

Arrived Suez 5:00 P.M. Left after temporary anchorage and proceeded up canal. After several stops to let other ships to pass arrived Port Said 1:30 P.M. following day. Land starboard a desolate desert. Port side partly cultivated and in lakes. Slept on deck with what appeared to be headed for zero temp.

Dec. 11, 1945

Arrived Port Said 1:30 P.M. for refuel. Remained until night before departure into the Mediterranean. Few divers at edge of boat. Suez modern with few neon lights. Surrounding country strictly aquatic. Few gulls. Mediterranean to N.

Dec. 12, 1945

Sea disturbed by cold winds from SW. Few gulls.

Dec. 13, 1945

This morning between 4:30 and 5:00 A.M. a storm struck the boat, somewhere in the vicinity of Crete. One is impressed with the power of the sea and I would not advise being caught in such weather in any craft under the size of the U.S.S. General Nase. Even in an airtight sailboat with perfect construction I do not believe one could withstand the physical punishment that would ensue, especially over a long period of time. At the highest development the scene is one of rough mountains and valleys. Some swells were 400 ft long with high wind blown crests of the waves. The scene became even more terrifying when the boat would tilt and cause the mountains to become even higher. Added to this scene was a rough surge of displaced waves from and created by the boat. The wind caused a high velocity spray to travel over all surfaces. To face this spray was pure torture, almost unbearable. As the fore part of the ship made its death dive into the water it would displace hundreds of tons of water. The entire ship would vibrate constantly until it reached the lowest part of the dive. At that moment the bow would disappear and the ocean would rush aft over the deck, most of the time 5-8 feet deep. At times the entire deck would be covered with foam and wind swept water. The glass framed door fore of boat and deck level was my observation station and many times the door was completely inundated with water. It is remarkable