

Afterword

On March 10, 1940, Herb returned to California and Halcyon, and two weeks later, Herb and Louise were married, in the Temple of the People at Halcyon. Bernard Lentz was the best man, and Flamore Dower was the maid of honor. After a brief reception in Hiawatha Lodge in Halcyon, Herb and Louise journeyed north and spent their honeymoon at Yosemite National Park for a few days. Then they drove north to San Francisco where Herb had to check in at the Navy base at Yerba Buena Island.¹

Herb finally received a long-awaited shore duty assignment to San Francisco starting in July, 1940. They rented a small two room apartment in East Oakland for \$30 a month from where Herb commuted daily to the base. As a Storekeeper 2nd Class, they got by on a monthly income of \$66.

During the time they lived in East Oakland things were not going well for them. On one occasion while Louise was dropping Herb off, reporting back for duty, he said some very hurtful things to her, as they parted. She drove to Halcyon by herself to stay with a friend. A few days later, Herb wrote a letter to Louise apologizing for what he had said, while trying to explain his behavior. He expressed hope that they could work things out.

Louise stayed in Halcyon for a couple of months, while Herb stayed in their apartment near 30th Street in Oakland. Later that year Herb rented a larger flat in Oakland, and Louise rejoined him. She was expecting their first child.

On July 20, 1941, Patricia Louise Lentz was born in the Providence Hospital at Oakland, California. Then they moved to a new Navy Housing Project at Alameda Navy base, California. But that was to be of short duration, because of world events.

In a short history of the Lentz family that Herb composed for his cousin Doug, Herb writes the following about hearing the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On that fateful day of December 7, 1941, while just leaving the house for a ride, the Lentz family heard the dramatic words of K.V. Kaltenboon burst like a bombshell on the domestic scene. "The Japanese have attacked Pearl harbor!" Those of us in the Navy immediately carpooled back to the base, to stand around and do nothing but listen to the dire reports pouring in from Pearl harbor. But we did not learn the real extent of the disaster until weeks later, when Navy survivors were returned to our "Recovery Station." (Some of them former shipmates.)

It had taken Herb six years to make Storekeeper 2nd Class, but with the outbreak of the war, promotions for "old timers" became frenetic. Promotions to 1st Class and Chief Storekeeper were rapidly forthcoming, and then Warrant Officer in August 1942. That promotion culminated in a sea assignment for Herb to the U.S.S. Henderson again.

¹ Yerba Buena Island was also called Goat Island. Adjoining Goat Island was Treasure Island, a man-made island to house the 1940 San Francisco World's Fair; and later to become a Navy base during World War II.

So, leaving a very pregnant Louise behind, Herb commenced the “Pineapple Run,” a bi-weekly trip to Honolulu carrying Navy and Marine troops and their dependents. While in Honolulu, on October 17, 1942, Herb received a telegram from Louise, telling him that Susan Eloise Lentz had been born, also in the Providence Hospital, in Oakland. These were hectic times for Herb and Louise, especially Louise, with two little girls 15 months apart, and Herb away on the Henderson most of the time.

When Herb and Louise learned about the next mission for the Henderson, a trip to New Caledonia and Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, they decided to move again. At this time, it seemed best for Louise, Patty, and Susie to return to Halcyon where a small temporary home was being constructed for the Lentz family. It was completed in the summer of 1943, and Herb took off on a two-month cruise.

In the fall of 1943, the Henderson returned to Oakland, to begin a six-month conversion to a hospital ship. During this time Herb and Louise commuted back and forth between Halcyon and Oakland.

In March 1944 the USS Bountiful set sail for the South Pacific war zones and a painful separation of the family that lasted a year and a half. When Herb departed Patty was almost three, and Susie was one and one-half. Louise had to take care of everything for the family during this time.

Missions of the USS Bountiful included evacuation of wounded Marines from various islands such as Saipan, Palau, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Before Herb left this ship, he became the Chief Supply Officer. He also had a temporary commission as a Lieutenant in the Supply Corps, which was a far cry from the days when he had performed KP duty on this same ship on the way to China in 1937.

In August, 1945 the USS Bountiful was given orders to return to Japan as a station Hospital Ship. This was “the last straw” for Herb, who decided to resign from the Navy as soon as it could be arranged.

Finally, the “joyous moment” came in February, 1946. On February 26 he was a Chief Supply Officer in San Francisco. On February 27 he was packing cauliflower in Guadalupe, CA (near Santa Maria). For Herb work was scarce and after a time doing field work the outbreak of the Korean War provided an entry into Federal Civil Service at Camp Cook², in the Supply division.

In the summer of 1948, in anticipation of another child, a much-needed addition was made to their home in Halcyon. Then on January 31, 1949 Richard Fred Lentz was born at the General Hospital in San Luis Obispo.

² Later to be renamed Vandenberg Air Force Base.



Above: Herb, Louise and Bernard, with Patty and Susie, August, 1945.



Above: The Lentz family a few years after Richard was born.