VALINSKY, J. J.

USS MONTEREY

V-2 DIV.

JOS VALINSKY, AM 2/c

STARTED

LOG

SEPT. 20, 1943

50174

Manufactured by
U. S. Government Printing Office

SEPT 20 43

Left Phila, seattle-but say we are going to Panama. Had a barrier crash this afternoon, while landing planes.

SEPT 25 43

Arrived in Panama. The canal looks big. Its different than I thought it would be. Had liberty. Nice U.S.O. here lots of States girls liquer. Never touch it.

2 SEPT 27 43

Leaving Panama today. Ship was repaired when ship hit side of lock. Not much damage. Seattle-but its. San Diego.

3 Oct 5-43 OCT 6 LEFT

Arrived in San Diego. No liberty loading Planes. More than 60 aboard. got liner 2,000. passengers. Seattle-butt is Pearl Harbor.

Oct 9-43

Arrived today. Saw Arizona and Oklahoma still in the water. otherwise it doesn't look so bad. Saw first Hawaiian girl today. so, so-.

Oct 10 TO Nov 10

We were in and out of Pearl harbor. Just routine flight operation

NOV-10 43

We left Pearl today, the captain just finished a speech. He says we are going to invade the gilberts. All hands feel good. I do too, but a little worried. Everybody is, I guess.

NOV-12 43

We have just joined a large group of ships they are supposed to be our convoy up to now we only had 4 cans. There are three battlewagons with us 2 carriers, Enterprise, and Bellaue woods. Gilberts here we come.

NOV 15 43

Six Battlewagons astern, plenty of naval might here now.

NOV 17 43

Met another task group. They are going the same place as we are.

NOV 18 43

The other task group has left us, we are now going full speed, we will launch a strike at 4:30 tomorrow morning.

NOV 19 43

Well today is the big day. Almost no enemy air opposition

Island is almost all under our control.
(Makin) One of our pilot scored our
first plane shot down. A twin engined
torpedo bomber. (Betty)

NOV 21 43

marines have complete control of Island
this morning a large 4 engined bomber was
coming toward us. It was shot down in
flames 15 mile away. We saw it go
down.

NOV 25 43

a bit of excitement during dusk alert.
A group of Jap torpedo bombers made at-
tacks on us. They dropped flares and made
torpedo runs. I was working in a plane
during the attack. We were nearly
hit by 2 torpedoes. We heard the
Lisconb Bay was sunk. a high loss
of life.

NOV 26 43

I am at G.Q right now. There are
more Jap Torpedo planes after us. The Big
E just launched 3 night fighters. They
were shot down. "Buttch" O'Hare was
last two.

Nov 27 43

About 75 torpedo planes approached us this evening, but they didn't attack us. They Bombed the Island of Mahin. Some Marines were killed. Fires were started too.

Nov 28 43

This was a hot night for us. The Japs were really out to get us. The south Dakota shot down a Torpedo Bomber (Betty) as did a can. The Burning plane flew right over the flight deck and crashed into the water. (three dead Japs.)

Nov 30 43

made Sub contact, no development. Refueled this evening, Another Betty shot down in flames. Tarawa Bombed again. 11 am Japs kept us awake allmost all night.

Dec 1 T 4 43

Routine flight operations nothing exciting. PBY's be supposed to take over patrol duty. V-2 should leave soon. Good. this isn't so exciting.

Dec 6-43

We crossed the equator for the first time today. We also refueled. 3 Battleships joined us we had an another strike. Scuttlebutt says, Rabaul.

Dec 7-43

Loading up all TBF's for strike on Nauru small Jap held Island. Don't expect much apposition.

Dec 8-43

made one strike today. No air apposition but lot of A-A fire. Lots of damage to Planes. We worked all day and night for 2 days & get them squared away. Also lost 1 TBF. It had to land in the drink the landing gear wouldn't come down. A can picked up the crew. One can got hit with a Jap 5" shell, as it went in to pick up the crew of an SB2C. It too unsuccessful in this attempt.

Dec 9-43

Crossed international date line lost a day.

Dec 10 43

on our way to Espiritu Santos. In the new Hebrides. Guttlebutt says its a nice place.

Dec 11 43

10 estroyer came alongside rigged a breeches buoy, brought ours TBF crew aboard. One was missing.

Dec 12 43

Arrived in Espiritu. Not such a nice looking place. Lots of sharks in the water. It sure is hot. Everybody seems anxious to get out again.

Dec 13 43

Taking on supplies and foul weather gear. Always raining here, and sunshine between. This is the first land we saw in 31 days though.

Dec 14 43

Am over on the beach now living in a Quonset hut. Good duty. Lay in bed all day. Had Ice cream today.

The first in a month. Read in the paper about the attacks that were made on us in the Gilberts. There were between 30 + 40 every night.

Dec 15 43

Got mail from ship. taking on slot of supplies aboard. Get some Beer sun other day. Sure is a long line though. I track my hair shirts for Ice Cream.

Dec 19-43

Still here. Wish I were someplace else on liberty. Sometimes I wish I were a "market street comando" This is one of the "Glamorous" Salads one reads about. the Natives are black, pot bellied, Bare upper, well just bare upper that all. lots of coconuts here. Eat some every day. But mostly drink the milk.

Dec 20. 44

Back to the ship again. I guess we will get underway soon. I hope so, Getting tired of this place.

Dec 21 43

Anchored this morning at 0730. Battle-
Butt says we are on our way to New
Ireland to attack Jap shipping in the harbor.
Ole Bunkerhill is still with us.

Dec 23 43

Refueled today. On our way to New
Ireland at 30 knots. We will strike
it among just across the bay from
Rambaul (Wow!)

Dec 24 43

All quite tomorrow is the day.

Dec 25 43

Well here it is Christmas day. We
sure are giving the Japs hell. A hell of
a nice Christmas for them. Well us for
that matter. We catapaulted a fighter this
morning he spun in. He never got out
of his plane. Our planes made bombing
and torpedo runs in the harbor, We
sunk 2 and probably sunk 2 more. That
was just our 9th B.F's. No Air Oppo-
sition, but plenty of A.A fire. Lots of

damage to the planes. Jap Bombers are attacking us now. They have been all day. Our ship gunners shot down their first plane. a Jap Betty. It was shot down aft and burned on the water for quite a while. (3 more dead Japs) The Bunker Hill CAP shot down 3 during the day.

Dec 26 43

We are now out of the Rambal area, no more Air attacks, for a while anyway.

Dec 28 43

Refueled, and are heading back to Rambal again for another strike.

Dec 29 43

Plans have changed. Heading back to Espiritu. Refueled a con this - morning.

Dec 31 43

all quite today. At midnite full speed ahead for Koniing. Another strike.

JAN 1 44

Well here it is New Years day. The Japs are on the receiving end of another

holiday gift from us. Poor Bastards. at dawn the Bunker hill sent over a V F Recco sneeff. They report 2 cruisers and 2 cons. at 0 900 we send in a strike. About 10 mile from the target they were attacked by 30 zeros. and much A A fire We had 8 fighters to fight them off. The rest went with the T B F 's. for cover, and to strafe the final score. 2 cruisers sunk 1 destroyer probably sunk. The other in flames. We lost 2 fighters + pilot. The Bunker lost on S B 2 C and crew. 2 pilots were slightly wounded by A A fire. One plane went thru the hangers and rammed two others. Lots of work. At dusk the Japs sent out torpedo planes to attack us but due to foul weather they couldn't find us. The captain just announced, "Back to Eggetts and beer" Boy what a busy day. Happy new years. Yeah!

JAN 3 44

R effuled at sea all quite.

JAN 4 44

Today we struck Kwajalein again and really fought them with their pants down

We sank 2 destroyers, and three the days our planes shot down 4 fighter and 2 bombers who were heading toward the task force. Looks like no Jap night attack this evening.

JAN 6 44

All quite, no one really are looking for Espiritu.

JAN 7 44.

Yes here we are in Espiritu we arrived at 1115. Ought to get mail soon. I hope.

JAN 8 to 18

Was over on the beach during that time had a nice vacation. Just crapped out all the time. I'm on the ships now. The Boys say they took on a lot of supplies. I'll bet we are out for a long time, (I say 90 days.) we'll see how close I come.

JAN. 19 44

Underway this morning at 0600 Bound for - Who knows where?

JAN 20 44

We are bound for Funafatti. In the Ellice Island group. 5 Battlewagons and 8 Cans are with us. Also crossed the date line. We gained our last day.

JAN 20 44

Arrived in Funafatti at 1100. to take on more supplies, mostly dehydrated. Scuttlebutt says the Marshalls is next.

JAN 23 44

Yep the Marshalls it is. The captain just confirmed it. We are surrounded by 8 Battlewagons 16 cans 3 cruisers The Brember and the Compens. We'll show them.

JAN 24 44.

We had a mock alert hourly and drills attacks by our own planes. Quite a sight those God Damned Japs won't try that stuff during the day, but come sneaking around at night. No suicide stuff though. We lost a Radioman in a forced landing at sea. Pilot & Crew O.K.

JAN 25 -44

all quite. Refuled at sea. Fine Battlewagons left us along with 2 cruisers to join another task group. I say after tomorrow is the big show.

JAN 29 -44

Well this is it. We hit the largest island in the marshalls. Is magelane. Started many fires. Sank supply ships and barges loaded with Jap soldiers. We lost a TBF today. Don't know what happened. It just spun in. Made another attack at 12:30. All planes back. Although they are damaged. Work again tonite, I guess. No Jap planes tonite. Our forces must land soon.

NOTE

Sometime during these operations Roy Clayson was killed when 2 Bunker Hill TBF's collided in mid-air. We strike again tomorrow and furnish cover for the invasion forces. We met at 9 a all day. (Defense workers take notice we had plenty of meetings here. We had black coffee and a sandwich for every meal. (Sure stinks, good Lake)

JAN 31 44

The army landed today on Kwajelein, and many of the smaller Islands. We hit a small Island today. No air opposition some AA fire.

FEB 1 44

Today we struck Eniwetok some air opposition as well as AA fire.

FEB 2 44

a strike at the same Island the landing strip is ruined, as well as 17 Jap bombers.

FEB 3 44

We refueled today. Right in the shadow of the Marshalls. Wonder where the hell the Jap fleet is. The Army is doing a bang up Job. And have almost 10 of the Islands in their possession. We are all pretty well worn out now we sleep whenever and wherever we can. We have been working day and night since we first struck the Marshalls. Very little air Oppo-
sition.

FEB 4 44

a big blow to Jap prestege. He are ore all anchored in a lagoon in the marshalls. the heard rifle + machine-gun fire as we were coming into the lagoon. A very impressing sight. Ships all around us. Carriers Battle-wagons., cruisers, cons, DE's to. I never saw so many ships in my life. The Islands only raise a few feet out of the water. Mostly sand and coral. all the palm trees have been knocked over by the pre-invasion bombing we gave it only 6 days ago. The climate is nice. It isn't too hot. There are breakers about 500 yards off the port bow, its really nice. This afternoon 3 natives rowed past us in a battered row boat. You can see there grass hut thru binoculars on the Islands that weren't bombed.

FEB 5 44

We refueled at 0800. the General alarm went off at 1200. This is it, one thought. a real daylight attack. They are 40 miles away. False alarm. They are U.S army planes. No FF. Scuttlebutt says Truk not (ouch!)

FeB 7 44

Out to sea this morning at 0800. for patrol duty.

Feb 8 44

Back in Majuro again. Artie came aboard today what a surprise. Boy o was we glad. He was among the invasion forces. He still looks good as ever.

Feb 10 44

Still at anchor in the lagoon. Going on liberty party this afternoon. I'm anxious to see what it is like. There are somewhere around 10,000 Japs on the Island around us. What a sight for them they can see the navy they were supposed to have sunk and it isn't at the bottom either.

FEB 12 44

Underway again. The captain says truck it is. The Bunker is with us as is the cowpens a battleships 3 cruisers and lots of cons. Everybody is tense. This is the first attack on Truck

FEB 15

Refueled today. I was able to count 58 ships over the horizon. Carriers, every thing this is really going to be a strike.

FEB 16

Well this is it. We struck at trucks today and tomorrow. We furnished CAP today, so no scores for our planes today. No air opposition. Possibly due to the fact that some 200 fighters went in at dawn + strafed and bombed the airstrips with 500 lb. bombs which they carried and the ships. They destroyed some 250 planes on the ground. Also sank a few tankers damaged or sank 2 cruisers cons, a small carrier + many barges. Around midnite one of the other task groups was attacked by Jap torpedo planes. No hits were made. They lost some planes. During the day the Iowa + New Jersey ran down the 2 Jap cruisers that were damaged in the initial A + sunk and sunk them both.

FEB 17

Strike again today, and our own pilots were in on it. We bombed some A/K's. We were to make a strike at 1330, but the flight was called back, because there were no suitable targets. Heading east at 1400. We will strike at Ponape another Jap held Island in the Carolines.

FEB 19

Rudely awakened this morning by the clanging of the General alarm. A mad dash to battle stations. The Japs are out early. One was just shot down 5 miles astern of us. (a betty) We were 150 miles from Ponape. We refueled today. A rumor - Truk next.

FEB 20

A new rumor is running around today they say we will strike at Jiapon. that pretty darn close to Tokio. Who cares! We had hit of a diversion for chow this evening, the ships orchestra was in one corner of the messdeck, and played while we ate. I hope we have more of it.

FEB 21

a Jap Betty got within 9 miles of the ship, he was undetected. Nobody could understand how he managed to get in. We can usually pick them up when they are 200 miles away. A T B F chased the Betty out, but was unable to down it. We had sub contacts all day, the General alarm sounded, and a periscope was sighted.

FEB 22

General Alarm went off at midnight. There are 2 groups of bogies around 20 miles away. The other group is firing at them. They either knocked them down, or else they left. The other task group was under attack almost all nite long. Well here we are at G.Q. again. This is the morning of our attack on Siagan. Our planes shot down 2 Japs. The carriers got 1. Almost all our planes were launched in today attacks. They all got back, although they were pretty well shot up. The totals for today as announced by the Capt. 12 planes, 1 large AK sunk 1 in flames numerous small craft sunk. Our CAP gave protection to a sub which it picked

up survivors of a downed plane. The
lreens are clear, so I guess we won't be
bothered very much by bogies tonite.
It doesn't make much difference, we still
have to stay up and work on the planes.

FEB 24

On our way again, quite possibly
to the Marshalls, then definitely proceeding
and then where! No scuttlebutt.

FEB 25

We were told definitely that we were
going to the marshalls, then to Pearl. Maybe
the states. Lots of good scuttlebutt.

FEB 26

We are now in the marshals. Majuro
to be exact. Lots of mail today. Darn glad
to get it.

FEB 27

Rumors floating around that we are go-
ing to be made shellbacks at last

FEB 28

We have just finished our initiation ceremonies, They were pretty rugged, I'm glad to be a shellback.

MAR 2

Well here we are in Pearl. Nothing much new, we get liberty every other day. Pay day today. I have 300 on the books. I'd be glad to have it when its time to go home.

MAR 3

Lots of scuttlebutt about going back to the states. Some of it sounds pretty darn good too. The scuttlebut is enymuhere from the states to Tokio.

1

MAR 29

Quite a bit of time has passed since diary. But there wasn't much to report while we were in Pearl. Pulled out a few liberties went to Waikiki had chow. not very much to do. We are underway right now, and left quite unexpectedly. We are just cruising along Ten are now

some 85 fighting ships around us now. Looks like something big. No scuttlebutt though. Yes here it the dope. The capt says we will attack the Palau Islands. Gee that the other side of Truk. We should have quite a bit of excitement. By the way, the afternoon of the 28 a Betty was shot down by flares from the Big "E" we had bogies on the screen all night, but they didn't get very close. We have also had several sub contacts since leaving the Marshalls.

MAR 30

Well here is the day of the strike. Target for today Palau. General was at 0345 we had chow and went to GQ a our planes had already been launched. A few Jap planes have been shot down already. Apparently there weren't too many ships in the harbor, but our planes got a 15,000 ton merchant ship. and 3 smaller craft. They shot down several planes in the air. Bombed air strips buildings, laid mines and took photos for future operations. We lost plane

today which was hit by A.A. fire. It caught fire and landed in the drink. The pilot was later picked up by a sub. The Cabot lost a man overboard also pushed a crippled plane over. The Hornet lost 10 or 2 planes. As usual at night we have our visitors The cabots planes have shot down 9 already, We went into Q around 1830 and secured around 2230. a good long day for all of us. The Jap planes kept circling all around us all night 2 and possibly 3 were shot down by A.A. They dropped quite a few flares which lit us up quite bright, but no hits were scored on any task groups.

MAR 31

Reveille at 0545. To Q at 0700. One Jap has already been shot down. We are now launching more fighters. We are about 500 miles from the Philippines, and about 250 from Jap. Part of our forces are hitting there today. Today is apparently the last day here, we want to get an early start on the Nogies. Our squadron accounted for 19 Japs in the air and 11 on the ground. The Hornet lost 12 planes today. F-15 had a barrier crash. More work tonite —

APRIL 1

Today we hit Woleai. No air opposition but plenty of A.A. The planes came back pretty well shot up, but we didn't loose any. Two cans fired on 2 Jap AK's and left them sinking.

APRIL 2

Refueled ships today. We had a tough break F-17 hit the barrier flipped over on it back and hit F 24 which was turning up, and it went forward and crashed into F 6 + F 8 which in turn hit other planes. There are four planes beyond repair, and 4 badly damaged. Looks like lots of work again. Report from the Capt. "Out of 40 planes shot down over the target VF Sat 26."

APRIL 3

Regular routine. We are now heading back to Majuro, Smithbutt says States in May. Everybody hopes—.

APRIL 7

Dropped hook in Majuro. Tried to find Art, but couldn't.

APRIL 8

Took on supplies today, and also our new Skipper, Capt. Ingersoll. Looks like a pretty good dude.

APRIL 13

Left port at 1050 - took on the planes, lost one and two badly damaged. Scuttlebutt says Invasion of New Guinea.

APRIL 18

We are heading on a course for Kolombia-invasion. The skipper just announced it. We seem to have bogies on the screen all the time.

APRIL 19

Refueled ship in Bismark sea, had G.Q. at 0400. The Princeton night fighters shot down a betty. 10 in task group had 2 wagons 4 Cruisers 4 carriers (cahot Bunker Yorktown + M) and 14 dans.

APRIL 20

Regular Routine. TBF from Yorktown shot down a betty. That is unusual -

APRIL 21

Today we hit Wewak no air opposition but plenty of A.A. Plones were pretty well shot up. Report from the Ship - "There were approximately 150 Jap planes destroyed on the ground.

APRIL 22

Our planes hit Kolandia today. No air opposition. Large fires started and much damage don. All our planes are O.K. Number lost 2 planes. One caught fire while taxing up the deck, it was pushed over the side. The other hit the mast of the New Orleans, it caught fire and crashed.

APRIL 23

Kolandia invaded, everything progressing according to plan. We lost a fighter pilot today. While strafing he hit a tree crashed and burned.

APRIL 24

Refueled ship. Regular routine patching damaged planes.

APRIL 27

Still regular routine. Seuttlehutt says we are going to hit Truck again.

APRIL 28

Capt says Truck it is. Five Jap patrol planes have been shot down by C.A.P.

APRIL 29

Tomorrow we hit Truck, crossed the date line, Now April 28 –

APRIL 29

Well Today has been a mild day for us we were almost torpedoed dive, bombed and hit by burning planes – Here is what happened. at 0800 our planes took off to hit truck. at 0830 a group of Jap dive Bomber and Torpedo planes broke thru the Cap an attacked us. This is as I saw it. Off to the starboard side forward – 5 Torpedo plans came one was knocked out by a con it crashed burning in the sea! Then another was splashed by a cruiser. a carrier dropped another! The next made a run

on us. He was hit in one engine just as he was ready to drop the fish. He dropped it though, It entered the water tail first, that's what made it miss. He flew over the entire formation and a can downed him. From the starboard side aft 3 plane can 1 fighter and 2 dive bombers. One of the dive bombers attacked us and was downed it crashed about a hundred yards to starboard burning. The bomber put the other dive bomber down. The fighter came in strafing the bomber it was hit (the Jap) and it flew over the bomber it was hit but not burning. Then he tried to crash on our deck, but our gunners opened up with everything the had. The plane crashed burning into the sea about 50 yards off to starboard. all of this action took place in less than 5 minute. Curtiss was cool. We lost a plane because the landing gear was shot up. We shot down two more planes in the afternoon.

APRIL 30.

We hit truck again. Some air opposition and plenty of AA opposition. We hit

supply dumps and air strips. We lost one fighter. Which was hit near the Island, it crashed in the drink one of our subs picked him up. Then goes the General Alarm-boys like trouble tonite. Bogies on the screen. Well the bogies were shot down before they got here, but we secure and get the plans fixed.

MAY 1

Heading for Majuro.

MAY 4

Dropped hook at 1030.

MAY 5

Taking off supplies. Everybody seems to think we are going Stateside, I think so too. Looks good.

MAY 6

Left Majuro at 0930 and are now heading for Pearl. Looks good for the states.

May 7

4 BF hit the Barrio. Hook pulled out. Big boxing tournament under way.

MAY 8

Elemination Bouts held today some were really good others comical We have been toking it easy lately. nothing to do.

MAY 10

Semi-Finals today they were really good. Fi it pearl tomorrow.

MAY 11

Had finals in Boxing tournament, and docked in Pearl. Liberty today. Not much to do though only 6 hrs. liberty.

MAY 15

Put out to sea again to qualify new squadron - VF 28 & VT 28.

MAY 17

Back in port again. Lots of work being done to the ship. Looks bad for that trip to the states. Mighty bad -

MAY 18-28

Getting a good deal of repair work done

Went to Camp Andrews for 3 days rest. It was really nice too. Had a very good time lots of beer, + ice cream. Two LST's blew up in the harbor while we were away. Pulled quite a bit of liberty. Went to Waikiki mostly. + Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Really nice.

MAY 29

Left Pearl for Majuro.

June 1

T 15 passed the drink on takeoff. Crew and pilot were picked up by a con.

JUNE 3

Dropped hook in Majuro. There sure are a lot of ships there. Looks like something big.

JUNE 6

Left majuro this morning. Don't know where we are going, but there are plenty of ships. 61 cons 7 majors 18 cruisers and 16 carriers. Looks big.

JUNE 9 Heading N.W. Refueled ship- looks like the Marianas. That the scuttlebutt

JUNE 10

We were given the dope today. Full scale invasion of the Marianas, + Guam. It is big. The whole Pacific fleet will take part in the invasion. Which will take place in about 4 hrs. Its early in the morning about 0400. Just finished chow. The fighter sweep just launched aboard the VF shipper shot down 2. Zeches and 2 probables. We destroyed 9 Tojeos planes on the ground 3 other probables. The C. A. P. got a shotty 40 miles from the ship. Man lost overboard this evening. He is lost —.

JUNE 13

Today the VF shipper was forced to bail out but was picked up by a can. This afternoon our cruisers and wagons shelled the beaches. We come close enough to see the shoreline. We can also see the battle-wagon arrow. 8 of them lined up one after the other. Just shelling hell out of them. There is a sub setting out here someplace. He keeps firing pick as

we go backs and forth. We can't seem to find him because he is laying still. The cons are now picking up survivors of some jap ships that were sunk right here during the night. A lot of our planes have been hit by A.A. but they all came back safely. Was awakened this morning at 0300 by the general alarm. Jap torpedo planes after us. They dropped flares all around us when they started their run the Jersey put them down with the Red - R. 5" guns. The Jap fleet is now putting out to sea. Units are now leaving the Celebe, Sumatra, the Philipins and Japan itself. Looks like we will have a little action.

JUNE 14 Our

Our Planes hit Guam. No air opposition. Plenty of AA. Planes were damaged. Lost 7 17. No word about crew. 4 Jap Wagons 6 Jap cruisers heading here from Celebes.

JUNE 15

Today is D day. Our troops must ashore there is quite a list of opposition. Our

planes are now strafing the Jap troops. We are also bombing Jap tanks. The Jap fleet. Some more units have joined up with the wagons and cruisers. Tanks like we are going to get a chance to give them hell. We expect to engage them between the 17 + 20.

JUNE 16

Refueled ship today. We expect to contact the Jap fleet soon. They are 500 miles away. There goes the General Alarm, Bogies 20 miles. They are now firing. We'll secure now 8 out of 12 were shot down. The most concentrated firing I have ever seen. Jap fleet. Still too far away.

JUNE 17

No soap in regards to the Jap fleet. They are 300 miles west of us. And out of range. D.Q. at 2000. No action -

JUNE 18

This morning our C.A.P. shot down a bogie We expect to hit the Jap fleet soon They are close.

JUNE 19

This morning we had to scout all the fighters into the air. Groups of 20 planes each coming in all around. Also bombers and torpedo planes. We were attacked a little while ago. 2 dive bombers broke thru the screen. They gunned for Wasp and Hornet. They suffered near misses, some casualties, all of the Jap planes so far have been splashed. Our ship gunners splashed 2. We are getting it again. They are now making runs on the cruisers. One looks like it hit, but it's only the smoke from it guns. We have been attacked again twice more. But they didn't get by the outer screen. The planes that are attacking us are flying from Jap carriers, over us, and then landing on Guam. We can't hit the Japs but they can hit us. Our planes are now over Guam. As the Jap planes try to land there our fighters shoot them down. The C.A.P. from the Princeton shot down 6 bogies at 1730. There is a searchlight on Guam right now. We can see it plainly - 33 miles away.

Here are the results of todays action according to the skipper. The Jap fleet unit launched planes in groups of 20. Our fighters attacked them as soon as we knew where they were, by our Rad-P. (APPROX 75 miles away) Whatever planes got away from our C.A.P. had to fly over the wagon screen. Whatever planes got thru that had to fly past our cons screen. Then the met the cruiser and carriers. Usually only 2 or three would get thru. Today there were 288 enemy planes shot down and 23 probables. Our fighters got 18. The wasp lost 1 man + 45 were wounded The Bunker lost 1 man + 30 wounded. As a result of the near miss the man next to me saw the bomb drop near the wasp, but I watched the dive bomber get hit and burn, the pilot bailed out.

JUNE 20

The task group that had planes over Guam shot down 109 of the Jap planes trying to land there. at 1600 the

made contact with the Jap fleet. There were 2 Jap task groups 16 capital in the North group and 12 in the south. Our planes had to attack at maximum range. that means some won't get back. The Jap task group is now refueling. The planes have now returned. We lost 50 planes in this attack. Most of them ran out of gas close to the ship. But the pilot are being picked up. The task group is lit up so returning flyers can find us. One plane crashed on the deck of the Hornet. We will take on her remaining 3 planes. 16 are is part of the result of the attack. They met no air opposition. The carrier decks were clear. Knowing we had knocked all their planes down. The AA was intense. We hit a large CV and 2 smaller CV's (carriers) There is no complete report on the damage to the Jap fleet as yet. I will explain the return of our planes. The night landings are quite a sight Every ship in the entire force is lit up, search lights point into the sky trying to lead our fighters back. The planes returned 1 hour later than they were supp-

oned to. We wondered if they were coming back. Some planes ran out of gas as they were in the circle, others ran out as they were taxiing up the decks. One plane hit the mast of a cruiser and crashed. One plane caught fire on the flight deck of another carrier. It too dark to tell which one. One plane didn't have on his recognition light or his IFF signal. He was in the landing circle and tried to land aboard here several times. He evidently thought this was the Jap fleet. They shot him down later on. We are now doing Thirty knots trying to catch the Jap fleet.

JUNE 21

No report on total damage done. Although 1 carrier is known to be sunk as well as other smaller ships by our own TBF's. Search planes have been picking up the Pilots who were ~~sho~~ forced down last night.

JUNE 23

Report on last nites attack: Several cargo ships sunk One oiler 1 cruiser badly damaged 1 large carrier hit and sunk (by our TBF Group) 1 CVL sunk others hit. Other

3. ships were damaged. The South Dakota has been hit, but little damage. tomorrow we head for Eniwetok.

JUNE 24

Strike on Pagan Island. A few small ships there light AA fire. Heading back. Scuttlebutt says State.

JUNE 27

Dropped hook in Eniwetok. Saw what damage our old squadron VF-VT 30 did here. Everything absolutely leveled. Just burned and charred palm trees are standing. The lagoon is really large. Quite a few ships here.

JUNE 28

Taking on supplies and a lot of mail. Scuttlebutt says a strike. Where? nobody knows.

JUNE 30

Left Eniwetok to hit harriers. Back to Marianas to patrol, according to scuttlebutt

JULY 1

We got the close today. We are to hit the Bonins. about 900 miles from Japan itself. Everybody is cool. Another group hit there day before yesterday. They shot down 114 planes and destroyed numerous planes on the ground. Our force now consist of 8 cans 4 cruisers 4 carriers - Monty Cabot Wasp Hornet.

JULY 2

Regular routine T 11 hit harrier. We are now about 700 miles from Bonis.

JULY 3

Tomorrow we hit the Bonins. They are 650 miles from Japan. We are now half way around the world from home.

JULY 4

Today we hit. The cruisers shelled the Island, they were in close. We are 55 miles from the Islans. Sent in VF sweep to catch Japs on the ground. Shot down 40 destroyed many on the ground. Cans picked up pilot from Island who was there since allies group attacked.

JULY 5

Hit Rota again today & many A/A. Lost F-5 but the pilot was picked up. TBF 17 was shot down crew lost. other planes damaged but returned. Result: 3 cans sunk 1 burning 1 large cargo ship sunk 9 badly damaged. Headed for Saipan.

JULY 6

Refuled, and sent a VF sweep on Guam all fighters carried a 500# bomb. A/A very heavy & some planes were hit but all returned to the ship.

JULY 7

We struck Rota alone today. Some A-A slight damage.

JULY 8

Hit Guam today. Our planes are on ASP & CAP.

JULY 9

Hit Rota again. Not much there. Get this a radio press release Saidor type carriers of- ford protection to large carriers so they could

do bombing on strikes. A very goodly bunch of crap. As can be seen by what is written before now. On July 7, we did ASP + CAP, but we also went in and hit Rota alone! Some of those lines lipped correspondents ought to climb out of their seats in their spacious quarters on the big carriers and come aboard one of these little jobs and see some real teamwork. Damit!!

July 10

Today is our first birthday. Tomorrow we hit Rota again TBM made a water landing + crew was picked up.

July 11

Hit Rota. No air opposition + a little AA. Word has just come thru that a RM'k was picked up off Guam. He has been there since 39. He roamed around trying to keep from getting captured. He must be disoriented.

July 13

Refueled this morning. and bad weather canceled strike on Rota. Moonsoon is almost on us.

July 14

Hit Guam on ore-dam strike. No air opposition lots of A.A. Some planes were damaged.

July 15

Hit Rota this afternoon. No air opposition AA hit 7 10 over target + crew was lost. Scuttlebutt says Pearl and 5 Islands left Ha ha!

July 16

Still hitting Guam Rota alternately. Getting very monotonous. the meals aren't so hot. Have to low stove.

July 17

Refuel ship. Strike repairs today Saipan completely under control. Start 4 hops a day to soften up Guam for invasion.

JULY 19

Same as yesterday. Wagons + Cruisers shelling Islands. The wagons are the older type most ~~ass~~ of them are the ones that have been hit in the Pearl Harbor attack. Almost all show batteries have been knocked out. Expect to land troops 21st.

JULY 20

Same routine. Heavy Starvade scuttlebut floating around. Making a feeble attempt to disregard it, but it sure sounds good. One of our boilers is supposed to be out.

JULY 21

Strike on Guam & the ground forces are apparently having tough sledding. They are expecting air attacks. Our planes are over the Island supporting the invasion.

JULY 22

Operations on Guam are progressing well. We are going pretty fast. Steaming we will anchor in lagoon to rearm the best planes. And take on stuff. Probably go to Eniwetok, then

to Pearl. Moyle stateroom too. Who knows?!!

JULY 23

We dropped the hook in Iwojon Yesterday afternoon. We were able to witness the shelling and bombing off Tinian which is just 4 miles away. I think they are going to invade in a few days. We are leaving port. heading for Pearl some 3,000 miles away.

July 24

Left the task group, and are now with 2 DE's and a CVE on our way to Eniwetok, We have some duds aboard including a SBZC and an F6F-5

July 27

We should reach Eniwetok - tomorrow morning. Probably just stay there long enough to dump all ammunition gear. Making slow speed. 16 okaling terrific field day, day after day. Curses-!

July 28

Anchored at Eniwetok and held field day

States side talk is now very very heavy
maybe we'll be back by sept. I hope.
had a barrier crash. plane was pretty well
bashed up. No one was hurt though. ..

July 30.

The hook is up, and we are now on our
way to Pearl, hold it up, wrong slope
we just changed berth. We catapulted our
good planes off and are now have a few duds
to take back to pearl.

July 31

We are now steaming again. This is
straight dope. We have 2 DE's for escorts
the nets are very bright. We certainly do
control the pacific right up to the Philipines.
A year ago we wouldn't be here without a battle-
wagons.

Aug 4. Nothing much news taking it easy for
a while. We drop the hook in Pearl tomorrow
Inspection this morning. Always okay. I've
got quite a bit of money on the books for
when we get back to the states soon I
hope.

AUG 29

Well I didn't enter a thing since the 4th. I was to a rest camp for 3 days. I saw Clo brother and his wife. They have a nice lit the home. I also went to see the Benbaskies, but couldn't see him as he was working. We are now underway we hauled anchor at 0830 and are on our way to make. For a strike there. We are the only carrier. We have with us 2 cruisers Salt lake city Minneapolis & the Portland. And the planes we took aboard were F6F-5. and planes. Up to now we had F6F-3

SEPT 2

We have been getting the planes ready for the strike for the last couple of days. We strike tomorrow with 4 hops. Cruisers are also going to shell. There should be some cargo ships & polish off as well as 8" gun emplacements. Our fighters are carrying 5" rocket for the first time. Our fighter also have a sweet little suprise for the YB's.

SEPT 3

Made the strike on mobe today. Done it one hell of a good pasting. with 1000# bombs rockets and belly tanks. Cruisers and cans went in and shelled hell out of them. There should be very few of the V.B.S left.

SEPT 5

Well we dropped the hook in Eniwetok at 0800. While coming into the harbor this morning thousands of Jellyfish could be seen in the water. Scuttlebutt says we are going to invade Yap + Palau next.

Sept 19

a goodly amount of time has passed by, but nothing happened. We arrived to assist in the invasion of Palau on D+2 day. We left that task group, and are now going full speed to catch our operating group. We are now on our way to Manus Bay for a U F sweep followed by possible Carpedo runs. a two day strike, so things should be exciting. Scuttlebutt says State for the ship after the Philippines are in hand.

I hope Dougout Doug gets back there soon if such is the case.

SEPT 20

F 7 made a water landing. The Pilot went down with it. We are now around 150 miles from Fuzon. and as yet we seem to be undetected. The weather is very stormy. tomorrow is the big day.

~~help~~

SEPT 21

a hell of a stormy night last night and a lot of lightening to go with it. The ship was covered with phosphorous. as were the waves. Everything seemed light. as yet the fighter hasn't been launched due to adverse weather conditions. Bogies are reported at 30 miles. looks as though we'll have sweeps. and a bit of excitement today. I hope its sunny tonite as it was last night. It make it a lot harder for the SOB's to find us. A Zeke has just been sploshed 30 miles away. there is another on the screen at 25 miles but they haven't spotted him yet. Our VF sweep has just struck a few min-

utes ago. I was listening to Radio Manila. Then was music playing (American Music) Then it stopped and excited announcer announced, in American for everybody to proceed to air raid shelters that this was an air raid. Then some Jap got on. He really was excited. According to reports the Japs have lot of shipping in the harbor. Both merchant and man-o-war. Our TBM's are loaded with torpedoes and ready to strike soon as the get the word. We are four carriers in this group Wasp Hornet Cahat + M. A total of 96 fighters will go in followed by a slightly larger no. of SBE C/S and TBM's. Our group is 50 miles closer to the target than all the other groups. We are hait, if the Jap fleet should decide to come out if they are around. Another Zeke has just been shot down by a Hornet plane. There was a big celebration going on in Manila as our fighters came over. The Japs were parading down the field. Our planes strafed hell out of them. The



celebration was the 1st anniversary of Philippine
civil rule, and they were really caught with
their shirts at half mast. Fighters and SBD's
Bombed + strafed Clarks field where the Japs
were having calesthenics. The field itself
was covered with japs. They were mowed
down like ten-pins. The planes that were
on the ground couldn't get off because of
the bodies lying around. Jukes from some
outlying fields are now giving some
opposition. The Torpedo planes are now
back of all the 40 B M 1/s launched only 2
missed. The harbor was full of ships.
an 8 ship convoy off Corregidor was also
given the treatment. Accurate results were
hard to get due to adverse weather conditions.

SEPT 22

0900 Was up at 6 a for 27 hrs now
and have been going almost all the time. There
are now Jap planes above the clouds. They
dive out drop the bombs and scram. The
Anti Aircraft fire is intense. a string
of four just hit off the port side.

And one a near miss off the starboard side aft just lifted my trousers up, a cruiser splashed a Zeke. But our A.A. won it reeds them as they are out of sight. 6 or 8 men have been injured by the shrapnell from a Zeke that just straffed us. 6 or 8 planes at 10 miles have been intercepted by the C.A.P. Most of them are splashed. a four engined bomber has just been splashed very close to us by a navy plane. A typhoon is on it's way all planes are being secured with 14 lines each.

SEPT 23

Scoreboard for the 2 days fracas as just announced by the ships. Destroyed 284 aircraft sunk 34 ships. and left 22 others badly damaged or sinking. Much damage was also done to warehouses docks barracks. As an afterthought I might add, the typhoon didn't materialize. We refueled at noon. tomorrow at dawn are strike Negros. Reports say part of the Jap fleet might be there as well as numerous planes We will probably have Airstrips though

Sept. 24

Well our strikes are now in at negros. There is little air opposition and lot of A.A. The planes were damaged a little. Results: tank a couple A K's and taken set fire to warehouses and barracks and a marine railway. One of our pilots was forced down in a rice field he is O.K. he fled to the hills. I doubt if he will be rescued until we invade. which should be within a month.

We are going to the Admiralty Islands after this raid to pick up supplies and rest up a bit. We got 20 bag of mail from a con while we were reading it the japs are catching hell over at Negros.

Sept 26

Bonne all Pollywogs!!!

Today is a big day for us trusty shellbacks. We had the extreme pleasure of inducting around 500 officers and men into the mysteries of the briney deep. Some took quite a beating and will undoubtedly spend a little time in sick bay or sleeping on

their stomachs. as a result of well meilded shelailais and paddles by trusty shellbacks. on the rear section of the pollywog body. Poor guys really todo a beating. We should be in the Admeralties in a day or so.

SEPT 27

Droped the hook at 0900. Lot of rain, but it looks like a nice place probably have a beer party here. We brought more mail aboard.

SEPT 28

These Islands seem to be thickly vegetated like the New Hebrides. A beer party today. Clear the decks, here I come.

SEPT 29

Didn't go on the beer party yesterday, but went today. Had a few cans of ale some apple a can of tomatoe juice and a sandwich. It was raining almost all the time we were there so we didn't enjoy it too much. Jim Church myself.



Oct
~~Nov~~ 2

The hook is up and we are off. Destination unknown. Scuttlebutt says invasion of Jap then Formosa and pound the Philipines

Oct
Nov 3

Praise the ~~Lord~~ Lord, that where we are going to formosa a hot time will undoubtedly be had by all. The sea is very rough. Outside of that everything is normal.

Oct
Nov 4

Very heavy seas. We are in the wake of a typhoon. We are supposed to follow it right to Formosa. We seem to be rolling quite a bit.

Oct
Nov 5

A plane tore loose from the lines and bashed up 2 planes as well as itself more work. Ship rolls continuously so we all get very little sleep as you are almost tossed bright out of the sack. Oh well there are better days coming.

OCT
~~Nov~~ 6

Still very heavy seas. Last nite we registered a 27° roll. Which is really something for this top heavy barge. There are 3 typhoons in this section of the Pacific and we seem to be right in the middle of them all. Still very little sleep to be had. I'm considering tying myself down to it.

Oct 7

Our lift truck and crane broke loose last night, and went over the side before it could do any damage to anybody or the planes. Right now we are on our way to make a hit and run strike on some Islands just off the coast of Japan. From there we make a feint at Luzon and make a dash at formosa for 2 days. Then to the Philapines. Ship is still being tossed about a few times during the night the bow was under water and that is a good thirty feet from the water. We now eat all our meals on the deck as the tables have been moving from one compartment

to another much to the disgust of the mess cooks. The waves are not exceedingly large, but there are ground swells as much as 25 - 30 feet between the crest and the trough. The ship is sometimes picked more down into a swell and the fantail is practically in mid-air with the screws exposed. This sets up a violent shudder thru the ship when the screws bite the water again.

Oct 8

Refuel ship today. Had flight operations today. Water is much calmer, but still a bit rougher than normal. Had much difficulty in fueling ship as the lines kept snagging. The water was covered with high octane gas. Lost 3 bags of mail as it was being transferred, but I think they recovered it.

Oct 9.

We strike tomorrow. We are going full speed now and will continue until tomorrow morning when we should be

within striking range.

OCT 10

Here is the day. We strike at an Island called Okinawa. There is much shipping in the harbor and lot of planes. We also left a cruiser sinking. Our planes carried rockets and dropped belly tanks. Patrol planes from the Cabot sank 2 large and 2 small AK's about 60 mile away. We are having mild weather compared to what we did have these past few days. There is very little opposition from the Japs. Not exactly what we expected. Ten Essex class carriers are with us along with 7 of our class. Along with many Wagons cruisers and Cans. A twin engine bomber was splashed about 15 miles away. The Pilot released a balloon carrying a radio homing device to reveal our position. That too was splashed. This is a very peaceful day so far as Bogies are concerned. Although we are at GQ we all in a no hurry so we can crap out whenever there is no more.

We have a hot plate and they feed us sandwiches during GQ so we toast the bread, and cook the meat. Very tempting. A pilot radioed the Admiral that there were no more worthwhile targets unless he wants to burn the city. Refuel tomorrow and a V-F sweep against Lazon.

Oct 11

Search planes were around us last nite, but couldn't quite locate us. One got within nine miles, but we went to battle stations, and he drifted off. We refueled this morning and sent the CF sweep against Lazon this afternoon. All our planes returned. For the next 2 days we will work on Formosa. It should be hot -

Oct 12

Our planes were sent off early this morning, due to the possibility of Jap attacks. We are now 250 miles from Fuchow China and 80 miles from Formosa, at the present time. The striking groups are now over the target. We had word a while ago. a group

channel away part of another plane. So far this force has lost a few planes. Don't know how many. We have also shot down quite a few Japs over the target and splashed some around this force. Here is the report by the hip - I'll write it down. 124 planes shot down 97 destroyed on the ground. Sunk: 2 large 2 medium 2 small AK's Damaged or left sinking 2 large 7 medium & 10 small AK's. Our losses are 22 planes. We have been at G Q all day since 0500 because Jap planes have been on the screen all day. It is now approximately 1900. The general alarm went off, The 2 task groups one either side of us have been firing for about 10 minutes so far they have splashed 6. We strike again tomorrow possibly on a larger scale than yesterday today. The skipper announced that great damage has been done to Jap air strips military areas factories supply and oil dumps as well as harbor installations. Bogies have been around us at times, but very light firing from our force so far. All the ships in this task group have begun to lay a smoke screen to protect us from the flares

which the Japs are now dropping. Right now there is heavy firing going on. There were about 15 Jap planes splashed this evening. the Jap planes usually catch fire and fall just one big ball of fire.

Oct 13

No bogies this morning. Just received from G.Q around 0800. 27 hours of it. There will be more if the Japs come out and make a fight of it. Talked to a pilot he said we are having a field day of it. No Jap planes took off but the AA fire was heavy and fairly accurate. We set fire to 2 4 engined bombers and 2 bettys and 3 fighters. and probably lot more as he was straffing from about 50 ft. We are going to leave this area this evening to cover a landing on the Philipines. It is a small Island in the Central Philipines it will be used as a bombing base against the main Islands. Just as a sideline I'll write down this comedy. Really a thriller.

Somehow or other somebody on board this ship got a newspaper from

New Jersey. And in it was a very lengthy report by a certain J-g who was aboard for a while then transfered in Navy. He really fed the folks back home a line of S--t. And the paper, of course, played him up as a very valorous creature who had changed his attitude on life from that of nervousness and indecision to a philosophic outlook and had taken on a chilled steel attitude of calm determination ect ect. As a matter of fact we thought he was a jerk.—

Wonder how I'll act <u>when</u> I get back. Not like that, I hope. I certainly do want to sport my stars, for the benefit of a few bills, but that all. As a unit We learn (I dont any more than hundreds of other ships out here and individually we are very small potatoes compared to the total effort. this carrier duty is a lot better than the life those guys line subs are going ashore on Ebon Islands are bomb. We are fed fairly decent chow, sleep in clean sacs. And

we always have a roof over our head. We get covered with grease, but never have to wallow in mud. We are subject to attack by planes pretty often and we get quite scared, but we have it been bged yet so only worry. At times it mon-otonous and other times exhausting when they want the planes in a hurry. And at other times we have it soft. Lay around the shop drink coffee make toasted sand-wiches. And eat whatever we can buy decal from the cooks we know. But we get along. I like I was writing all that we were under a heavy heavy Jap attack it seems like a last will and testament. The cruiser Houston has been hit by a torpedo amidships. It is now dead in the water. And has requested tow. I guess a few other cruisers will tow her. There have been about 10 or 15 Jap planes shot down this evening.

Oct 14

Well we are still at G. C. we were secured since yesterday. The Japs are

still all around us. The other three task groups have left us, and we are alone. To protect the damaged cruiser which can only do 5 knots. All day long Jap planes are circling around our force our fighter planes are now shooting them down. a report came in that 20 or 30 torpedo planes have been splashed. It is now evening again and we are under attack again. They are dropping flares all around us. a report came in the Canberra caught a fish and they think they are going to abandon ship. Well they have abandoned ship, and they are going to attempt to tow her. Our task groups will have to stay here and protect both cruisers from day attacks which would sink them.

Oct 15.

This morning we are going there the spot where the Canberra was hit. There are lots of life buts and rafts floating around, the Destroyers have been picking up the men from the rafts all day. a Jap rocks

report was just picked up. They say they sanks most of the American fleet. Liars, fools. Thats what they are. All day today planes are circling around this force. Our planes have been shooting them down. One dive bomber broke thru. And tried to bomb the Kismet. It was shot down while making its dive. It dropped the bomb though. All during these nite attacks bombs have dropped close to the ship, but we couldn't see them as all attacks were made at nite. We could feel the ship lurch though. Our planes shot down 45 planes today, we are going to leave the cruisers. There will be one carrier (The Cabot) and 3 cruisers and 4 cons to protect them.

Oct 17.

Today we fueled we heard the Boston caught another fish, but it is still afloat. The other 2 task groups that left us a few days ago are heading back toward the cruisers the Jap fleet is supposed to be com-

ing out & polish off the remainder of the american fleet. The task americon task groups will be on either side of the cripples while our groups will try to cut off the Jap fleet retreat we hope to crush them. They will soon see if the americon fleet was sunk.

Oct 18

The Jap fleet turned tail. They found out how many ships we had and they didn't think the American fleet was crippled enough, so they left. I guess we will head back refuel again and participate in the Invasion! We left one task groups off Miwoda they attached today but had to leave because of so many Jap planes.

Oct 19.

Well today we are bombing the Islands around Miwoda. We have destroyed quite a few planes. (250) The invasion is supposed to go

off tomorrow. Is today are we softening it up now. No air opposition out here unless they come out this evening as they usually do.

Oct 20.

D-day. The troops went ashore this morning. They are doing well our planes are lending support to the troops by strafing still no air opposition and very little A.A.

Oct 21

Today we are just cruising around sending in U.F. surveys we also refueled Nothing much doing.

Oct 22

Today absolutely nothing happened we are traveling slowly and on an easterly course. There is a lot of scuttle butt about us hitting Tokyo Nov 11. and they also say we might get all fighter and protect B 29 s as they attack.

OCT 23

Today ~~have~~ been a very quiet day. There wasn't much to do except change a watch. We are heading for port. Scuttlebut says the port is someplace near Jap. Two groups are going.

Oct 24

Word has just come thru from the skipper that our submarines got 2 fish into a large carrier. It sunk. 3 fish into a large wagon it sunk. 4 fish into a cruiser + 2 into another. It happened between Japan + Singapore. Today we are going to attack Jap. Our strike has just left. We heard that 80 planes were destroyed on the 21st by our task group. Our last squadron, which left the ship in May, was given credit for shooting down 214 planes and sinking 54 ships. That was VF + FT 30.
at 1400 this afternoon our strike on Jap was recalled. The Jap fleet is out. One unit of our fleet 38.1 is now engaging the enemy. One of our carriers has been hit. The Princeton has been pretty badly damaged, according to a report by the Skip--

OCT 25

The Princeton sunk. We just had a report from the shipper. She was hit on the port side forward. It was a 1,000 # bomb. It exploded on the second deck. The fire got out of control and the magazines started to explode while the cruiser Birmingham was alongside removing casualties. The Birmingham was damaged. We now have reports on the Jap fleet. There are 10 or 15 Jap battleships 20 to 30 cruisers and scores of destroyers. And all the Jap carriers. We don't know how many carriers they have, but it is presumed to be a large amount. The capt said if the Japs don't run the next 24 hrs. will decide the issue. We will give them hell today. We will probably get a little overdue. (1300) We refueled this morning, and we have been doing 30 knots ever since. a strike has been launched against the Jap fleet. Other units of this task group were said to have been engaging the Jap fleet since 0400 this morning & more later. (1600) The shipper just gave us,

a brief summary of what happened so far today. It seems as though there were 3 Jap forces. And there are 5 of us. Three of our group. That is 3 task forces went after the largest group which was coming down from Japan itself. Then the 2 other groups were coming up from the south. One group came thru the straits of the Philippines and the other came around from the south. The group of C V C's went into the channel to block this groups escape. Which in turn was shelled, that is the C V C's were shelled. We were coming directly toward this group which had been shelling our C V C's as they were in trouble, they still are for that matter. We launched our strike at this force and here are the results. 5 carriers have been hit. 2 are dead in the water. 4 Battleships were hit, and 6 cruisers as well as a con. Most of these ships are badly damaged and will probably sink before the night is over. Our Main group of 3 task groups which went after the group

coming from the north was pooled. The
jap task force turned around, and is now
heading for Japan - we think. Our 2 groups
down here is without Battleships which
meant we had to keep them among four
ships with our planes. We have got
cruisers 7 to be exact. As yet we don't
know how our CVE's are making out
there are 18 of them. But later on in the
evening they may get out. They have it
any Cruiser or Battleship protection. To-
morrow morning we will get 8 battle-
ships from our group to the north which
we can really use.

Oct 26

Well this morning the skipper confirmed
the 5 carriers were sunk. Reconnance
planes this morning couldn't find any
of the carriers. It is sure nice to know 5
of the flat tops won't bother us anymore.
the CVE's got out of the trap they were in
yesterday. the entire force which attacked
them is now at the bottom of the sea.
When the Princeton was hit, and

later sunk 150 planes were destroyed by the task group. There were very few casualties, although many were injured. We are in the San Bernardo Straits right now. As yet we have'nt made any contact with any units of the Jap fleet. We sure are hoping we do. Maybe we will later on in the morning. 1700 We just had a sub contact. We turned to starboard and the cans + planes attacked Results are not known.

Oct 27

Today we refuel we are going to search thru the Philipines for units of the Jap fleet that have escaped. Some units were reported fleeing southward Panay.

Oct 28

We have lost contact with the Jap fleet. We sank quite a few ships so I guess they decided things were too hot for them and they left. There seems to be a lot of Stateside scuttlebutt floating around.

This afternoon we had holiday routine, almost. everybody on board craped out. I wish they would turn the showers on, I want to go to bed.

Oct 29

Well we pulled into port this morning. I think the name of the place is Ulithie. We are about 40 miles from Yap. The cruisers Cannabera and the Houston are still here. The cruiser Houston is off to starboard and the cannabera is up forward of us. The Houston sits pretty low in the water. It caught 2 fish.

Oct 30

We brought quite a bit of stores aboard yesterday. I doubt very much if we will be going back to the state this time. One of the other task groups is pulling in. 4 carriers 8 moyons 6 cruisers and a number of cans. They sure are bringing lots of boats on too. I wouldn't be a darn bit surprised if we did. Bit Tokio next.

Oct 31.

Well nothing much happened today, I was supposed to go on a beer party,

but I left somebody go who will climb the stuff. Jim & I went over to see the Houston in the captains gig. We were supposed to fit it. (The OIC) We heard some rumors that the Franklin Intrepid and Belleau Wood have been hit by Jap suicide planes. We don't know if this is true yet.

Nov 1

Well today we got a better look at the Houston. It really is a mess. It caught two fish they both hit in about the same spot, aft on the starboard side. There isn't much left to the after part. A big section and its all full of water. The force of the explosion ripped open the main deck.

NOV 2

We got underway at 1300 this afternoon we weren't supposed to leave port until the 6th. But the troops on Leyte and Samar are having lots of trouble. And there are quite a few Jap planes attacking.

NOV 3

All today we refueled. The skipper said our task groups around the Philipines have been under almost constant attack. A shit of scuttle butt is floating around the the Aleus and the massachusetts has been hit.

NOV 4

The skipper announced we are heading for northern Luzon. We will strike there tomorrow. The Japs have between 4000 and 5000 planes on the Philipines now. A report just came in. Guam is now under attack. We expect a hot time at Luzon tomorrow —

NOV 5

It is now 6:30. Our VF sweep has left the ship. There should be in the neighborhood of 300 of our fighters over the target. Their mission is to destroy as many Jap planes as possible. We will send bombers in

at about 0800. The Skipper just reported our night fighters have sighted a Jap carrier in the bay. He said we should be able to polish it off - more later.

1430. We had a bit of excitement about a half hour ago. We went into G. Q. as there were bogies on the screen. The other task group opened fire, and put one down. A little while later 2 more were splashed. Our fighters are engaging them now but they are pretty far away, about 40 miles. The results of this mornings sweep of our fighters alone (Montys) 14 fighters shot down 7 on the ground. Complete results are not obtainable right now.

1710 We have just secured from G. Q. we had bogies again. I don't know for sure how many were shot down must have been 2 or 3. One jap pined his plane into the Lexington. He hit the bridge. Another dived at the Ticonderoga but he missed and crashed - There wasn't much damage to the Lex.

2300 We are still at G. Q. There isn't much doing. There are bogies out at about 20 miles and further, but I guess they won't come in yet.

NOV 6

0200 Still at G Q we men served cocoa + cookies on stations. Still Bogies on the screen. It really is bright out, you can see almost every ship in the task force. This moon wouldn't do us much good if the Japs could find us.

0400 There are no bogies on the screen at the present time. We are now allowed to leave stations and go to breakfast. We will strike Fujon again today.

0800 We are now at G Q again. We secured about 0600 after being up all night. We had showers. Then at 0745 we were sent to G Q there are 3 groups of bogies. They have disapeared from the screen, I guess they must be dive bombers. We can't pick them up if they are up high and close. 0830 The Bogies have either been shot down or left. The skipper just gave us a little news of what has happened yesterday. In the vicinity of Manila bay, where our group is attacking we destroyed about 200 on the ground and we shot down 80 in combat. There are 3 other task groups with us but

we haven't any reports from them as yet.
1630 Well we are at GQ again, I guess we will secure soon because they sp-
lashed a few. We are supposed to secure this area at about 1800. K night just made chief. He sure is happy, he has been sporting the chiefs uniform all evening.

NOV 7

Well there wasn't very much excite-
ment today. We refueled this morning. We lost a man overboard — we never got him — There seems to be a lot of scuttle-
butt floating around about the 18 mos. rotation duty. According to reports my 18 mos are supposed to be up Dec 17 — which means stateside by Feb - I hope.

NOV 8

We are now having stormy weather, and I really mean. We had no ops today so they let us hit our sacks. But we couldn't hardly sleep. We had a report come in about the raid we made. It seems as though we sunk 2 cruisers in Manila bay

NOV 9

Everything is quiet, although it is very stormy all the hops have been canceled There seems to be a lot of scuttlebutt about going back to the states - boy I sure hope so.

NOV 10

a little mews today. Last night we changed course we are going to Lyte again - it seems as though the Jap fleet is out. What left of it. So we are expecting some action tomorrow —.

NOV 11

We didn't get any strike at the fleet. Evidently they scrammed. We did sink 4 jap transports loaded with troops. We also sank four cans. and shot down about 50 planes

NOV 12

We refueled today nothing much doing. We are supposed to hit Luzon tomorrow and continue hitting it for 2 or 3 days. We should see some action. There will be 5 task groups hitting. That means about 1000 planes.

NOV 13

We strike Luzon today. Our first strike took off about an hour ago. As-yet we have'nt had any news as to what happened. 1300 We are now at G.Q there are 2 or 3 groups of bogies on the screen. Well they have been shot down, so now everything is O.K. I guess they will be after us tonite. We haven't had any results of our raids as-yet. 1830 Well sure enough they are out after us again. They usually come out after dark. We don't know how many of them there are, but its supposed to be about 15. They just announced the Bunker launched 2 night fighters. 1900 We are now going to secure from battle stations all the bogies have either been knocked down or else they left. We hit here again tomorrow.

NOV 14

Well here we are again at G.Q it is now about 1100. We launched strikes all morning. We don't know how much good they did. We lost a TBF too this morning. At the present time there are

two groups of bogies coming out 8 in each group. A report just came in that 2 bettys have been splashed. 1200 Hrs are now secured from G.Q. I guess they will be after us again tomorrow or tonite. 1830. We are now at G.Q again there are 2 bettys out after us, they will either be shot down or else they will leave. We had a report that a Zero was shot down, and the two bettys are fading out. 1915. We are now secured from G.Q. It seems funny to be getting sleep at night. Our planes are not damaged much.

NOV 15

Not much doing today. Lot of scuttlebutt floating around some say we hit formosa for 2 days and others say Bonins however we'll see in a day or so. There is a destroyer alongside now with the TBF Pilot and the 2 men. I guess they got out O.K. The other gunners say they saw the TBF crash into Manila bay and explode -

NOV 16

Today we refueled. Nobody seems to know just where we are going to strike next. I think we'll hit Formosa though. The Bunker left us today. They are going to the States. They radioed over merry Christmas - The rats I.

NOV 17

Nothing much doing. We are traveling due west at about 10 knots. There is a lot of scuttlebutt floating around, we are going anywhere from Tokio to home, thats how the scuttlebutt goes.

NOV 18

Nothing much doing, although we heard the Island of Luzon will be invaded in about four or five days. We are supposed to strike all the while from tomorrow on. Of course thats only scuttlebutt we'll see later on. We also have some scuttlebutt that the ship is going to be detached from the fleet on the 26 of this month. If its true that means States - side for us.

NOV 19

Our strike against Subic bay on Luzon has been launched. It was launched early this morning. It should be coming back soon. We are now at General Quarters. We have bogies on the screen. 1/2 hr later. We are now secured from Battle - stations the bogies turned out to be friendly. So we go back to regular routine. 1600 We are now ready to secure from battle stations about 4 Jap planes have been splashed, maybe more tonite. 1800 Right now we are at battle stations. There are about 20 torpedo bombers coming in 1805 a report has just come in 4 of them have been shot down 1814 we are now under attack so far one bettey has been splashed as yet non of the ships have been damaged 1830 we have shot down 12 betty's there are a few of them flying around the task group, but they are opening. 1900 We are now secure from battle station. I don't think they will be out anymore to nite. I hope not, I want some sleep. We lost one fighter in this engagement.

NOV 20

Nothing much doing today. We are headed back to Okinawa again. I guess we are going to get more bombs. There wasn't much to strike at on Luzon so we didn't bother striking again as we had planned.

N

NOV 21

Well nothing much doing today, although tomorrow we are going to hit Jap with rockets and napalm. We should cause quite a bit of confusion and disruption. We'll see. We will pull in Okinawa tomorrow too.

NOV-22

Well today we hit Jap. No air resistance only one plane was hit, and half of the stabilizer and elevator was torn off. By a 20 m m. shell I guess. We haven't had any report on the damage done yet. We also pulled into Okinawa late this afternoon.

Nov 23

Today is thanksgiving. Good chow, but that all to report.

NOV 24

Today I was on a beer party on Mog Mog Island in Ulithi. It was a funny place. There were natives there at one time. There were quite a few huts on the Island as well as a few cemetarys. It was a fairly large Island too.

NOV 25

Well today nothing much happened, although there is quite a bit of scuttlebutt going around. That we will go to the states our Elevator is a bit fouled up, so we might go back. But I doubt it myself. I think we'll be back by Feb 1st. Wonder how close I'll guess. We'll see.

NOV 24

We had a bit of excitement today. We went to battle stations at about 1500. But the Bogies turned out to be friendly. Even if they would have been unfriendly I doubt if they could get close enough to do any harm. There are at least 10 carriers in here now, and we can launch fighters without any trouble.

NOV 27

Well today we had some very good news. We had a Capts. inspections mast. And a few of the gunners were praised and the capt gave a speech. He said we had more milage on our ship than any other carrier out here with the exception of the Big C. It was out here since the begining of the war. We have 150,000 miles since last november. We have approxamately 200,000 all together. But the good news is he said we would be back in the states in January. We'll see how close he comes to it.

NOV 28

Well yesterday we had good news, today not so good. 4 carriers have been hit by suicide planes. The "Bonhomme" the "Cabot" the "Intrepid" and "Ticonderoga" I guess that just about spoils our hopes of getting back in jan. All of those carriers pulled in late last night. The Cabot had about 35 men killed from strafing attacks. I guess we'll get under way soon, and have to clean out the Japs again. I think we invade Japan soon.

NOV 29

Nothing happening now. Although there is some scuttlebutt floating around that we will probably strike Formosa. There is also scuttlebutt floating around that we are to get rid of all the TBF's and help only 22 fighters aboard, as our forward elevator is in bad shape, and we probably won't be able to use it except in an emergency. We also got word that the Intrepid has been damaged pretty bad. There is a big hole in the flight deck, and the hanger deck is scorched and burned. There is a fighter in the pit, and its wraped around the shaft. I guess they are heading stateside again.

NOV 30

Nothing much happening now. We are getting underway tomorrow morning. There is quite a bit of scuttlebutt going around as to where we are going. I think we will hit Luzon myself.

Dec 1

Well we got underway early this morning. But we hear we are going back to port tomorrow. I don't know why, but I think the invasion has been called off.

Dec 2

We pulled into ULITHIC port this morning, and all during the day the other task groups have been pulling in. Scuttlebutt says we will be here until the 11th. I guess the Philipines will be invaded around the 15th. I heard the ~~Ess~~ Essex has been hit.

Dec 3

Well today something happened to give us a little boost. We were told to fill out a form giving our leave address, and a bunch of other stuff pertaining to leave. We also got word the Essex has been hit by 2 dive bombers. It is now alongside a repair ship which means it isn't damaged very much and they are going to fix it here.

Dec 4

Nothing new, some old stuff. Lots of scuttle-butt floating around that we are hearing stale-ish, but I don't believe it.

Dec 5. Nothing happened today, not even any scuttlebutt today.

Dec 6

Was on a liber party today, but when we got to Moy May Island they had no beer, but we had plenty of bottled coke. When we came back we passed the cabot, and saw the damage that dive bombers did. They only tore the forward 20 mm gun mount off. I doubt if there were 20 men lost. They are fixing it here.

Dec 7.

Today I was over to the Ticonderoga we heard that she had been hit, so Jimmy & I decided to go over, But we found out she hadn't been hit, although a suicide bomber came close. I don't like big ships like that, I'm sure glad I'm on this.

Dec 8

Well today as usual nothing happened except this evening at 1900 we went into G.Q by orders of the Flag. I guess he was expecting an attack, but it was none. We expect to leave port around the 11th.

Dec 9

Nothing new today, The wisconsin, Wilkes Barre, and Bennington pulled into bay. We are supposed to get under way tomorrow.

Dec 10 We are now under way. We have some scuttlebutt floating around that we will probably raid Luzon and help in the invasion of Luzon, but as yet we are not sure.

Dec 11

Nothing new to report. Routine flight operations. I heard the chaplain say we lost 2,400 lbs men in the first hour of the assault on Lyte. That's quite a few.

Dec 12

Same routine, no excitement. We are supposed to refuel tomorrow.

Dec 13 today we refueled. tomorrow we will strike Luzon. We are going to try to keep a fighter umbrella over Luzon all day tomorrow. Windows

raid be invaded the day after tomorrow by paratroops. The army 7th + 20th air forces raid bomb Japan and Formosa to a hot time raid he had by the Japs — and maybe ourselves. There is a joke going around the ship. Someone asks where we are going. The other says, We are going on a scrap drive collecting Jap dive bombers on the flight deck. We'll see tomorrow.

Dec 14

Our strikes are over Luzon right now. They have been over Luzon all day. As yet we have no word of any action and we know it had begun — yet. although its only 1600.

Dec 15

We launched the same strikes as yesterday, but we have no reports on the damage they did. The paratroops landed on Mindoro today, but we have no word how they are making out. We shot down approx 100 Jap planes yesterday. .

Dec 16

We have launched strikes against Luzon again today. From what I hear we are doing pretty good over the target. Our paratroops have a large beachhead on Mindro, but thats all we know.

Dec 17

We are now entering very rough weather. We are supposed to refuel tomorrow, and then strike at Formosa for about 5 days.

Dec 18

Today is a sad day aboard the Monterey We were in heavy weather last nite & early this morning. The planes on the hangar deck were secured doubly. But they broke loose anyway. So There were 8 planes running loose on the hangar deck with each roll. The gas started to leak out of the planes. After a little while we put lines on the planes and deck. Then the gas exploded. The hangar deck was a mass of flame. I was knocked into

The elevator pit. the planes were burning furiously by this time, and the bullets were going off in the guns. Then the hanger decks sprinkling was turned on. and it knocked down most of the flames. We were then able to put out the fire. I discovered a boy from our division behind a mount. I got a corpsman and we got him out. I found out a while ago he is dead. He had a fractured scull - The hanger is filled with burned out planes, it really is a mess. This looks like stateside for us.

Dec 19.

Well today we have been pretty busy. We are out of the storm! So this morning we started cleaning out the wreckage. there were C, F6F's and 4 TBM's. It was really a mess, and was all mangled together. We were afraid we were going to find somebody in the wreckage. Joe Wallace was hurt, but it was slight. We also heard the San Jacinto & the Langley had trouble too. I guess we are going back to Alithi. But somehow I doubt if we will go back to the states.

Dec 20

Today we finished cleaning up the hangar. The two planes were removed from the elevator pit. There were about 60 men injured in the fire we had. We also had word we are heading back to port.

Dec 21

Today we pulled into Ulithie. There is a lot of scuttlebutt floating around. Some say we are going to Pearl & then states, and others say we will be repaired here. I think we will go to Pearl at least though. The hangar deck is pretty well fouled up though.

Dec 22

We now have port routine. We have the scuttlebutt as usual, and it seems as though we will go alongside a repair ship, we also got ammunition supplies aboard, and are had to repair all our damaged planes. We now have 8 good planes left out of 30. That is the worse damage we ever had. But I still think we will go to pearl.

Dec 23

Today is a very happy day aboard the Monterey. We are unloading all our supplies except to keep a planes flying. They are also removing gear from the hangar deck & put on the San Jacinto & Compens, who also had fires, but not as bad as ours. Our rad. R has also been removed. It sure looks as though we are states side bound now.

Dec 24

We have been doing very little today. Except stripping the ship of spare parts. We had some scuttlebutt today that we have 5 mths availability in Pearl! That means if they can fix the ship up in 5 mths we will come back out here again. Which isn't too good. I'd sooner go stateside.

Dec 25

Merry christmas! Its not too bad, I mean christmas. We expect to go home, so it isn't too bad. We had a pretty darn good chow today. Outside of that nothing new.

Dec 26

Nothing happening. They are still stripping the ship. We will get underway in a few days. We have been getting quite a few passengers aboard. It sure looks like stateside to me.

Dec 27

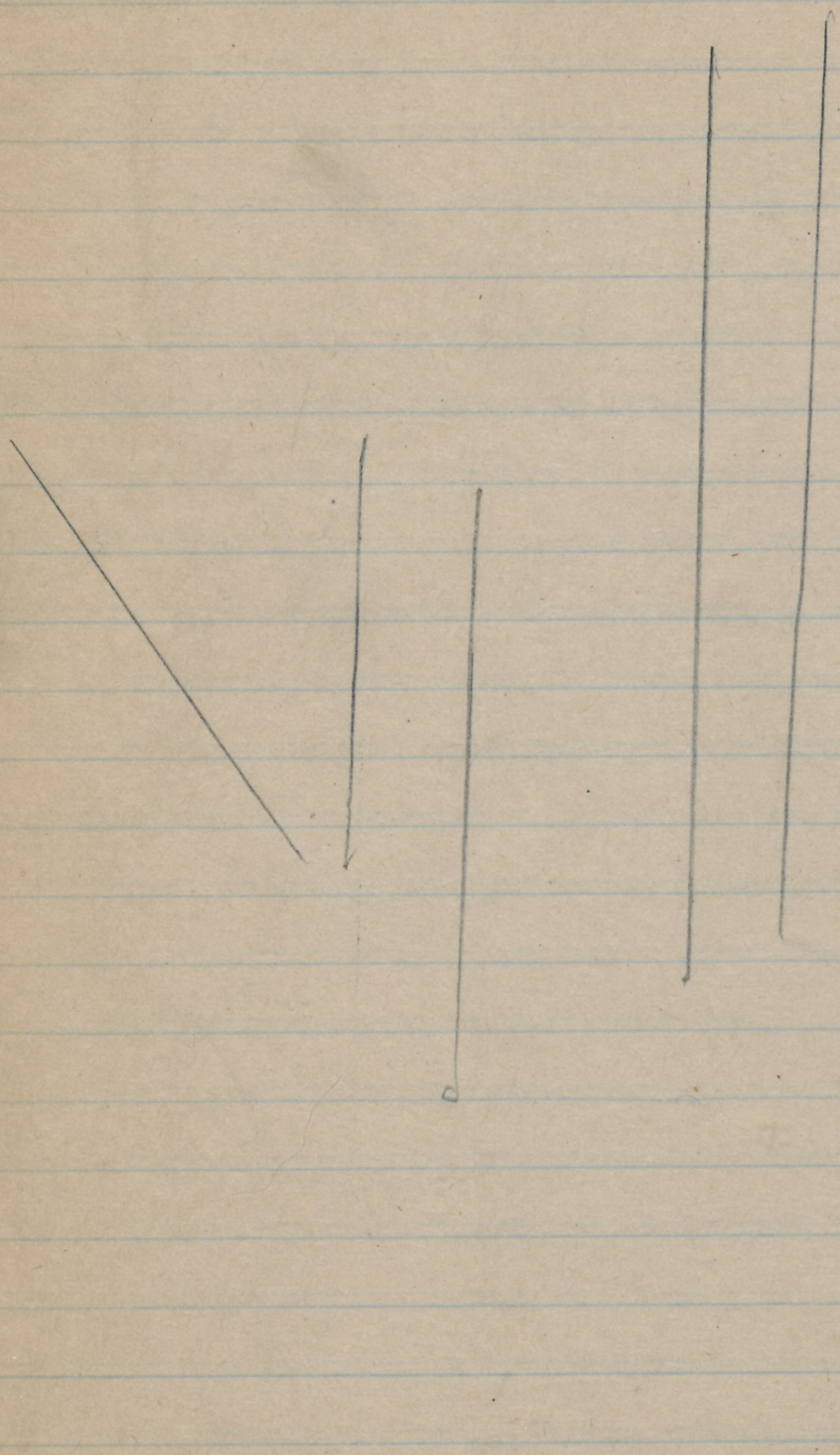
Still here and still stripping the ship. It looks as though we will go stateside for sure.

Dec 28

I heard we are getting under way the 30th. for Pearl Harbor. We have quite a lot of used equipment aboard as well as passengers.

Dec 29

I heard the Capt is supposed to give us a speech tomorrow. I hope he tells us stateside for sure. We also got an admiral aboard, Admiral Montgomery. I hope we take him all the way back to the states. It sure looks like stateside to me.



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SEPT 20 LEFT PHILA
" 25 ARR PANAMA
" " " "
" 27 LEFT " "
OCT 5 ARR SAN DEIGO
" 6 LEFT " "
OCT 9 ARR HAWAII
OCT 12 TO NOV 10 IN AND OUT. PEARL
NOV 10 LEFT HAWAII
NOV 19 STRIKE GILBERTS 20-21-22-24-25-26-28-30
DEC 8 STRIKE NARU
DEC 12 ARR ESPIRITO
DEC 21 LEFT ESPIRITO
DEC 25 STRIKE KAVIENG
JAN 1 STRIKE KAVIENG
JAN 4 STRIKE KAVIENG
JAN 7 ARR ESPIRITO
JAN 19 LEFT ESPIRITO
JAN 20 ARR FUNAFUTI
JAN 23 LEFT FUNA FUTI
JAN 29 STRIKE KWAJALINE 30-31
FEB 1 STRIKE ENIWITOK 2-3
FEB 4 ARR MAJURO
FEB 7 LEFT MAJURO
FEB 8 ARR MAJURO
FEB 12 LEFT MAJURO

FEB 16 STRIKE TRUCK 17-18-19

FEB 26 ARR MAJURO

FEB 27 LEFT MAJURO

MAR 2 ARR PEARL HARBOR

MAR 26 LEFT PEARL HARBOR

MAR 30 STRIKE PELU 31

APRIL 1 STRIKE WOLEAI

APRIL 7 ARR MAJURO

APRIL 13 LEFT MAJURO

APRIL 21 STRIKE WEWAK

APRIL 22 STRIKE HOLANDIA 23

~~APRIL 29~~ STRIKE TRUCK

MAY 4 ARR MAJURO

MAY 6 LEFT MAJURO

MAY 11 ARR PEARL HARBOR

MAY 15 LEFT PEARL HARBOR

MAY 17 ARR PEARL HARBOR

MAY 29 LEFT PEARL HARBOR

JUNE 3 ARR MAJURO

JUNE 6 LEFT MAJURO

JUNE 10 STRIKE SIAPAN 11-12-13

JUNE 14 STRIKE GUAM 15

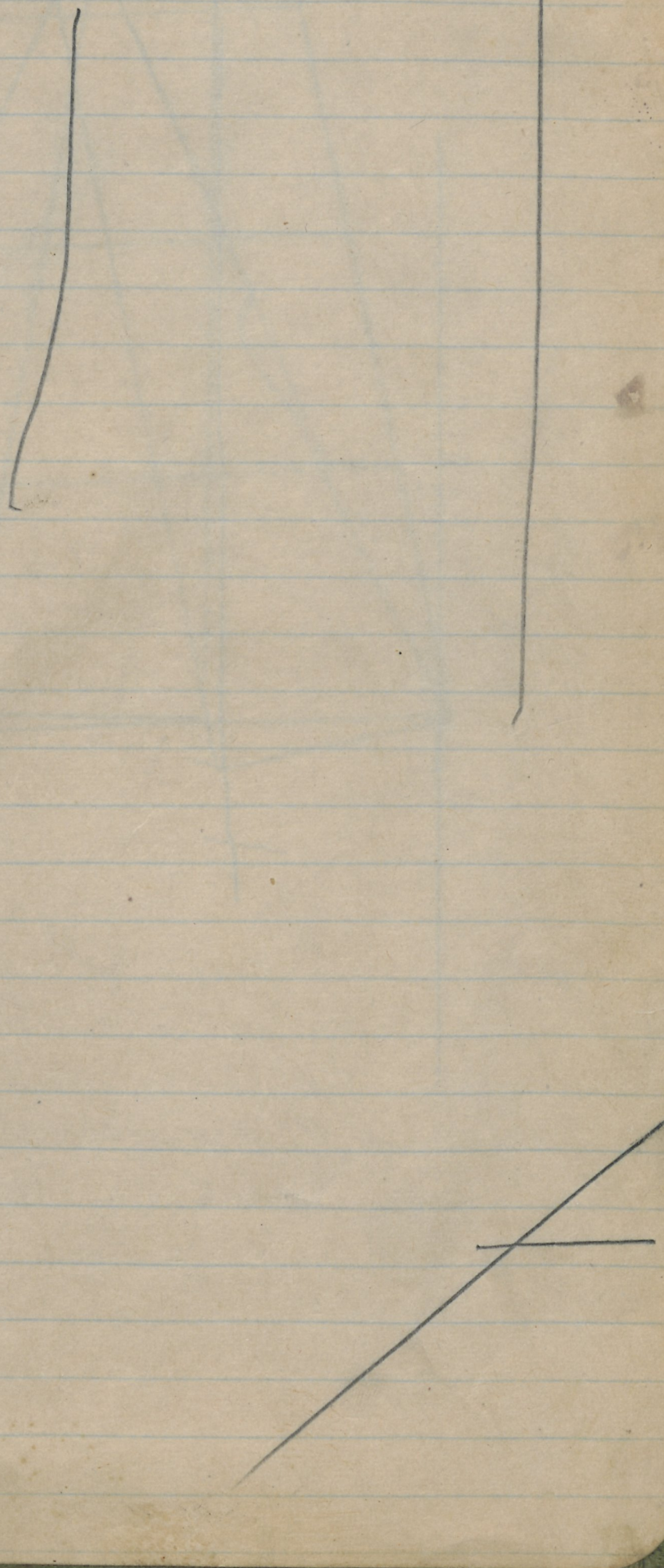
JUNE 20 STRIKE JAP FLEET

JUNE 24 STRIKE PAGAN

JUNE 27 ARR ENIWETOK

JUNE 30 LEFT ENIWITOK
JULY 4 STRIKE BONNINS 5
JULY 6 STRIKE GUAM
JULY 7 STRIKE ROTA 11-15
JULY 8 STRIKE GUAM 14-16-21
JULY 9 STRIKE ROTA
JULY 23 ARR SIAPAN
JULY 24 LEFT SIAPAN
JULY 28 ARR ENIWITOK
JULY 30 LEFT ENIWITOK
AUG 5 ARR PEARL
AUG 24 LEFT PEARL
SERT 3 STRIKE WAKE
SEPT 5 ARR ENIWITOK
SERT 8 LEFT ENIWITOK
SEPT 19 STRIKE PALU
SEPT 21 STRIKE MANILA 22
SEPT 24 STRIKE NEGROS
SEPT 27 ARR ADMERALTIES
OCT 2 LEFT ADMERALTIES
OCT 10 STRIKE OKINOWA
OCT 11 STRIKE LOZON
OCT 12 STRIKE FORMOSA
OCT 19 STRIKE MINANDO 20-21
OCT 25 STRIKE JAP FLEET

OCT	29	ARR ULITHIE
NOV	2	LEFT ULITHIE
NOV	5	STRIKE LUZON
NOV	11	STRIKE LYTHE
NOV	13	STRIKE LUZON
NOV	14	STRIKE MANILA BAY LUZON
NOV	19	STRIKE SUBIC BAY LUZON
NOV	22	STRIKE YAP
NOV	22	ARR. ULITHIE
DEC	1	LEFT ULITHIE
DEC	2	ARR ULITHIE
DEC	10	LEFT ULITHIE
DEC	14	STRIKE LUZON -15-16
DEC	21	ARR ULITHIE



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