

U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210)

31 October 1944 - 31 October 1968

SUMMARY OF HISTORY:

The keel of the U.S.S. TELFAIR was laid in the Richmond Shipyard No. 2 of the Permanente Metals Corporation, Richmond, California on 30 May 1944.

The TELFAIR was an attack transport, one of the 117-235 class of ships named for counties in various states. The TELFAIR was named in honor of Telfair County, Georgia, and was the 537th vessel to slide down the ways of the Richmond Shipyard. The ship was launched on 30 August 1944 and was sponsored by Mrs. J.L. Cauthorn, wife of the President of the San Francisco News.

The U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was commissioned at San Francisco, California on 31 October 1944. Commander Lyle O. Armel, USNR, accepted the ship for the U.S. Navy and assumed command as the first commanding officer.

The mission of an attack transport is to load assigned combat troops and their equipment; transport and unload them in landing craft on enemy beaches in accordance with established doctrine and the tactical plan of the Landing Force Commander; to evacuate casualties and prisoners of war; and to furnish medical assistance as requested by proper authority.

During World War II and the Korean War, the TELFAIR won the following awards and ribbons:

- The Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one (1) star
 - Assault & occupation of Okinawa, 26 March-26 April 1945
- World War II Victory Ribbon
- Naval Occupation Ribbon
- China Service Medal
- Philippine Liberation Ribbon
- American Campaign Ribbon
- National Defense Ribbon
- Korean Service Ribbon with three (3) stars
 - First UN Counter Offensive, 9 February-6 March 1951
 - Communist Chinese Spring Offensive, May 1951
 - Third Korean Winter, 2 January-19 March 1953
- United Nations Ribbon
- Korean Presidential Unit Citation

The TELFAIR also received several "Well Done's" for outstanding performance of duty by her officers and crew during her 24 year career as a ship of the U.S. Navy.

The TELFAIR was decommissioned three times and recalled to active duty twice. During these three periods of service, she served 14 tours of duty overseas:

Commissioned 31 October 1944 Assigned to Pacific Fleet
Decommissioned July 1947

Served 3 Tours in the Western Pacific

Reactivated 12 September 1950
Decommissioned 28 February 1958

Served 6 Tours in the Western Pacific

Reactivated 22 November 1961 Assigned to Atlantic Fleet
Decommissioned 31 October 1968

Served 5 Tours in the Atlantic, Caribbean &
Mediterranean

On 31 October 1968, 24 years to the day she was commissioned as a ship of the U.S Navy, she was decommissioned for the third and final time at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia.

Her colors and commissioning pennant were lowered and the next day, 1 November 1968, the U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was stricken from the Naval Records. Her Nameboard is in the U.S. Navy Museum, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

On 26 June 1969, the former Navy ship U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was transferred to the U.S. Maritime Administration for simultaneous transfer to her new owner, the Boston Metals Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

The TELFAIR served her country well during three wars and one tense period in the Middle East. All who served aboard during her 24 years of service and all residents of Telfair County, Georgia, should be proud of her.

The TELFAIR was a good ship. She consistently executed her many missions in an exemplary manner.

"Well Done, TELFAIR!"

SIGNIFICANT DATES
U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210)

30 May 1944	Keel laid, Richmond Shipyard, Richmond, CA
30 Aug 1944	Ship launched
31 Oct 1944	U.S.S. Telfair (APA-210), commissioned by U.S. Navy, San Francisco, CA
15 Dec 1944	U.S.S. Telfair reported for duty with U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA
2 Jan 1945	Sailed from San Francisco, CA for duty in Western Pacific
2 Apr 1945	Hit by Japanese kamikaze plane, Battle of Okinawa. Gun crews of the Telfair receive credit for downing 2½ planes. (Unconfirmed)
22 May 1945	Sailed for United States
26 June 1945	Sailed from Seattle, WA for duty in Western Pacific
17 July 1945	Sailed from Saipan Island for United States
11 Aug 1945	Sailed from San Francisco, CA for duty in Western Pacific
24 Oct 1945	Assigned to OPERATION MAGIC CARPET
July 1947	Decommissioned; assigned to U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet
12 Sept 1950	Reactivated; assigned to Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet
21 July 1951	Arrived in San Francisco, CA Sailed for duty in Western Pacific
Feb 1952	Sailed for duty in Western Pacific
24 May 1952	Arrived in San Diego, CA
29 Oct 1952	Sailed from San Francisco, CA for Yokosuka, Japan
20 Apr 1953	Arrived in San Diego, CA
5 Aug 1953	Sailed for duty in Western Pacific
14 Sept 1953	Arrived in San Francisco, CA

19 Feb 1954 Sailed for duty in Western Pacific
 27 June 1954 Sailed for duty in Philippine Islands, Hong Kong and
 French Indo-China (later known as Viet Nam)
 15 Aug 1954 Participated in OPERATION PASSAGE TO FREEDOM
 21 Nov 1954 Arrived San Diego, CA

30 Mar 1955 Sailed for duty in Western Pacific
 9 Sept 1955 Sailed for US to complete 6th tour of duty, Far East

28 Feb 1958 Decommissioned; assigned to U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet

1 July 1960 Assigned to Maritime Administration

24 Aug 1961 Assigned to U.S. Navy
 22 Nov 1961 Reactivated for 3rd time; assigned to Atlantic Fleet,
 U.S. Navy

1 Feb 1962 Transited the Panama Canal, Eastbound
 6 Feb 1962 Arrived in new home port, Norfolk, VA
 9 Sept 1962 Sailed from Morehead City, N.C. for duty with U.S.
 Sixth Fleet, Mediterranean Sea

14 Feb 1963 Sailed from Reta, Spain for Morehead City, N.C. and
 Norfolk, VA
 8 Mar 1963 Arrived Norfolk, VA

16 Jan 1964 Sailed from Morehead City, N.C. for duty with U.S.
 Sixth Fleet, Mediterranean Sea.
 7 June 1964 Sailed from Mediterranean Sea for U.S.
 18 June 1964 Arrived Morehead City, N.C.
 11 Oct 1964 Sailed from Morehead City, N.C. for duty with U.S.
 Navy in operations off Spanish coast.
 27 Nov 1964 Arrived Morehead City, N.C.

4 Oct 1965 Sailed from Norfolk, VA for duty with U.S. Sixth
 Fleet, Mediterranean Sea

3 Nov 1966 Sailed from Norfolk, VA for duty with U.S. Sixth
 Fleet, Mediterranean Sea

12 May 1967 Arrived in Norfolk, VA

31 Oct 1968 U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) decommissioned at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA

1 Nov 1968 U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) struck from U.S. Naval Records

26 June 1969 The former Navy ship U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was transferred to the U.S. Maritime Administration for simultaneous transfer to her new owner, the Boston Metals Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

The U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was commissioned at San Francisco, California on 31 October 1944. She then had a short fitting out period in the San Francisco Bay area and proceeded on her shakedown training cruise in the waters off San Pedro, California. During that time she participated in drills and exercises in preparation for the efficient accomplishment of her wartime mission.

Upon completion of the operational shakedown, the TELFAIR next entered the amphibious training schedule. At the conclusion of this period, she set a record of lowering all her boats in the water in ten minutes.

The TELFAIR reported to the Naval Repair Base, San Diego, California, on 15 December 1944, for her post shakedown availability period. On 27 December she moored at San Francisco, California, for her first loading of troops and equipment.

On 1 January 1945, fully loaded with troops and equipment, the TELFAIR reported for duty and ready for sea. She sailed from San Francisco Bay on 2 January and six days later, arrived at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. The vessel remained there until 17 January when she departed for the Western Pacific with elements of the 111th Infantry, United States Army. These troops were to be garrison troops for Pelilieu Island of the Palau Group.

The TELFAIR arrived safely at her destination, having crossed the International Date Line on 22 January 1945. After disembarking the 111th Infantry, she took aboard the 776th Amphibious Tank Battalion for transportation to the Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.

On 3 February the TELFAIR was underway from Pelilieu Island and on 9 February she arrived at San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I., where she unloaded the 776th Amphibious Tank Battalion and their equipment. She then entered upon a brief period of replenishment, topping off her depleted stores of supplies, provisions, fuel and ammunition. Until 21 March, she engaged in exercises and drills in rehearsal for the invasion of the Ryuku Islands, Okinawa, and the island of Ie Shima.

On 21 March the TELFAIR got underway for the Kormo Reito Islands with elements of the 77th Division, U.S. Army, embarked. From 26 March until 26 April, the ship was continuously engaged in offensive operations against Kormo Reito, Ikinawa Gento and Ie Shima.

On the night of 2 April, during the invasion of Okinawa, the TELFAIR and another attack transport, U.S.S. GOODHUE, (APA-101) were attacked by three Japanese suicide planes (Kamikazes.) Her gunners and those of the GOODHUE combined to blast one plane in mid-air. A second plane smacked into TELFAIR'S bulwark after ricocheting between her starboard and port kingposts, then careened over the side. The third, his glide deflected by gunfire, crashed into the GOODHUE'S cargo boom, smashed her after 20mm gun tubs, then joined his compatriot in the sea.

In addition to damage to the ship, several crew members were injured during these attacks. Unconfirmed reports credit the TELFAIR with shooting down 2½ enemy planes.

Following this period of vigorous duty, the TELFAIR sailed for Ulithi in the Western Carolinas, arriving on 30 April. There she replenished supplies and repaired the battle damage suffered during the recent activities.

On 22 May 1945, the ship got underway for the United States, reaching Seattle, Washington, on June 13. She disembarked passengers and underwent further repairs.

On 26 June she sailed from Seattle for Tinian and Saipan. On this trip she carried U.S. Army General Hospital units. After stops at the islands of Tinian and Saipan, the TELFAIR left on 17 July for San Francisco for another load of replacement troops. She arrived safely at San Francisco and then weighed anchor on 11 August for Manila, P.I. with Army units aboard.

On 10 September 1945, after the cessation of hostilities, the TELFAIR reported for duty in the Eastern Occupation Group, staging and rehearsing for the landing of Occupation Forces in Japan. On 22 October she landed elements of the TENTH Corps, U.S. Army, at Hiro Wan and Kure, Honshu, Japan.

Two days later, the TELFAIR was assigned to OPERATION MAGIC CARPET. She assisted in transporting U.S. troops, who had served their country overseas, back to the United States.

Sometime during October 1945, Captain J.H. Hogg, USN, relieved Commander L.O. Arnel as Commanding Officer.

On 31 October, her first anniversary, the TELFAIR was enroute to Manila, P.I., to pickup her first load of returning U.S. troops.

Sometime in February 1946, Captain S.H. Crittenden, Jr., USN, relieved Captain J.H. Hogg as Commanding Officer.

After a period of activity in Pacific waters and by a directive dated January 1947, effective July 1947, the U.S.S. TELFAIR was placed out of commission and attached to the U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet.

The TELFAIR was reactivated to serve in the Korean War under the command of Captain J. Andrews, USN, and reported for duty with the Pacific Fleet, Amphibious Force on 12 September 1950. She served in Japan, Korea and Hong Kong, B.C.C., transporting and rotating Army and Marine troops to various locations in the Far East. She returned to San Francisco with more than 1600 troops on 21 July 1951.

On 8 August 1951, Captain C.G. Corey, USN, relieved Captain Andrews as the Commanding Officer.

The TELFAIR's next tour of duty in the Far East began on 26 January 1952, when she sailed from San Francisco to Yokosuka, Japan. Her Far East duties consisted of transporting and training United Nations troops in amphibious training, OPERATION CORALHEAD, in Japan and Okinawa. The tour ended with her return to her home port of San Diego on 24 May.

On 24 June the TELFAIR served as the cruise ship for the Advertising Association of the West at the Annual Convention held in Seattle, Washington.

On 29 July 1952, Captain G.W. Johansen, USN, relieved Captain C.G. Corey, USN, as Commanding Officer. The ship then reported to COMNAVFE (Commander, Naval Forces in the Far East), for her third tour of duty in the Far East since the Korean War started. She left the Golden Gate on 29 October with 1000 troops and arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, on 14 November.

During this tour, the TELFAIR participated in extensive amphibious training exercises and the transporting of troops of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. She operated off the coasts of Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands and Hong Kong.

In January 1953, an event took place in Inchon, Korea, that had an emotional impact on all hands. One of the young sailors had discovered an orphanage while ashore in Inchon. With the Captain's permission, the ship's Recreation Committee organized a party on board for 25 young Korean children. Cakes, cookies, candies and soft drinks were prepared and cartoons were shown. A crew member was assigned as an escort for each child. The children had all been seriously injured during the war and showed little emotion during the party, but the same could not be said for the members of the crew. A week later, in Kobe, Japan, the Recreation Committee raised \$4,000 from the TELFAIR's crew and purchased clothing for the children. The gift was sent and gratefully acknowledged by the Catholic nun in charge of the orphanage.

In mid-February the ship was bound from Kobe to Yokosuka. Japanese fishing boats, made of wood and carrying no lights, were everywhere. In spite of extra lookouts posted on the TELFAIR, a fishing boat was struck at about 0500. An LCVP was immediately lowered and took the three Japanese fishermen aboard. An attempt was made to tow the damaged fishing boat, but it broke up as the TELFAIR got underway and was cut adrift. The three fishermen were taken aboard the TELFAIR and escorted to Sick Bay. Aside from minor cuts and bruises, they were not injured.

A Board of Inquiry was convened by the Commodore in Yokosuka. The Board's findings were that the collision was regrettable but, under the circumstances, unavoidable. COMNAVFE (Commander Naval Forces, Far East) awarded the fishermen \$10,000 as compensation for the loss of the boat.

The TELFAIR completed this Far East tour when she tied up in San Diego on 20 April 1953. Captain G.W. Johansen was relieved as Commanding Officer by Captain O.D.T. Lynch, USN, in San Diego on 15 May 1953.

On 5 August the TELFAIR sailed for the Far East again, this time carrying the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division from San Diego to Nogoya, Japan.

On 28 August, one hour after mooring at Pier 1, Pusan, Korea, the S.S. COEUR D'ALENE collided with the TELFAIR. Damage to both ships was negligible, but a ramp was torn off an LCM nested on the TELFAIR's #5 hatch.

With her mission completed, the TELFAIR returned to the United States on 14 September, carrying 1400 Army troops from Pusan, South Korea, to San Francisco.

On 15 October the TELFAIR entered Todd Shipyards in Long Beach, California, for an extensive overhaul. She left the shipyard on 19 December and completed her overhaul at the U.S. Naval Base in San Diego on 1 January 1954.

The TELFAIR started a post overhaul training period under the Fleet Training Group, San Diego, on 4 January. This lasted approximately three weeks and was followed by two weeks of amphibious training under the Amphibious Operational Training Element of COMPHIBPAC (Commander, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet.)

On 13 February, while moored to Buoys 46 & 47 in San Diego Harbor, the after mooring line parted. The stern of the TELFAIR drifted and collided with the U.S.S. MAGOFFIN (APA-199). There was minor damage to the MAGOFFIN, but a propeller blade of the TELFAIR was bent. A few days later, the propeller was repaired and satisfactory trial runs were made.

The 4th Replacement Battalion, 3rd Marine Division came aboard on 18 February and the next day, the TELFAIR was underway for her fifth tour of duty in WESTPAC (the Western Pacific) since recommissioning.

She arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, on 9 March and one week later, with 812 troops of Battalion 1/3, 3rd Marine Division, was underway for Ha Ha Shima, Japan, for training exercises.

On 19 March the TELFAIR was steaming for Iwo Jima to participate in OPERATION FLAG HOIST, an amphibious exercise that was climaxed by the raising again of the Stars and Stripes on Mount Suribachi. The TELFAIR returned to Yokosuka again on 29 March.

During the month of April, courtesy calls were made at Kobe and Kochi, Japan. The TELFAIR was the first American ship to visit Kochi in over two years. In May, the TELFAIR visited Nagasaki, the second Japanese city to be struck by an atomic bomb during World War II. While here, she welcomed a large group of Japanese orphan children aboard and provided them with refreshments and tours of the ship.

On 18 May the TELFAIR arrived in Inchon, Korea, to load 1400 troops of the 3rd Marine Division, thence to Sokcho Ri, Korea, for amphibious training exercises.

On 2 June the ship got underway for Sasebo, Japan, to replenish and on 10 June was back in Inchon to embark 1157 troops of the 5th Battalion, 1st Marine Division for Sokcho Ri. After completing the operation, the TELFAIR returned to Inchon on 22 June. The next day she was underway for Sasebo, when her orders were abruptly changed and she returned up the Flying Fish Channel and anchored again in Inchon harbor.

The TELFAIR sailed for Sasebo on 26 June and the next day embarked 600 troops of the 2nd Replacement Battalion, Philippine Army, and got underway for Manila, P.I. After arrival in Manila, the TELFAIR was assigned to Subic Bay, P.I. for availability and then to Hong Kong, B.C.C. for two weeks upkeep.

Captain John G. Spangler, USN, relieved Captain O.D.T. Lynch as Commanding Officer at ceremonies held in Yokosuka, Japan, on 2 August, 1954. One week later, the ship received orders to operate in the waters of French Indo-China. (The French fortress, Dien Bien Phu, had fallen to rebel forces. The French Army was leaving Indo-China and the world, and especially the United States, would soon hear a great deal more about "North Viet Nam" and "South Viet Nam.")

From 15 August to 16 September, while in Indo-China, the ship participated in OPERATION PASSAGE TO FREEDOM. The mission of this operation was the transportation of Vietnamese refugees from the Haiphong area in northern Indo-China to the Saigon area in southern Indo-China.

During this operation four babies were born aboard the TELFAIR. Also, nine members of the TELFAIR's crew were meritoriously commended at Captain's Mast for saving the life of a young Vietnamese woman who fell overboard while the ship was anchored in the Saigon River.

Altogether 6470 refugee passengers were transported safely to South Viet Nam. The TELFAIR, as a member of Task Force 90, received numerous messages of commendation for a job "Well Done" during this operation.

The TELFAIR steamed back to Yokosuka, Japan, on 22 September for three weeks of upkeep followed by lifts of the 9th Marines from Kobe to Yokosuka and a return trip to Kobe with elements of the 4th Marines.

At Kobe, the TELFAIR loaded 1413 troops of the 3rd Marine Division and on 6 November, departed for San Francisco to complete her fifth tour of duty in the Far East since her re-commissioning.

The ship arrived in San Diego on 21 November and spent the next four months engaged in upkeep and refresher training. On 24 February the TELFAIR operated off Coronado Roads, San Diego, while camera crews from Universal-International Studios were aboard shooting sequences for the film, "Francis in the Navy."

On 30 March 1955, the TELFAIR began her sixth tour of duty in the Far East and arrived in Yokohama on 19 April. Aboard were troops of the 2nd Replacement Battalion, USMC.

From 29 April to 2 May the TELFAIR paid a courtesy call at Osaka, Japan. She then got underway for Hong Kong, B.C.C. remaining there from 7 May until 16 May.

From 20 May to 30 May, the TELFAIR was at the Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka. On 31 May she arrived in Kobe and began loading elements of the 9th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division and Navy Beachmaster Unit One. The TELFAIR then sailed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, arriving on 5 June. She participated in OPERATION NAVMARLEX '55 (Navy and Marine Landing Exercises) which was planned with D-Day scheduled for landings on Kinmu Wau beaches on June 7.

The period of 9 June to 3 July was spent returning elements of the 9th Marine Regiment to Kobe and to new duty stations on Okinawa. During this time the ship also put into Sasebo for stores and repairs.

On 7 July the TELFAIR was at Subic Bay, P.I. for availability. She sailed from Subic Bay on 22 July for Hong Kong, B.C.C., arriving on 24 July. After a 12 day stay the ship got underway for Naha, Okinawa, via Subic Bay arriving on 11 August.

At Naha, Okinawa, 53 men and 75 vehicles of the 75th Regimental Combat Team, US Army, were embarked to participate in an amphibious landing exercise. Landings were made on 16 August at Kinmu Wan.

On 18 August the TELFAIR was underway for a small island off Okinawa. Embarked were units of UDT-12 (Underwater Demolition Team) and an explosives Ordnance Disposal team from COMNAVFE (Commander, Naval Forces, Far East.) The mission was to establish aerial and surface gunnery targets on the island. This mission was completed on 22 August and the TELFAIR headed for her Far East "home port" of Yokosuka, Japan. She arrived in Yokosuka on 25 August.

On 2 September, COMTRANDIV 52 (Commander of Transport Division 52), Captain F.V. Hilles, USN, broke his flag on the TELFAIR.

On 9 September the TELFAIR sailed for CONUS (Continental United States) via Pearl Harbor to complete her sixth tour of duty in the Far East.

In October 1955, Captain C.E. King, USN, relieved Captain J.G. Spangler as Commanding Officer.

In October 1956, Captain J.C. Nichols, USN, relieved Captain C.E. King as Commanding Officer.

The TELFAIR continued operations until 28 February 1958, when she was decommissioned for the second time and then assigned to the U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet. On 1 July 1960, she was turned over to the Maritime Administration and reacquired by the Navy on 24 August 1961.

On 22 November 1961, the TELFAIR was again recommissioned for active duty and placed under the command of Captain E.M. Higgins, USN. She was ordered to report to the Atlantic Fleet upon completion of underway training in San Diego.

The TELFAIR passed through the Panama Canal, Eastbound, on 1 February and arrived in her new home port of Norfolk, Virginia, on 6 February 1962. After a brief stay in Norfolk she departed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and underwent training. The TELFAIR returned to the U.S. on 11 March and began an upkeep period in Norfolk.

From 12 April to 4 May, the TELFAIR was deployed to the Caribbean on OPERATION LANTPHIBEX 1-62 (Atlantic Amphibious Exercise) with elements of the 2nd Anti-Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, embarked.

On 5 June, 1250 Midshipmen were transported from Annapolis, Maryland, to Norfolk, Virginia, for further assignment to various ships of the Atlantic Fleet for summer cruises. The TELFAIR received a "Well Done" from COMPHIBLANT (Commander Amphibious Forces, Atlantic Fleet) at the completion of this operation.

In July and August the TELFAIR underwent various amphibious training exercises in preparation for her deployment to the Mediterrean Sea.

On 17 September 1962, the TELFAIR departed Norfolk for Morehead City, North Carolina, to embark 625 U.S. Marines of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Dvision, and their equipment. Sailing from Morehead City on 19 September, the ship headed east for a six month deployment, reporting for duty with the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea on 1 October.

As a unit of Task Force 61, the TELFAIR participated in amphibious training landings at Alcudia, Majorca, on 5 October; St. Florent, Corsica on 17 October; Bomba, Libya on 14 November; and Pilos, Greece on 8 December. Also during the period 1 October through 31 December, the TELFAIR made operational visits to Athens, Greece, and Messina, Sicily.

On 29 December 1962, Captain F.C. Wyse, USN, relieved Captain E.M. Higgins as Commanding Officer. The Change of Command ceremony took place while the ship was visiting Athens, Greece, for the Christmas Holidays.

New Year's Day 1963, found the TELFAIR in Messina, Sicily, and the next day she departed for Porto Scudo Bay, Sardinia, for training exercises. She arrived in Barcelona, Spain, on 19 January and departed for Porto Scudo again on 29 January with a one day stop over at Leghorn, Italy, on 6 February.

The TELFAIR sailed from Rota, Spain, on 14 February bound for Morehead City, North Carolina, arriving there on 8 March 1963. From then through the month of June, the TELFAIR engaged in upkeep and participated in various amphibious training exercises in the Norfolk area.

On 1 July the TELFAIR was re-assigned to PHIBRON FOUR (Amphibious Squadron FOUR.) On 3 July she departed Norfolk for a three day visit to Wilmington, Delaware, where she held an Open House for over 3000 visitors. She returned to Norfolk on 6 July.

For the next six months, the TELFAIR engaged in a period of upkeep and various amphibious training exercises in preparation for her next operational assignment.

On 4 October 1963, Captain S.H. MacGregor, Jr., USN, relieved Captain F.C. Wyse as Commanding Officer at ceremonies held in Norfolk, Virginia.

On 14 January 1964, the TELFAIR departed Norfolk for Morehead City to embark 700 U.S. Marines of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, and their equipment. Sailing east from Morehead City on 16 January, the TELFAIR joined other ships of PHIBRON FOUR enroute to the Mediterranean Sea for another six month deployment.

Passing through the Straits of Gibraltar on 28 January, the TELFAIR reported for duty with the SIXTH Fleet for the second time since re-commissioning. As a unit of Task Force 61, the TELFAIR participated in amphibious training landings at Aranci Bay, Sardinia, on 11 April; St. Florent, Corsica, on 4 May; and Santa Manza, Corsica, on 12 May.

During the landing at Santa Manza, one company of French Foreign Legionnaires were embarked and landed with the U.S. Marines. The TELFAIR also made operational visits to the island of Malta; Naples, Italy; and Barcelona, Spain.

Operational commitments kept the TELFAIR at sea almost continuously for 73 days before the first port visit during this SIXTH Fleet deployment. "Liberty at Sea" was provided for the officers and crew of the TELFAIR on the nuclear aircraft carrier U.S.S. ENTERPRISE for shopping and tours of the ship and its aircraft. The Air Group from the ENTERPRISE demonstrated U.S. Navy airpower during a morning air show for the TELFAIR and other ships of PHIBRON FOUR.

The TELFAIR left the SIXTH Fleet on 7 June 1964, arriving at Morehead City on 18 June to disembark U.S. Marines of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Division. She arrived in Norfolk the next day.

After a month of leave and upkeep, the TELFAIR participated in the 1964 Summer ROTC Midshipman Training Cruise at Little Creek, Virginia, beaches.

From 22 August through 25 August, the TELFAIR visited New York City. This provided an opportunity for the crew to attend the World's Fair.

September 1964, saw the TELFAIR conducting training operations in the Norfolk area and preparing for large scale amphibious operations.

On 2 October 1964, Captain A.R. Seiler, USN, relieved Captain S.H. MacGregor as Commanding Officer. The Change of Command ceremony took place at the Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

One week later, the TELFAIR departed Norfolk for Morehead City to embark 985 U.S. Marines. The detachment was composed of elements of the II Marine Expeditionary Force. In addition, 472 tons of equipment was loaded. Steaming east from Morehead City on 11 October, the TELFAIR joined 30 other amphibious ships for the transit of the Atlantic Ocean to participate in OPERATION STEEL PIKE I.

On 26 October, the TELFAIR was assigned to conduct amphibious assault landings with Spanish forces off the southwestern coast of Spain.

Taking part in OPERATION STEEL PIKE I, were U.S. Navy warships from the Atlantic Fleet, units of the SIXTH Fleet, ships of the Military Sea Transportation Service, ships of the U.S. Maritime Industry and 14 Spanish warships. This operation was the largest peacetime amphibious assault exercise held since World War II.

Before returning to the U.S., the TELFAIR made calls at Funchal, Madèira, and Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

On 27 November, the TELFAIR arrived at Morehead City to disembark U.S. Marines and their equipment. She sailed for Norfolk the following day.

From 1 December until early February, the TELFAIR remained in port for upkeep and leave period. During the months of February and March she conducted operations and training exercises off the coast of Norfolk.

On 9 April 1965, the TELFAIR left Norfolk for the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Here she underwent a major overhaul which included work in the engineering plant, troop spaces, deck equipment, the assault boats, and the installation of new electronic equipment. On 16 July, the TELFAIR left the shipyard in Philadelphia for her home port of Norfolk.

On 27 July the TELFAIR departed Norfolk for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for three weeks of refresher training. She returned to Norfolk on 20 August where she remained in port until 7 September. For the next ten days, she participated in amphibious training operations at Little Creek, Virginia.

On 30 September 1965, Captain D.E. Bunting, USN, relieved Captain A.R. Seiler as Commanding Officer.

On 4 October the TELFAIR left Norfolk for Morehead City where she embarked U.S. Marine personnel and their equipment. The next day she departed Morehead City for another tour of duty with the SIXTH fleet in the Mediterranean.

Captain D.E. Bunting was relieved by Captain L.W. Moffit, USN, on 19 October 1966.

On 3 November 1966, the TELFAIR departed Norfolk for Morehead City to embark 500 U.S. Marines composed of I and L Companies, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Division. The following day she steamed east to join five other amphibious ships of PHIBRON 12 (Amphibious Squadron 12) for a six month deployment to the Mediterranean to serve with the SIXTH Fleet.

While deployed in the Mediterranean, the TELFAIR visited the following ports: Naples, Italy; Trieste, Italy; Bari, Italy; Marseille, France; Patrai, Greece; the island of Malta; and Palma, Mallorca. Amphibious training landing exercises were conducted at Malta, Corsica and Sardinia. The exercise conducted in Italy from 1 April through 7 April 1967, was a NATO exercise.

While steaming alongside the USS ALSTEDE (AF-48), the TELFAIR set a new underway replenishment record for the SIXTH Fleet of 174.5 tons per hour. In April, during a change in the government of Greece, the TELFAIR was assigned an extra five days in the area to serve as a back up for possible evacuation of American citizens living in the capital city, Athens.

On 12 May the TELFAIR returned to Little Creek, Virginia, for a leave and upkeep period. During the summer months, the TELFAIR conducted shipboard exercises and participated in the summer Midshipmen training cruises. At this time she also held wet net training for U.S. Marine units and the U.S. Marine Basic Officer Training School at Quantico, Virginia.

The TELFAIR was selected to take 22 Navy League guests on a one week cruise to New York City in June. Other ports visited during this summer were Boston, Massachusetts; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Savannah, Georgia.

On 24 October 1967, Captain N.H. Morgan, USN, relieved Captain L.W. Moffit as Commanding Officer.

After a Christmas leave period in Norfolk, the TELFAIR again provided amphibious training for the U.S. Marine Basic Officer Training School at Quantico, Virginia. She then went to Little Creek for some necessary repair work. This took approximately one month and was followed by a series of exercises in all facets of amphibious warfare off the Virginia coast.

From 30 April through 4 May 1968, the TELFAIR conducted amphibious training for the Marine Basic Officer Training School at Quantico, Virginia.

The weekend of 18-19 May 1968, was spent in Bayonne, New Jersey, celebrating Armed Forces Day. Over 2000 visitors were provided guided tours of the ship.

On 6 June she embarked 1145 Midshipmen at Annapolis, Maryland, for transportation to Norfolk, Virginia. On 24 June and for the next four days, the ship provided services off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina for the Submarine Prospective Commanding Officer School.

On 9 August 1968, Commander F.H. Shaw, USN, relieved Captain N.H. Morgan as the Commanding Officer.

On 31 October 1968, exactly 24 years to the day that she was commissioned as a ship of the U.S. Navy, the commissioning pennant and the colors were hauled down. The U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was decommissioned for the third and final time at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia.

On the following day, 1 November 1968, this fine ship, who had served her country well through three wars and one international emergency, was stricken from the Naval Records.

On 26 June 1969, the former U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210) was transferred to the U.S. Maritime Administration for simultaneous transfer to her new owner, the Boston Metals Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

WELL DONE, TELFAIR!

COMMANDING OFFICERS
U.S.S. TELFAIR (APA-210)

CDR L.O. ARMEL, USNR	10/31/44-10/ /45
CAPT J.H. HOGG, USN	10/ /45-02/ /46
CAPT S.H. CRITTENDEN, Jr., USN	02/ /46-07/ /47

Out of Commission; assigned to U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet

CAPT J. ANDREWS, USN	09/12/50-08/08/51
CAPT C.G. COREY, USN	08/08/51-07/29/52
CAPT G.N. JOHANSEN, USN	07/29/52-05/15/53
CAPT. O.D.T. LYNCH, USN	05/15/53-08/02/54
CAPT J.G. SPANGLER, USN	08/02/54-10/ /55
CAPT C.E. KING, USN	10/ /55-10/ /56
CAPT J.C. NICHOLS, USN	10/ /56-02/ /58

Out of Commission; assigned to U.S. Pacific Reserve Fleet

CAPT E.M. HIGGINS, USN	11/22/61-12/29/62
CAPT F.C. WYSE, USN	12/29/62-10/04/63
CAPT S.H. MacGREGOR, Jr., USN	10/04/63-10/02/64
CAPT A.R. SEILER, USN	10/02/64-09/30/65
CAPT D.E. BUNTING, USN	09/30/65-10/19/66
CAPT L.W. MOFFITT, USN	10/19/66-10/24/67
CAPT N.H. MORGAN, USN	10/24/67-08/09/68
CDR F.H. SHAW, USN	08/09/68-10/31/68