

within the shop so during heavy rains the gally deck became awash from seepage under and around the tack welded frame. No storage space was provided for gear. Black out was effected with curtains but was only partially satisfactory. With black out in effect the range would not light immediately nor exhaust properly while the temperatures became too high because of the curtains.

Four heads on either side of the after Quonset extending to midway the forward Quonset provide head and shower facilities for transients - both enlisted and officers. Between the Quonsets and heads wooden cat-walks were constructed for traffic fore and aft. Outboard of the heads the only space that is necessary is for handling of mooring lines.

To help carry the load of the extra equipment, two cat-erpillar generators, model D8-AC, 120-240 volts, were installed on the tank deck, one on each side of the reefers. Four additional evaporators also were installed, one on either side of the forward quonset and two forward on the main deck. Ship's evaporators alone could not meet the needs of additional personnel and other small craft needs; therefore these evaporators were put in operation and with utilization of extra void tanks the water capacity aboard was increased to 120,000 gallons. Twenty-two reefer units were obtained for maintaining various degrees of temperature throughout the reefers.

Among the duties to be assumed by the ship were extra laundry facilities for personnel attached. For this the 677 required two 15-pound American laundry units in addition to the original one. As this was still inadequate, later requisitions raised laundry facilities to three 15-pound and one 25-pound American laundry units, one 30-pound Hoffman dryer, and one model Xsc-5 Hoffman presser. Three men have permanent laundry duty. To provide space for the dryer and presser, ship's force engaged the necessary area on the after tank deck.

The problem of supply necessitated more office space. The original office was in the Stores Officers' stateroom. Stateroom 109 was taken over as Supply Office, complete with desks, typewriters, calculators, and safe. Still overcrowded conditions led to converting one half of the after head starboard into a Disbursing Office. As a further release from overcrowdedness, the supports of number three boat davit were enclosed to make a provisions office, readily accessible to ships coming alongside for provisions.

Sick Bay facilities were increased by enclosing a portion port side of the after crew's living compartments. Thus a general sick bay, fully equipped with a 12 bunk ward annex was created while retaining the original sick bay for laboratory purposes. T.E. Barber, Lt.(jg)(MC), USNR, after reporting to the ship, drew plans and supervised the construction.

The conversion made a larger complement necessary. Ens. S.W. Kerr was detached for duty aboard U.S.S. LST 449 while B. Davis, Lt.(jg)(SC), USNR, and S.M. Levant Ch.P.C., USN, in addition to Dr. Barber, reported aboard for duty. During this period P.M. Belmont, Ens., and L.J. Reinhardt, Ens., assumed the duties of First Lieutenant and Navigation Officer, respectively. Enlisted complement was changed where by extra storekeepers, storekeepers disbursing, machinist mates, cooks and bakers increased the complement to 141 men. Fleet organization was changed to include the LST(M)'s in LST Flotilla 3, Group 9, Division 18.

Waipio Amphibious Base ceased work on conversion on 14 January 1945, leaving the completion of various odd jobs to ship's force. On the morning of the 15th, LST(M) 677 shifted from the repair dock and entered ARD-3 in berth C-3 for dry docking where ship's force scraped the hull, cleaned evaporators, and inspected the screws. Deck personnel painted the hull and effected a two-tone camouflage painting of all above-water surfaces.