

My Days ABOARD U.S.S. SANTA FE

REPORTED FOR DUTY NOVEMBER 28, 1942

CAPTAIN BERKEY U.S.N.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT U.S.N.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER CMDR. BOYCE U.S.N.

ENG. OFFICER LT. CMDR PACKER U.S.N.

NAV. OFFICER HEINZ U.S.N.

1st LIEUT. CMDR FRANCIS U.S.N.

M.D. OFFICER CMDR HARDESTY U.S.N.

GDN. OFFICER LT. CMDR BULLEN

COMM OFFICER LT. UTECHT

SUPPLY OFFICER LT. TINLING

Date of Commissioning Nov. 24, 1942.

1943

JAN. 9 - Left Philadelphia on a shake down cruise. It was the first cruise for most of us and we all got quite a thrill.

JAN. 11 - Arrived at Norfolk VA. and was granted liberty it wasn't much of a place but was better than none.

JAN. 13 - Left Norfolk to take up where we left off in the Chesapeake Bay.

FEB. 3 - arrived in Annapolis Md.

FEB. 4. Liberty in Washington D.C. I saw the hotel that I stayed in in 1939. We didn't pay any attention to the historical spots because all

we were interested in were
the night spots which is only
natural for a sailor on leave.

FEB. 6- Left Annapolis

" 16 Arrived in Philadelphia for
a little yard work and some
more of that good liberty.

FEB-28- Left Philadelphia with
orders to operate with
the Pacific Fleet.

MAR. 5- Arrived in Panama. I would
liked to have gone ashore
here but was unable to
due to the fact that
I had to stand a watch.

Mar. 7- Left Panama

Mar. 12- arrived in San Pedro,
Calif.

Mar 12-13-14-15- had liberty and

went into Long Beach and Los Angeles. Both of these places are very nice.

MAR-16 Left San Pedro for adventure that most of us knew nothing about.

MAR-22 - Arrived in Pearl Harbor.

Mar-24. Left Pearl Harbor for a little firing practice.

Mar-28 - arrived back in Pearl Harbor this time to get some liberty in Honolulu. Incidentally we had to carry our gas masks ashore every time we went. Liberty started at 1000 in the morning and expired at 1730. We had this kind of liberty for a few more days while we were

awaiting further orders.

APRIL-15 Left Pearl Harbor bound for the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska.

APRIL-20 arrived at the Island of Adak one of the Aleutian chain and which is to be our operating base while we are here.

APRIL-21 Left Adak to join another force.

APRIL-22 Crossed the 180th meridian.

APRIL-24 joined task force 200 miles off Japan.

APRIL-26 Bombarded Attu our first glimpse of enemy territory now we are beginning to get salty.

April 28- arrived on Adak for

fuel and provisions.

April 29 Left Adak

April 30 General Quarters at
1500 enemy planes.
They failed to attack.

May 6 - 200 miles off Japan on
patrol duty.

May 9 - joined large force for invasion
of Attu.

May 11 troops landing on Attu
under heavy opposition and
fog which is very plentiful
in this part of the world.

May 15 fighting continues on Attu

May 16 Submarine contact one of
dozens. I guess the Japs
are trying to prevent us
from taking over the
island because it will

be a pretty heavy blow to them.

May 22. Charleston attacked by
3 torpedo planes (slight
damage.)

May 23 P 38's knock down five
Jap bombers.

May 24 We have traveled 27,193
miles since our Commissioning

May 26 Arrived in Adak.

May 28 Left Adak

June 1. operations on Attu have
been completed. During
this operation our duty
was act as a covering force
in case any enemy ships
tried to get in or out of the
island. Now that operations
have been concluded we have
been assigned to patrol

duty to prevent the Japs from reinforcing Attu.

June 18 Arrived in Adak for fuel provisions and mail.

June 26 Left Adak.

July 6 Bombarded Kiska Island the Jap strongest base in the Aleutian chain.

July 10 Army bombers attack 4 Jap cargo ships and sink 2 the others getting away but not without damage.

July 11 Bombers sink 1 of remaining two ships.

July 13 Arrived at Adak for fuel provisions and mail.

July 20 Left Adak.

July 22 Bombarded Kiska sup-

ported by Army and Navy
Bombers.

July 23 Jap fleet reported leaving
Paramushiro.

July 24, General Quarters all night.

July 25; Bombarded Kiska.

July 31 Arrived Adak for fuel, provisions
ammunition and mail.

Aug 3. Left Adak for more patrol
duty.

Aug 9- Arrived in Adak

Aug 10. Two P-40's collided in
mid air and crashed into
the harbor.

Aug 11 practiced bombardment
on island of Sitka.

Aug 13 Left Adak enroute to Kiska
with invasion force zero
hour tomorrow at dawn.

Aug 15. 6,000 troops ashore on first day. Visibility is very poor. Bombarded at intervals all day. Shore party reports our shelling very good.

Aug 16. troops capture 12 tons of ammunition. No opposition as yet.

Aug 17. Still can't find any japs. Destroyer hits mine and blows off fantail 61 men lost. Army reports a few casualties due to booby traps.

Aug. 19. Arrived at Adak.

Aug 21. getting very tired of this weather because we haven't seen the sun in months.

Aug 25 - Left Adak with everyone in high spirits because we are headed for Pearl Harbor once again.

Sept 1. Arrived in Pearl Harbor and set foot on solid ground for the first time in almost 5 months.

Sept 11 Left Pearl en route to the Gilbert Islands in the Central Pacific.

Sept 15 - joined four carriers which we have been assigned to cover while their planes make an air strike on Tarawa.

Sept 18. Carriers launched planes at 4:30 A.M. Made six strikes lost about six planes with heavy damage inflicted.

on the enemy their loss estimated at about twenty planes. During the operation we crossed the equator and are now shellbacks. The initiation was really rugged.

Sept 19, recrossed the equator where the 180th meridian meets it. We are now Golden Dragons which is very rare.

Sept 23- Arrived in Pearl after another successful operation. We are now flagship of CruDiv. 13 with Rear Adm DuBois in command.

Sept. 28. Left Pearl enroute to Wake Island

Oct 5. N. G. at 4:00 AM planes take off at 4:30 AM. make five strikes. We move in to twelve thousand yards to bombard. We now are moving into 8,000 yds. to shell them with 800 rds. of six in and 670 rds of five in. under heavy fire from Jap shore batteries. They hit all around us but never came close enough to do any damage. Our fighter planes shot down quite a few Jap planes before they could attack us.

Oct. 6. Planes take off at 4:30 AM 5 strikes all told. Great sport watching our main

battery blow shore guns
and buildings sky high.
Island is covered with
hundreds of fires. Whole
island is a shambles.

We were at G. O. for 34 hrs

Oct. 11. Arrived in Pearl Harbor
for a little liberty and
recreation while we take
on fuel, provisions, and
ammunition.

Oct. 20. Left Pearl Harbor bound
for the New Hebrides.
We should see plenty of
action there.

Oct. 26. Crossed equator at 0420.

Nov. 4 Arrived in "Espiritu Santo"
located at the northern
tip of the New Hebrides Islands.

Nov 5; Left "Espiritu Santo" doing
30 knts. heading for
"Guadalcanal."

Nov. 6. Arrived in "Tulagi Harbor",
noticed a number of Jap
ships wrecked and aground
on the beaches.

Nov. 7. Left "Tulagi" on our way to
support landings on "Bougain-
ville," should see plenty of
Japs either on the sea or in
the air.

Nov. 8 6:30 P.M. - Have been at G. 9
for almost forty
hours, Japs all around
us but haven't
attacked as yet.

8:30 P.M. About forty Jap dive
and torpedo bombers

attacked us. The night was black, but the flaming wrecks of eight Jap Bombers lit up the sea very well. One flaming Jap just cleared our forecast, dropping his torpedo as he passed over. The torpedo cleared us hitting the water along side. The bomb cradle hit on our deck.

1:30 A.M. Japs attacking again. Got two more bombers in flames and two that did not burn. The Japs seem to be afraid to press their attack.

7:30 A.M. Headed again for "Tulagi"

Nov. 9. One hundred Japs attacked
our carriers in daylight
eighty-eight of them
going where all Japs should
go. Some difference between
a day and night attack.

Nov. 10 Arrived back in "Tulagi."

Nov. 12 Left "Tulagi" bound for
"Espiritu Santo"

Nov. 13. Arrived in "Espiritu Santo"

Nov. 14. Left "Espiritu Santo". we aren't
going to foal with just one
island this time, we are
going to take the whole
Gilbert group.

Nov. 20. Arrived at "Tarawa"
(Gilbert Islands) and began
a bombardment which lasted
for four days. Jap em.

placements and gun positions were surrounded by seven feet of concrete and they took considerable punishment before they were knocked out. This ship alone fired well over twenty four hundred rounds onto "Tarawa." After two hours of sustained bombardment the Marines began to land. The first three waves were wiped out but the fourth secured a beach head and through the glasses we were able to watch them in hand to hand fighting.

Nov. 22. Our destroyer screen

knocked off two japs sub-
marines and took prisoners

Nov. 28 The Gilbert Islands have
been overrun the next
stop being a large air
strike on the Marshall Islands

Dec. 3 Attacked Marshal Islands
knocked out four transports
two light cruisers shot
down seventeen jap planes.

Dec. 4 Attacked in the middle
of the night by jap torpedo
planes and got four.

Dec. 10 Arrived in Pearl Harbor
8:15 AM.

NOTE: In one year of service aboard
Santa Fe have travelled
82,000 miles.

Dec. 15 - Captain Berkeley made Admiral

and has been assigned
to some other duty.

Dec. 28. Left Pearl Harbor for
the good old United
States which we have
seen in about ten
months.

Jan 1, 1944 Arrived in Long Beach
Calif but went right
out to take part in a
practice bombardment
which is to last about
two or three days.

Jan 4 Arrived back in Long
Beach to get some real
good liberty for a change.
This was just like
heaven after being in
Honolulu for so long.

Jan 13 - Reluctantly left the states for an unknown destination.

Jan 21 Arrived at Tahiana Roads.

Jan 22. Left Tahiana Roads bound for the Marshal Islands and their capture.

Jan. 30. Attacked and landed troops on the Marshal Islands.

Feb 3. Anchored in the Lagoon off Kawajalien.

Feb. 12. Left Kawajalien bound for Truk.

Feb. 16 - Attacked Truk and heavily damaged 37 ships 23 were definitely sunk.

Feb 17. Left Truk after fastening it for two days headed for Saipan 120 mi north of Guam 1400 mi from Tokyo.

Feb. 21. Detected by the Japs
underwent an all
night torpedo attack
which lasted well into
daylight and planes
could be seen burning
all over the place.

Feb. 22. Our planes attacked
raised hell with Jap
planes knocking down
over a hundred and
also an aircraft carrier.

Feb. 27. Arrived at Majuro in the
Marshall Islands.

Mar. 7, Underway at 0700 headed
south once again.

Mar. 12. Arrived in Espiritu Santo
it's so hot I can hardly
breathe.

- Mar 15 - Underway at 0700 to
join a large task force
for our next operation.
- Mar 18. Joined a force of 106
warships bound for
Palau and Yap to very
strong Japanese bases.
- Mar 29. Detected by Japs under-
went all night air attack.
- Mar 30. Planes strike Palau
result 12 A.K. sunk 4
destroyers sunk 3 CL badly
damaged one beached.
1 CVE beached 1 CVE burning
2 AO sunk. beat off evening
and all night torpedo attack.
- Mar 31 Air strike at Yap.
- April 1 Air strike at Wabear.
fighters have been shooting

down Betty's ~~of~~ ⁴ days
who have tried to attack
us. Before we arrived
the Japs sent most of
their planes to New
Guinea. Army planes
caught them and destroyed
160 on the ground and 80
in the air.

April 2 Caught three small
coastal vessels south
of Truk destroyed them
with gun fire. have been
at General Quarters for
four days and four nights.
It has been pretty rugged.

April 6 Arrived in Majuro for fuel
provisions and ammunition.

April 13. Left Majuro for another

unknown destination.

April 16. It seems pretty certain that we are going to aid in the landing of troops on Hollandia in New Guinea and believe me this should be plenty rugged.

April 20 Dusk General Quarters was sounded at 1900 because we were very close to Japanese held positions and expected them to come out and try to stop us. Tomorrow our force is to make an air strike on Hollandia.

April 21 Bright and early our planes took off from the carriers

to strike the island.

The planes were an hour late in taking off so the Japs should be ready and waiting.

Tonight the Captain told us that we were to bombard the island of Wadke along with the Biloi, Mobile and five destroyers. Our objective is to bombard the air strips to put them out of commission so that the Japs would be unable to use them to get planes off the ground to launch an attack. We poured 1500

rounds of 5" and 6"
projectiles over on the
beach that is the Santa
Fe alone. The other two
cruisers were to fire as
much. It was so dark that
we couldn't see much but
there sure was plenty
of noise. I think if there
had been many more salvos
we would all have gone
crazy.

April 22 Troops landed on Hollandia
and we received a report that
there was very little opposition.

April 23 Today we fueled and are
standing by for further
orders.

April 24 Japs came searching for our troops with no luck what so ever. Deciding that they couldn't locate us they headed for home on the way paying a visit to Hollandia where our troops are. On arriving at Hollandia the Japs discovered a lone Destroyer patrolling the entrance. They launched twelve torpedoes and scored twelve misses.

April 25 The captain addressed the crew and said that we were to proceed to

the Admiralty Islands,
a newly acquired territory,
to replace our damaged
and lost aircraft and
to await further orders.

April 26. To-day is our first an-
niversary of war action.

April 26, 1943 we fired our
first shells on Attu then
occupied by the Japs.

This afternoon we fueled
from a tanker at sea.

April 30 We went to General
Quarters at about 0500
this morning to launch
an air strike on Luk.

We were at G.Q. all day
long. At night the M.G.
battery had to be on the

alert all night long in case we had an air attack we would be on the ball and ready to go. This is the battery I am on consequently I didn't get a damn bit of sleep. To top it all off it rained cats and dogs all night long. I think that this is by far the worst night I have ever spent any place.

April 30. We crossed the international date line therefore today is also Sunday and we are still at General Quarters, still no trouble and it is still raining. I guess

the captain and the admiral decided that there was no more immediate danger because we secured this afternoon. Tonight at 2000 we went to General Quarters for a sunset alert.

May 1, Air strike on Ponape and our battleships bombarded.

May 3, Back in the Marshals again. Three men from our ship were drowned while on a recreation party.

June 6 Left Majuro with the whole fleet. The captain made a speech to night and he stated that we can expect the Japs to come after

us with just about every-
thing he has. We are
bound for Saipan, Guam
and Tinian, three islands
in the Marianas group.
Incidentally these islands
are closer to Tokyo than
they are to our own base at
Majuro. By capturing
these islands we will
be inflicting a great deal
of damage upon the
enemy as it will greatly
cut his supply lines
to his men in islands
of the south. It is only
1200 miles from the Japanese
mainland. From now
until we arrive in dangerous

waters we will conduct a program extensively of drills including firing of all batteries and casuatties that might occur if we actually become engaged in a battle with enemy ships.

June 11. The captain gave us the word to day that the Task group commander decided to send an air strike tomorrow instead of the thirteenth so that incase we didn't surprise them we would get them before they expected us.

June 12. This afternoon at 1300 a group of fighter planes

took off from our carriers bound for Saipan the large mountainous Japanese held island.

So night we got a report that our planes did a great job by bagging in all approximately 150 enemy planes with comparatively little damage inflicted upon us. Tomorrow there will be another large air strike but this time they are really going to mess them up because we are sending dive bombers and torpedo planes in both loaded down with bombs for the purpose of

knocking the hell ^{out} of the
little yellow guys.

June 13. Today the battle ships
bombaraded the island
of Saipan. We were
laying off as a sort of
protection and we could
see those 16 inch shells
really messing that
place up. You know a
shell that size weighs about
2,000 lbs and that is a
pretty big object loaded
with high explosives.

June 14 Our Northern force ran
into another Jap convoy
five ships were sunk
The battleships bombaraded
all day to day. Tomorrow 45
transports carrying our troops
will arrive.

June 15 - Troops landed no strain at
6 A.M. Jap planes attacked
us all hell broke loose on
our port beam as about 6
Japs attacked at once. One
of them got away. All day
we were under concentrated
air attack. Our fighters
are having a "Field Day". The
Japs pulled what might have
been a very clever and
successful maneuver if it
hadn't been for the fact
that we had more fighters
in the air than all their
planes put together. They
launched their planes from
carriers about 300 mi. away
from us. This put them out
of range of our planes.

Their idea was to strike us
land on Guam, refuel and take
on bombs, strike us again and
return to their carriers. Our
fighters really went to town
on them though. The ones that
were lucky enough to land
were destroyed on the ground
at the end of the day the score
was 78 japs for our force 54
for one of the other groups and there
are still two forces that we haven't
heard from as yet. We estimate
that about 200 japs hit the drink
today. Three of our ships were
damaged and we lost less than
25 of our fighters. Incidentally,
our ship damages were very
slight.

June 16. We are making 23 knots
in pursuit of the Jap task force.

June 17 18 19 Still chasing the
Japs. I guess they aren't too anx-
ious to stick around and play
with us. Tokyo Rose reports our
fleet destroyed again. She must
be president of the associated
liars club of Japan.

June 20. At 4 PM search planes
located the Jap force. Their force
consisted of 40 ships including
4 BB's - 4 CV's, 14 Cruisers a few
tankers and the rest destroyers.
We launched 200 planes. Our
planes sunk 2 tankers, 1 carrier
and damaged 2 carriers one battle
ship and many others. Our
planes did not return rental

after dark. Because of this we lost quite a few of them. Planes that were unable to land and were low on fuel were dropping all around us. We all felt like hell being unable to do anything about it. By using search lights, star shells and our running lights we managed to land most of those who found their way back. I am sure would have been great for Jap subs. Our total loss was about a hundred planes but we expect to pick up most of the men.

June 21/22 - We chased the Japs again but were unable to catch them because they had a pretty good start on us. We are returning to Eniwetop for supplies, fuel & planes.

June 27 Arrived in Eniwetok.

June 30 Left port destination unknown.

July 3 - joined up with another force. We now have 4 large Carriers, 3 small ones, 4 CLB, 1 CA & 1 Destroyer with us. We are going to raid an island called Iwo Jima. It is about 670 miles from the city of Tokyo and boy that is really getting close. We have been sighted and are sending planes in to strafe to keep them away from us tonight.

July 4 Our fighters must have done a good job as we haven't seen any Jap planes as yet. Our bombers started to work on the islands at 10:00. They will continue all day. There are 5 Jap cargo ships in the harbor.

at 3PM Cur Div. 13 and Cur Div. 10
started to bombard. We were
the leading ship in column. Much
to our surprise we found about
200 planes on the field. About 5
Zeros took off and one of them
shot down one of the Santa Fe's spotting
planes but not without going down
himself. Later a destroyer picked
up the pilot and the radio man and
neither was hurt. We really
gave those planes and the airfield
a going over. The place was just
a mass of smoke when we finished.
Who could find a more appropriate
day for something like this than
July 4th. Why the Japs held their
planes down I don't know but it
is a good thing they did because
they would probably wrecked the
hell out of us.

July 5 The Captain told us today that we destroyed about 100 Jap planes on the ground besides ripping the airfield to shreds. and that we are leaving for Saipan where we will take up our station on patrol protecting the island from possible air attacks so that our soldiers and Marines may go to taking over the place unbothered.

July 6 To day we fueled from tankers.

July 7 To night I had the 8-12 watch. Shortly after we went on watch we received word that there were bogeys around us but that they werent looking for us and were going over to bomb Saipan. We had night fighters

up and they were being directed to intercept these planes if necessary. A short while after our first contact gun fire from a plane was visible on our starboard beam; it was one of our fighters shooting down a Jap medium bomber. It was one of the prettiest sights I have ever seen. The fight started up fairly high and ended with the Betty bursting into flames the most beautiful colors of red & orange I have ever seen. We had to go to G.I. because we were afraid that we might be attacked. While at our battle stations we received word that our fighter "splashed" another

Betty. After this everything was pretty quiet and we slept about 2200. Incidentally while we are operating in this area the planes from our carriers are going to be bombing the Jap held islands of Guam, Tinian and Rota to soften them up for a forthcoming invasion which will just about clean up the Marianas Islands which is a great hurdle on our way to the Philippines and the mainland of Japan.

July 9 We received some more or less unofficial word stating that the Japs on Saipan had broken through the Army lines and had forced the retreat into the sea of the Marine artillery unit.

Some how or other the Infantry must have closed in because they killed approximately 1500 of an estimated 3000 Japs.

July 10 A Destroyer picked up a sailor on Guam who had been there since the Japs took it over in the early stages of the war.

July 21 Our troops landed on Guam planes from our force helped cover the beach heads.

July 22 Our force left Guam and headed for Yap and Palau also troops landed on Saipan.

July 25 Our carrier planes hit Yap and Ponape with no opposition. We will be here until the 28th.

Aug 3 We are on our way to hit

the Bonin Islands.

Aug. 4. We sent our first air strike in this A.M. they found four transports & 6 cargo ships and escorts.

Aug. 4. Cru. Div. 13 went in close to finish off the ships that remained of the small convoy. One of the ships was a Jap training cruiser.

A destroyer in our group picked up some survivors who were midshipmen and they reported that we fired with uncanny accuracy.

The first salvo scored a direct hit and that was fired ^{by} the Santa Fe.

Incidentally all this is taking place only 350 mi. from the Japanese mainland.

Aug 5 We bombarded the Bonin Islands and sunk four more transports

arrived
Aug 13 Left Eniwetok and don't expect
to leave until at least the end
of the month at which time some-
thing big is expected to take place.

Aug 30 We have just left Eniwetok and
are headed for the islands of Yap
and Palau it is to be an invasion
operation on the latter.

Sept. 7 Our carrier planes sent strikes
over Yap and Palau to soften them up
for the coming invasion.

Sept. 8 This morning our force refueled
at sea and upon completion will head
for the Philippines at a speed of
25 knots.

Sept. 9 We are 60 mi from Mindanao
and so far there is no indication that
the Japs know we are here. This
is the farthest west any U.S. Naval

vessel has been since the out
break of the war with Japan. It
is a little too close to suit me. The
Captain thinks that the Japs have
from 500 to 1000 planes so we are
anticipating some very hot air ac-
tion. Our planes have reported
ships in the harbor that have
been damaged so the Santa Fe, X
Birmingham and 4 D.D.'s have been
detached to go in and polish them
off. Again the Santa Fe accomplishes an-
other first. This time we are the first
to enter the Philippines. In this little
skin dig the Santa Fe was credited with
4 A.K.

Sept 11 We have left very little on
Mindanao worth using. We are now
heading north to hit Samar which
will be another pre-invasion bombing

Sept 12 Today we sent our planes in to Samar and are 50 mi from the island. The planes shot down 23 enemy planes and damaged 118 on the ground and sunk 27 merchantmen & 7 sampans.

Sept 13 A jap dive bomber dropped a bomb intended for the Lexington but did no damage. Today is D-day on Palau for our troops to land.

Sept 14 Today the Santa Fe's float planes went on a rescue mission to pick up pilots that were downed around Samar. This men that were shot down had to hide in the hills so they wouldn't be captured. Our planes brought them safely back to the Santa Fe.

Sept 21 Today we are making an air strike on Manila. It seems that each time we make a strike it is

much ^{to} closer to Japan to suit me.

Our planes shot down 110 enemy planes and destroyed 95 on the ground.

Our losses were only 15 planes and I think most of the personnel were rescued. The planes sunk 4 large A.O., 1 large D.O., 1 floating dry dock, 4 large A.O. 2 small A.O.

Sept 22 Combined damage at Luzon 144 planes shot down, 285 destroyed on the ground, 30 ships sunk and 27 probably sunk.

Sept 23 One of our men died today of plueisy. He was buried at sea the first time I have ever seen this.

Sept 24. Our planes hit Samar.

No air opposition. 10 planes were destroyed on the ground. Sunk 2 D.O.'s 2 D.E.'s, 5 transports, 8 oilers, 11 cargo ships

damaged 8 oilers and 20 cargo ships.
and sunk and damaged smaller craft.

The Captain said we are leaving this
area and going into a harbor at Palau.
The operation was highly successful.

Sept 27 We arrived in the harbor of
Palau. This island has a great many
japs on it and we are anchored about
12000 yds from the beach.

Sept 28 Left for Ulithi Island but had
to leave on account of a bad storm coming
up.

Oct 9. At noon today we start in to
the Island of Okinawa it is halfway
between Formosa & Japan only 250 mi. from
the main land of Japan.

Oct 10. Our planes sunk 58 surface craft
and destroyed 80 planes.

Oct 11. Still sending raids in. Our planes

shot down 124 enemy aircraft and did heavy damage to enemy shipping and shore defense installations. 97 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground sunk 2 large cargo ships, 2 medium cargo ships, 10 small cargo ships extensive damage was inflicted upon hangars, buildings, oil dumps, ware houses, docks and industrial establishments.

Oct 12 We stayed at G. Q. all night 11 planes shot down attacking our ships. We shot up two O.D.s that were in the line of fire while we were shooting at low flying planes.

Oct 13 Went to G. Q. many enemy planes reported. The U.S.S. Canberra took a torpedo and is dead in the water. The Wichita is towing her and only able to do 3 knots. We are playing nursemaid. Our plane losses so far are 45.

Oct 14 Cru Div. 13 is still playing nurse
maid now to 2 ships as the U.S.S.
Houston was torpedoed and in pretty
bad shape.

Oct 16 Two years in the Navy today.
G.O. all night. Enemy planes searching
all over the place trying to locate us
but aren't having much luck.

Oct 17 This morning we went to G.O.
at 0930 enemy planes reported. There
were 65 planes in all. Our fighters
shot down 62 of them with only
three getting in at us. The first
one came in and launched her tor-
pedo that hit the Houston which
is the second time she has been
hit in three days. Another plane
came in and was heading directly
at us when it launched its torpedo.

and almost simultaneously we made a sharp turn and avoided being hit. The plane went over our bow and exploded burning a number of our men including some survivors of the Houston that were aboard. One of the Marines that survived the Houston torpedoing died from burns received on the Santa Fe. Oct 20 D-day on the Philippines. Cmdr in 13 to stand by in case the Jap fleet comes out.

Oct 24: A Jap task force of 4 BB's & Cru. and 13 DD's are 210 miles from us. The Princeton was just hit by a Jap ~~torpedo~~ bomb. There are enemy planes all around us their objective of course being the carriers. The Santa Fe is helping in the destruction of these planes. The Princeton has

had some tremendous internal explosions and is in very bad condition. The Reno has orders to sink it. The Birmingham went alongside the Princeton to fight fires and an explosion killed upwards of 200 men and wounded about 300 besides wrecking topside stations from the main deck up.

Oct 25 Cru Div 13 has been sent to the north to sink a couple of crippled enemy ships (a carrier and a cruiser). The battle ships were with us but went south where there is a big naval engagement underway.

Oct 25. At 1700 we came upon a Jap carrier and had no trouble sinking it as it was dead in the water.

Later we came upon a cruiser that was supposed to have been damaged but was doing 32 knts. I was down below-decks and the damn thing started to come in straight at us at about 20 knts. Knowing that ships like this carry torpedoes I was plenty scared because I was just below the water line where they are most likely to hit. I'm telling you I was the happiest guy in the world when we got the word that this ship was on its way down to Davy Jones locker.

Oct 27 Since commissioning we have traveled 171,500 miles. We sent planes into Leyte and Samar today to knock out Jap planes strafing our troops.

Oct 27 cont. Here is a report of Jap shipping losses in the last three days: 1 Battle ship sunk

1 Battle ship probably sunk

7 Battle ships damaged.

2 Large carriers sunk

2 Small carriers sunk

Many other carriers damaged.

Several cruisers damaged.

4 Destroyers sunk

Several other destroyers damaged

Our losses

1 carrier sunk (Princeton and 1 baby flattop.

5 PT Boats were also sunk.

Oct 30 Pulled into Eulithi for fuel and supplies.

Oct 31 Changed Captain and admirals
The Captain's name is Litch the Admiral

Dayo. Nov. 1. Made second class
Nov 1 Left Eulithi for Mannana Island
but our orders were changed. We are
going on a raid to Formosa.

Nov 5. Today we sent off an air strike
to Manila Harbor. Heavy damage
was inflicted upon planes and ship-
ping of all kinds. At 1330 this after-
noon we were called to HQ, Jap dive
bombers came in. They dove on the Sea
in a suicide dive. These are the tactics
the Japs have been using lately. 15 men
were killed on the Sea when this plane
hit the signal bridge.

Nov 11 We went close to Leyte to launch
an air strike. On this strike we sunk
6 DDs, 4 cargo ships and transports
with 8,000 Jap troops.

Nov. 13 Today our planes hit Luzon

and Manila sank a number of ships.
Enemy planes have been bothering
us for some time now but they haven't
had much success.

Nov. 17 Anchored in Eulithi.

Nov. 20 Went to G. Q. Sub contacts in
the harbor. Just as we went to G. Q.
a tanker blew up off our port bow.

Nov. 22 Weighed anchor at Eulithi bound
for Luzon.

Nov. 25 Sent first air strike into
Luzon. Enemy planes came in and
dove on the Essex. One of them crashed
on the flight deck but only slight
damage was done. Another one came
in and was shot down by the Santa
Fe's machine guns.

Nov. 29 We received ^{unconfirmed} a report that
the Montpelier and St. Louis were ^{abolished}

hit by bombs down south. The Montpelier just came out of the states.

Dec 2, 1944 Entered Ulithi for fuel and provisions

Dec 10 1944 Left Ulithi for Luzon air strike

Dec. 14 Our carrier planes hit Luzon & Manila with little opposition.

Dec. 15 Still striking and still no opposition. A few planes came in fairly close but were disposed of by our fighters.

Dec. 18 Stormy now. Two destroyers were battered by wind and high seas and sunk with very few survivors.

Dec 20 Our air strikes have been cancelled because of bad weather.

Dec 24 Arrived in Ulithi and are to have mid-night Mass tonight.

Dec. 26 The U.S.S. Mobile, one of our sister ships has just left for the states in our place. If the Admiral hadn't been one way we would be on our

way back but no we will stick around
a while longer.

Jan. 3, 1945. Today we hit Formosa with
an air strike. The weather is very bad
our planes had trouble seeing there targets
A lot of damage was inflicted, however.

Jan 5, 1945 Refueled at sea and received mail.

Jan 6. Sent planes to strike Luzon. American
troops land on Luzon. The weather is
still very bad.

Jan 7. Still striking Luzon. The Seventh Fleet
has been hard hit by these Jap suicide
dive bombers. I am keeping my fingers
crossed because as yet they haven't
bothered us much.

Jan 9 We hit Formosa again inflicting
severe damage to the Jap shipping and
air power.

The Captain just told us that
we are going through the Bashi Straits
which are between Formosa & Luzon

and strike Southern China and Indo China with our Carrier based planes.

Jan 10 We are now in the South China Sea just knocking at the enemies back door and daring him to come and get us. Admiral Halsey is in charge of the operation and he is really "a fighting son-of-a-gun."

Jan 11. We are still in the China Sea. We have a fleet of tankers with us so we can fuel. It is pretty risky business but the ships have to have fuel and it is a long way to the eastern side of the Philippines.

Jan 12. Our planes are holding "field day" on the Jap shipping.

Jan 13, One year ago today we left Long Beach, 366 days without a liberty.

Today we are fueling and tomorrow or the next day will strike Hong Kong China. Yesterday we were exactly half way

around the world.

Jan 17 Made strikes on Hainan & Hong Kong
The weather is still very stormy. The
Jap planes are having trouble locating us.
Jan 18 Headed South. We are supposed to
leave the China Sea via the Surigao Straits
tomorrow night

Jan 19 Headed north again. We can not
go through the straits because of
navigational hazards. We will go through
a channel just north of Luzon.

Jan 20. The weather is clear and the
Japs are trying like hell to find
us but aren't having much success.
~~because~~ because our fighters are
beating them to the draw.

Jan 21 Well we got out of the China Sea
with out a casualty and are attacking
Formosa. "Barzai joes" attacked. One
plane dropped a bomb on the Langley during
sight. Another crashed into the Tunderbe

causing heavy damage to material and personnel. A D.D. and a carrier were hit in the other force.

Jan 22 Today we hit Okinawa again. No enemy planes were able to do so on the formation. Anybody that says our Navy pilots aren't any good is crazy because they have saved our necks a great many times.

Jan 26 Entered Kithi and left Feb. 10 headed for Tokio to knock out munitions plants and air power. This will bring us pretty darn close to the Japanese mainland.

Feb. 15 This morning we sent an air strike into Tokio. We are 98 mi from there now. Our planes destroyed some 300 Jap planes; blew up hangars and airfields; and destroyed an aircraft factory.

Feb. 16 We sent more strikes into Tabera again this morning. We still haven't had a ship hit by the enemy. All strikes were cancelled.

Feb. 17 Tomorrow is D-day on the island of Iwo. We are to bombard while the troops land. They expect to secure this island in 72 hrs.

Feb. 17 We started bombarding today. The Marines had pretty rough going once they landed because the Japs were dug into caves and the Naval bombardment apparently didn't kill too many because there is an awful lot of resistance.

Feb. 20 We are still at G. Q. and haven't had any sleep. One of our planes was hit by Jap A.A. fire and a Marine spotter, who was in the rear cockpit, was very badly wounded by shrapnel.

Feb. 21 Last night we fired all night long. The Marine officer died today. We fired 4,025 rounds of ammunition. There are many enemy planes in the vicinity. A.D.P. and the Nevada shot one piece down. I suppose this will be another sleepless night.

Feb. 23 We had burial services for the Marine officer today.

Feb. 24 On our way to Tokyo for another raid. After this one if we come out O.K. I think we will head back for the good old U.S.A.

Feb. 25 We were able to send in only a couple of strikes today because of the inclement weather.

Feb. 26 The weather is still so bad that we are recalling all strikes and heading for Iwojima to refuel.

Feb. 27 The Captain told us that we were going into Ullithi to meet the Birmingham and transfer the Admiral. It looks very much like we are going to return to the good old U.S.A.

Mar. 1 Arrived Ullithi with everything looking toward the best. Sauttlebutts is flying around fast and furious.

Mar. 8 Today a tug came along side with three Norwegian girls in it. All hands went wild because they were the first women we had seen in over a year. When they returned in the afternoon the Skipper and the Enc. got sore and called all hands to quarters and really balled us out. You couldn't blame anyone because it was a wonderful sight for silly eyes.

March 10 Transferred the Admiral to the Birmingham. It is still not known definitely whether we will get our state side orders. Everyone is hoping for the best because we have had just about enough of this war for a while.

Mar. 11 Tonight we had the band from the Langley over to play for us.

While we were all seated on the fantail listening to them a Jap plane crashed down on the Randolph and we all went to G. G. Boy it is a good thing we didn't get hit aft or it would have killed about three fourths of the crew.

Mar. 14 Well we missed out again because today we left for another operation.

Mar. 18 Early this morning we sent strikes into Kyushu. The japs picked us up because there are many Bogyes as yet none of our ships have been hit. Everyone has been under attack but us. We can see planes being shot down on the horizon. So far we have destroyed about 325 jap planes via ships gunfire and our own planes.

Mar. 19 Last night we had little sleep because the japs were around all night. This morning a jap plane dropped out of the clouds and let a string of bombs go on the U.S.S. Franklin carrier in our fore. At that time she was launching 9 strike. All the planes on the flight deck were loaded with bombs rockets and men. Boy what a hell of a mess. Gasoline lines

were broken and fire raged from stem to stern. Bombs, rockets and everything else was blowing up.

It is the worst sight I have seen in my whole life. In my mind I don't see how anyone can possibly survive. The Santa Fe has been appointed to go along side the Frankler to help fight fire and rescue men. This is really a dangerous assignment because you can never tell when a powder magazine will blow up and blow us to smithereens. Our Captain has moved right in just as close as he possibly can. She is listing to starboard and her flight deck is overhanging us and really beating hell out of our side. She has already ruined one of our five inch mounts. Survivors are coming aboard by the

hundreds. All told a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ of the men were saved. I'm telling you that is a surprise to me. The U.S.S. Pittsburgh a heavy cruiser has been ordered to take her in tow. at a speed of about 4 to 6 kts.

Mar 20 We had a couple of planes make an attack today but didn't do any damage. Our strikes have been very successful. destroyed 200 Jap planes, 8 merchantmen. badly damaged 2 CVE; 2 BB, 1 CV, and 1 CV under construction, 3 CVL, 2 CA, 1 CL, 5 DD and 21 merchantmen.

Mar 21 We had a few Jap planes come in today but were shot down before they could do any damage.

Mar 22 We met the fueling group today. All ships fueled and headed for Japan except the Santa Fe, Wasp, Franklin,

and the Enterprise and TDD who are going into Ulithi:

Mar 23 The captain told us today that we will be in Ulithi a few days while the Franklin makes minor repairs then we will head for home. It is almost too good to be true.

Mar 24 Last night one of the wounded men died. Services were held for him this morning. At noon we entered port. Bright an officer asked me how I would like to get rid of about half of my battery. I thought he was kidding but he wasn't so I rounded up my men and proceeded to get ready. We worked until midnight. Tomorrow they will take 2 mts, and five directors.

Mar 26 Today we took just about all our ammunition off.

April 1 Today we were about three days out of Pearl Harbor. Around noon time the Captain made a speech. He said that he just received a message from Cincpac to Navy Yard Pearl to prepare the Santa Fe for sea. Well boy you talk about a broken hearted bunch of men. About five minutes later he made another speech. He said that he had received another message that said the first was and April fool joke. We found out later that it was cooked up aboard ship by a commander and the Communications officer. In the short time that elapsed between messages I think all hands planned where they were going to hide in the Hawaiian Islands. According to all reports we are due in the states April 10 so I should be home for

mom's birthday.

F. H. Gaddois U.S.S. Santa Fe

Duty Commencing July 26, 1945

July 26, Left Terminal Island, Calif for the great wide Pacific. It was really wonderful duty while it lasted and I have a great many ever so pleasant memories.

Aug. 26, We arrived in Okinawa today and boy this is really a rugged chain of islands and I can readily see why our troops had such a rough ^{time} fighting here. I will say again as I said while home on leave that I am damned glad that we missed this one.

Sept. 20, Today we arrived in Sasabo on the island of Kyushu in the Japanese mainland. There aren't any occupational troops here as yet but there are expected in a few days. We steamed in the harbor early this afternoon. We saw three Jap carriers that we believed were damaged when our planes attacked this base last

Sept. 29 (cont.) March the day that the Franklin was hit which was our last operation before going home. About two or three hours after we arrived here a small boat came out loaded down with Jap Naval officials with a bunch of papers and maps. They came aboard but the Captain directed them over to a Communication ship on which there was Vice Admiral Hill who was supposed to officially accept the surrender of this base along with Rear Admiral Deyo who is stationed aboard the Santa Fe in command of Cruiser Division 13. As yet, it isn't known where we are going when we leave here but rumors have it that we are going to Nagasaki and then on to Kobe. After this we hope to get back to the U. S. A. to be assigned to the Pacific Fleet Reserve and maybe a bunch of us will get discharged. I am certainly hoping so along with a great many others.