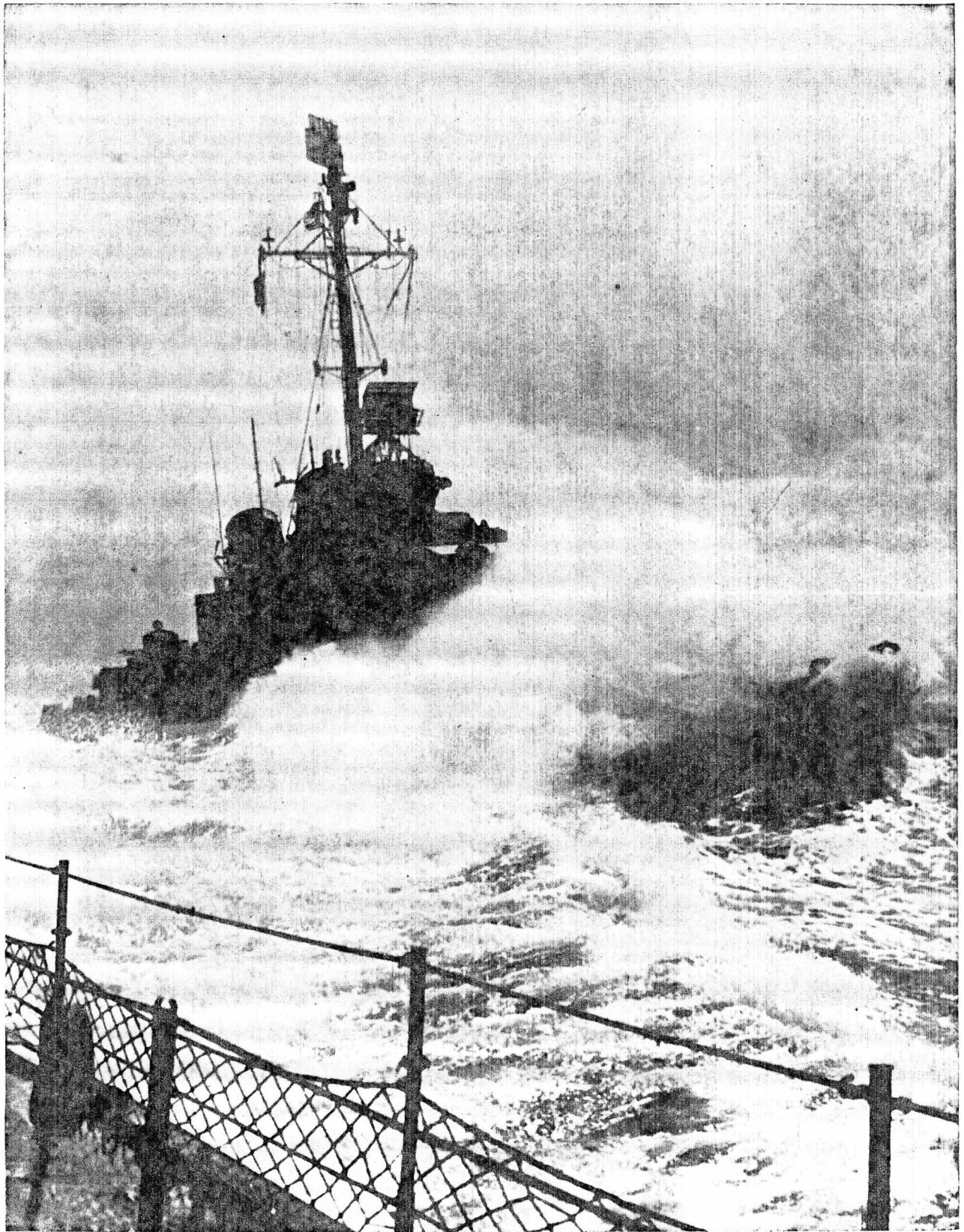


SOME OBSERVATIONS / EVENTS DURING 1943 - 44



UNCONQUERABLE

U.S.S. MULLANY - DD 528

SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOARD U.S.S. MULLANY DURING 1943-1944.

By LARRY MCCOY

- COMMANDER B.J. MULLANEY, IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH ON APRIL 23, 1943, DID SAY "BOYS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO GET ALONG WITH YOU". THEN TURNING TO THE OFFICERS, "AND, GENTLEMEN, YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH ME!"
- DURING THE FIRST EXCURSION OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY, MOST OF THE "OLD SALTS" GOT SEA-SICK.
- ALMOST EVERYONE WAS 18-23 YEARS OF AGE. ALL WERE CALLED "MAC". THOSE OLDER WERE CALLED "POP".
- AN OLD CHIEF BOATSWAIN NAMED NERO ALWAYS CAME THROUGH THE CREWS QUARTERS TO WAKE US UP.
- SALT SPRAY HIT YOU IN THE FACE WHEN YOU WENT ONTO THE BOW, (WHEN UNDERWAY).
- WHALES, AND DOLPHINS AT PLAY.
- ALMOST EVERYONE HAD A SHEATH KNIFE ON HIS BELT.
- SCRAMBLED POWDERED EGGS, SPAM, BEANS, RICE, DEHYDRATED POTATOES, POWDERED MILK, AUSTRALIAN RABBIT, COKE SYRUP THAT WE MIXED WITH WATER, SOS.
- NEW DUNGAREES TIED TO A ROPE AND BOUNCING ALONG IN OUR WAKE OFF THE FANTAIL.
- HAIRCUTS AT THE AFT DECK HOUSE BY THE PHILIPPINO BARBER.
- FUELING OFF THE BATTLESHIPS AND CARRIERS. (THOSE CREWS MUST HAVE ENVIED US!)
- CHIPPING AND PAINTING.
- THE PACIFIC OCEAN SMOOTH AS GLASS, WITHOUT A RIPPLE, NEAR THE EQUATOR.
- SHOOTING AT SLEEVES, AND FEELING SORRY FOR THE PILOT.
- TO SOME, EXTREMELY ROUGH SEAS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC, WHEN THE MULLANY WOULD ROLL 45°, PITCH THE BOW SEVERAL FEET INTO THE AIR, SHUTTER, AND FALL WITH THE BOW SUBMERGED WAS MORE EXCITING THAN BEING SHOT AT BY THE JAPS.
- TYING YOURSELF IN YOUR BUNK TO KEEP FROM FALLING OUT.
- THE MESS HALL WITH TRAYS FLYING AS WE TRIED TO FIND SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO.

IF THIS SUB EVER TOUCHES LAND AGAIN, I'M GONE!

I WANT TO BE TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE NEVADA.

BOYS, KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR SUBMARINES
THE JAPS WILL KILL US ALL!

I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE NASHVILLE.

I WANT TO GO HOME!



SOME U.S.S. MULLANY EVENTS

- 1943 -

- 4-23-43 COMMISSIONING
FIRST VENTURE OUT OF S.F. BAY. ROUGH SEAS!
- 5-11/28 SAN DIEGO SHAKE DOWN
- 5-31/6-1 SAN PEDRO
- 6-9 / 8-5 { ADAK ALEUTIANS, ESCORT DUTIES.
MULLANY MADE 3 TRIPS FROM CALIF TO ALEUTIANS
- 8-8/9 HIGH WINDS, WRAPPED ANCHORS AT ADAK.
- 8-10 TWO P-40s COLLIDE OVERHEAD.
- 8-12 B-24s BOMBING KISKA
- 8-18 USS ABNER READ HIT MINE. FAN TAIL GONE + 73 MEN.
- 9-9 SEAS SO ROUGH, MULLANY ROLLED 48° AND DAMAGED AN ENGINE ROOM.
- 9-14 BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL AND BEER ON ADAK.
- 9-21 STRONG WINDS CAUSED US TO LOSE AN ANCHOR AND CHAIN, AND A WHALE BOAT.
- 9-? ENSIGN HAP PERRY CAME ABOARD.
- 10-3/4 HOPELESSLY SEARCHING THE EXTREMELY COLD BERING SEA FOR DOWNED FLYERS.
- 10-21 DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA
- 10-26 / 11-9 PEARL HARBOR FOR REPAIRS. LIBERTY IN HONOLULU, WAIKIKI BEACH. SWIMMING OFF FANTAIL.
- 11-11 VERY ROUGH SEAS, 75 KNOT GALE, AND COLDER.
- 11-15 ADAK
- 11-19 ATTU
- 11-20/21 CRUISE WITH CRUISERS RALEIGH, DETROIT, RICHMOND AND DDs BUSH, AMMEN, BACHE AND BROWNSON WITHIN 700 MILES OF JAPAN, 300 MILES OF KAMCHATKA, AND 4815 MILES FROM USA.
- 11-29 HEADED FOR PEARL HARBOR AND SOUTH PACIFIC.
- 12-6/12 PEARL HARBOR
- 12-15 CROSSED EQUATOR. DOMAIN OF NEPTUNE REX.
- 12-24/25 MILNE BAY, NEW GUINEA
- 12-26 CAPE GLOUCESTER, NEW BRITAIN SCREENING BOMBARDMENT. USS BROWNSON DD 518 SUNK, HIT BY 2 500# BOMBS. LOST 108 MEN. USS SHAW ALSO HIT.
- 12-29/30 BUNA

SOME U.S.S. MULLANY EVENTS

- 1944 -

1-1 NEW BRITAIN

1-4 JAP SUB'S TORPEDO MISSED MULLANY BY "INCHES."

1-5 / 2-5 USS MULLANY RANGED BETWEEN BUNA, NEW BRITAIN, CAPE CRETIN, GALI, FINSCHAFEN, SAIDOR, MILNE BAY, ALEXISHAVEN. NEW GUINEA.

2-8 / 2-24 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA. PRETTY GIRLS EVERYWHERE. BONDI BEACH, LUNA PARK, KING'S CROSS, A NICE PLACE. IT WAS SUMMER TIME THERE.

3-2 ADMIRALTY ISLANDS, LOS NEGROS, MANUS INVASION. USS. MULLANY, AMMEN, AND HMAS WARRAMUNGA LEAD 2 MINESWEEPS INTO SAEDLER HARBOR. JAP 3" SHORE GUNS OPENED UP ON US. THEY SOMEHOW MISSED (1500 YARDS). WE RETREATED. AFTER BOMBARDMENT BY DD's, MULLANY AND 2 MINESWEEPS WENT IN AGAIN. SAME RESULTS.

3-3 THE MULLANY AND AMMEN WENT IN TO 2000 YARDS TO BOMBARD. HEAVY FIRE MISSED, BUT WE HAD TO USE SMOKE SCREEN TO ESCAPE. AT 8000-9000 YARDS WE BOMBARDED SLOW AND DELIBERATE.

3-4 US ARMY (CALVARY) REQUESTED FIRE SUPPORT TO BREAK UP JAP COUNTER ATTACK. MULLANY, AMMEN AND WARRAMUNGA BOMBARDED THE JAPS WITH SPOTS RECEIVED FROM ARMY. WE USED UP ALMOST ALL OF OUR AMMUNITION. THE BOMBARDMENT WAS A BIG SUCCESS.

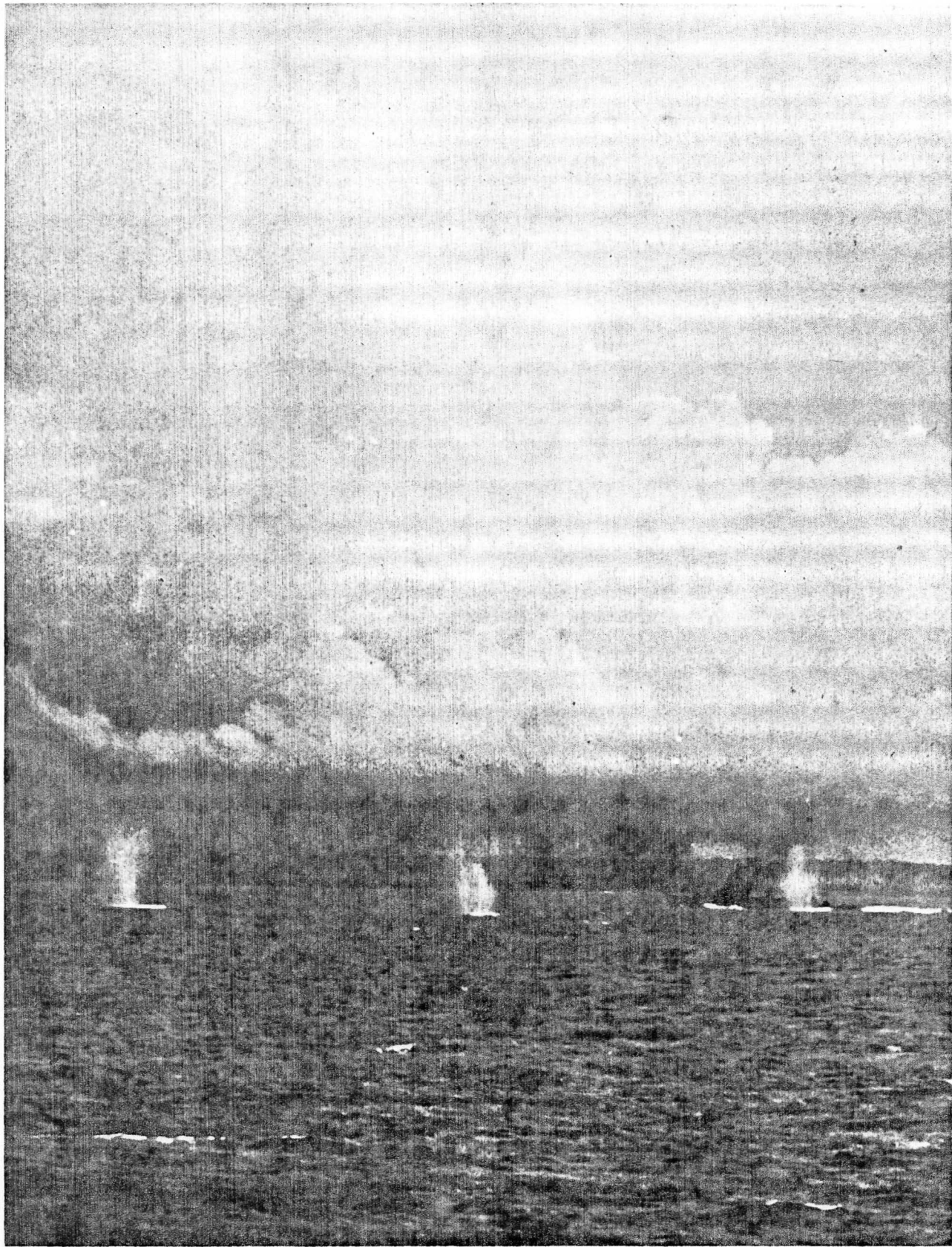
3-? CAPT. B.J. MULLANEY BROKE OUT AUSTRALIAN ALE TO CELEBRATE. SOME OF US LEARNED THAT 1 QT. BOTTLE OF THAT STUFF WAS TOO MUCH!

THE MULLANY AND AMMEN WERE IN THE AUSTRALIAN NAVY WITH THE CRUISERS AUSTRALIA AND SHROPSHIRE, AND DESTROYERS WARRAMUNGA AND ARUNTA. (AYE MATEE, YER A FAIR DINKUM BLOKE, YE ARE!)

3-19 WEWAK. THE MULLANY AND AMMEN WENT INTO THE DARK JAP HELD WATERS BETWEEN REEFS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. STAR SHELLS WERE FIRED BUT NO JAP WAR SHIPS WERE THERE. WE FIRED TORPEDOES AND LEFT. THE AMMEN FIRED 40 MM AT SOMETHING, AND SOMEONE ABOARD MULLANY ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED THE TRACERS WERE A SEAPLANE TAKING OFF.

THE CREW MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT COMM. BJ MULLANEY WAS A LITTLE CRAZY, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE WAS A FIGHTER.

6



LEFT FULL RUDDER! COMMENCE SMOKE SCREEN!
FULL SPEED (OUT OF SAEDLER HARBOR).

SOME U.S.S. MULLANY EVENTS

- 1944 -
4-22

HOLLANDIA. THE MULLANY PICKED UP A JAVANESE-DUTCH SERGEANT BEING PADDLED OUT FROM LAND BY NEW GUINEA NATIVES.

CARRIER TASK FORCE COVERED LANDINGS. 217 SHIPS MULLANY CAME INTO TANAHMERA BAY AT DAY BREAK AND WAS FIRST DD TO SHELL THE BEACH. 20MM AND 40 MM ALSO USED TO RAKE THE SHORE LINE, ABOUT 20,000 TROOPS WERE LANDED HERE.

5-17

WAKDE. BOMBARDED SARNIC AREA AND SAWAR AIRDROME. TROOPS WERE LANDED.

5-27

BIAK. WE STARTED BOMBARDMENT AT 6:30 AM. USS HUTCHINS WAS HIT BY JAP SHORE BATTERY. A FEW MEN WERE KILLED.

6-4

RETURN TO BIAK. WE WATCHED A FLIGHT OF 8 JAP PLANES (HOLD YOUR FIRE, THEY ARE P-40s) CAME OVER AND DIVE BOMBED THE CRUISERS. ONE BOMB HIT ALONGSIDE THE NASHVILLE AND DAMAGED A SEAM. NO OTHER DAMAGE. WE OPENED FIRE WHEN THE PLANES WERE DIVING. IT WAS TOO LATE. THEY ALL GOT AWAY.

6-5

THE MULLANY WAS LIFTED ABRUPTLY BY AN EXPLOSION (BELIEVED TO BE AN UNDERWATER MAGNETIC MINE). OUR GYRO COMPASS WAS KNOCKED OUT.

6-6

THE MULLANY AND OTHER DDs CHASED 4 OR 5 JAP DESTROYERS, BUT COULDN'T CATCH THEM. THEY WERE TRYING TO ESCORT BARGES TO BIAK UNDER COVER OF NIGHT. OTHER SHIPS SUNK THE BARGES.

6-8

A JAP PLANE DROPPED A FLARE, THEN CIRCLED AND DROPPED A BOMB THAT WAS CLOSE, BUT MISSED US. WE GOT VERY LITTLE SLEEP AT BIAK.

TWO BETTY BOMBERS FLYING LOW CAME THROUGH THE DARK STRAITS. SHIPS AHEAD OF US WERE SHOOTING AT THEM. IT LOOKED LIKE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY. ONE BETTY FLEW PAST OUR STARBOARD SIDE. OUR 40MM TRACERS WERE HITTING HIM. HE FELL SHORTLY LATER. WE BELIEVED MULLANY SHOT HIM DOWN.

7-2

NOEMFOOR. BOMBARDED BEACH AND AIRSTRIP MULLANY FIRED 500 ROUNDS OF 5 INCH AND ABOUT 500 ROUNDS OF 20MM AND 40 MM. WE HAD GOOD FIGHTER PROTECTION ALL DAY.

7-30

SANSAPOR. MULLANY SCREENED LANDING FORCES.

SOME U.S.S. MULLANY EVENTS

-1944-
8-10/
8-26

2ND TRIP TO SYDNEY. MORE PRETTY GIRLS.
STILL A NICE PLACE. IT WAS WINTER THIS TIME.

9-15 MOROTAI, HALMAHERA. MULLANY BOMBARDED THE BEACH FOR 20 MINUTES. OUR TROOPS ESTABLISHED A BEACHHEAD AND CAPTURED THE AIRDROME.

9-19 CAPT. B.J. MULLANEY TRANSFERRED TO THE STATES TO GET A NEW DESTROYER. WE GAVE HIM A WATCH AND CIGARETTE CASE. THE ENLISTED MEN HATED TO SEE HIM GO. WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OFFICERS. COMMANDER MOMM REPLACED B.J..

10-15 USS MULLANY AND AMMEN DEPARTED HOLLANDIA ESCORTING USS WASATCH, WHICH HAD VICE ADMIRAL KINCAID AND GENERAL KRUEGER ABOARD. U.S.S. ABNER READ AND BUSH ESCORTED U.S.S. NASHVILLE WITH GENERAL MACARTHUR ABOARD.

AN ENORMOUS INVASION FORCE ASSEMBLED AS WE WERE UNDERWAY TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES. THIS WAS BIGGER THAN D-DAY IN EUROPE.

10-20 LEYTE. INVASION BEGAN MULLANY GUARDED THE WASATCH. THE PRE-LANDING BOMBARDMENT WAS TERRIFIC. THE BARGES HIT THE BEACH AND TROOPS ADVANCED 300 YARDS IN 5 MINUTES. A JAP TORPEDO PLANE GOT THROUGH ACK-ACK AND TORPEDOED USS HONOLULU.

10-21 CONTINUOUS AIR ATTACKS. A BOMB HIT HMAS AUSTRALIA BRIDGE.

10-22 SUNSET AIR ATTACKS ON TRANSPORT AREA

10-23 ONLY 2 PLANES ATTACKED TRANSPORT AREA. BOTH WERE SHOT DOWN. ONE WAS IN FLAMES AND VISIBLE FROM MULLANY.

10-24 MULLANY FIRED AT ZEEK DOWN OUR STARBOARD SIDE AT 3500 YARDS, AS WE LAY IN SMOKE SCREEN. WE FIRED AT VAL TO PORT AS HE TWISTED AND TURNED TO FOUL UP GUNFIRE. HE LOOKED VERY GRACEFUL BUT WAS SHOT DOWN AT 6000 YARDS. THE TRANSPORT AREA WAS UNDER CONSTANT AIR ATTACKS ALL DAY.

10-25 BATTLE OF SURIGAO STRAIT. TWO JAP BATTLESHIPS, 1 HEAVY CRUISER AND 4 DESTROYERS ENTERED SURIGAO STRAIT HEADING TOWARD LEYTE. SIX OLD US NAVY BATTLESHIPS, EIGHT CRUISERS, AND 26 DDs WERE WAITING. AT 3:55 AM THE TRAP WAS SPRUNG. FROM THE MULLANY (GUARDING THE WASATCH AND NASHVILLE) IT LOOKED LIKE A COLD FRONT THUNDER STORM DISPLAY. THE JAP FORCE WAS SMASHED.

SOME U.S. MULLANY EVENTS

- 1944 -

10-25

MULLANY FIRED AT OSCAR TO STARBOARD AT 13,000 YARDS. HE BEGAN SMOKING AND WE CEASED FIRING. THEN 2 FIGHTERS GOT ON HIS TAIL AND HE BURST INTO FLAMES AND FELL.

THREE VALS WERE SIGHTED, THEN THEY SPLIT UP. ONE CAME STRAIGHT TO THE MULLANY. 40MM SEEMED TO BE GOING INTO HIM. HE TURNED A LITTLE AND WENT ASTERN OF US. ON THE PORT SIDE, ONE OF OUR 5 INCH HIT HIM AND HE BURST INTO FLAMES AND HIT THE BEACH. WE FIRED AT OTHER JAP PLANES AS THEY DUCKED INTO CLOUDS OR FLEW AWAY. MULLANY SAW OTHERS BURST INTO FLAMES SHOT DOWN BY OTHER SHIPS.

10-26

MULLANY FIRED AT A ZEKE AND 2 OTHER BANDITS. A TORPEDO WAKE WAS SEEN OFF NASHVILLE'S FANTAIL. WE PICKED UP SONAR CONTACT AND MADE 4 RUNS ON A SUBMARINE. 36 CHARGES WERE DROPPED AND CONTACT WAS LOST.

10-27

FIRED AT VAL. HE TURNED AWAY. MULLANY WENT TO AID 5 PT BOATS UNDER AIR ATTACK. WE TOOK ABOARD 6 WOUNDED MEN AND THE DOCTOR OPERATED ON THEM. WE TOOK THE MEN TO LST 464. MULLANY OBSERVED THE FIRST P-38s COMING INTO TACLOBAN AIRSTRIP.

10-28

MULLANY JOINED CARRIER FORCE OFF SAMAR. WE OBSERVED A FIGHTER PLANE ATTEMPT TO LAND ON A CARRIER, GOT WAVED OFF, AND FELL TO THE LEFT OF THE CARRIER INTO THE SEA. WE RUSHED TO THE SPOT BUT ALL WAS GONE.

10-29

MULLANY DEPARTED THE PHILIPPINES FOR USA.

11-1

ULITHI ANCHORAGE. WE RECEIVED WORD THAT ABNER READ HAD BEEN SUNK, AND AMMEN AND KILLEN HIT. THE KAMIKAZE SUICIDE PLANES PHASE HAD BEGUN.

11-5

DEPARTED ULITHI.

11-24

MULLANY SAILED UNDER THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE AFTER ~ 18 MONTHS OVERSEAS. (WE WERE 4 YEARS EARLY; WE USED TO SAY: GOLDEN GATE IN '48.)

— THE END OF THIS CHRONOLOGY —

NOTE — BERNIE ULRICH KEPT AN EXCELLENT DIARY OF THE PERIODS 7-24-43 TO 12-10-43, AND AGAIN 4-10-44 TO 11-1-44. HE BROUGHT IT TO ST LOUIS.

ADDENDUM

- THE U.S.S. AMMEN DD-527 WAS U.S.S. MULLANY'S CLOSEST COMPANION. THE AMMEN WAS HIT BY A KAMIKAZE IN THE PHILIPPINES ON NOV. 1, 1944. 22 MEN WERE LOST. AMMEN WAS HIT AGAIN AT OKINAWA ON APR 21, 1945. NONE KILLED, 8 WOUNDED
- OTHER DDs CLOSE TO THE MULLANY WERE:
 - USS ABNER READ, DD-526. FANMAIL BLOWN OFF BY A MINE IN ALEUTIANS 73 MEN LOST. SUNK BY KAMIKAZE IN PHILIPPINES ON NOV 1, 1944. 22 MEN LOST.
 - USS BUSH, DD-529. SLIGHT DAMAGE IN PHILIPPINES. 2 MEN WOUNDED. SUNK BY 3 KAMIKAZE HITS AT OKINAWA ON APR 6, 1945. 78 MEN LOST.
 - USS BROWNSON DD-518. SUNK BY AIR ATTACK AT CAPE GLOUCESTER ON DEC 26, 1943. 108 MEN LOST.
 - USS DALY, DD-519. MINOR DAMAGE AT OKINAWA ON APR. 28, 1945. 3 MEN LOST.
 - USS BACHE, DD 470. MAJOR DAMAGE AT OKINAWA ON MAY 13, 1945. 41 MEN LOST.
 - USS BEALE, DD 471. THE LUCKY ONE. NO DAMAGE DURING WWII.
 - USS HUTCHINS, DD 476. HIT BY SHORE BATTERY AT BIAK ON MAY 27, 1944. A FEW MEN LOST. MINOR DAMAGE AT OKINAWA ON APR. 6, 1945. 1 MAN LOST. HIT AGAIN ON APRIL 27 WITH MAJOR DAMAGE BUT NONE KILLED, 18 WOUNDED.