

Log of  
President Truman's  
Vacation Cruise  
in the  
Chesapeake and Delaware Bays  
20 – 29 August 1948

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## List of the President's Party

### THE PRESIDENT.

Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N., Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief,  
U.S. Armed Forces.

Honorable John R. Steelman, Assistant to the President.

Honorable Charles G. Ross, the President's Press Secretary.

Honorable William D. Hassett, Secretary to the President.

Honorable Clark M. Clifford, Special Counsel to the President. (Washington, D.C. to Yorktown,  
Va.)

Major General Harry H. Vaughan, A.U.S., Military, Aide to the President. (Washington, D.C. to  
Yorktown, Va.)

Brigadier General Wallace H. Graham, U.S.A.F., the President's personal physician.

Colonel Robert R. Landry, U.S.A.F., Air Force Aide to the President. (Washington, D.C. to  
Yorktown, Va.)

Captain Robert L. Dennison, U.S.N., Naval Aide to the President.

### STAFF: (Embarked in U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG)

Mr. Jack Romagna, Office of the President.

Chief Yeoman Charles J. Langelo, U.S.N., Office of the Naval Aide to the President.

Photographer's Mate Paul Bosner, U.S.N., Office of U.S. Naval Photographic Center, Washington,  
D.C.

Private George Manos, U.S.M.C., musician, Marine Band, Washington, D.C.

### SECRET SERVICE: (Embarked in U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG)

Mr. Henry J. Nicholson

Mr. Gerald A. Behn

Mr. Floyd M. Boring

Mr. William F. Shields

Mr. Paul T. Usher

Mr. Frank Barry

## Press Radio & Photographer's Pool (Embarked in chartered WANDERER)

Ernest Vaccaro	-	Associated Press
Dean Dittmer	-	United Press
Felix Belair	-	New York Times
Jack Doherty	-	New York News
Joseph Fox	-	Washington Evening Star
John Adams	-	Columbia Broadcasting System
Frank Bourgholtzer	-	National Broadcasting Company
Frank Kent	-	Baltimore Sun
Charles Corte	-	Acme (Pool Photographer)
John Garvey	-	Fox Movietone News (Pool Newsreel)

(Embarked U.S.S. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, Jr., Cape Henlopen, Delaware to Yorktown, Virginia)

Wynn Booth	-	Time Magazine
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### SHIPS:

U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG (Commander Donald J. MacDonald, U.S.N., commanding).

U.S.S. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, Jr. (Commander L. R. Neville, U.S.N., commanding - Commander W. M. Foster, U.S.N., Commander Destroyer Division 102, embarked).

River Escort Vessel LENORE (Chief Quartermaster Frederick F. Stirewalt, U.S.N., commanding).

## Itinerary

<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Departed</u>
	U. S. Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C.	20 August 1948
20 August 1948	Blakiston Island, Md.	21 August 1948
21 August 1948	U. S. Naval Air Test Center Patuxent, Md.	21 August 1948
22 August 1948	U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.	23 August 1948
23 August 1948	Harbor of Refuge, Cape Henlopen, Delaware	24 August 1948
24 August 1948	York Spit, Virginia	25 August 1948
25 August 1948	U. S. Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, Virginia	26 August 1948
26 August 1948	Sharpe's Island, Md.	27 August 1948
27 August 1948	Blakiston Island, Md.	29 August 1948
29 August 1948	U. S. Naval Gun Factory	

Total Miles Steamed: 794

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## Log of the President's Vacation Cruise

Friday, August 20th:

The President, accompanied by fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, U.S.N., Mr. John R. Steelman, Mr. Charles G. Ross, Mr. William D. Hassett, Mr. Clark M. Clifford, Major General Harry H. Vaughan, A.U.S., Brigadier General Wallace H. Graham, U.S.A.F., Colonel Robert B. Landry, U.S.A.F., and Captain Robert L. Dennison, U.S.N., arrived at Pier 1, U. S. Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C., and boarded the U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG at 12:59 p.m., for a vacation cruise in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

Members of the U.S. Secret Service, White House Detail, accompanying the President were: Mr. Henry J. Nicholson, Mr. Gerald A. Behn , Mr. Floyd M. Boring, Mr. William F. Shields, Mr. Paul T. Usher, and Mr. Frank Barry. Temporary duty personnel who boarded the WILLIAMSBURG, to assist the Presidential party as required, were: Mr. Jack Romagna, Chief Yeoman Charles J. Langelo, U.S.N., Photographer's Mate Paul Bosner, U.S.N., and Private George Manos, U.S.M.C., musician.

At 1:05 p.m., the U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG, Commander Donald J. MacDonald, U.S.N. commanding, was underway from Pier 1, followed immediately by the river escort vessel LENORE. The LENORE was under the command of Chief Quartermaster Frederick R. Stirewalt, U.S.N.

The day was sunny and warm, with a temperature of 85 degrees. A northeasterly wind of about 5 knots comfortably took some of the steam out of a persistent sun.

The President and the members of his party quickly changed to more comfortable clothing. Some members of the party took a nap - others just lounged about.

The WILLIAMSBURG, followed by the LENORE, steamed various courses and at various speeds to conform to the river channel, and headed toward the lower area of the Potomac River. We were underway on the first leg of the cruise to Blakiston Island, a distance of 70 miles.

Our various courses and speeds during the afternoon and early evening took us past the South Capitol Bridge construction; past Hains Point to starboard; past Mount Vernon, when passing honors were rendered; past Indian Head Pier to port; past Quantico Pier - through the Morgantown Bridge, and at 5:57 p.m., past Dahlgren to starboard.

At 7:13 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG dropped anchor in 7 fathoms of water, about a mile south of Blakiston Island. The LENORE anchored shortly thereafter, about 500 yards off our starboard beam.

The weather had become partly cloudy, temperature 83 degrees, and with a slight wind.

Upon anchoring, #2 motor whaleboat was lowered, the port gangway rigged, and a rubber life boat lowered. The motor whaleboat stood off about 50 yards and circled the area; the rubber life boat was held close alongside.

At about 7:20 p.m., Commander Jesse B. Gay, U.S.N., the WILLIAMSBURG's executive officer, was on deck in bathing trunks. He dove off the port gangway, and swam about.

On deck, and in bathing trunks, appeared the President, Colonel Landry, Captain Dennison and Commander MacDonald. On a report from Commander Gay that the water was "fine", Captain Dennison dove off the port gangway, followed by Colonel Landry and Commander MacDonald. The President went in off the port gangway, and swam about for 10 minutes. He returned aboard at 7:35 p.m., followed by Captain Dennison, Colonel Landry, Commander MacDonald and Commander Gay.

During this time, Commander Gay displayed some rope-climbing antics on the monkey lines.

At 7:40 p.m., swimming call for the crew was sounded. In the meantime, the President had dressed and returned to the port gangway, where he watched with amusement the clowning aquabatics of some of the enlisted men.

Swimming was ended at 8 p.m.

At this time, the movie "Up in Central Park", starring Deanna Durbin and Dick Haymes, was shown for the crew in the crew's mess hall.

Dinner for the President and his party was served at 8 p.m. After dinner, the movie "Life With Father", starring Irene Dunne and William Howell, was shown for the Presidential party. The President did not attend the movie. He went to bed early, about 9:00 p.m.

After the movie, members of the President's party retired to their quarters.

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Saturday, August 21st:

At 1:15 a.m., Commander Ashton Emerson (MC), U.S.N., the ship's medical officer, was notified via inter-ship radio telephone that JANSSEN, William W., engineman third class, U.S.N., on board the escort LENORE complained of severe stomachache.

Via this same communication system, the medical officer questioned the patient. As a result, JANSSEN was brought aboard the WILLIAMSBURG, where he was examined by Dr. Emerson.

General Graham, the President's personal physician, was called for consultation, and he concurred in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis. Preparations were then made for an appendectomy.

At 5:30 a.m., the operation was performed under a spinal anaesthesia by Dr. Emerson, assisted by Dr. Graham, Chief Hospitalman, Preston C. Taylor, and Hospitalman third class Donald E. Bauermeister, U.S.N.

The patient's post-operative condition was reported as excellent. It was planned to transfer the patient to the Naval Hospital at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent, Maryland, which was to be our next port of call.

The President arose at 6:30 a.m., as did some members of his party.

At 6:45 a.m., swimming call was sounded for the crew. Swimming was ended 15 minutes later.

At 7 a.m., the President, General Graham and Captain Dennison took a 10-minute swim off the port gangway. The temperature of the water was 77 degrees.

In the meantime, preparations were made for getting underway.

At 7:23 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENOIRE were underway from anchorages off Blakiston Island, enroute to the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent, Maryland, the second leg of the cruise, a distance of about 50 miles.

The ships continued down the river, maneuvering on various courses and speeds, preparatory to entering Chesapeake Bay. We passed Piney Point Torpedo Test Station to port, distant about 2650 yards at about 8:25 a.m. Other points along the way were: Point Lookout to port, distant 4650 yards; Cedar Point Light abeam to port, distant 3000 yards, at which point we entered the Patuxent River.

At 11:30 a.m., we passed the Yacht POTOMAC to starboard, distant about 1500 yards. The POTOMAC flew the flag of the Governor of Maryland, the Honorable Preston Lane.

The Yacht Potomac, we may recall, was the ex-Presidential Yacht, which was turned over to the State of Maryland, and replaced by the U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG in 1945.

The WILLIAMSBURG dropped anchor at 11:36 a.m., in 6 fathoms of water, about 1500 yards north of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent, Maryland. The LENOIR anchored about 500 yards off our starboard beam.

At about noon, Governor Lane called the WILLIAMSBURG by radio telephone:

"The Governor of Maryland welcomes the President of the United States to Maryland waters and the greatest natural harbor in the world."

The President replied:

"The President appreciates most highly the welcome of the Governor of Maryland to his great harbor. He hopes that at some future date the Governor may take a cruise with the President."

At 12:10 p.m., Chief Ship's Clerk C. Gidrites, U.S.N., officer courier, came aboard with mail from the White House. He had been flown down via Navy aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D.C. He left the ship at 1:00 p.m., with return mail for the White House.

At 12:27 p.m., Rear Admiral Apollo Soucek, U.S.N., Commander Naval Air Test Center, and Captain T. A. Turner, U.S.N., Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Air Station, Patuxent, Maryland, came aboard to call on the President. They left the ship at 12:54 pm.

Captain Dennison, the President's Naval Aide, returned Admiral Soucek's call later in the afternoon.

At 1 p.m., the Yacht POTOMAC stood out to Chesapeake Bay.

In the early morning there was fog, restricting visibility somewhat. The temperature was about 70 degrees. Later in the morning, however, the sun broke through intermittently, and finally took over about noon. The temperature had risen to 87 degrees, warming up considerably an otherwise cool and cloudy morning.

At 1:30 p.m., a crash boat (C-8315) from the Naval Air Test Center came alongside to receive JANSSEN, the patient on whom the appendectomy was performed. Under the supervision of Dr. Emerson, JANSSEN was brought topside in a stretcher, and transferred to the crash boat. He was brought to the Naval Hospital at the Test Center for convalescence.

Liberty call for the crew was sounded at 2:15 p.m. At about 2:30 p.m., a 50-foot motor launch from the Test Center came alongside to receive the liberty party. In this same launch, some members of the Secret Service went ashore for a game of golf.

A short time later, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Clifford, Colonel Landry and Captain Dennison left the ship for a game of golf at the Naval Air Test Center. No scores were announced.

The President did not leave the ship. After a short nap, he remained in his quarters, working on his papers.

By 6:50 p.m., all hands who were ashore returned aboard, and preparations were made for getting underway.

At about 7 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent, Maryland. Courses and speeds were set for Annapolis, Maryland, the third leg of the cruise, a distance of 50 miles.

At 7:20 p.m., we passed the U.S.S. DONNER (Landing Ship Dock #20) to starboard, distant about 2000 yards. Since the crew of the LSD were at "man-the-rail" stations, passing honors were similarly rendered by the WILLIAMSBURG.

At 8 p.m., dinner was served the President and his party. After dinner, the movie "Fury At Furnace Creek", starring Victor Mature, was shown for the President and his party. After the movie, they retired to their quarters and lounged about.

A movie, "Life With Father", starring Irene Dunn and William Powell, was shown for the crew.

The ship continued up the Chesapeake Bay on various courses, at a speed of about 12 knots.

Special sea details were set and, at 10:19 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG anchored in Annapolis Roads, in 6 fathoms of water, about 500 Yards off Entrance Buoy #2. The LENORE anchored about 500 yards northwest of us.

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Sunday, August 22nd:

In the early morning, an overcast sky restricted visibility slightly. A light rain fell until about 6 a.m. By 7 a.m., however, the sky had cleared considerably.

At 8 a.m., preparations were made for getting underway.

The President appeared on deck. He went up on the bridge, talked with Commander MacDonald and Commander Gay, and watched interestedly the preparations being made for getting the ship underway. He came down from the bridge and went up on the forecastle, where he was joined by his Naval Aide, Captain Dennison.

At 8:47 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages in Annapolis Roads to anchorages in the Severn River, off the U.S. Naval Academy. Various courses and speeds were used entering Annapolis Channel.

Fleet Admiral Leahy joined Commander MacDonald on the bridge.

Enroute we passed the station ship U.S.S. REINA MERCEDES to port. Captain Charles L. Freeman, U.S.N., commanding the REINA MERCEDES, was recognizably visible on the starboard platform of his ship. The REINA rendered passing honors.

Captain Freeman, not long detached from duty as Commanding Officer, U.S.S. WILLIAMSBURG, received many friendly, waving gestures as we passed.

At 9:27 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG let go its anchor in 3 fathoms of water, about 1065 yards north of the REINA MERCEDES. The LENORE anchored about 200 yards off our starboard beam.

A Navy crash boat from the U.S. Naval Academy was sent out to patrol about the WILLIAMSBURG. This was a security measure in the interest of the President.

At 9:55 a.m., Captain Freeman came aboard to pay his respects. He was greeted warmly by the President and members of his party, and later by the ship's officers. He left the ship at 10:32 a.m.

Rear Admiral James L. Holloway, Jr., U.S.N., Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, had made his barge available to the President and his party.

The Admiral's barge was alongside the WILLIAMSBURG at 10 a.m., and at 10:03 a.m., the President, accompanied by Admiral Leahy, Mr. Ross, Mr. Clifford, General Vaughan, General Graham, Colonel Landry and Captain Dennison, left the ship for the U. S. Naval Academy to attend church services.

They were greeted at the landing by Admiral Holloway and his aide, Captain Jesse R. Wallace, U.S.N. The group then walked about a quarter of a mile to the Academy chapel. The President and his party paused on the steps of the chapel to watch the Brigade of Midshipmen march to divine services. After the parade into the chapel the President and his party attended the services conducted by Commander E. P. Wuebbens, ChC, U.S.N., the Academy chaplain. After the services, the President congratulated Chaplain Wuebbens on his fine conduct of the services.

Later, Admiral Holloway introduced to the President, Midshipman John Paul Jones. The President remarked to Midshipman Jones that he hoped he would live up to his famous name, and added that he felt sure Jones would do so.

A group of newspapermen and photographers were on hand to record the President's visit ashore.

The President and his party then walked from the chapel to the landing, and returned to the ship at 11:32 am.

At 10:15 a.m., Technical Sergeant William T. Yeager, U.S.M.C., came aboard with mail from the White House. The mail was brought down from Washington by automobile. Sergeant Yeager left the ship at 4:15 p.m.

At 10:30 a.m., Mr. Hassett left the ship to attend Catholic Church services at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, Maryland. He returned to the ship at noon.

The sun had broken through an earlier overcast finally and warmed up the day considerably.

The President and his party spent the remainder of the day aboard ship, and rested.

It was learned that about 6 p.m., on Saturday, 21 August, "Tony" Vaccaro of the White House Press Association, called Mr. Ross on the WILLIAMSBURG, over the radio telephone, from Bowen's Inn at Solomon's Island, Maryland. Mr. Vaccaro notified Mr. Ross that the press and radio representatives, ten in all, had chartered a private cabin cruiser, the WANDERER, and planned to follow the WILLIAMSBURG for the remainder of the cruise.

In the group of press and radio representatives were:

Ernest V. Vaccaro	-	Associated Press
Dean Dittmer	-	United Press
Felix Belair	-	New York Times
Jack Doherty	-	New York News
Joseph Fox	-	Washington Evening Star
John Adams	-	Columbia Broadcasting System
Frank Bourgholtzer	-	National Broadcasting Company
Frank Kent	-	Baltimore Sun
Charles Corte	-	Acme (Pool Photographer)
John Garvey	-	Fox Movietone News (Pool Newsreel)

It was arranged that Mr. Ross would communicate daily at 2 and 8 p.m., with the WANDERER, to keep the press informed on the cruise. The members of the press and radio had installed in the WANDERER, rented radio telephone equipment.

At 7:45 p.m., the movie "Give My Regards to Broadway", starring Dan Dailey and Charles Winninger, was shown for the crew.

Dinner was served the President and his party at 8 p.m. Captain Freeman, who had returned aboard earlier in the evening, and Commander MacDonald, were dinner guests of the President.

After dinner, the movie "Key Largo", starring Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson and Lauren Bacall, was shown in the dining salon for the President and his party.

Captain Freeman left the ship at about 10:45 pm.

During the remainder of the evening, the President and his party remained in their quarters.

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Monday, August 23rd:

In the early morning, the chartered cabin cruiser WANDERER, with the members of the press and radio aboard, stood in and anchored about 500 yards southeast of the WILLIAMSBURG.

At 5:40 a.m., special sea details were set, and at 6:01 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages in the Severn River, enroute to the Harbor of Refuge, Cape Henlopen, Delaware, the third leg of the cruise, a distance of 119 miles.

A heavy fog set in about 8:08 a.m., reducing visibility to about 150 yards. Because of the fog, the ship anchored at about 8:35 a.m., off Poole's Island, in 4 fathoms of water. The WANDERER anchored 500 yards north of the WILLIAMSBURG. The WANDERER, having earlier fell behind, caught up and passed us, and continued on up Chesapeake Bay.

The fog lifted at about 10:15 a.m., and visibility increased to about 1000 yards. At 10:23 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were again underway. The fog closed in soon thereafter, but it was decided to continue on up the Bay. Lieutenant Walter C. Slye, U.S.N., the WILLIAMSBURG's first lieutenant, a veteran pilot of Chesapeake Bay, took the conn.

At 12:30 p.m., the fog lifted, and the sun broke through.

The ship steamed various courses and speeds up Chesapeake Bay and at 12:35 p.m., entered Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The crew were at quarters.

At 12:58 p.m., off Chesapeake City, Maryland, the ship picked up the pilot, Mr. J. S. Chambers of the Pilots' Association for Bay and River Delaware.

The sun brought out the President and members of his party. They lounged on the sun deck in bathing trunks.

Various small craft followed us up the canal. People lined the shore, piers, and bridges along the way and waved and shouted greetings to the President. He cheerfully returned them all.

The President later left the sun deck and went up on the bridge to greet the pilot. He then went up on the flying bridge, where he had a better view of the scenic beauty of the trip up the canal. Points of interest through the 12-mile long canal were the Summit Bridge, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Bridge, St. Georges Bridge, and Reedy Point, where we left the canal and entered the Delaware Bay, at about 3:52 p.m.

The members of the press and radio in the WANDERER decided not to follow us to the open sea, so they returned, through the canal, to Chesapeake Bay.

A message was received from Lieutenant Commander William M. Rigdon, U.S.N., at the White House that Major General Alfred M. Gruenther, A.U.S., requested permission to fly up from Washington and come aboard the WILLIAMSBURG to consult with Admiral Leahy. Permission was granted, and a point of rendezvous with the plane arranged along the route to the Harbor of Refuge.

At 5:25 p.m., the twin-engine Navy seaplane, with General Gruenther embarked, landed about 1000 yards astern of the WILLIAMSBURG. The ship hove to (about 30 miles north of the Harbor of Refuge) as #2 motor whaleboat was lowered away and sent out to pick up General Gruenther. He was returned to the ship, and came aboard at 5:40 p.m. He was greeted by the President, and then went to Admiral Leahy's quarters, where he consulted with Admiral Leahy and Captain Dennison.

General Gruenther brought with him Presidential mail from the White House.

In the meantime, #2 motor whaleboat was hoisted aboard, and the ship resumed its course and speed to the Harbor of Refuge. The pilot of the plane was directed to fly on to the Harbor of Refuge, where he awaited General Gruenther

At about 7 p.m., the U.S.S. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. (DD850) was sighted at anchor inside the breakwater at the Harbor of Refuge. The KENNEDY, Commander L. R. Neville, U.S.N. commanding, and with Commander Walter M. Foster, U.S.N., Commander Destroyer Division 102 embarked, was our ocean escort for the sea trip down to Yorktown, Virginia.

The WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE entered the Harbor of Refuge at 7:25 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG anchored in 4 fathoms of water, about 1125 yards, 300 degrees from the breakwater light. The LENORE anchored about 200 yards astern of us.

Shortly after we anchored, Mr. Wynn Booth, Time Magazine reporter, came alongside in a small boat from Fort Miles, Delaware. He asked for and was granted permission to embark in the KENNEDY.

It was originally scheduled that all the members of the press and radio would be accommodated in the KENNEDY, to embark at this point. However, they decided to utilize other means of transportation which would permit them to follow the WILLIAMSBURG on its departure from the Naval Gun Factory on August 20th. Success in this respect, as previously stated, was the acquisition of the WANDERER.

The Navy seaplane lay to off our starboard bow, and at 7:50 p.m., General Gruenther left the ship and was returned to the plane via #2 motor whaleboat. General Gruenther took with him return mail for the White House. The plane was airborne at 8 p.m., for Anacostia, where it arrived about an hour later.

Mr. Chambers, the canal pilot, left the ship at about 9 p.m.

After dinner, the movie "Give My Regards to Broadway", starring Dan Dailey and Charles Winninger, was shown for the President and his party.

After the movie, the President and his party retired to their quarters.

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Tuesday, August 24th:

Preparations were made at 5:45 a.m., for the WILLIAMSBURG and JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. to get underway. The heavy fog, however, caused a stay in the plan.

At 9 a.m., the sun broke through and increased visibility to about 1000 yards.

With the break in the weather, the WILLIAMSBURG and the KENNEDY were underway at 9:39 a.m., enroute to York Spit, Virginia, the fourth leg of the cruise, a distance of 162 miles.

The LENORE was directed to return through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to Chesapeake Bay, and proceed down the bay to rendezvous with the WILLIAMSBURG at the mouth of the York River.

The KENNEDY led us out of the Harbor of Refuge, and took position 45 degrees, 1000 yards off our starboard bow.

The fog closed in again and speed was reduced to about 5 knots. At about 10:15 a.m., the fog lifted and visibility was increased considerably.

Speed was increased to 12 knots, on course 150° T. The sea was smooth, and the ship rode comfortably.

Later in the morning, the sun broke through and cleared up all of the haze, making the day ideal for sun bathing.

The President and his party took advantage of the weather to lounge on the sun deck.

The crew of the ship sunbathed on the forecastle.

During the late morning, a small bird appeared on the fantail. It's colors, yellow and black, gave it the appearance of a canary. It flitted about the deck and on occasion would leap in the air to gulp bugs flying about. Our presence on the fantail seemed not at all to disturb the bird. With mixed amusement and amazement, Admiral Leahy watched as the bird, after one of its leaps, landed close to the Admiral's feet, pranced between them and about them with a pompous indifference to those of us who commented on it and moved rather noisily about.

In the early afternoon, the bird was seen about the flying bridge, and then it disappeared - as mysteriously as it came aboard.

The remainder of the day and early evening was ideally suited for rest and relaxation. The weather left nothing to be desired. The sea was calm and the ship rode smoothly. The President and his party took full advantage of the day's offering.

Dinner was served at 8 p.m. after which the movie "Velvet Touch", starring Rosalind Russell and Sydney Greenstreet, was shown the President and his party.

The crew were shown "The Big Punch"; starring Wayne Morris and Lois Maxwell.

At 8:09 p.m., we left the Atlantic seacoast and entered Chesapeake Bay - our anchorage some 15 miles distant.

At 9:31 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG anchored in 6 fathoms of water off the mouth of the York River, York River Entrance Buoy bearing southwest, distant 8000 yards. The KENNEDY anchored northeast of the WILLIAMSBURG, distant 815 yards.

The President and his party used the warm evening to lounge about in the after salon.

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Wednesday, August 25th:

The LENORE was sighted at 4:42 a.m., about 5 miles distant, standing in from her cruise down the Chesapeake Bay. She anchored shortly thereafter off our starboard quarter.

At 10 a.m., preparations were made for getting underway.

Mr. Booth of Time Magazine, had asked for arid was granted permission to transfer from the KENNEDY to the LENORE.

The morning was warm from a bright sun - warm enough that the President, Mr. Steelman, General Vaughan, General Graham and Captain Dennison came out on the sun deck to make full use of the break in the early morning weather.

At 10:19 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages off the mouth of the York River, and proceeded up York River Channel.

The KENNEDY was underway shortly thereafter and stood out to sea. She had been released from duty as escort for the WILLIAMSBURG and proceeded independently on duty assigned. A "well done" message was sent the KENNEDY by the President's Naval Aide.

Enroute to our mooring, passing honors were rendered by minesweeper vessels underway and at anchor.

At 11:46 a.m., a tug from the Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, Virginia, was sent out to assist us as required. Commander Gay used a megaphone to pass the word to the officer in charge of the tug that services would not be required. The tug then stood off and returned to the Mine Depot.

At 12:06 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG moored, starboard side to, to Pier 2, Berth 4, U. S. Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, Virginia. On the dock were Rear Admiral W. L. Ainsworth, U.S.N., Commandant of the Fifth Naval District, Captain J. F. Donovan, Jr., U.S.N., Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Mine Depot, Yorktown, Virginia, Captain J.L. Freiburghouse, U.S.N., security officer from the WANDERER. The WANDERER was moored, port side to, along the dock leading to the Mine Depot. The LENORE stood in and moored, starboard side to, astern of the WILLIAMSBURG.

At 12:15 p.m., Admiral Ainsworth and Captain Donovan came aboard to call on the President. They were greeted at the gangway by Captain Dennison, who escorted them to the fantail. The President came down from his quarters to greet his callers. Admiral Leahy joined the group shortly thereafter.

Admiral Ainsworth and Captain Donovan left the ship at 1 p.m.

In the meantime, Mr. Ross went out on the dock to meet with the members of the press and radio, and briefed them on items of news interest.

Mr. Booth left the LENORE and walked up the dock abreast of the WILLIAMSBURG's fantail. He stopped and explained to the President and his party his having "missed the boat". After some ribbing, Mr. Booth joined the others of the press and radio.

At 1:25 p.m., Chief Ship's Clerk Gidrites came aboard with Presidential mail from the White House. He had been flown down via Navy seaplane from Anacostia.

At 2:30 p.m., Mr. Clifford, General Vaughan and Colonel Landry left the ship, and the party, for return to Washington. Chief Ship's Clerk Gidrites also left the ship with return mail for the White House.

A small boat from the Mine Depot took the group out to the mail plane that lay to off the dock about 300 yards. Mr. Steelman, Mr. Ross and Mr. Hassett accompanied the departing guests to the plane.

The plane was airborne at 2:40 p.m. for Anacostia, where it arrived about an hour later.

The send-off party, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Ross and Mr. Hassett, returned to the ship about 3 p.m.

After the departure of some of his party, the President worked on some papers, and then took a nap. The afternoon was record hot for the trip.

At 3:40 p.m., Admiral Leahy left the ship to go fishing with Admiral Ainsworth, who earlier had invited Admiral Leahy to try his luck in a fish pond on the Naval reservation.

Admiral Leahy's luck was rather good. When he returned to the ship at 6:20 p.m., he had about 6 pounds of fish. The catch included large bass, some perch, and a speckled fish, the name of which he could not recall. This fish, however, he particularly pointed out, he wanted for breakfast.

Explaining that he had earned his catch the hard way, the Admiral raised his hand to show where a sharp piece of stone had cut rather deeply into the little finger of his right hand. His fine catch, however, made the Admiral unmindful of the cut finger and blood-stained trousers.

At about 5:40 p.m., the President left the ship for a walk up the dock, toward the Naval Depot. Accompanied by Secret Service agents Nicholson, Barry and Usher, the President stopped awhile to talk with "Tony" Vaccaro and others of the press who were on the dock. On the way back, the President again stopped by the WANDERER, looked it over, and talked some more with the members of the press.

The President returned aboard at 6:06 p.m.

In the evening, Admiral Leahy and Mr. Hassett left the ship for Williamsburg, Virginia, where they attended the pageant "The Common Glory". They returned to the ship about midnight.

After dinner at 8 p.m., the President and his party were shown the movie "The Dude Goes West", starring Eddie Albert and Gale Storm.

After the movie, the President and his party retired to their quarters. The President worked on some papers, and then went to bed.

The movie "Velvet Touch", starring Rosalind Russell and Sydney Greenstreet, was shown for the crew.

In the late evening, some crew members of the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE broke out fishing gear, and fished and crabbed off the Mine Depot dock. The catch of about 100 perch and a bucketful of crabs made a successful evening.

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Thursday, August 26th:

The early morning temperature of 74 degrees forewarned of another hot day.

At 7:55 a.m., the President went for a walk up the dock and toward the Mine Depot. He was accompanied by Commander MacDonald and Secret Service agents Nicholson, Barry, and Usher. They returned to the ship at 8:24 a.m.

General Graham left the ship at 9:42 a.m., on a sightseeing trip to Yorktown, Virginia. He visited places of historical interest, bought some postcards which he sent to a few of his grade school teachers back home, and then returned to the ship.

At 10:30 a.m., Chief Ship's Clerk Gidrites, U.S.N., came aboard with Presidential mail from the White House. He was flown directly from Anacostia via the regular Navy seaplane assigned this duty for the cruise. He left the ship at 11:50 a.m., with return mail for the White House.

At 11:30 a.m., the members of the press and radio came aboard at the President's invitation. The group assembled on the fantail, where they talked at length with the President, Mr. Steelman, Mr. Ross, Mr. Hassett and General Graham. Admiral Leahy and Captain Dennison joined the group shortly thereafter, when photographs and movies were made of the entire group.

The President was in good spirits. The reward of his restful cruise showed in his excellent condition. He joked with the press, and displayed with pleasant pride the result of his long hours of relaxing in the sun. He was very tanned, and looked well rested.

At 12:30 p.m., the newsmen and photographers thanked the President for the visit with him and then left the ship.

At 12:49 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from their moorings at the Naval Mine Depot dock and stood out. Once we were out of the York River, the ship steered a northerly course to Sharpe's Island, distant 115 miles.

The afternoon was very hot. The 93-degree temperature from a bright sun brought out some members of the President's party on the sun deck. The President strolled about the ship in his bathing trunks and helmet. He visited with the sun bathers on the flying bridge for a while and then went back to the sun deck, where he spent a good part of the afternoon.

Dinner, as usual, was served the President and his party at 8 pm. After dinner, the movie "Emperor Waltz", starring Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine, was shown the President and his party.

The movie "The Dude Goes West", starring Eddie Albert and Gale Storm, was shown the crew.

At 10:54 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG anchored in Chesapeake Bay, off Sharpe's Island, in 5 fathoms of water. The LENORE anchored about 150 yards off our starboard quarter.

The President and his party spent the remainder of the evening in their quarters.

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Friday, August 27th:

The hot spell continued. The 80-degree temperature was an early morning weather record for the trip.

The heat brought out flies and small bugs. Flit guns and fly swatters were soon in order and used about the ship.

Special sea details were set, and at 9:56 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages off Sharpe's Island, enroute down the Chesapeake Bay and up the Potomac River to Blakiston Island, a distance of 65 miles. Admiral Leahy and Captain Dennison joined Commander MacDonald on the bridge.

Later in the morning, the President and some members of his Party were again out on the sun deck. The temperature rose steadily. The sun was strong through a very light haze.

The President again strolled about the ship in his bathing trunks and helmet. He went up on the flying bridge for a while and then down to the bridge, where he looked over the track chart, and then returned to the sun deck, where he advised Mr. Steelman and Mr. Hassett of our position in the Chesapeake Bay.

About 3 p.m., the temperature had risen to 96 degrees. An uncomfortable heat prevailed. In the afternoon, the President and members of his party took a nap. They later lounged about the after salon.

We neared our anchorage, and at 4:15 p.m., anchored in 7 fathoms of water in the Potomac River, off Blakiston Island. The LENORE anchored about 200 yards off our starboard quarter.

The President and Mr. Ross went up on the forecastle to look about for the Yacht WANDERER. It was sighted, about 1 ½ miles distant, tied up at Colton's Point, Maryland. She had proceeded independently from Yorktown, Virginia, to Colton's Point, and awaited the arrival of the WILLIAMSBURG.

Upon anchoring, #2 motor whaleboat was lowered, the port gangway rigged, and the rubber life boat lowered. The motor whaleboat stood off about 30 yards, and circled the area. The life boat was held close alongside.

At 4:28 p.m., Commander Gay was on deck in bathing trunks. He dove off the port gangway, and swam about.

At 4:30 p.m., the President appeared, ready for his swim. He went in off the port gangway, and swam for about 10 minutes. General Graham, Captain Dennison, Commander MacDonald, and Secret Service agents Nicholson and Usher joined the swimming party.

At 4:50 p.m., the President and his swimming guests were back aboard.

Swimming call for the crew was then sounded. The President remained at the port gangway and watched, amused, the frolics of some 30 of the crew in the water, diving off the gangway, and in the rubber life boat. He watched for about 20 minutes and then went to his quarters.

At 6 p.m., all swimming was ended.

Dinner was served the President and his party at 8 p.m. After dinner, the movie "Another Part of the Forest", starring Frederic March and Dan Duryea was shown.

Of particular interest was the fact that the President had attended all of the movies but one. This was unusual, for the President on previous cruises had rarely attended.

After the movies, the President and his party gathered in the after lounge.

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Saturday, August 28th:

The President, as usual, took his early morning walk about the ship. It was a bit cooler this morning, though a heavy fog lay about the area of the ship's anchorage.

At 8:30 a.m., General Graham came out on the fantail, where the President joined him. They talked a while and then went in to the after salon, where they were joined by other member's of the party.

At 9:10 a.m., the crew of the WILLIAMSBURG assembled in the crew's mess hall for a talk by the ship's commanding officer, Commander MacDonald.

Commander MacDonald complimented the crew on their splendid conduct and performance of duty during the cruise. This conduct and performance of duty, he explained, contributed much to the President's enjoyment of the cruise.

At 9:27 a.m., #2 motor whaleboat was alongside. Mr. Ross and Mr. Hassett left the ship for Colton's Point, to meet with the members of the press and radio on board the WANDERER. This meeting supplemented the regular calls by Mr. Ross to the press over the radio telephone.

At 10 a.m., Mr. Ross and Mr. Hassett were aboard the wanderer, where they stayed for about a half-hour, and then returned to the ship.

The mail plane from Anacostia landed off Blakiston Island at about 10:15 a.m., but due to the heavy fog, the pilot was unable to locate the WILLIAMSBURG. Through the use of voice communication, however, the plane was directed in the general position of the ship, and was finally sighted about 11:25 a.m.

The ship's motor whaleboat was sent out to the plane to pick up Chief Ship's Clerk Gidrites, the officer courier. He came aboard shortly thereafter with Presidential mail from the White House. Gidrites left the ship at 12:20 p.m., with return mail for the White House.

The sun, after vainly trying all morning to break through the heavy fog, finally made the grade. The temperature rose to 95 degrees to make it another uncomfortably hot day.

Special sea details were set and at 12:41 p.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages off Blakiston Island. They proceeded down the Potomac River for a distance of 23 miles, reversed course and returned to Blakiston Island. The ships anchored at 4:36 p.m.

During the afternoon, the President again strolled about the ship in his bathing trunks and helmet. He went up on the flying bridge finally, where he spent an hour or so, and then returned to his quarters.

Some members of the President's party spent the afternoon on the sun deck; others napped.

The weather continued hot during the evening, and reached a maximum temperature of 97 degrees.

As usual dinner was served the President and his party at 8 p.m.

There was no movie scheduled after dinner. The President and his party decided to spend the evening in the after lounge, resting.

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Sunday, August 29th:

The early sun and a slight wind made the morning weather a delightful change.

At 8:00 a.m. the mail plane from Anacostia landed, and taxied to within 50 yards of the WILLIAMSBURG. The ship's motor whaleboat was sent out to the plane, where Presidential mail from the White House was received from the pilot, and brought aboard.

At 9:10 a.m., mail was handed the pilot of the plane for return to the White House. The plane was airborne for Anacostia shortly thereafter.

Special sea details were set and, at 9:56 a.m., the WILLIAMSBURG and LENORE were underway from anchorages off Blakiston Island, enroute to the Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C., the last leg of the 10-day cruise.

At 10 a.m., the President and Captain Dennison went up on the flying bridge, where they took advantage of the late morning sun for about an hour.

At 2:45 p.m., traditional honors to the first President, George Washington, were paid as the ship passed Mount Vernon. The crew were at quarters, the ship's bell tolled, the colors half-masted, and taps sounded.

The Sunday picnickers were out en masse along the Potomac. We passed many colorful small craft and large excursion boats jam-packed with holiday crowds.

The delightful cruise was ended formally when, at 4 p.m., the ship moored, starboard side to, to Pier 1 at the Naval Gun Factory.

On the dock were Captains E. T. Day and A. S. Witherspoon, U.S.N., of the Naval Gun Factory; Lieutenant Commander William M. Rigdon, U.S.N., Assistant to the Naval Aide to the President; Mrs. John R. Steelman, Mrs. Charles G. Ross and one of Mr. Ross' grandchildren; and the members of the press and radio from the WANDERER who had preceded us to Washington.

The President, looking very fit, left the ship. He paused at the gangway while photographs were taken, and then spoke briefly with members of the press.

Shortly thereafter, the President and the members of his party embarked in waiting automobiles, and returned to the White House.