



THE SEVENTH DAY is the story of only one voyage of the only ship of its kind. It is 140 days in 36 pages along with those who were there. Its only format can be that of the days as they passed; its only dedication to those men and to their Seventh Day Cargo Ops.

# WORKHORSE

*USCGC KUKUI*  
1946 1972

When the liberty ship Colquitt was launched in 1945 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the war was almost over. By the time the Navy commissioned her, into a reduced fleet, she was out of place.

But the Coast Guard was expanding. After a facelift in the Curtis Bay yard, the Colquitt became the USCGC Kukui, and given a new home with a unique mission. The new home was the West Pacific; her mission: to build a fleet of LORAN radio stations from Honolulu to Japan to the Philippines. And that is what she did, visiting ignominious little islands like Kure (below) and putting supplies, technicians, and equipment ashore the hard way—by boat.

But a job that big is never finished. Continual refueling and supply operations kept

the Kukui busy for 25 years. Of all the original LORAN towers of the Pacific, only the 1700-foot spire on Marcus remains intact.

In January 1970, the Kukui's trip to French Frigate was a search-and-rescue mission: a tsunami had driven the crew to the rooftops.

The Kukui's third West Pacific voyage of 1971, was begun as a rehabilitation tour. Much yard work was overdue the old freighter. But in drydock 4 of the Yokosuka shipyard the picture changed. After minimal year time, the Kuk was refloated, and on borrowed time completed her final Westpac.

This is the story of that voyage—and a small tribute to all that went before.

