

## A History of the USS Calvert: Research notes for the period January 1, 1943 to June 8, 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
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### Introduction

This document contains research notes and content for the period January 1, 1943 to June 8, 1943. During this period:

- \* Previously started yard work, December 1941, Norfolk Navy Yard, was completed. The ship then ran successful sea trials in early January 1943.
- \* The crew trained during wintery weather of January, February, and March in the Chesapeake Bay in preparation for the upcoming Invasion of Sicily, Operation Husky (July, 1943).
- \* The ship was redesignated to APA-32, an Attack Transport, on February 1st.
- \* The ship underwent significant overhaul and improvements in the Todd Shipyard, New York and in Norfolk. New radar was a major addition to the ship's capabilities.
- \* Newly and specially trained boat crews replaced many of the Calvert's existing boat crews. The ship also received new LCVP landing craft to replace an assortment of older landing craft models.
- \* Elements of the 45th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, embarked. The ship and crew prepared for the voyage to the Mediterranean for the Invasion of Sicily.

### Notes:

- \* Times: All times are in "24-hour" time. For example, 0000 is midnight, 0400 is 4am, ... 1200 is noon, 2000 is 8pm ..., and so on.
- \* Air temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit.
- \* Certain details are corroborated, and in some cases corrected, by official Navy records.

### Primary Sources for the period January 1, 1943 to June 8, 1943

- \* A History of the USS Calvert (APA-32), David B. Cullen
- \* Calversion editions, various volumes, published by John Cole
- \* Adventures of a Landing Craft Coxswain, Christian Funck.
- \* War Diary, USS Calvert, via the National Archives
  - January and February 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134091415>
  - March 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134128387>
  - April 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134165811>
  - May 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134213487>
  - June 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/135916698>
- \* Muster Roll and Report of Changes, USS Calvert, 1943, via the National Archives - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/125656395>
- \* War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, United States Atlantic Fleet aka "COMAMPHFORLANT" via the National Archives
  - January 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134088606>
  - February 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134088612>
  - March 1943 - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134137899>
- \* Daily temperature range and precipitation measures for the Solomons Island/Cove Point area, via the National Weather Service (NWS notation below), NOWData (monthly historical data), Solomons Island, MD (designated LWX). Online: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=lwx>

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<p>The month of January found the Calvert assigned to the newly formed Transport Division One (TRANSDIV-1), Transports, Task Group 30.2, Major Task Force 30, Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. This re-assignment was effective on December 27th, 1942. The Calvert's assignment to TRANSDI-1 coincided with the departure of a number of amphibious ships for service in the Pacific. Also assigned to TRANSDIV-1 were the transports Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee and the cargo ships Procyon and Electra.</p>					
<p><b>1943-January</b></p> <p>During the first few days of January the Calvert continued a period of repair and maintenance at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, VA. This work had begun in December 1942, upon the Calvert's return from the invasion of North Africa.</p> <p>On January 10th the men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines were embarked aboard. For the period January 11 to January 26 the ship's crew and embarked Marines participated in amphibious training exercises in the Solomons Island area of the Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>In late January the Calvert returned to Norfolk for a period of upkeep and repair.</p>					
<p>Additional sources for January 1943:</p> <p>* War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard (NYd Norfolk), January 1943, p4 &amp; 7 - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134062021">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134062021</a></p> <p>* United States Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Division, WWII - Online: <a href="https://www.c123rd.com/">https://www.c123rd.com/</a></p> <p>* War Diary, USS Procyon, January 1943 - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134064176">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134064176</a></p> <p>* War Diary, USS Monrovia, January 1943 - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134062886">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134062886</a></p> <p>* War Diary, USS Leonard Wood, January 1943 - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134094715">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134094715</a></p>					
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Completion of repair and maintenance.</b></p>					
1943	January	1-2	Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, VA	<p>1) Repairs and maintenance were completed on Friday, January 1st, 1942. The USS Calvert was moored starboard to berths #7 and #8, Norfolk Navy Yard.</p> <p>2) During the previous seven days the following repair and maintenance work was completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Installed generator, life rafts and quick closing fuel oil valves.</li> <li>* Repaired boat stowage.</li> </ul>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard (NYd Norfolk), January 1943</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Calvert departs Norfolk Navy Yard the morning of Sunday, January 3rd for a few days of sea trials.</b></p>					
1943	January	3	<p>Enroute to Hampton Roads, VA</p> <p>Anchored, Hampton Roads</p>	<p>0720 Stationed special sea detail. 0800 Preparing to get underway. 0812 Ship clear of dock. Ship swinging into Elizabeth River.</p> <p>0831 Ship headed downstream enroute to Hampton Roads with Captain at the Conn assisted by Executive Officer and Navigator.</p> <p>1040 Let go starboard anchor in 7 fathoms of water and 60 fathoms of chain in Berth 26, Hampton Roads.</p> <p>1800 Established picket boat patrol</p> <p>Editor's note: "Hampton Roads" is the channel linking the James, Elizabeth, and Nansemond rivers with the Chesapeake Bay.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	4	Anchored, Hampton Roads, VA	<p>1) Anchored as before, Berth 26, Hampton Roads 0815 Tested all navigation gear. 0819 All departments reported ready for getting underway. 0820 Commenced heaving anchor. 0835 Anchor aweigh. 2/3 speed ahead.</p> <p>2) 0900 Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, departed Base HOW with Calvert at 0900 for Cove Point Area.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>
			Underway to Cove Point, MD	<p>1) 0928 Passed through nets. 1033 Approached emergency anchorage due to trouble in fuel line. 1040 Anchor aweigh, standard speed ahead. 1119 Let go anchor. Emergency anchorage off B*** "T H" (illegible) due to engine trouble. 1207 Commenced heaving in anchor. 1216 Anchor aweigh, standard speed ahead, 15 knots, heading for Cove Point, Maryland.</p>	
				January 4th, continued:	
1943	January	4	Underway to Cove Point, MD	<p>1) 1425 Completed 20mm gun tests. 1518 Tested all cargo and running lights. Ship underway, continuing on course up Chesapeake.</p> <p>2) At 1546 Commander Transports received the following message from Monrovia "Am aground at buoy 16F nine miles north Cove Point" Leonard Wood and Calvert proceeding to assistance expect to arrive about 1800. Monrovia reported that she was clear of shoal at 1900. Apparent damage, none.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>
			Anchored Zone +4 Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) 1600 Ship underway continuing up Chesapeake. 1925 Let go port anchor, Zone +4 Chesapeake Bay. 1945 Secured special sea detail, set normal sea watch. Engines standby states.</p>	No additional information available from Monrovia or Leonard Wood war diaries regarding this incident.
1943	January	5	Anchored, Zone +4 Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Monrovia and Calvert in Cove Point Area. Calvert operating in vicinity of Cape Charles and Wolf Trap making radio compass calibrations.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before, Zone +4 Chesapeake Bay</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>
			Underway	<p>0828 Commenced heaving anchor. 0843 anchor aweigh, steaming on various courses and speeds and proceeding to calibrating area.</p>	
			Anchored, Wolf Trap anchorage	<p>0935 Commenced calibrating ship using radio direction finder. 1332 Commenced compensating magnetic compasses. 1539 Ship proceeding to Wolf Trap anchorage. 1615 Engines stopped. 1630 Let go anchor, Wolf Trap anchorage.</p>	1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	6	Anchored, Wolf Trap anchorage  Underway to Rappahannock Split anchorage.  Anchored, Rappahannock Split anchorage.	1) Calvert operating in the vicinity Wolf Trap calibrating radio direction finder, compensating magnetic compass, degaussing and holding boat drills.  2) Anchored as before, Wolf Trap anchorage. 0730 Stations special sea detail. 0745 Tested all navigation gear. 0755 Anchor aweigh, proceeding to Rappahannock Spit anchorage. Captain at Conn. 0905 Anchored, Rappahannock Spit anchorage. 0908 Commenced lowering boats. 1000 all boats lowered in the water. 1012 Commenced hoisting boats. 1130 All boats on board. 1207 General Quarters Drill. 1216 Commenced lowering boats. 1335 all boats in water. 1429 commenced hoisting boats. 1600 all boats on board. 1915 All hands to General Quarters. 1925 Secured from General Quarters.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943
1943	January	7	Anchored, Wolf Trap anchorage  Underway to Base HOW (Army Base), Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA	1) Calvert in Wolf Trap Area, then enroute to Army Base, Base HOW, docking at 1700.  2) Anchored as before, Berth Four J off Rappahannock Spit, VA. 0800 Held General Quarters Drill. 0811 Secured General Quarters, set Condition Four (4). 0813 Commenced lowering boats. 0843 Secured condition #4. 0855 All boats in water. 0940 Commenced hoisting boats. 1105 all boats hoisted. 1220 Special Sea Detail. 1235 Commenced heaving in anchor. 1253 Anchor aweigh, steaming on course 199 deg at standard speed. 1623 Passing through submarine net. 1742 Slow speed, awaiting pilot. 1744 Pilot aboard. maneuvering to get into basin with tugs. 1816 Bow line on dock. 1818 Stern line on dock, Base HOW, NOB Annex, Norfolk, VA.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943
1943	January	8	Base HOW (Army Base), Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA	1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee and Calvert at Army Base, Base HOW for general upkeep and preparation for embarkation of troops.  2) 0825 Harry Lee stood in and moored astern at berth 25, starboard side to pier 2, NOB annex, Norfolk VA. This day received training order 1-43 from Cmdr. amphib force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet  0805 Stevedores came aboard began stripping hatches for loading vehicles and equipment for 23rd Marines reinforced group. Note, this entry was struck from diary and initialed.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943
1943	January	9	Base HOW (Army Base), Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA	1) Calvert at Army Base, Base HOW loading troops and material.  2) Moored as before. Ship is in company at pier 2 with USS Harry Lee. 0200 Picket boat detail reported aboard relieved of duty by USS Harry Lee. 0809 - Stevedores aboard commenced strip #1-2-3+5 hatches to load vehicles and equipment for exercises, 23rd Marines, reinforcement group. 1130 Completed loading #2 hold.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
<b>Embarkation of Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines</b>					
1943	January	10	Base HOW (Army Base), Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA	<p>Company C were aboard the Calvert for amphibious training exercises to scheduled take place near Solomons Island, Chesapeake Bay for two weeks in mid-to-late January. Other elements of the 23rd Marines were embarked on the Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, and Monrovia.</p> <p>The company arrived in Norfolk on the 10th. They had left Camp Lejeune, New River, NC on the 9th and travelled to Norfolk via train:</p> <p>"January 1943 will not be easily forgotten by anyone who was with us. Our Battalion went on 'maneuvers' in the Chesapeake Bay, aboard the USS Calvert, to practice assault landings and disembarking to Higgins boats and reboarding."</p>	<p>United States Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Division, WWII - Website - Chapter 1 Online: <a href="https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1">https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1</a></p>
1943	January	10	Base HOW (Army Base), Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee and Calvert loading troops and equipment.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. 0100 Completed loading #1 hold. 0230 completed loading #3 load. 0800 - 2000 Continued embarkation of troops.</p> <p>Editor's note: In Cullen's 'History of the USS Calvert' he indicates that January 10, 1943 was the date when Captain Mullinnix relieved Captain Whitfield of command of the Calvert. However, official Naval records indicated this change of command occurred on February 3rd, 1943.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	11	Base HOW (Army Base), Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA  Underway to Wolf Trap Light, Smith Point  Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Calvert enroute Army Base, Base HOW to Cove Point for Amphibious Training Operations.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. 0010 Picket boat return from patrol duty, after being relieved by USS Harry Lee boat.</p> <p>Underway 0950 Pilot came aboard, tugs standing by port side fore and aft. Special sea detail stationed. 1022 Lines clear, ship underway with aid of tugs. 1039 Steaming on various courses and speeds to conform to channel.</p> <p>Drills 1335 General Quarters sounded all hands to battle stations. 1348 All stations reported manned and ready. 1341 Secure general quarters set condition "4". 1350 Secured from condition "4" 1355 Tested 20mm machine guns. 1402 Wolf Trap . 1435 Abandon ship sounded for troops. 1445 Secured from abandon ship drill. 1540 Smith Point.</p> <p>1600 - 2000 - Steaming as before at full speed, 17 knots. Proceeding up Chesapeake Bay on various courses conforming to the channel for Cove Point Maryland. 1723 Changed speed to standard, 15 knots and stationed the special sea detail. 1731, Cove Point abeam to port. 1740 approaching anchorage on various courses and speeds.</p> <p>1755 anchored in eight fathoms of water. 1810 Secured the special sea detail and set the regular anchor watch.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	12	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Calvert with 23rd Marines embarked in Cove Point Area for scheduled exercises. Indoctrination of troops and general drills.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 1119 Boat #19 left ship for Solomons Islands. 2130 Stationed anchor watch on the forecastle. Various LCTs came alongside throughout the day and evening.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 35 degrees; High of 47 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	13 - 25	Northern Chesapeake Bay, vicinity of Cove Point, MD.	<p><b>Landing Exercises, Cove Point, MD, Chesapeake Bay</b></p> <p>The Calvert conducted day and night landing exercises between January 13 to January 25 in company with Leonard Wood and Monrovia.</p>	War Diary, USS Harry Lee, January 1943
1943	January	13	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Calvert in Cove Point Area. General indoctrination of troops and boat drills.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0835 lowering boats in number 3 and 4 davits for a practice landing maneuver. 0930 all boats participating in maneuver are away from ship. 1119 boats participating in maneuvers are back at ship. 1100 to 1600 Various LCTs in vicinity.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 22 degrees; High of 41 degrees.</p> <p>Editor's Note: Davit #3 and #4 were in 2nd division.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	14	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) 23rd Marines embarked with Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Calvert and Monrovia. Exercising in Cove Point Area. General drills and indoctrination of troops.</p> <p>2) 0000 - 0400 - Various LCTs tied alongside. 0700 Tested ships whistle, steering gear and engine room telegraph in preparation for getting underway and found them satisfactory. 0754 Underway for landing operations, standard speed 15 knots. 0800 Underway as before making a lee for lowering boats. Commenced lowering boats for landing exercise. 0900 All boats in the water, commenced disembarking troops. 1030 Anchored in 7 fathoms. 1032 Re-embarking troops.</p> <p>3) Weather fine and clear. Gentle breeze. NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 23 degrees; High of 46 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>3) War Diary, USS Procyon, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	15	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Calvert and Monrovia with 23rd Marines embarked exercised at training of communication personnel in joint communication organization and procedure. Communication net set up afloat and ashore with actual battle conditions simulated.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0800 Underway, making a lee for lowering boats. 0857 All boats in the water. 0904 Commenced debarkation of troops and equipment. 1200 In company with Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee and Procyon. 1312 Commenced re-embarkation of troops and equipment. 1703 All boats aboard, proceeding toward anchorage. 1845 Picket boat watch set.</p> <p>3) "The following security measures will be placed in effect while operating in the Chesapeake Bay Area X, one port and one starboard. Three inch gun will be manned by a single crew with suitable fire-control personnel in direct communication with the officer of the deck. Deck X ships at anchor will maintain a armed picket boat from sunset to sunrise under conditions permitting X picket boat. Alert signal will be a red very star." Editor's note: "X" signifies each ship in receipt of message: Calvert, Leonard Wood, Monrovia and Procyon</p> <p>4) Weather cloudy to fine and clear with moderate to fresh winds. 5) During the day, plan was carried out as scheduled in the morning. The afternoon program was cancelled, due to a rough sea. NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 40 degrees; High of 53 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>3) Message received from the USS Harry Lee (Comtransamph-forlant) to Calvert, Leonard Wood, Monrovia and Procyon. Images of paperwork provided by Dwayne Bartley. Email correspondence, September 2018.</p> <p>4) War Diary, USS Procyon, January 1943</p> <p>5) War Diary, USS Monrovia, January 1943</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Loading at the rail vs debarkation nets</b></p>					
1943	Early			<p>During the early months of 1943 transports equipped with suitable davit gear practiced loading their landing craft at the rail.</p> <p>"Additional drills were held in loading embarked troops into landing craft at the rail. Troops were also drilled in proceeding from quarters to debarkation stations and in climbing up and down debarkation nets. Positive results loading at the rail and lowering boats to the water."</p> <p>At this time the Calvert did not yet have suitable davits to allow for loading at the rail. Troops embarked on the Calvert continued to use debarkation nets to embark in their assigned landing craft.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Leonard Wood, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	16	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Calvert and Monrovia with 23rd Marines drilled in various stages of landing operations. Troops were loaded into boats, which proceeded to the Line of Departure then returned to debarkation points. Boat crews were also given training in the landing and retraction of boats. General drills and indoctrination.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Increasing wind. 0732 Underway to make lee for lowering boats and amphibious exercises. 0801 Commenced hoisting out boats. 0900 All boats in the water, commenced debarkation of troops. 1000 Last boat left the ship. 1200 Underway for Cove Point. 1201 Anchored off Cove Point. 1300 Commenced re-embarkation of troops and equipment. 1602 Underway for anchorage. 1617 Anchored off Cove Point. In company with Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 39 degrees; High of 68 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	17	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert in Cove Point Area. Held battalion landing exercises which, due to low visibility, were not highly successful. Boats experienced difficulty in locating correct beaches and finding their way back to the ship. Several waves were very late in landing.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. #12 boat in water as picket boat. 0800 to 1600 Several LCTs and LCIs came alongside and departed. 1445 Landing team returned aboard. 1845 All boats secured aboard. 1900 Darkened ship. 2142 Fog closing in, commenced sounding fog bell.</p> <p>3) On account of the dense fog the boats experienced great difficulty in locating the line of departure and the designated beach.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 50 degrees; High of 74 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>3) War Diary, USS Leonard Wood, January 1944</p>
1943	January	18	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert with 23rd Marines embarked, in Cove Point Area. Inclement weather and low visibility made landing operations impossible. Day taken up with drills, conferences, planning and general indoctrination of troops.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Following men of war present: Leonard Wood (COMTRANSDIV 1), Procyon, Monrovia, Harry Lee. Heavy fog remained, continued sounding fog signals. 0700 Delayed getting underway for operations due to heavy fog. 1417 Commenced lowering boats for exercise. 1437 All boats in the water. 1438 Commenced debarkation of troops. 1515 All troops off the ship. 1546 First wave landed. 1608 Commenced re-embarkation of troops. 1621 Completed re-embarkation. 1652 All boats hoisted aboard.</p> <p>NWS) Weather during the day: Low of 39 degrees; High of 51 degrees. .09 inches rain.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>



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1943	January	19	Cove Point anchorage, north of Cove Point	<p>1) Due to continued unfavorable weather conditions landing operations were postponed until tomorrow. Day taken up with drills, conferences and general indoctrination of troops.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. No movement or exercises noted in war diary. Heavy fog; Visibility 600 yards.</p> <p>3) Marines and equipment debarked and a successful landing made before noon in a moderately heavy fog. Before Marines were ready to return, the sea became rough, making hoisting in operations difficult.</p> <p>NWS) Weather during the day: Low of 36 degrees; High of 64 degrees. .43 inches rain</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>3) Diary, USS Monrovia, January 1942</p>
1943	January	20	Cove Point anchorage, North of Cove Point Transport area anchorage, South of Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert with 23rd Marines embarked, at Cove Point, Maryland. Held day regimental Landing Exercises. H-hour at day break, troops returning aboard before dark.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Following ships present: Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee. 0755 Underway for transport area. 0857 Anchored in transport area, south of Cove Point. Various LCTs alongside.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 16 degrees; High of 36 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
<b>Hard Winter Weather</b>					
1943	January	Mid	Cove Point Area	<p>"It so happened during our 16 days at sea that the weather was abominable. Although hard to imagine, the author still feels the Chesapeake Bay was the roughest sea he ever experienced, with six to nine months total sea time over the next three years. Climbing down or up the rope nets with the Higgins boats rising and falling with forty foot sea swells was not a picnic. We learned in a hurry to let go instantly as the Higgins boat reached the crest of the swell. If you released a fraction of a second too late you could fall forty feet into the Higgins boat. If you climbed down too far, the boat would rise to swat you in the keister and knock you off the net. That was the better choice - at least you were in the boat, not falling. Reboarding was slightly different. You had to grab the net at the top of the swell and climb five to six feet immediately or the next swell would raise the boat up to swat you. I also learned during these exercises that a waterproof belt was a great thing to have, unless it got wet. I lost some "valuables". Our practice landings were made on Solomon Island and as Russ Gross observed, it was "colder than hell". We agree that it was cold, although we don't know how cold it is in "hell". Another footnote to that history, in later years Rowland Lewis had a fishing boat on the Chesapeake Bay and often went fishing in the vicinity of Solomon Island. However, he had learned his lesson, he didn't go in January."</p>	<p>United States Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Division, WWII - Website Chapter 1</p> <p><a href="https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1">https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1</a></p>
1943	Winter			<p>"Training during this time was a tedious experience. The winter of 1943 was one of the worst winters in years for the Chesapeake Bay area. Sterling remembers the terrible weather: "Ah man, was it ever. You ran into some rough weather." Training went on however, even though the weather made it extremely difficult. The landing craft could only make slow progress in the ice-ridden waters of the northern Chesapeake. In very cold temperatures the landing craft would sometimes freeze-up. Pumps, and sometimes even the props, would freeze leaving the boat crew and embarked troops floating powerless in the rough waters."</p>	<p>Adventures of a Landing Craft Coxswain. Funck, p23</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	Winter			"I too grew up on the Calvert. She gave me my sea legs enroute to Sicily. Those pre-Sicily days and nights rehearsing off Cove Point in the Chesapeake, bouncing around the bay, was the only time I ever got sea sick in the Navy."	Calversion, V20, P2. Hal Winter
1943	January	21	Transport area anchorage, South of Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert with 23rd Marines embarked, at Cove Point Maryland. Held day regimental landing exercises, H-Hour 1200. Troops returning to ships about 1700.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before.  0605 Underway to conduct exercises, southerly transport area.  0808 Anchored in transport area. 0812 Commenced landing troops and equipment. 0843 All boats loaded with troops and equipment. 0845 All boats in the water; Boats from the Harry Lee reported.  0955 Simulated attack made on ship by 14 Navy planes.  1000 All boats loaded and away from the ship. 1025 Boats returned continuing discharging equipment; LCIs alongside.  1227 Boats returning. LCIs left ship.  1400 Underway for anchorage. 1530 Commenced reloading equipment and troops. LCT and LCI alongside to unload troops and equipment.  1700 All troops and equipment in connection with landing exercise evacuated from the beach.  1705 Fueling and hoisting all boats. LCT cast off. 1757 #3 hold closed.  1800 All boats refueled. 1900 Picket boat watch set.  2015 All boats secured aboard ship. 2045 Darkened ship. Picket boat watch maintained.</p> <p>3) Weather conditions were favorable and the normal schedule was resumed.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 24 degrees; High of 38 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>3) War Diary, USS Leonard Wood, January 1944</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	22	Anchored off of Cove Point Enroute to Bloodsworth Island Returned to Cove Point anchorage	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert departed Cove Point in early morning for Bloodsworth Island Area. Landing craft exercised at firing rocket barrage projectiles, and laying smoke screens with smoke pots. In afternoon returned to Cove Point, ships anchored and conferences were held aboard the Leonard Wood.</p> <p>2) Plan for the day: To proceed with Leonard Wood, Calvert and Harry Lee to anchorages off Bloodsworth Island. An observation party composed of 4 LCPs from each ship with Naval and Marine men and officers as observers to be despatched and form in column, with leading boat from each ship formed in line abreast and proceed to point 1000 yards from Bloodsworth Island Beach. Following this party each ship to have 2 smoke screen boats to lay screen after rockets are fired to protect withdrawal. This observation exercise to be followed by preparation for night landing exercises to follow.</p> <p>3) Anchored as before. 0702 Underway to form column in the following order: Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee, Calvert proceeding to anchorage off Bloodsworth Island. Standard speed 14 knots. 0815 Anchored. 0900 Support Boat and six landing boats left ship for USS Leonard Wood with observers to carry out scheduled exercises. 1240 Hoisted all boats. 1300 Underway to anchorage. 1355 Anchored off Cove Point. 1525 Boats swung at rail and from davits at each hatch. 1736 All boats hoisted. 1820 Picket boat party mustered and watch set. 1907 Picket Boat secured. 2000 Cove Point and Down Point lights are extinguished for the duration of darkness. Darkened ship.</p> <p>NWS) Low of 22 degrees; High of 38 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Monrovia, January 1942</p> <p>3) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	23	Cove Point area, Cove Point anchorage	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Calvert and Monrovia with 23rd Marines embarked. Exercising at Landing Operations off Cove Point, Maryland. Held Regimental Landing Exercises at dawn. Control vessel failed to find line of departure promptly which resulted in first wave landing late. All troops were reembarked by 1200 Queen. Stores and material were not landed. Afternoon taken up with joint critiques, conference, general discussions of mistakes made today and planning for tomorrow's exercise.</p> <p>2) Anchored off Cove Point. 0200 Underway to form column, proceeding to southern transport area to conduct exercises. 0400 Commenced lowering port and starboard boats. 0430 All port boats loaded and clear of the side. Continued loading of troops and equipment to starboard. 0535 All boats completely loaded and away from ship's side. 0700 First wave made the beach. 0728 Underway proceeding to anchorage north of Cove Point. 0805 Anchored off Cove Point. 0820 Waves returned to ship, commenced discharging troops and fueling and raising all boats. 0947 All boats aboard. 0951 Underway to anchorage. 1800 Picket boat watch set. Prepared to darken ship. 2000 Picket boat secured. 2100 Ship darkened.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 29 degrees; High of 56 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	24	Cove Point area, Cove Point anchorage  Anchored off Cove Point	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert with 23rd Marines embarked operations off Cove Point. Held Regimental Dawn Landing. Troops to return aboard tomorrow. Landing considered very satisfactory and a great improvement over previous landings during this period.</p> <p>2) Anchored off Cove Point. 0101 Underway proceeded to Exercise Transport Area, leading convoy of four ships. 0259 Anchored in transport area. 0300 Commenced lowering forward boats and strip hatches preparing to unload equipment. 0326 began unloading forward hatches. 0359 Began debarking troops and continued lowering boats. 0513 Last boat left the ship. 0655 Commenced simulated air attack problem. 0814 Underway and formed column with the Leonard Wood as formation guide followed by the Monrovia, enroute to landing exercise line of departure off Cove Point, Maryland. 0842 Continued simulated air attack on column formation. 0923 Anchored off Cove Point. 0930 Commenced unloading troops and equipment. 1426 Completed unloading ship. 1430 Ten simulated casualties brought aboard. 1818 Established picket boat. 1930 Secured picket boat.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 31 degrees; High of 47 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	25	Cove Point Anchorage	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Monrovia and Calvert reembarked, 23rd Marines (reinforced) in Cove Point, Maryland, Area.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0400 Hazy-visibility 1000 yards. 0625 Light fog decreasing visibility to 400 yards. 0650 Orders received from Comtransforlant not to lower any boats or return any troops to the ship. 0800 Dense fog throughout the watch. 1525 Fog lifted. Sent all boats to beach to commence re-embarkation of troops and equipment. 1620 Began re-embarking troops and equipment. 2127 Finished loading troops and equipment. Covering all hatches. 2210 All boats aboard and secured. 2309 Fog set in.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 35 degrees; High of 68 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p>
1943	January	26	Cove Point Anchorage  Underway to Norfolk, VA  Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee and Calvert departed Cove Point Area for Base HOW.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before, off Cove Point. 0400 In thick fog. 0435 Notified the Captain and Executive Officer of increasing visibility. 0505 Underway in column, Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Calvert, and Harry Lee. Standard speed 14 knots (84 rpm). 1423 Moored starboard side to berth 25, pier #1, N.O.B. Annex, Norfolk, with Monrovia, Harry Lee, Leonard Wood, Procyon.</p> <p>3) Upon arrival in Norfolk the personnel and equipment of 23rd Marines were disembarked. They enjoyed a day of liberty before returning to Camp Lejeune on January 27th.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>3) United States Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Division, WWII - Chapter 1 - <a href="https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1">https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1</a></p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
<b>Liberty in Norfolk, VA</b>					
1943			Norfolk	"The Chesapeake training was not all misery. When we returned to Norfolk, the Brass gave us "Liberty" in Norfolk - until 6 p.m. That was because Norfolk rolled up the sidewalks at 6 p.m. anyway - not even a drugstore remained open. Most of us were broke as a payday (the 15th) had passed us by while aboard ship, but they gave us - each and every man - ten dollars in two-dollar bills. There was not too much to spend it on in Norfolk, but I believe there are still remnants of those two-dollar bills floating around there. (Ten dollars would have bought much more than a hundred dollars today.)"	United States Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Division, WWII - Chapter 1. Online: <a href="https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1">https://www.c123rd.com/wwii-history/chapter-1</a>
1943			Norfolk	<p>"Even liberty, which meant precious time away from daily rigors of ship duty and training, didn't raise the men's spirits. The crew had the misfortune of having Norfolk as their primary liberty destination. A visit to Norfolk wasn't much better than being on the ship. The sailors' favorite nickname for Norfolk was 'Shit City':</p> <p>At that the time we had support from everyone, no matter where you went stateside, you connected to people who were interested in seeing the war taken care of. The only place I can say that I ever ran into bad feelings, and that changed not to long after the war was on, was that Norfolk. First time we ever pulled into Norfolk, VA, I can still see the signs: No soldiers, sailors, marines, or dogs on the grass. You see Norfolk was a rough Navy town. The people that lived there weren't necessarily happy about all the sailors.</p> <p>Coming from an area where you had the full support, not being used to that attitude took some getting used to. Now out of town, the attitude was altogether different. If you went out the main drag of Norfolk there was an amusement park and a rolling skating. You could go roller skating, which was always nice because there weren't many sailors there.</p> <p>Sterling also recalls that Norfolk had the largest rats of all the eastern port cities. Special watches were set up to watch for rats trying to climb aboard via the mooring lines. When Sterling did have the time and money available to take advantage of liberty he would take a ferry to Portsmouth where decent theatres and restaurants could be found."</p>	Adventures of a Landing Craft Coxswain. Funk, p23-24
1943	January	27	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Moored starboard side to berth 25, pier #1, N.O.B. Annex, Norfolk, in company with Monrovia, Harry Lee, Leonard Wood, Procyon. 0100 USS Calvert relieved of picket boat duty by USS Leonard Wood. 0400 Boats in water moored to end of ship were LCV 28, LCV 4, LCP(L) 12, gig, LCM 3 and 5 and LCP(R) 20. Full anchor and dock watches maintained in accordance with ships orders.</p> <p>2) Taking on stores, routine repair and upkeep at Army Base, Base HOW.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>
1943	January	28	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Moored as before. 0400 - 0800 Maintaining a picket boat patrol. 2100 Pickett boat secured by order of OOD in lieu of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>2) Taking on stores, routine repair and upkeep at Army Base, Base HOW.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	January	29	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Moored as before.</p> <p>2) Taking on stores; routine repair and upkeep. Captain C.D. Edgar hoisted pennant in Calvert as Commander Transport Division Three.</p> <p>3) Fifteen of the Calvert's boatswain mates (BM1c and BM2c) were transferred to the US Coast Guard Headquarters, Norfolk, VA for duty. Bertran George H.   Hill, William H.   Hitchens, Floyd M.   Lewis, Homer   Lewis, Leon L.   Mason, Ishmael W.   Midgett, Walter R.   Pake, Cyril A.   Rose, John R.   Sadler, Daniel E.   Straup, Harry M.   Trafford, Alfred F.   Wescott, William G.   Williams, Evan   Wouters, Raphael V.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p> <p>3) Report of Changes, Muster Roll, USS Calvert, January 1943 US Coast Guard typed at top of page.</p>
1943	January	30	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Moored as before.</p> <p>0100 Set picket boat security watch, relieving USS Leonard Wood's boat. 0830 Gasoline barge tied up to port side. 0845 Commenced receiving gasoline. 1006 Secured from receiving gasoline, total amount received 3070 gallons.</p> <p>2) Taking on stores; routine repair and upkeep.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>
1943	January	31	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Moored as before.</p> <p>1000 Church services held aboard. 1200 Reported chronometers wound to commanding officer.</p> <p>2) Taking on stores; routine repair and upkeep.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, January 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, January 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943-February				<p>For the first-half of February found the Calvert and crew undergoing repairs, maintenance and upkeep in Norfolk and in the company of Transport Division One. During this time change of command took place on February 3rd, with Captain Mullinnix relieving Captain Whitfield.</p> <p>In mid-February ships of Transport Division One undertook training exercises in the Chesapeake Bay, near Solomons Island, MD with the elements of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division embarked. This exercise was the start of preparations for the upcoming invasion of Sicily, which the Calvert and the 45th Infantry participated in July, 1943.</p> <p>By the end of February the Calvert had embarked another contingent of US Army personnel for training near Solomons Island, MD. The ship also received specially trained temporary beach party crews and the Calvert's beach party was sent to Little Creek Amphibious Base, VA, and Fort Pierce, FL, for specialized training.</p>	
	1943	February	1	<p>Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA</p> <p>Commander, Transport Division One: Pier Two, Army Base, Base HOW. Ships loading stores and general upkeep.                      APA12 Leonard Wood (Flagship)                      APA31 Monrovia                      APA32 Calvert                      APA10 Harry Lee                      AKA2 Procyon</p>	War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943
	1943	February	1	<p><b>On February 1, 1943 the USS Calvert was reclassified from a Transport, AP-65 , to an Attack Transport, APA-32.</b></p> <p>This reclassification applied across the entire US Naval amphibious force, with Transports (AP designation) such as the Calvert reclassified as Attack Transports (APA designation) and cargo ships (AK designation) such as the Procyon reclassified as Attack Cargo (AKA designation).</p> <p>2) "In the early 1940s, as the Navy expanded in response to the threat of involvement in World War II, a large number of civilian passenger ships and larger freighters were acquired, converted to transports and given hull numbers in the AP series. Some of these were outfitted with heavy boat davits and other arrangements to enable them to handle landing craft for amphibious assault operations. In 1942, when the AP number series had already extended beyond 100, it was decided that these amphibious warfare ships constituted a separate category of warship from conventional transports. Therefore, the new classification of Attack Transport (APA) was created and numbers assigned to fifty-eight APs (AP #s 2, 8-12, 14-18, 25-27, 30, 34-35, 37-40, 48-52, 55-60, 64-65 and 78-101) then in commission or under construction. The actual reclassification of these ships was not implemented until February 1943."</p>	<p>1) Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, Volume 4, p490</p> <p>2) APA / LPA Attack Transport - Online: <a href="https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/apa.htm">https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/apa.htm</a></p>
1943	February	1	<p>Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA</p> <p>Moored as before. Ships present: Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Procyon, Monrovia                      1840 Commenced running picket boat off berth.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943	
1943	February	2	<p>Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA</p> <p>1) Moored as before.                      1610 Captain A.P. Mullinnix came aboard to see the commanding officer. 1621 Captain J.W. Whitfield and Captain A.P. Mullinnix left the ship.                      2) Loading stores and general upkeep.                      Monrovia designated Flagship for Commander Transport Division One.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p>	

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	3	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1) USS Calvert continued loading stores, general upkeep and repairs.</p> <p>2) Moored as before, Pier Two, Army Base HOW, Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, VA. 0906 Held general quarters drill. 0910 Held fire drill. 0916 Held collision drill.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	3	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p><b>February 3, 1942 - Change of Command: Captain Allen P. Mullinnix relieves Captain J.W. Whitfield as Commanding Officer, USS Calvert.</b></p> <p>0807 Captain Allen P. Mullinnix, USN came aboard to assume command of USS Calvert.  0910 Captain Allen P. Mullinnix assumed command.  0923 Captain J.W. Whitfield, having been relieved as commanding officer by Allen P. Mullinnix, left ship.</p> <p>Editor's notes:  In Cullen's 'History of the USS Calvert' he indicates that this change of command took place on January 10, 1943. However, official Naval records indicated this change of command occurred on February 3rd, 1943.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p> <p>EN) A History of the USS Calvert (APA-32). Cullen, David B. p1</p>
<p><b>Additional biographical information for Captain Allen P. Mullinnix and Captain J.W. Whitfield</b></p> <p>Captain Allen P. Mullinnix  <a href="http://www.usscalvert.com/2015/01/30/captain-allen-p-mullinnix-commanding-officer-jan-43-apr-43/">http://www.usscalvert.com/2015/01/30/captain-allen-p-mullinnix-commanding-officer-jan-43-apr-43/</a></p> <p>Captain J.W. Whitfield</p> <p>1) "Captain Whitfield was reassigned as Commanding Officer at Little Creek Virginia to head up the Amphibious Training Base. Captain Whitfield offered John Zdanowicz and Sterling to join him at the training base prior to departing for Little Creek. Sterling and John chose to remain on the Calvert."</p> <p>2) Sterling Funck's memories of Captain Whitfield; Captain Whitfield's sword:  <a href="http://www.usscalvert.com/2013/03/08/captain-whitfields-officers-sword/">http://www.usscalvert.com/2013/03/08/captain-whitfields-officers-sword/</a></p> <p>3) Captain J.W. Whitfield biographical information, Legion of Merit  "The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Legion of Merit to Captain James Walter Whitfield, United States Navy, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commanding Officer of the Amphibious Training Base, Camp Bradford, Virginia, from March 1943 until October 1944. Captain Whitfield organized, equipped and efficiently operated facilities for the training of Army combat teams and naval landing craft crews of all types and of joint amphibious training schools. He was responsible in large measure for the high state of readiness of these troops and units in the assaults on Sicily, Salerno and in the Pacific."</p>					
<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) Adventures of a Landing Craft Coxswain. Funck, p23</p> <p>3) Online:  <a href="https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/311189">https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/311189</a></p>					



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	4-10	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1, 2) For the period February 4th to the 10th the Calvert remained moored at Pier Two taking on supplies and undergoing general upkeep and repairs.</p> <p>2) Notable entries for this period, USS Calvert's War Diary: February 6: 1215 Crane No. YD 73 tied up alongside to unload splinter shields.</p> <p>Editor's note: STS splinter shields were used to protect the weapon and ammunition from fragmentation during anti-aircraft operations</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	11 - 14	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA	<p>1, 2) For the period February 11th to the 14th the Calvert, and ships of Transport Division One, took on supplies for units of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division in preparation for upcoming Amphibious Exercises in the Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>2) Notable entries for this period, USS Calvert's War Diary: February 11: This day received Training Order 2-43 Landing Group Exercise.</p> <p>February 12: 2300 Commenced putting boats in water from forward decks and hatches, preparatory to landing vehicles and equipment for coming exercises.</p> <p>February 14: 0800 Hoisted all boats aboard.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	15	Naval Operating Base Annex (Army Base), Norfolk, VA Enroute to Cove Point anchorage, Chesapeake Bay.	<p>1) Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, with Calvert, Harry Lee, and Monrovia at Army Base, Base HOW. Leonard Wood, in company with Monrovia, Harry Lee, Calvert and Procyon departed Base HOW for Area of Solomons Island, Maryland.</p> <p>2) 1505 Ship underway with Commander Sweeney at control, assisted by pilot. 2000 - 2400 Steaming as before on various courses and speeds with Lt. Commander Sweeney at the conn. Standard speed 14 knots. 2150 Exercised darken ship.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943				<p><b>The start of amphibious training exercises with the 45th Infantry Division, US Army, for the upcoming invasion of Sicily</b></p> <p>In the Spring of 1943, the CENT Force with troops embarked, commenced a training program on the beaches of Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>Editor's note: CENT: The USS Calvert was assigned to TG 85.1, Attack Group One, of the Scogliitti (CENT) Attack Force, composed of the Transport Divisions One and Seven.</p>	<p>A History of the USS Calvert (APA-32), David B. Cullen, p2</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	16 -23	Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<b>For the period February 15th to 23rd the Calvert, ships of the First Transport Division, with troops of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division embarked, participated in training and landing exercises in the area of Cove Point, Maryland, Chesapeake Bay.</b>	
1943	February	16	Cove Point anchorage, Chesapeake Bay. Underway. Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, in company with Calvert, Harry Lee, and Monrovia anchored in Area of Cove Point, Maryland.</p> <p>2) 0000 Steaming in column formation. Standard speed 14 knots. Ship completely darkened. 0055 Anchored off Cove Point. 0745 All boats manned. 0750 Commenced lowering all boats. 0820 Boats alongside. Began disembarking troops. 1011 Completed days exercise on account of weather. Re-embarked troops and hoisted boats. 1350 Boats and equipment returned from beach. 1533 Underway, enroute to alternate transport area. 1607 Let go port anchor. 1630 Held abandon ship drill for troops. 1648 Secured from abandon ship drill.</p> <p>3) 1745 Calvert's Gig came alongside. 1750 Calvert's Gig cast off and departed.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 11 degrees; High of 26 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p> <p>3) War Diary, USS Monrovia, February 1943</p>
1943	February	17	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Boats put in water at daylight. Daylight landing unopposed over organized beaches. Tactical vehicles and initial beach reserve supplies unloaded.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0800 Commenced lowering boats for practice landing maneuver. 0815 Beach Party left ship for the beach. 0825 Beach Party landed. 0900 First troops landed on beach. 0950 Stopped unloading at hold #1. 0951 Hoisting davit boats. 1200 - 1600 Continuing to unload equipment. 1750 Secured from unloading ship.</p> <p>3) 1120 Sick bay reports that at 1100, Funck, S.S. Cox, USN, was admitted to sick bay and received treatment for contusions of head and left arm. Funck was struck by a swinging hook while he was on duty in a landing boat coming alongside of ship.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 19 degrees; High of 45 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p> <p>3) Deck Log, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	18	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Continuation of exercise to conclusion of tactical mission. Completion of unloading of beach reserve supplies and tactical vehicles. Commenced reloading of vehicles and supplies.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. In the overnight hours and morning hours the transports experienced strong winds and strong tides. The Monrovia was dragging anchor in the vicinity of the Calvert, while the four of the Leonard Wood's boats were adrift and had to be reclaimed. All the while the Calvert's anchor held, although engines were at the ready if maneuvering was required. "Ship heading generally north, fresh n.w. winds, swinging 10 to 15 degrees either side of heading. Anchor holding ground. Tide ebbing strongly."</p> <p>1201 Debarkation stations manned, boats lowered. 1218 All boats in water left for beach. 1335 Boat #23 sank 500 yards from Blue Beach with Army jeep. No casualties. Boat towed to beach and water pumped from it. 1449 Started loading #1 hatch. 1600 - 200 Continued receiving vehicles from the beach. 1716 Commenced hoisting boats. 1730 Ceased bringing vehicles from the beach. 1920 All boats aboard except #6 which is being used as a picket boat.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 19 degrees; High of 39 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	19	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Tactical withdrawal to the beach. Supplies and vehicles reloaded on ships. Personnel embarked. Exercise No. 1 concluded.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0750 Commenced lowering boats for reloading ship. 0800 - 1200 Loading of vehicles and re-embarkation of troops. 1323 Completed re-embarkation of troops and material. 1415 Completed gassing and fueling of boats. Hoisted boats. 2000 - 2400 Clear and bright moonlight.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 27 degrees; High of 60 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	20	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conducted critique for Commanding Offices of ships and troops. Separate critique conducted for Communication Officers of ships and troops. Preparation for Exercise No. 2. Commencement of Exercise No. 2, night debarkation, landing unopposed over organized beaches.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0000 - 0400 Running picket boat patrol. Clear and moonlight. 0400 - 0800 Clear and calm. 0716 Secured picket boat. 0930 General Quarters drill. 1015 Fire drill. 1022 Abandon ship drill.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 37 degrees; High of 67 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	20	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>February 20th, continued:</p> <p>2) 1820 Commenced preparations for lowering boats. 1834 Commenced lowering boats. 1900 Debarkation stations manned. 1901 First boat alongside. 1910 Beach Party left ship to go ashore. 1920 First loaded boat left the ship. 1923 Troop debarkation began. 1955 First boat hit the beach. 2000 - 2400 Bright moonlight, slight haze. Continuing unloading vehicles. Ship completely darkened. 2014 Last personnel boat left ship. 2015 Commenced hoisting davit boats (LCPRs). 2025 Completed unloading #1 hold. 2034 Commenced unloading at #3 hold. 2035 Covered #1 hold. 2054 All davit boats aboard except #15 which is being used as salvage boat. 2100 Secured #3 gun crew. 2140 Ship swinging to ebb tide.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 37 degrees; High of 67 degrees.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943
1943	February	21	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Continuation of Exercise No. 2, night debarkation, landing unopposed over organized beach.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0000 Continuing to unload ship. 0224 Completed unloading number three hold. 0244 Commenced hoisting boats. 0323 Completed unloading number two hold thus completing unloading operations. 0439 All boats hoisted except picket boat. 0446 Commenced running picket boat. 0730 Secured picket boat. 1900 Set the picket boat watch. 2000 - 2400 Moonlight to overcast light haze. 2050 Boats 11 and 18 left ship to pick up Beach Party. 2243 Beach Party returned aboard in boats 11 and 18. Boats hoisted aboard.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 39 degrees; High of 59 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	22	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Continuation of Exercise No. 2. Development of tactical situation leading to forced withdrawal. Personnel and supplies reloaded on ship during darkness.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0000 - 0400 Continued to operate picket boat. Sea calm with bright moon and low lying haze. 0400 - 0800 Running picket boat secured at 0746. Sea calm, sky overcast and hazy lifting with visibility increasing. 1850 Darkened ship. 1900 Beach party left the beach in boats 21 and 27. 1916 Commenced lowering davit boats. 1940 All davit boats in water. 1945 Boat formation left for beach. 2015 First boat returned from beach with troops. 2126 All troops aboard from beach. 2154 Last boat hoisted. 2225 Set Picket Boat watch. Sky clear with low lying haze. Sea calm.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 25 degrees; High of 62 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	23	Anchored, Transport Area, Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conducted Exercise 5AP. Troops landed on beaches in area of Cedar Point, Maryland. Troops reembarked after landing of last boat wave. Upon completion of Exercise, ships proceeded to Base HOW.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0000 - 0400 Sea calm. Bright moon in clear sky, low lying haze. 0715 Fog set in, visibility reduced to less than 1,000 yards. No wind, sea calm. 0735 Received orders from COMTRANSAMPFORLANT to delay the days operations until further orders. 0080 Fog continued and visibility decreased to about 100 yards. 1030 Fog lifted. 1125 Prepared to get underway. 1135 Underway to transport area to carry out exercise 5AP. 1240 Arrived in Transport Area and set "Condition Four" 1250 Commenced lowering boats. 1256 Troops commenced debarkation. 1345 Last boat reached rendezvous area. 1417 Secured condition four. 1459 First wave landed. 1513 Last wave landed. 1530 Commenced reembarking troops. 1546 All troops aboard, commenced hoisting boats. 1629 Underway, proceeding down Chesapeake Bay to join USS Leonard Wood. 1705 Took position in column. 2000 - 2400 Steaming as before, standard speed 14 knots.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 33 degrees; High of 61 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February 24th to March 9th			<p><b>Upon return to Norfolk on February 24th a new rotation of US Army's 45h Infantry Division troops embarked the Calvert for training exercises in the Cove Point area of the Chesapeake Bay for the period February 28th to March 9th.</b></p>	
1943	February	24	Underway to Norfolk, VA  Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Unloading of personnel and supplies concluded. Newly arrived vehicles prepared for loading. Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Calvert, Monrovia and Procyon loaded stores, conducted general upkeep and repair work.</p> <p>2) Underway as before. 0255 Leg go port anchor. (presumed anchored in vicinity of Hampton Roads) 0730 Underway to Army Base. 0839 First line, #6, to dock. 0846 Cast off tugs. 0858 Secured main engines and special sea detail. 0900 Rigged gangway and commenced disembarking troops. 1048 Completed disembarking troops.</p> <p>1230 Advance detachment of 45th Infantry, Reinforced, embarked in accordance with Training Order 1-43, Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	February	25	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Commander Transports, as before. Brief of Operations: Loading of personnel and supplies (Group 2) commenced. Conduct of drills, general upkeep and repair work.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. 1310 Troops boarding with gear.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	26	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Commander Transports, as before. Brief of Operations: Loading of personnel and supplies (Group 2). Conduct of drills, general upkeep and repair work.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. 0105 Commenced operating picket boat. 0400 All boats on hatches lowered into water preparatory to loading cargo. Sky becoming overcast with showers. Sea calm. Secured picket boat. 0815 Stevedores aboard. 1200 All hatch stevedores ashore for lunch hour. Overcast with light rains at end of watch, barometer dropping steadily. 1225 Stevedores returned aboard, loading hatches. 1515 Barometer continued to drop, began raining.</p> <p>2103 Company B, Fortieth Engineers began coming aboard with 7 officers, 167 enlisted men. 2125 Temporary beach party consisting of 3 officers and 47 enlisted reported aboard for temporary duty. 2145 All holds loaded and all boats aboard.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
<p><b>Temporary assignment of the Calvert's Beach Party to Camp Bradford, VA (Little Creek Amphibious Training Base); Embarkation of temporary Beach Party</b></p>					
1943	February	26	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) "Calvert beach party transferred to Camp Bradford, VA. Then to Fort Pierce Florida for beach party training" - Lawrence C. Wagner</p> <p>2) "When L.T. Corbin and I get together we reminisce about being transferred off in February, 1943, for Beach Party Training with Chief Matty Schwan, as a unit of 42 men, and then returning to the Calvert in August, 1943." - George W. Copas</p> <p>3) "We (the Beach Party) left the Calvert for Camp Bradford for training and organization into Company C Platoon 7 of the 3rd Beach Battalion. ..." - James Samsell, PhM2c - Leesburg FL</p> <p>Editor's notes: EN1) James Samsell notes that the Beach Party departed the Calvert on February 2, 1943. However the Calvert's Report of Changes, Muster Roll, for February 1943 indicates the date was February 26. EN2) Camp Bradford Norfolk Virginia, also known as Little Creek Amphib Training Base, where by this time former Calvert Commanding Officer J.W. Whitfield was in command of the training base. EN3) Confirmed count of ~42 enlisted men transferred off the Calvert, via Report of Changes, Muster Roll, USS Calvert, February 1943.</p>	<p>1) Calversion V43, p2</p> <p>2) Calversion, Vol 33, p4</p> <p>3) Calversion, Vol 51, p3</p> <p>EN1,3,4) Report of Changes, Muster Roll, USS Calvert, February 1943. EN2) See previous source noted for February 2, 1943.</p>
1943	February	27	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Loading of personnel and supplies (Group 2). Conduct of drills, general upkeep and repair work.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. Rain, snow and strong wind throughout the watch. 0800 - 1200 Sky overcast, intermittent rain, strong wind. 1015 Sky cleared, wind continued to blow. 1200 - 0400 Clear and cold weather, fresh breeze diminishing to moderate.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	February	28	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA  Underway to Cove Point area, Chesapeake Bay  Anchored South of Cove Point, Chesapeake Bay	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Loading of personnel and supplies (Group 2) concluded. Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, in company with Harry Lee, Calvert, Monrovia and Procyon departed for Cove Point, MD.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. 0000 Clear crisp weather. 0525 Commenced loading first contingent of second group of troops. 0705 Commenced loading second contingent of second group of troops. 1010 Completed loading troops. Clear to partly cloudy with southwest wind increasing to force four. 1302 Underway. 1535 Abandon ship drill. 2000 Steaming to anchorage. Ship completely darkened. 2300 Anchored in Chesapeake Bay, south of Cove Point, Maryland.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 31 degrees; High of 56 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, February 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, February 1943</p>
1943	mid-February / mid-March			<p><b>Historical disambiguation regarding the Calvert's reported presence at Fort Pierce, Amphibious Training Base, in mid-February and mid-March, 1943</b></p> <p>Crew members (Funck, Fountain, et. al.) recalled that the Calvert and crew trained at Fort Pierce, Florida between mid-February and mid-March. Two National Archives photos also indicate this locale: 1) Photo N-18967A: "Amphibious maneuvers at AFTB Ft. Pierce, FL Feb 18, 1943. Taking 155 MM gun out of hole." 2) Photo N-18965A: "Reloading equipment on USS Calvert APA-32 during maneuvers at AFTB, Ft Pierce, FLA. Reloading trucks on transport. Mar. 4, 1943."</p> <p>However, official Navy war diaries indicate that the Calvert remained in the Chesapeake Bay and Norfolk, VA area during this time.</p>	<p>1) Calversion V26, p6</p> <p>2) Calversion, Vol 25, p7</p> <p>See also Funck, pp24-25</p> <p>See also War Diary, USS Calvert, February and March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March			<p>From the beginning of March, through the 9th, the Calvert's crew and embarked troops of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division underwent training exercises near Cove Point and Solomons Island, MD area.</p> <p>After a few days moored in Norfolk in mid-March, the Calvert was once again participating in amphibious training exercises with embarked troops of the 1st Battalion, 179th Regimental Combat Team, US Army. The Calvert was back in Norfolk by March 24th, where these troops disembarked.</p> <p>For the period March 24th to April 7th the 1st Battalion Landing Team, 180th Infantry Regiment, US Army, was embarked on the Calvert and participated in amphibious training exercises in the Cove Point and Solomons Island, MD area.</p>	
				<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No. 1, daylight landing unopposed. Tactical vehicles and initial beach reserve supplies unloaded.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Weather clear with light haze. 0700 Started lowering boats from #1, 2, 3 and 4 hatches. 0800 All hatches stripped for unloading. Sea calm with light air, sky hazy. 0800 Lowering boats from Wellin Davits. 0812 All boats in water, began loading equipment and vehicles into boats. 0840 Six tank lighters reported from USS Procyn. 0930 Six LCV boats reported from USS Leonard Wood. 0938 First assault wave left for rendezvous area. Continued debarking troops and equipment. 1058 Last boat of the assault waves left ship. Awaiting return of boats to continue unloading equipment. 1220 Boats returned to ship. Continued unloading equipment. 1329 Underway to move toward beach to assigned anchorage in order to facilitate unloading of equipment. 1347 Anchored off Cove Point. 1405 Continued unloading equipment. 1755 Vehicles unloaded from #3 hold; All vehicles now off the ship. 1830 Ceased unloading ship. Fueling and hoisting boats as they come alongside. 2000 All boats aboard except #6 which will follow ship to anchorage and serve as picket boat. 2008 Underway, proceeding to assigned anchorage. 2019 Let go port anchor. 2040 Commenced operation of picket boat.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 34 degrees; High of 51 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	1	<p>Anchored South of Cove Point, Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>Underway to anchor close to beach, Cove Point.</p> <p>Anchored, near Cove Point.</p> <p>Underway to anchorage, Cove Point.</p> <p>Anchored, off Cove Point.</p>	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Concluded Exercise Number 1, consisting of reembarkation of vehicles, supplies and troops.</p> <p>2) 0000 - 0400 Continued operating picket boat. 0620 Commenced re-embarkation phase of exercise. Lowered all boats. 0644 Boats shoved off for beach and all debarkation stations manned, hatches stripped. 0738 First boat returned to ship with troops. 0744 Began reloading vehicles. 0825 All troops re-embarked. Re-loading of vehicles and equipment being carried on. Pickett Boat secured. Three inch gun being manned. Low lying clouds, fresh north wind, sea choppy. 1505 Maneuvering to make a lee to facilitate taking equipment and boats aboard. Fresh north wind, sea choppy. 1620 Completed loading equipment and boats. 1635 Steaming to assigned anchorage. 1745 Anchored. All boats aboard.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 32 degrees; High of 42 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	3	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commander Transports conducted critique aboard Leonard Wood for Commanding Officers for Naval and Army Units. Preparations made for Exercise 2.</p> <p>2) Gentle breeze, sea choppy, visibility good.  0400 - 0800 Visibility decreasing. 0615 Snow flurries began. 0630 Stopped snowing. Northwest wind increasing to force 5.  0800 - 1200 - Low lying mist, visibility poor, moderate sea. Intermittent snow flurries. 1105 Began to snow more steadily. 1140 Began to snow more heavily.  1301 Maneuvering to new anchorage. 1415 Snow ceased. Visibility good. Rough sea, strong north west wind.  1615 Debarkation drills for troops.  1800 - 2000 Strong breeze, rough sea, scattered snow.  2200 Commenced "Dry Debarkation" drill of troops. 2234 Secured from drill. Strong breeze from north west, heavy swell.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 25 degrees; High of 38 degrees. .02 inches of snow.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

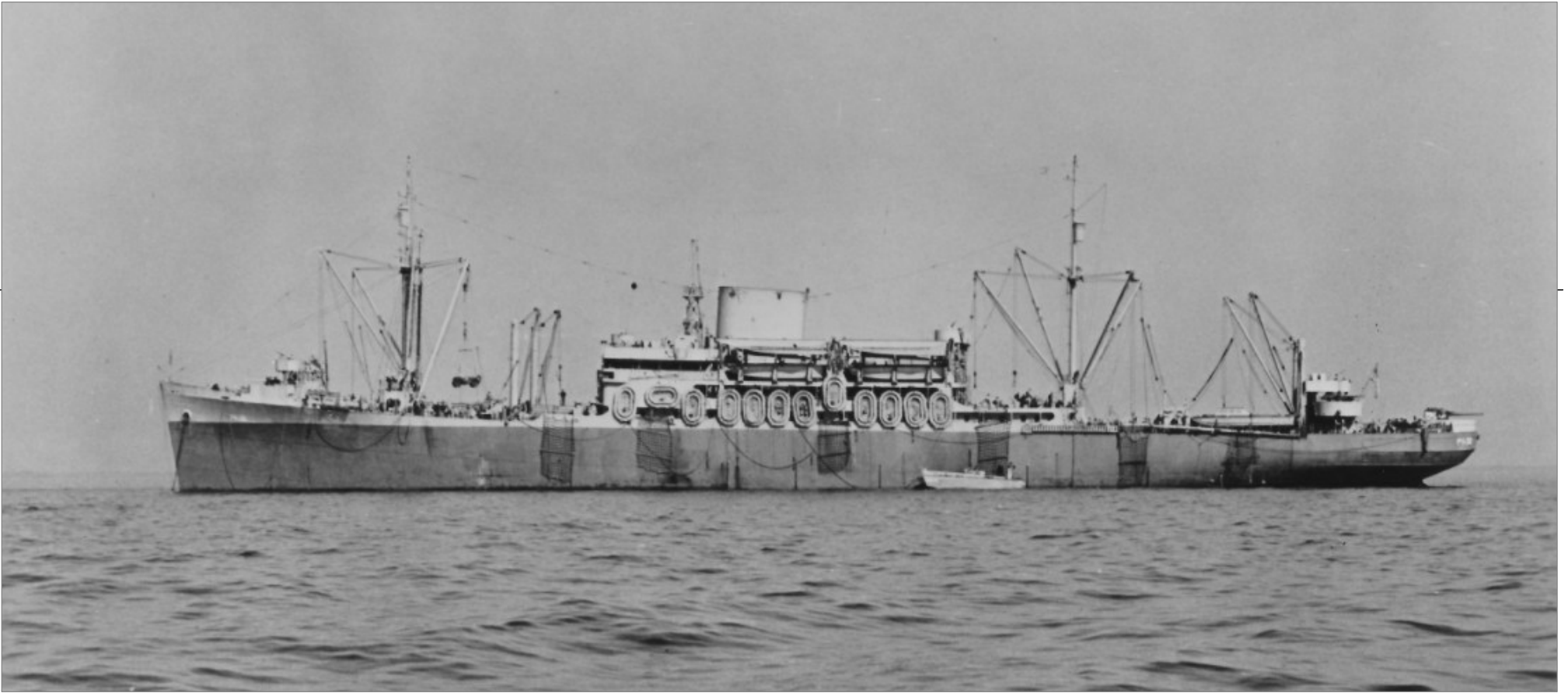
Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
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**Photograph of the USS Calvert, March 3, 1943, Solomons Island area**

Editor's note: Acquired this photograph of the Calvert from eBay. On the back of the photograph there is a hand-written note: "B?ker 3948 3 - 3/3/43 - TQM School - USS Calvert at Solomons Is., MD Operation." where 'TQM School' is short for Transport Quarter Master School. Troop debarkation and re-embarkation nets are clearly visible, along the side of the ship, in this photograph.

Source:

<https://www.usscalvert.com/2021/04/29/us-s-calvert-photograph-solomons-island-md-march-1943/>



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	4	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No. 2. Daylight landing unopposed. HOW hour delayed until 1100 because of inclement weather. Monrovia and Calvert operated as assault transports.</p> <p>2) 0000 Standing by to get underway. Strong northwest wind, rough sea, sky mainly clear, temperature falling to 19 deg F.</p> <p>0330 Stationed anchor detail in preparation for getting underway for the days exercises.</p> <p>0424 Underway. 0453 Proceeding in column formation up the bay toward transport area south off Cove Point 0607 Stopped in transport area. 0620 Let go port anchor.</p> <p>0703 Lowered six boats for testing purposes. 0742 Commenced lowering all boats in preparation for days exercise.</p> <p>0800 Manned all debarkation stations. 0840 All hatches stripped, began unloading vehicles and equipment. 0900 Began disembarking troops.</p> <p>1045 Assault waves left assembly area for line of departure. 1130 First assault wave landed on beach.</p> <p>1152 Completed discharge equipment from #4 hold. 1203 Completed unloading #1 hatch. 1335 Completed unloading at #5 hatch.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	4	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>March 4th, continued:</p> <p>1428 Anchors aweigh, underway to anchorage Charlie 4. 1503 Let go port anchor.</p> <p>1535 Completed unloading #6 hatch. Clear with light breeze.</p> <p>1745 Completed unloading #2 hatch.</p> <p>1845 Commenced hoisting boats on #1 hatch. 1912 Unloading operation completed.</p> <p>2000 Fresh to strong southwesterly breeze, sky mainly clear, sea rather rough.</p> <p>2015 Completed hoisting all boats used in ship's operations.</p> <p>2111 Received aircraft alert. All hands to general quarters for drill. 2020 Secured from general quarters.</p> <p>2240 Completed hoisting tank lighters used by USS Procyon. All boats aboard.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 13 degrees; High of 33 degrees. .02 inches of snow.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
March		4	Anchored, off Cove Point.	Anchored near Cove Point, Solomons Island Area. March 4, 1943	<p>U.S.S. Calvert (APA-32) - Amphibious Training Maneuvers Near Solomons, Maryland</p> <p>Three landing craft alongside U.S.S. Calvert (APA-32) during amphibious training maneuvers near Solomons, Maryland.</p> <p>Publisher: United States Navy Holding Institution: Calvert Marine Museum (Archives), Solomons, MD &amp; The National Archives #80-G-39488 Date: 1943-03-04</p> <p>Online: <a href="https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/cmml/id/800">https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/cmml/id/800</a></p>



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	5	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conclusion of Exercise No. 2. Reembarkation of vehicles, supplies and personnel completed.</p> <p>2) Anchored, as before. 0714 Lowered first boat for re-embarking troops and vehicles. 0735 Eight boats left ship for beach. Continued lowering boats and sending to beach. 0801 Commenced re-embarkation for troops. 0830 Commenced loading holds. 1600 - 2000 Gentle breeze diminishing to light airs. Sea calm. 1901 Began running picket boat.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 29 degrees; High of 51 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	6	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Critique conducted by Commander Transports and Commanding Officer of Troops.</p> <p>2) Anchored, as before. 0020 Pickett boat patrol secured and boat hoisted. 0400 - 0800 Drizzling and calm. 1114 Abandon ship drill for troops. Gentle breeze, moderate swells. Thunder showers throughout watch. 1200 - 1600 Visibility decreasing steadily during watch, wind increasing in velocity, rather rough sea. 1300 - 1307 Fire drill. 1600 - 2000 Continuous rains and frozen precipitation. 1950 Anchors aweigh and underway for new anchorage. 2020 Anchored. 2315 Man debarkation stations. 2330 Commenced lowering hatch boats and #4 davit boats. 2315 All hatch and #4 boats in water.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 36 degrees; High of 53 degrees. .93 inches of rain, 1 inch of snow.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	7	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Canceled exercise 3 because of failure of assault waves to land at proper beaches. Conference of Commanding Officers held aboard Leonard Wood. Preparations ordered for Exercise 3 to be held March 8, 1943.</p> <p>2) Anchored in assigned transport area off Cove Point.  0015 Opened and commenced discharging #1-2-3 and 4 hatches for exercise.  0130 LCPR boats reported from USS Harry Lee. 0145 Six LCM(3) boats from USS Procyon reported. 0215 Lowered all davit boats continued unloading troops and equipment.  0315 Ceased all unloading, assault waves left for beach.  0530 LCT-467 reported for duty. 0645 Began loading vehicles in tank lighter #467.  0733 Ceased loading tank lighter. 0739 Anchor aweigh, proceeding to assigned anchorage for re-embarkation of troops and equipment.  0901 Let go starboard anchor. 1010 Began re-embarking troops and equipment.  1101 Anchor aweigh, ship underway to make a lee to facilitate re-embarking troops and equipment.  1327 Let go port anchor. 1537 Completed reloading troops and equipment. Hoisting boats. Moderate north west wind, sky mainly clear, sea calm.  1636 All boats hoisted. Prepared to get underway. 1658 Anchor aweigh, underway to assigned anchorage.  1721 Let go port anchor.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 32 degrees; High of 49 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	8	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No.3. Night landing opposed including tank and tank destroyer troops in LSTs. Tactical vehicles and supplies unloaded. Plan to lead to a forced withdrawal. LCTs used to assist in unloading.</p> <p>2) Anchored in assigned Transport Area, Cove Point area.  0100 Began lowering LCP(R) boats, eight of which reported to the USS Monrovia. Eleven LCVs and two LCM(3)s reported to the Monrovia for landing operations. Visibility good, calm sea, light breeze.  0400 - 0800 Wind from north west, increasing to force 5. Sea rough. Sky mainly clear. Temperature dropping to 27 deg F.  0705 Boats returning from Monrovia. Began hoisting all boats in water.  0845 All boats which returned to the ship were hoisted. Several damaged boats remained on the beach.  0830 Underway, to proceed to Anchorage Easy One. 0930 Dropped anchor.  0958 Sent a salvage boat to Red Beach #2.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
				February 8th continued:	
1943	March	8	Anchored, off Cove Point.	<p>1318 Commenced lowering hatch boats in preparation for unloading holds. 1405 LCT 457 alongside, starboard side holds #2 and #3. 1415 Commenced unloading hold #3. 1435 Commenced unloading hold #2. 1510 LCT 489 alongside, starboard side #4 hatch to receive vehicles. 1545 Completed unloading hold #4.</p> <p>1630 Commenced unloading #1 hold. 1709 Completed unloading hold #1.</p> <p>1800 Continued unloading equipment #2 and #3 holds into LCTs.</p> <p>1840 Commenced disembarking troops to LTC-489. 1905 #2 hold completed. 1945 LCT-489 departed with troops.</p> <p>2019 LCT(5)-486 left ship with vehicles and equipment. 2020 LCT(5)-457 came alongside and embarked troops.</p> <p>2108 LC(5)-489 came alongside and a detail of troops re-embarked the ship. 2147 LCT(5)-489 left ship with vehicles.</p> <p>22357 LCT(5)-457 came alongside with three injured soldiers. Low haze descending, steadily increasing barometer, light air.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 22 degrees; High of 42 degrees.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943
1943	March	9	<p>Anchored, off Cove Point.</p> <p>Underway to Hampton Roads, VA.</p> <p>Anchored, Hampton Roads, VA.</p>	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conclusion of Exercise No. 3. Reembarkation of personnel, reloading of supplies and vehicles on ships. Transport Division One proceeded from Cove Point area to anchorage, Hampton Roads, Va. Exercises in Mersigs conducted by Commander Transports enroute to Hampton Roads.</p> <p>2) 0000 - 0400 Anchored as before. Sky clear light wind, sea calm, visibility good.</p> <p>0000 LCT(5)-457 came along side and transferred 3 soldiers to ship. 0030 LCT(5)-457 shoved off</p> <p>0818 LCT(5)-498 alongside starboard bow for purpose of re-embarking troops on ship. 0823 LCT(5)-457 alongside port quarter for re-embarkation of troops.</p> <p>0824 - 0830 Held general quarters drill. 0847 LCT(5)-489 having unloaded troops and equipment cast off. 0910 LCT-457 finished loading troops and equipment and cast off. 0953 LCT-486 alongside port quarter to discharge injured soldier. 1005 LCT-486 cast off.</p> <p>1139 Commenced heaving anchor chain. 1200 Anchors aweigh, shifted colors. Underway for Hampton Roads, VA.</p> <p>1235 Commenced using Mersigs, exercising under tactical command of Commander Transports, Atlantic Fleet.</p> <p>1430 Ceased exercising Mersigs.</p> <p>1635 - 1700 Tested all 20mm guns. 510 rounds, no casualties.</p> <p>2210 Anchored Berth #22, Hampton Road, VA.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	10	Anchored, Hampton Roads, VA.  Underway to Base HOW.  Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, in company with Harry Lee, Monrovia, Calvert and Procyon anchored in Hampton Roads. Then proceeded to Army Base, Base HOW. Troops debarked, vehicles and equipment unloaded.  2) Anchored as before in Hampton Roads, VA. Main engines standing by to get under way. Running picket boat. Gentle breeze from east north east, sky clear, sea calm. 0655 Began heaving on anchor. 0721 Underway to proceed to designated pier. 0845 Moored starboard side to Pier #2, Berth 25, Naval Operating Base Annex, Norfolk, Virginia. 0835 Commenced disembarking troops. 1025 Completed disembarking troops. 1005 Stevedores commenced unloading equipment and vehicles. 1330 Oil barge tied up starboard side to the port side, forward. 1610 Fuel barge completed discharging fuel, cast off. 1855 Completed unloading equipment and vehicles.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943
1943	March	11	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conduct of drills. General upkeep, maintenance and repair work. Loading of supplies. Preparations made for loading vehicles and equipment for Group 3.  2) Moored starboard side to Pier #2, Berth 25, Naval Operating Base, Army Annex, Norfolk, VA. Continued operating picket boat. 0300 Clear sky with fog setting in. 1010 Platoon Co. G 40th Engineers Combat Regiment (53 enlisted Army personnel) reported aboard.  1) Important Orders Received and Decisions Reached: Granted Calvert 21 days restricted availability at New York Navy Yard commencing upon arrival April 9, 1943 for purpose of installing 40mm guns, diesel fire pumps, reduction of fire hazards, stowage for LCVPs and the accomplishment of all other authorized alterations for which material are available and assigned availability permits.  Editor's note: The Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Procyon also received orders to report to the New York Navy yard in April for similar work.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943
1943	March	12	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conduct of drills. General upkeep, maintenance and repair work. Loading of supplies. Commenced loading vehicles and equipment for Group 3.  2) Moored as before. 0100 Took over picket boat duty from USS Leonard Wood. 0722 Picket boat secured. 3" gun manned. Boats lowered preparatory to stripping hatches to receive cargo. 0800 Executed colors. 0930 Commenced loading vehicles and equipment for the First Battalion, US Army. 1750 Loading completed. 2000 - 2400 Threatening showers, light winds.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
<b>Arrival of temporary boat crews and departure of many of the Calvert's boat crewmen</b>					
1943	March	12	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>On March 12th approximately 125 newly trained boat crews came aboard the Calvert. They had trained in landing techniques at the Amphibious Training Base at Fort Pierce, Florida. The same day approximately 70 of the Calvert's boat crew members transferred off the ship for training at Little Creek Amphibious Training Base, VA and Fort Pierce Amphibious Training Base.</p> <p>2) "I came aboard the Calvert in early 1943, in Norfolk, direct from Ft. Pierce, FL. The train backed right out on the dock and about 250 boat crewmen unloaded. In the count off (about 125) we were told "this group go to that ship and this group go to the other ship (the Monrovia, APA-31). It was late in the evening and we had not eaten for most of the day. We were taken care of with the usual "baked beans and corn bread" meal." - John L Rhea, BM, 644 05 83 - New Orleans.</p> <p>3) "We had begun small boat training at Little Creek on Friday, November 20, 1942. We then went to Fort Pierce, Florida on Wednesday, February, 17 1943 returning to NOB Norfolk to board USS Calvert on Friday, March 12, 1943." Hal Winter, QM3, '43-'45</p>	<p>1) Muster Roll, Report of Changes, USS Calvert, March 12, 1943</p> <p>2) Calversion, V14, P2</p> <p>3) Calversion Vol 34, P6</p>
1943	March			<p>4) "These new boat crews were trained under the command of the Calvert's very own Captain Whitfield at the Little Creek Amphibious Training Base, Virginia. The new boat crews filled the coxswain, engineer, bow hook, and gunner positions for the Calvert's boats. The ship's original boat crews were reassigned back into regular deck duties in their respective divisions. The only boat crew not reassigned back to regular duty was the crew of the Gig. Sterling retained his primary assignment as Coxswain of the Captain's Gig. One change for him was a transfer out of damage control to the aft 3-inch gun.</p> <p>According to Sterling the Calvert's original boat crews had little in the way of bad feelings in regard to the loss of their positions on the boats. However, the arrival of the temporary boat crews brought about a marked change in atmosphere aboard the Calvert. Many of the crews had an attitude that rubbed many of the Calvert's crew the wrong way. They came across as hot shots. The prevailing wisdom among the new boat crews, which Sterling attributes to their specialized training, was that the belief that they were better than the Calvert's original boat crews. It didn't help the situation that the new crews only had responsibilities for their landing craft. They did not have secondary duties, whereas most of the Calvert's crew retained multiple duties. Many of the deck crew saw the new boat crews as having a relatively easy life aboard the ship."</p>	<p>4) Funck, p24</p>
1943	March	13	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conduct of drills. General upkeep, maintenance and repair work. Continued loading supplies, vehicles and equipment for Group 3.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. Periods of rain and overcast throughout the day.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
				<b>1st Battalion, 179th Regimental Combat Team, 45th Infantry Division, US Army embarked for amphibious training exercises in the Solomons Island, MD area.</b>	
1943	March	14	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	1) Commander Transports, Moored at Army Base, Base HOW. Underway to Cove Point anchorage. Brief of Operations: Abandon ship drill and fire drills conducted aboard ships. Preparations made for landing exercise no. 1. Conferences of Troop and Ship Commanders.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943
			To Hoopers Island (Chesapeake)	2) Moored as before. Overcast with light winds. 0520 Troop train arrived and commenced embarkation of the 1st Battalion, 179th Regimental Combat Team: 50 officers and 862 enlisted.	2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943
			Anchored, near Cove Point.	1258 Underway. 1350 Anchored, Hampton Roads anchorage. 1422 Abandon ship drill for troops. 1545 Underway, standard speed, various courses. Partly cloudy, smooth sea. 1600 Steaming in column. Sea smooth and sky partly cloudy. Poor visibility - surface haze. 2229 Anchored off Cove Point, MD. 2337 Established picket boat watch. Sea smooth, visibility poor with surface haze.	
1943	March	15	Anchored, near Cove Point.	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No. 1, unopposed daylight landing. Tactical vehicles and initial beach reserve supplies unloaded.  2) Anchored off Cove Point, Maryland. Bearings: Hooper's Island 143deg, Cove Point 321deg, Buoy #19, 23deg. Operating picket boat. YMS 80 reported for duty as control vessel. 0630 Commenced lowering boats as per scheduled exercise. 0710 Commenced stripping hatches. 0715 Manned all debarkation stations. 0730 First vehicle loaded in boat at number one hold. 0732 Two tank lighters from Harry Lee reported. 0735 Two tank lighters from Procyon reported. 0800 Twenty two LCVs and LCP(R)s reported from the Leonard Wood. 0855 Commenced loading davit boats at rail. 0900 First davit boat in water. 0950 Last davit boat in water. 1014 Last wave boat left ship. 1101 First wave landed on beach. 1234 5 LCVs and 8 LCPR boats sent to Harry Lee for duty. 0203 Temporarily ceased operations to change anchorage. Resumed unloading. Light air, sea moderate swell, partly cloudy. 2157 Discontinued unloading cargo. 2229 Secured all embarkation stations. 2230 All boats hoisted. Sky mostly cloudy, southerly winds and slight sea.  NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 37 degrees; High of 62 degrees.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	16	Anchored, near Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Exercise No. 1 concluded. Personnel reembarked, vehicles and supplies reloaded.</p> <p>Important Orders Received and Decisions Reached: BuPers dispatch 151147 directed Captain Lyman A. Thackrey to proceed to New York City and report to Commandant Third Naval District for first available transportation to the port in which the USS Calvert may be. On arrival, Captain Thackrey directed to immediate superior in command. Otherwise by dispatch to duty as Commanding Officer Calvert.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Light intermittent showers. 0400 Fog descending. Preparations being made to carry out scheduled exercise. 0801 Commenced lowering boats for exercise. 0850 Temporarily secured operation. 1125 LCT-466 alongside with equipment from beach. Fog set in, moderate swells. 1200 Lifting fog. 1255 Commenced exercise. 1300 Manned all debarkation stations. LCT-466 completed unloading and shoved off. 1315 Commenced lowering davit boats. 1340 8 LCP(R) landing craft reported from USS Leonard Wood. 1347 All davit boats in water. 1430 LCT-470 secured alongside, starboard at nets #3 and #5. 1445 All boats loaded and away from ship. 1505 LCT-449 completed unloading and cast off. 1550 LCT-466 secured alongside starboard bow.</p> <p>21 LCP(R), 20 LCV, 7 LCM(3), 1 LCP(L), and 1 LCS(S) type landing craft were used in exercise.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	16	Anchored, near Cove Point.	<p>March 16th, continued:</p> <p>1520 Boats starting to return to the ship. 1530 The hauling wire on the hook of #3 starboard boom parted, dropping a trailer into LCT 470. No casualties to personnel. LCT-470 shifted to port side of #3 hold and reloading was resumed. 1545 LCT-463 secured alongside at #5 and #5 nets to discharge troops. 1606 Completed re-embarkation and reloading. Completed exercise. Returned all boats to parent ships. 1626 LCT-470 completed unloading and left the side. 1600-2400- Additional LCTs came alongside to commence re-embarkation of troops and equipment. 2150 All boats onboard. Overcast sky, hazy, moderate swell.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 44 degrees; High of 73 degrees.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	17	Anchored, near Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Critique conducted by Commander Transports in cooperation with Assistant Division Commander, 45th Division and attended by Regimental Commander 179th Regiment, Commanding Officers of ships, Regimental Shore and Beach Party Commanders, Transports Quartermasters and Commanding Officers of Control Vessels.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before, berth Charlie "2" off Cove Point. 0350 Fog closing in from SSE. Moderate sea. 0406 Fog set in. Engines ordered on standby. 0610 Fog lifting. 0630 Light showers commenced. Making preparation for landing exercise.</p> <p>0815 Commenced lowering boats to carry out operation. 0825 Leonard Wood boats reported. 0910 Boats from Procyon and Harry Lee reported. 0942 Completed unloading drill. 1050 Rain fell. 1100 Commenced hoisting boats returning from exercise.</p> <p>1300 - 1311 Condition four drill held. 1317 - 1329 Fire drill. 1325 - 1329 Abandon ship drill. Hazy and squalls.</p> <p>1630 Made preparations for getting underway. 1705 Weighed anchor and steaming at various courses and speeds to anchorage 'Uncle' in transport area. 1738 Dropped port anchor.</p> <p>1913 Set picket boat watch.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 42 degrees; High of 63 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	18	Anchored, near Cove Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No. 2, night debarkation, with unopposed dawn landing. Same vehicles and supplies unloaded as in Exercise No. 1.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before.</p> <p>0010 - 0016 General Quarters, all hands manned battle stations. Set Condition Four. 0033 Commenced lowering all boats except davit boats. 0050 All boats except davit boats in water. 0105 Commenced discharging troops and cargo from hatches #1-2-3-4. 0125 Seven LCVs arrived from Leonard Wood. 0333 Last boats loaded and lowered. 0345 all boats clear of ships side. Partly cloudy, bright moonlight, smooth sea.</p> <p>0500 First wave hit beach. 0506 Second wave hit beach. 0514 Third wave hit beach. 0522 Fourth wave landed. 0537 Fifth wave landed. 0547 Sixth wave landed.</p> <p>0603 Boats returning resume discharging.</p> <p>0649 Commenced heaving port anchor. 0655 Underway proceeding to anchorage C-1. 0659 Fog setting in. 0719 Fog set in thick. Stop-coming to anchorage. 0724 Anchored. Low thick fog. 0800 - Operations ceased due to low-thick fog.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	18	Anchored, near Cove Point.	<p>March 18th, continued:</p> <p>1145 Operations resumed, loaded boats sent to the beach. 1155 Underway by dragging anchor to new anchorage position. Unloading continued. Atmosphere clearing, sea calm.</p> <p>1200 Unloading operations continued. 1330 Commenced discharging packaged gasoline from No. 5 Hold. 1407 Ceased discharge of ammunition from No. 1 Hold. 1410 Ceased discharge of cargo from No. 5 Hold. 1545 Completed discharge of Cargo from Number 3 Hold. Continued discharge of cargo from No. 2 hold. Sea smooth, sky clear with scattered clouds.</p> <p>1637 Completed unloading all hatches, continued gassing and hoisting boats. 2000 - 2400 Operating picket boat. Overcast, moderate swells.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 36 degrees; High of 55 degrees.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943
1943	March	19	Cove Point and Drum Point area	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Reembarkation of personnel and reloading of vehicles and supplies, Exercise No. 2 concluded. Exercise 4AP conducted by Monrovia and Calvert during night.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. 0300 Started to rain. 0337 Secured picket boat. 0810 Fog set in.</p> <p>0940 LCT-419 alongside commenced loading troops onboard. 1010 LCT-419 left ship. 1120 LCT-419 alongside commenced loading cargo #2 and #3 hatch. Thick fog.</p> <p>1200 - 1600 - Reembarkation of troops, vehicles and equipment continuing, being carried out by LCT(5)-470 and LCT(5)-419. Fog slowly lifting, sea calm. 1821 Completed loading #3 hold.</p> <p>1838 Prepared ship for getting underweight. 1901 Ship underway for transport area Cedar Point Area. 1948 Arrived Transport Area.</p> <p>2010 Commenced lowering boats for exercise. 2015 Manned debarkation stations. 2037 Commenced calling boats alongside for loading. 2130 First boats left rendezvous area. 2140 Last boat left ship rendezvous area. Continued reloading from LCT(s). 2230 First wave landed on beach.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 44 degrees; High of 75 degrees. .20 inches rain.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	20	Drum Point area and Cove Point area	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Critique conducted by commanding officers. Leonard Wood boat laid a test smoke screen across boat lane off Cove Point, MD.</p> <p>2) Anchored off Drum Point.</p> <p>0040 Bow hook on LCM3 fell overboard in reaching for sea painter, no injury sustained. 0058 All boats on #5 and #6 hatches hoisted. 0105 #2 hatch loaded. 0138 LCT-475 cast off, all vehicles loaded.</p> <p>0202 Fire in engine room LCM3, no damage. 0215 All hatches secured and all boats aboard. Slight sea, passing rain showers, visibility good to fair.</p> <p>0605 Made preparations for getting underway. 0645 Underway to Anchorage Easy Two. 0718 Anchored. Thick fog. Calm sea.</p> <p>1745 Army officers reported aboard.</p> <p>2130 Prepared ship for getting underway for Transport Area - Cedar Point Area. 2203 Ship underway. Sky mostly cloudy, smooth sea, moderate NNW winds.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 53 degrees; High of 73 degrees. .52 inches of rain.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	21	Cove Point area, anchored. Underway and then anchored near Cedar Point.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No. 3, an opposed night landing. Tank and tank destroyer troops in LSTs. Unloading of tactical vehicles and supplies. Monrovia and Calvert acting as assault transports.</p> <p>2) Underway as before, in column. 0007 General quarters drill. 0015 Let go port anchor.</p> <p>0031 Commenced lowering landing craft and preparing hold to discharge cargo. 0034 First boats in water. 0050 All hatch boats in water. Several LCMs reported from Harry Lee and Leonard Wood. 0102 First boats alongside holds #1, #2, #3. 0138 7 LCP(R)s reported from Leonard Wood. 2 LCM(3)s reported from Procyon. Unloading holds. 0302 Commenced rail loading davit boats. 0358 Last rail loaded boat in water. 0455 Last boat left for rendezvous area.</p> <p>0502 First wave landed. 0505 Second wave landed. 0515 Third wave landed. 0521 Fourth wave landed. 0540 Flares from aircraft lighted transport area during simulated night torpedo plane attack. 0556 Fifth wave landed. 0703 Simulated air attack.</p> <p>0800 Anchor aweigh, steamed at various courses and speeds to new anchorage near Cedar and Drum Point. 0915 Boats commenced returning from beach. 0920 Commenced unloading, first boats left ship. 0930 Sent 4 LCVs and 8 LCP(r)s to Harry Lee. 1045 3 boats reported from Leonard Wood. 1147 Salvage party left ship in LCM(3) #2 to salvage LCM(3) # on Cedar Point beach.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	21	Cove Point area, anchored and underway	<p>March 21st, continued:</p> <p>0800 Anchor aweigh, steamed at various courses and speeds to new anchorage near Cedar and Drum Point. 0915 Boats commenced returning from beach. 0920 Commenced unloading, first boats left ship. 0930 Sent 4 LCVs and 8 LCP(r)s to Harry Lee. 1045 3 boats reported rom Leonard Wood. 1147 Salvage party left ship in LCM(3) #2 to salvage LCM(3) # on Cedar Point beach.</p> <p>1200 - 1600 Continued unloading hatches.</p> <p>1600 - 2000 Visibility poor, light snow fall. Continued unloading. 1715 Ceased unloading, heavy snow falling. 1740 Hoisted all boats aboard with the exception of LCM #1 and LCV #28 which were at the beach. Continuous snow and poor visibility.</p> <p>2000 - 2400 Visibility poor, light snow falling. No operation being conducted due to adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 33 degrees; High of 63 degrees. .02 inches snow.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943
1943	March	22	Cove Point transport area	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Continuation of Exercise No. 3. Unloading of supplies and equipment discontinued because of inclement weather.</p> <p>2) 0000 - 0400 Anchored off Drum Point. Frequent snow flurries, strong northerly winds, floodtide, rough sea, no swell. Poor visibility and proper anchor watch established.</p> <p>0400 - 0800 Snow flurries with strong northerly wind. Visibility poor and sea rough.</p> <p>0924 Support Boat sent to Green Beach. 0959 Underway to Berth Easy 2 off Cove Point. 1043 Anchored off Cove Point. Snow, heavy swell, visibility poor.</p> <p>1325 Commenced re-embarkation of troops. 1600 All troops aboard. Occasional snow flurries with visibility opening and closing frequently. Sea choppy with fresh northerly winds.</p> <p>2000 - 2400 Partly cloudy, bright moonlight, moderate northerly sea and swell.</p> <p>NWS) Weather and temperature during the day: Low of 30 degrees; High of 41 degrees. 3.5 inches of snow.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	23	Cove Point transport area	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conclusion of Exercise No. 3. Supplies and track laying vehicles reloaded on ships by use of LCTs. 1630 Transports departed area of Cove Point and proceeded to Base HOW.</p> <p>2) Anchored in Berth Easy II. Engine room standing by to get underway. All boats are aboard. During watch (0000 - 0400) visibility diminished from clear to poor, snow falling. Commenced ringing fog bell. 0410 Commenced snowing heavily with wind increasing from NNW. 0447 Snow ceased. Wind squalls frequent. 0650 Commenced stripping number 3 hatch to discharge cargo. 0807 Stripped #2 hatch - LCM(3)s and LCS(S) sent to beach to be secured during unloading operations by LCTs. Weather moderated and skies cleared. Rough seas moderated. 0839 Commenced unloading vehicles. 1115 Completed all unloading. 1150 Received vehicles and equipment from Green and Red Beaches to be brought aboard. Fresh breeze slowing with good visibility, slight chop to sea. 1200 - 1600 Continued loading vehicles and equipment. 1400 All boats hoisted. All loading completed.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	23	Cove Point transport area Underway to Hampton Roads	<p>March 23rd, continued:</p> <p>1530 Preparing to get underway. 1638 Anchors aweigh, proceeding in column formation. 1837 General quarters for 20mm gun crews. 1856 Tested 20mm guns. 2356 Passing through guard net. Clear sky, bright moon light, hazy horizon, small northerly sea and swell.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 30 degrees; High of 46 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	24	Underway to Hampton Roads Anchored, Hampton Roads Underway to Norfolk Naval Supply Annex, Base HOW	<p><b>Return to Norfolk, VA</b></p> <p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Personnel debarked and supplies unloaded. General upkeep and repair, and conduct of drills.</p> <p>2) Steaming in column, as before, in Hampton Roads, Va., approaching anchorages. 0018 Let go starboard anchor. Berth 21, Hampton Roads. 0400 - 0800 Anchored as before. Operating picket boat. 0705 Underway, proceeding to Base HOW.</p> <p>0815 Tied up to pier 2, Berth 25, Naval Supply Annex, Base HOW. Troops disembarked and ships platoon for 180 Regiment came aboard.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	25	Moored, Norfolk Naval Supply Annex, Base HOW	<p><b>1st Battalion Combat Team, 180th Regimental Combat Team, 45th Infantry Division, US Army embarked for amphibious training exercises in the Solomons Island, MD area.</b></p> <p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conduct of drills, general upkeep and repair. Loading commenced for Group 4.</p> <p>2) Moored as before, Tied up to pier 2, Berth 25, Naval Supply Annex, Base HOW. Weather fine and clear.</p> <p>Fifty-one (51) enlisted army personnel of 180th Combat Team, 40th Engineers, reported aboard and billeted in troop compartment hold 6.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
				<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Continuation of loading Group 4. Conduct of drills, general upkeep and repairs.</p> <p>2) Moored as before.</p> <p>0800 - 1200 Began loading vehicles and ammunition for 1st Battalion Landing Team, 180th infantry regiment</p> <p>1200 - 1600 Continued loading equipment.</p> <p>1800 Completed loading equipment aboard ship. Hoisted landing craft aboard for stowage. Weather overcast with moderate SW winds, varying in force. Small sea. Threatening showers.</p> <p>2000 - 2400 Weather overcast with intermittent showers.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	27	Moored, Norfolk Naval Supply Annex, Base HOW	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Continuation of embarkation of personnel, loading of supplies and vehicles, general upkeep and repairs.</p> <p>2) Moored as before.</p> <p>0500 Commenced raining.</p> <p>Rain through early evening.</p> <p>2000 Overcast. Sky cleared during watch.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	28	Moored, Norfolk Naval Supply Annex, Base HOW	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, underway in company with Monrovia, Calvert, and Procyon for Cove Point Area, Solomons, Maryland. Abandon ship drills held on all transports for embarked troops.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. Weather very nasty with strong winds and heavy steady downpour. Pickett boat secured from duty.</p> <p>0450 First Battalion Combat Team of the 180th Infantry began embarking. 0615 Embarkation complete, except for stragglers. Weather misty, showers threatening, sea choppy.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
			Underway to Cove Point area.  Anchored, Cove Point transport area.	<p>1200 Preparing to get underway. 1255 Cast off all lines. Underway.</p> <p>1600 - 20000 Steaming in column.</p> <p>2231 Let go port anchor, Cove Point area anchorage. Moderate northerly winds with clear sky and excellent visibility.</p>	

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	29	Anchored, Cove Point transport area.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Exercise No. 1 conducted, consisting of a daylight landing of Assault Troops from a Transport Area 10,000 yards from the landing beaches. Tactical vehicles and supplies unloaded. Support boats from the Calvert and Leonard Wood fired barrage rockets.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before, off Cove Point, MD. Sky clear, moderate north winds, good visibility. 0700 Commenced lowering hatch boats. 0730 All hatches stripped. Manned debarkation stations. 0745 First boat alongside #1 net. 0915 Commenced rail-loading davit boats. 1022 Completed rail loading of Davit Boats. Completed debarkation operation. Gentle breeze blowing with calm sea. Visibility excellent.</p> <p>1412 Underway to new anchorage. 1445 Anchored. Continued unloading of troops and equipment. Weather clear, wind gentle, condition of sea calm. 1600 - 1900 Continued discharging cargo. 2025 Commenced operating picket boat. 2215 All boats aboard. Sea calm, clear sky, excellent visibility.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 32 degrees; High of 47 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>
1943	March	30	Anchored, Cove Point transport area.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Exercise No. 1 concluded with the reembarkation of troops and vehicles. Training Exercise 4AP held during the afternoon for the Monrovia and Calvert with other transports furnishing boats. Three inch and 20mm gunfire practice held in vicinity of Bloodsworth Island with all transports firing at star shells. Support boats fired barrage rockets.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Weather clear, slight wind, sea calm. 0705 Manned all boats and lowered all boats. 0719 Commenced stripping all hatches. 0745 Completed lowering all boats. 0800 Commenced exercise. 0800 - 1600 LCVs from Leonard Wood and LCTs 489 and 486 came alongside multiple times to receive troops and equipment, and then return troops and equipment to the ship. 1810 All boats aboard. 1822 Underway in convoy to anchorage for firing practice. 2042 General quarters. 2125 to 2150 Firing exercises. 2154 Secured from General Quarters. 2215 to 2328 Debarkation exercises. Moderate wind blowing with moderate sea. Visibility good with slight overcast.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 35 degrees; High of 72 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

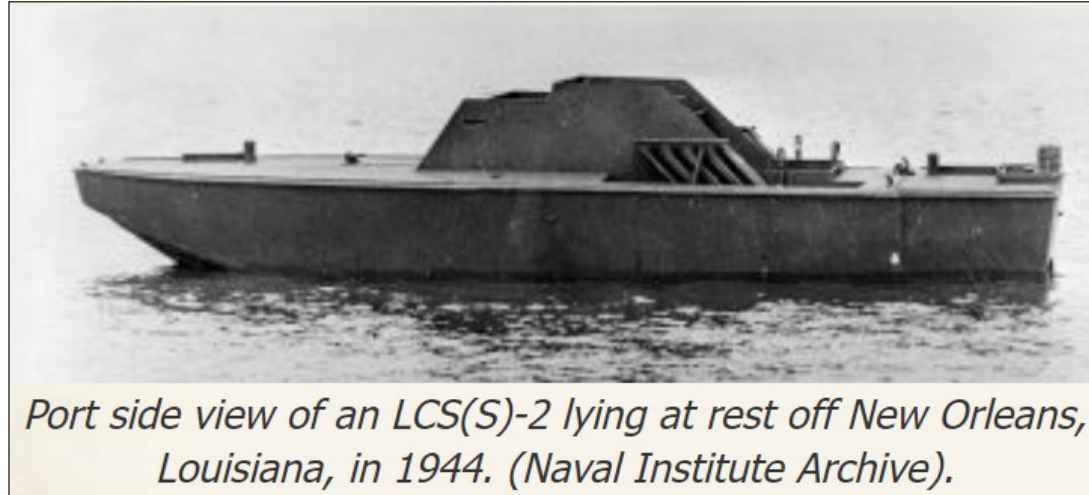
Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	March	31	Anchored and underway, Cove Point area.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Critique on board Leonard Wood with Commanding Officers. Gunfire demonstration in vicinity of Bloodsworth Island. USS Boise fired 15 rounds over troops embarked in Landing Craft. Twelve planes dropped charges ahead of boat waves and simultaneously submitted embarked troops to low level strafing gunfire.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before. Clear weather, sea calm, light wind.  0940 LCT 495 secured alongside to embark Naval and Army observation party.  1130 USS Boise conducted firing exercises with main battery on Bloodsworth Island.  1145 Commenced lowering all boats for firing exercises. Weather clear and fine with light southerly winds and smooth sea.  1215 All boats in water to conduct special firing exercise with USS Boise.  1428 General quarters, simulated torpedo attack. 1508 First boat returned from firing exercise.</p> <p>1600 All troops aboard. Sea calm, visibility excellent, sky clear. 1653 All boats hoisted.</p> <p>2314 Underway, proceeding to anchorage off Cove Point. Calm sea, Weather clear, wind light.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 53 degrees; High of 81 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, March 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943-April				The beginning of April found the Calvert undergoing amphibious training exercises in the Cove Point and Solomons Island, MD area with the 1st Battalion Landing Team, 180th Infantry Regiment, US Army, embarked.	
				On April 7th the Calvert returned to Norfolk, disembarked the US Army troops, and got underway the same day for Todd Shipyard, New York. While in Todd Shipyard the ship underwent an overhaul and series of upgrades in advance of the planned invasion of Sicily. The Calvert remained in Todd Shipyard through early May, and then returned to the Norfolk area.	
				During this period of overhaul the Calvert received it's first radar system, new anti-aircraft armament, and also underwent alterations to accommodate the newly available Landing Craft, Vehicle Personnel (LCVP) boats. The LCVPs would replace the older-style Higgins boats and Landing Craft, Vehicle (LCV) boats aboard the ship in advance of the invasion of Sicily.	
				A Change of Command also took place on April 12th, with Captain Lyman A. Thackrey, USN, relieving Captain Allen P. Mullinnix, USN, as Commanding Officer.	
Additional sources for April 1943:					
* War Diary, New York Navy Yard, April, 1943 (NYd NEW YORK) - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134155753">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134155753</a>					
<b>Cove Point, MD - "Cradle of Invasion"</b>					
"In the spring of 1943 another major landing exercise was conducted, this in preparation for Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. Hewitt commanded the naval forces in HUSKY, including the CENT or Scoglitti Force under Rear Adm. Alan G. Kirk (Kirk had replaced Hewitt as Commander AFAF on February 23, 943). CENT Forces trained extensively at the Solomons and Little Creek ATBs before crossing the Atlantic and staging through Oran for the July 10, 1943, assault landing.					
					Calversion, V25, p6
Four or five AP's (troop transports) of the transport squadron likely were lying off Cove Point. The landing crafts' white wakes were visible as they ran for the beach, retracted, or circled off the quarters of the mother ship. There would be LCTs in the river or nosed against the shore for practice landing. And later there would be LCIs, LSTs, and LCS's maneuvering with each other. Then LSM's would join in the training. Alongside the inner harbor, the LCTs, LCMs, and LCVPs would be moored as solid as cigars in a box."					

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	April	1	Cove Point area, underway and anchored.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commencement of Exercise No. 2, an unopposed night landing from same Transport Area as used in Exercise No. 1. Calvert and Monrovia landed Assault Battalion.</p> <p>2) Steaming as before in column. 0010 Leaving column and proceeding independently to anchorage. 0035 Let go starboard anchor.</p> <p>0050 Commenced lowering all hatch boats. 0118 All hatch boats in water. 0130 6 LCVs and 6 LCP(R)s reported from Leonard Wood. 0135 Commenced loading troops at starboard nets and commenced discharging cargo from holds. 0300 Commenced lowering davit boats. Clear sky, slight south westerly sea.</p> <p>0400 Last boats loaded and dispatched to Beach. 0505 Dense fog form Northwest. Proper precautions taken. Visibility zero.</p> <p>0942 Dispatched 5 LCVs and 1 LCP(R) to Harry Lee for operations. 1154 Commenced heaving in, preparing to get underway to Berth E-2. Dense fog until 1150, sea calm.</p> <p>1203 Proceeding to anchorage off Cove Point. 1242 Let go starboard anchor in berth Easy 2.</p> <p>1255 Manned debarkation stations. 1258 Commenced unloading operation.</p> <p>1822 Completed unloading all holds. Occasional rain and fresh breeze, sea calm.</p> <p>2220 Low lying surface fog set in. 2300 Fog increased in density. 2330 Fog lifted. Clear sky, low lying fog, slight northerly sea.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 43 degrees; High of 70 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>
<b>Arrival of two new LCS(s) boats, temporary duty aboard the USS Calvert</b>					
1943	April	1	Cove Point	<p>"As you are aware, Camp Bradford, Little Creek, and Solomons were the 3 major amphibious bases - and I trained at all three. My duty consisted of training on LCS(S) - the rocket boat that was first used in the invasion of North Africa. At that time it was Top Secret and we even had to post 24 hour guards at our own U.S. Base at the Solomons. We trained with the Calvert boats on various exercises off the Solomons. In any event, I went aboard the Calvert while on a training boat mission from Solomons to Little Creek. BuPers was in such a hurry to get Rocket Boats (LCS-s) aboard, that on April 1, 1943 there were telephonic orders detaching us from Temporary Duty and assigning 2 officers with 5 men crews to each of the transports in the training exercises. I was assigned to the USS Calvert."</p>	<p>Calversion, Vol 9, p4 Provided by William J. Eiseman</p>
<p>"The LCS (S) required a crew of 5 due to equipment aboard:</p> <p>2 .30 caliber machine guns, 5,000 rounds. 1 .50 caliber machine gun, 2,000 rounds. 1 .45 caliber Thompson sub-machine gun, 200 rounds 3 track mounts, 3 track cradles, 2 rocket racks of 12 96 bombardment rockets (each equivalent to a 5" shell) 42 smoke rockets 1 velocity power cable cutters."</p>				<p>"The LCSS (2 assigned to each attack transport) had to be carried inside the deck LCM because we had to be lowered over the side by cargo boom due to our weight in addition to extra armor plate.</p> <p>Our main function was to proceed with the first wave to the beach in order to give last minute fire support as the big guns had to move inland to other targets. Due to the status of the Calvert in TransDiv Seven, the 2 LCS(s) officers were given "additional duty" as Squadron Commander. (Lt. JG William File) and Eisemann ended up as Commander of Support Boat Division 1.</p> <p>We operated from a 6 page "Standard Operating Procedure for Landing Craft Support" Small LCS (S) 2 major factors: Our boats weighed over 20,000 pounds due to 1/4" armor plate and we were gasoline power. This meant that while all other boats of the Calvert were diesel, special gas cans had to be put aboard for the LCS(s), which did not make us too popular since the gas was carried way, way down in the available cargo space. "</p>	<p>Calversion, Vol 9, p4 Provided by William J. Eiseman</p> <p>Editor's note: See later references regarding the Calvert's gasoline storage tanks.</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
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LCS(S)-2



US Naval Institute. Naval History Blog.

Online:  
<https://www.navalhistory.org/2018/03/01/rocket-ships-a-pictorial-overview>

1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Concluded Exercise No. 2. Exercise 4AP scheduled for night training was canceled before completion due to weather conditions.

2) Anchored as before. 0030 Fog dispersed. Weather fine and clear with smooth sea.

0700 All boats and hatches manned to receive vehicles. 0730 All boats lowered from 1, 2, 3 and 4 hatches. 0813 Fog set in. 0905 Commenced taking vehicles aboard. 0940 Fog lifted and visibility opened.

1200 Strong westerly winds blowing and sea choppy. Sky cloudy.  
 1740 Finished loading hatches.

1900 Anchor aweigh, proceeding to transport area. 1938 Let go starboard anchor off Cove Point.

2015 Commenced Exercise 4AP. Commenced lowering boats. 2120 All boats in water. Conducting exercise. 2210 All boats recalled due to rising wind and seas. 2226 Commenced hoisting boats. Maneuvering ship at anchor to provide lee.

2358 LCP(R) #15 and LCM(3) #1 unaccounted for. All other boats hoisted. Control boats SC-715 and YMS-80 conducting search. Wind strong from NW. Seas rough. Visibility good. Temperature falling.

NWS) Temperature and weather during the day: Low of 49 degrees; High of 70 degrees. .03 inches of rain.

1943 April 2 Anchored, Cove Point area

1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943

2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943

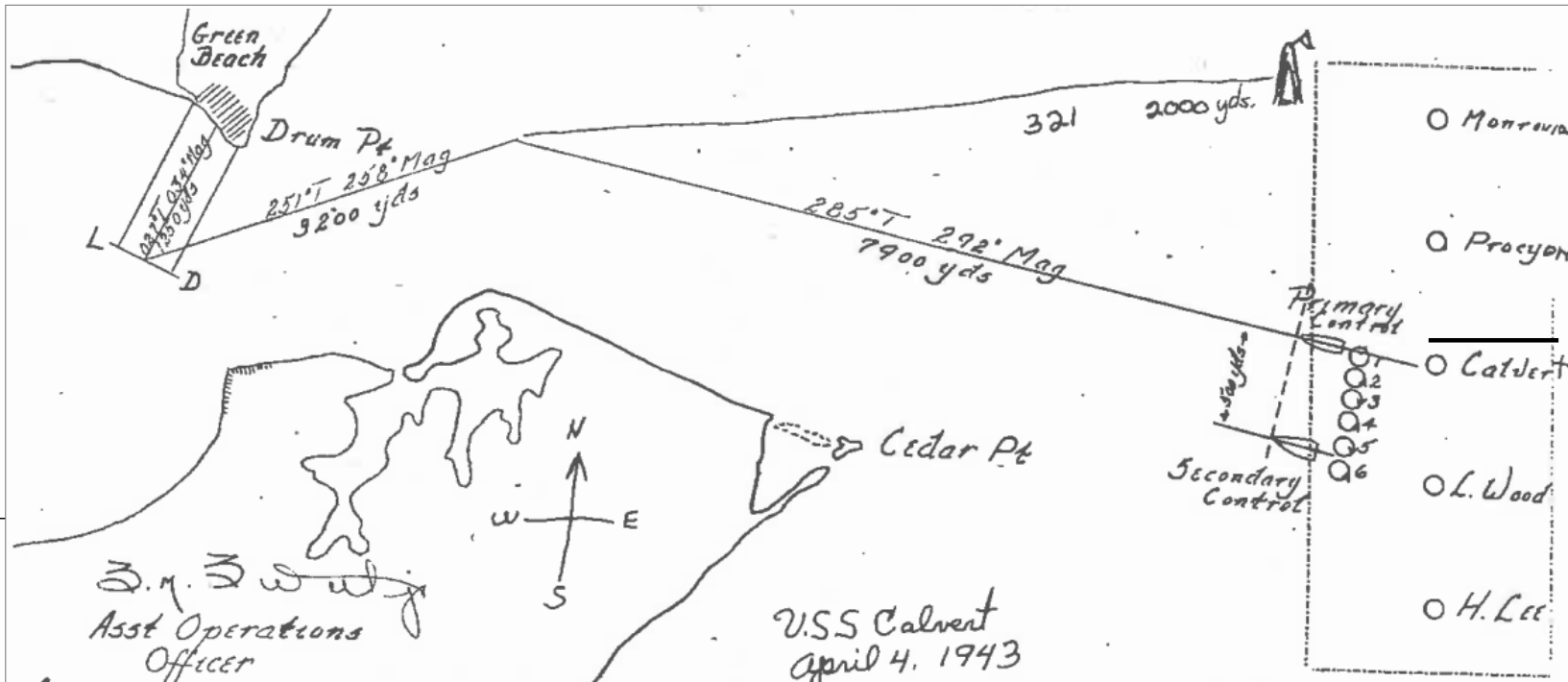
Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	April	3	Anchored, Cove Point area	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Commander Transports conducted joint critique of operations, on board Leonard Wood.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943 2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943
				2) Anchored as before. Engines on standby. Control Boat SC-715 and YMS-80 continuing search for missing LCP(R) #15 and LCM(3) #1. Strong NW wind, rough sea, good visibility. 0320 Secured from search.	
			Underway to Cedar Point area	0829 Underway proceeded to area about three miles south of Cedar Point to launch salvage boat to recover LCP(R)#15 and LC M(3) #1 from beach. Weather: Fresh breeze; choppy sea. 1205 LCM(3) #1 and LCP(R) #15 clear of beach and returning to ship. 1245 All boats aboard	
				1245 Proceeding to new anchorage "Mike". 1319 Let go starboard anchor. 1327 Orders to "E3" anchorage, underway. 1403 Let go starboard anchor in berth "Easy 3" Cove Point Area.	
			1432 to 1653 SC-715 alongside to receive water and supplies. 1544 to 1653 YMS-80 alongside to receive water and supplies. Partly cloudy, moderate northwesterly sea and swell.		
			2137 Commenced heaving in anchor in preparation for upcoming operation. 2202 Underway in column.		
			NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 33 degrees; High of 55 degrees.		
1943	April	4	Underway to Cedar Point area.	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Exercise No. 3 postponed until evening due to weather and sea conditions. Exercise began at 1900. At 2245, unloading was halted. Leonard Wood, Monrovia, Harry Lee, Calvert and Procyon conducted Exercise 5 AP in forenoon.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943 2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943
				2) Steaming in column. 0026 Anchored off Cedar Point, MD. 0035 Lowered all boats except davit boats and stripped all hatches. 0134 Secured operation exercise. 0232 All boats hoisted aboard. Strong wind blowing with rough sea. Overhead clear with good visibility.	
			Relocation to Drum Point area.	0829 Commenced lowering boats to execute landing exercise. 1025 General Quarters to repel simulated air attack. 1039 Secured from General Quarters.	
			1200 Underway and shifting to Berth E-2. 1215 Underway at standard speed of 15 knots for anchorage off Drum Point to reembark troops and hoist landing craft. 1303 Let go Port anchor off Drum Point.		
			NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 30 degrees; High of 52 degrees.		

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
				1337 Boats returning from beach. Commenced re-embarking troops. 1435 All troops reembarked. Fueling and hoisting landing craft. 1455 All landing craft aboard.	
1943	April	4	Anchored off Drum Point area.	<p>April 4th, continued: 1455 Underway for Berth Easy-2 off Cove Point. 1535 Let go port anchor. Weather mostly cloudy, light SE'ly winds, smooth sea, threatening sky.</p> <p>1818 Anchor aweigh, underway with Executive Officer at Conn. 1849 Let go starboard anchor.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943
			Relocation to Cove Point area.	<p>1905 Commenced conducting landing exercise. Boats on hatches being lowered and hatches stripped. 1927 Commenced debarking troops and equipment. Landing exercise being conducted.</p> <p>2115 Secured debarkation stations. 2321 Hatch numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 covered and secured. Strong winds blowing with heavy swell to sea. Weather raining. Visibility fair.</p>	

**Landing exercises diagram, Drum Point and Cedar Point area, April 4, 1943**

with: Monrovia, Procyon, Leonard Wood, and Harry Lee

Calversion V25, p6





Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	April	5	Anchored, Cove Point area	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Began debarkation of troops and material at 0600.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before, Cove Point Area. 0102 First boat alongside ship; 0200 all boats hoisted except LCV # and LCR #16. Fresh breeze, sea moderate. 0420 Permission granted to YMS-80 to secure until daylight from search for LCV #1 and LCP(R) #16. 0550 Commenced lowering all boats. 0600 LCV #1 returned to ship. 0645 All boats in water. Slight sea.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>
1943	April	5	Anchored, Cove Point area Relocation to Cedar Point area	<p>April 5th, continued:</p> <p>0930 Underway to locate closer to beach to continue discharging cargo. 0951 Anchored. Ship being attacked planes (simulated) and being repelled by ship's gunners. Barometer unstable, sea calming down, moderate westerly wind. 1430 Suspended unloading Operations #2 hold to facilitate hull repairs to LCM #1. Barometer falling throughout watch. Wind squalls from NW. Rough sea.</p> <p>1600 Secured discharging equipment in number 2 hold due to repairing LCM(3). Holds 4, 5 and 6 completed. 1800 Secured #2 gun. 1932 Secured all guns.</p> <p>1959 Underway using various course and speeds. Strong wind blowing with choppy sea. 2207 Anchored in area near Cedar Point. All boats aboard except LCV #22 and LVC #26. Weather: Stray breeze, sea choppy, no clouds.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 44 degrees; High of 63 degrees.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>
1943	April	6	Anchored, Cedar Point area. Underway to Cove Point area, anchored.	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Began reembarkation of troops and equipment at 0930. Concluded Exercise No. 3. Commander Transports, in Leonard Wood, with Monrovia, Charles Carroll, and Harry Lee departed Cove Point Area for Base HOW at 1800. Calvert and Procyon conducted boat salvage operations at Smith Island then proceeded independently to Base HOW.</p> <p>2) Anchored off Cedar Point, Maryland. 0615 Prepared to get underway. 0630 Anchor aweigh and ship underway for Berth "E-2" - Cove Point Anchorage with Captain at the Conn with Navigator assisting.</p> <p>0710 Let go Port Anchor, Berth E-2, Cove Point Anchorage, in company with Leonard Wood, Procyon, Harry Lee, Monrovia. Taking precautions against dragging anchor. Barometer unsteady, rising rapidly with fresh to strong WNW winds increasing to gale force at frequent intervals.</p> <p>0730 Simulated air attack held upon Transport Area by Fighter and Torpedo Planes. Battle stations manned. 0745 Secured from General Quarters Drill.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 34 degrees; High of 61 degrees.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943.</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	April	6		<p>April 6th, continued:</p> <p>0927 LCT(5)'s alongside discharging troops and equipment. Barometer unsteady, fresh NWN winds, choppy seas.</p> <p>1200 Underway to create a lee for re-embarkation of troops from LCT's with various courses and speeds. 1310 Strong wind blowing with rather rough seas. Strong winds and rough seas continued during the 1200 to 2000 watch. Captain, Executive Officer and Navigator on bridge.</p> <p>1640 Finished loading equipment. 1700 All boats except LCV 26 aboard. 1712 Commenced heaving anchor to proceed to Smith Island to regain stranded LCV-32-26. 1915 Anchored off Smith Island. Sent salvage boat LCP(R) #19 to assist in salvage. 2130 Salvage Boat unable to haul LCV #26 clear of beach, ordered to return to ship. Salvage boat returning, towing Procyon's salvage boat. LCV #26 is to be temporarily abandoned. 2358 Salvage boats in sight, commenced heaving anchor to regain salvage boats.</p> <p>NWS) Temperature during the day: Low of 34 degrees; High of 61 degrees.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943
1943	April	7	<p>Anchored, Cove Point area, off Smith Island</p> <p>Underway to Norfolk Naval Operating Base.</p> <p>Moored, Berth 25, Pier 2, N.O.B. Annex, Norfolk, VA.</p> <p>Underway, via the Atlantic Ocean, for Todd Shipyard, Erie Basin, Brooklyn, NY</p>	<p>1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert and Harry Lee escorted by Mayo, Gleaves and Plunkett departed Base HOW for Base PETER. Captain A.P. Mullinnix in Calvert designated as Commander Task Group 20.15, consisting of Calvert, Harry Lee, Mayo, Gleaves and Plunkett.</p> <p>2) Anchored as before, off Smith Island. 0040 Hoisted salvage boat and gig of USS Procyon.</p> <p><b>Underway for Norfolk, VA.</b> 0040 Ahead standard speed, 14 knots. 0739 First line over to Pier. 0744 Moored starboard side to Berth 25, Pier 2, N.O.B. Annex, Norfolk, VA.</p> <p>0800 One LCV(R) new type landing craft hoisted aboard #6 hatch. 1159 Last of Army Troops disembarked. Stores and supplies loaded from dock. 1220 Finished discharging holds. The following landing craft were transferred from this ship: LCV # 29, 22, 23, 7, 24, 8; LCP(R) #10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 25; and LCM(3) #1 and #2.</p> <p><b>Underway for Todd Shipyard, Erie Basin, Brooklyn, NY</b> 1409 Underway. 1600 - 2000 Ship steaming in column with Harry Lee with destroyer escort: USS Mayo, USS Greeves, USS Plunkett. Weather overcast, moderate SE'ly wind, small sea and slight swell. 2000 - 2400 Steaming, standard speed 15 knots.</p> <p>3) 1937 Sunset. 2120 USS Mayo, USS Gleaves, and USS Plunkett, each on night station, 3,500 yards off convoy as anti-submarine screen.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p> <p>3) War Diaries, USS Mayo, USS Gleaves, USS Plunkett</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
	April	8	Underway, Atlantic Ocean, for Todd Shipyard, Erie Basin, Brooklyn, NY	<p>1) Brief of Operations: Calvert and Harry Lee escorted by Mayo, Gleaves, and Plunkett enroute Base PETER.</p> <p>Steaming as before. Standard speed 15 knots. Overcast with occasional light rain squalls. Barometer dropping steadily.</p> <p>0605 Commenced zig-zag plan (Mersigs). 0615 General quarters sounded. Manned all battle stations. 0630 Sunrise. 0645 Secured from battle stations. Lighted ship.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, April 1943</p>
			Anchored, Western Edge, Gravesend Bay Anchorage, NY Lower Bay	<p>0945 Ceased zig-zag. 1025 Commenced zig-zag.</p> <p>1425 Let go starboard anchor. Anchored in Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn, NY</p> <p>1525 Barge alongside. Began discharging ammunition in preparation for overhaul. 2005 Completed unloading ammunition.</p>	<p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>
1943	April	9	Underway for Todd Shipyard, Erie Basin, Brooklyn, NY	<p>1) Anchored as before at Western Edge of Gravesend Bay Anchorage, New York, Lower Bay.</p> <p>1251 Anchors aweigh, underway for Erie Basin. 1410 Let go starboard anchor, west side main ship channel. Within sight of Statue of Liberty.</p> <p>1624 Ship underway for Erie Basin. 1644 Entering Erie Basin breakwater.</p> <p>1740 Ship moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard.</p> <p>1800 Leave party left ship.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>
			Moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard	<p>2000 - 2400 Contractor placed fire watch and fire fighting equipment aboard ship. Contractor placed various working parties aboard on repair work.</p> <p>20 men with baggage and records reported to USS Stanton.</p> <p>80 men with bag and baggage and records to report to USS Lyon.</p>	<p>2) War Diary, New York Navy Yard, April, 1943</p>
				<p>2) At 1720, arrived Todd Erie Basin Drydocks, Inc., for voyage repairs and approved alterations.</p> <p>3) "Upon arrival all hands unloaded ammunition, there was no liberty."</p>	<p>3) Interview - Bill Habrat or John Regan - 2015 Calvert Associates Reunion, Baltimore, MD</p>
<b>USS Calvert's yard work orders</b>					
1943	April	9	Moored at Army Base, Base HOW, Norfolk, VA	<p>1) Commander Transports, Important Orders Received and Decisions Reached: Granted Calvert 21 days restricted availability at New York Navy Yard commencing upon arrival April 9, 1943 for purpose of installing 40mm guns, diesel fire pumps, reduction of fire hazards, stowage for LCVPs and the accomplishment of all other authorized alterations for which material are available and assigned availability permits.</p> <p>Editor's note: The Leonard Wood, Harry Lee, Procyon also received orders to report to the New York Navy yard in April for similar work. This order was dated March 9, 1943 as part of War Diary, Commander Transports, March 1943.</p>	<p>War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, March 1943</p>
1943	April	10 - 25		<p>For the period April 10th to April 25th yard workmen and fire wardens formed work parties and repair parties. Work took place during all hours of the day and night.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	April	10	Moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard	<p>Ship moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard.</p> <p>0400 - 0800 Various working parties and fire watch parties aboard from Todd Shipyards. Weather cloudy, temperature rising, barometer steady, very light wind.</p> <p>0800 - 1200 Yard workmen came aboard. Weather cloudy, light winds.</p> <p>1530 LCV #1 and #30 left for USS Thomas Jefferson with ammunition remaining aboard from last maneuver.</p> <p>1815 LCV #'s 1 and 30 returned and were tied to pier forward of USS Calvert.</p> <p>2015 - 2315 Discharged 5066 gallons of gasoline to gasoline barge.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p> <p>Note: Gasoline likely for LCS (support boat).</p>
1943	April	12	Moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard	<p><b>Change of Command: Captain Lyman A. Thackrey, USN, relieved Captain Allen P. Mullinnix, USN, as Commanding Officer.</b></p> <p>Editor's note: In Cullen's 'History of the USS Calvert' he indicates that this change of command took place on April 9, 1943. However, official Naval records indicated this change of command occurred on April 12, 1943.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p> <p>2) A History of the USS Calvert (APA-32). Cullen, David B. p2</p>
<p>April 13th: Changed mooring from Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard to port side to Pier #5, Todd Shipyard.</p>					
1943	April	13 - 22	<p>Moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard</p> <p>Moored port side to Pier 5, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard</p>	<p>April 14th: Continued ship alterations by yard workers.</p> <p>April 17th: 1105 - 1110 Fire reported and extinguished, starboard side forward, welding cable.</p> <p>April 18th: 0947 Fire, gasoline storage number 5 hold. 0953 Secured from fire. 1030 Steam pressure caused damage to gasoline storage tank in number 5 hold.</p> <p>April 19th: USS Calvert temporarily assigned to Transport Division Seven, Captain D.W. Loomis, USN, Commanding.</p> <p>April 22nd: 1820 - 2256 Pumped residue diesel fuel oil from tanks in hold #2 into fuel barge alongside on starboard side. <del>#2 hold tanks washed and steamed</del></p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p> <p>Note: Gasoline storage likely for LCS (support boat).</p>
1943	April	23-25	<p>Moored starboard side to Northside Pier 1, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard</p> <p>Moored port side to Pier 5, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard</p>	<p>April 23rd: 0115 - 0300 Discharged diesel oil from No. 8 double bottom tanks to the oil barge and steamed tanks. 0745 Secured from steaming double bottom tank No. 8.</p> <p>April 25th: 1500 Oil barge alongside on starboard side to clean #1 double-bottom tank. 2000 Fire lines forward disconnected by yard workmen.</p> <p>April 26th: 0400 Fire line in one, two, and three holds connected and ready for service.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>
1943	April	26 - 28	Drydock, Todd Shipyard	<p>For the period April 26 to April 28 the Calvert underwent work in dry dock #4, Todd Shipyard.</p> <p>26th: 1215 Beginning to shift to drydock. 1315 Approaching drydock. 1440 Ship resting on keel blocks. 1500 Dry dock all pumped out, yard workers aboard.</p> <p>28th: 1414 Ship afloat. 1442 Ship moving out of drydock slowly. 1502 Ship turning to starboard approaching pier #5, Todd Shipboard, Erie Basin. 1530 Moored port side to Pier #5.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	April	29 - 30	Moored port side to Pier #5, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard	0800 Tug Lackawanna towed barge with a load of brick along starboard side amidships for loading. Lighter came alongside with supplies to be loaded aboard. 2128 Finished loading supplies.	War Diary, USS Calvert, April 1943



USS Calvert Ship's Dance - Hotel Capitol.  
April 29, 1943

Online Etsy  
<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1514485357/vintage-ww2-us-navy-military-framed-yard>

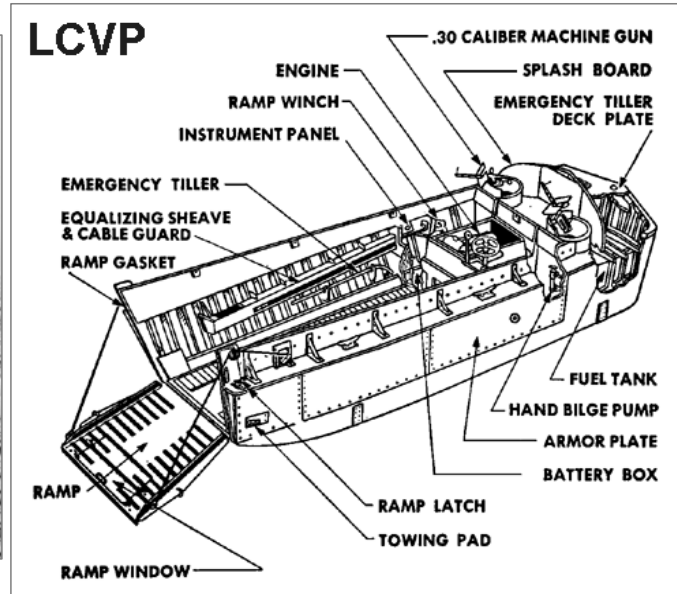
Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943-May				The beginning of May found the Calvert in dry dock at Todd Shipyard, New York. On May 6th the Calvert and crew departed for a return voyage to Norfolk, VA.	
				Upon arrival in Norfolk the Calvert received Landing Craft, Vehicle Personnel (LCPV)s to replace older Higgins boats and LCVs. During mid-May the Calvert's boat crews trained on the new LCVPs and the ship underwent another round of yard work, this time in Norfolk, where the radar installation was completed. Radar testing and trials were conducted May 18th and 19th.	
				On May 24th the 45th Infantry Division's equipment was combat loaded aboard in Norfolk, VA. On the 28th Calvert departed Norfolk bound for the Chesapeake Bay for a series of final training exercises before departing for the Mediterranean on June 8th.	
Additional sources for May 1943:					
* War Diary, New York Navy Yard, May, 1943 (NYd NEW YORK) - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134203242">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134203242</a>					
* War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943 (NYd PORTSMOUTH, VA) - Online: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134220566">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/134220566</a>					
1943	May	1 - 5	Moored port side to Pier #5, Erie Basin, Todd Shipyard	<p>May 1st: Floating crane tied alongside starboard quarter. Continuing with alteration and construction throughout the ship.</p> <p>May 3rd: 0900 - 1410 Taking on supplies and provisions.</p> <p>May 5th: 1940 Todd Shipyard scrap barge came along starboard side at #4 hold to receive cement block ballast from the ship.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	6	<p>Moored as before.</p> <p>Underway</p> <p>Anchored Ft. Wadsworth in Narrows, NY Harbor</p> <p>Underway, Atlantic Ocean, enroute to Norfolk, VA</p>	<p>3) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert remains assigned to Seventh Division, Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet. Calvert, Harry Lee and Dorothea L. Dix enroute to Norfolk, as Task Group 20.11.</p> <p>2) At 0630, Calvert departed Todd Erie Basin Drydocks, Inc., work completed.</p> <p>1) Moored as before. Barge alongside loaded with excess cement ballast blocks and scrap. 0642 Underway from dock, standard speed 15 knots.</p> <p>0800 Anchored off Fort Wadsworth in Narrows, New York Harbor. 0842 Ammunition ship alongside. Ship commenced loading ammunition fore and aft. 0900 Fueling barge alongside, port side. 0905 Commenced loading fuel. 1046 Completed fueling and commenced loading diesel fuel. 1355 Completed fueling.</p> <p>1410 Underway, proceeding seaward on various courses and speeds. 1435 Passing through guard net.</p> <p>1600: Steaming 15 knots. In company with Harry Lee, Dorothea Dix, and John Rodgers with destroyer escort; steaming in column and zig-zagging, standard speed 15 knots.</p>	<p>3) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, May 1943</p> <p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, New York Navy Yard, May 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	May	7	Underway, Atlantic Ocean, enroute to Norfolk  Anchored, Hampton Roads	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert remains assigned to Seventh Division, Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet. Calvert, Harry Lee and Dorothea L. Dix enroute to Norfolk, as Task Group 20.11.  2) Underway as before, in convoy with Dorothea Dix and Harry Lee, with destroyer escorts. Steaming 15.5 knots, south west in column, zig zagging with multiple course changes.  1159 USCG pilot aboard, standard speed 18 knots for Hampton Roads. Ships in convoy proceeding independently. 1407 Anchored, Hampton Roads.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, May 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
<b>Arrival of Landing Craft, Vehicle Personnel (LCVP) to replace older-style Higgins boats in advance of the invasion of Sicily.</b>					
1943	May	8	Anchored, Hampton Roads	2) Anchored in Berth #7, Hampton Roads. 1020 - 1140 Fueled ship, received on board 3186 bbls of fuel. 1140 Support Boat - LC(S) #6 sent to Naval Landing Craft Depot, Newton Park, Norfolk, VA to be turned in.  1715 New landing craft arriving at ship.  1945 - 2300 Discharge of ballast.	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
<p>"The Calvert received the next generation landing craft, the Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel (LCVP). The LCVP, commonly known as the Higgin's boat, was a redesigned landing craft taking lessons from the shortcomings of the LCP. Although specifications, such as capacity, length, beam, etc., remained similar to the original LCP there were several differences. The primary difference was that the LCVP was specifically designed with a ramp in the bow. The coxswain conned the craft from a position on the port quarter next to the engine compartment. The troops and equipment were located in front of the steering position and the engine compartment. When the craft hit the beach the ramp was dropped and the soldiers could disembark quickly over the ramp. The craft was built primarily of marine plywood and was structurally engineered to carry both troops and/or a vehicle. Improvements included a top speed of 12 knots. It was also armed with two .30-Caliber machine guns.</p> <p>Sterling qualified as a coxswain in these new boats. Although disembarking was made much easier for troops, handling suffered. Most Coxswains preferred the handling of the older LCPs compared to the newer LCVPs. When the LCVP beached, with the ramp lowered, the craft was easily swamped if unloading proceeded slowly. The LCVP was also more easily broached in strong currents and tides. Sterling preferred the handling and maneuverability of the LCP. He was happy that the Captain's Gig remained an LCP. "</p>					

Adventures of a Landing Craft Coxswain. Funck, p25

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
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LCVP



1) Naval History and Heritage Command  
USN 1102979 LCVP Landing Craft

<https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/numerical-list-of-images/nhsc-series/nh-series/USN-1102000/USN-1102979.html>

2) LCVP Diagram, via USS Rankin Association  
<https://www.ussrankin.org/lcvp.htm>

1943	May	9	Hampton Roads anchorage  Underway  Anchored, Plantation Flats	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert in Chesapeake Bay Area for independent operations.  2) Anchored as before. 1441 Anchor aweigh, underway, standard speed 15 knots. 1517 Passed through gate, underway through Thimble Shoal Channel enroute to Plantation flats anchorage. 1726 Let go starboard anchor, Berth "K3" Plantation Flats anchorage. 1607 - 1612 Held abandon ship drills.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, May 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	10 - 13		"During this time the boat crews practiced the development of tactics for the employment of the Landing Craft, Vehicle Personnel (LCVP)."	Cullen, p2



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	May	10	Anchored, Plantation Flats	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert in Chesapeake Bay Area conducting boat group training and gunnery exercises.	
				2) Anchored as before in Berth K3 off Plantation Flats. 0727 Underway on Compass Calibration runs. 1120 Secured from Magnetic calibration runs. Underway to prepare for calibrating direction finder.	
				1200 - 1600 Steaming as before in Cape Charles Area calibrating compass (RDF). 1405 RDF calibration completed. 1440 Set course for firing range, speed 17.5 knots. 1942 Let go starboard anchor, Berth Easy 2 off Cove Point.	
1943	May	10	Underway	1624 Commenced structural firing on Fwd 3" Gun, After 40mm and 20mm guns. 1652 Ceased firing all guns. Set courses and speeds for Cove Point area, standard speed 15 knots, 90 RPM.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, May 1943
			Anchored, Cove Point area	Editor's note: RDF means radio direction finding.	2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	11	Anchored, Cove Point area	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert in Cove Point Area for boat group exercises.	
				2) Anchored in Anchorage Easy Two off Cove Point. Weather clear, good visibility, and calm sea. 0755 Rain, sea calm, visibility fair.	
				0810 Underway to anchorage Berth Baker 3 off Northwest of Cove Point. 1100 Commenced "Mersigs" drill. 1153 Secured from Mersigs Drill.	
1943	May	11	Underway	1315 Commenced lowering boats. 1435 Last boat lowered, clear of ship. 1500 1st waves left rendezvous area for Line of Departure off Cove Point. Weather overcast, light rain squalls, small sea.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, May 1943
			Anchored off Wind Mill Point	1602 Second wave landed on beach ... 1637 Boats commenced returning to ship. 1650 Commenced fueling and hoisting all boats. 1805 All boats aboard.	2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
				1810 Underway, standard speed 15 knots. 2205 Anchored.	

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	May	12	Anchored off Wind Mill Point  Underway  Anchored off Bloodsworth Island	2) Anchored in Berth Zig 2 off Wind Mill Point. 0719 Anchor aweigh, ahead 1/3 standard speed 15 knots, for firing range.	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
				0723 General quarters, all hands manned their battle stations. 0730 All stations manned and ready. 0814 - 1240 One practice runs for aft 5"38 gun and five practice runs for #1 3" gun.	
				1250 Leaving firing range proceeding to station to anchorage off Bloodsworth Island.	
				1540 Anchored off Bloodsworth Island. Cloudy, occasional light rain, low flying haze. 1600 - 2000 Finished lowering boats to hold exercise. All boat officers and crews were embarked to expend 3,000 rounds of 30. cal. ammunition. Exercise complete and all boats hoisted aboard at 1835.  1936 Commenced pumping oil to starboard side to remove list to port. Cloudy with occasional light rain with smooth sea.	
1943	May	13	Anchored, Cove Point area	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert in Cove Point area for gunnery exercises and boat group exercises.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, May 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
			Underway	2) Anchored in Berth Fox 2, Cove Point Training Area. 0700 Underway for rendezvous off Smith Point. 0800 - 1200 Five runs firing anti-aircraft batteries.	
			Anchored, Cove Point area	1220 Anchored at North Anchorage, Cove Point Area. 1931 Set General Quarters, set Condition 4. 1950 First boat in water. 2006 All hatch boats in water. 2055 Commenced lowering davit boats. 2119 All boats in water. 2130 Secured condition 4. Sea calm. Visibility good.	
1943	May	14	Anchored, Cove Point area	Anchored as before, off Cove Point. 0045 Landing craft commenced returning to ship. Commenced hoisting landing craft on return. 0143 Completed hoisting landing craft, all boats returned to ship. Secured deck winches, booms, davits and hatch parties. 0945 Commenced 30/cal. machine gun practice. 1030 Finished machine gun practice. Overcast, occasional showers.	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
			Underway	1300 Anchor aweigh, underway. 1522 - 1603 Five runs of 20mm and 40mm gun practice. Weather cool with overcast sky, occasional showers and moderate northeasterly sea.	
			Anchored, York Spit Channel	1650 - 1709 3" gun practice.	
			Underway	1955 Underway, steaming ahead to join column formation with Harry Lee and Leonard Wood. 2004 Held General Quarters. 2008 All battle stations manned and ready. 2110 Preparing to fire night spotting practice. 2145 Commenced firing. 2155 Ceased firing, having expended 12 rounds 3"/50 cal blank loaded and tracer ammunition from #1 gun. 2202 Secured from General Quarters.	
			Moored, Portsmouth Navy Yard	2344 Anchored east of York Spit Channel in Berth Love 1. 0325 Underway. Bright moonlight and smooth sea. 0605 Through Submarine Nets at Old Point Comfort. 0612 Passed the nets. 0755 Ship moored starboard side at Berth "1A" Portsmouth Navy Yard, Va.	

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
				<b>Radar installation</b>	
1943	May	15	Anchored east of York Spit Channel  Underway to Portsmouth Navy Yard  Moored Portsmouth Navy Yard	<p>1) Ship moored South Side to Beth 1A Portsmouth Navy Yard. 0800 - 2400 Yard workers aboard. Supplies being loaded. 1155 Lt (JG) Marks returned to ship with two new Support Boats assigned to the Calvert.</p> <p>2) Arrival at Norfolk Naval Yard - 0745 Installed radio and radar equipment, mast fittings and special equipment. 4 light AA machine guns, one MK 50 gun director, general announcing system, 225 GPH diesel oil purifier, shields for soupper drains, lub. oil purifier heater, ventilation for medical office and sick bay, steering engine room and living compartments.</p> <p>3) "First installation of radar. When compared to the systems available at that time for Destroyers and larger ships, the Calvert's radar was a rather lightweight system. Sterling believes it was used primarily for identifying surfaced submarines."</p> <p>Editor's note: Some sources, such as in the Calversion, indicate that the radar installation took place in April while the Calvert was in Todd Shipyard, New York. However official Navy records demonstrate that the installation took place at Norfolk during mid-May, 1943.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943</p> <p>3) Funck, p25</p>
1943	May	16 - 17	Portsmouth Navy Yard	<p>May 16th: Moored as before, South Side to Beth 1A Portsmouth Navy Yard. Yard workmen aboard, continuing alterations.</p> <p>May 17th: Moored as before. 1027 \$75,686 brought aboard for disbursement purposes. 2230 Commenced testing 30 ton boom forward.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	16 - 17	Portsmouth Navy Yard	<p>Commander Transports, Important Orders Received:</p> <p>May 16th: Created two new temporary task groups to be known as Group A and Group B.</p> <p>Group A under command of Captain W.B. Phillips, USN: Calvert, Leonard Wood, Dix, Florence Nightingale, Harry Lee, Alcyone, Neville, Anne Arundel, Frederick Funston, Bellatrix. Group A loads Army equipment and supplies at Newport News, Virginia commenced May 24, 1943. Upon completion of loading continue training in Chesapeake Bay. This temporary task organization abolished upon completion of loading.</p> <p>May 17th: Orders received: Transport Division Seven to conduct exercises in simulated cruising disposition for air defense with Cruiser Divisions on May 19, 1943.</p>	War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	May	18	Portsmouth Navy Yard  Underway to Point No Point (mouth of Potomac River)  Anchored, Cove Point area	<p>1) Moored as before. 0640 Investigator of Intelligence Section came aboard early morning to investigate lost Jack Stay and left ship at 0750. 0735 Yard tugs tied up port bow and port side. Stationed special sea detail, tested steering and engine room telegraph, found in good order. 0750 All departments reported ready to get underway. 0825 Leaving dock. Underway.</p> <p>2) 0830 USS Calvert departed Norfolk Navy Yard.</p> <p>1) 1345 Set speed 102 R.P.M., 17 knots. 1502 Held fire drill. Smoke detectors used and in good order. 2000 Steaming as before, speed 17 knots, proceeding to transport area off Cedar Point. 2101 Anchored, Cove Point area. 2116 Commenced tracking practice on P.T. boat by radar and search light and range finder. 2310 Secured from tracking practice. 2000 - 2400 Fine and clear, bright moonlight, small southerly sea and swell.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943</p>
<b>Radar system calibration and training</b>					
1943	May	Mid		<p>Editor's note: As indicated above, and directly below, the Calvert began calibrating the new radar system and training the radar crew on use of the system to detect and track surface craft.</p> <p>1) "When compared to the systems available at that time for Destroyers and larger ships, the Calvert's radar was a rather lightweight system. Sterling believes it was used primarily for identifying surfaced submarines."</p> <p>2) "I do remember, the exercises in Chesapeake Bay and one particular instance where LCT's were used to simulate submarines on the surface to see if the "new" radar could pick up such low lying vessels in the water." Charles Francher</p>	<p>1) Funck, p25</p> <p>2) Calversion, Vol 10, p2. Provided by Charles Francher</p>
1943	May	19	Anchored Point No Point  Underway for exercise	<p>Anchored as before, north of North NoPoint Lighthouse. In company with USS Funston and USS Bellatrix. 0035 Prepared to get underway for Radar and Visual Detection of practice torpedo boat attack.</p> <p>0101 Anchor aweigh. Standard speed 15 knot. 0105 General quarters. All hands manned battle stations. 0120 Darkened ship, using screened speed light. 0200 P.T. Boat sighted to starboard, trained search lights and simulated open fire. 0214 Completed drill. Secured from battle stations.</p> <p>0229 Let go starboard anchor. Lighted ship. Fine and clear, small sea. Full moon.</p> <p>0705 Commenced heaving short 0730 Anchors aweigh, ahead 1/3. Underway to form column, Funston and Bellatrix. 1152 Commenced scheduled maneuvers. 1257 General quarters. All battle stations manned. 1347 Simulated air attack commenced on convoy. Ships maneuvering to avoid simulated attack. 1423 Drills ceased. 1424 Secured from General Quarters.</p>	<p>War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p>

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	May	19	Underway for exercise	<p>May 19th, continued:</p> <p>1444 Division Seven released from convoy. Ships left to proceed to Area Able for Anti Aircraft Battery Practice.</p> <p>1636 Manned all guns and fire control stations. 1725 Commenced anti aircraft battery practice. Various course and speed changes during the anti aircraft practice exercises. 1757 Completed firing exercises.</p> <p>2002 Commenced exercise for detection of P.T. boat attack by lookouts and radar. 2014 Sounded general quarters all battle stations manned. Simulated repelling PT boat attack. 2127 Completed exercise, secured from General Quarters.</p> <p>2329 Proceeding 15 knots in Column with Funston and Bellatrix. Bright moonlight.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	20	Underway Anchored, Berth George 13, Newport News	<p>1) Steaming as before, underway with Funston and Bellatrix. 0430 Entering York Spit Channel. Captain at the Conn.</p> <p>0912 At assigned anchorage, Berth George 13, Newport News, VA. 0955 Lowered boats #4, 8, 17, 21 for running boat duty. Partly cloudy.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	21	Anchored, Berth George 13, Newport News	<p>1) Anchored as before. Cloudy, lightening, rain squalls. 0800 - 1200 Boats #4, 21 and 17 being used as running boats. Boats on hatches 1, 2, 3, 4 lowered to clear hatches and also put more running hours on boats.</p> <p>1200 - 1600 Taking on supplies and fuel from Navy barges. 1600 - 2400 Running scheduled boats.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	22	Anchored, Berth George 13, Newport News	<p>1) Anchored as before. Cloudy, occasional lightening and rain squalls. 0400 - 0800 Liberty boats running as per schedule. 0800 Captain's personnel inspection held this date. YT533 moored on portside #1 hatch to unload ammunition. Weather cloudy with occasional sun.</p> <p>1200 - 1600 Unloading of ammunition and ammunition being taken aboard. 1702 Secured from taking ammunition aboard.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	23	Anchored, Berth George 13, Newport News	<p>Anchored as before . 0400 - 0800 Running boats operating as per schedule. 1155 Gasoline barge tied up port side. 1045 gallons of gasoline in 209 five gallon tins brought aboard. Running boats operating at scheduled times. 2330 Lighter alongside with GSK stores.</p> <p>Editor's notes: GKS stores means general store keeper stores. Gasoline brought aboard for the LCS, rocket support boats.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	May	24	Anchored, Berth George 13, Newport News, Va. Moored, Pier #5, Army Base, Newport News, Va.	<p>1) Anchored as before. Running boats as per schedule. 0705 All departments reported ready to get underway. 0801 Tug Richmond on port bow. 0807 Anchor aweigh, ahead 1/3 standard speed.</p> <p><b>Combat loading begins, 45th Infantry Division equipment.</b></p> <p>0900 Moored starboard side to north side of Pier #5, Army Base, Newport News, Va. 1055 Commenced bringing gasoline aboard on number 5 hatch. 1120 Commenced bringing ammunition aboard on Number 1 hatch. 1200 - 160 Continuing loading cargo. 1807 Completed bringing gasoline aboard at #5 hatch. 2000 - 2400 - Loading all hatches.</p> <p>Editor's note: Gasoline brought aboard for the LCS, rocket support boats.</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943
1943	May	25	Moored, Pier #5, Army Base, Newport News, Va.	<p>1) Ships at Newport News, loading Army equipment and supplies.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. Loading continues. 1400 - 1600 Loading 5"/38 and 3"/50 ammunition.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p>
1943	May	26	Moored, Pier #5, Army Base, Newport News, Va.	<p>1) Task Group ABLE loaded Army supplies and equipment at Newport News, Virginia.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. Loading continues by yard workmen and US Army working parties. 0400 - 0800 Loading continues. 0645 Picket boat and liberty boats running.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p>
1943	May	27	Moored, Pier #5, Army Base, Newport News, Va.	<p>1) Task Group Able continued loading supplies.</p> <p>2) Moored as before. Loading continues.</p>	<p>1) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943</p> <p>2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943</p>
1943	May	28	Moored, Pier #5, Army Base, Newport News, Va. Underway Anchored off Severen River, Md., Annapolis area.	<p>Moored as before. Loading continues. 0800 All loading secured.</p> <p>0950 Prepared to get underway. 1032 Ship clear of dock. Commenced to embark landing craft as ship proceeded toward Hampton Roads.</p> <p>1143 Conning ship through Submarine Net. Weather - wind and rain squalls. Fair visibility. Moderate temperatures. Enroute to Cove Point area.</p> <p>2051 Anchored, Greenbury Point area off Severen River, MD</p>	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes	
1943	May	29	Underway	Anchored as before, Greenbury Point, Severn River area.	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943	
				Anchored off Severn River, Md., Annapolis area		0656 Underway for North Cove Point, off Taylor Island.
				0738 Stopped engines. Commenced lowering boats for measured mile run. 0752 boats in water.		
1943	May	30	Anchored off Taylor Island, North of Cove Point	1028 Boats completed eight measured mile runs. 1050 Hoisted boats. 1110 Ahead standard course.	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943	
				Anchored off Taylor Island, North of Cove Point		1523 to 1539 Ship maintained full speed, testing maneuverability. 1539 Resumed course and speed for Cove Point Anchorage. 1652 Anchored, secured anchor and engines.
				2158 Commenced operating Picket Boat.		
1943	May	31	Anchored off Taylor Island, North of Cove Point	Anchored off Taylor Island, North of Cove Point. Running picket boat. Weather: Sky overcast with light rain. Hard rain at 0320.	War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943	
				0550 Secured picket boat and hoisted boat aboard. 1326 All hatch boats in water. 1337 Completed stripping hatches. 1350 Commenced lowering davit boats. 1418 Last boat left ship.		
				1600 2000 Landing craft conducting exercise. 1600 First wave landed on Beach, north Cove Point. 1603 Second wave landed. 1607 Third wave landed. 1613 Fourth wave landed. 1615 Fifth wave landed. 1624 Sixth wave landed. 1630 Seventh wave landed. 1639 First landing craft returned from beach to ship. 1740 All boats returned to ship and hoisted aboard. No casualties to personnel. One craft returned to ship under tow due to motor trouble.  2000 - 2400 Running picket boat.		
1943	May	31	Anchored off Taylor Island, North of Cove Point	Anchored as before. Running picket boat until sunrise. Sea calm, visibility fair, overcast. 0800 - 1200 Running operating and duty boats.	1) War Diary, Norfolk Navy Yard, May 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, May 1943	
				1120 Preparing to get underway. 1432 Anchor aweigh, standard speed 15 knots. 1436 Prepared for lowering paravanes. 1459 Commenced swinging out paravanes. 1525 Paravanes clear of the water. 1546 Beams used for paravanes re-rigged and ready for cargo. 1650 Paravane gear on board and secure.		
				1620 Anchored off Cove Point. 2040 Set picket boat watch. 2055 Support boat #28 and LCV(p) #11 dispatched to test operational lights. 2255 Boats #28 and #11 returned.  Editor's note: Paravanes were used for mine sweeping exercises.		

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
<p><b>1943-June</b></p> <p>The beginning of June found the Calvert combat loaded and boat crews practicing landing exercises in the Chesapeake Bay. On June 4th the 1st Battalion, 180th Regimental Combat Team 45th Infantry Division, US Army embarked on the Calvert. Then on the morning of June 8th the Calvert joined a convoy and departed for the Mediterranean in preparation for the invasion of Sicily.</p>					
<p>Additional sources for June 1943:</p> <p>* War Diary, Commander Transport Division Seven, June 4, 1943 to August 3, 1943 - <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78155321">https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78155321</a></p>					
1943	June	1	Anchored, north of Cove Point	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Ships in Chesapeake Bay Area conducted individual ships exercises during the day and exercise 4AP at night.	
			Underway	2) Anchored off Taylor Island, North of Cove Point, Md. Running picket boat. Occasional rain with light wind and calm sea. 0543 Secured and hoisted Picket Boat.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943
			Anchored, off Cedar Point	0900 Lowered 16 boats to conduct exercise. 0930 Commenced exercise. 1100 Boats returning and hoisted. 1145 All boats aboard and secured.  1355 Underway to anchorage off Cedar Point. 1531 Anchored. 1600 - 2000 Running duty boats. Weather fine and clear with calm sea.  2100 Went to General Quarters; 2130 Commenced lowering all boats. 2200 All boats in water.	2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943
1943	June	2	Anchored, off Cedar Point	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Ships in Chesapeake Bay Area conducted individual ships exercises.	
			Underway	2) Anchored off Cove Point, Md. Landing boats away from ship, conducting loading exercise. 0228 First landing craft returned to ship. Commenced fueling and hoisting. 0400 All landing craft hoisted aboard and hatch parties secured.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943
			Anchored, Old Plantation Flats, VA	0800 Proceeding to area off Point No Point for target practice of 40mm and 20mm guns. 0835 - 0900 General Quarters. 0927 Fired first burst at target balloons. 1001 Secured gun crews.  1302 - 1500 Column formation, Mersigs Drills.  1609 - 1616 Abandon ship drill.  1808 Anchored off Old Plantation Flats, Va.	2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943



Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	June	3	Anchored, Old Plantation Flats, VA	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert et. al., arrived at Hampton Roads anchorage from Chesapeake Bay Area and later the same date proceeded independently to Newport News.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943 2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943
			Underway	2) Anchored off Old Plantation Flats, Va. 0400 Underway from Plantation Flats for North Entrance to York Split Channel. Calvert guide for Transport Division	
			Anchored, Hampton Roads	Seven.	
			Underway	0705 Anchored Berth #1, Hampton Roads Anchorage. 0905 Lighter tied up port quarter with provisions and stores. Operating running boats to carry out ships work. 1215 Completed discharging stores from board on port side.	
			Moored, Newport News	1915 Underway. 2105 Moored starboard side to North Side Pier 5, HRPE Newport News, Va.	
<b>Embarkation, 1st Battalion, 180th Regimental Combat Team 45th Infantry Division, US Army.</b>					
1943	June	4	Moored, Newport News	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert et. al., departed Newport News for Chesapeake Bay Area. 2) Moored as before, starboard side to North side of Pier #5, Newport News.	Unit details: Cullen, p2 1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943
			Underway	0730 U.S. Army Troops embarkation commenced. 1217 Completed embarkation of Troops. Ship securing landing craft and hatches for sea.	2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943
			Anchored, Old Plantation Flats	1605 Cast off, underway. 1930 Anchored off Old Plantation Flats.  3) Calvert: Berth 51 off Plantation Flats.	3) War Diary, Commander Transport Division Seven, June 1943
1943	June	5	Anchored, Old Plantation Flats	1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Calvert et. al., anchored at Old Plantation Flats, Chesapeake Bay. Commander Transport Division Seven in Calvert. Commanding officers' conferences held aboard flagship. 2) Anchored, Plantation Flats. Operating Picket Boat. Fair and clear, smooth sea. 1853 LCT 451 secured alongside to deliver secret material. 1950 LCT 451 cleared ship's side 2000 Established special picket boat, as per orders of Commander Transports Amphibious Force Atlantic.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943 2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943
				1) Commander Transports, Brief of Operations: Conduct of drills - Preparations completed for sailing. Important Orders Received and Decisions Reached: Commander Transport 65, placed Sortie Plan in effect, set Zero hour at 0800 Queen, June 8, 1943, and designated use of zig-zagging procedure on signal. 2) Anchored as before. Cloudy with frequent lightening, slight sea. Operating picket boat until sunrise. 0800 - 1200 Devine services held. 1530 - 1537 General quarters and fire drill. 2020 Posted armed picket boat watch over the area assigned the ship.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943 2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943

Year	Month	Day	Location	Historical Details	Sources, Notes
1943	June	7	Anchored, Old Plantation Flats	Anchored as before. Held a series of General Quarters drills, fire drills, and abandon ship drills throughout the day. Weather: Overcast with showers.	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943
1943	June	8	Anchored, Old Plantation Flats  Underway for Mers El Kebir, Algeria	<b>Departure for the Mediterranean for participation in Operation Torch, the invasion of Sicily.</b> Anchored as before. Running picket boat. 0545 Secured the armed picket boat. 0745 Preparing the ship for getting underway in accordance with Sortie Plan No 2 43 of Task Group 65. 0841 Underway with Task Group 65. Destination: Mers El Kebir, Algeria	1) War Diary, Commander Transports, Amphibious Force, US Atlantic Fleet, June 1943  2) War Diary, USS Calvert, June 1943
<b>End of research notes for the period January 1, 1943 June 8, 1943</b>					