

Let Us Remember, Lest We Forget

the WWII Naval experiences of
Edward James Varden, Seaman 1st Class,
aboard the DDS Charles S. Sperry



- *DOD file photo*



Edward "Tuffy" Varden in Navy Uniform 194[3]
—caption from back of photo sent to his mother

This is the diary of my father's experiences in the US Navy during the Pacific Campaign of WWII. Although it has now been over 50 years since those events took place, living in rural Japan these past eight has made me all too aware that the pain and hatred caused by that war have not yet been forgotten by the generations who were subjected to it.

My father was a young man when he wrote this, doing the best he could to survive his small section of the hell this war created for so many. The contents have not been edited other than obvious spelling or grammar mistakes; the abbreviated journal style is thought to better reflect his state of mind at the time of writing. Notes have been added where it was felt they were needed.

This diary is offered, with my father's blessing, in the hopes that the time, energy and lives of all who were involved in The Big One were not wasted; that humanity learned something from it that will help us outgrow the part of us that let it happen.

Let us remember, lest we forget; in so doing, perhaps we will not have to forget the same mistakes again.

J. Kevin Varden
November 8, 2001

Misc. notes at the beginning of the diary:

Jan. 1, 1945 Assigned to the Atlantic Fleet.

May 17, 1944 Edward James Varden, Seaman 1st class
USS Charles S. Sperry DD697
c/o FPO New York, NY

Oct. 2, 1944 Edward James Varden, Seaman 1st Class,
 Now FC¹ 3rd Class
USS Charles S. Sperry DD697
c/o FPO San Francisco, Cal.

5th Fleet Task Force “58”
Under Adm. Spruance and Mark Mitscher

3rd Fleet Task Force “38”
Under Adm. Halsey and McCain
 Destroyer Division “123”
 Destroyer Squadron “62”

Desron² 62
 Div 123
 USS C. S. Sperry DD697 hit by own fire
 English DD696
 Ault DD698
 Waldron DD 699 rammed a Jap ship, bent bow
 Haynesworth DD700 suicider stateside³

 Div 124
 Weeks DD701 strafed by own fire
 Hank DD702 strafed & suicider
 Lind DD703 strafed x 2
 Borie DD704 strafed, collision & suicider

The carrier Randolph has been hit twice in past but not out in the battle area. 1st by a Kamikaze and then again by a stunting army pilot flying a P28. Tough luck.

¹ Fire Controlman, one who controls the firing of weapons

² DESTroyer squadRON

³ hit by a kamikaze suicide attack; sent back to the States for repairs

July 14, 1945. First time the Island of Japan (4 major ones) have been bombarded in 80 or 90 years. They bombarded Kamaishi.

Our Monkey (Chi Chi or Isabella) is going great. She is a good sailor. She is one of the few mascots we have had aboard. She is always good for a laugh. We also had an Okinawa dove aboard. He flew on board during April. He stayed about two weeks before we caught him. They kept him in the Torpedo Shack⁴ but finally let him go.

USS Chas. S. Sperry DD697

Nicknamed the “Big Stick” after Adm. Sperry who under President T. Roosevelt carried out this policy: “Speak softly but carry a big stick.”

“Odds and Ends”

Keel was laid in Oct. of 43.

I was assigned to her on March 10, 1944.

She was launched on March 14, 1944.

I went aboard on April 13, 1944 at Kearney, New Jersey. She was still a skeleton.

She was commissioned on May 17, 1944.

Most of the crew coming aboard on the 16th. There were about 60 of us that put her in commission. [Crew members on board during the commissioning are listed in the appendix.—KV]

I took Betty Hall aboard to view commissioning exercises. Dad could not get away from work.

The Evans DD552 shot down 15 planes, 4 suicided into her and one missed. A total of 20 planes in one day. Although her casualties are high she is still afloat. They reported her in sinking condition. Another can⁵ off Okinawa shot down 6 Japs in 10 min. I believe it was the Hardley. 67 of our destroyers were hit off Okinawa and 10 were sunk. This is unofficial.

⁴ the armored room where the torpedoes are stored

⁵ destroyer

the beginning...

- July 31, 1943 Dick Weyant and I left Monroe, New York, to enlist in the US Navy.
- Aug. 13 Received notice we were to report to New York City on the 17th at 0800.
- Aug. 17 Left Monroe the night before. We were sworn in at 1000 on the 17th. We were told we had a 24-hr. pass and had to report back at 0800 on the 18th. Having said goodbye to all I did not wish to go through it again so I stayed in New York, sleeping at a YMCA.
- Aug. 18 Destination still unknown. Boarded train and found out we were going to Newport for Boot Training⁶. Arrived in time for evening chow.
- Aug. 19 Big day for all. Dick and I are still together. Today we had complete checkups, Dental and Health. At 1400 we had all our hair shaved, save for a half inch in front. We were issued uniforms, hammocks and sea bag. Our civies⁷ were sent home.
- Aug. 20 Spent most of day stenciling our uniforms and other gear. We were assigned to barracks and companies. Dick and I are in the same Co. 425. We sleep in different buildings. I sleep in an igloo⁸ and he in the main barracks.
- Aug. 20 - Oct. 4 were days of training. The training was divided between physical conditioning and learning the ropes in the Navy.
- On one occasion we marched for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who were visiting the Camp.

⁶ basic training in the services, also called "boot camp" or "boots"

⁷ civilian clothes

⁸ a small, outlying building

- Oct. 5 Completed “boots” and received promotion to Seaman Second Class. Also started on way to Fort. Lauderdale, Fla., to receive further training in an Advanced School. I am to be a Fire Controlman. I have nine days to get there so I ought to be home for a week.
- Oct. 5 - Oct. 12 were spent at home. My first Naval Leave. Dick Weyant is still at Newport but I expect to see him any day. He finally arrived but has only six days at home.
- Oct. 13 I went to Grand Central to get train reservations to Florida. Everything was filled. The train was to leave at 0930. As the train pulled out my hopes fell. I went over to a Serviceman’s booth and the fellow exchanged my ticket for a different slow train leaving at 1015. I had to report at 1200 (M) on the 14th. I got there at 1030, an hour and a half to spare.
- Oct. 15 - Oct. 17 Just laid around waiting for the rest of the class They could have given me till the 17th so I have done nothing but eat and sleep.
- Oct. 18 Met a few instructors and learned a little about my future. The fellows here have been picked because of their eyesight to become Fleet Range finder Operators. Thus manning a very important position on board ship.
- Oct. 20 - Feb. 1 consisted of many classes and drills. We took up geometry, trig, electricity and naval gear. Our mainstay was the operation of the range finder. I was in Company III-44. We were the third class to attend this school. The school was the converted Lauderdale Beach Hotel so you can imagine the life we led. We had regular rooms, some of which were

\$60 a day⁹ to civilians of past years. I played on the ship's company basketball team, thus having a swell time. We had three out of every four weekend liberties. Among the hometown boys that were stationed with me were Sam Bordenelli, Tom Connors and Ray Kasch. They were at Hollywood, 7 miles below. Tony Verlezza from Harriman and Paul Mancino were down in Miami. I made liberties with all of them. I had exceptionally good times with Ray, Tom, Sam and I. Finally graduation day came around.

- Feb. 1, 1944 We received certificates from the Navy stating our training. I was promoted to Seaman First Class. On Feb. 3, I heard we were being sent to Norfolk.
- Feb. 3 After hearing of my transfer I was down-hearted; Norfolk of all places. My sorrows soon left when they gave us seven days to get there. I spent five of these home.
- Feb. 10 Reported at Norfolk and was assigned to a barracks in Unit X Building 60. Laid around for three days and then started school. We had general training, learning how to bend a swab¹⁰ mainly.
On March 10 I was assigned to Destroyer 697. Moved to new barracks.
- Mar. 11 I met a few fellows in the crew: Tom B. Wade from Paducka, Kentucky; John S. Holmes from Dawnsville, New York; T. Moffet from Jersey. I was the only striker¹¹ in the gang. I started another fire control school today.
- Mar. 26 I have been to school for two weeks now. It is just a review of what I had in Florida. I have the weekend

⁹ 1944 dollars!

¹⁰ Navy slang for the large mops they use; to 'bend a swab' is to mop the floor (the 'deck')

¹¹ someone who is working toward qualifying for a particular rating, or job

off so I am going over to see Kenny Decker at the Ford Plant. He is stationed there.

- Mar. 28 I have a 15-day leave starting today. Sharkey (an engineer) and I are going to hitchhike to New York. He lives in Jersey. We left at 1000.
- Mar. 29 I arrived in Monroe at 0300. I stayed with Bob Beamon over at the Park Guild [Hotel] until I thought the folks were up. I went home at 0600 just in time for breakfast.
- Apr. 11 Returned to Norfolk.
- Apr. 15 The Nucleus Crew¹² is going aboard the USS Sperry at Kearney, New Jersey.
- Apr. 16 I arrived in Kearney and received a weekend pass. The pass was to enable the crew to find berths¹³ as the ship is still a skeleton. I am going to live home for the next thirty days. They are going to pay us \$23 a week subsistence.
- May 16 The nucleus crew and a few yard workman took the ship over to Boly Naval Yard. The people along the beach cheered us as though we just participated in an invasion. The rest of the crew (the balance crew) reported aboard today. They assigned bunks and accessories today.
- May 17 Today is the big day. We are to be commissioned. Betty Hall is out and on the dock listening to the exercises. Later she came aboard to look over my future home.

¹² the first, core crew to board a ship; the Sperry's plank owners (those assigned to the ship when her keel was laid) are listed in the appendix

¹³ a bunk or bed on a ship

May 30 We are getting underway to take on ammunition. The barge is out in the harbor. Took on our quota of 5", 10" and forties.¹⁴

¹⁴ ammunition shell sizes

on the move...

- May 31 Our maiden voyage. We are on our way to Bermuda.
- June 1 We are in a heavy storm. Someone said the ship has lost its bearings but I don't believe so.
- June 2 Still on our way. Haven't gotten sick yet but quite a few of the fellows have.
- June 3 In a storm off of Haddesus. Every one of us sick as dogs. I never left my rack.
- June 4 It has calmed down some. It seems to be getting warmer.
- June 5 I met a fellow by the name of Zabrinke that is related to the Viscardos by marriage.
- June 6 Heard the Second Front¹⁵ was finally opened.
- June 8 Arrived in Bermuda. It is as beautiful as every one states.
- June 9 - July 6 was our training period. It consisted of all types of firing, 5" and automatic weapons. There were drills for all divisions. We had two actual General Quarters¹⁶ (GQs), a sub contact and two Limey¹⁷ Corvettes¹⁸. Both turned out all right. We didn't engage the sub and the two Corvettes finally identified themselves.
- July 8-12 We are on our way back to New York Navy Yard. We brought four German torpedoes to Solomons Island, Maryland. We entered Eblyn Navy yard at 1610 on the 12th. I went on liberty at 1700.

¹⁵ the Allied campaign in Europe; specifically the French invasion

¹⁶ a call to battle stations

¹⁷ British, assumedly referring to the lime cliffs off Dover

¹⁸ a list of the planes mentioned in this document, as well as the URLs where more information about them can be found, is in the appendix

- July 13 In N.Y. I went on liberty at 1700. I again went home.
- July 14 Started a twelve-day leave today. I had a swell time. Reported back the 26th.
- July 27-Aug. 17 We stayed in Brooklyn. I went home many nights.
- Aug. 20 I arrived in Norfolk. We are to become a training ship for a short time.
- Aug. 21 - Sept. 24 We trained new crews. I met a few fellows in Norfolk during my stay. Sonny Rosa and Richie Lennon.
- Sept. 25 We have our orders to proceed to the West Coast. Our time overseas begins today even though we were out of the States for quite awhile, 42 days to be exact.
- Oct. 2 We sighted and went through Panama Canal. I went on liberty at 1500. Had a swell time. Picked up a few souvenirs.
- Oct. 3 Stayed in Panama and went on liberty again today. Cosmo Zummo and I visited paces of interest.
- Oct. 4 Left Panama for the West coast.
- Oct. 13 Arrived in San Pedro, California. Went on liberty.
- Oct. 14 Had liberty again today.
- Oct. 15 Leaving States for Pearl Harbor.
- Oct. 18 Arrived in Pearl Harbor. Fired AA¹⁹ practice on way in. We went into Rear Harbor Navy yard for about 3 weeks. The ship had a good ball team while here. I played short stop, we lost 3 and won 21 games. During our stay we had beach bombardment drills and many AA drills. The soundman had sub drills.

¹⁹ anti-aircraft artillery

We had new radar gear put on. Only two ships in each squadron got it, the Haynesworth and C.S. Sperry.

- Dec. 16 Underway for sea, headed west for Carolinas. We are to join a task group.
- Dec. 20 Crossed International Date Line today. Today is Wednesday, tomorrow Friday.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve at Sea.
- Dec. 25 Christmas. We are about 200 miles south of Truk²⁰.
- Dec. 26 Arrived at Eniwetok Atoll. Stayed overnight.
- Dec. 27 Arrived at Guam, left transport and kept underway.
- Dec. 28 We sailed into Ulithi. Took on ammunition and supplies. The night before both Guam and Ulithi were bombed.
- Dec. 29 Never saw such a great concentration of US Warships. Must be going to move soon.

²⁰ the Truk Islands in the central Carolina Islands in the western Pacific Ocean

action!

- Dec. 30 We shoved off today as part of a fast carrier group. We are Task Force 38.3 under Admiral Halsey. The scuttle-butt²¹ is that we are to hit Formosa²² and support the Luzon Invasion.
- Dec. 31 Plane crashed off of the Hornet. Found out the ships with us. Wagons²³—New Jersey and Wisconsin. Cruisers—Astoria Pasadena and Wilkes-Barre. Carriers—Hornet, Lexington, Independence and Hancock. Cans²⁴—Louis Hancock, Hunt, Miller, Tigney, Owen, Sullivans, Porter, McCord, English, Weeks, Hazelwood, Huzzard, Franks, Haley, Hank, Haynesworth, Sperry, Waldron, Ault, Marshall.
- Jan. 1, 1945 Held AA drills. We were issued gas masks. Sighted two Jap reconnaissance planes.
- Jan. 2 Our planes bombed Formosa. We are about 50 miles off coast, 10 min. flying time. Tokyo Rose²⁵ stated our position and said Jap Fleet would meet us and annihilate us. So far nothing has happened.
- Jan. 3 Hit Formosa again. The planes are having it tough over the island. They are meeting heavy AA fire. We picked up three men that crashed in a TBF. All are feeling up to par.
- Jan. 4 At 0130 we went to General Quarters. A force of enemy planes approaching the formation. Our

²¹ rumors

²² the former name of Taiwan

²³ a battleship; the largest and most heavily armed of the WWII ships

²⁴ destroyers; so-named because of the can-shaped depth charges they carried?

²⁵ the woman spreading Japanese military propaganda on English-speaking radio targeted at demoralizing the Western troops

fighters chased them away. Our picket ship²⁶ was attacked by Betty's (heavy Jap bombers)²⁷ but sustained no casualties. Our ships sighted mines but none hit any.

- Jan. 5 Our planes are hitting Luzon today. We are to the North, the Seventh Fleet to the south. Suicide dive bombers are raising hell with 7th fleet. 12 ships were hit today. We went alongside of the New Jersey and got a glimpse of Adm. Halsey today. First time I saw him.
- Jan. 6 Headed into heavy weather. Adm. Halsey is having us make 25 knots directly into the wind. Each pitch feels like she's going to come through with just a hull. We are taking water over the director²⁸. [Gun] Mount 1 took such a beating that she cannot train²⁹ or elevate. It tore all the stanchions³⁰ off of the forecastle, leaving 3" holes. The forward Chief Quarters and Mount 1 handling rooms are flooded.
- Jan. 7 Went to General quarters at 0430 but nothing developed. We tried to fuel from the Hancock, but parted 3 fuel lines. We had to abandon the idea.
- Jan. 8 We are in a plane guard station³¹ today. A fighter plane crashed off our bow. We speeded to the scene but found nothing but burning oil. We started to catch up with the group when someone spotted a very [weak] light (emergency signal or flare) in the air around the wreck. We asked the boss to return but

²⁶ one of the lighter ships equipped with long-range radar that acted as a go-between for long-distance flight missions and their home carriers; the Chs. S. Sperry was one of these

²⁷ Japanese planes are also listed in the appendix by nickname; official nicknames for these planes were women's names

²⁸ the control tower on the ship

²⁹ stay locked on a target

³⁰ a support bar or beam

³¹ following a carrier landing planes in case of mishap

got orders to catch up with the group. I don't know how or if they picked him up but it was a dirty deal.

- Jan. 9 We went to GQ at 0345 on a sub contact. The first pattern³² was dropped before most of us got to our stations. The torpedo men dropped these with the safety on and they didn't explode. We turned and made a second run. Laid a pattern down that really went off. We turned to make a third but could not pick him up again. We got a probable not a sub³³ as there wasn't any bodies or definite proof. Went to GQ in afternoon. A Dinah flew over us but a Corsair soon bucked him down. Big invasion started today. "Luzon".
- Jan. 10 Around midnight we passed through the Boshi Straits between Formosa and Luzon. We were on picket duty³⁴ 30 miles ahead of the Task Force. We were the first ship to enter the China Sea since the war began with the exception of submarines. We were only eight miles from Jap held territory at one time. They had both bases and airstrips on each side. I was so scared I didn't sleep all night. I stayed on my GQ station.
- Jan. 11 Skipper passed the word that we are going to hit China Coast tomorrow. Our fighters shot down 3 Japan planes. Adm. Halsey spoke a few words to the force and ended with God Bless You All.
- Jan. 12 Launched strikes against Kamahah Bay and Indochina. We are about 50 miles off coast. Our fliers have been very successful today.

³² depth charge dispersal pattern

³³ credit for a probable sinking (a 'probable') as opposed to a proven sinking (a 'sub')

³⁴ fighters and bombers often flew on missions out of range of their carrier's radar; ships such as the Sperry, equipped with the still-new long-range radar, would sail half-way to the target and act as a go-between for the planes and their carriers

- Jan. 13 The English (DD646) sank a Jap ship last night with two ranging salvos and nine full. Our group is sending strikes against Formosa and Hong Kong. We were at GQ most of time.
- Jan. 14 Mount 1 is fouled up again. There are men working on her today. We ran out of fresh chow. We are now eating dehydrated spuds and other foods.
- Jan. 15 Stayed at GQ all day. Planes hit Formosa and Hong Kong again. Our picket shot down one Betty.
- Jan. 16 Our pilots bombed Hong Kong again. We are looking for Jap Fleet but as yet we have found no trace.
- Jan. 17 Very rough day. We transferred fliers and enlisted personnel we picked out of the drink to carriers.
- Jan. 18 It has been 36 days since I have been on land. I saw it a few times but it would have been a little inconvenient for a liberty. We slept most of the day to make up for the last five.
- Jan. 20 We left the task group again to proceed on ahead. We are going through the straits again. Right after we left the group they were heavily attacked by Jap planes. All's we could see was the firing. As we passed through the straits we expected torpedo boats and subs but once again Adm. Halsey out-guessed them. We hit Formosa during the day.
- Jan. 21 Our group was attacked by eight Betty's—five were splashed and the other three beat it. We were on plane guard station just off the Hancock's beam when she landed one of her TBF's. [After landing] he got the okay and opened up his bomb bay, as he did two five-hundred-pound bombs dropped and exploded. [The Hancock] dropped out of the formation and we did also to screen for her. Cans

from the group picked up all the men blown over the side. They put the fire out in 15 min. and then we rejoined. Word that the Maddox (731) took a bomb forward of the bridge just reached us. It killed five men and ten were seriously hurt.

Jan. 21 The Ticonderoga was hit by a suicide plane. I don't know how they are making out. We are hitting the Bonins today.

a break...

- Jan. 22 We refueled off the Lexington today and also received mail.
- Jan. 23 Refueled from a tanker.
- Jan. 24 We passed guard mail to the Haynesworth and collided with her. We sprung a few leaks forward but nothing serious. The Waldron got lost last night and they had to send a plane out to find her. Someone will catch hell for this.
- Jan. 25 Heading back to Ulithi. A plane overshot a carrier and plunged into the drink. It was carrying depth charges for a load. They exploded when they sunk. I haven't heard about the crew but it doesn't sound possible they got out.
- Jan. 26 Nothing unusual. Warming up some.
- Jan. 27 Tied up alongside the tender Prairie. Getting ready for sea again. Mickey Farrel is aboard but I did not know it at the time.
- Feb. 2 Left Tender today to anchor out.
- Feb. 4 Saw Scrubby's ship but could not get over to it. I sure would like to see him. I was on the beach today for 3 hours. I had the ration, threes small cans of beer.
- Feb. 5 Scrub got a note over to me saying he was due for the Bonin invasion. We still haven't met.
- Feb. 7 Fired AA practice all day.
- Feb. 9 A Chaplain came aboard and heard confessions and said Mass. I received communion.
- Feb. 10 We left Ulithi for our second operation. We are now part of the already famous Task Force "58". We are

in 58.3. We are under command of Adm. Spruance and Mitchell.

- Feb. 11 Held AA practice all day.
- Feb. 12 Fired AA practice again today. We had a small fire in the Forward Diesel but it was soon extinguished.
- Feb. 13 Fueled from a tanker today. Received mail from States.
- Feb. 14 Fueled again today. Passed the Marcus Islands.

...and then back again

- Feb. 15 Started run on Tokyo. I'm not going to try to express my feelings.
- Feb. 16 We went to GQ at 0430. Launched aircraft for strike on Tokyo. We are about two hundred miles off the main land. About forty-five minutes flying time. We stayed at GQ and ate on our gun stations. We sent over strike after strike doing much damage. The temperature is 46°. Awful cold after coming from south.
- Feb. 17 Faked a withdrawal last night and headed back in again today. I don't know how many Jap Picket Ships were sunk but there were quite a few. We picked up a flier who crashed and he sure was thankful to us. He was off the Bunker Hill (carrier). Stayed at GQ all day. One Jap Picket [ship] got through our screen and wasn't discovered until he was a thousand yards off our stern. We couldn't fire as the Waldron was on top of her. Instead of firing 5" they fired 40s. Then they rammed her going 30 knots. The collision sprung two plates up forward and now she is heading back to Saipan. In this operation we destroyed 200 Jap planes and 40 ships.
- Feb. 18 We are heading south to partake in the invasion of Iwo Jima. Our Skipper showed a map and where we were landing. It looks like a tough nut or rather rock. Our planes are hitting the Island today. We transported the flier we picked up, back to his carrier. He was a Marine Flier.
- Feb. 19 The Haynesworth had it out with a Jap ship and sank same. Three men were killed and seven injured on the Haynesworth. Big day on Iwo. We are close by, ready to give firing protection for the Marines. It

- looks like they don't need us. We are sending over air cover to meet Jap planes.
- Feb. 20 We are taking station North of Iwo to intercept all Jap planes coming from the North. The marines are making good progress on the rock.
- Feb. 21 Today we got the word the Marines have run into trouble. We shot down two planes headed for Iwo this evening.
- Feb. 22 Sighted Iwo. It looked like a big volcano to me. Japs sent out nuisance raids but we soon shot them down. Our fighters accounting for most of them.
- Feb. 23 While refueling from a tanker today we collided with her. We smashed in our port rail, number two life raft and 40mm shield. I was heaving around on a line on the main deck as we swung into her. If someone hadn't hollered we all would have been smashed. I really made tracks to the other side of the ship.
- Feb. 24 Refueled again.
- Feb. 25 Launched air attacks on Tokyo. Our planes met heavy opposition. Our pilots expected an easy time like the first raid but this time Tokyo was ready and our losses were heavy. We are retiring to south in bad weather.
- Feb. 26 It is still rough but we are launching air attacks on southern industrial area of Japan. Last night one of our cans engaged a Jap ship and sank same. We lost one flier. 7 men critically wounded and 13 hurt.
- Feb. 27 We refueled and received mail.
- Feb. 28 Launched air attacks on Okinawa.
- Mar. 1 Headed back to Ulithi.

- Mar. 4 Arrived at Ulithi for repair and supplies. Tied up to the tender Yosemite. We went into a floating dry dock to scrape barnacles. All hands over the side, it was the most work I've done since my enlistment.
- Mar. 14 Left Ulithi this morning on another carrier raid. Expect a long session this time. Fired AA practice.
- Mar. 15 Fired AA practice.
- Mar. 16 Refueled from tanker.
- Mar. 17 Our planes spotted many Jap warships in harbor of islands. We were attacked by Zekes but sustained no hits.
- Mar. 18 The war is coming close to home now. We are under attack most of the time by Jap planes. I have seen quite a few go down, it is quite a spectacle. We are going out ahead of the force on picket duty.
- Mar. 19 The Japs are really out for blood this time. They are pulling suicide raids by the dozen. Their pilots must have a lot of guts to dive his plane into a ship. I saw one plane dive on a carrier yesterday but he was disintegrated about 1/3 of the way down. One suicider succeeded in hitting the Franklin. The reports sound bad. They may have to abandon her. A Zeke attacked us at about 1400. He came in on our fantail and nobody saw him until he was right on top of us. Our 20s and 40s fired on him but did not knock him down coming in. He dropped his bomb and crossed the ship. I saw the bomb released, through the range finder (24 power). It looked as big as the plane. Our old man made a sharp turn and the bomb missed the ship but it raised the fantail up in the air. Our port 40s knocked him down on the port side of the ship.

- Mar. 20 We are back with the task force. At midnight we were attacked by Betty's. We knocked one down with radar ranges. Our 5" disintegrated him. His flares blew up and lit us up like a Christmas Tree. A second followed him in and dropped his bombs off our port bow. He was also shot down by our big boys³⁵. I really got a thrill out of seeing him explode. Night action doesn't seem as bad as day to me.
- Mar. 21 We are pulling out of immediate battle area to refuel and receive mail.
- Mar. 22 On our way in again.
- Mar. 23 We are hitting Okinawa, 350 miles south of Japan. It was very cloudy today. Our planes got orders to drop their bombs clear of the formation but they hit off our bow and almost getting a carrier. They straddled the carrier. We picked up a Corsair pilot and also received a "Well Done" from Adm. Spruance.
- Mar. 24 In the evening our group moved in on Okinawa. Our wagons blasted the beach.
- Mar. 25 We retired today to refuel and take on ammunition. Our Skipper said that this invasion would be bigger than Normandy, that is more ships involved.
- Mar. 26 We hit Okinawa today. Our Skipper showed us the snakes our men would encounter on the Isle. He says these will cause much grief for the GIs. We had a Sub contact but lost it. Our fighters shot down a Jap 14 miles from formation.
- Mar. 27 Heard we are going to bombard tonight. We are to knock out an airstrip.
- Mar. 28 At approximately 2400 we started run on beach. We stayed at GQ until 0300. We went in with 4 cruisers

³⁵ large guns

and 8 cans. We put out 180 rounds of 5". The airstrip must be nil. We could see large fires but we were firing over a ridge, limiting our vision. The name of Isle was Minami Daito.

- Mar. 29 Our planes hit southern Japan. We were under light air attacks all day. We are searching for Jap Fleet.
- Mar. 30 Today our planes are bombing Okinawa. Nights are pretty quiet.
- Mar. 31 Prelude to invasion.
- Apr. 1 Easter Sunday, the sea is very calm. The army established all beachheads. Secured first air strip at 1000. The invasion was 5 min. slow getting underway. It was scheduled for 0830 and took place 0835.
- Apr. 2 In a heavy storm today. It was fortunate that the landing took place yesterday as many ships would probably be lost today. Refueled from a tanker today.
- Apr. 3 Off Okinawa today. We are taking in a correspondent of the Essex (carrier). His name is A. R. Crocker. Went to GQ at 1545 and stayed until dark. Our fighter cover shot down Jap planes approaching us.
- Apr. 4 Sighted Okinawa at 0730. Went to Kerama just west of Okinawa. We are all alone. The island looks like a paradise. Rice paddies on the hills. Most beautiful piece of land I have ever saw. It doesn't look like there is a Jap around. We rejoined group at night.
- Apr. 5 We now have 1/5 of Okinawa. Gains are being made on all fronts.
- Apr. 6 We have been under attack all day. We knocked one plane down to starboard. A Zeke crossed our fantail and sneaked up our port side. We had casualty in the

40s so they didn't open up. John Gallagher and a tall Rebel³⁶ let loose with their 20s but didn't knock him down. A few of the guys swear they saw the pilot laughing at us. I will never know why he didn't dive into us, he turned away and dove at the center of the force. He just missed the Washington's bow and hit off the Essex's beam about 600 yards. We have been at GQ since 0200 this morning and it is now dark again. The total today is 72 Jap planes splashed by our planes and 16 by our task group. We got one and 13 assists. The Haynesworth got it again. She was strafed and 15 men were wounded. We got the word to check over our "fish",³⁷ as we could expect the Jap Fleet soon.

Apr. 7 We went to General Quarters this morning. Our recon³⁸ planes spotted units of Jap ships. We launched our SB2Cs (the HellDivers), TBFs (the Avengers), F4Us (the Corsairs) and F4Fs (the Wildcats). Our planes came in contact and practically annihilated the force. They sank the Jap's biggest surface ship (biggest in world) the Yamato. Also a CA, a CL, and 3 cans. Only 3 cans escaped and they were strafed with rockets and machine guns. Japs also sent large air forces against us. One suicider dove into the Hancock and did a neat job. He dropped his bomb on the bow and crashed into the stern. Many men were blown over the side and many were trapped by flames and had to jump. We picked up 19 survivors. As we dropped back to pick up men we were attacked by two Sally's. We put 134 rounds of 5" out. After we drove them off 3 Corsairs

³⁶ slang for Southerner (from the Civil War period, after the southern states seceded from the Union)

³⁷ torpedoes

³⁸ reconnaissance

knocked them both down. As we rejoined the force we were again brought under attack. We got another Zeke knocking his tail off. The pilot bailed out. This is the second pilot to bail out today. Our 40s fired at him on the way down but he looked dead so they ceased firing. We got a probable as a carrier was firing at him also. Received a total on damage done to Japs for today. Sunk 1 BB, 3 CAs, 5 DDs and 1 CL. We lost four cans sunk, three damaged and the Hancock (carrier) damaged. She is under her own power but her flight deck is out. Her planes landed on our other carriers. The Limeys lost 1 BB today. I heard 7 Jap planes suicided into her. We were under nuisance raids again tonight.

- Apr. 8 Off Kyushu. We ran into a surprise attack. 3 Vals flew overhead and never attacked us. We fired from Condition Watch³⁹. Our planes splashed them outside of the formation.
- Apr. 9 Retired to refuel. We took on stores and ammunition from AKA⁴⁰ and tankers. Transferred men back to the Hancock. She was just having burial services. The men were laid out on their flight deck. They were sewed in canvas sacks. We learned she had 43 killed.
- Apr. 10 Topped off from the New Jersey. We lost our port bilge keel. Heard we are headed back with the New Jersey. She has her steering fouled up. Tonight we are 37 mi. from Okinawa. The GIs are still making headway. We now have over half of Okinawa.
- Apr. 11 Went to GQ and was attacked by suicide planes all day. I saw about 9 go down close by. One dived on us, pulled out and dove at the Enterprise (carrier).

³⁹ a watch is a shift at amnning a post

⁴⁰ an AK is a cargo ship, an AKA being an auxiliary

John Gallagher and the Rebel were again the only ones to fire. They are both trigger happy. I believe they love to see those suiciders. Another missed the New Jersey by yards. It was probably more than I thought it was. Still another dove at the Bunker Hill and went between a can and her. These boys (Japs) are pretty accurate. It must be all the AA fire that we put up that made them miss. These suiciders are single engine planes and usually Zekes. They are very maneuverable. I am surprised our fighters let so many in today. I can just see us if we did not have them around. One hit a can and the Kidd was hit by a torpedo. Also Intrepid (CV) was hit. I saw my 10th go down about dusk. It was a Betty splashed by our night fighters. They don't send Betty's over during the day it is all suicide attacks. At night one Betty got in and dropped flares but she never returned to press an attack.

- Apr. 12 We went to GQ at 0500. Our machine guns, a little jumpy over yesterday and because of lack of sleep, fired on a Corsair today. They really made him hop around. Task Group ahead of us has shot down 69 planes so far today and we haven't seen one. That's the way it goes. We were kept awake all night with nuisance raids⁴¹, going to GQ 6 times. Our intelligence bureau picked up a Jap transmission telling a certain group to attack us at 2035. They came at 2033 but our fliers splashed them. They must have many aces in our group.
- Apr. 13 Heard sad news of President Roosevelt's death. Heading out to refuel.
- Apr. 14 Refueled, received mail and passed freight. Our Old Skipper is transferred to Div 53. His name was Capt.

⁴¹ light attacks designed to harass and fatigue

- McIlhenny. Our new Old Man is Capt. Morland, both commander in rank.
- Apr. 15 Under heavy attack all day. It was our 58th attack. Japs claim they sunk 346 of our ships but that is a lot of crap. At night we underwent our 26th nuisance raid.
- Apr. 16 Under heavy attack all day again today. I saw 11 Jap planes go down near by today. God is certainly with us. We fired on six but got only six assists as so many were firing. In the evening two Frances pulled a fast one. They came in on the same bearing but at different angles. The force including ourselves fired at the low one. Our control officer luckily spied the second one just as she released her bombs. We took her under fire and knocked her down with 24 rounds of 5". The other one was also splashed. The bombs landed just off a cruiser's stern. Our 40s knocked off the bomber's tail as she was falling. Flames sprouted out all over her when the 5" hit.
- Apr. 17 We are again under heavy attack. We were attacked by suiciders again. We had our first casualties today. Three were wounded. We transferred the most serious of the three to the South Dakota. One got hit in the bridge of the nose and the other got 12 slugs in the rump. Both are feeling good. This was our 60th attack.
- Apr. 18 Headed out for a day of rest. I slept all day to make up for all I lost. We refueled at sea again. Still stymied on Southern Okinawa.
- Apr. 19 Picked up pilot who crashed at sea.
- Apr. 20 Picked up another plane crew. Business is picking up. No Japs around.

- Apr. 21 Went to GQ but our fighters knocked down the two attacking Jap planes. Nuisance raids all night.
- Apr. 22 Went to GQ this morning. Our fighters again shot down attacking planes. They shot down 5 more this afternoon. If they keep it up we may get a rest. Heard good news about the war in Europe but it is too far away to get excited about.
- Apr. 23 Out to refuel today. We had it pretty easy last time in. We have been out of port 40 days now. They are making slight gains on southern Okinawa.
- Apr. 24 Went to GQ at 0410 on another can's sub contact. She lost it but the two of us continued to search. Finally rejoined task group. Only slight gains on Okinawa.
- Apr. 25 We are on picket duty 25 mi. north of the task group. We are in the hot corner today all right. We are only 60 miles south of southern Japan.
- Apr. 26 We are heading back out for a tanker liberty⁴².
- Apr. 27 We are in refueling area. Received Stateside mail today.
- Apr. 28 Around Okinawa today. Big air battle going on over land. We (that is, our task force planes) splashed 104 Jap planes. A hospital ship was hit this evening. She had all her lights on and a red cross lit up. The Japs bombed her anyway. Heard she may have to abandon ship.
- Apr. 29 We topped off from the Washington and went out on picket. Still only slight gains on Okinawa.
- Apr. 30 At 2300 we were attacked by a twin engine plane. We fired at him using radar but missed. He almost

⁴² liberty on board a tanker ship, as opposed to on land (shore liberty)

got us. He released his fish and it either went under us or ahead of us. The wake was spotted about amidships. I guess everyone aboard aged ten years. We all heard the engine as it passed over about 50 ft. above the mast. It would have went bad with us if we were hit as we are all alone on picket. The hospital ship hit on 28th is still afloat. They have 29 killed and 33 in real bad shape. We are heading out tonight.

- May 1 We are out refueling today. We received mail from the States.
- May 2 Lashing everything secure for rough weather. We are heading into a storm.
- May 3 We are on picket again. They must be trying to get us knocked off. Out of the nine ships in our squadron three have got it out on picket. 3 down, 6 to go. Our night fighters shot down an Emily and a Betty.
- May 4 On picket again tonight. This has ceased to be funny. Our night fighter splashed 5 twin engine planes around us. We are returning to task group this morning. Learned that one can (DD) off Okinawa took 5 suiciders and is still afloat. Two other cans took one apiece. They also hit a CA but I don't know which one. Our group shot down 1000 planes since April 1st.
- May 5 We returned to task group at 0500. Fresh troops are now hitting Okinawa. Nearly all resistance has ceased in Germany.
- May 6 We are going to Okinawa tonight alone. We are taking in a 7th fleet communications officer. We are going to wait for him there. The Japs have been averaging about a hit a day on our cans in there. I don't relish this at all.

- May 7 We are now right off Okinawa. 600 yards to be exact. They are bombarding Naha. I have a bird's eye view of the whole thing. I can see Jap trucks moving on the island. Our planes are bombing also. We saw one SB2C crash. It must have been hit with Ack Ack⁴³. I had been feeling pretty low and passed out at 1000 this morning. Doc said I must have strained my right testicle lately. He also said I had low blood pressure causing me to pass out. They sent me down below decks. I can hear the firing but can't see anything. It's enough to drive you Bats. I got up around 1400 and passed out again. I am now in my rack with strict orders to stay there even under attack. We went alongside of the New Mexico and she ceased firing long enough for us to get the officer aboard her, then continued putting them out. We sailed up and down the beach all day viewing the spectacle. I couldn't stay in my rack because of the excitement. At night we could see our artillery dueling with the Japs big guns. We were putting them out 5 to 1. Soon we picked up our man and returned to carrier force.
- May 8 From what we saw yesterday the campaign looks pretty near ended. I hope they secure the island before long so we can go back to port. This life is slowly wearing me down. We are out on picket again.
- May 9 Heard of the victory in Germany. We are on picket again. We picked up a contact at 2000 but they turned out to be weather balloons. Every ship that has been attacked alone has suffered sever damage but us. God must certainly be with us.

⁴³ anti-aircraft artillery

- May 10 Went to GQ once on an air contact but nothing came about. Heard we are to bombard Minami Daito again tonight. We went to GQ at 2230 for shore bombardment. We put a 176 rounds of 5" into the air strip. We had a casualty in [Gun] Mount 2 or we would have put out the scheduled 203 rounds. There were four cruisers: Pasadena, Wilkes-Barre, Astoria and Springfield. There were nine cans. Our Squadron 62. Secured 2330.
- May 11 Went to GQ on air contact. The Cruisers and us are still alone. He came in on the other side of the formation so we didn't get a chance to fire. As soon as we opened up he turned tail. The time is now 0240. Secured at 0300. I went on watch at 0730. Went to GQ at 0920. Secured from GQ and set Condition One Easy. At 0950 two Vals, or at least one was identified as a Val, dived into the Bunker Hill (CV). No one in the group picked them up with radar. They struck before we could get to GQ. We believe they came in on the first attack, hovered over the formation until things quieted down and then suicide dived. They also hit the carrier with bombs on the way down. Three Seahawks and a cruiser dropped out of the formation to stay with her: the English, Sperry, Stimbel and cruiser Wilkes-Barre. We went alongside at 1030 to help fight fires. We put over two hoses and pumped a lot of water into her. The suicider set off a aviation Gas Storage Tank when he hit. Also 20s and 40s magazines. The projectiles exploded all around us. Men picked up shrapnel all around the deck. The men on the carrier were throwing bombs and rockets over the side. They also threw much ammunition from the ready

racks⁴⁴. We wet her fantail and amidships down with saltwater. We went alongside her Port side. We moved all our ammo from starboard to port in case she blew up. We also secured starboard gun stations. The Flight Deck from amidships aft is useless. It is a tangled mass of steel. There were many bodies of the men on her forward flight deck. Many charred to a crisp. Some the skin peeled off because of the heat. I imagine they lost a couple hundred men and the use of all her planes. She can still make 20 knots. We left her side at 1500 and formed a protective screen around her. While we were alongside we were about 30 ft. from her all the time. It is now 1900. We have left the Bunker Hill (carrier) and are proceeding back to our group. 3 cans who picked up survivors are taking her back. She was the only Front Line carrier we had that had not been hit. Now we have none. The ones that got hit are back in action though. The Bunker Hill will probably go back to the States. We secured from GQ at 1600 and ate chow.

Monroe Boys Help The Bunker Hill

—clipping from (I believe) the *Monroe Gazette*, some time during 1945

It could be that two Monroe boys figured in the assistance to the Bunker Hill aeroplane carrier, badly destroyed by Japanese suicide planes on May 11th, and which last week reached a port in Bremerton, Wash., for repairs.

In newspaper dispatches last week, giving first accounts of this mishap to the Bunker Hill, it was mentioned that the destroyers Strembel, Charles S. Sperry, and English moved in to the Bunker Hill's rescue and brought their fire-fighting equipment into play.

Edward Varden, FC 3/c, is a member of the Charles S. Sperry, and Toby Vacca, G. M. 2/c, is on the U. S. S. Stembel. a letter in this week's Gazette from Varden apparently tried to tell us this, as part of his letter was deleted by the censor.

⁴⁴ the racks where the ammunition is kept ready

- May 12 Off Okinawa. Topped off the Washington (BB56). Heading for Kyushu this evening.
- May 13 Went to GQ at 0145. The Jap came into 18mi. and then turned tail. Secured from GQ at 0220. Back to GQ at 0315. The plane again closed, this time to 9000 yards. We put out 23 rounds of 5" but apparently didn't touch him. A night fighter who had chased him in, again got on his tail and finally splashed him. We are only 60 miles off Southern Japan. The Isle that most of the Jap air fields are. Our planes bombed Nagoya, this is where the Buzz Bomb Betty's are located. These Buzz Bombs are piloted by one man. A suicide method of attack. He crashes into a ship. One can (DD) was sunk off Okinawa by this method. Very quiet today. I suppose they will be out in force tomorrow. We are again on picket tonight. I wonder how much longer our luck will hold out.
- May 14 Went to GQ at 0100. Our night fighters splashed twin engine bomber. Secured at 0220. Returned to GQ at 0410. We are rejoining force. We put out 18 rounds of 5" out at a bogey⁴⁵ but never touched him. At 0600 the heavy suicide attack began. A Zeke came in and everyone fixed at him. He somehow got through our flak and crashed into the Enterprise (carrier). There wasn't any damage done to the hull. Her flight deck is fouled up. It looks like they are after Adm. Mitchell. He was on the Bunker Hill when they were hit, then he transferred to the Enterprise and she was hit. We put out 123 rounds of 5" at this Zeke. We also fixed at 6 more. Getting one and 3 assists. Our 40s got the Zeke and the 5" the 3 assists. Between 0600 and 0900 15 suicide Zekes

⁴⁵ an unidentified flying aircraft

were shot down. This includes the one that hit the Enterprise. Our task group AA fire collected 8 and our fighters 7. It was pretty quiet this afternoon. At 1640 we were attacked by two Zekes but we drove them off with AA fire. It is now dark, I believe we are going out to refuel and take on ammunition. Our port 20s⁴⁶ were on the ball as usual. Gallagher and Calahan again expended 15 magazines between them. There are 60 rounds in a magazine.

- May 15 It was quiet last night. We did not go to GQ all night. I guess the B29's did too much damage to Kyushu. They hit in the afternoon after our dive bombers and TBF's. The B29's, 450 of them, and 100 P51's laid 3500 tons of bombs on the Jap air installations. We picked up the flight with our radar but did not see them. We are out refueling today. Maybe we will stay out two days as we didn't meet the tankers until noon. We have to take on 600 rounds of 5" this afternoon so we ought to be very busy. It is rough and raining at present. At 1800 we went out on picket station. We did not take on ammunition today so I guess we will stay out another day.
- May 16 It is still raining out. We turned today and scrubbed down the director. I believe we'll heave around on ammunition this afternoon. I am still going to sickbay for my neck. It has been infected and full of puss. It is now cleared up somewhat. I heard we will be going up to Kyushu again. I guess it's the only way to win the war, keep hitting them until we can bring our planes around from the E.T.O.⁴⁷. I sure will be glad when our bombers start hitting them around the clock.

⁴⁶ the gunners manning the 20" guns on the port side of the ship

⁴⁷ European Theater of Operations

- May 17 We returned to the group at 0500 from picket. It looks like we are permanent picket ship. We did not go to GQ at all today. At 1800 the English (DD697) and ourselves again took picket station 12.
- May 18 Returned to the Task Group at 0500. It is a beautiful day. You wouldn't know there was a war on. The sea is very calm and the sun hot. The sky is very picturesque. It sounds like Okinawa is almost secured. We have been out to sea in the forward area 65 days. The record is only 100 and some odd days. The English and Sperry again took picket station 12 at 1800. We had a movie this evening, the name of it was, *Edge of Darkness*, starring E. Flynn and A. Sheridan. We are withdrawing to fuel tomorrow.
- May 19 We are in the fueling area. We have taken on quite a bit of fresh foods and fruits. We received mail and quite a lot of it at that. I got six letters. The fighting on Okinawa is at a climax. Our men and the Japs are fighting hand to hand. The Japs have lost 49,000 soldiers and it is estimated that they have 35,000 left. Our losses are heavy but do not begin to compare with the Nips'. I read in the press news that US casualties almost total 1 million. It was since the war began of course. 970,000 plus.
- May 20 We are back in the battle area today. It is such a beautiful day you wouldn't know there was a war on. We had one contact. Our fighters investigated and splashed one Zeke. He did not get near the formation. We went out on picket duty at 1740.
- May 21 We rejoined the formation at dawn. Went to GQ on an air contact at 1000. It turned out to be a PBM Mariner. At 1200 all air strikes canceled because of weather. It is foggy and raining. At 1750 we started out on picket duty again. Some time during the 20-24

watch, two of our night fighters crashed and we were sent out to look for them. On my watch, 12-04, we thought we saw lights in the water but never could find them. The water is like phosphorus and every wave looks like a dim light. We topped off the Randolph (CV) this p.m.

May 22 On the 12-04 we didn't see any trace of the pilots. It was raining and lightning all through the watch. At daybreak there still wasn't any trace of the pilots. We have lost hope for them and are returning to the formation. I believe PBM's will continue to search throughout the day. We fired at two Jap planes' belly tanks. I guess just for practice. The fighting on Okinawa is still hot. I hope they secure it soon as we have been to sea 69 days today. This is without returning to our anchorage or tenders. Actually with the exceptions of 3 hours on Mog-Mog I have not been on land since Dec. 16, 1944. Mog-Mog is a small isle in Ulithi, in the Western Carolinas. I received my cholera shots today so we must be going in soon. At 1700 we ventured out on picket.

May 23 At 0300 we picked up two skunks (unidentified surface craft or units). They turned out to be a friendly can and cruiser. We rejoined the force at dawn. We are alongside a tanker refueling at present. I don't know if we will receive mail or not. At 1340 we started AA firing practice from condition watch. We fired until 1620. We fired six different runs on sleeves⁴⁸ towed by TBM's. We also put out a great number of 40s. The firing looked very good. We ventured out on picket at dusk.

⁴⁸ air barges towed behind planes as targets for firing practice

- May 24 Went to GQ at 1320. The Myrt closed to 15 miles and then opened. Our fighter tally-hoed⁴⁹ the plane but could not catch it. We haven't a plane with us that can catch the Jap plane (Myrt). It is a reconnaissance plane. Set the special condition watch, the other ships remained at GQ. Still no dope on when we are going in. It should be around the first. It has been pretty quiet the past week. I hear the Jap planes are still in heavy production but they can't get the fuel to put them up. We again took picket station No. 12.
- May 25 Returned to task force at dawn. Went to GQ in the morning then set the special condition watch. We had 4 bogeys on the screen but 3 were tally-hoed as friendlys. One B29, C54 and a PBM. The fourth was identified as a Myrt but it was not shot down. We went to our usual picket station at dusk.
- May 26 Returned to screen at dawn. It is a snafu day. We are expecting a heavy storm at 1300. Everyone is heaving around to secure all gear adrift. We are looking forward to entering port some time next week. Took picket station at dusk.
- May 27 Retiring to fuel. Rejoined the group at dawn. We received stateside mail but I missed out. There is a rumor around that we are going back in to Leyete in the Phillipines. We fueled off of tanker 70. Adm. Halsey is back tonight at midnight. The force changes from Task Force 58 to Task Force 38. It looks like we are not going in today.
- May 28 GQ at 0400. A bogey got in to 12 miles but never pressed attack. We set the special condition watch at 0425. We are at sea 75 days, in the battle area, today.

⁴⁹ identify as an enemy craft

It rained just about all day. Our Skipper passed the word this afternoon that Adm. McCain relieved Adm. Mitscher as Commander of the Carrier forces. He also said we will probably stay out to participate in raids against southern Japan. The other Task Groups 1, 2 & 4 all went to Layota for 9 or 10 days. Halsey is liable to take us to the Inland Sea. There is still a possibility that we may go into port soon. The crew voted on a name for the ship's paper and decided on Tin Can News. I got my head shaved again and it really is comfortable.

another break

- May 29 Headed South for Leyete. Adm. Nimitz told Halsey to release 58.3 to go into port. We are now getting the ship cleaned up.
- May 30 Fired 5" from condition watch all morning. We fired at sleeves towed by TBM's. The 40 is also fixed. The weather is getting hotter. We expect 120° in port.
- May 31 Fired 5", 40s and 20s from condition watch. It is still fairly cool because of the ship's motion but I can picture how hot it will be when we hit port. I am now sleeping topside. Expect to hit Leyete tomorrow.
- June 1 Arrived in Leyete Gulf at 0730. Our can followed the heavies in, Indian file. We hovered near an ammunition ship for 3 hours before going alongside. Finally we started taking ammo aboard. It took us about 2 1/2 hours. Expect to go into dry dock tomorrow. There will be movies topside, Japs permitting.
- June 2 Went alongside the Tender Dixie (AD14). I took over some canvas and got a couple of cokes in the Gyp Joint⁵⁰. The first in a long time. I went to confessions in the evening. It is very hot here. Just after dark we saw a movie on our quarter deck, the name Olsen and Johnson's *Hell za poppin'*. It was pretty good in spots. I slept topside again tonight. I was guard mail Petty Officer yesterday and went over to LST 534 for official mail. There was a notice to get all foul weather gear repaired so I guess we are going north next trip. I heard some scuttlebutt about the Kuril Islands north of Japan.

⁵⁰ a store on a ship; they are the only store around, so they can charge what they want...
(gyp being a slanderous variant of Gypsy)

- June 3 I am going to Mass and Communion at 0800 or 0830. Cleaning up the director. At 1300 we mustered for recreation party. Left the ship at 1400, arrived at the beach 1420. Boarded ship at 1630. Movies at dark.
- June 4 Received mail. I got a few papers, 10 to be exact. Carried on ship's work. Movies at dark.
- June 5 Carried on ship's work. Went over and got some gedunks⁵¹ on the tender. Movies at night.
- June 6 Painted the director this morning. I went on recreation in the afternoon. We had 3 cans of beer. It is so hot during the day it is pitiful. Movies at night.
- June 7 Went over to the Corunduer (LX154) to pick up ordinance stores. Ate chow over there. Handled commissary stores when I got back aboard. Movies at night. Tasted saba⁵².
- June 8 Our ship goes into dry dock to look at damage. We went into ARD 14. This is a floating dry dock. All hands went over the side to paint the hull. This is the worst job in the Navy. No fresh water while we are in dry dock.
- June 9 Painted the director this morning and this afternoon. Left dry dock at 1402. Picked up new depth charges and took on fuel. I hear we will get underway the 12th. The scuttlebutt⁵³ is that we are heading for the Kurils.
- June 10 Heaved around in the director for awhile and then went over to play ball. We played and lost to the English DD696. Got back aboard 1500 and knocked off for the day. Saw movies in the evening.

⁵¹ snacks or goodies; according to Random House, origin unknown

⁵² mackerel

⁵³ Navy slang for rumor or gossip

- June 11 Went on Guard Mail today. Both in the morning and afternoon. Saw movies at night.
- June 12 It rained all day. I went over to see Mike Keegan at 1200 and go back at 1900. We had a good visit. We battled the breeze all afternoon.
- June 13 Heaved around⁵⁴ in the director. Drilled all bloomet strips⁵⁵. Left the ship to play ball at 0945. We beat the Waldron to get into the semi-finals. The Waldron (DD699) beat the English (696). We play the Ault tomorrow. Saw movies at night.
- June 14 Played the Ault and won. That clinched the Division Championship.
- June 15 Worked all morning and went on recreation in the afternoon. Saw movies at night.
- June 16 I am 19 today. It doesn't seem like I enlisted 23 months ago.
- June 17 I had Guard Mail again today. I got over to see Scrub for 11 minutes. He was on watch and I couldn't stay any longer because the MWB⁵⁶ was waiting to return to the ship.
- June 18 Played the Weeks for Squadron Championship and beat them 18-7. We were really hot. The Weeks (DD701) was a good team too. Left in the afternoon for firing practice.
- June 19 AA practice all day. We anchored out. No movies.
- June 20 The Task Force is underway for gunnery exercises. Also to break in new pilots. We are returning the 23rd.

⁵⁴ working while hanging from ropes, I believe

⁵⁵ unknown reference; assumed to be the rows of rivets holding the steel plates of the ship together (old rivets are drilled out before new ones are fastened)

⁵⁶ unknown reference (Military Watch Board members?)

- June 21 Fired AA shoots from all set ups. Corsairs made simulated Kamikaze runs (suicide runs) on the group.
- June 22 Radar drills were held all morning. Fired AA practice using optical ranges.
- June 23 We were in Leyte Gulf at 0730. Anchored around 1500. Refueled and took on new depth charges.
- June 24 Started wire brushing and painted the director. Movies at night.
- June 25 We played ball today. This starts a new tournament. We beat the Waldron 5 to 3. Movies.
- June 26 Played ball again today. McAdoo took my guard mail trip. We had movies at night.
- June 27 We are still preparing for cold weather. It looks like an operation around Tokyo. We are putting the finishing touches to the director.
- June 28 Practiced ranging today. I can't slack up on that. We played the Weeks and beat them 18 to 7. Movies at night.
- June 29 We play the Ault for the third Tournament Championship. They beat us 7 to 1. There is now 3 tournament winners that have to play off. The English (696) won the first. The Sperry (697) won the second and the Ault (698) won the third. I don't know when we play off. We ended up in first place winning 5 and losing 2. The English and the Ault won 4 and lost 2. We are all squared away in the director.
- June 30 Getting ready for sea. Movies at night.

on the move once more

- July 1 Underway for sea at 0545. We have quite a force in our group—BB's: The Alabama, North Carolina. CV's: Ticonderoga, Essex and Randolph. CVL's: Batann and Monterey. Two squadrons of Cans: Desron 62 & 48.
- July 2 We had AA practice all day.
- July 3 We fired AA practice all day.
- July 4 We had fireworks again this year. Last year today we were firing AA practice off of Bermuda. Our planes simulated Kamikaze runs throughout the day.
- July 5 Our planes simulated Kamikaze runs on us throughout the day. We replaced a sight on 41 director. I am now working on the 40mm instead of the director. They must expect a hot time wherever we are going. No telling where Halsey will take us. One of our planes simulated a dive on the Monterey CVL and never pulled out. It hit her in the fireroom. She isn't hit too bad as she is still with us. At night one of our night fighters crashed. We rushed to the scene, saw his bellytank⁵⁷ and heard him cry out for help. We backed down and never saw another trace of him. Maybe he was sucked in our screws. Today was just one of those days.
- July 6 The sun now comes up at 0400 in the morning. It gets dark at 1800. We fired AA practice this afternoon.
- July 7 Making preparation for coming strikes. We are going to hit Tokyo on the 10th and 11th. We fired AA practice this afternoon.

⁵⁷ the fuel tank that hangs under the wing of an airplane

- July 8 We are fueling from Tankers today. We fueled of AO15. We passed out empties to AO34. We fired AA practice at 1600. Secured from firing 1730.
- July 9 At 0340 we had a sub contact. We went to GQ. It turned out to be a wake of another can. It was just getting light at 0340. We secured in ten minutes. Everyone slept today in preparation for tomorrow. I slept from 1400 to 1800. I am now going on watch 20-2400. I wonder what the morrow will bring.
- July 10 First Strike took off for Tokyo at 0355, which is around daylight here. We went to General Quarters at 1330 for an air contact. It turned out to be a Dinah. Our fighters shot it down. I saw the dogfight through the range finder. A Hellcat got him.
- July 11 We are retiring to fuel. We had a sub contact early in the morning but it turned out to be a whale. We also had a skunk (unidentified surface craft) which turned out to be a buoy.
- July 12 Refueling from tankers. We fueled off of AO 60. We also went alongside No. 22 and 34. No US mail was brought out. We took on ammunition.
- July 13 We hit tough weather today. All our strikes were canceled. It has been raining for 8 hrs and there is no sign of it letting up. We are above the Northern Island of Japan. We are operating just East of Hokkaido.
- July 14 One of our lookouts spotted a surfaced submarine at 0220. We went to GQ. We had him on the radar. The CO didn't know we were on so he slowed off target. The Radar Chief picked the nearest pip and we made a run. We were heading for the N. Carolina. The BB blew her whistle and flashed her trunk lights⁵⁸ on so

⁵⁸ lights along the outside of the lower deck

we wouldn't attack. The sub apparently submerged. The NC verified the lookout's report but we were operating in a joint zone so it may have been an American sub. Our bombardment group has been formed. We were left out this time. It comprises of Massachusetts, Indiana, and the South Dakota. Also to carriers [CA] Chicago and the Quincy. And Desron 48 who up to now operated with us. They are bombarding Hokkaido today. Our planes so far sunk two train ferries, damaged another. Left a SD cargo ship burning and also two combat ships, a can and destroyer. Escorts were left burning. AA fire in Bay was intense. 5 Betty's have been tally-hoed by our radar picket line. They shot down one but four are still flying around. The other groups are at GQ. They shot down the Betty 65 miles from here. We were 30 miles from land this morning. We were 80 miles off this noon. Ships are getting many sub contacts. Mines are all over the waters. I saw about 9 sharks while on watch today. A few were bigger than a human.

July 15 We are returning to fuel. We topped off the North Carolina. I saw a whale today. It was at 9 o'clock about 100 yards off our beam. It sure was a big baby. Another bombardment took place. They blasted some steel works. The Iowa, Missouri and the Wisconsin and Desron 54 participated in it. Core Div. 17 was sent out last night to stop any threat of the Jap Fleet and to knock out shipping along the coast. Core Div 17 are the Astoria, Springfield, Wilkes-Barre and the Pasadena. I guess they had a quiet night. We went to GQ off and on all day but all contacts were friendly.

- July 16 Out in the fueling area. We fueled off of Tanker 60. It still gets light a little after 3 in the morning. We had movies at night.
- July 17 Our planes are striking the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido. We went to GQ a few times during the day but nothing ever developed.
- July 18 Heard we are going on another shipping sweep with Core Div. 18. At 1700 we shaved off from Task Group and formed the Sweep group. It consisted of 4 cruisers and 8 tin cans. Desron 62 and the Oklahoma City, Duluth, Amsterdam, and _____ [sic]. We went to GQ at 2010, we were 17 miles from the mouth of Tokyo Bay. The Hank got a surface contact and 2 cans were designated to investigate. The USS Waldron and Sperry started out but were recalled and the Hank and another can from the Squadron took up the investigation. The Hank challenged the skunk 3 times. Receiving no answer she opened up with 5 ranging salvos and then about ten rapid continuous. The ship then identified itself as an American sub. Apparently no damage occurred. We secured from GQ at 0230 only a few miles from shore within easy range of shored batteries⁵⁹. The plan was to cruise at the mouth of Tokyo Bay and sink all Jap shipping and war ships. Tokyo Bay was one of the 3 places the Jap Fleet hung out. Then if we found no shipping we were to sail up and down the coast (which we did) and fire at any shore batteries or ships that fired at us. During this time we sailed south and bombarded Jap Radio installations, throwing in a number of tons of ammo. After this bombardment we secured from GQ and then returned to GQ at daylight 0400. By this time we had started our return to the

⁵⁹ shore-based gun installations

group. We were supposed to have 8 planes cover our retreat or rather our return. They never got there. At 0630 we alerted all hands on a 3-plane raid that was closing. They came straight in from 39 miles so they must have good airborne radar. They came in until our 5" battery opened up. They came in on the other side of the group so we didn't get a chance to fire. They were identified as twin engine bombers but no one knows what pacific type. They never pressed attack. We secured from GQ at 0810 on the 19th of July but were called back at 0815 on a single air contact. We tracked it in and I identified as a Liberator. She was flying less than 100 miles from Tokyo. Secured at 0830.

- July 19 All day we are at high speeds to catch the main group. One of our cruisers fouled up her boilers and we had to slow down to 10 knots so she could keep up. Thus making our return later than scheduled. We resumed high speed at night.
- July 20 At 0500 the task group is in sight. I am on watch in the director. We met the fueling group about an hour later. We refueled all day and received Uncle Sugar⁶⁰ mail. I didn't hear from home, though. We took on supplies at 1800.
- July 21 We are scheduled to go alongside ammunition ship at 0400. Some one dropped the ball as it was a mistake. They woke up the crew and all were pretty mad because we didn't take any on. They expected to go alongside any minute but we finally did at 0820. No one went back to sleep after 0400. The "O" Div. and a working party from the other divisions brought it aboard. We secured from Ammo working

⁶⁰ slang for the U.S. government; a combination of Uncle Sam and Sugar Daddy, someone who pays your way in exchange for favors

party at 1000. The Old Man says we are going to another or rather the 2nd of 3 places the Jap Fleet hang out. It is Kure, in southern Japan. The 3rd place is the Inland Sea. We are bound to meet it and destroy it sooner or later.

- July 22 Cruised South all day. We had a couple of contacts but all proved friendly. We went out on link ship⁶¹ duty at dusk. Returned at daybreak.
- July 23 Still cruising south. We are heading into a typhoon. We changed course and rode the outside of it. It was still pretty rough all night. We had one bogey but it turned out to be a friendly TBM.
- July 24 We are sending strikes in against Kure and Kobe. They expect some resistance here. These are their ship yards. We went to GQ at 1000. A Zeke was reported diving on the formation. He was tally-hoed and shot down by our CAP⁶². He splashed about 3000 yards from us and a lot closer to the DD70 Bonnie. Secured from GQ at 1020. Returned to GQ at 1735. Our CAP tally-hoed a Dinah and splashed same. Secured from GQ at 1810. Our planes damaged four ships and numerous air fields. We are in the heart of the Kamikaze belt. So far they are giving us no headache.
- July 25 Topped off the Washington this morning. We met a marine who we played ball against in Pearl. We are going to try to get in touch with him when we get in. Just before we finished fueling we got the word to go to GQ. We cast off the hose and returned to the screen. Our planes tally-hoed a twin engine bomber. It got away from them but they ran into a Myrte and splashed same. We went to GQ 3 times today for

⁶¹ a ship patrolling between two groups

⁶² Combat Air Patrol

friendly planes without identification. Went to GQ at 1835. Our CAP splashed a Myrte (Jap Reconnaissance plane). The other bogey turned out to be two Corsairs without lights. Our planes damaged four more warships today. They hit two Ise Class wagons. An Oyama (light can) and a heavy cruiser. The limeys damaged a small Jap carrier. We went out on link ship at dusk.

- July 26 We are heading out for a rendezvous with the tankers. We returned to our force at 0530. We fueled off A070. No mail today. We have had a quiet day. At 1435 they stationed the mine destroying detail. The fellows soon sank it.
- July 27 Still in fueling area. We fueled off of A039. At 1200 we started run in. We are going to strike in the morning. Heard our last offer to Japan for unconditional surrender. I don't think they will give up China without a fight. We are going to strike Kobe tomorrow. Heard over stateside radio that B 29's are going to drop leaflets over Japan, telling the people to give up.
- July 28 At 0430 a plane (Jap) got in unnoticed and strafed the Lind (DD703). It happened so fast no one even went to GQ. It was probably a Jap recon plane. It has been very quiet today. No word on what Japan will do. We are returning right after dark. Link ship tonight.
- July 29 Topped off the Randolph. We are moving north today. Heard reports of this week's damages to enemy fleet. Two wagons Haruna (Colin Kelly was supposed to have sunk) and Ise are laying on the harbor bottom. The carriers Tone and Oyodo. Also four cans, one carrier and three subs. Many merchant

ships. We are on picket and heading in to strike tomorrow.

- July 30 Returned to Task Group. Took plane guard station. Had to pick up mail from adjacent Task Group. Made the Shangri-La and delivered gear to Randolph. The Commander set Condition 1 in the AA battery at 1120. The Jap got into 27 miles and then went straight out. No word on whether or not Japan will surrender.
- July 31 We are on Link Ship. One of our planes reported torpedoes heading for formation. We alerted all gun stations, but didn't see any sign of them.
- Aug. 1 We refueled off tanker A071 today. Received Uncle Sugar mail. Made mail and cargo trips all day.
- Aug. 2 Heavy storm in vicinity. We are not heading in to strike. We are riding the outskirts of the storm and rolling a lot. I could hardly sleep we rolled so much.
- Aug. 3 Refueled off A062. I believe we are heading in tonight. The Cruiser Indianapolis was torpedoed off Leyte on August 3. No further word about her. I practiced with a 45 pistol this afternoon. We fired off the fantail. It is quite a rest. No bogies or GQ's for five days.
- Aug. 4 There were 219 men picked up off the Indianapolis. 90% were stretcher cases. They still don't know what happened for sure. They were all alone, no cans protecting her. The strikes on Kyushu were called off. No more good targets. We are heading out to refuel. We were supposed to go in tonight and bombard but it has been canceled. Still no Japs. It is like a vacation with pay. We were link ship the last two days.

- Aug. 5 Heading out to refuel. We are still link ship (alone between two task groups). The weather is perfect.
- Aug. 6 Fueling delayed until tomorrow. Just cruising around. Expect to go back into port soon. Still link ship. At 1810 we sighted a mine. We fired for about 1/2 hour with rifles but it didn't explode. It was hit a couple of times.
- Aug. 7 Returned to group to fuel. We fueled off A051. I heard we are receiving mail from the Randolph (cv). No mail. Heading in tonight.

the beginning of the end

- Aug. 8 Went to GQ at 0710 for two, two-plane raids. We had no air cover. Visibility is cut to 500 yards. The bogeys flew in and right over the group. We held fire and they opened to the North. Secured from GQ at 0735. Tapped off⁶³ the North Carolina (BB 55). Saw my marine buddy Zaipran. No strikes were sent in because of poor visibility. We heard about the new bomb we have. It was dropped on Jap Army base in the Inland Sea with destroying results.⁶⁴
- Aug. 9 We are sending in strike today. Russia declared war on Japan. I hope she starts an offensive right away. The War news looks good. We went to GQ at 1505. Two Graces were splashed over formation by CAP. El Toro⁶⁵ shot down a Zeke with no strain at all. Only a few salvos. Our picket got a Kate. Our fighters also splashed a Myrte. A Jap twin engine Dinah suicided into the Borie. She is bad off. It knocked out Radio Central and Combat. No word on the extent of the damage. She took her dead and wounded to big ships. She is under her own power making 23 knots. The Lind, Hank and the Weeks were strafed. They were also with the Borie. Secured from GQ at 1810. Back to GQ at 1830. Our Air force dropped another atom bomb today.⁶⁶
- Aug. 10 They buried the dead off the Borie at 0600. All flags few half mast. We were supposed to head out today but Halsey found some opposition so he is staying.

⁶³ refueled from

⁶⁴ This is how the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 was reported to the enlisted men; "Little Boy" virtually flattened the city, and an estimated 200,000 people had died by the end of the year.

⁶⁵ evidently the nickname of one of my father's shipmates

⁶⁶ the bombing of Nagasaki, which killed an estimated 70,000 by year's end

Heading out to fuel tomorrow. The weather has been so bad over the Task Force I guess the Nips couldn't find us today.

- Aug. 11 Out in the refueling area today. We fueled off A060. Did not receive any mail. President Truman accepted the Tokyo terms to leave Hirohito in power only if he acted on official Alli say-so. Most of us do not believe there should be any terms as we have come a long way and a few more months will not make any difference. We will have to take whatever the politicians decide anyway. As far as we are concerned we will go on the offensive until the official word to stop.
- Aug. 12 A typhoon is hampering our operations. We are East of Hokkaido but we are just keeping away from the storm. People probably think we are letting up because of possible surrender. I personally don't think they will give up and even if they do we will have to be just as alert as ever because of their suicide attacks. We are preparing to go into Tokyo in case they do give up. They are getting Marine volunteers from the fleet. They will also send in a bombardment force in case anything comes up. I heard we were in it. Adm. Halsey has a saddle aboard the flag and is all set to ride Hirohito's white horse when we go in.
- Aug. 13 Under heavy air attack all day. Our planes are striking the Tokyo area. 21 Jap planes were shot down around the Task Forces. We were at GQ just about all day. Over our force our planes splashed a Nick (twin engine), two "Graces", a "Jill" with either a torpedo or a Baka bomb attached to it, a "Frank" and also two "Myrtes". Our picket ships were busy all day long. The Captain said this may be their last

fling or maybe they are just showing us what they have stowed away. We were all alone on link ship but there were task forces 6 miles on either side.

Aug. 14 We are out to fuel. We are only about 275 miles away. We fueled off of AA81. At 1330 we heard a domestic broadcast saying that the Japs have accepted our terms of surrender and that official word will soon follow. Adm. Halsey is getting men from the fleet to occupy. Each can is to supply two rifle platoons. All men are volunteers. We are going to strike tomorrow to hasten things along unless we get the word to lay off. The Captain again said the Japs are tricky and that we will have to be on our toes as in the past. Their suicide units may take one last fling. We are heading back in tonight.

Aug. 15 Our strikes went out at 0400 as planned. As the second strike was on its way in, it was recalled. 12 airborne Jap planes met the first strike, one of our planes was shot down over Tokyo Bay. The Captain passed the word that he believes it is over. At noon it was official. Our ship took down the regular ensign and then flew our battle flag. Adm. Halsey made a speech to us commending us for a job well done. He said we will go down in history as the mightiest fleet. He also said with God's help we will soon be able to return home to our families. He stated, quote, he wished he could thank every man personally but the size of the fleet unables him to do so. He said if ever he could do anything for anyone in the 3rd Fleet he is at our call. Unquote. We are about 100 miles off of Tokyo. We went to GQ three times today (our group did). Two "Judy's" were splashed by our fighters. We are retiring to fuel and to give the Japs time to get the word around that the War is over. Today is a great day but out here we are still pessimistic and no

celebration was held. Let us thank God for His peace. We are on Link Ship.

Aug. 16 We are retiring today. We are retiring in order to give the Japs time to get the word around that the war is over. The Japs did not meet Gen. McArthur's demands by sending high officials to Manila via Ioshima. They said they did not understand. We are hearing over the radio the way the States are celebrating victory. It sure must be a wild crowd on Times Square. They have moved all the ships into one group in order to take pictures of all. I am anxious to see how they turn out. Sir Admiral Raleigh of the Limey Fleet gave us a big pat on the back in his speech. He also said his Fleet deserves much credit for learning to maneuver with the mighty 3rd. They are now detached for other duty. I guess we will patrol until the occupation army gets settled.

Aug. 17 We returned from link ship to fuel off the South Dakota. Immediately after four cans from our squadron went out to relieve a picket group. Yesterday the word came over for all cans to organize a nucleus crew in case we take over Jap ships. About 25% or 75 men will be chosen. Probably they will never be used but they must be on a 12-hour notice. Fleet Adm. King gave a speech today to all Naval and Coast Guard personnel. My two-year enlistment was up yesterday, one day after the war was over. I don't think it will have much effect upon my discharge but you don't know what the Navy will do. I saw the movie, "This is the Army," last night in the mess hall. It was very good.

Aug. 18 We are still in fueling area. No new developments.

- Aug. 19 All men with 44 points or more were told to be ready to shove off before the 27th. We have 18 leaving from the ship. We are on link ship.
- Aug. 20 The Japanese peace mission landed on Manila. No word about them signing an official document. Fighting is going on in Manchuria, Burma and a few other scattered areas. They are still firing at our recon planes over Kyushu.
- Aug. 21 We were on picket duty. We had a skunk but it was identified friendly. We fueled off A037 (Bob Gunther's ship). I was talking to Bob. He says he is going back to the States in two months and that his ship will be decommissioned.
- Aug. 22 Back to the group. No word on Japan's signing the treaty. McArthur says it will be within ten days. We are all set to occupy but McArthur is holding us up. The Navy won't have too much to do except to standby if trouble arises. We have a bunch of Limey ships with us. We were near the Duke of York and a few tin cans. We passed mail to the Wisconsin and the Missouri.
- Aug. 23 Fueled of A071. Nothing new. Still in same area.
- Aug. 24 Still off Japan waiting to land the Army. We are on picket duty.
- Aug. 25 Received US Mail. Heard from the family. First time since June 16, we fueled of AO37. Bob Gunther's ship. He said he is going back to the States in 3 mo.'s to decommission the ship. I tried to get Chester clippings to him from the Gazette but missed out. Maybe we will go alongside again soon. We passed mail all day. We made the Essex, Yorktown, Bonhomme Richard, Randolph, Ticonderoga, Wisconsin, Dayton and a CVL.

- Aug. 26 We are in the outskirts of a typhoon. The water is kinda rough. The new men we got aboard yesterday are doing okay. One or two are pretty sick. The weather is delaying our occupation.
- Aug. 27 We fueled off the Bon-homme Richard (CV 21). We picked up men and mail off the Shangri-La and Intrepid. We are on our way to Iwo Jima to pick up mail for the Task Group. The Intrepid had 13 bags for us but we were not able to pick them up. We will get it when we return. We are going to 25 knots all the way and arrive tomorrow morning. It is still rough and choppy. We have been underway 58 days now.
- Aug. 28 About 0800 we arrived at Iwo. What a fortress. They sent out a couple of planes to challenge us. P51's and P47's were all over the place. What an air show they put on. B29's C46's and C47's were landing all day. I guess these are the same planes that were over Tokyo earlier. The 3rd Fleet minus us are in Tokyo Bay. We are going in on our return. We tried to get some fresh food but they did not have any available at Iwo. We picked up Guard mail for the fleet and a little US. I don't know if we got any US or not. We left Iwo at 1900.
- Aug. 29 We are on our way to Tokyo. We passed a Jap Hospital ship this morning. I guess we expect to be in Tokyo tonight or in the morning. Met up with a tanker group about 1300. We transferred mail and passengers to her. It was one of the three tankers with 5" guns. The Amiaron 22. We made two other tankers during the day. We fueled off of A062. We also took on a little fresh fruit. The group has been reporting and sinking mines all day. At dusk we took station No. 1 in the screen, right in the lead. Last

night was the most beautiful sight I have yet beheld. What a sunset and the water was a light blue. Our ship made a white phosphorous wake.

Aug. 30 We are still with the tanker group. We expect to leave some time tonight to go into Tokyo Bay. One of the fellows got a Stateside clipping that named the ships off Tokyo and of course we were included.

Aug. 31 At 0610 we sighted land. The entrance to Tokyo Bay. There was a Destroyer patrolling the entrance. The 742, she is a new type 2200. We entered the bay at 0824. At the entrance entering were 2 limey cruisers, 2 limey cans and 11 American subs all in formation. The subs were surfaced. Not much of our fleet is in the bay. 3 wagons, Missouri, South Dakota and Iowa. A couple of escort carriers and a bunch of tin cans. A lot of 1650's are in the group. The Jap factories and villages around the bay look untouched. There were 3 Jap ships near the Navy Yard. A wagon, cruiser and a can. They looked in pretty good shape. Also two Jap subs were underway. They had American sailors aboard with Tommy guns. These subs had hangers on the main deck and a catapult to launch them. Each one had an American sailor on the forte with a Tommy-gun. The little villages look sturdy and the light houses, towers and etc. look like miniature fortresses. We had Corsairs and TBM's flying around all day and the army had those crazy P51's. What an air show they put on for the Japs. They come straight down and go back up in a vertical climb. Flying superforts and C54's made trips over all day. Nimitz is on the South Dakota. The South Dakota had men over the side painting the ship. We did not darken ship. All lights were on, the first time since I have been on the ship. We had a

movie in the mess hall. Mt. Fuji and the Imperial Palace are opposite the entrance of the bay.

- Sept. 1 We left Tokyo Bay at 0830. We got underway at 0530. You can see mines in the waters marked off. I guess they only swept one way in clean. We made a trip to Task Force 35 and then returned to our own group. We are the only ship in the squadron that went into Tokyo Bay. We transferred a chief yeoman to the Essex. She left for the States today. Her and two cans. We had a movie in the mess hall.
- Sept. 2 Today is the great day. I wish we had stayed in Tokyo Bay for the official signing of the peace. We fueled this morning of 0545. Right now I am listening to the broadcast on the Missouri of the peace treaty. Gen. McArthur is speaking and announcing all the signees as they sign the official document. There are two documents, one for the Allies and one for Japan.

winding down

- Sept. 3 We are fueling off A062. We passed mail and freight all day. The whole Fleet steamed up and down the outer Bay. We could see Fujiyama all the time. It sure is a high peak.
- Sept. 4 Fueled off A027. No mail again today. Some said we had mail on board the Ault. There is a lot of scuttlebutt about us going back for Navy Day Oct. 27. Let's hope so anyway. Two more men left the ship to be discharged. At 1600 they split the watches up. The machine guns will be manned during the day and the main battery at night. I moved into a new compartment.
- Sept. 5 We topped off CL91. I guess it is the San Juan. We cruised around all day. I guess we should be heading into port soon.
- Sept. 6 Fueling off tankers today. We passed mail to the Belleau Woods. We also passed mail to the Lexington, USS English, Ault and one other. We fired AA practice today. Both 5" and machine guns fired. Saw movies at night.
- Sept. 7 We picked up the Marine Group from the Belleau Woods that landed in Japan before the Peace Treaty was signed. They had all sorts of souvenirs. All had Jap rifles, bayonets and flags. One had a newspaper which had illustrations about the Kamikaze.
- Sept. 8 We were supposed to have personnel and topside inspection. It rained all day so they were cancelled. I slept most of the day. We topped off the Lexington. They brought out an order stating which men are eligible for Stateside duty. You need 18 months consecutive sea duty and 4 battle stars or 24 months

broken sea duty and 4 battle stars. I have 15 1/2 months sea duty and 3 battle stars. They will probably authorized a star for our first Tokyo raids and also one in the Philippines Liberation Bar. Tonight they did not darken ship. We had lights topside all night. This really is a morale builder. There are a mess of ships not going back to the States soon. Less than half of the third fleet mentioned in Adm. Nimitz's communiqué is going back to the States as the victory fleet. So long as we stay out here I hope we get China Duty or go down to Australia.

- Sept. 9 We fueled off AO 40 today. We passed freight and mail. Received official mail.
- Sept. 10 We entered Tokyo Bay. This time there are carriers and all in the inner Bay. We saw the same sights we saw before. We were only a few thousand yards off the beach. You could see women and men fishing all along the shore. The Marines and Army have taken over. The American flag is flying over the radio installations and military objectives. We saw movies topside in the evening. We are manning the 5" battery every morning and evening. The machine guns stand watches at night. The 5" set the watch at 0415 and secure at 0615. At night we go on at 1800 and secure at 1930. We received US Mail today.
- Sept. 11 It is an exceptionally calm day. Heard about the new point system. This will give me 3 1/4 more points. A draft of men going back to the States on the West Virginia left this morning. They were replaced by men on the W. Virginia that haven't got much time out here. I made a Guard mail trip to the Piedmont (AD14) to pick up General Messages we missed. They did not have them so I went over to the

Yokasuka Navy Yard. I went through 4 Jap PT Boats and 3 small suicide boats. The suicide boats still had torpedoes aboard. I got a few souvenirs from the PT's. I got the throttle, some Jap writing paper, two meter dials and a piece off a fire extinguisher. I was close to the Jap wagon⁶⁷ Nagoya. It has been put out of commission but good. I think we are working on the engines because the boilers were lit off. The forward part of the ship is in fair shape but it took a couple of bombs right at the main mast. There also was a Jap can and many small craft. Our Marines have taken the small craft over. The Navy yard is surprisingly modern. All the shops are underground and they have flat cars leading to the dry docks. They have many cranes and derricks. If our Army and Marines had to fight cave to cave it would be a long and hard war. The ship granted Liberty today. Fifteen men went over. They exchanged their money for Jap money. It is all in ten yen notes (\$.66).

- Sept. 12 Just a regular working day. They told us at quarters there would be a Captain's Inspection Friday and Saturday. It rained most of the day. We could see Yokohama very good through the glasses. We saw movies at night.
- Sept. 13 Another working day. Nothing unusual happened. It rained frequently throughout the day. We saw movies at night. Prepared for Captain's Inspection tomorrow. The nights are getting cold.
- Sept. 14 Captain's Inspection today. I worked on stores. A few came aboard from AKA 20. Movies at night.
- Sept. 15 Personnel inspection called off. We got underway about 1000. Fueled off AO 47. They gave us oil that

⁶⁷ aircraft carrier

- had water in it. We had to anchor for 1 1/2 hours until we cleaned it up. Saw movies in the mess hall.
- Sept. 16 Payday was held today. I drew 20 dollars. I now have \$88 on the books.
- Sept. 17 We are heading north to get out of a typhoon. It is very calm.
- Sept. 18 We are in a Typhoon. The water is very rough. We are taking water over the Director. It is rolling so much you can't sleep. Everyone is eating chow standing up. The Executive Officer passed the word to get off and stay off the main deck.
- Sept. 19 It is still rough. We fueled off AO 24. A tanker with 37 Dir. and 5" guns.
- Sept.20 We fired AA practice. We also had surface tracking drills in the morning.
- Sept.21 We are on our way to Eniwetok. The carriers are going to Saipan. We have 3 cruisers and about a dozen cans. We cleaned out Directors for Captain's Inspection tomorrow.
- Sept.22 We (McAdoo and I) put the finishing touches to our cleaning stations. The inspection is at 1330. We had surface tracking drills this morning.
- Sept.23 We had Holiday routine. I slept all morning and saw a movie in the afternoon.
- Sept.24 They secured all gun watches. I am now standing talker watches⁶⁸ on the bridge. The watch is no good but we stand only one on and eleven off.
- Sept.25 I had the 8-12 watch. They are changing sacks⁶⁹ today. I am moving aft to Compartment 204. I heard we get in tomorrow.

⁶⁸ manning the talker phones between the ship's bridge and the other sections

- Sept.26 We got in this morning. Tied up alongside the De Nobla, a Tender. We were in port from today until Oct. 7. Nothing much happened here. We played 4 ball games. I went on one beer party. We are heading back to Tokyo. We fired all day of the 7th. Our engines crapped out also today. We were dead in the water for awhile.
- Oct. 8 Still heading N. Nothing new happened.
- Oct. 9 We are heading into a typhoon. On our way to Tokyo. I heard we are to get in the 12th. Fired 5" AA practice all day. Movies at night.
- Oct. 10 We topped off the Bennington. Nothing new. Movies at night.
- Oct. 11 We are turning out of the storm. It is pretty rough out. All the new crew are spewing⁷⁰ all over the ship.
- Oct. 12 We were supposed to have Captain's inspection. It was called off. Nothing new.
- Oct. 13 Entering Tokyo Bay. We tied up right next to the docks in Yokosuka. Just off of the Prairie.
- Oct. 19 Holiday Routine.
- Oct. 20 We went on a searching party in the caves. Some officer picked us⁷¹ and took us to the Captain of the Yard. He preferred charges⁷² and sent us back to the ship.
- Oct. 24 We left Tokyo Bay for Squadron Exercises.
- Oct. 28 We returned to Tokyo Bay, mooring to a buoy in Yokosuka.
- Nov. 1 Underway to Nagoya. We arrived the 2nd.

⁶⁹ sleeping assignments

⁷⁰ vomiting

⁷¹ discovered or uncovered; busted

⁷² charge with a crime

- Nov. 2 Arrived at Nagoya, the biggest bay in the world.
- Nov. 4 Underway for Wakayama, Japan. It is near Kobe.
- Nov. 5 Arrived at Wakayama. We came in slow because of the acoustic mines⁷³.
- Nov. 6 Left Wakayama.
- Nov. 7 Arrived at Nagoya at noon.
- Nov. 9 Left Nagoya.
- Nov. 10 Arrived at Wakayama.
- Nov. 11 Arrived at Nagoya.
- Nov. 13 Left Nagoya for Sasebo. It is near Nagasaki. We have 60 passengers.
- Nov. 14 On our way. Nothing new came up.
- Nov. 15 Arrived at Sasebo. It is the most beautiful spot I have seen in Japan. The Jap Fleet hid out here during the War. There are still a few Jap ships here. A large carrier, Small carrier, a couple Jap transports and a hospital ship. We have quite a few ships here. The Pasadena, DM 23, AD 169 and a bunch of transports, AKAs and mine sweepers. AKA 191.
- Nov. 16 Underway for Kure, Japan.
- Nov. 17 Still underway for Kure. Got into Port at 1200. Had Captain's Inspection.
- Nov. 18 Had Holiday Routine. Nothing new.
- Nov. 19 Underway for Sasebo.
- Nov. 20 Arrived at Sasebo.
- Nov. 21 In Sasebo. It rained all day.
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving. Holiday Routine. Big Chow.

⁷³ mines that are detonated by loud acoustic signals; i.e. the sound of a ship's engines

- Nov. 23 Still in Sasebo. Getting underway tomorrow at 0900. Another mail trip. Heard about the new point system, ought to be out about April. Had Captain's Inspection.
- Nov. 24 We got underway at 0900 and arrived at Nagasaki at 1130. We got Liberty until 2:45. Just enough to look around where the atomic bomb hit. We got underway from Nagasaki at 1630. I had the 1600-2000 watch.



Thanksgiving dinner on the Sperry, Nov. 25, 1945.

Menu: consomme [sic]; roast tom turkey; onion sage dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, cream whipped potatoes, young peas buttered, cole slaw with pineapple, Spanish olives, ripe olives, sweet pickles, Parkerhouse rolls, pumpkin pie, vanilla ice cream, fruit cake, coffee, cigarettes, cigars, candy.—*from the flip side of the above flyer*

- Nov. 25 Holiday Routine.
- Nov. 26 Arrived at Wakayama at 1800. We tied up alongside the LST 50. She is a mail ship.

- Nov. 27 Underway for Sasebo. Nothing new. Stopped off at Kogashima.
- Nov. 28 Arrived at Nagasaki. It really is beat up.
- Nov. 29 Moved alongside LST 48 and left mail. Held field day and had Captain's below deck inspection.
- Nov. 30 Had Captain's Inspection. Personnel and above deck. The Captain told me I needed a new uniform.
- Dec. 1 Held field day and Captain's Inspection.
- Dec. 2 Sunday. Holiday Routine.
- Dec. 3 Still in Sasebo. We ought to get some dope⁷⁴ when we are heading back. There was a big fire on the mountain top here in Sasebo. It is still burning.
- Dec. 4 Routine day.
- Dec. 5 Preparing to get underway for Nagasaki.
- Dec. 6 Arrived at Nagasaki.
- Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Day. While I was on liberty there were 3 Jap Naval Officers in Uniform with dress swords.
- Dec. 8 No inspection. Our officers are inspecting all Jap ships in here. The English is also here.
- Dec. 9 It was bright cool day and we played football. We played amid the rubbish of where the atomic bomb hit. The Marines cleared away the rubbish and made two athletic fields. We played for an hour and then had to go back to the ship.⁷⁵
- Dec. 10 Nothing new. I washed and pressed a set of blues⁷⁶ for Saturday's inspection.

⁷⁴ information; news

⁷⁵ I have wondered if this had anything to do with the several bouts of skin cancer my father had in later years.

⁷⁶ the dress blue naval uniform

- Dec. 11 Still inspecting ships here.
- Dec. 12 The English has returned to Sasebo.
- Dec. 13 Underway for Sasebo. I had the JA watch⁷⁷ on the Bridge. We got into Sasebo at 1200. We fueled off tankers and went alongside mail JST.
- Dec. 14 We received US Mail today. I got a package and two papers.
- Dec. 15 Captain's Inspection. We are getting underway for Nagasaki.
- Dec. 16 Underway for Wakayama. Routine mail trip. Arrived at Kagoshima.
- Dec. 17 Arrived at Wakayama. There is a big storm. We anchored but during the night we dragged anchor and almost hit a DMS⁷⁸. We went to Special Sea Details⁷⁹ when they rang the general alarm.
- Dec. 18 On our way to Sasebo.
- Dec. 19 Nothing new.
- Dec. 20 Arrived at Sasebo. Discharged passengers and mail.
- Dec. 21 Captain's Inspection.
- Dec. 22 Captain's Inspection.
- Dec. 23 Holiday Routine. Went to Mass.
- Dec. 24 Commence Christmas Holidays. A priest came aboard and heard Confessions.
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day. I went to Mass and Communion on the Panamint (AGC 13). We had a big feed on board. It wasn't much like Christmas materially. We are

⁷⁷ unknown reference

⁷⁸ assumed to be a minesweeper; possibly Designated Mine Sweeper

⁷⁹ a detail is a duty or assignment; Special Sea Details are assumed to have been special assignments for when under attack

still scheduled to leave here the first of the year. I found out I am on the first leave party. We expect to be in the States around Jan. 20.

- Dec. 26 Nothing new.
- Dec. 27 Preparing for Captain's Inspection.
- Dec. 28 Captain's Inspection below decks.
- Dec. 29 Captain's Inspection above decks and personnel.
- Dec. 30 We hoisted our homeward bound pennant. It reaches from the main mast, 15 ft. beyond the fantail. It sure was a sight for sore eyes. We have waited a long time for this day. We are leaving for the States tomorrow. We took on stores today and we also fueled.
- Dec. 31 We are leaving Japan. I saw the New Year come in. What a way to bring in the new year, on our way back to the States.
- Jan. 1, 1946 New Year's Day. Holiday Routine all day. I washed my blues getting ready for Leave.
- Jan. 6 Arrived in Eniwetok. We fueled and got underway for Pearl at 1400. We fueled off a YO⁸⁰.
- Jan. 12 We arrived at Pearl. I had Liberty Sat. night. We had a swell time. I had liberty Sunday also but I stayed on the base.
- Jan. 14 We got underway for the States at 1600. I had Guard Mail in the morning and had to hitchhike over to the Navy Yard.
- Jan. 20 At 07.49'15" we passed under the Golden Gate Bridge. I got to Mass up in China Town, SF.
- Feb. 2 We got underway for the East coast. We are heading for Norfolk.

⁸⁰ unknown reference; this it not a recognized hull designation

- Feb. 12 Arrive in Panama. Balboa.
- Feb. 13 Start through the canal. I had Liberty on other side at Cocosolo, Colonne.
- Feb. 14 Underway for Norfolk.

Official Strike and Invasion Reports as in your personnel records.

1st operation

Air Strikes on Formosa Jan. 3, 4, 9. Support of Invasion of Luzon Jan. 6, 7. South China Sea, Air Strikes on Cameron Bay, Saigon, French Indochina, Swatow, Haiban Jan. 10-21; Air Strikes Formosa, Okinawa and Islands in Ryukyus Jan. 21, 22 1945.

2nd operation

Air Strike on Tokyo and Yokohama Feb. 16+17. Air and Ship Support of Iwo Jima 20-23 of Feb. Air Strikes on Tokyo 25 of Feb. Air Strikes on Okinawa March 1, 1945.

3rd operation

Air Strikes on Kyushu March 18,19; on Okinawa 23-31 March. Shore Bombardment of Minami Daito 28 of March. Supported Okinawa Invasion Apr. 1-27 of May. Shore Bombardment of Minami Daito 10 of May. Air Strikes on Kyushu 13, 14 of May. Air Strikes on Tokyo 10-18 of May. Air Strikes on Honshu + Hokkaido.

4th Operation

15, 16 of July. Shipping sweep and Bombardment of Najima Saki, Honshu, Oshima .18, 19 of July. Air Strikes on Tokyo, Nagasaki. 28-30 of July. Air Strikes on Hokkaido and Northern Honshu. 1-10 of August. Air strikes on Tokyo Area 13 and 15 of August.

The following poems were also included in the back of the diary.

A Sailor's Life in the Pacific

author unknown

Out where there are no Ten Commandments

And a man can raise a thirst
Sails an outcast of civilization
A victim of Life at its worst.

There is in Tropical Waters
A fellow that you have forgot
Who battles ever present weather
And thinks of a certain person an awful lot.

Nobody knows he is living
No one gives a damn
Back home he is soon forgotten
A Sailor of Uncle Sam's.

No place to go on payday
To squander his meager pay
No where to raise Hell for an evening
Only sweat and work every day.

Memories at night of the old times
Ills, no doctor can cure
Heck No, I am no convict
Just a Sailor on Pacific Tour.

There's just one consolation
Gather around and I will tell
When I die I'll go to Heaven
For I've served my Hitch in Hell.

The USS Collett DD 730

By Velma DeckKrow

We salute this "Ship" with heart of steel
Hats off to your gallant crew
We're proud you are "Our Captain"
For we know you'll bring her thru.

You are bent on a mighty mission
And one that cannot fail
We're here to help, to give or take
To ride the calm and fight the gale.

Every inch of you a "Masterpiece"
For your builders deemed it so
You'll ride the sea like a queen of queens
When the signal comes to go.

We know not what the future brings
For that is an unwritten story
But you'll do the best and stand the test
Cause you fly "Our Flag, Old Glory".

You've been christened the "Collett"
We are proud you bear that name
For you'll set the pace to free the world
And you'll rest in the "Hall of Fame".

Task Force 58

By Joseph A. Ash

Thousands of miles away
Far from Diego, Frisco and L.A.
A mighty Force prowls, searching the Seas
Spread out for miles, every way.

“Cans”, Cruisers, the new BB’s⁸¹, Flattops⁸²,
As far as the eye can see
Not the old type, hit and run
Like back in ’41

But a new kind who
Away their salvos and their planes,
And then crowd right in

Anxious, but calm, hoping and praying, saying
Maybe this time—this must be the time
When the Nips will not run.

“Task Force 58”—Ranging the Seas;
One week here, the next, striking hard
At another place, far away.

Stalking, hunting, steel ships, with planes as hands
Outstretched; trying so hard to come to grips
With a frightened will-o-the-wisp.

Task Force 58—It sounds so strong
Mighty, powerful
Yes indeed, it’s our country, searching out
The Fleet of the Underworld

⁸¹ Bouncing Betties, or B52 bombers

⁸² aircraft carriers

Some day, in those Pacific waters
Contact will be made—and kept

And when that has been done
The march to the Philippines—Tokyo will
Really have begun.

Made easier, made possible by our mighty ships
Our mightier men, of “Task Force 58”.

Suicide Dives

By R.G. Jones

It was during the month of April
 Nineteen hundred forty-five
 We were just off Okinawa
 And all hell was in the sky.
 We were trying to guard a Task Force
 From those deadly suicide dives
 That were steadily approaching
 Through a sky that seemed alive.

All hands at battle stations
 It was a desperate situation
 “Enemy planes approaching”
 Come from combat information.
 Reports came by the dozens
 Giving our enemy’s location
 Flash Red, Control Yellow⁸³
 Were orders from communications.

There were “Raids” abeam to starboard
 Off our quarter to the port
 Planes burning in the water
 That were bagged by our escorts.
 To that Imperial Son of Tojo⁸⁴
 They have made their last reports
 While our gun crews rest at stations
 To them it’s just a sport.

⁸³ I believe these were the levels of urgency & security assigned to communications

⁸⁴ Hirohito, the Emperor of Japan at that time

They were trying to stop our Task Force
From invading their home land
They cracked down on our armies
When they landed in the sands.
They first knocked out some transports
Then crippled up some cans
But they haven't seen the ship yards
That work for Uncle Sam.

We were waiting at our stations
When the Japs took to the sky
When they started in their hell dives
You could see they meant to die.
We must admit a few drove home
But they are gone to stay
Now the rising sun is sinking
And they were the ones to pay.

Everyone is yearning
Just to get back home once more
Then we think of all the fellows
That did a lot more than their share.
We'll stay and fight these mad-men
Even though we may be scared
We will have "Flash White"⁸⁵ forever
When a peace has been declared.

⁸⁵ again, believed to be the levels of urgency & security assigned to a communication

Phantom of the Fleet

author unknown

The lookout saw the vessel pass
She had the lines of the Sumner Class
He'd seen her once in a history book
He shivered twice and then he shook

He phoned the bridge, "A vessel Sir."
A ghost ship by the look of her
The skipper paled and then he said
It's the 697, Full speed ahead.

If she catches us she'll pass the curse
And then forever ill or worse
We'll sail the ocean far and wide
Through storm and gale and racing tide.

Dropping astern the ghost ship sent,
A message, and this is how it went
"Do you have any US mail,
Or orders saying how long we'll sail?"

The only answer the ship could give
To the Charles S. Sperry was "Negative."
Then the Captain said, "She's sailed the sea,
In hurricanes and tropic breeze,

To China's seas from Caribbean isles
She's logged a Hundred thousand miles
To Tokyo Bay from Norfolk's shore
She's sailed a hundred years or more."

It happened back in forty-five,
Today there's not a man alive
Can say for certain what occurred,
For scuttlebutt is all I've heard

Nobody knows if a witches brew,
Put an eerie on Puritan's crew
Or if some one back at ComDesPac⁸⁶,
Forgot the orders to send them back

Still they sail on and on,
Until every drop of fuel is gone
Yet, in their hearts they had no fears,
The new orders read—one thousand years.

⁸⁶ Commander of the Destroyer Fleet of the Pacific

Destroyers

author unknown

The dungarees Navy has often been cussed,
By Battlewagon sailors, who always get fussed,
Whenever they see a Destroyer go by,
And pass on ahead, leaving smoke in the sky.

But soldiers who journeyed abroad in the war,
Were tickled to death when a gray shadow tore,
Up out of nowhere and circled around
Protecting the convoy like a seagoing hound.

And on the Destroyer, each gob⁸⁷ at his post
Watched fiercely for U-boats that threatened the host.
Their depth charges already and their guns ready too
'Twas then that the khaki⁸⁸ respected the Blue.

And "Lord!" How those Destroyers would roll
They'd stand on their sides like an up-ended bow
They'd plunge into seas and you'd think they were gone
they'd tremble all over and then plummet on.

To Battlewagon sailors each cruise was a treat
Compared to the lads of the Dungaree Fleet
And if you should doubt it just question, Old Hoss
Most any fine dough boy⁸⁹ who journeyed across.

⁸⁷ slang for sailor; according to American Heritage 4th ed., origin unknown (from gob of spit, in reference to the way the average sailor felt the Navy treated them?)

⁸⁸ the army, in reference to their khaki-colored uniforms

⁸⁹ Army soldier

References/Links

The following is a list of web sites consulted and perused in the preparation of this manuscript. My gratitude to the web masters (URLs are listed in alphabetical order within groups):

more information about the Charles S. Sperry, DD697:

- <http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/destroy/dd697txt.htm>
- <http://www.plateau.net/usn/dd/dd697/>

an excellent set of links for pursuing any naval/WWII topic:

- <http://www.bluejacket.com/links/>

general information on WWII:

- <http://members.xoom.com/ww2center/>
- <http://www.hazegray.org/>
- <http://www.what-if-you.com/>

Allied ship information:

- <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/9020/usn01.htm>
- <http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/>
- <http://www.plateau.net/usn/dd/>

Japanese ship information:

- <http://www.combinedfleet.com/>

WWII and service-related terminology:

- <http://www.hazegray.org/faq/>
- <http://www.hazegray.org/faq/smn2.htm>
(the sci.military.naval FAQ's)
- <http://www.nitro.co.za/warbirds/lexicon.html>
- <http://www.word-detective.com/index.html>
(non-military site, but many military-specific tidbits)

Allied aircraft photography and information:

- <http://1000pictures.com/aircraft/wwii/index.htm>
- <http://home.att.net/~C.C.Jordan/index.html>
- <http://members.aol.com/dins/collecar.htm> (hobbyist site)
- <http://www.hazegray.org/faq/ram1.htm>
- <http://www.naval-air.org/The%20Aircraft/>

Japanese aircraft photography and information:

- <http://www.nitro.co.za/warbirds/japan-mo.html>
- <http://www.skypoint.com/members/jbp/ijna/ijnaf.htm>
-
- <http://www.topedge.com/panels/aircraft/sites/gustin/japnam.html>

all WWII aircraft from all countries (in French):

- <http://myweb.worldnet.net/~emmpetit/aviation.htm>

the WWII A-bomb Museum:

- <http://www.csi.ad.jp/ABOMB/index.html>

Aircraft information

The following is a list of Allied & Japanese planes mentioned herein. Where found, the URL of a site detailing a particular plane is included.

Allied planes

F4F: the Wildcats

http://www.naval-air.org/The%20Aircraft/Wildcat_Main.htm

F4U: the Chance-Vought F4U Corsair fighter; also known as the Hawg, the Hose Nose, and the Ensign Eliminator

PBM: the PBM Mariner Patrol Bomber

http://www.martinstateairport.com/museum/aircraft/ch_12.htm

TBF: the Grumman TBF/Eastern TBM Avenger torpedo bomber; also known as the Turkey Bird

TBM: a variant of the TBF

<http://www.compass.dircon.co.uk/Avenger.htm>

Japanese planes

- Baka bomb:** the Yokosuka MXY7 "Ohka" model #11, a small, one-seat rocket plane used as a kamikaze bomber; carried 500 lbs. of explosives (*baka* is Japanese for 'stupid'; it is used to describe one's actions when one loses control due to there being no other course of action left)
- Betty:** the Mitsubishi G4M Hamaki bomber, characterized by its cigar shape
- Dinah:** the Mitsubishi Ki-46 twin-engine bomber
- Emily:** the Kawanishi H8K, a long-range reconnaissance 'flying boat', or seaplane
- Frances:** the Yokosuka P1Y Ginga bomber
- Frank:** the Nakajima Ki.84 Hayate, a one-seat fighter plane, reported to have been able to outmaneuver and out-climb any other fighter of its era
- Grace:** the Aichi B7A Ryusei, a twin-engine torpedo bomber
- Jill:** the Nakajima B6N Tenzan, another torpedo bomber often used for kamikaze attacks
- Myrte:** evidently a non-standard nickname, probably a variant of Myrtle; referent unknown
- Nick:** the Kawasaki Ki.45 Toryu, a twin-engine, two-seat long-range fighter
- Sally:** the Mitsubishi Ki.21 twin-engine bomber
<http://www.topedge.com/panels/aircraft/sites/gustin/jap/KI21MITS.html>
- Val:** the Aichi D3A2 dive bomber
- Zeke:** the Mitsubishi A6M fighter, more commonly known as the Zero

The Sperry's First Crew

The following were the men assigned to the Sperry at her commissioning, according to a photocopied personnel list given to my father. (The quality of the document was quite poor; please contact me if any errors were introduced: varden@luna.email.ac.jp) Names underlined are plank owners, men assigned to her when her keel was laid.

Officers

Dennison, C.P.	Holliday, G.T.	Pierce, R.O.
Engel, L.G.	Kennedy, J.E.	Siegmund, T.C.
Ferrell, G.V.	Le Baron, W.F.	Spooner, J.C.
Field, J.L.	Maish, R.A.	Tulin, G.A.
French, K.W.	Mcilhenny, H.H.	Williams, G.W.
Goodrich, J.E.	O'Rourke, I.	Young, W.C.
Higgins, J.A.	Osann, E.W.	

Enlisted Men

Abdon, F.E.	Benedetto, B.G.	<u>Bollerman, E.E.</u>
Adair, W.T.	Bentley, K.W.	<u>Bonadies, F.J.</u>
Allen, R.	Bentivegna, P.K.	Borthwick, J.J.
Anderson, H.L.	<u>Bergeron, c.d.</u>	<u>Bosari, E.H.</u>
Andreae, C.J.	<u>Bergin, T.W.</u>	Bottorff, J.J.
Ashton, T.J.	<u>Bernstein, H.E.</u>	Boudreau, J.G.R.
Atkins, C.W.	Besson, L.	Bourassa, W.J.
<u>Augliano, L.J.</u>	Beswick, R.F.	<u>Bowers, E.S.</u>
Baker, G.E.	<u>Bevan, R.E.</u>	<u>Bowey, J.T.</u>
Baker, M.J.	Bilcz, A	Boyce, J.H.
Bankston, W.W.	Billen, S.	<u>Boyes, J.H.</u>
Barnes, M.D.	<u>Blanchard, F.H.</u>	<u>Boyle, J.H.</u>
Barszcx, M.	<u>Blasich, R.J.</u>	Bradfield, R.A.
<u>Beck, G.O.</u>	<u>Blei, A.W.</u>	Bragg, H.F.
<u>Bella, J.G.</u>	Block, L.O.	Brann, R.W.
Beller, W.G.	<u>Bock, W.C.</u>	<u>Breen, J.H.</u>
Bender, C.R.	Bodogh, E.R.	Brennan, R.W.
<u>Benedetto, L.J.</u>	Bogue, R.D.	<u>Brewer, F.R.</u>

Brewer, W.H.
 Brewster, H.E.
Bria, G.
 Briggs, J.O.
Briggs, W.H.
Brim, A.J.
Brooks, C.
 Brova, G.B.
 Brown, L.S.
Brown, R.C.
 Brundage, I.J.
 Bryan, R.J.
 Buchanan, J.T.
Buchanan, W.J.
 Burnham, C.D.
 Burnham, J.R.
Burnette, J.R.
Burke, J.
Burley, H.T.
Burns, R.F.
 Burnstein, B.L.
 Butler, H.L.
 Burton, R.S.
Butts, E.L.
 Calkins, W.E.
Callahan, F.P.
Callahan, J.L.
 Campana, L.
 Candiloro, T.J.
 Cannon, T.R.
 Carter, L.T.
Catinella, L.A.
 Chamberland, R.J.
Chiusano, C.C.
Christi, P.
 Cline, C.R.
 Cline, D.E.
Cobb, F.
 Coffey, J.J.
Cole, N.J.
 Collier, M.J.
 Collins, E.R.
 Cone, C.R.
Confer, R.K.
 Corley, C.S.
Corn, J.R.
 Corzine, J.L.
Cox, I.L.
Crain, N.J.
 Cultice, V.F.
 Daignault, P.C.
 David, L.W.
 Davila, L.M.
Davis, L.
 Davis, M.H.
 Davis, T.L.
 Davis, V.E.
 Defibaugh, H.A.
 Delaney, W.G.
Delius, P.E.
Dennard, A.L.
Deneut, G.H.
 Dent, C.R.
Diesner, R.J.
Dilger, B.J.
 Diore, F.A.
 Dix, K.E.
Dorsey, G.C.
Doyle, T.G.
 Duncan, E.A.
 Duncan, P.I.
 Duncan, B.J.
Durham, H.M.
 Egeberg, E.M.
 Edmonds, P.P.
 Eidenberg, A.
 Ellsworth, L.C.
 Ellis, R.K.
 Evans, S.H.
 Felix, F.R.
Forquer, W.A.
 Fillingim, F.E.
Francis, L.D.
 Frazier, W.L.
 Fumento, D.
 Gaines, D.H.
 Gaiser, A.V.
 Galdaukas, A.J.
Gallagher, J.D.
 Gerhart, E.H.
 Gibson, O.L.
 Gilber, E.H.
 Girard, W.R.
Gluth E.J.
 Goad, R.E.
 Gordon, B.W.
 Gray, K.M.
Griffin, G.E.
Grogan, H.N.
Gross, J.J.
 Groves, L.O.
Gurganious, B.R.
 Gutierrez, R.
 Hall, E.H.
 Hall, H.
 Harris, S.C.
Hercet, C.H.
 Hobwood, L.
Hokanson, C.O.
 Holmes, J.S.
 Homes, T.S.
Hollarn, C.E.
 Holcomb, J.E.
 Hooper, O.S.
Hosterman, G.H.
Householder, S.E.
 Howard, L.F.
 Hughes, J.F.
 Howell, J.R.
Isaacs, G.L.
 Jackson, H.
 Jackson, L.E.
Johnson, H.S.
 Jones, R.C.
 Jordan, T.
Jurgens, W.G.

Killeen, M.E.
Katz, A.
 Kirkland, J.G.
 Klein, W.C.
 Droeper, N.
Kuntz, H.G.
 Lacks, J.H.
 Lanza, J.J.
 Leko, W.N.
 Liebhaber, J.S.
Lawrence, T.
Lilley, W.N.
 Lingenfelder, W.E.
 Lipscomb, F.H.
 Lindsey, E.F.
 Loft, R.D.
Long, J.W.
 Long, O.S.
 Lord, E.E.
Luckado, W.R.
 Lueders, C.C.
MacDonald, J.J.
 Macon, W.C.
Magnuson, G.E.
Maltby, G.M.
 Mancinelli, A.
Mann, W.W.C.
 Marrill, N.H.
 Maurillo, V.
 Mazur, S.
McAdco, W.A.
 McCoy, J.A.
McCrackin, G.C.
 McNeely, R.P.
 McNerny, R.H.
 Mesek, H.A.
Miller, L.F.
 Misko, J.
Meyer, E.H.
Moe, W.L.
 Moffett, T.S.
Morrison, P.F.

Moilanan, Y.M.
 Mondrick, A.
 Moore, E.N.
Muller, R.E.
 Murphy, F.M.
 Musctave(?), C.E.
 Nichols, R.H.
 Norman, C.R.
O'barr, R.L.
 Olyer, R.H.
 Osborne, F.K.
 Pallotta, J.D.
 Parks, J.G.
 Parks, M.
 Parsons, E.E.
 Patmon, J.W.
 Patterson, J.D.
 Payne, L.H.
 Peters, A.
Petitt, M.V.
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