

The U.S.S. RANDOLPH



WWII CRUISE CHRONICLE
By Dr. Richard Williams

THE WORLD WAR CHRONICLE
OF
U.S.S. RANDOLPH/CV15

10/9/44 - Ship moved over to Portsmouth for commissioning. Randolph becomes a U.S. Naval vessel.

10/20 - Ship moves from slip to dry dock for work on the bottom.

11/3 - To Naval Operating Base for degaussing and loading ammo.

11/5 - Shoved off for bay trials - planes came aboard - Cag 87 - in the bay from Annapolis to Ft. Story most of the time - out into the Atlantic about 450 miles - very rough sea.

11/19 - Back to NOB.

11/22 - Shoved off for shakedown - very rough seas - escorted by two cans and the Shangri La.

11/25 - Sited Puerto Rico.

11/27 - Sited Venezuela and Tobago.

11/28 - Entered the Dragon's Mouth and arrived Port of Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I. Manuevers in the Bay of Paria. Full and flank speed runs- 34+ knots - crashed stops and full reverse runs - drastic tests well performed. Lost 5 pilots, 1 radio man and 1 seaman. Gunnery

practice. Liberties in Trinidad at Scotland Bay - U.S.S. Guam arrives.

12/15 - Shangri La returns to Virginia for Christmas. We shove off for the west coast.

12/20 - Sited the isthmus of Panama. Tied up at Cristobal, Canal Zone.

12/21 - Transit Panama Canal - Gatun locks and Gatun Lake anchored for defouling. Traversed Calebra cut, Miraflores lake and locks. Arrived Balboa. Liberty in Panama City.

12/22 - Shoved off for San Francisco. Sited occasional islands off of Costa Rica, Guatamala, Mexico and Southern California. Christmas at sea.

12/31 - At dawn sited Fairline Islands and Golden Gate. Under the bridges and past Alcatraz and anchored for the tide. Docked at Hunters Point - 7 day leave begins for the first section. We're in the company of the Alaska, Intrepid, Belleau Wood, Omaha and Iowa.

1/6 - First leave expires. Liberty for second section.

1/18 - Moved over to Alameda to take on planes and ammo. The work at Hunters Point was mostly armament. Cag 12 comes aboard.

1/20 - Shoved off rather abruptly. Accompanied by Belleau Wood, Birmingham and several cans. Air operations en route. Pacific is very rough.

1/26 - Sited Diamond Head, Oahu. Arrived Pearl Harbor. Islands and the city are beautiful from the sea - First liberty begins. Tied up at Ford Island adjacent to the remains of Battleship Row.

1/29 - Shoved off for an unknown advance base. Accompanied by Belleau Wood, Saratoga, Bennington, Bunker Hill, Alaska and 7 cans comprising TF58. Mark Mitscher with us.

1/30 - Saratoga loses a pilot in the sea-depth charges shake Randolph.

1/31 - Another pilot in the drink - refueling the Harris - heavy seas break lines, 2 men overboard picked up. Submarine contact 20 miles.

2/2 - Dateline, lose a day. Refueling again, more lines broken.

2/3 - Jap island 40 miles south (Marshall?). Tokyo Rose throws propaganda daily.

2/4 - Friendly planes tow sleeves for gunnery practice. Martin B26's from Eniwetok.

2/5 - Jap held Truk about 150 miles south. Plane contact - probably reconnaissance from now on. Submarine contact - Manila falls!

2/6/45 - Launched drones for gunnery. First real scare - enemy planes from Truk.

2/7/45 - Arrived Ulithi atoll - sea on all sides covered to the horizon with ships - about 12CV, 20-24CVE, BB's and C's innumerable. Aviation machinist mate first

class died from drinking torpedo juice.

2/8 - Visited Solace, Hornet, Lexington, Saratoga, Bennington, Bunker Hill, Enterprise, Yorktown, Wasp and Astoria. Transfer of many ships personnel.

2/9 - Visited Baltimore and San Francisco. Got 400 pints of fresh blood aboard, some ships are leaving port.

2/10 - Shove off from Ulithi for a strike at the Jap - probably the homeland. Air Force comprised of 5 groups; our group is the Yorktown, Randolph, Langley and Belleau Wood, Washington, North Carolina, about 3 cruisers and 16 cans. The entire force comprised of 11 CV's (all that are operational at this time), 11 CVL's, 8 BB's, 32 light cruisers, 20 heavy cruisers, 72 cans. We can launch approximately 1100 planes.

2/11 - Highballing east around the Marianas-40 miles off Guam and then due north for Tokyo - looks like the Shangri La has the wrong name - we're surely the Tokyo Express - looks like they were just waiting for the Randolph. Dope is out now that this is D -4. We'll strike Tokyo while the CVE Force and Marines hit Iwo Jima and invade.

2/12 - Pilots are being briefed on Tokyo, on what to do if taken prisoner, on air sea rescue and so forth. Submarines in force are now awaiting us off Yokahama (ours).

2/13 - Rendezvous today with oilers and the rest of the task force. Ships on all sides as far as one can see. Crash landing of a plane

from the Cabot. Numerous radar contacts of enemy. Fast run past Marcus Island today after good blasting by Army and Navy bombers from Saipan. All ships are fueling to capacity. All readiness for battle. Strip ship for action.

2/14 - Further fueling. Close battle formation. Intensive air patrols. All hands to battle stations. Tin cans are refueling every day. The skipper says contact and snoopier attacks are imminent. Today is Ash Wednesday.

2/15 - At 0400 we were 400 miles off Tokyo and full speed ahead. Just one day's run now to Tokyo Rose.

2/16 - Hit Tokyo at dawn. Tokyo radio screamed like a bunch of carrions and left the air. Cold, rain and cloudy, sunny over Tokyo. Aircraft opposition light. We lose about 3 planes. Factories and airfields are blasted. Submarines do air sea rescue. Our cans sink Jap subs. Fighters in good spirits. Randy unmolested. Beat back to sea at night. Only 40 miles off Japan at one time.

2/17 - Returned at dawn and hit the Jap again. Bombers this time destroyed many aircraft on the ground and target factories. Flak is heavier. Randolph loses 5 planes, gets about 50 Japs. Fire and crash on deck. Sea is rough, cold, cloudy - knocked off early and headed south. Dope is that we refuel tomorrow and hit the Bonins next day. Tokyo radio says we have been repulsed with the loss of 142 aircraft, 20 ships, including 1 CV - we haven't lost a row boat nor fired a shot and

are still attacking. San Francisco radio gives us headlines. This has been ample revenge for Pearl Harbor. Battan falls.

2/18 - Retiring southward to lick our wounds. Swept past Chichi Jima and blasted the Jap again. Lose about 7 men. Flack heavy. One of our ships is damaged. Movies of the Tokyo raid on board. Our group said to have destroyed 250 Jap aircraft and innumerable hangars and strips, factories and gun and placements. Corregidor falls!

2/19 - Speeding south to Iwo Jima Jap radio says 3 landings have been repulsed. Actually we haven't tried to land yet. We joined CVE force and will comprise about 2,000 planes. We learn that we destroyed 300 Jap aircraft yesterday. Our losses today over Iwo Jima from CVE force are pretty heavy. Reported to be no Jap aircraft left there but heavy flack. Marines landed at 0900 today and are doing well.

2/20 - Quiet day. Sent up lots of aircraft all armed to the teeth with bombs, rockets, fire bombs, guns and so forth. All return unharmed. Marine have taken one airfield on Iwo. Pilots and planes replaced from CVE-got 7 new fighters, 3 bombers and 2 torpedo planes. Now have a full complement again. Gunnery practice. Randolph always seems to outdo others. Fueling operations at every opportunity. Sending CAP's and SNASP's every day. Strike at both HaHa Jima and Iwo Jima.

2/21 - Fuel from tender along side. Strike again at HaHa and Iwo. Quiet day until evening when General Quarters is called. Jap

bogies closing from southwest low over the water approach to within 5 miles when we opened fire. They retired. One probably shot down. Japs are dropping window to confuse our radar. Sited a volcanic isle-Kita Iwo Jima.

2/20 - Seven planes on deck destroyed by gunfire. Continuous strikes at Iwo Jima. Marines having trouble blasting the Japs out of volcanic caves and gullies. Twice as many Japs there as expected (20,000). Terrain is very difficult, volcano serves as a 3,000 ft. observation and gun directing tower (Surabachi).

2/23 - Still supporting the Marines in Iwo. They're having a tough go. Bad weather prevents bombardment and artillery direction. We hear that Jap Betty's the other night sank a CVE and damaged the Saratoga. Saratoga has turned back, reported to have taken kamakases and the CVE was apparently the Bismark Sea.

2/24 - Terrific storm lashes the task force. One DD is stove in and turns back sinking, one reported capsized. BB's and CL's do well but CV's take a beating, waves crash over the flight deck at 100 feet and destroy 7 planes, wreck two 40 milimeter mounts on the bow, destroy the catwalks, wash one man overboard, overstrained our expansion joint, one Randolph plane lands on the Yorktown, drops fire bombs, starts a fire, guns go off and shoot 7 men, 3 planes and radar antenna.

2/25 - Tokyo raid all day. Weather foul, visibility 100 feet. We lose 1 plane, destroy about 17 Japs in the air and 55 on the

ground plus 12 small coastal craft. Secured early due to weather and hightailed it west. Randolph shudders and bumps and jolts like I never felt before.

2/26 - Operation Tokyo cancelled due to weather. Proceed south with no opposition. Weather improving - probably headed for Nogoya. Hear that Saratoga took four suicide planes and was pretty badly beat up above deck.

2/27 - Routine CAP flights. Hear the Marines have Iwo well in hand. We are retiring to Ulithi again. Refuel from AO64 Chickapee and get mail aboard. The Washington, North Carolina, San Diego are along side. More bogies at night. Night fighters are launched - no contacts.

2/28 - Spent a good day topside in the sun. Sudden rain squalls. Gunnery practice. Randolph beats all on 5" 38's at 4 miles. Landed replacements for our planes. Visitors aboard from the Yorktown.

3/1 - Arrived at Ulithi early in the day. Many ships here but only a fraction of those we saw before. Three units of Task Force 58 are on a photographic mission. Many are still at Iwo. Commence loading ammo and stores.

3/2 - Liberties ashore. Transfer patients from sick bay.

3/3 - Liberties ashore.

3/4 - Other groups of the Task Force arrive including the Bennington, Wasp, Lexington,

Hornet and all of our CV's except the Saratoga who is damaged and home for repairs. And the Lexington who is home for 30 days leave and general overhaul.

3/5 - Liberties ashore. Loading stores, ammo and fuel. Hear we're going out for a few days practice.

3/6 - Franklin and Ticonderoga join.

3/7 - Liberties ashore.

3/8 - Visited the Essex - saw photos and results of suicide bombers. Visited the Massachusetts, the Relief, Yorktown and others.

3/9 - Shove off for a few days gunnery and flight operations. Firing at large drones and surface targets at night with illumination.

3/10 - Further practice operations. One bomber dives into the drink. Three men lost. Return to Ulithi.

3/11 - Liberties ashore. Movie on the hangar deck. At approximately 2010 hours the ship was shaken terribly and there was a loud blast. We went to general quarters. The sick bay is quickly filled with wounded, smoke is everywhere, and water is pouring down from above. All sorts of scuttlebut but everyone was sure for the moment that we were sinking. We finally hear that we were hit by a two engine bomber, the Frances, a Jap kamakasi. Many killed and injured. Wounded are being dug out of the debris all night. Fires

brought under control.

3/12 - Continuous work on the wounded and on the damage. Estimated over 100 wounded, 28 dead, 7 or more missing. A few bodies were found in the harbor. 3 Japs were found in the wreckage all badly burned, but the insignia and some clothing and jewelry is intact. The whole after end of the ship is badly damaged. Apparently the bomb entered at the gallery deck and the plane hit the flight deck. Continued to dig out the dead. Rammed by a fire boat. Much damage apparently was done by 40mm and 5" shrapnel from our own ammo. Doctors come aboard from the Essex to help. Begin clearing debris. Funeral services for 18 dead. Transfer many wounded to the U.S.S. Relief.

3/13 - Debris is nearly cleared. Admiral Spruance and Mitcher aboard to survey. Learn that we get patched up here for the next operation. Repair ship along side. We hear that about 30 aircraft were ruined. The after guns and the radio towers, the flight deck, hangar deck aft, the fantail, radio shack, engine repair room, metal and machine shop, all ruined down to the second deck. Otherwise we are ready for immediate action. All quiet again at night.

3/14 - Find a few more bodies in the debris. Several of our men die on board the U.S.S. Relief. Work begins on repairing the ship from the U.S.S. Jason alongside. Fifth fleet pulls out leaving us. It's reported they're going on an operation of some 60 to 90 days and possibly the last of the war since they're landing on the China coast probably around

Shanghi. Our damage is appraised and it is felt it will take 2-4 weeks for patchwork permitting us to get in on this operation and after that we may return to the states for a good repair.

3/15 - Seventh fleet pulls in from Iwo. Apparently the slug match is over there and it remains only to dig the stragglers out. Repair work progresses rapidly.

3/16 - Air group goes ashore to carry out bombing of Truk and Yap. Debris and destroyed parts of the ship are almost all torn out. New girders and plates - purely patchwork. With us are the Texas, Tennessee, Maryland, New York, Colorado and others. A fire breaks out on board the San Francisco. We send our fire party and the fire's extinguished. The facilities ashore are pulling out. Crowley's Tavern has closed. Nothing worth going ashore for anymore.

3/17 - Routine carries on. Repair work is progressing. A typhoon is reported approaching. We cast off the Jason and make ready for sea.

3/18 - The typhoon passed with only heavy rain squalls. A Jap snooper is reported at 5 miles and seen by radar and lookout. To General Quarters on the double. A cruiser comes in with 8 shell hits of 8" high explosives from Iwo.

3/19 - Japs favorite day for attack, Sunday, passed uneventfully. A gun mount blows up on a nearby can. Our boys are hitting Yap and Truk heavily. The rest of the task force is

hitting Kobe area - only scant reports.

3/20 - British fleet comes in composed of 3 CV's, 2 BB's, 2 CA's, 2CL's and many small craft. Report the Franklin hit by 2 kamikasis being towed here by the Pittsburgh. Machinery disabled by torpedo. She has been in battle area only one week.

3/21 - Seventh fleet pulls out. The British goes with them. We're pretty much alone. No reports on the condition of our outfit or what they're doing yet. Our repairs will take another week and then we will replace the Franklin. All Navy show on board today with Clyde Thornhill's band, Dennis Day, Jackie Cooper and other notables.

3/22 - Jap bogie on the screen tonight at the usual hour of strike. All hands to quarters. Shot down at 65 miles by night fighters. Word of our task force striking inside the East China Sea and blasting the Jap fleet damaging several BB's, 2 CV's and many smaller warships and hundreds of planes. Word of 4 more CV's being hit and proceeding here.

3/23 - Reported that the Franklin now on their own power at 6 knots. Others hit are the Intrepid, Yorktown, Enterprise and Wasp. Fleets still striking around Riukiu Islands, Okinawa next. The lagoon fills up again with ships of the train mostly Marines, probably the 6th from Guadalcanal. The Panamint is here at South Anchorage, Liberty on Falalop and Asor Islands. Five hospital ships are in the lagoon including the Hope, Solace, Bountiful, Mercy and Relief.

3/24 - Our repairs are nearly complete. 3 CV's limp into the lagoon today; the Franklin with a bad hole starboard after flight and hangar decks and the same thing forward, with all starboard 40mm and 5" guns knocked out and damage to the island and radar; Enterprise with a dent to midships at the waterline from a near miss and a bad mess at the forward starboard 5" gun mount; the Wasp with bad list to port, no damage visible from here, but all planes are off. The harbor is filled with small invasion craft ready to move. This is Dog minus 8 for operation Iceberg.

3/25 - Hear that the Franklin has 1,300 casualties, 500 dead and 200 missing.

3/26 - Visit the Wasp. She had 130 dead, bomb apparently a 750 lb. armor piercing type went through the flight and hangar decks and exploded in the 2nd and 3rd decks destroying the galley, messing space and laundry. She was not at general quarters, had just secured from 18 hours, was just 20 miles off a Jap island and radar and IFF not much help.

3/27 - Visit the Franklin. She is a deathly ghost ship. Only 500 aboard. She had over 1,300 casualties and 600 dead, 300 still missing and presumed dead. Still finding dead in the debris 8 days later. 18 sick bay patients were killed. She is burned out from stem to stern and from mast to waterline, just a rusty shell with chaos inside. She took several armor piercing bombs at a most inopportune time. Not at General Quarters and the mess decks were cleared for breakfast. Squadron was on deck, bombed up and with Tiny Tim rockets aboard, pilots turning over their

motors, 32 tons of our own bombs exploded and rockets, gasoline and rocket motors, which are super flamethrowers. The flight deck simply evaporated, the hangar deck swept clean and below decks was gutted with fire. Many suffocated, burned and drowned, many abandoned ship to the San Diego who came alongside at 25 knots and got bashed in some too. Apparently few wounded, either killed, missing or unharmed. Word is that she may be decommissioned at least she won't fight this war again. Will scavenger some of her gear. I liberated 78 quarts of Old Overholt. The Marines of the 1st, 2nd and 6th from Guadalcanal are here and ready for Okinawa.

3/28 - The entire amphibious force had pulled out under cover of night. The Franklin and Wasp just under way for the States. There is still some Army here in reserve. Our forces are now bombarding the Okinawa Beach. No further ships reported hit.

3/29 - Randolph becomes flag ship of Carrier Division Four. Flag comes aboard. Admiral Bogan and staff of 17 officers. Typhoon warnings. Wind reaches 47 knots and Randolph drags both hooks. We get under way to ride out the storm.

3/30 - Air group continues to bomb Yap, loading stores, tanker alongside for refueling.

3/31 - All ready to shove off. We hear that the Franklin is en route to the east coast for decommissioning.

4/1 - Easter Sunday, April Fool's Day, "D" Day

on Okinawa and departure day for the Randolph. We shove off early for flight operations and gunnery and trial run for machinery. Planes come aboard. We lose one 4F over the side, pilot is okay. Marines and Army land on Okinawa in strength. Said to be well over 100,000 men on the first day, greater than the operation at Normandy.

4/2 - Continue flight and gunnery operations off Ulithi. The Britishers, with our fleet, turn out to be the King George V, the Queen Elizabeth, the Valiant battleships and the Indomitable, Indefatigable, Illustrious and Victorious carriers. They're doing a good job. Exciting gunnery shooting down a maneuvering drone. Simulated attacks on ships and bombing practice on slicks. Randolph performing well on her repeat shakedown.

4/3 - Continue gunnery and flight operations. Arrive Ulithi again. This is the end of Ulithi as a forward base. Everything will move out. Reportedly to the northeast. Luzon or maybe even to one of the Ryukyus.

4/4 - Fire on the port quarter, bilge oil on the water, ignited by a welder spark, flames lash to the flight deck height - Two casualties.

4/5 - Shove off at dawn to rejoin Task Force 58. Enterprise is ready also.

4/6 - Heading north by northwest at full speed. Enterprise and 9 carriers are with us. Flying daily continuous CAP and SNASPs. We are to be considered operational at midnight and will strike day after tomorrow.

4/7 - Refueling from a tanker at dawn. Join Task Force 58 today. We get the Independence, North Carolina, Washington, several AA cruisers and CVE's. We hear that yesterday a large enemy air force attacked Task Force 58 south of Kiushiu and 116 were shot down, 55 by planes the rest by ship's guns - No damage to the fleet. A crippled CVL went by during the night, probably the Belleau Wood - Enemy fleet is reported nearby. Flash. Enemy fleet contacted and attacked. The Yamato, their largest battleship, is sunk. Two CVL's and two CV's were sunk. Many damaged including 3 cans. We lost 7 planes. Damage to our ships was moderate - hits on the Hancock, the Cabot and 3 cans were sunk. We downed 30 more Jap planes. There was no air cover for their fleet and the Yamato took 8 torpedos and 8 bombs. Our ships are retiring to Ulithi.

4/8 - This is D+ 8 and we're off Okinawa bombing and covering 2 islands north of here to keep the Jap grounded. Invasion is going well. Bogies on the screen all days. Airplanes got a Frances yesterday at 21 miles and a Frances today in sight. We lose 1 plane from the Randolph. Rumor of more Jap fleet in the area, General Quarters all day. Enemy planes ranging around us all day coming into 5 miles, some overhead. Enemy surface force closes in and then runs.

4/9 - Hear that the Cabot has gone back to the States. Our force now comprises 7 CV's, 7CVL's, the Independence is alongside. Mitcher has retired and our Admiral is pinch hitting for him. Task Force 58.2 now

comprises Randolph, Enterprise, Independence, North Carolina, Washington, Pittsburgh, 2 CL's, and 2 CA's and many cans. Maybe the Pittsburgh is here to tow us like she towed the Franklin. Don't know how bad the Hancock was hit. Our BB's got several Jap planes on horizon today and our DD's sunk a Jap sub just off our bow. Air strike today at Okinawa. One of our pilots landed on Okinawa and returned to the ship with souvenirs. He says the natives are not hostile and that the terrain looks like Ohio. He said the Japs had plenty of fortifications and can't see why they didn't fight. General Quarters and battle rations all day.

4/10 - Very quiet day. Attacks against Okinawa and nearby islands continue. We lost one plane but the pilot was picked up by the Baltimore. General Quarters all day. We hear that the Yamoto was 850' long, 125' beam, carried 9-16", 24-5" and many other guns. She was sunk by a VT84 which is a unit trained by Lt. Beareau aboard this ship who recently received a citation for his work in perfecting our aerial torpedo. This is a big event in U.S. Naval history because this was no lucky hit. This ship was suppose to be impregnable and was well screened by anti-aircraft

4/11 - We have retired to the southeast and are refueling. The whole Task Force covers the sea to the horizon in every direction. Small ships are coming alongside all day for transfer of personnel and gear, ice cream, mail and so forth. We hear that there will be another landing on Okinawa on Friday the 13th. We will be there. Flash. Okinawa reports that they will need help. The Japs have the

largest group of banzai boys ever assembled in Kiushui ready to blast Okinawa. We stop fueling operations pronto and head north to be there by dawn to intercept them. General Quarters at midnight. Bogies approaching. Randolph shoots down one Judy.

4/12 - Steaming north full speed. Everyone expects a rugged day. Suicide planes are attacking the beach in force hitting LSM's and DD's. General Quarters at 2am. More bogies. Planes splash two bombers. The Indianapolis is hard hit and heads home. The West Virginia and Nevada are hit but remain operation. The Shangri La is on her way here from Pearl. Excitement all day. General Quarters off and on. All day. Bogies at 65, 20 and 30 miles. Neighboring Task Force under attack and shoots down 1 Zeke. Reported submarine wakes close by last night - Snoopers around all day. Flying CAP over Okinawa and Amami Shima all day. 4 flights of 16 VF each, 3 hours each. Saw Betty go down on horizon. More excitement at night. Jap keeps coming in all night, gives us no rest at all, bogies all over. Jap planes dropping flares over the Task Group but no attack. Heavy Naval gunfire on horizon and ack ack above, this and flares are beautiful at night. Our own DD fires on one of our night fighters. Our night fighters shoot down one Jap. The day's score over this area is 83 Japs down. One of our planes return with a piece of a Dinah in her. One of our boys splashed Judys.

4/13 - Yesterday was a hard one, today may be the same. We hear of President Roosevelt's death. Eisenhower reports the Yanks are 65 miles from Berlin and all organized resistance

is over. We hear today that our running mate the Enterprise, was hit last night and is en route to the states. She took heavy damage to her screws and main generators. There have been 9 major CV hits since we got here and out of a total of 18 CV's only 7 are operational. For the past month the Jap has gotten better than one a week. Quiet today flying CAP for the Task Force. Gunfire splashed the Betty tonight.

4/14 - Strikes today in support of the 24th Corps and the southern attack force in Okinawa. Considerable air activity. One midget sub sighted near the ship but escaped. One Zeke splashed at dawn. No further threat to the ship. We're in awfully close to the shore. Went topside and saw smoke on the horizon from a Judy we just shot and witnessed an air attack on Plunger Base, the neighboring task group. Another major attack on our force. Bogies from all sides. The ship's announcer got talking so fast he finally said "hell there are bogies on all sides, I give up". Our planes splashed 2 Bettys and 3 Zekes, 3 by one pilot. The whole force knocked down 37 Japs. One suicide plane hits one of our DD screens and blasts the whole end off. Taken in two by another DD. No one killed. One of our pilots hits the silk. Bogies coming in all day. Just after securing from General Quarters at night we have a surprise attack lasting over one hour. Bandits come in from all sides and drop about 24 flares lighting the whole sea and silhouetting us and then attack from the opposite side. They attack from 280 degrees on the port bow. Ships guns shoot down one Jap just off the bow, another comes alongside

and drops 2 bombs. Randy is taking water on the 6th deck. Guns down another Jap. Nightfighters down 3 more. The ship bounces and reels in elusive course. The men yell like at a football game at every hit. Flack is everywhere. Our own plane's tracers stay too close. And DD's shells are too close - Ack Ack cruiser nearby throws up such a fire it looks like she's exploding. Finally it all quiets down and our chickens come home to roost. None missing or damaged. At midnight all was quiet.

4/15 - Quiet day. General Quarters routine from 5am to 7am and 4:30-7:30pm, dawn to dusk alerts. We hear that the total Jap plane losses to Task Force 58 through this operation to date are over 850 shot out of the air by planes, 320 on the ground and 79 by ship's gunfire. We've lost less than 75. We made the usual raids on Okinawa in support of the Army. Today we pulled a fast one. Reconnaissance reported 150 Jap suicide planes concentrated on Southern Kiushui, probably ready to repeat yesterday's attack. So we sent 120 fighters with rockets up there and blast them before they have a chance to leave. Therefore no attacks today. The sea is calm, the sky is clear. Several of our planes on deck were ruined by concussion from our own 5" guns last night. . Tomorrow we refuel.

4/16 - Refueling from A060 . Take rockets aboard. Have a restful day. We hear that the rest of the group who left is under attack. We go in again tomorrow with Task Force 58.3. The Bunker Hill, Essex, Independence, Randolph, several CVL's and CV's, battleships and so forth, the largest of all groups and

the front line position under Admiral Mitcher. Bogan is temporarily inactive - We set out at dusk.

4/17 - Big day as expected. Attack before dawn and before we join Task Force 58.3. We were pretty weak. 0500 attack by Jap for 3 hours. One Zeke comes at 70 feet over the full length of our deck and splashes off our bow. Very bad because we had all planes aboard and bombed up for dawn raid. Ships guns shoot down several and others on the horizons are seen fall. 0900. Another raid in force closes from 30 miles. 9 are splashed by our fighter screen. Many come in. One drops 2 bombs straddling our ship and giving it a good bounce and then he explodes off the port bow at 70 feet. Another is exploded off the starboard beam as a suicide dives and 2 pilots bail out but are dead when picked up. Many try to strafe us. One suicide dives about 50 foot astern of the Baltimore, another just misses the Independence. Randy guns shoot down 3. Our planes claim 9. The rest of the ships probably got 5. 1215 hours. Bandit closes from 35 miles to 6 miles at 30,000 feet. No doubt a dive bomber. Ack ack routes him and he opens to 20 miles with angels on his tail. Two bettys are splashed. 1630 hours. Bandits at 30 miles. They don't close. We hear that the Intrepid took a kamikazi again and is withdrawing for repairs. That's her 3rd hit this year. We are retiring tonight with the rest of 58.3 who needs fuel. A Jap pilot is taken aboard the Bunker Hill which is Mitcher's flag.

4/18 - The night was quiet. There are only 6 CV's left out of 18. We hear that the Hancock

took her bomb in officers. Country and lost 29 officers. We spent the day in retired position while Task Force 58.3 refueled. We hear that there are many bogies up north all day. There is to be a big push on Okinawa and we are to support it closely. Loading planes tonight with 1,000 lb. bombs and napalm fire tanks. Army Colonel wired us today that the support we gave yesterday was the best he'd ever seen. Our planes dropped four 500 lb. bombs each on gunning placements over southern Okinawa.

4/19 - Big push today. -BB's and CA's lay into the beach and bombard. Many land base bombers. We send over 300 from our group. TBF's carry 2,000 lb. SB2C's carry 1,000 lbs. and rocket VVF's carry 500 lbs. and rockets and napalm. Little to no opposition. We hear that the Ticonderoga was hit 2 days ago. The Intrepid is en route to the States. That leaves 6 of us in operation.

4/20 - Three months today since we left San Francisco. Time has passed rapidly. We struck south Okinawa today. The Marines have secured the north but the Army is still struggling in the south. We flew more sorties today than ever before. 148 sorties. We gave the Jap 41 tons of TNT from this ship alone plus rockets, napalm and gunfire. We haven't lost a plane in a long while. Alert at 8pm for bogie closing at 30 miles - He is routed and angels pursue. Japs sunk a DD today, broke it right in half and sunk it in 6 minutes. Alert again at midnight. Our night fighters route and splash one Judy, one Betty. Night fighters are up all night.

4/21 - We have now over 6,000 deck launches and 2,000 catapults. More of the latter than any ship except the Enterprise. Today again we strike on Okinawa with heavy bomb loads. No opposition all day but at 8pm there is an alert and bogies close at 6 miles and are fired on by TG58.4. Very pretty fireworks. Bogies routed by the night fighters. There's a big fire on the flight deck today following a crash landing - Very efficiently extinguished. Again at 12 midnight, 3am and 4am we are attacked by 13 bandits. Night fighters splashed 2 and gun fire 1.

4/22 - Again today we have launched heavy rocket and bomb attacks on Okinawa. Quiet morning. At 2am a bogie approached and our gunfire brought down a Betty off our port quarter. Another passes directly overhead at 25,000 feet but kept going. Again at 5pm we hear of 13 tonies approaching loaded with torpedos. Our planes splash 4 at 6 miles and the Essex planes splash 4 more. The rest retire. At dusk we head out and tomorrow we are to refuel and get some mail.

4/23 - Dawn finds us in a balmy climate surrounded by dozens of ships of the train. We refuel for about 3 hours and then take rockets and bombs from an AKA for about 5 hours. Movies at night. Routine CAP. At dusk we head in again. The Shangri La has finally joined us. At dawn we strike again.

4/24 - Again we're cruising off the Riukuis. Foul weather, low ceiling, able to fly only routine CAP. No bogies today.

4/25 - Foul weather continues. Shangri La is with 58.4 and said to have all night fighters. Flying routine CAP only 60 miles from the beach. No Japs. One raid against Kikai and Konoia.

4/26 - Bataan and South Dakota have joined. This is typhoon season and we're having many squalls. Today we sent a large raid again Kikai and Konoia and we couldn't get in due to a storm. Had to return and jettison their loads. Quite interesting fireworks - rockets, napalm bombs and so forth. No Jap trouble today. Retire at night to refuel tomorrow.

4/27 - Heavy seas for refueling. We load ammo from an AE. At dusk we head back for the battlegrounds.

4/28 - Before dawn we are met by about 13 bogies. They routed at about 6 miles - We launch very heavy strikes at Okinawa. Again at night bogies approach, are fired on and then routed by night fighters. We hear that Ulithi was under attack all day.

4/29 - We hear that the hospital ship U.S.S. Comfort was hit by a kamikazi and 40 killed-Dispatch tells of Germany's unconditional surrender to the United States and Britain and President Truman does not accept because they excluded Russia. We send heavy strikes to support the Army on Okinawa. Pinpoint bombing and rocket fire close to the front. Bogies approach to 6 miles dropping window. Retire to 35 and approach again. Angels 1 mile behind them. Open fire at 5 miles. Several planes destroyed by concussion on deck. The whole task force including the Randolph lays

down a dense smokescreen. First time we've ever done this. Clear moonlight night with little breeze. The screen hides us completely according to the night fighters. Another attack by 3 bogies at night, one shot down by fighters, 1 suicide dives into a destroyer which doesn't sink and is taken in tow. The 3rd passes right over head and we open fire straight up. The flack falls all over our deck - One of our night fighters has his tail shot up over Kikai and comes back for a crash landing in the water just along side - The pilot is not hurt. He fires his very pistol and is picked up by DD - Much gunfire and smoke and splashes on the horizon. Randy has opened deck. Late at night another attack. 3 bogies come in fast from 500 feet. Gunfire routes them and fighters shoot down two. More bogies at a distance all night long.

4/30 - Saw a large plane go down on the horizon during the dawn alert and then what looked like heavy gunfire or star shells. Heavy strikes at Okinawa, Kikai and Amami. We retire at dusk. Night fighters get two Kates.

5/1 - Refueling at dawn. Load ammo all morning. Head north in the afternoon.

5/2 - CAP goes out at 3am and splashes one Tony. Two of our nightfighters collide over Kikai and are lost. Heavy strikes all day at Okinawa. Also begin dessimation of the Jap coastwise shipping sinking ships off Honshu and Kiushu.

5/3 - weather is terrible. Interferes with operations. Nevertheless we send our strikes

with bombs and depth charges - We lose one fighter shot down by Ak Ak but the pilot escapes and TBF drops him a raft.

5/4 - Jap came in after us again in the early hours. 4 Zekes and 1 large flying boat shot down by nightfighters of the Essex under the Randolph's direction.- We get congratulatory message from Admiral Mitcher. We hear that the Italian campaign has ended in unconditional surrender. Hitler is probably dead and Berlin has fallen. Resistance over there is just a frantic flailing and deaths throws. The British have landed at Rangoon and the Yanks on Borneo. Later today the Jap sends many planes down from Kiushu. We defuel and debomb all planes except fighters and put them below and send out large fighter sweeps. They meet the Jap and shoot down 13, 1 pilot getting 5 by himself. One of ours makes a force landing on Okinawa, another on the water is picked up by a float plane from CL. About 5 land here badly shot up but no personnel damage. We get a message again from Mitcher, well done. Today marks well over 1,000 Japs shot down out of the air alone by our Task Force alone since April 1. This does not count those destroyed on the ground. Probably a larger number. We hear that one tin can was hit by 5 kamikasis and reported "in danger of sinking". The world's greatest understatement. Another is sunk. We get thanks from DD Sherman in our screen for permitting them a good night's sleep. Today we saw land for the first time in over a month. The high blue mountain on Tokuna Shima. This is Jap held and lies between Okinawa and Amami - We were close in and this fact belies the Jap's impotence. We get

information on "Baka" today. A new Jap suicide rocket plane, 10 feet long, 16 feet wing, single place, conventional controls, 1,000 lb. warhead, 4 rocket motors with Venturi tubes. She is carried under a Betty's belly and released close in. However, she carries altimeter speed and climb indicators and oxygen gear. No landing gear and so forth so she is 100% suicide.

5/5 - Another day of heavy strikes at Okinawa and Kikai. A resume of yesterday's battles reveals over 96 Jap planes splashed. Four by nightfighters, twelve by ship's fire. Of these, 24 were over Kikai and 72 over Okinawa. The Randolph got 10. Two destroyers and one small craft sunk. Our planes losses are negligible. Pilots - none. Large ships - none. The U.S.S. Missouri (Iowa Class) joins up and relieves Washington. We head south to refuel.

5/6 - In the early morning we pass 17 miles from a Jap held island. At dawn we refueled from the Chicopee. The Enterprise joins up again. Quick repair job. We load ammo in the afternoon. The sick bay is giving cholera shots to the crew which sounds like a plan to land in China next. We hear today that the rest of the force up north is attacked in our absence by suicide planes, suicide rockets, suicide boats and suicide swimmers. The latter swim carrying so called idiot sticks that bear armor piercing explosives. Many of all 3 were shot before reaching their targets. There was another counterattack on Okinawa today and 3,000 Japs killed making a total of 33,000 killed and leaving about 27,000 alive, all in the 10 mile southern most tip including

Naha which is dessimated. Heavy artillery persists and the 7th Fleet is working on it but it looks like Randolph still has a job to do.

5/7 - Back in the melee again with the Enterprise added to our force. We throw heavy strikes at Okinawa. Fire bombs at Kikai and patrol north of Amami. Attacked at 11:30 and one Frances splashed by Randolph patrol. Otherwise a quiet day. The Japs on the beach are shooting phosphorous bombs to confuse our pilots although our troops stopped using this method to point out targets 3 days ago. The Japs are laying out metal disks. To confuse our pilots as to location of the front line which our troops had been revealing by vari-colored disks. One of our pilots who was on Tarawa, Kwajalein and Iwo says Okinawa is the toughest yet. More foxholes. And gopher holes - More concealed artillery.

5/8 - Typhoon strikes our operating area. We stand out to the fringes and have an easy day with the ceiling and visibility zero. No planes are launched. The first time for 6 weeks. Task Group 58.4 retires to Ulithi for 2 weeks recreation. The Shangri La is with them. We hear that the Shangri La really got fouled up on several operations. Planes going to the wrong rendezvous, ships making wrong turns and so forth. We hear that our recreation has been postponed 'til late this month and that we'll go to Leyte, Phillipine Islands. We hear today of the unconditional surrender of all German forces to the allies by Admiral Doenitz who is nominal head of government after the death of Hitler and the death or absence of others. The truth of

German atrocities is now revealed and is worse than the rumors. Four million killed in one concentration camp in Upper Silesia. Now there are two down and one to go. Perhaps it would be feasible to offer the Japs something less than unconditional surrender and we could save irretrievable time and many lives.

5/9 - Beautiful clear day. Back on the stomping grounds. Strikes against Okinawa, Kikai and Amami. No opposition although 2 planes land on the beach from engine troubles.

5/10 - Refueling at dawn. Load ammo and food later and in the afternoon head for Chichi Jima for a strike. Apparently the Jap have been giving Iwo trouble. The Japs on Okinawa now 36,000 dead and 24,000 to go. Fighting day and night by use of flares. Artillery duels all night.

5/11 - During the night we're 20 miles off Okinawa. Several bogies close and are routed - We go to torpedo defense at 3am. The bogies are circling our force all day. Our group has been composed for about a week now of CV's Randolph, Essex, Bunker Hill and Enterprise and the CVL Bataan. At 1000 hours today out of the clear sky a group of kamikasis swooped on us and 2 struck the Bunker Hill a heavy blow. One dives on us and shot down and the rest are routed. Flames and smoke rise 1,000 feet from the Bunker Hill, the midships and the whole sea is shaken repeatedly by explosions. She goes dead in the water and out of control. We circle her and throw jackets and rafts to the men in the water - Several DD's go alongside despite smoke and flame that envelope them to give

aid. The South Dakota is firing on more bogies. Many men in the water on rafts and jackets go by. Parts of flaming aircraft and debris fly from the Bunker Hill and float for miles on the water. We stand by for 1 1/2 hours and during that time black billowing smokes lessens and turns grey and we get a report that the fire is under control. We hear that the casualties were roughly 265 so far. A cruiser goes along side to help and the Bunker's planes that were in the air come aboard the Randolph. Mitcher goes to the Enterprise. 5 hours later we see the Bunker on the horizon with the flames still visible aft. We continue heavy air operations and aren't molested further. The Yorktown and Shangri La close in with us for protection. It's strange that those Japs got in without radar on any ship picking them up. It has been speculated that maybe the Japs have our IFF. In any case this was a marvelous sneak attack. This leaves only 7 CV's out here and out of the entire fleet, only 2 that haven't been hit heavily. - the Shangri La and the Yorktown. This morning it missed being us only by chance and 500 yards. Since the Bennington and Hornet are at Ulithi for recreation, we will probably have to accompany Task Force 58.1 for refueling. No. The Yorktown and Shangri La pull out at dusk with the Bunker Hill whose fires are out. She can make 20 knots. They're going to Ulithi and leaving us alone until tomorrow when Task Force 58.1 will join up. We hear that the Bunker took one bomb near the #3 elevator and one near the #2 elevator, center line about 2 minutes apart. No damage below the hangar deck.

5/12 - No molestation today although our patrol splashes 2 Tonys and 1 Myrt over the picket lines. heavy strikes at Okinawa in support of the front line troops. The skipper of our air group, Commander Embree, is shot down by flack and seemed to land behind enemy lines by parachute. Two planes return to the ship very much shot up. It seems a hoax is on our skippers. The loss of pilots is very light but the last skipper, Commander Crommelin, was lost a month ago in head on collision with a photo rec plane leaving a pregnant wife and one child. At dusk we head for the Inland Sea and Kiushui.

5/13 - We're beating to the northwest with a bone in our teeth all night. Bogies are all over the screen all night. Being followed in from 70 to about 6 miles. Before dawn 2 Micks and 1 Zeke are shot down. After dawn 3 more down. We hold 25 to 27 knots all day. Submarine sighted at noon. Heavy strikes at Konoya on Kiushui and on plane factories and fields. Much destruction -One pilot pots a locomotive with a rocket. Many snoopers all day. We have two operational casualties aboard - There is a big change up here in the Inland Sea since the last time when the Franklin, Wasp, Enterprise, Intrepid and Yorktown got potted. Today we're in the driver's seat because there are over 400 B29's here with over 120 P51's protecting them. Many fields are seen today with few or no planes and there are only scattered airborne planes. Randolph got 7 planes and 2 locomotives, many factories, hangars, fields and 1 hydroelectric plant, many small ships. The Japs are using smoke pots to screen military objectives. We sent up 189 sorties

which is a record. We also landed 31 straight without a wave off which is a record. One DD on our force today downed 19 Jap planes on a concentrated attack. Another record. She is sinking. The Marines gained a mile to the suburbs of Naha and the totals are 40,000 dead, 20,000 to go. The British fleet had trouble yesterday. The Glorious and Illustrious were both knocked out by multiple kamikasi. A third CV was hit but her armored flight deck bounced them off. The Germans have really quit. Norway has taken over and the German subs are popping up all around the surrounding area. Some are still fighting the Russians in Czechoslovakia, Goering is captured.

5/14 - The Jap must have accumulated a few planes and means to use them today. Bogies at 9am and 11pm last night. We go to torpedo defense. Again at 1am and 3am we go to ready guns. Snoopers and bogies closing and opening all night. At 4am they come in in force and we open fire and splash 2. We have General Quarters from 4-6am. Soon after securing for breakfast they come in again in force, singles and doubles low over the water from all directions at one time. One dives into the Enterprise who is just astern of us and blasts her flight deck and #1 elevator and starts fires. She maintains full speed. The fire's controlled in 30 minutes. Burning planes are jettison. She can no longer operate aircraft but can at least support us with her guns. Admiral Mitcher was aboard. That's 2 ships shot out from under him in 3 days now. Looks like they're really after him. He and his staff are being transferred to the Randolph today and we become flag ship

of Task Force 58. If they're really after Mitcher, then our turn is next. We now have the total of 4 CV's operating out of a potential of 18. The kamikasis are effective. After successfully hitting the Enterprise, many more Japs continue to come in. The sea is covered with yellow and black stinking smoke and the sky is mottled with Ak Ak. Many long plumes of flame and smoke from falling planes. One splashes about 1500 feet off our port bow and you can feel the heat of the explosion. The men below decks could hear the motor roar. The ships guns down 7 and planes down 11 this morning alone. One ensign got 3. Boys returning from Kiushui say there is no airborne opposition. They have raised hell with factories, fields and transportation while we serve as bait for the air force. One plane only from the Randolph was shot down by flack. It lands on the Inland Sea and the men are seen to get in a raft. A sea plane from the Astoria is sent to rescue them. At 5pm we go to General Quarters again. 3 bogies close to 6 miles and then open. No further trouble this night. The sea plane returns with the crew shot down unharmed. The first time the Americans have ever been rescued from the Inland Sea. We stay at longitude 132 latitude 31 all day. Very close to Kiushui and throw heavy loads at the Jap all day. Got rid of 1,000 bombs in these 2 days. This is a record day beating all others for carriers. 199 sorties from Randolph. We head south at flank speed at night.

5/15 - Today we become U.S.S. Randolph Flag Ship Task Force 58, 5th Fleet, U.S. Navy. Admiral Mark Mitcher is piped aboard with a staff of 62 personnel. He is much like his

pictures, small, wrinkled, wiry, looks 65, outstanding feature is his bright sharp glinting eyes. He is an admirable looking warrior. We refuel from A024 for over 5 hours, must have been nearly empty. We take on ammo and discharge casualties. The hospital ship U.S.S. Modesty takes on patients from the Enterprise, the Bataan, the Wilkes Barre. She looks funny, her clean white paint glistening in the sun, among all these dirty scarred drab gray monsters. We hear that several ships were hit by our own 5" gunfire yesterday, the Wilkes Barre taking 3 hits. One came close by our quarter. This was a result of low firing at low flying Japs. We transfer our casualties to the U.S.S. Bountiful and see the first white women since January 30th. They all looked good. We hear from Mitcher's staff that 2 medical officers on the Bunker Hill were killed. The casualties were extremely heavy from smoke. We hear that the kamikasei that hit the Enterprise penetrated to the 5th deck but the casualties were light, only 13 killed. We note that she is still with us. Perhaps going to operate with a patch over her hole.

5/16 - Spend the entire day taking aboard ammo and supplies. We hear that the Bunker Hill had 556 dead, buried at sea, and 50 still missing and presumed dead. We hear that the Marines are again moving on Okinawa and are 45,000 dead Japs with only 15,000 and 10 miles to go. We narrowly avoided a catastrophe in the middle of the night. While at the movies we felt the ship shudder and shake and we later heard that it was due to an emergency full speed reverse to avoid collision with an AE loaded with 15,000 tons of bombs. She was

out of position and only an alert look out saved us. We were nearly rammed astern when we reversed by the ship behind us. That ammo would have made angels out of all of us. We head north at dusk.

5/17 - Our CAP shot down 3 Petes at 20 miles during the night. They didn't show on our radar screen either. At dawn we were 40 miles off of Okinawa. We can see gunfire, smoke and mountains from our lookout tower. We fly patrol and ran them strafing and rocket fire at Amami, Kikai and Tokuna all day. The weather is wonderful. Task Force 58.4 has changed since the Bunker and the Big E were hit. We now comprise Randolph, Essex, Bataan, Langley, North Carolina, South Dakota and screen. Pretty sparse. Task Force 58.3 with the Hornet and Bennington is on the horizon. Four of us out of 19 CV's.

5/18 - Heavy incendiary and napalm attacks against towns and transportation of the island group. The Marines have killed 47,000 in 47 days, 13,000 left so we should be through in 13 days. Today the Franklin catastrophe is announced to the public at home as the worse Naval catastrophe ever to enter New York Harbor. Probably released the info so the folks would know the war isn't over. The news will also make the Japs happy and the folks worry more about those of us still here. The Franklin went straight to the Brooklyn Yard, her building yard, and is going to be rebuilt. We didn't think it possible. The casualties are announced at over 800 dead, over 200 missing. Mitcher, in a message to his Task Group Commanders today, asked for suggestions and comments on our past and future operations

and ended by saying what in the hell are we doing up here anyway? Admiral Sherman replied briefly, We are a \$5 billion angle worm on a long hook and line. I'm forced to agree. We head south tonight to refuel tomorrow. One of our pilots was shot down at sea today and died. We hear that we lost only one on the 2 day Kiushui Raid.

5/19 - Foul weather all day with visibility 1/2 mile and the ceiling 200 feet. We refuel and load ammo and stores all day. We head north at dusk.

5/20 - Foul weather. Routine CAP. One strike at Okinawa, had to take an alternative target due to poor visibility. Pretty safe due to foul weather.

5/21 - Foul weather continues. We continue routine strikes but schedules are messed up by poor visibility. We lose 2 night fighters today. Planes collide in mid air while joining up. One radios that he is bailing out. We send kingfishers to search but can't locate anything.

5/22 - Weather continues foul. We're doing very little good up here. No luck for the search for the 2 pilots. We head south at dusk. No end to the variety of hazards out here. At 11 o' clock a negro mess boy shot twice with a 38 caliber at a steward's mate, he missed. The pistol was stolen from an officer. He signs a written confession and is put in the brig for general court martial. Search of his locker discloses a stick of dynamite and some small arms ammo obviously brought from the States. He might be a

sabateur.

5/23 - Fueling at dawn. Sent a strike against Amami and run into heavy flack. One fighter lands aboard with a 3 foot hole in the wing near the fuselage and 30 holes in the belly. One TBM makes a water landing alongside. One TBM is down near the target and planes from the North Carolina go out to rescue the crew. One of them goes down too, but all personnel are rescued. We head north at flank speed early for arrival off Kiushui at dawn.

5/24 - Back in the slot again. Before dawn we see star shells and heavy gunfire from the 7th Fleet BB's off Okinawa and at dawn I see several lumps of land. Weather continues foul and we are only able to carry on routine support. Bogies approach in the afternoon and are routed. We hear that bogies have been thick over the beach in the past 3 days and many are shot down.

5/25 - Many bogies all night. Most of them over the beach. Some are shot down by Plunger and Cudgel bases. At dawn we get word of 40 kamikasis coming down from Kiushui with many reconnaissance planes instructed to observe the damage. We are alerted, many close in but they are routed. Most of them to go the beach. In all, 30 out of the 60 were shot down in 13 raids. Some make suicide landings on fields on Okinawa with the wheels up and 7 men jump out and throw hand grenades at parked planes. No great damage to the fields. The weather is foul.

5/26 - This makes a week of foul weather. We are able to do little more than CAP patrol.

No interference. We retire.

5/27 - At dawn I see the U.S.S. Bountiful lighted up on the horizon like Broadway. We sit around awaiting conference with Halsey as to our disposition. Mitcher goes over to the Shangri La to see McCain. We head north at dark for a big conference.

5/28 - The big pow wow on the Missouri takes place off Point Option with Halsey, Mitcher, Spruance, McCain and Turner. At midnight last night we became Task Force 38. We have sent Task Force 58 back to pasture. Nice rest and so forth and are going to let Halsey and Task Force 38 a nice new rested bunch do the job. It certainly is a funny world. Halsey is the only rested man in the whole damn outfit. The rest of the personnel and ships are the same. There's lots of air activity and many bogies are about. 15 are splashed and one DD is sunk in 5 minutes. Today we will learn whether it's to be Leyte and rest or Okinawa and hell. Navy announces its losses in dead and wounded for its operation. They exceed the Army and Marines combined. First time this has ever happened and it's not over yet.

5/29 - At dawn we head south with two DD's for Guam to let Mitcher and his staff off. From there we will go to Leyte. The Essex and the rest of our Task Force are en route direct to Leyte.

5/30 - Boiling along for Guam at 27 knots. DD's have trouble keeping up. The weather is beautiful. The crew is starting to get sun tans on deck after 2 months of gloom. Today the Randolph turned over her 25,000th mile for

this operation. That is non-stop. Not once did the engine stop, that's more than once around the world in the short period 4-4-45 to 5-30-45. In all she has been over 50,000 miles since leaving Norfolk, November 22, 1944. Intensive gunnery practice all day and routine patrols. Tomorrow Guam.

5/31 - Arrived at Guam. The harbor is crowded. Many CVE's, the New Mexico is here, somewhat beat up by a kamikazi. One of our picket boats was hit last week and is here with her whole bow shot away. The largest floating dry dock in the world is here with a battleship in her. Many pig boats coming and going. Many B29's overhead. The terrain is rugged. We have shore leave. We hear that the next operation is against Honchu.

6/1 - Remain in Guam. Shore leave for half the crew. We see a Japanese plane graveyard. Nimitz home, pillboxes and caves. Water supply is bad. The whole island is a beehive of staging for the next operation. There are many Japanese prisoners of war.

6/2 - Shove off for Leyte, Phillipine Islands. Japs have reinforced Okinawa and have 35,000 troops. But we probably won't go back there.

6/3 - Boiling along for Leyte. Past a floating mine today at 100 feet and sank it with gunfire. Planes and destroyers circle a suspected sub but no contact. Arrive Leyte tomorrow.

6/4 - Arrive in Leyte Gulf off the island of Samar. Anchor in the straight. Beautiful

cruise all day. Pass innumerable blue mountains, beautiful islands with land on both sides of us. The anchorage is full. With us are the Essex, Alabama, North Carolina, Arizona, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Salt Lake City, innumerable CVL and smaller craft. The crew goes to the beach tomorrow.

6/5 - Liberty not granted until fully loaded. We load stores and ammo on a 24 hour schedule to be sea ready as soon as possible. We take on 900 tons of dry provisions.

6/6 - First liberty party. We continue loading stores and ammo. Repair crews from the U.S.S. Jason have been aboard since before we dropped anchor fixing our damage.

6/7 - A too full day. Half the crew went ashore early to Taclovan by LCM and during this half hour trip we could see scores of wrecked planes and ships on the beach and many trees shorn off. On a ride in a duck 25 miles out through the mountains, I saw numerous air fields, material dumps galore, Jap prison camps, the 7th Fleet Base and thence back to the ship. Shortly after aboard we were struck forward centerline by a buzzing P38 whom we had seen all day playing fool. The fire was controlled in 20 minutes. Many men were burned and overboard, many planes were destroyed. No muster yet, but we know 4 dead and 30 burned and the medical department was heavy hit since most of them were sunning on this part of the flight deck. It's ironical that we go unharmed for 2 months off Japan and return to be hit by our own Army. Most of our patients are transferred to the U.S.S. Refuge.

6/8 - The casualty list mounts. We buried 4 on Leyte, muster showed 7 missing. The Jason comes alongside to repair us again. There's quite a hole in the flight deck and one battery of 20mm guns is ruined. Army is still unable to identify the plane or the pilot. It was suggested that it was a Jap. They're going to send down divers to recover the body.

6/9 - One more body floats up at dawn and 3 more at night fall. Total dead is now 8 and more expected. Diving for the pilot is still unsuccessful. The Army still denies. Liberty ashore again today. Another burial party today.

6/10 - Three more bodies float. Total dead is now 11. That apparently is all. Another burial party today. An LST found still another body and we had to go over and identify it at 3am. It wasn't ours. Some Phillipino. Repair work progressing well. Ready for sea by the 12th but think we'll stay awhile.

6/11 - The damage is all repaired. The dead are all buried but some are yet to die and the wounds will never heal. The Army has admitted the P38 was theirs and the pilot was transferring it to another field and it was his last flight. He was en route home. Today the results of the recent typhoon hove into the anchorage. The U.S.S. Bennington arrived with her flight deck destroyed all the way back to the after forward antenna. The deck was drooping and dragging in the sea. We hear that the Hornet, the Belleau Wood and the Pittsburgh also go it. The Pittsburgh is broken in half and under tow. We hear that

Halsey headed into the typhoon despite orders not to do so.

6/12 - Another shore liberty. Talked with a native on the beach who said the Japs were dirty and cruel and that they didn't have much material or personnel here. He is a 4th year high school student starting medical school this fall in the University of Phillipins in Manilla. He is one of 14 children. He said he sailed down here taking 7 days at sea to work for the summer. His father is a justice of the peace. Two of his sisters teach English. He said the Japs slapped them around, shaved their heads and painted them black.

6/13 - Two more burn cases die on the ship bringing the total dead to 13. The rest of Task Force 38 arrives today. The Hornet with her bow beat up worse than the Bennington. The whole outfit is here now including the Iowa class battleships, the 7th Fleet with its CVE's and old BB's. The Ticonderoga has joined up and makes our CV a poor total of 8 of which 2 will return to the State for repairs. Reported that more will arrive before we leave around the 28th.

6/14 - Well the whole fleet is surely here. Must be nothing left in the Atlantic. All 3 of the Iowa class, both of our battle cruisers the Guam and the Alaska are here. The Bon Homme Richard arrived and the Ticonderoga is here. The Hornet is going to the States for repairs but we hear that most of the others are en route here and hitting Wake on the way. There were over 10,000 officers at the club today.

6/15 - CAG12 is leaving our ship today after 4 month's duty. They're being replaced by CAG16, a reformed group of good record. There are more ships here than I've ever seen together before.

6/16 - CAG16 is aboard.

6/17 - Routine day in port.

6/18 - Routine day.

6/19 - The Hornet shoves off for home. We make ready for sea.

6/20 - Shove off at dawn for sea trials with the Essex, the Bon Homme Richard, 2 CVL's and a screen. Today the Lexington and Hancock hit Wake, they arrive here next week. This is a brand new grouping, Task Group 38.3 and we are breaking the Bon Homme Richard in.

6/21 - Gunnery for all ships. Firing on drones and sleeves. Air group tactics. We attack Borneo.

6/22 - The groups attack with rockets, bombs and so forth. We lose one pilot and a plane in the drink. One night fighter crashed into the barrier.

6/23 - We arrive back in Leyte.

6/24 - Routine day in port. Liberty ashore.

6/25 - Routine day.

6/26 - Medical meeting and visited the U.S.S.

Bountiful.

6/27 - Air flight to Manilla, landed at Cavate. Saw complete and utter destruction of the whole city. The harbor was a mess of wrecks. Nothing to do or buy. Met the son of President Osmena and he returned with us to the Randolph.

6/28 - Routine day.

6/29 - We got a new chaplain who is the "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition" person. Preparing for sea. The Lexington and the Hancock have arrived.

6/30 - Last day readiness. Liberty but no boats. Last mail off.

7/1 - Shove off at dawn. 9 CV's and all the large units in the fleet. We are Task Group 38.3 Flag Ship and comprise the Randolph, Essex, Ticonderoga, Bataan, Monterey and screen. Hear that we are going to bombard Honchu. Other task groups, just like ours, on the horizons. We cruise off Mindano all day.

7/2 - Exercises for the air group. They are pretty rusty. Gunnery practice. Several crashes on deck and in the water. One pilot and several planes are lost. The skipper tells us we are going to be a fast hit and run outfit in the future. Probably off the Japanese mainland most of the time.

7/3 - Further practice and tactical missions. BB's and CL's join up at dusk. Night fighter crashes on the deck and over the side and is lost. Man on deck sustains a compound

fracture of the femur. We're heading northeast to rendezvous on the 8th and strike soon after.

7/4 - Independence Day. The best celebration we've ever had. Gunnery practice and flight operations.

7/5 - Continue gunnery fire at drones from the Astoria. Ticonderoga leaves us for Guam due to engine trouble. She will miss the first part of this operation. The Alabama is with us now.

7/6 - The days are getting longer and the nights so short that we can't get much sleep. General Quarters blows around 3am now and gets earlier each day. Continue practice gunnery and flight operations. Simulated kamikazi runs and group attacks.

7/7 - We're almost due east of Iwo Jima now and slowly heading up. We refuel tomorrow, get mail and then run in for Japan.

7/8 - Fueling most of the day. Excellent mail call. Transfer of sick and wounded to the U.S.S. Rescue. Begin the approach.

7/9 - We're in the fast approach now, really tearing north. Northwest of Chichi this a.m. We launch our attack at dawn about 3:15am. We comprise 4 groups, 3 U.S., 1 British, each with 3 CV's and 2 CVL's and heavy screens using all the Iowa class, the Alaskas and the newer vessels of other types. Last night we had a sub contact and dropped many ash cans. This is far different from the feeling the last time we approached Tokyo. The last time

we were excited and ignorant. This time it's more businesslike.

7/10 - At 2am we had breakfast at 3:15 dawn and then stood 150 miles off Tokyo and launched our first flight. We stood right on in until 8am and then came about. Sent in 213 sorties, an all time record. We lost one VF to Ak Ak and one VT down at sea. We have never yet lost a plane to enemy aircraft action. A Frances was shot down at dawn and another in mid-morning off our port quarter. We had 3 near misses by Baka bombs. Many bogies all time. At one time directly overhead, but out of sight and range. This made us think of the Franklin. We site and shell 3 large mines. We stay at General Quarters all day. Full speed and we go out at dusk and rest tomorrow. Made our 10,000th landing today. A night fighter from the Bon Homme Richard splashes and another starts a good fire on our deck.

7/11 - High speed withdrawal to the south and then due north to fool the Jap. Nimitz has already announced the strike was a great success and a complete surprise. We are credited with 154 Jap planes plus 72 destroyed on the ground and 80 damaged. Our losses were light. We sent in over 1,000 planes and if other ship's losses were comparable to ours, then the total was about 20. We saw a tremendous whale today. I wonder if they detonate mines? We've been seeing and sinking many mines for several days. Luck continues to be with us at night. A Jap sub was sited on the surface today and we have a brief gun duel with her before she submerged. There are many subs around including ours. Tin cans

have frequent sound contacts. Our skipper, Captain Baker, gets his orders from Washington.

7/12 - Slept under blankets last night. Dawn at 2:30am. Just before dawn 11 high speed wakes apparently torpedos, were seen crossing our group. Nobody was hurt. Cans dropped many depth charges. One drops all he has and retires. Randolph heaves and bumps and lurches. The disturbance caused by one ash can is astonishing. No known kills but we haven't fooled the Jap and surely has radioed our position. We're full speed north, further north than we've ever been. 48 degrees north, 150 degrees east and due east of Hokeido. Refuel at dawn. Tomorrow we strike again.

7/13 - Today we hit Hokeido. Our position very close. 41 degrees north, 144 degrees east. This is Japan's coal and iron source which goes to Honchu by train ferries. Our target was these ferries and their terminals. The weather is foul. The temperature is around 15 degrees centigrade, the sea is rough. We meet no interference.

7/14 - The weather cleared and we got started at 3am. We're 39 miles off Hokeido and our BB's, CL's and DD's have gone in closer. They bombard a coastal steel producing city all day. We send in our planes to hit the ferries and so forth again. Two ferries are sunk and three are damaged out of six. The piers are hit. Two DE's are sunk. Six to eight freighters are sunk, one locomotive, several bridges. Our losses are heavy. One VB spins in off our bow, several hit over the target and one or two VF bail out over the target.

Several return to the ship injured. At dawn a sub surfaced unexpectedly in our group and all guns were trained until it was identified as friendly. The poor fool was having mechanical trouble. Also he was in more danger than he realised. Some enemy aircraft over the group. One Betty is splashed and one probable. There's a noticeable increase in resistance toward night.

7/15 - Sent in 82 tons of bombs and more rockets and small ammo than we have ever used before. The Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, several CL's and DD's bombard the coast all day. Several bandits are splashed close by. Nimitz has released the entire news to the public and the actual bombardment was broadcast. Our losses are lighter today and heavy damages inflicted. Refuel in the morning.

7/16 - Reports are that we did tremendous damage in Hokito. The Japs are screaming bloody murder about the bombardment and say they have a surprise for us. Photo recon. planes have picked up Yamato class battleship camouflaged at Yokosuka. We are going after it tomorrow. Refuel today. British carrier, TF 37, has joined us.

7/17 - Weather is pretty bad. Visibility over Yogata battleship is poor so no attempt on it is made. A few select targets in Tokyo area are worked over. Our battleships go into 6 miles and bombard the Tokyo Bay area for 3 hours at night.

7/18 - Heavy strikes all day despite bad weather. Over 500 planes hit the Yogata and

its surrounding. Smoke and clouds are too heavy to observe the results, but 2 known direct hits. We start out at dusk to refuel.

7/19 - Head southeast all day at full speed. The combined fleet now comprises 12 or 13 CV's, the most there have even been out here. Far cry from the 3 or 4 at Okinawa. We can keep 1500 planes in the air and have been sending that many against Japan. Photos show heavy damage to the Yogata and surrounding area. 6 direct hits, many small craft are sunk.

7/20 - Still heading out. Refueling and replenishing. We're just north of Marcos Island.

7/21 - Refueling all day.

7/22 - Ticonderoga joins us. Loads of mail come aboard. Reprovisioning and loading ammo.

7/23 - Loading ammo all day. We start north in the afternoon.

7/24 - Off Shikoku at the mouth of the Inland Sea at dawn. Heavy strikes all day carrying AP 1,000 lbs to work over some BB's and CV's in the Kure area. Good hunting. Many direct hits on large camouflage warships including the Unryhu and Ise class battleship. Several planes down in the Inland Sea but crews are rescued by PBM. The Task Force is attacked in the morning. One Irving is splashed within our group just missing the stern of a CL. A Frances and Donna also are downed. Cruisers and DD's shove off at dusk to bombard the beach. Many B29's overhead all day.

7/25 - Strike at Kure Naval Base. Heavy damage to ships. Targets are 3 BB's including the Haruna that Colin Kelly didn't sink. Two CV's, 3 CVL's, several CA and CL, many DD and DE. Many are heavy hit. Our losses are light. We also strike Shikoku and transport systems. Many bogies all day attacking in groups of 5 to 7, high and low, many are shot down. We retire at night.

7/26 - Refueling. The Wasp joins up. Our new skipper, Captain Tate, takes over and Captain Baker leaves the ship. The flag, Admiral Bogan is releived and replaced by Admiral Duncan.

7/27 - Heading back in all day. The Essex, who has been out here 18 months and hit by 3 kamikasis, was told that she was going home for overhaul and 30 days leave but at the last minute the plans were changed.

7/28 - Bogies splashed before dawn. Bogies all day. Many of them, some with torpedos, many splash close by. Our strike finds good hunting and splashes 13 out of 18 Georges in a group. Many single splashes. The commander of our CAG87 is lost and 2 of our VB's are lost. Heavy damage to shore installations. Photos show heavy damage to the Jap fleet at Kure 2 days ago. BB's and CV's are sunk and many other craft. Today more of the same and several subs are sunk. We withdraw at night. Bogies from dark to dark. Some getting in close enough to strike.

7/29 - Steaming north. Stand off Tokyo at

dark. Bomboardment group goes in with observation planes from our ship. A new type kamikasi is encountered, wood and fabric night planes. Radar won't detect them until close in and the Mark 40 Ak Ak won't explode unless it hits them directly. They sink one DD and damage another.

7/30 - Strike Tokyo area with fire and fragmentation and demolition bombs. Good targets. Heavy seas but clear. Many birds are about since we are only 41 miles off. Retire at night.

7/31 - Refuel, provision and rest. Several sub contacts.

8/1 - Continue refueling and replenishing. General Doolittle is starting to operate from Okinawa tomorrow so our schedule strike is postponed so we can observe if we're needed. We were due to go right up into the Inland Sea. So, thank God.

8/2 - Cruising around Iwo Jima, waiting.

8/3 - Fueled at dawn. Got word today of the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis. Survivor picked up today says she was sunk 5 days ago, so suddenly, nearly all hands were lost and no message was gotten out. Nearly a disappearing act, unknown cause, but probably a sub.

8/4 - Cruising around Kiushui waiting.

8/5 - We have been asked to stand by while the Army works over Japan. Maybe we will be sent out. Gunnery and mock kamikasi attacks.

8/6 - Mass suicide mock attacks. TBM from the Randolph plummets into the drink when the wings fall off in a dive on the port bow. All 3 men are lost.

8/7 - We have been sighting floating mines frequently. One passes close board and is destroyed by gunfire. Fast run north today. It's getting cooler. We strike at dawn.

8/8 - Strike to Hokaido. A number of bogies come out. Several have splashed. One Jap passed directly overhead while we had 30 tons of bombs topside, but didn't see us due to the overcast. A large mine misses us by 10 yards. We get word of the atomic bomb for the first time and everyone is excited thinking the war will soon be over. Destruction of naval base where one bomb was dropped has said to be beyond imagination, 12,000 times worse than TNT. The Japs are being given a 7 day ultimatum.

8/9 - Another atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki with same results. The bombs are said to be uranium. Completely annihilated over 300,000 people and the entire city. The Japs are screaming about inhuman warfare. Russia declares war on Japan and invades northeast Manchuria. This is really big news expected for a long time. The Japs should quit now. We strike again at Hokido and northern Honchu with good results. Destroy many aircraft and locomotives. Many kamikasis come out after us, more than we've seen since Okinawa. The U.S.S. Borie is badly hit by one close by but maintains way. Several plunge into the sea as near misses. Many are shot down nearby including Mertz with torpedos, Zekes, Nicks

and some Frances. Continue to be heckled by floating mines. No losses. British air group made 2 emergency crash landings on the Essex nearby and started fires and caused some damage. Fire and rescue party is sent to the Borie and finds situation in hand but great damage to the vicinity of the bridge.

8/10 - The news today is much too great to adequately record. After hearing rumors all day, we finally hear from President Truman that Japan has sued for peace. And later, from Tokyo radio, the Emperor himself clarifies the matter. The Japs will accept the Potsdam Conference terms if we do not unseat Emperor Hirohito. We shall see. Meantime we go on with the war and strike north Honchu all day with little interference.

8/11 - Apparently peace is in the air because our plans have been changed. We're told we'll stay up here indefinitely. The 20th Air Force has discontinued operations so I guess we won't strike tomorrow. The British force shoves off, unable to continue operations. Fueling today but are being kept here for show of force and to be on hand to occupy Japanese ports.

8/12 - Japan is offered unconditional surrender with Hirohito. Allowed to remain in temporarily under our command. We cruise off Tokyo awaiting their answer. Apparently an affirmative is expected because we are ordered to organize a landing party to go ashore on 24 hours notice.

8/13 - After anxiously awaiting, we are finally disappointed. At 3am we go to General

Quarters for a strike as planned. We hit Tokyo all day and lose one plane. Many bogies all day, many with torpedos. Ten are splashed by our outfit alone. The Japs appear to mean to fight. Aw well, another few days, a few more atomizers.

8/14 - Refueled off Tokyo. Peace talk crams the air but no official word. Rescue alongside the Alabama.

8/15 - Unconditional surrender. No word on the peace so we go to General Quarters at 3am and proceed with our plans strike. The first strike goes off and drops its bombs on factories, rockets, ships and so forth. Splashes several Jap planes and returns intact. At 0800 the official word is released and our 2nd strike which is gone out is recalled. We are close in enemy waters. There are many mines being sighted and there are many Japs who haven't gotten the word. Jap planes keep coming out all day. At 1000 hours we splash one in a suicide dive on the ship. Admiral Bull Halsey addresses the fleet and 2 bogies are splashed during his speech. We stay at General Quarters all day and splash 20 Japs in all. Hell of a way to celebrate peace. But, with the recent loss of the Indianapolis with 100% casualties and the torpedoing of the Pennsylvania 2 days ago, we're willing to remain alert. The men dislike Halsey, adore Mitcher. Halsey is a blowhard, with his guts and armor protection of the Iowa we go right in there and fight. Our landing force is ready but doubt that it will be used. McArthur is appointed Supreme Commander so perhaps Halsey will take a backseat and won't ride the emperor's white

horse with silver saddle. At dusk we head out for rendezvous of the entire 3rd Fleet to await orders.

8/16 - Fleet rendezvous today. The first time we've ever all been close together without lots of merchant ships interspersed as in port. Aerial photos of coast battle formation and maneuvers. Our first day of relative quiet. No General Quarters. The ships are somewhat unbuttoned. We're starting conversion to peace time routine.

8/17 - More maneuvers and photos. Close by Japan. Waiting for the Army to come up and occupy. Expect to be home now in 6 weeks since we are a senior carrier and need repair.

8/18 - The Japs fouled up on signing the peace, got their signals crossed, they're having internal troubles. Anyway, we're standing by off Tokyo and the Army is ready at Okinawa. Today we refueled and pow wowed with ships of our group regarding our landing force. We are packed and prepared to go ashore tomorrow afternoon so perhaps the signing is expected.

8/19 - Today the Jap representatives flew to Ie Shima and onto Manila in 2 Bettys. The peace will be signed tomorrow. Our landing force has been split up. The Marine detachment transferred today to an APA, the Naval Amphib Force is now at a reserve status.

8/20 - Routine day at sea. We send the prize crew to take over the Jap patrol boats. The Japs confer with McArthur in Manila.

8/21 - The Essex has shoved off. The Wasp joins us as does the Wisconsin and some Limeys with 2 rusty DD's and the bathtub Indefatigable. What a Navy. Loading ammo and fuel. Wisconsin alongside for ammo also. Quite a sight. The 2 capital ships of the Navy side by side at 8 knots.

8/22 - Plans for signing the peace are concluded. To be signed in Tokyo Bay on board U.S.S. Missouri by Nimitz. We are to furnish air cover for the occupation troops. There are to be tank spearheads, airborne troops to surround Yokosuka Naval Base. Then the fleet will proceed up the Bay for the final signing.

8/23 - We start in toward Tokyo. Flight operations for rehearsal.

8/24 - In range of the coast. We are to be off Nagoya at dawn tomorrow.

8/25 - Off Nagoya. We are suppose to photograph POW camps, drop supplies and magazines but the weather prevents. A typhoon catches us unprepared. It beats and lashes the Randolph fiercely and rips away all loose gear, all the life rafts, nets, jackets, catwalks and so forth. Men are lost overboard. Planes are lashed on deck with heavy cable. Nevertheless they break loose and smash each other to pieces. Waves crash the hangar deck roller curtains and break all the way across the deck. The U.S.S. Wasp has her bow smashed and has to head home. Don't know yet of the damage to smaller ships.

8/26 - Another typhoon today, not quite so bad. The Wasp was the 3rd Navy built CV to

have her bow torn off by typhoons, so today everyone was watching our bow hoping the damn thing would go. Matter of fact yesterday's storm tore loose 2 main girders supporting the flight deck. A few more seas would have done it. The Antetam has gone back because of structural defects. She is a Navy built ship too. Built during a strike at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Maybe a Congressional investigation. We hear that they plan to keep about 14 CV's out here for 4 months patrol. That's all of the CV's available. Weather permitting tomorrow, we photograph and drop supplies to POW's at Nagoya. As of this date is as follows: the Saratoga - qualifying CAG's at Pearl, the Randolph - Japanese patrol damaged, the Franklin - New York Navy Yard, the Wasp - damaged by typhoon - repairing, the Hornet/damaged by typhoon - repairing, Enterprise - damaged off Okinawa - repairing, Lexington - Japanese patrol, Ticonderoga - Japanese patrol, Bon Homme Richard - Japanese patrol, Antietam - structural trouble-repairs, Lake Champlain - expected daily, Yorktown - Japanese patrol - damaged off Okinawa - repair, Bennington - Japanese patrol, Intrepid - damaged off of Okinawa-repair, Essex - needs an overhaul - 18 months, Boxer - expected daily, Ranger - qualifying CAG's at California. This allows 11 for immediate duty here, four of which are due for relief and they say they want 14.

8/27 - The weather has cleared. Beautiful sunshine and choppy sea. Our Task Group has been cut way down. It includes 3 CV's, the Cabot just joined, no battleships, a few CL's. The rest have headed for Yokasuka. We send in planes to spot POW camps in Nagoya area and

drop supplies.

8/28 - General Quarters all day. We move right into the beach and drop food and magazines to POW's. The remainder of the force stands into Sagami Bay. Lands Marines at Yokosuka with engineers. Marine detachment are with this outfit. Japanese bay pilots and envoys are taken aboard. They're searched for weapons by Halsey who didn't return their bows and salutes.

8/29 - Still supplying POW's. We dropped vitamins and medical equipment today. It is reported there is much avitaminosis among them. Our planes fly CAP over the DD's stretched from Okinawa to Kiushui for air sea rescue for planes flying troops into Japan. Main force occupies Yokosuka area today with airborne troops, tanks and amphibbs. The fleet steams up into Tokyo Bay. Aboard our ship there's no longer any General Quarters, no dawn and evening alerts. For the first time the ship is opened up. Fresh air and lights, all precautions are relaxed, almost.

8/30 - Fleet is at anchor. Landing is secure. The ships are open for ventilation. Lights and movies at night.

8/31 - Mass flights over Japan.

9/1 - Final preparation for the signing of peace. Mass flights.

9/2 - Peace is signed. We enter Tokyo Bay. Letters cancelled today bear this souvenir marked "Tokyo Bay CV15 2 September, 1945, VJ Day". McArthur, Nimitz and others conduct the

short ceremony on the Missouri. Many notables and famous POW's like Jonathan Wainwright are present.

9/3 - We learn today that our men were among the first 1,000 Americans to land on Japan. A message from our blue jackets on the beach requesting that mail, beer, fruit and so forth.

9/4 - Planes to the beach to carry requested gear to our men return with untold souvenirs. We get the best word of all today. Censorship is entirely lifted. We can write about anything. We hear that we will dock at Tokyo tomorrow and retrieve our men, pick up a load of POW's, proceed to Okinawa and from there to Pearl. Have our gun sponsors removed, proceed to Panama, arrived about October 15th and then proceed to the east coast. Randolph is to be part of the Atlantic Fleet.

9/5 - Plans change by the hour but always for the better. Just got orders to proceed without delay for Pearl Harbor. We promptly drop off the Lexington and Indefatigable and our screen with another group, and shove off with one DD at 20 knots. We will arrive 9/11 and have our guns removed and then proceed to the Canal.

9/6 - Steaming east. This homeward bound feeling is a wonderful feeling. There's an unconscious change in the attitude of all hands. We hear people singing all over the ship for the first time in ages. Scuttlebutt is that we're to be Atlantic flag ship and will lead the Navy Day celebration.

9/7 - Position 33 north - 161 west.

9/8 - Athletic events on board.

9/9 - Beautiful weather. Approaching the date line.

9/9 - Double Sunday, crossed the date line. Memorial services for the dead.

9/10 - Passed Midway and other Hawaiian Islands. We see some ships, flocks of birds.

9/11 - We arrive Pearl Harbor at 1630 hours after 74 non-stop days at sea covering a distance of 29,000 miles this cruise and a total of 93,000 miles since commissioning. This is the first land seen or touched since up anchor at Leyte on July 1. We have immediate shore leave. Honolulu is now unrestricted. The air group shoves off for Barbers Point. The harbor is nearly empty as compared with last time. The Wasp is here getting her bow repaired.

9/12 - Transfer of the injured to a hospital on the beach. We will remain at Fox 9 for one week then move over to the Navy Yard on the 30th and then head for the canal.

9/13 - Routine day.

9/14 - Routine day.

9/15 - Routine day. Many parties ashore.

9/16 - Routine day.

9/17 - Routine day.

9/18 - Routine day.

9/19 - We move from Fox 9 to a dock in the Navy yard and begin work on the ship.

9/20 - Our Marine landing force returns aboard the Monterey. Also in are the Missouri, the Bataan, New Mexico, Maryland, Idaho, North Carolina, Enterprise, Hornet. Battleship row is full and proud just as prior to Dec. 7, 1941.

9/21 - Yard work.

9/24 - We hear that our Navy Day port will be Baltimore, Maryland.

9/26 - Painting the ship.

9/29 - The ship moves to Fox 13 on Ford Island. Planes come aboard. We load 100,000 of aviation gas and a full load of fuel oil. 1,000 passengers come aboard.

9/30 - All Star Baseball Game at the tennis club on Ford Island.

10/1 - Weigh anchor at dawn for Panama flying our first homeward bound pennant.

10/7 - The entire week has been a delightful cruise. Sunbathing, playing badminton, the weather is quite cool in this off current area. The Wasp and the Langley and 4 DD's are with us. We carry over 1,200 passengers. We sighted Moana Loa on our 2nd day out, a 10,000 ft. peek on Hawaii, the highest land visible

from the sea anywhere in the world. Everyone is busy painting, shining, scraping and cleaning ship for Navy Day Celebration in Baltimore. We're cruising at 16 knots which is Navy regs. Time passes slowly. Awfully long haul from Oahu to Balboa.

10/12 - Sighted land, west coast of Mexico and Costa Rica. We see a large sperm whale, an albatross and many birds.

10/14 - Arrive Balboa, liberty in Panama City.

10/16 - Transit the canal with the Wasp. Liberty in Cristobal, Coco Sola, Colon.

10/17 - Shove off at dawn for Norfolk with the Wasp, Langley and 4 DD's at 16 knots.

10/18 - Transit the Windward Passage and see Haiti and Cuba on either side. Very hot and humid.

10/19 - Passed Crooked Isle in the Bahamas. The Randolph leaves the rest of the group and increases to 20 knots to arrive at 0800 on 10/21. Terribly hot. Hard to believe it's 44 degrees in Norfolk and in 2 days we'll be there. This is because of the Gulfstream. It's getting rough as we approach Hatteras.

10/20 - We're all alone today. Off Hatteras at midnight. Not so rough.

10/21 - At dawn we round Cape Henry and at 0831 we dock at pier 17 NOB Norfolk, Virginia. Home, mid a terrific fanfare of all the horns, whistles and bells on all the ships in the

area.

The lady has returned from the wars to her place of origin.