

# USS Saginaw Bay CVE 82 – Ships Movement History

1 Nov 1943(Monday)      Keel Laid, Hull#1119      Kaiser Shipbuilding  
Vancouver, Washington

## January 1944

19 January 1944      Ship launched      Kaiser Shipbuilding  
(Wednesday)      Vancouver, Washington

2 March 1944(Thursday)      Delivered to US Navy      Astoria, Oregon  
And Commissioned      Capt. Frank C. Sutton in Command

2 March - 15 April 1944      Shakedown Cruise      off of San Diego

Period	Squadron (Aircraft)
March - October 1944	VC-78 (16 FM and 12 TBM)

15 April 1944      Load pilots & planes      Transport to Hawaii  
(Wednesday)      Terminal Island (San Pedro CA)

21 April 1944(Friday)      Arrive Pearl Harbor      Exchange cargo for damaged planes

Late April 1944      Ship returns to Alameda CA      Off load damaged planes

May- early June      Pilot qualifications off San Diego      Squadron VC-78

18 June 1944(Sunday)      Pilot "Marks" crashed an FM-2      off Coast of San Diego  
Death at Sea – VC-78/VC-88

5 July 1944(Wednesday)      Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.      Ship Completes 2nd Ferry Mission

9 July 1944(Sunday)      Depart Pearl Harbor      Proceed to Eniwetok and Majuro  
atolls transporting aircraft

13 August 1944(Sunday)      Left San Diego (Naval Air Station      Deploy on CVE-82  
North Island is the official birthplace  
of Naval Aviation

23 August(Wednesday)      Crossed Equator      172'-30 West

August 1944	joined the expeditionary force forming in the Solomon Islands As "Flagship" of the escort carrier Task force	for invasion of the Palaus
1 September 1944 (Friday)	Pilot "Nugent" crashes on takeoff into the sea. He is OK.	at sea near Guadalcanal (Tulagi)
15 September 1944 (Friday)	Provide air cover for the amphibious Landings at Peleliu and Anguar.	Invasion of the Palaus Part of "Operation Forager"
20 September 1944 (Wednesday)	Plane 13 – Pilot "Lungford" crashed into the sea off Palau	Invasion of the Palaus Part of "Operation Forager"
9 October 1944 (Monday)	Liberty	Pityilu Island, Admiralty's
14 October 1944 (Saturday)	Left Pityilu Island	Steam to Seadler Harbor, Manus
14 October 1944 (Saturday)	Steamed for Seadler Harbor, Manus, where Saginaw Bay became flagship of a task force "Taffy" which sailed on 14 October to begin the liberation of the Philippine Islands with landings at Leyte.	Steamed to Seadler Harbor, Manus
20 October 1944 (Friday)	Arrived on station Leyte Gulf Leyte Gulf invasion "A day" starts	At sea south and east of Philippines
24 October 1944 (Tuesday)	The Japanese Fleet closed, and On 24 October 1944, she was To transfer her aircraft to other Carriers and proceed to Morotai for replacements. Thus, she missed The Battle for Leyte Gulf	On station awaiting invasion to start

24 October 1944 (Tuesday)	1 light aircraft carrier, 2 escort carriers, 2 destroyers, 1 destroyer escort sunk	<b>Battle of Leyte Gulf - Sibuyan Sea</b> <b>Battle of Leyte Gulf - Surigao Strait</b> <b>Battle of Leyte Gulf - Cape Engaño</b> <b>Battle of Leyte Gulf - Samar</b>
26-28 Oct 1944 (Saturday)	loaded new planes and rejoined Her task unit on station and trained new pilots.	Leyte Gulf
28 October 1944 (Saturday)	Pilot "Hyde" shot down a Japanese Plane (a "Tony") The <b>Kawasaki Ki-61 Hien</b> , "flying swallow" was a Japanese World War II <a href="#">fighter aircraft</a> used by the <a href="#">Imperial Japanese Army Air Force</a> .	At Samar
28 October 1944 (Saturday)	Pilot "Morley" shot down a Japanese Plane (a "Tony") The <b>Kawasaki Ki-61 Hien</b> , "flying swallow" was a Japanese World War II <a href="#">fighter aircraft</a> used by the <a href="#">Imperial Japanese Army Air Force</a> .	At Samar
28 October 1944 (Saturday)	Later that day, Commander Hyde, the skipper, was killed in a crash in the sea, he had 350 hours flying time and 8 years' service	off Leyte at sea
28 October (Saturday)	Retired from the Battle of Leyte Gulf to Seeadler Harbor Manus Island	heading to Dry dock for repair, Manus
3 November 1944(Friday)	Japanese Attack – while CVE 82 was at anchor in Seeadler Harbor	The Admiralty's
10 November 1944 (Friday)	<i>Saginaw Bay</i> was anchored in Seeadler Harbor when the ammunition ship <i>Mount Hood</i> (AE-29) was literally blown to pieces by an internal explosion. <i>Saginaw Bay</i> suffered minor damage to her exterior from the force of the blast and helped to care for men of various ships in the fleet base area who had been struck by debris from the disintegrated ship.	waiting for dry dock

20 November 1944 (Monday)	Japanese Attack – while CVE 82 was at anchor in Seeadler Harbor	The Admiralty’s
27 November 1944 (Monday)	departed “Admiralty” in route to Palau	The Admiralty’s
30 November 1944 (Thursday)	Trip to Palau for a 2 hour layover	Palau
3 December 1944 (Sunday)	Return to Seeadler Harbor waiting to enter floating dry-dock for repairs	Seeadler Harbor
11 December 1944 (Monday)	Entered dry-dock for repairs	Seeadler Harbor
14 December 1944 (Thursday)	Left dry-dock	Seeadler Harbor
14 December 1944 (Thursday)	traveled south and east in a large circle in order to participate in training for amphibious landing support missions in preparation for operations in Lingayen Gulf	“Bismarck Sea” area
21 December 1944 (Thursday)	concluded training mission and returned to “Admiralty”	arrived back at Seeadler Harbor
<b>25 December 1944</b> (Monday)	<b>Christmas Day</b>	Seeadler Harbor
26 December 1944 (Tuesday)	Liberty on Pityilu	Pityilu

# January 1945

Period	Squadron (Aircraft)
January - March 1945	VC-78 (20 FM and 12 TBM)

2 January 1945 (Tuesday)	Departed Manus heading for Lingayen Gulf	At Sea
9 January 1945 (Tuesday)	"A day" at Lingayen Gulf (Attack)	Lingayen Gulf
10 January 1945 (Wednesday)	Attacked by 2 Japanese planes who "laid eggs" Dropped bombs that apparently missed	Lingayen Gulf
<b>2 January thru 21 January 1945</b>	<b>Saginaw Bay the actual invasion at Lingayen Gulf</b>	<b>Lingayen Gulf</b>
12 January 1945 (Friday)	Pilots "Weide" VC-78 and "Miller" VC-78 shot down a <b>The Nakajima Ki-43 Hayabusa,</b> <b>"Peregrine Falcon"</b> ) was a single- engine land-based tactical <u>fighter</u> used by the <u>Imperial Japanese Army Air Force</u> in <u>World War II</u> . The Army designation was " <b>Army Type 1 Fighter</b> "; the Allied <u>reporting name</u> was " <b>Oscar</b> ", but it was often called the "Army Zero" by American pilots for its side-view resemblance to the <u>Mitsubishi A6M Zero</u> <sup>[3]</sup> that was flown by the Japanese Navy.	Lingayen Gulf
14 January 1945 (Sunday)	"Tin fish" just missed the Saginaw Bay – Torpedo attack No damage	Lingayen Gulf

16 January 1945 (Tuesday)	Photo of Saginaw Bay in rough seas	South China Seas
23 January 1945 (Tuesday)	Remained until 10 February 1945 (Saturday) Participated in rehearsal of the Iwo Jima assault; covered the invasion force en route, provided support to the landings.	Arrived Ulithi Atoll
10 February 1945 (Saturday)	Left Ulithi with VC-88	At sea
11 February 1945 (Sunday)	Passed by Guam	At sea
12 February 1945 (Monday)	Arrived Saipan	At Saipan
16 February 1945 (Friday)	Departed Saipan	At sea
19 February 1945 (Monday)	D-day on Iwo Jima Part of 'Operation Detachment' Provided support to the landings on 19 February supported operations on that bitterly contested island until 11 March 1945 (Sunday)	On Station
21 February 1945 (Wednesday)	CVE-95 USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by two kamikazes	On station and in battle

Period	Squadron (Aircraft)
March - May 1945	VC-88 (20 FM and 12 TBM)

11 March 1945 (Sunday)	steamed to Ulithi	At sea
14 March 1945 (Wednesday)	Arrived Ulithi to prepare for the pre-invasion of Okinawa	Arrive Ulithi

15 March 1945 (Thursday)	Captain Robert Goldthwaite takes command	Ulithi
21 March 1945	departed Ulithi for Okinawa	At sea
24 March 1945 (Saturday)	Arrived Okinawa	On Station – Kerama Islands
25 March 1945 (Sunday)	Saginaw Bay participated in the pre-invasion strikes against Okinawa which began on 25 March 1945, and continued her support through the invasion on 1 April 1945 and then supported American forces ashore until she was ordered to the United States On 29 April 1945 (Sunday).	On Station- Kerama Islands
1 April 1945 (Sunday)	D Day –the invasion was named “Operation Iceberg”	Okinawa
1 April 1945 (Sunday)	D-day at Kerama Retto . Pilot "Mance" VC-88 was killed	Kerama Retto Harbor
2 April 1945 (Monday)	Antiaircraft guns of Saginaw Bay Downed a Japanese plane Type unknown	Kerama Retto Harbor
2 April 1945 (Monday)	Pilot “Simms” (VC-88) got two Planes. 1-‘Betty’ a land based twin engine bomber (Mitsubishi G4M Type 1) and 1-‘Frances’ Navy bomber (Yokosuka P1Y Ginga)	On Station – Kerama Islands
2 April 1945 (Monday)	Pilot “Fortner” (VC-88) got one Plane. 1-‘Dinah’ The Mitsubishi Ki-46 a land based twin engine high altitude, long range reconnaissance aircraft. . Its Army <i>Shiki</i> designation was Type 100 Command Reconnaissance; the <u>Allied nickname</u> was "Dinah".	On Station – Kerama Islands

2 April 1945 (Monday)	Pilot "Harris" (VC-88) got one Plane. 1-'Nick' The Kawasaki Ki-45 Toryu, "Dragon Slayer") was a two-seat, twin-engine fighter used by the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II. The army gave it the designation "Type 2 Two-Seat Fighter"; the Allied reporting name was "Nick".	On Station – Kerama Islands
6 April 1945 (Friday)	Pilot "Simms" (VC-88) got two "Vals". The <b>Aichi D3A</b> , ( <u>Allied reporting name "Val"</u> ) was a <u>World War II carrier-borne dive bomber</u> of the <u>Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN)</u> . It participated in almost all actions, including the attack on <u>Pearl Harbor</u> . The Aichi D3A was the first Japanese aircraft to bomb American targets in World War II. <b>During the course of the Second World War, the Val dive bomber sank more Allied warships than any other Axis aircraft, despite being considered somewhat obsolete when the war started.</b>	On Station – Kerama Islands
6 April 1945 (Friday)	Pilot "Fortner" (VC-88) got one Plane. 1-'Zeke' The <b>Mitsubishi A6M Zero</b> was a long-range <u>fighter aircraft</u> and operated by the <u>Imperial Japanese Navy</u> from 1940 to 1945. The A6M was designated as the Mitsubishi <b>Navy Type 0 Carrier Fighter</b> , and also designated as the Mitsubishi A6M Rei-sen and Mitsubishi Navy 12-shi Carrier Fighter. The A6M was usually referred to by its pilots as the "Reisen" (zero fighter), "0" being the last digit of the <u>Imperial year</u> 2600 (1940) when it entered service with the Imperial Navy. The official <u>Allied reporting name</u> was " <b>Zeke</b> ", although the use of the name "Zero" was later commonly adopted by the <u>Allies</u> as well.	On Station – Kerama Islands



7 April 1945 (Saturday)	Pilot "Hitt" (VC-88) got one Plane. 1-'Val" The <b>Aichi D3A</b> , (Allied reporting name "Val") was a <u>World War II carrier-borne dive bomber of the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN).</u>	On Station – Kerama Islands
12 April 1945 (Thursday)	Pilots "Peck' and "Triplett" (VC-88) got 3 planes 1-"Sara" unable to identify 1-"Betty" a land based twin engine bomber (Mitsubishi G4M Type 1) 1-"Nick" The Kawasaki Ki-45 Toryu, "Dragon Slayer") was a two-seat, twin-engine fighter used by the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II. The army gave it the designation "Type 2 Two-Seat Fighter"; the Allied reporting name was "Nick".	On Station – Kerama Islands
20 April 1945 (Friday)	Back at Kerama Retto Harbor	Kerama Retto
28 April 1945 (Saturday)	Departed port - Kerama	Kerama Retto
29 April 1945 (Sunday)	<b>Ordered to return to the United States</b> and Steamed to Guam	Set Sail for home
3-4-5 May 1945 (Thursday-Saturday)	Stopped at Guam	Guam
10 May 1945 (Thursday)	Crossed International Dateline En route to Hawaii	At Sea
14-15 May 1945 (Monday-Tuesday)	At Pearl Harbor	Hawaii
22 May 1945 (Tuesday)	Arrived San Francisco for repairs	San Francisco California

August 1945	Departed San Diego CA Returned to Guam transporting aircraft	Ferrying Aircraft
20 August 1945 (Monday)	Arrived in San Diego CA	San Diego California
End of August 1945	Back in the Hawaiian Islands And engaged in training operations Until she reported for Operation "Magic Carpet" duty, the return Of combat veterans from the Pacific.	At Sea training exercises
14 September 1945 (Friday)	Departed Hawaii and called at Guiuan Roadstead, Samar, and San Pedro Bay, Leyte, in the Philippines to embark veterans for return to San Francisco.	"Operation Magic Carpet"
???	Made a second "Magic Carpet" Voyage to Buckner Bay, Okinawa And back to San Francisco, CA.	"Operation Magic Carpet"

## January 1946

1 February 1946	Departed San Francisco for the Eastern seaboard
23 February 1946	Entered the Boston Naval Shipyard For inactivation
19 June 1946	Saginaw Bay CVE-82 was decommissioned and was assigned to the Boston Group of the U.S. Atlantic Reserve Fleet.

## 1955

12 June 1955                      Saginaw Bay was reclassified  
CVEH-82 but was never converted

## 1959

1 March 1959                      Saginaw Bay was struck from the  
Navy list

27 November 1959                Sold to Louis Simons  
and scrapped at Rotterdam,  
the Netherlands in April 1960

### Note:

In July 1944 Henderson was promoted to [Rear Admiral](#) and took command of Carrier Division 28 with his flag in the escort carrier [Saginaw Bay \(CVE-82\)](#).<sup>[7]</sup> Here he directed his ships and squadrons in vigorous aerial offensives against heavily defended enemy bases. Between September 1944 and early 1945 he successively participated in the [Invasion of Palau](#), [Battle of Leyte Gulf](#), and [Invasion of Lingayen Gulf](#), planning and executing full air coverage of approaching and retiring convoys under extremely hazardous conditions, despite repeated attacks by hostile aircraft. At Leyte Gulf his forces departed the area at 1645 on October 24 and thus did not participate in the [Battle off Samar](#).<sup>[8]</sup>

In February 1945 he took command of Carrier Division 25 with his flag in *Saginaw Bay* for the [Invasion of Iwo Jima](#)