

the St. Paul continued to hammer away at Communist shore positions. The cruiser rocked to the turret explosion as if it had been struck by a big shore gun, but Communist batteries were not firing at the St. Paul.

THE DAMAGE control parties found not a man alive in the smoking, fire-blackened forward turret. Those who had survived the blinding flash had perished quickly in the poisonous air of burning gases. The Navy said most of the victims died of asphyxiation.

The 13,500-ton St. Paul, a veteran of the Korean War, was on one of its famed target-plastering missions when disaster struck.

Early in the day the St. Paul hove to off Kojo, a Red stronghold about half way up the coast between the eastern end of the battlefield and the besieged Communist port of Wonsan.

FOR 24 HOURS it had been pouring steel into Communist front positions. Now its gun crews were ready to work over Kojo, where coastal supply roads fan out inland.

Salvoes began whistling off toward the Kojo target from both the eight-inch and five-inch batteries.

The St. Paul had fired SG rounds from the eight-inchers and 47 rounds from the 12 five-inchers when the turret was shaken by the internal explosion at 3:55 p.m.

The Navy report blamed the blast on "a gunpowder fire of undetermined origin."

The worst previous naval disaster of the war was last June 12, when the destroyer Walke hit a mine off the east coast, killing 26 and injuring 40. None was injured in the St. Paul blast.



Brown YN3

Brockman PN1



Ammo being transferred to destroyer at sea near Wonsan, Korea December 1951



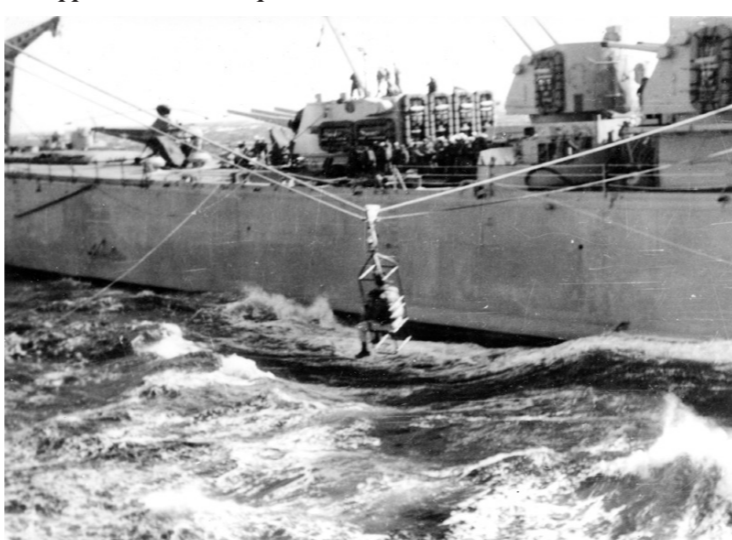
USS Philip (DD-498) - Casey's first experience when the CHARA re-supplied another ship.



Sea where 3 USS Hyman (DD-732) sailors were lost over the side



Eight inch projectiles being transferred to the USS St Paul (CA-73) off the coast of Korea - December 1951



Rearming USS Collett (DD-730) at sea near Songjin, Korea December 1951



"Barge of 5 inch projectiles alongside the CHARA while unloading in Sasebo, Japan, December 1951. Just a handful compared to the load we carry - 4000 tons is CHARA's load capacity."



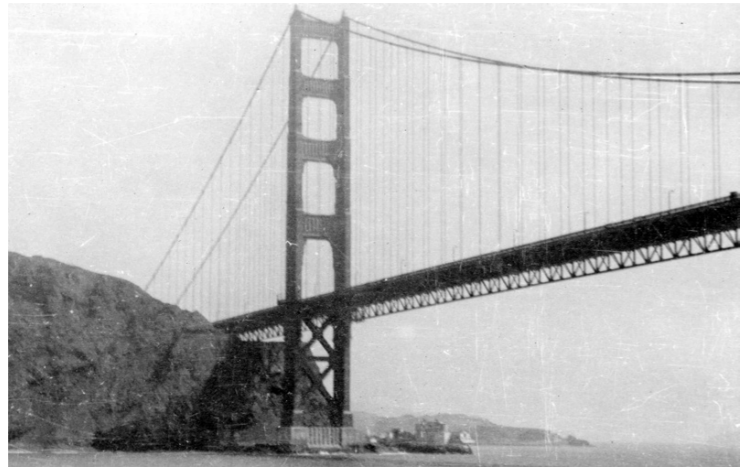
USS St Paul (CA-73) alongside the CHARA



Rearming a destroyer in rough waters December 1951



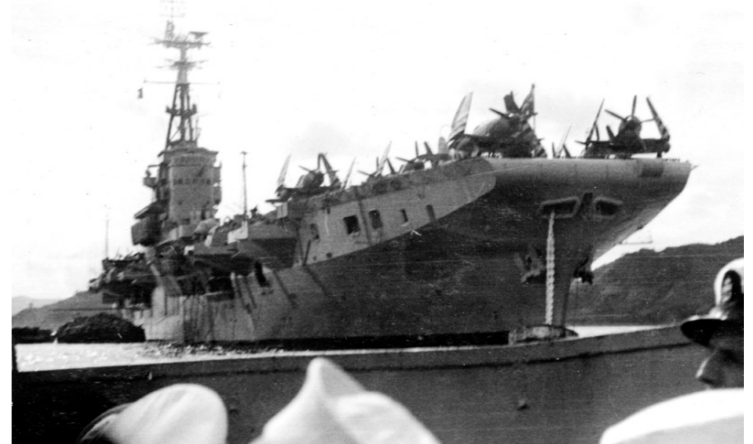
British aircraft carrier in Sasebo, Japan



Casey took several pictures of the Golden Gate Bridge and they were placed at this point in the scrapbook. I have no idea if they came back to the states temporarily and then returned to Korea, or if these pictures of the bridge were taken when they left for Korea originally or when they returned home and then were discharged. All we know is Casey did go under this bridge.



Replenishing the USS Toledo CA133



British aircraft carrier in Sasebo, Japan



North Korean deserters picked up near Wonsan, Korea



Resupplying side by side in calm seas



Ed Brockman PN2 and Casey Karsten in the office aboard the CHARA (AKA-58), January 1952



USS Moore DE-442



Ammo being transferred to destroyer at sea near Wonsan, Korea December 1951



Loading supplies on the CHARA