularly by navigators throughout the entire Pacific Ocean Area. It has proven particularly effective as a flying aid between Guam and Manila, and Guam and Okinawa, due to the prevailing adverse weather conditions.

3. The high safety record of the Air Transport Command constitutes a testimony to the reliability of Loran Service and members of the Coast Guard for this invaluable navigational aid.

4. It is requested that a copy of this commendation is included in the 201 files of all personnel connected with this service.

/s/ John R Kilgore  
JOHN R. KILGORE  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding

BASIC: Ltr fm Hq 20<sup>th</sup> AF,  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 234, AIGAP 200.6, dtd 6 Oct 45,  
Subject "Letter of Commendation".

AG200.6  
HEADQUARTERS  
USASTAF, APO 234

1<sup>st</sup> Ind. Pers-1/14-CHS/dm/738  
Oct 25, 1945

THRU: Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet  
Pacific Ocean Area

TO: United States Coast Guard Unit 335  
Navy No. 926, FPO  
San Francisco, California

It is with pleasure that I note and forward the letter of commendation attesting to the splendid service rendered by the United States Coast Guard Unit 335 during recent operations against the enemy.

I desire at this time to add my sincere appreciation.

/s/ Barney M. Giles\  
BARNEY M. GILES  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.

2<sup>nd</sup> Endorsement on  
ComGen20thAirForce  
Ltr., ser AIGAP 200.6  
Dated 6 October 1945

From: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet  
To: Commanding Officer  
United States Coast Guard Unit 335

Subject: Letter of Commendation

1. The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet takes pleasure in forwarding this further appreciation of the fine services which have been consistently rendered by the Coast Guard Unit 335 and associated units, and which contributed materially to the defeat of Japan.

/s/ C. W. Nimitz  
C. W. NIMITZ

copy to:  
Comdt USCG

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Cincpac file  
P15  
Ser.40063

26 October 1945

From: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet  
And Pacific Ocean Areas  
To: Commandant, United States Coast Guard  
Via: Chief of Naval Operations  
Subject: Loran Service

1. The installation, maintenance, and operation of Loran service in the Pacific Ocean Areas by the officers and men of the United States Coast Guard contributed in great measure to the successful prosecution of the war against the Japanese. The navigational service afforded to our sea and air forces through the use of Loran Service was of vital importance not only in the transportation demands in moving troops and material, but in actual combat operations as well.

2. The Coast Guard personnel who constructed the Loran stations conquered many hazardous and difficult problems of weather and terrain, and those officers and men who have manned the isolated stations have done a magnificent and exacting job in transmitting Loran signals.

3. It is requested that the appreciation of the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, be expressed to all officers and men of the United States Coast Guard who participated in the extensive Loran program for their outstanding performance in support of the operations which resulted in the final victory.

/s/ C. W. Nimitz  
C. W. NIMITZ

copy to:  
CO, CG Unit 335  
Navy No. 926  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO 234, CARE OF POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

AIGAP 200.6

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

THRU: Commanding General  
U. S. Army Strategic Air Forces  
APO 234

To: United States Coast Guard Unit 335  
Navy No. 926, FPO  
San Francisco, California

1. It is my desire to express for all units of the Twentieth Air Force our appreciation to the United States Coast Guard Unit 335 for the splendid Loran service which has been rendered during recent operations against the enemy.

2. The long range over-water missions scheduled to and from the islands of Japan presented a most difficult navigation problem. Loran, so expeditiously provided, rapidly became the most dependable, all weather aid to navigation questioned. Navigators in this Air Force were highly pleased with results achieved, and we sincere in their praise of this service. In the later phases of operations, Loran was used approximately five times as much for lines of position as was celestial. The saving in time and energy in obtaining positions by Loran made possible highly accurate navigation to the target and the return of crippled aircraft safely where fuel supplies were dangerously low.

3. This Loran service is an achievement worthy of the highest praise. I desire to commend the United States Coast Guard Unit 335 for their untiring efforts which contributed so materially to the successful conclusion of the air war against Japan.

/s/ N. F. Twining  
N. F. TWINING  
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.  
Commanding