



Late that afternoon we entered Cape Cod Canal and steamed through, with lights from the shore glimmering in the darkness around us. The evening meal was being served as we departed the canal and set a course for Earle, New Jersey.

It was quiet on the ship that night. By early evening everyone was in his rack and the lights were out.

EARLE, N. J. AND NORFOLK, VA.

The weather was a bit warmer as we approached Leonardo Pier in Earle the next morning. It was a pier designed specifically for loading ammunition on ships, and soon after we tied up, the grim and dangerous business began. A long line of men worked throughout the morning, carefully handling every case and projectile that came aboard. Early in the afternoon we were underway again, somewhat heavier for our load, and somewhat better equipped for our mission.

The next four days, interrupted by a brief stop at Norfolk for degaussing, were spent at sea. The weather became increasingly warmer as we headed south. Shirts were removed, sunbans started, and beards began to take shape.

Sunday afternoon, November 5, was holiday routine. Church services, letter writing, and sleeping in late were the order of the day.

