

I swiped a battle cap - come what may! The day after tomorrow - is the big day. In the last six months I've been letting my nails grow (heh-heh- no mo') They're down to the bloody knub now. Could I be nervous - you're damn right I am. Chow is down and after is my watch. (Subs, look out!)

Sixteenth Day Out

Wednesday, June 14 1944

We're all set. The Captain informed the crew all the dope about the raid. I have the 1300-2000 watch tonight which isn't so bad. G.Q. starts at 0100 and will last all night - day and most of the next night. Chow will be served on our battle stations when possible. We're going in on the third wave which will land our troops on the beach (Yellow) It's up to them to get the airfield.

RADIO TOKYO ON THE AIR. I quote "The foolish American forces are making a sad attempt to gain positions in the Marianas, but the Japs are too strong for them."

They can sure sling out a sad line of bull. Usually it's this one gal who does all of the talking (very good English, too). We have nicknamed her Tokyo Rose, when we take Japan I'm going to ram that mike up where it belongs.

Nothing much to write about now. I'm excited as hell and wish we could get started. I may go a couple of days without writing in this but will make it up. Securing for now - hope everything goes as planned - Give 'em Hell Robinson!

The weather is hot but overcast - excellent conditions.

Time - 2415. Just secured from G.Q.

01  
About an hour ago, Radar got a contact dead ahead, ranged about six miles. After having this "pip" for about five minutes, they reported "Target fading out." We knew then that sure as hell it was a sub. As soon as the Jap sub dove, I got contact on it, range - 4000 - no doppler. We ran in for the attack, when in about 2000 yards it changed into a stern attack (mark down doppler). We dropped a full pattern - deep setting and then opened range for a re-attack. Plot of radar informed us of results made. It was a "struck" target and was now lying dead in the water. (Huge oil slick in a shape). The Captain, upon hearing it was a "struck" and dead sub, pulled in right over the spot and stopped. We dropped a deep setting all around her. The last was the pay-off.

The Robinson will shell Saipan in about seven hours so seeing that I've got the 0400-0800 watch, guess I'll get some sleep.

U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562) (Flagship)  
 Destroyer Division One Hundred Twelve  
 United States Pacific Fleet lvp

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 1944:

0415 Call Police Petty Officers  
 0425 All Hands, Call all Officers  
 0445 General Quarters  
 0600)  
 0700) Breakfast served at Battle Stations.  
 1130)  
 1230) Lunch served at Battle Stations  
 1700)  
 1800) Supper served at Battle Stations

M. Harvey  
 Lieut. Comdr., U.S. Navy  
 Executive Officer

Twenty First Day Out

Monday, June 19 1944

This is a rather late entry but I've taken notes while in battle so will fill this in up to date —

On the morning of the 15th (0400) general quarters was sounded. The Robinson steamed in between Tinian and Saipan and took her position off yellow beach. At the first shot, old glory was two-blocked on our for'd mast. We shelled hell out of the town and sugar refinery (a mass of ruins now). The Japs were rather one way about it and fired back, 2-8' for'd of our bow (25 yds), 3-5" after of our stern (50 yds) The battleship Tennessee took a 5' just above her water line amid on her starboard side. Off Nafuten Point three Jap ships were burning, almost sunk. Off Marpi Point, the Japs were picking off our Higgins boats, our planes made quick work of them (we lost three planes on the deal).

Our LST's were scattered all over and Higgins boats full of Marines were swarming out of them towards the beach. The guns from our battleships and destroyers were beating the Japs away from the beach to clear the way for the boats. (I saw seven Higgins boats blasted from the water - we knocked out the position that did it). We placed tanks on the beach and started the push. Our men and tanks were swarming up the hill. All of a sudden the Japs opened up with their shore installations and pushed about twice as many tanks against us. - What a slaughter. They pushed us clear back to the beach. We lost hundreds on the move. Standing on the bridge, looking

through along glass, I could see our men dropping like flies on the beach (a sight I'll never forget.)

We were pounding out shells like mad and finally succeeded in halting the little bastards and drove them back into the hills. The Sound Shack was secured so all I had to do was watch. The men on the guns were really worked. In the handling rooms below decks the men were fainting right and left, buckets of water were thrown in each others faces to keep them going. This went on for four days and four nights without securing from g.q. In this time, I had four hours sleep, some others even less. What a grind. At night we would fire by star shells. In a way it was a beautiful sight. All of this steady pounding made my ears feel as if they would burst.

The Japs were clever and wouldn't fire for fear of disclosing their positions. Instead, they would hold them until the opportune moment. Whenever we saw a flash, we would center the fire on it. The R's gunners were really on the ball. Some cruisers came up to assist us. What a joke- they killed more of our men than they did the enemy until fire control put them on the ball.

Our fire control spotter really had a time. In getting positions, he lost 1 Higgins boat, 2 tanks - all within a half hour. All the time, I could see our planes dive-bombing Jap positions. (We lost very few.)

About the most horrible experience that happened to me was when the wind changed. It brought this ghastly smell of burning flesh over the water. Nothing could smell worse.

We had an air attack one evening. Four enemy planes flew over us. We threw everything but the "head" at them but missed.

The following is from over our TBS. Radio:

"Hospital ships filled to capacity."

"Twelve survivors picked up from a sunken sub. (the one we got)"

"Jap task force on its way. 2 battleships, 5 cruisers, 4 aircraft carriers - destroyers and destroyer escorts."

"Four of our ships burning on horizon"

~~"Des-Pac. (concerning bombardment) - As far as I'm concerned, the USS Robinson (DD-562) was the only ship who fired."~~

Congratulations from the Admiral of the 5th Amphib. Force."

We were relieved by the USS Phelps to go on transport escort for a few days. (A much-needed rest.) Four days and four nights without a shower and in the same gear. Was I filthy! I've been doing nothing but stand my watches and sleep. We had an air attack last night. Three planes flew over and dropped bombs. One landed 20 yds. off our starboard bow (close shave). Damed if we didn't miss again (too fast). the sunk one LST, otherwise there was no damage.

Nothing much to say now. Things seem very quiet and peaceful out here (25 miles from Saipan). Score for the ship up to now is -

1 submarine  
14 shore installations  
16 tanks  
Oil dumps and hundreds of men.

The Captain just spoke over the inner com. - He congratulated us all on the work we did. Get all the rest and sleep we can and, we're expecting the Jap task force any day now.

We're now attached to the 58th task force.

Twenty Second Day Out

Tuesday, June 20 1944

Bad news. The night after we left Saipan, Jap torpedo bombers struck. The USS Phelps (the one which relieved us) took four 8' shells. (Not sunk) I believe a transport and a couple of LST's were sunk.

I just heard ole Tokyo Rose over the radio sending us her daily cheer. According to the Japs, we've lost the damn war. Their news broadcast said that we lost two battleships, three cruisers and about a million cans. I found out that I'm allergic to pickles. Last night within three minutes my eyes swelled so much that I couldn't see. Note: No more pickles!

Just received some good news. The Marines have taken the airfield on Saipan.

From what I can gather, we're out here to meet the Jap task force which is on its way. Should be a battle royal.

We just fueled off a tanker. It had been hit a few days before which left many men wounded.

Twenty Third Day Out

June 21 1944

Steaming along with our division. We're still escorting the empty transports about thirty miles from Saipan, Marianas. News has come that within a few days the entire Jap fleet will steam into the Marianas. It's up to the 5th fleet (ships now in this area) to knock it out once and for all. I believe we're outnumbered, but we can still knock hell out of them. It will be the largest sea battle fought in history and will decide the outcome of the war in the Pacific. I'm quite sure we have more wagons and carriers but about cruisers, I couldn't say.

An armada of Jap planes raided Saipan last night. Three hundred of their planes were destroyed - great news. The men are all rested now. The chow is terrible, but that is to be expected, as the ship has not received stores for quite some time.

Time to go on watch - Jack and I have the 2000-2400.

Thirty-sixth Day Out

July 4 1944

Well, I'll be damned - we went up to the bridge to get read off and instead of getting busted, they fined us fifteen dollars. What a relief.

Seeing that this is the Fourth, we really had an excellent chow for a change - really swell.

We're still steaming towards Saipan - slow but sure. That's us with these damn transports. I wonder if we will shell Saipan or Tinian before moving on to Guam - hope not.

I can't understand why it's so gosh darn hot. We're in a steady sweat day and night (even the nights are unbearable). The watches are dogged tonight. Jack and I have the 8-12, a hell of a lot better than the mid. —

Still can't get over how that deck court came out. Still Soundman third- yeah man. Time to go on that god damn watch - PING Crazy, that's me.

Thirty-seventh Day Out

July 5 1944

I'm putting SoM on the logs now with great relief. What a close shave.

We should be in Saipan about Friday. Wonder how long it will be before we get that damn island. There hasn't even been any troop landings in Tinian as yet. Guam shouldn't take too long - I HOPE.

My old friend Tokyo Rose is having a hell of a time trying to broadcast. Things are so hot for them that she is rather stumped as to what scuttlebut she can hand out. I believe this war should be over in about a year. Certainly hope so.

Chow for some reason or other is really getting better. Eating like humans now.

Thirty-eighth Day Out

Thursday, July 6 1944

At Saipan and Tinian - Marianas.

Last night we came in sight of Saipan - Marianas. Sleeping topside, I could see the star shells being fired by bombarding cans, wagons and carriers. This morning I looked again at the old island. The same as when we left, except there's no more town and blown up quite a bit more. Saipan is just about ours - next comes Tinian. We have not fired as yet, maybe tonight.

Here we are about two miles from as fierce action as can be found in the South Pacific and we're not even at general quarters - crazy war.

1400 - just secured from G.Q. One of our airplanes sighted a sub just off the island and about seven cans were ordered out to get it, us included. There were too many ships, wakes for my money - like looking for a needle in a haystack. Saipan is a huge sub base and we believe they will try a break tonight. (15,000 Japs on the tip of the island with no way of retreating). Today we went within five hundred yards of the beach - one shell missed our bow by 25 yards. We may fire tonight - Surfaced subs, troops on the beach, shore installations or escaping barges.

We had general quarters from 1900 last night to 1600 today. The Japs have been pushed from the town and are crowded on the tip of Saipan. While at G.Q. this morning, we noticed some men on a coral reef about 150 yards off the island. We couldn't tell whether they were our boys or the Japs. They kept waving and signaling with their hands and informed us that they were some of our men and that they were trapped. The U.S.S. Bryant and our ship sent our whale boats over there to pick them up - with the Japs on the beach but 150 yards away, it was no easy job. We brought about fifteen aboard our ship. Seven were wounded from shrapnel - one poor devil had a slug in the groin and one through his arm. I just finished talking with a couple of them. It seems that the Japs pushed them down to the beach where they ran out of ammunition. Rather than be taken prisoner, they stripped themselves and started swimming for this reef where they signaled for help. Those Army boys really looked scared, no wonder. They've really been through hell and back. The beach is dotted with wounded which we can't get at - it's a hell of a way to die. One of the men said that on the island the smell of dead is unbearable.

An LCI is pulling alongside to take the survivors. They have been dressed, fed, and rested. I sure don't envy those boys.

Fortieth Day Out

Saturday, July 8 1944

We're doing patrol duty now, from one end of Saipan to the other. The Japs are doing very poor now. I believe their ammunition is running low. They lay up in the hills drinking Saki by day and at night come yelling and screaming down on our men. (A large per cent of them don't even have guns - just knives). They know they're licked and have no way of retreat. The enemy has been hearing shells dropping on them for the past month - should be getting tired of it by now.

On that LCI which pulled alongside yesterday, I saw that they had a Jap officer prisoner. He spoke perfect English and was shooting the breeze with the soldiers on board. He probably went to school in the States, wouldn't doubt it a bit.

Forty-first Day Out

Sunday, July 9 1944

I can't figure what the hell's the matter - no g.q. for damn near two days. We just keep steaming back and forth. The Captain (Commander Granthem) gave a speech today. He told us the resistance of Saipan is about over and that the enemy has been damn near wiped out.

Saipan was one of Japan's strongest forts in the South Pacific - the toughest we've come against as yet. The Nips have had this island for about forty years and when we raided it, they had between sixty and ninety thousand men on her. Our losses have been close to fifteen thousand men, too damn many.

The Japs have women snipers on the island and from what I hear, they're all right with a "Browning automatic."

The USS Grant sighted about 20 Japs swimming in the water. They picked up one and took care of the rest. (Depth charge, very effective).

The USS Rose picked up an unidentified body. A burial was given at sea after personal gear had been removed.

Forty-second Day Out

Monday, July 10 1944

Believe it or not, it's raining - what a relief.

The battle for Saipan is drawing towards an end. They threw a large counterattack which brought them to the town of Tanapac, but after close hand to hand combat, they were again cooped up in the northern tip of the island. They lost 1500 men on that move. We've killed 10,600 Japs so far (half their garrison) and most likely thousands more as they try to drag their dead back with them. What with the land troops, heavy artillery and destroyers hammering constantly at the Nips, they're really screwed blue and tattooed. Enemy shore batteries at Tinian (3 miles south of Saipan) have been silenced by our ships. I imagine things should be well in hand in another week. One thing that does my heart good in knowing that not a single Jap will leave that island alive. It seems incredible that we could lose so many men on that damn island.

Sub contact by another ship last night - lost it.

A large amount of Japs were trapped on a coral reef last night and we couldn't get permission to fire on them. God damn the luck.

Two cans have come alongside to get some of our start shells.

We're now laying to on the southern end of Saipan - for what reason I don't know. I wonder what's holding up our mail - should have quite a stack by now.

It's hard sleeping topside now. The smell of dead men on the beach is getting even worse - God, what a smell.

Time - 1500. Just came down from topside. I really saw a nice sight, about fifty "good" Japs. They were floating around in the water, deader than hell. All were pretty well bloated up - one Japs legs were so swelled up that his pants were starting to rip. They must have been in the water for quite a while. It's funny that the fish didn't pick them apart - smart fish.

Forty-third Day Out

Tuesday, July 11 1944

The "Slow Express" just came out. According to the people back in the States, Saipan has fallen to our forces. There is still fierce combat on the northern tip of the island. Most of the Japs are now fighting a different type of warfare - sniping from trees and caves in the mountains and hills. Yesterday a Jap girl came down a hill with two hand grenades in her hair, apparently giving herself up - she got five marines on that trick

Forty-ninth Day Out (from Hawaii)

Monday, July 17 1944

We returned to the transport area this morning. The Captain and the division commander went ashore while we again went to patrol (radar and sound picket), a few miles off Saipan. We have just returned and the gig has left the ship to pick up the Captain and Com. - the mailman went, also.

The scuttlebut is really flying now - it seems that either Wednesday or Thursday we will steam for Guam. Must be straight stuff because I noticed about a hundred and fifty LST's come in today. It sure will be great to be on the move again. Guam shouldn't be as hard as Saipan was - nothing could be. The 77th inf. Flege said we were going back to Hawaii to pick up just pulled in today. There's some dope all shot to hell.

This damn area is crawling with flies. Three guesses as to what they have been feeding on. They're so fat they don't even fly when you swat them.

No mail - damn it.

Fiftieth Day Out

Tuesday, July 18 1944

We were patrolling the coast of Tinian last night. Radar picked up a target and after g.q. was sounded, it turned out to be some kind of a barge. We're in the transport area now - supposed to fuel and take ammunition aboard sometime today. I'm sure we will be leaving for Guam in a couple of days. Things are really moving in this area. Jack and I were figuring it up yesterday - we're 6000 miles from home - 1200 miles from Japan. I was listening to a short wave broadcast from the States yesterday, really sounded swell. "Tokyo Rose" isn't saying much nowadays. She just talks about China.

Out on patrol again. This is getting tiresome. Mail was on the beach but we were unable to get it - it's come 6000 miles and we're unable to receive it - really makes sense.

We took on ammunition but no fuel.

Fifty-first Day Out

Wednesday, July 19 1944

D-4

Just secured from Receiving fuel. If scuttlebut proves to be correct we should get underway tomorrow for Guam. It's been bombed several times by air. It's time for the troops to move in now. That means bombing of shore installations by the Fleet to cover the landings of our troops. We will most likely go in on the first wave - as we did on Saipan. It's always been said that it's the Marine's that make the first landing. Not in the Marianas - the Army hit the beach ahead of them. Out of the first three companies of soldiers that hit Saipan, only eighteen got back alive - I'll never forget watching that slaughter, a lot of young blood was spilled on that damn island. I was looking through the long-glass yesterday and on one section of the beach you could see white crosses dotted over hundreds of yards in this park-like area. They're still burning those 15,000 Japs over there. We have about 1500 Jap civilians locked up on the island - wonder why we spared them? They say there will be snipers running loose on Saipan for the next six months - plenty of places to hide.

## Fifty-second Day Out

The Robinson got underway at 0830. We're escorting nine LCI's to Guam. We should be there tomorrow morning. It's only 85 miles from Saipan but these Marine boats can only steam six knots. Whether we will engage the enemy or not will remain to be seen. At Saipan they just put the Post Office on the beach; there is 75 tons of mail there but only eight men to sort it so we didn't receive any. When we get back there should be quite a bunch for us.

It's a little cooler out now and since we've left Saipan, we left all those damn flies with it.

Az and I have the mid-watch which isn't so hot seeing that general quarters will start in the morning.

Haven't been getting much sleep lately - tired as hell.

## Fifty-third Day Out

Friday, July 21 1944

We passed Rota during the night and pulled into Guam this morning. They are really shelling it now - smoke is all over the island. From what I heard, we will return to Saipan this evening. It took us 24 hours to get here but only 8 to return. LCI's held us up. I cannot understand why we're going back. Must be because we're no longer attached to the 5th Amfib. force. I can see that Guam is just about three times as large as Saipan. Much larger mountains, also. Cocos island is very small piece of land on the tip of Guam.

The following took place on the morning of the 21st - time - 0300:

I've really done it this time. Last night while on the mid-watch, I dozed off for a moment. It was just my luck to have the Captain walk into the Sound Room at the time. Of course he placed me on report and assured me that in a short time, I would cease being SOM3/c. He was absolutely right, of course, and it was entirely my fault. My luck was bound to run out, sooner or later.

## Fifty-fourth Day Out

Saturday, July 22 1944

035  
General quarters was sounded at 0830 this morning and we commenced to shell Tinian, although this island is but three miles west of the captured Saipan. There are supposed to be about six thousand enemy troops on it. We steamed back and forth firing tracers in the caves and burning cane fields. If anything moved then the forties would open up. We secured from g.q. in the evening but was sounded again at 0100 the next morning for about one hour. Then the regular condition took over the firing. D day for landing troops on Tinian I hear, is the 24th. It's for sure and certain that we will be in on that. The sugar refinery and town is pretty well blown-up - we finished the job last night by star shells.

Mail came aboard first thing in the morning - what a relief!

Fifty-fifth Day Out (Hawaii  
Ninty-ninth Day Out (States

July 23 1944

We're on partol now, just off Tinian. The island is still taking a pounding - both by sea and air. (Observation planes). I hope we don't fire today. Could use some sleep. (God knows I need it after the other day).

Tomorrow troops will ashore on Tinian. From what I hear our ship will have a screening station - not bad. The battleships Colorado and assisting destroyers will do the shelling.

One Hundreth Day Out

Monday, July 24 1944

Today is D day for Tinian. Troops have been put ashore on both sides of the island. The Robinson was put on a screening - just off the beach. Three ships were hit today - I was standing on the bridge watching the battleship Colorado shell shore installations when all of a sudden the Japs opened up and put about fifteen 5 to 8 inch shells in the starboard side of the wagon, knocking out 2-5 inch and a couple of 40's. (20 men killed - 30 or 40 wounded). She was about ten thousand yards off the beach we fired on the day before, we were only a thousand yards out - wonder why they let us alone.

**B-1**

The destroyer Norman Scott (same class as ours) got hers the same time as the wagon did. She received two hits. One back aft knocking the steering gear out, the other hit the bridge (worst place to get hit). (18 men killed, including the Captain - 30 men wounded). The Cruiser (heavy) Louisville was hit also. I didn't hear what her damage was but they buried her dead at sea about an hour ago. The other two ships took theirs over to Saipan.

While the island was under fire, I saw two of our planes get knocked down - one never did pull out of a dive while the other, when it caught afire, tried to get away from the island but had to bail out its crew. One man landed alive (for the Japs). This evening shore guns on Saipan kept a steady pounding on Tinian. Must have kept the enemy busy. On the enemy island, there are 6000 navy yard workmen and 14,000 troops.

0100. 7-25-44. I got a sound contact. We dropped a full pattern-medium depth on the second to the last run. Target was doubtful.

One Hundred First Day Out

Tuesday, July 25 1944

We never did find out if that was a sub or not - never will know. We came into the transport area this noon. The Colorado was tied up right off our beam. You can see where most of her hits were just above her water line. She was burnt pretty bad, mostly around the bow.

We're out on partol again, figure eights in front of Tinian. Ourtroops, from what I hear, are having a hell of a time - sounds like another Saipan. Tinian has been one of Japan's advanced Naval bases up to now. We can sure put it to good use.

1800 General quarters for shore bombardment.

One Hundred Fourth Day Out

Friday, July 23 1944

(Patrol off Tinian) We're still on this damn patrol off Tinian, same position and area that those three ships got smacked. They haven't put out those positions yet - expect to be blown to hell any minute. Guess we were put here to draw them out and see just where they're hidden. We were in the transport area for about a half hour to fuel but we're back to the grind again. Still no mail.

According to these guys around my rack, we should be in the States this time next year. I sure hope so but doubt it.

Time: 1800. The Japs are getting fresh. A large splash landed about a 1000 yards off our stbd. beam. It came from Tinian - about an eight incher. We've now got about a third of the island with fairly small casualties. Tinian is the largest and most advanced base in the Pacific, ideal for land based operations on Japan proper.

One Hundred Fifth Day Out

Saturday, July 29 1944

D-7

General quarters was sounded at 0730 this morning and we commenced to shell Tinian. We now have one half of the island which isn't bad, although we've met heavier resistance than was planned. The Japs took pot shots at us - a couple fifty yards off our bow and some off our beam. This ship must really be lucky - we've had so damn many close shaves. We made some good hits today - installations, dumps and oil tanks - not bad for a days work.

I really got a start today. I was looking over the bridge at the island when I saw a periscope. I yelled out "Submarine off the starboard beam". Much to my embarrassment, it turned out to be a paravane towed by a mine-sweeper. (This small ship blew up a mine this afternoon). G.Q. was secured at 1600. Scuttlebut says we're taking an evacuation ship somewhere. Most likely Eniwetok or Guam - who knows? I don't know whether I've said this before or not, but we're the second best firing ship in the Pacific. Not bad for a new ship.

One Hundred Sixth Day Out

Sunday, July 30 1944

(Patrol - West of Tinian) I had my damn "deck" today - ahem, Seaman Heinecke - that's me. I believe I can go up in three months, which won't be so bad after all.

We steamed into the transport area for about two hours but the guys at the post office said our mail has been forwarded to our next destination. Seeing that this evacuation ship is out God knows where we're being sent now. Some scuttlebut was going around that we were returning to Pearl Harbor pretty soon, but it doesn't seem probably - that's my idea, anyhow. Sure as hell I'd like some mail. Most likely it will take weeks before we get it. - Oh, this God damned war!

Still on this blasted partol duty.

One Hundred Eleventh Day Out

Friday, August 4 1944

Those shell backs have started in already. I'm now bald headed with a few tufts of hair sticking out here and there. And, just to top it off, to add that debonair look, what hair there is left is dyed stark, raving red. Plus a nice red P on my forehead (pollywog). It's only 0745 now, lord knows what else will happen. The officers are either serving chow or singing songs in the mess hall. Some of the officers are even shining shoes for the shells. Some of the P's are even minus their eyebrows - more damn fun - nuts!

1130. Ah, ha - der day has come - We rebelled against the S's up on the focsl. What a slaughter. We turned the hoses on 'em and painted their hair and faces red. The most I suffered was a bump on the head and a welted rear elevation. The Radar officer was put on the bow with a bed spring. He had to keep going around and around yelling our contacts (hand-cuffed to the spring). The doctor had a swabbing job up forward while calling "line sweeper".

I had to scrub the deck with a tooth brush while a fire hose was full in my face - oh, am I sore. Tomorrow is the day we really get it!

We passed the small island of Kusaie. I believe it is bare of troops.

D-8

One Hundred Twelfth Day Out

Saturday, August 5 1944

I'm now a shellback, but after what I went through I don't know whether it was worth it or not. They lined us all up in a row and wetted us down with a saltwater hose - then up a ladder to receive ten swats with a canvas club (wet). We were then put before the judge for our hearing (more swats). We, of course, pleaded guilty to being pollywogs so we all had to kiss the baby's belly which had grease on it, (a fat snipe). When you put your head down, he pushed it in your face. Then I sang a song for the king and received a pill (bitter) from the doc. After this came paint, grease, and graphite in my hair (what's left) face, mouth, eyes and chest. Then we ran the length of the ship, getting swats all the way - last, but no least, we crawled through a 20 foot canvas bag full of grease and our own hair receiving pelts all the way. What a mess and am I sore - Shell back - great stuff. My ~~face~~ is as red as a beet!

One Hundred Thirteenth Day Out

Sunday, August 6 1944

Thank gosh, we're across the Equator, after four showers the paint has at last come off. The barber trimmed my hair down even (skin head).

We should hit Guadalcanal in a few days - then on to the New Hebrides to get rid of this evacuation ship which has been astern of us ever since we left the Marshalls or rather, Saipan. Now that we're in the Southern Hemisphere, you can really notice the change - it's hotter than hell, frequent rains, and the ocean at times is like glass. Sunsets out here are really beautiful and the moon at night is huge.

D-9

One Hundred Seventeenth Day Out

Thursday, August 10 1944

I went ashore early this morning to the other side of Noumea to the hospital. They straightened my glasses out in a few minutes, so instead of coming right back to the ship, I broke liberty - Christ, what a stinking burg. All the people speak French or very broken English. Most of the people on the island are natives. The men are way over six feet tall with hair about a foot long (straight up). If they are single, they dye it red and if married they leave it black. What a sight to see those damn mugs running around with that red hair. Couldn't make out so hot local quail - they talk too fast for my limited French. Maybe next time!

The Robinson is well known in this country now. All liberty parties have come back stinking drunk on this native wine - three shots and you're out cold - tastes awful. The first section beat hell out of the S.P.'s and got tossed in the brig - they're coming back now.

It looks like there may not be any liberty tomorrow because this ship damn near tore the town apart. We're the only American warship in this area at the present - ashore you see plenty of French sailors, New Zealand soldiers, Australian soldiers (white and black), Navy Waves and Waacs and God knows what else. The town is the same as it was five hundred years ago. Same forts, buildings and houses. The churches are modern and really beautiful.

They say this native brew will kill you if you drink enough of it and I don't doubt it a damn bit. As soon as you get a couple of shots in you, you want to lick the world. After two drinks of that stuff, I'll quit for the day.

U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562) (Flagship)  
Destroyer Division One Hundred Twelve  
United States Pacific Fleet

9 August 1944

Executive Officer's Memorandum to the Crew:

1. All hands on board must stay in complete uniform of the day. Full suit of dungarees, white hat and regulation shoes.
2. No hell raising or foolishness of any sort will be tolerated ashore or on board. Any violation will be dealt with severely.
3. Liberty parties must be in clean uniform, regulation shoes and also beards must be trimmed.
4. NO KNIVES WILL BE CARRIED ASHORE.

M. HARVEY  
Lieutenant Commander, USN  
Executive Officer

The five PCO's (attack transports) we're escorting, carry the underwater demolition squads. These men are to clear an area of coral reefs so the Marines and Army can land.

One Hundred Fiftieth Day Out

Tuesday, Sept 12 1944

Peleliu, Palau islands.

General quarters was sounded at 2300 last night. Our division picket met no resistance whatsoever when we steamed within sight of the island. At the crack of dawn, the battleships and cruisers opened fire with their 14 and 16 inch guns (12 thousand yards from the beach, out of our 5-inch range). We got a large oil clump so far - can't see the damage so well from this distance. One shell fire from the island passed over our ship and landed about a hundred yards ahead of us - bum shot.

Secured from g.q. 0815 this morning but expect it again soon.

Two tankers crashed into each other last night - slight damage.

Two of the P.C.D.'s crashed just a few hours ago. One of them has sunk - all hands saved.

G.Q. will be sounded at 0930 so will secure this for now - believe we're going to fire.

1730 - Our division and a couple of cruisers went into screen and to draw fire from the demolition squads as they laid charges in the reefs of Peleliu. While the men went to their objective, we maintained a rapid fire over their heads up and down the beach with our fives and fortys. The Japs are smart. They're not disclosing any of their positions yet - they always wait until the troops start landing. We went in within 600 yards of the reef. I believe that the Japs, like at Tinian, could have hit us bad but they're holding back until D-day. The men in the boats received some machine gun fire and we some 3 inch shells abath of us. I can see a Jap plane on the shore that had been knocked down earlier. We spotted another on a small field, apparently in good condition - we left it burning. It sure was interesting to watch our gunfire mow the palm trees down. I was watching one large tree when we bowled it over, who should come tumbling from the top but a Jap spotter. Japanese gunfire got so heavy at one time that our boats had to retreat but went right back after a few salvos from our guns.

Peleliu is quite a bit different from Saipan or Tinian which have hills and valleys. This island is more like Guadalcanal or Bougainville because of the land being so level, very thick jungle. Peleliu has about 4 thousand troops while Ngesbus, about two miles from Peleliu has 20 thousand.

One Hundred Fifty First Day Out

Wednesday, Sept 13 1944

General quarters was sounded at 0530 this morning. We steamed in and commenced firing on Peleliu. Flege and I were really kept busy - we had to give ranges of the reef and the depth every 15 seconds. I was able to go out on the bridge every so

D-10

often so I saw everything. The Japs fired at a cruiser but shot over it and damn near hit us. Once while changing our position, about 15 shells followed our wake right around in a circle - close. The island is under a constant fire from the Fleet. From the looks of things, I don't believe our troops will have such a bad time on D-day. Secured from g.q. at 1130.

G.Q. was sounded at 1245 for shore bombardment again. The demolition crews went in again, this time to set the charges off. What a sight - it threw water five hundred feet in the air. There are two paths now cut in the reef for the landing party. When the crews finished their work they came along side on their way back to their own ships to thank us for our fire support. I really take my hat off to those guys - they did a damn good job.

The Skipper congratulated Flege and I on our good job on the gear and fathomster - a good day.

1530 - The Japs just knocked down one of our planes - the first one so far.

One Hundred Fifty Second Day Out Thursday, Sept 14 1944

We just lost a ship, the U.S.S. Perry, which is an AM. It hit a mine just off the beach. Most of the men were saved.

G.Q. was sounded at 0530. Secured at 0900.

We're on a screening station now. We're covering a couple of cruisers and battleships.

G.Q. at 1245 for shore bombardment. The demolition crews again went ashore to put the finishing touches on the break. Everything is set for tomorrow.

Secured g.q. at 1600. Back on our screening station.

U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562)

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1944:

0430 All hands  
 0500 Breakfast for 1st section  
 0525 Breakfast for 2nd section  
 0550 Breakfast for 3rd section  
 0730 General quarters for shore bombardment  
 0800-0930 Shore bombardment  
 0830 HOW HOUR  
 0945 (About) Secure from general quarters  
 1100 Lunch for 2nd section  
 1125 Lunch for 3rd section  
 1150 Lunch for 1st section  
 1300 Turn to. Scrub down all weather decks  
 1600 Knock off work  
 1700 Supper for 2nd section  
 1725 Supper for 1st section  
 1750 Supper for 3rd section  
 2100 Lights out

M. HARVEY  
 Lieutenant Commander, USN  
 Executive Officer

One Hundred Fifty Third Day Out

Friday, Sept 15 1944

D-day for Peleliu - Palau Islands. How (0) Hour - 0330

General quarters was sounded at 0700 as we pulled into position off shore. Zero hour was 0330 for the invasion. Coming topside this morning, I was surprised at the number of transports, L.S.T.'s, L.C.I.'s, and destroyers that were here. They all came in last night. Just at dawn, we lost a plane. It was shot down in flames. The men aboard never had a chance. The amfib. tanks (ducks) poured ashore with the heaviest naval fire support I've ever seen. They hit the beach but were turned back to sea again by the Japs. After continual naval fire and bombing by planes, the Marines again went in. This time they stuck. I saw some of the boats blown clear out of the water, but every time the Japs fired, we would see and blow out the position. We did some excellent shooting today, really on the ball.

Airplanes dive-bombed the island all day. They would dive right into the smoke - strafe or bomb and then zoom up again. We never pulled out - lord knows how many we lost. We fired all day on Peleliu and secured at 1815, when we left our position we were 450 yards in on all the beaches. Now that we're in the attack fleet, we won't hang around like in the past - hit and move on. From what I hear, we will patrol for ten days and then move on to Yap of the Caroline Islands.

From one source, I hear we are going back to the States and from another that we will spend Christmas in Australia. I believe I prefer the latter - when we hit the States, I want to stay there.

We have withdrawn with battle wagons and cruisers, but will return in the morning for shore bombardment.

One Hundred Fifty Fourth Day Out

Saturday, Sept 16 1944

General Quarters was sounded at 1745 this morning for shore bombardment. This time we concentrated our fire on machine gun nest, caves, and anything that even looked like an installation. We shelled the island all morning and secured g.q. at 1130. We then laid to and let the greener distroyers fire.

Our division commander made four striper - full Captain. Not bad, Mr. O'Comey is off the O'Bannon which went down - belay that - damn near went down last year.

We're on patrol now. Guess we will have it all night.

One Hundred Fifty Fifth Day Out

Sunday, Sept 17 1944

Nothing much doing today. We were supposed to fuel and take on ammunition today but we didn't. We need 1500 pounds of A.A. common, phosphorous, and 40 mm. common. We're never supposed to go below a hundred thousand gallons of fuel but at the present time we have but twenty thousand. Seeing that we can't have movies in these waters, we now have re-broadcast records of several programs from the States which we play up on the forecandle. It sure is nice to cool off evenings, listening to those familiar stations. We're very close to the equator which gives us waters as smooth and reflecting as a lake, beautiful sunsets, and sufferable weather.

I hear we hit Yap in about a week. Then I believe we have about a month rest coming to us - probably Eniwetok, Espiritu, or Noumea.

One Hundred Fifty Sixth Day Out

Monday, Sept 18 1944

We refueled underway today from a tanker. On our screening patrol we left Peleliu and steamed 200 miles toward Yap but are now headed back. The days are getting hotter now, the ocean is calm with very little breeze so the sun beats down and almost smothers you.

I wonder when we will receive mail!

When we get our rest period I hope we go to Eniwetok - and swimming.

One Hundred Fifty Seventh Day Out

Tuesday, Sept 19 1944

D-11

We secured from Patrol and commenced to take on some much needed ammunition. We had just started and had taken about a tenth of the powder when we had orders to shove off. The transport we were taking this ammo from at the time was also loading up a cruiser on the other side. Immediately after sunset, we started firing star shells over this island, Angaur, I believe - There was quite a bit of Japanese resistance and our boys needed light so they got it - one every ten minutes from dusk to dawn.

Tomorrow an admiral is supposed to come aboard. We're taking him some place up North - Babelthaup is the name (wonder who dreams up these names?)

There was an air-raid seventy miles north of us.

One Hundred Fifty Eighth Day Out

Wednesday, Sept 20 1944

This morning the rear admiral came aboard, bringing his staff with him - a vice-admiral, couple of commanders, lieutenants, ensigns, and even a chief. We reached our destination, Babelthaup, an island of 20,000 Japs, a large town, and airfields. We're not going to take this island. Instead, we're trying to isolate it (a few bombings here and there to keep the airstrips knocked out, gas and oil on the crops to starve them into submission.) This island is on the Palau group just seventy miles north of Peleliu. At present, there is a seaplane base here but plans are being made to make a huge Fleet anchorage. The braid came up to look it over. We pulled alongside an ammunition ship here and took on ammunition. All filled up now. This ammo ship was in the raid last night - damn near got hit. We pull out in the morning.

One Hundred Fifty Ninth Day Out

Thursday, Sept 21 1944

We left Babelthaup at dawn this morning after placing the goldbraid aboard a plane bound for Australia, the lucky dogs. We're back at Peleliu now doing figure eights - patrol duty. The latest dope now is that we're not going to Yap but our next objective will be Mindanao Island located in the Philippines.

Anguar Island has fallen to our forces but Peleliu remains to be taken.

We have secured from our patrol station (dusk) and have taken our position off Peleliu for night firing of star shells.

One Hundred Sixtieth Day Out

Friday, Sept 22 1944

We fired star shells all night until dawn. General quarters was sounded at 0700 this morning for shore bombardment on Peleliu.

We fired all day, we ate dinner on our battle stations, slept when we could and at long last, we secured from g.q. in the evening. The Robinson has been firing more than any other destroyer around her - they want a good ship for this task - Ahem!

From scuttlebut I hear we will be leaving within a few days. They say we will steam towards New Guinea.

One Hundred Sixty First Day Out

Saturday, Sept 23 1944

G.Q. was sounded at 0745 this morning for shore bombardment again on Peleliu - what a grind. We're doing damn good work - tanks, installations, etc. Secure g.q. at 1200.

Hot damn - mail came aboard.

I received ten letters today - not bad.

We're on standby fire tonight. I hope we can make it through the night without g.q. being sounded.

Just secured from two air raids. As soon as we secured from one g.q. we went to the other within a few minutes. The Japs on Peleliu had these new planes in crates and put them together under cover - which was why we didn't pick them up on radar. P.S. The damn planes got away - took us by surprise.

One Hundred Sixty Second Day Out

Sunday, Sept 24 1944

Good hunting today. General quarters was sounded at 0400 this morning - about twenty barges full of Jap reinforcements and ammunition tried to sneak into Peleliu from another island up north. Radar picked them up about a mile from the Peleliu beach - just like shooting ducks in the water. We turned our search lights on and fired star shells over them - it really lighted up the area. When a five inch projectile hits a barge full of Japs or ammunition, it doesn't leave a hell of a lot. While this was going on, another Japanese seaplane tried to escape. We blew hell out of it. "A very profitable morning!"

We got underway and we're not at the anchorage off Ebelthaupt to again take on ammunition - we use it up fast. We've been loading all day but have now secured to continue in the morning.

One Hundred Sixty Third Day Out

Monday, Sept 25 1944

We just secured from receiving the rest of the ammunition and are now re-fueling.

I think we're having a swim call today.

All the ships are here waiting for a ship which was supposed to here by now for meat - no meat what -so-ever!

One Hundred Seventy Fifth Day Out                      Saturday, Oct 7 1944

We're again alongside the U.S.S. Piedmont.

Nothing much is going on or doing right now. We take on ammunition and stores off and on but otherwise we just load and sweat!

Everything has been brought up to completeness as far as ammunition and repairs are concerned.

The weather is getting warmer every day.

One Hundred Seventy Sixth Day Out                      Sunday, Oct 8 1944

*D-16*

The crew finally decided to do something about the officers' taking half the focsle (15 officers) for the movie, leaving the other half for about 300 enlisted men. (Rules and regulations say - movies aboard ship are for enlisted men. Officers may come upon invitation from the crew). So, - last night not an enlisted man showed up - including CPO's. Just the officers, movie operator and focsle sentry. The Officers were the laughing stock of all the other ships around us. I guess it really burned them up.

The dope now is that we leave the 12th.

One Hundred Seventy Seventh Day Out                      Monday, Oct 9 1944

Liberty on Manus today.

Fitz and I went to Duffy's Tavern (a shack) and had some beer, then swimming. It sure is a swell place for swimming but that's about all. I found some cat-eye shells in the sand, that's what a large number of men do when they go there. We call it Manus, actually it's a small island just off Manus. It's used as a recreation center for enlisted men off ships. You can drink all the beer you want, baseball, football, handball, fights, swimming or just sleep. It has a fairly large tavern called Duffy's Tavern where the beer is issued out. Not bad - not good.

The rest of the stores have come aboard.

One Hundred Seventy Eighth Day Out                      Tuesday, Oct 10 1944

We leave the day after tomorrow - Philippines bound. This is going to be a long operation. Probably run into months. One thing is for sure and that's that we will be seeing a huge sea battle.

I sure am seeing the Pacific. Philippines next, then probably China etc. - Japan!

All the crew is getting plenty of rest. I believe we will be needing it soon.

Movies tonight.

One Hundred Eighty Fifth Day Out

Tuesday, Oct 17 1944

Dinagat Islands: Philippines.

D-14

At 1000 last night we started to steam ahead at flank speed into the wildest storm I've yet to see. It was an overcast night and you couldn't see your hand before your face it was so dark. It was so rough it actually flipped three depth charges from their racks, men were thrown from their racks in all compartments. One of the crew, Dekker, was thrown from the torpedo deck to the main deck breaking his back - he is in pretty bad shape now, unable to move. At 0400 the U.S.S. Robinson, and U.S.S. Ross, a few A.P.D. and mine sweepers steamed onto the island, firing at the beach. It sounds crazy, that, but a handful of ships were actually the first to hit the Philippines, but that's just what happened, stranger still is the fact that we met no return fire from the beach - the storm was too large to enable the Japanese to launch airplanes or send surface craft - what a break for us! Our duty is to clear an area of mines in 36 hours (the bay is full of them). We've been at it all day - secured g.g. at 1000. It's raining so hard you can hardly stand on your feet without being swept off.

One Hundred Eighty Sixth Day Out

Wednesday, Oct 18 1944

Leyte, Island: Philippines.

In destroying mines during the storm we lost three mine sweepers - most of the survivors were found and picked up. The bay is almost completely swept now. Battlewagons and cruisers have now come in to bombard Leyte. The island is very large with huge mountains - nice looking country. There are over 200,000 people there, of which 40,000 are Japs. No return fire from this beach either. Must be hiding in the mountains.

Dekker was put aboard the battleship Penn. for surgical attention.

The Japs expected us to strike at Mindanao, but this seems like too much surprise. It's rumored that the Philinos have formed in bands which control sections of the island, which makes it a hell of a lot easier for us.

We've been at general quarters almost steady since we arrived here - could use some shuteye.

1900 - air raid.

One Hundred Eighty Seventh Day Out

Thursday, Oct 19 1944

General quarters all last night. Four Japs flew over, dropping their bombs - missed and ran like hell. One plane dropped a bomb between us and the cruiser Homolulu. The Jap followed the bomb, being hit by our own plane. The crew isn't getting hardly any sleep, I'm sure tired. We're retiring from this area now. We're in charge of one group of A.M.'s while the Ross takes the rest of them.

Our sister ship, the U.S.S. Ross (DD 563) just hit a mine, tearing out her for'd engine room causing a list of 7 degrees. They're going to ram the beach to keep her afloat. —

In making a turn, she just hit another amidships, causing a list of 14½ degrees. They've lost all power throughout the ship. Rescue boats are on their way to assist her. The Ross is unable

to make the beach but is staying afloat with the aid of pumps. Number of killed or wounded is unknown. They fired all 10 fish to take off weight!

Enemy aircraft approaching — g.q.

Honolulu hit (torpedo).

One Hundred Eighty Eighth Day Out

Friday, October 20

Air attack last night - g.q. all night.

A huge task force steamed in this morning. The landing of troops has started - we've been bombarding all day on Leyte. Filipinos met our troops to assist them in any way. Resistance very light. Jap torpedo bombers flew in. One launched a bomb hitting the flag cruiser U.S.S. Honolulu in the bow. We hooked her into the beach to keep her afloat - damage is bad!

Our troops took 1000 yards of the beach in twenty minutes.

The Robinson's luck is still running strong - on the night of the storm we were operating in the area the Ross got hit. If we had hit a mine that night, we would have sunk in a matter of seconds and all hands would have been lost in that storm.

Men who were killed aboard the Ross have just been buried at sea. I have some good friends aboard her — ?

One Hundred Eighty Ninth Day Out

Saturday, Oct 21 1944

The Japanese raid us every morning and night. We're lucky if we get four hours sleep in twenty four!!

The Ross was hit again last night - this time by a bomb, killing more than twenty men. Lord knows how many wounded and dead are aboard now.

An Australian cruiser was bombed this morning, knocking out the bridge - why in the hell do they always hit the bridge? (g.q. station!)

Two Japanese zero's came in flying low over all the ships in this bay - they were so low everybody thought they were ours. They dropped two bombs off our beam while flying at 300 feet, only one man (20 mm. on fantail) opened up - he just barely missed. On the bridge, I could see the markings on them as they flew over - whew!

McArthur just went ashore - he gave a speech over the radio direct to the States. What a sad line of flag-waving that guy handed out about this engagement - our hero! Rah, Rah, Rah.

One Hundred Ninetieth Day Out

Sunday, Oct 22 1944

Air raid last night - two bombers came - two knocked down.

Air raid this morning - one torpedo plane came - one shot down.

1-15  
 We were on the alert all last night. Japanese task force is supposed to have gotten through Task Force 53 and headed this way. We're ready for a sea battle at a moment's notice.

We refueled from the battleship California this morning.

One of our planes was knocked down this noon. He crashed right in front of us - we picked up the pilot.

I think the Ross was hit again - I'm not sure, though.

Fighting on Leyte is still very much in our favor. The troops are making good progress. This operation splits the Philippines in half - very good move.

Air raid ———

One Hundred Ninety First Day Out

Monday, Oct 23 1944

Some more transports were bombed last night; 1 plane knocked out.

After this morning's air raid (1 plane shot down) - things calmed down for a change. Every morning we have to get underway and lay a smoke screen when the Japs come - same thing at night... Today between watches, I got the best sleep since we came here - four straight hours.

The empty transports and some sweeps are supposed to leave tomorrow, leaving only warships here.

Some Filipinos came alongside today in a dugout. They waved, shouted and jabbered away, trying to tell us how glad they were to see us. They sure are little guys.

In last night's smoke screen, the battleship Tenn rammed and sunk a cargo ship.

Bogeys (airplanes - enemy\* are showing up early tonight. G.Q.)

One Hundred Ninety Second Day Out

Tuesday, Oct 24 1944

In last night's air-raid the rotten Japs bombed and strafed a large Hospital ship full of wounded men - it was clearly marked with crosses, etc.

The U.S.S. Leutze, a destroyer we've been operating with since the Marianas was hit this morning by a bomb, starting a fire. It was put out with small damage, killing only two men. A transport was also sunk. About a 100 Japanese came over this time - 1 shot down.

The U.S.S. Robinson is now Squadron Flagship.

The carrier, U.S.S. Princeton, was just sunk by enemy planes. This is it! The Japanese fleet is arriving tonight. They are coming from Mindanao, up the channel to Leyte.

Japan: 2 battleships, 2 heavy cruisers, 7 destroyers.  
 USN: 5 battleships, 7 cruisers, 15 destroyers.

This is really going to be a fight - our first sea engagement.

Surface contact. G.Q. 1800.

D-16

One Hundred Ninety Third Day Out

Wednesday, Oct 25 1944

Sea Engagement: The Battle of Surigao Strait.

General quarters was sounded at 1800 last night to engage the enemy. Thinking back to it seems like an unreal dream.

Japan's Southern Fleet left the Celebes to steam up the Surigao Straits, their purpose was to hit our force stationed off Leyte (Leyte Gulf). Their force consisted of 2 battleships, 2 cruisers and 7 destroyers. Our force consisted of 5 battleships: U.S.S. California, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, and Mississippi. 7 cruisers (1 was Australian) and 12 destroyers, including the U.S.S. Robinson's 112th Division.

After G.Q. was sounded our force formed our battle formation, three rows (we led the left flank). Then it was hours of waiting - which really gets on your nerves! The night was pitch black - radar were the eyes of the ships - lookouts were helpless. At 0230 the enemy came - left full rudder - all ahead flank. The wagons and cruisers hung back to furnish surface fire to cover the destroyers, whose job was to steam right under the Jap's noses to fire their deadly torpedoes, then fall back and retire. The sound gear was put in standby due to high speed so I was able to watch from the flying bridge. The heavier ships now had opened up - you could see the tracers from the shells being exchanged. It did my heart good to see the shells explode on the decks of the enemy ships. We were still steaming at flank speed towards the enemy, a bit to the left. Our guns were silent to help from disclosing our position. A starshell burst dead ahead of us, lighting us up in full view. The Japanese, discovering us, turned some of their secondary fire on us (5 inch). I felt the butterflies in my belly when I was three salvos (3 shells in each) - come sailing toward "us" and you know there isn't a thing you can do except watch with your fingers crossed. They sailed over us - hitting one of our division astern on our port quarter - the U.S.S. Grant. It looked like suicide but we still kept going in closer to our objective, our wagons were laying out a barrage that was beautiful. We were almost at firing range and at each count a fish would slide from our tubes. - Objective: - A battle ship. (Two or more hit, and the wagon sunk). Then those wonderful words, "retire" blared out, we were going so fast it was almost impossible to turn around so we swung to the left, laying out a smoke screen (the enemy was within sight). While making this wide turn, land loomed up dead ahead. The Skipper yelled out "port Engines, emergency stop, left full rudder". I grabbed onto the bulkhead - I would have sworn we were going aground. We could easily make out the features of the island in the dark. We were so close I could see the trees, rocks, sand, etc. I ran into the soundroom to take a fathometer reading - Zero! As we veered away from land, our screws threw up sand and mud. It was as close to going aground as was possible - lucky again. It was all over almost as soon as it started. We're one of few destroyers who have ever made a torpedo attack on a battleship - and lived to talk about it. I cannot understand how a ship can be so lucky. Our force sunk the enemy fleet down to the last destroyer. Our losses were the U.S.S. Grant damaged - she's still afloat. While we were making our attack, the enemy's Northern fleet, consisting of 4 cruisers and about 10 destroyers came around Samar to strike our rear. They would have, if it wasn't for those three gallant destroyers who made a suicide torpedo runs to stop them.

All three destroyers were sunk (very few survivors) but not without leaving their "fish" in the enemy. Two of the destroyers were the U.S.S. Howe and the U.S.S. Bell. They saved our carriers they were escorting. Only one carrier was sunk - the rest received minor damage. The Japanese lost 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers. The remainder of the fleet retreated.

As dawn broke, I was standing on the port wing of the bridge when we steamed by a mass of wreckage. Among this mass were about about three hundred Jap survivors - we (3DD's) steamed by them - (the last destroyer put some rudder on and plowed through the mass.) Then orders came over the TBS to pick them up so we steamed back to them and laid to. We whistled and waved from the bridge for them to come aboard while the men on the fantail flashed knives and invited them aboard - none seemed to want to accept. The Japs nearest our ship (about 5 feet) pulled out their knives and started cutting their throats. There was no chance in this so we tossed lines to them. We finally got through the rest refused. We waited around for a while longer, but got underway. The rest of the survivors were disposed of by depth charges and machine guns - they can't say we didn't give them a chance.

We have been having air raids all day - too damn many Jap airplanes around this place.

One Hundred Ninety Fourth Day Out

Thursday, Oct 26 1944

I've had about 6 hours sleep in the last 5 days and nights - the future doesn't look any brighter.

Air attacks are steady - not enough air support. They hit one of our destroyers today. It went down in 20 seconds. Few survivors, the crew never had a chance or enough time to get away. Aircraft hit some of our smaller units - damage is unknown.

We're expecting the Japs to hit us again by sea - (don't tell me we have to go through that again?). I'm so tired I really don't give a damn any more.

Our Jap prisoner can speak a little English but won't! We gave him a shower and got the oil off him, then gave him chow. He seems satisfied.

195th Day Out

Friday, Oct 27 1944

Our force is still in formation. We just cruise around and wait. A Jap task force is still expected.

We fought through a large air raid last night. Some of our ships were damaged. 7 Japs were shot down.

I sure feel a lot better. Got 6 hours sleep last night.

The Crew is really taking all this swell. We've had one man go crazy and he is in the States by now. (Maybe he wasn't so crazy after all.)

We got rid of our prisoner today - it's about time.

I'm so blasted tired I feel like a machine. Damn this rotten war.

It looks like this Jap task force isn't coming, after all. We have enough here to put up a damn good fight, even if it's true that they outnumber us.

The U.S.S. Abner Reed pulled in today. A large amount of our crew went aboard her in San Francisco for a six-day cruise. Same class destroyer as ours.

200th Day Out

Wednesday, Nov 1 1944

What a hell of a way to start out the new month - two large air attacks.

I. The U.S.S. Millan, Bush, Ammen and Claxton, were damaged on the first raid. The Japanese have changed their form of attack. It's suicidecrash bombing now. They carry a 500 pound bomb about 3000 feet above a ship. Then, after picking their target, they dive straight down to crash on the ship. You can fire like hell but they never seem to notice. The Millan was right alongside of us about 3000 yards on our starboard quarter. Two torpedos just missed her, a disabled plane dove for her, landing in her wake. As if all this wasn't enough, a 500 pound bomb landed a little left of her bow (port) - the shrapnel blew a series of holes in her side. One was big enough to drive a truck through. 15 killed, 14 wounded. The Ammen had a stack clipped off by a plane and half of the other. I don't know the nature of the damage aboard the Claxton and Bush. All four destroyers remained afloat.

II. As soon as we secured from the first raid, the Japs came over again. The U.S.S. Abner Reed was steaming along beside us on our starboard beam when the raid started. I was watching from starboard wing when this Japanese plane started his dive. It came so fast, it seemed like the reed hardly had time to fire - when it was about 300 feet above her, machine guns were the only weapon they could use. The plane exploded about 20 feet above the ship, spreading burning gas all over the decks, blowing up three magazines. The ship went down in less than 15 minutes. How many got off, I don't know - it sure looked bad, just roaring flame.

Dugout Dug (MacArthur) is sure ---ing the fleet. We're not getting any air support at all - except when the raid is over!

Ahem: Flash! — J.C. Heinecke Sl/c, made his rate back today — Som3/c again.

201st Day Out

Thursday, Nov 2 1944

The damn Japanese airforce is still giving us a bad time. Maybe I'm wrong but it sure looks fishy - every time we secure from a raid the sky is full of P-38's, always when the fight is over. I haven't seen a dog fight out here yet. The Navy Air corps is really doing the fighting but we haven't enough of them.

It gives you a odd feeling to see the ships around you being hit - you wonder why you weren't picked out also. Lady Luck is still with us! I sure don't go for this suicide stuff.

Our force has been cut down a bit but we're still a fast, hard-hitting outfit.

We will have to take on stores pretty soon. We're almost out of chow - beans are coming too often.

Just secured from an air attack. The Japs are keeping close tabs on us. Pleasant fellows.

We're still steaming along with the main task force. This Australian cruiser really has some good radar gear. They're always first to report bogeys.

215th Day Out Thursday, Nov 16 1944

We left the States seven months today.

The Japs flew over again this morning but were driven off by our two planes (Navy, of course).

We're supposed to get relieved this morning. Here's hoping.

Mail! Came aboard this afternoon - 34 sacks.

I hit the Jackpot - 32 letters and 1 pkg.

216 Day Out Friday, Nov 17 1944

The Robinson had some good hunting last night -

D-18

All hands were enjoying their mail when the Japs decided to bust it up. General quarters was sounded so we ran to our stations. It was just turning dark. A hospital ship was about a mile from us so it's lights showed us up. (A hospital ship carries no guns and never steams with warships. At night she does not darken ship but looks like a Christmas tree). This ole Nip comes in on our starboard beam - cuts around our bow and dives in on our port side. When it was 3800 yards, it cut loose - the Jap is now enjoying the company of his honorable ancestors! The Japs didn't bother the hospital ship this time. It's the same one that was bombed and strafed when we had an earlier raid.

We may get underway tomorrow!

217th Day Out Saturday, Nov 18 1944

We're underway - bound for Manus, Admiralties.

From what I hear (scuttlebut) - we will only be in Manus for a few days. Time enough to make our emergency repairs and take on stores. Then back to the Philippines to hit Cebu or Luzon - nuts.

We're steaming along with the U.S.S. California, 3 cruisers (including Australian), and 5 destroyers.

The weather is getting warmer.

219th Day Out

Sunday, Nov 19 1944

Nothing new - still steaming along at 15 knots towards Manus.

Thank God we're getting stores soon - the chow is almost unobtainable now.

Looks like we may get some recreation in!

219th Day Out

Monday, Nov 20 1944

We crossed the Equator today. This makes the fifth time - getting salty.

We will steam into the Admiralties tomorrow morning - but we won't stay very long though.

The weather is really hot!!!! I wonder what it feels like to be cool?

220th Day Out

Tuesday, Nov 21 1944

(Manus - Admiralties)

While in sight of land we had target practice - we knocked three sleeves down - not bad at all.

We're tied up alongside the tender Piedmont in Seeadler bay.

We've taken on a large amount of stores - more tomorrow.

Movies on the foc'sle.

Just before coming in an ammunition ship blew. A destroyer and a P.C. were alongside at the time. There were about three men left alive from all three ships - that's the way it goes.

221st Day Out

Wednesday, Nov 22 1944

Second section recreation party today.

Just came back from liberty. Had a few beers at Duffy's Tavern and went swimming - I have a feeling I may be needing the experience soon!

The crew of our ship and another can got in a fight on the beach and on the boat returning - I guess you could call it more of a brawl. Outside of a few bloody noses and lips, everything was O.K.

I made an appointment with the dentist aboard the tender for 1300 tomorrow.

222nd Day Out

Thursday, Nov 23 1944

At quarters this morning, the Captain gave a speech - He congratulated us on our last operation but said our next will

241st Day Out

Tuesday, Dec 12 1944

We pulled alongside the battleship Colorado this morning and took on fuel.

Just passed Dinagat so we're getting close to Leyte.

The ship is all secured for battle - it won't be long now.

I'm getting all the sleep I can - we will be going without soon.

When we reach Mindoro the night Robinson is taking charge of four other destroyers and will leave the main group to "trouble them" in the Sulu Sea. It will either be dull as hell or damn exciting.

242nd Day Out

Wednesday, Dec 13 1944

One of the crew, Dewitt, SI/c, got acute appendicitis today so we pulled alongside the battleship West Virginia, and transferred him. He will be able to get a good operation on a ship that large.

We just passed Negros and are now in the Sulu Sea.

A plane just crashed and sunk. The pilot underestimated the speed of the Carrier.

We just secured from g.q.

If we get sunk, instead of waiting to be picked up, we're supposed to swim to the nearest land. Sixty percent of the natives can speak English and will hide us. We must keep away from main town and villages, though.

Air Contact. -

D-20

243rd Day Out

Thursday, Dec 14 1944

(Operating with a carrier task force in the Sulu Sea)

Last night we again went to general quarters. This time five Jap planes came over. The leader went into a dive which turned out to be a suicide dive - he hit the destroyer which was a short distance off our port quarter. It crashed just behind the bridge on No. 1 stack, killing and wounding quite a few men. It was the DD591, U.S.S. Harriden. She is now on her way back to Leyte - I wonder if she will make it - she is without a "sugar george".

The second plane started its dive, objective - us! The Jap was coming down on us on our starboard beam when the good old West Virginia opened up - the plane blew up before it could hit us - that was too damn close! I felt sure our time was up that time. Our luck is still with us.

Our naval carrier planes shot down the rest. Boy, what a beautiful dog fight.

Just secured from another air raid - another dog fight, no more Japs.

244th Day Out

Friday, Dec 15 1944

We had g.q. last night, another dog fight - the Navy won out again, three Japs knocked down. Two of our planes cracked up while landing.

We went to general quarters at 0400 this morning and secured at 1130. In those seven and a half hours we had more enemy air action than I've ever seen before - in fact, it was terrific!

As soon as g.q. was sounded a "Betty" - medium bomber - flew over us, dropping a bomb off our str. bow a few hundred yards away - close!

Our own planes were engaging the enemy a few miles away when two "suicide" Zeros dove for the C.V.E. carrier, Manila Bay, which was just off our starboard quarter. She was really lucky - they landed one on each side. The only damage done to the ship was by a strafing by the Japs as they were in their last dive. 1 man killed and 3 wounded. They really got off.

There were so damn many aircraft around I can hardly remember. One torpedo bomber flew around our beam and started a run on the carrier. He was about twenty feet from the water when a destroyer hit it - just before it could fire its torpedo, another very close call. A zero flew over the heavy ships on our starboard beam flying low - he was flying too close and too low for our five inchers. The Jap veered to the left and headed for us for a suicide crash. He was less than two thousand yards away when we opened fire with our forty millimeters - we cut his tail off. The Jap, unable to keep control, crashed and exploded right off our starboard side. I felt sure he was going to crash us. Right when this was going on, a medium bomber flew unnoticed on our port quarter, flying very low. The Jap started a suicide dive for a carrier (Manila Bay), it was hit and put on fire by A-A gunfire - the plane swung around our fantail and crashed in a huge explosion off our starboard beam. There were several

dog fights around us, all in our favor. We had bombs and machine gun fire fall all around us but the Robinson received nary a scratch. The Navy really held field on the Japanese airforce. Our five inch guns have been fired too much and are too shot for heavy beach bombarding. That's why we got this carrier duty - Thank God. What air protection we do have is wonderful.

G.Q. 1220.

Secured 1245. Nothing happened. The Japs came but hauled ass.

245th Day Out

Saturday, Dec 16 1944

Damn the rotten luck! The captain just gave another announcement:

At 2200 last night we received orders to turn around and proceed up the Sulu Sea to a point 15 miles from Mindoro. The reason for this is that a Japanese task force steamed out of Manila Bay consisting of two battleships, two heavy cruisers, and six destroyers. It's up to us to stop them from interfering with the troops landing on Mindoro - should be a good fight!

It's 0900 and we've had two g.q.'s already. Both were air contact. Both were intercepted by our own aircraft. These Navy pilots are really on the ball.

D-21

The U.S.S. Reno was just towed in by tugs - she sure is all shot to hell. She was hit in the Mindoro engagement we were in a while back. The Reno took a torpedo and bombs, all of her aft turrets are blown out, the whole ship is badly burnt.

The U.S.S. Nashville (another cruiser) was also brought in - they're lucky to be afloat. It's all blown to hell - the casualties were extremely heavy.

The U.S.S. Houston (cruiser) was also brought in for dry-dock. She was also hit very hard. I was talking to one of the crew. He said the wardroom was filled with arms and legs where the doctor worked. The loss of life aboard all three cruisers was very heavy.

23rd Day Out

Sunday, Dec 24 1944

Just heard about the U.S.S. Red. The Destroyer was sunk by a "suicide" in our last operation. It went down in less than three minutes.

The T division went on a working party on the beach which resulted in each one of us getting 2 1/2 cases of coca cola and 1 1/2 cases of Toddy.

It's now Christmas Eve - I've given anything to be home now.

254th Day Out

Monday, Dec 25 1944

Christmas - Manus, Admiralties.

We had a swell dinner today - the works!

I guess we can be thankful that we're not up in Philippines waters today - at least it's quiet here and no g.q.'s!

Some more pkgs. arrived from home which made it feel more like Christmas.

Another destroyer limped in today. A bomb and a Jap suicide hit aft of the bridge blowing the director back on top of No. 1 stack, half of the bridge was blown off and the rest was burnt. Loss of life was tremendous.

255th Day Out

Tuesday, Dec 26 1944

One of the crew lost two fingers today. They were mashed off between a boat and our ship.

A radioman had a sixty pound box fall two decks down on his head. Balsh is a good friend of mine. Sure hope he pulls through all right.

I went aboard the U.S.S. Killen today (she's the one that received the near miss in Leyte alongside us.) The shrapnel from the 500 pound bomb went through her side and blew up No. 1 magazine. My, gosh, what a horrible sight. From the forward boatswains locker to the crew's mess hall was blown all to hell. All the Chiefs and Officers are sleeping on the decks and chow is served topside. She's going back to the States now. The Skipper gave us sixty cartons of beer because we screened her after she was hit and fought off the Jap which was diving for the killing punch - a swell bunch of guys!

This has been a rotten day. I feel lousy as hell after the things I've seen.

256th Day Out

Wednesday, Dec 27 1944

We shifted berths today. We're now in the stream.

Our newest battleship - the U.S.S. Iowa is in dry dock here in Manila. She took two bombs on her afterdeck.

We will be leaving here about the 31st, Luzon bound.

Movies.

257th Day Out

Thursday, Dec 28 1944

All the boardmen went aboard the Piedmont for attach teacher

Nothing new - just flaking off.

258th Day Out

Friday, Dec 29 1944

Three men went before the Captain today for getting drunk on homemade stuff. Hardy, SI/c, got a general courtmartial.

Same ole stuff - standing gangway watches but that's all.

259th Day Out

Saturday, Dec 30 1944

We get underway at 0500 tomorrow morning. I don't believe I'll like this trip.

Went to another Attack Teach this morning.

Double feature movie tonight.

260th Day Out

Sunday, Dec 31 1944

Manus - Admiralties.

We got underway at 0500 this morning - Luzon bound. Received word about two destroyers and two DE's that got sunk in the Philippines waters. A "storm" knocked them over. 10 survivors from all four ships. Storms in these waters can really play hell on a ship.

Seven destroyers, two DE's and us are taking some troop transports up North.

D-day is the "ninth". We're going to take Luzon this time. The men will go ashore above Manila on the northern end of the island in gulf called Lingayen. The Japs have 80,000 troops on

264th Day Out

Thursday, Jan 4 1945

A destroyer in the group ahead of us got a sub contact, on the third attack they struck oil. A DE was detached to complete the attack while the task force continues towards their objective. Hope they get it.

The Robinson is leading the task force now. Got to be on our toes. There are more than a hundred thousand troops astern of us.

From what I hear about Lingayen gulf, this next operation is really going to be rough. The Japanese shore installations are extremely plentiful with eight inch batteries and that ain't good.

265th Day Out

Jan 5 1945

Just got word about a carrier (C.V.E.) being sunk last night in the Mindoro sea. Sixteen Japanese planes went for her - a suicide crash bomber hit and sunk her.

These "suicide planes" are what worry me the most. Air resistance is going to be heavy as hell this time. The Japs seem always to pick out destroyers, and nine times out of ten they hit the bridge - one thing is for damn sure, if we get hit in the bridge, I'm a dead duck.

We've passed the Palaus and will pull into Leyte tomorrow morning.

266th Day Out

Jan 6 1945

The group ahead of us was attacked by a sixty foot, two-man Japanese submarine this morning. It fired torpedos at a troop transport - no damage.

This morning "Slow Express" doesn't look so hot; "Tokyo broadcasted a report that another american convoy was heading through the Sulu sea south of Luzon and Mindoro Island".

That's the force just ahead of us. By now Tokyo most likely knows about us, too.

Japanese planes are around us but so far have kept their distance. Just keeping their eyes on us, I guess.

The Captain just told us that from now on, we will have to sleep with our clothes on. Here we go.

267th Day Out

Jan 7 1945

We had an air attack last night about 1600. One Jap did get through - with Navy planes on his tail. He was heading towards us when our pilots cut loose. He hit the water doing about 280 knots. We steamed alongside the wreckage and picked up a silk parachute and identified the two bodies. Those Japs were crushed in every bone. One of them had a large three-foot knife strapped to his back - wished I could have gotten it.

Between 2400 and 0800 we had four g.q.'s but they never came in. The Japs circled us all night.

A dispatch came aboard with some damn rotten news - seventeen of

D-23

our ships were just damaged off Luzon which included battleships, cruisers and destroyers - California, West Virginia, New Mexico, Colorado, Louisville. It's this damn suicide stuff again. I'm beginning to worry about what's ahead of us. It really looks bad. Unless we have a lot of air support, I'm afraid of what will happen not only to us but the Fleet in general.

263rd Day Out

Monday, Jan 8 1945

The situation is getting worse. The U.S.S. Manila Bay (C.V.B.) was sunk last night by Jap suicides. The Jap Fleet is operating around Singapore which isn't far from Lingayen Gulf. It consists of BB, CL, DD, DE. We will steam into Lingayen the morning of the 9th. Won't be long now.

In our group there are 13 transports, 2 C.V.E.'s, 5 DD's, DD's. The group ahead is L.S.T.'s, escorted by a few DD's. We were depending on the heavy staff in the Gulf for protection but they were hit fairly hard.

The U.S.S. Newcomb, Bryant, Leary were severely damaged up ahead by suicides, with the Bryant getting hit that leaves only us out of our old Division 112.

Just secured from another g.q. The Jap flew right over us before we could sound g.q.

We've already passed through the Sulu sea and passed Mindoro last night. Well escorted by the Japs.

We're in the South China Sea now, Bataan is now in sight off our stbd. bow.

I can truthfully say I've never been so scared in my life, it sure gives you a helpless feeling when you realize what's ahead of you.

The Japanese pilots picked up from downed planes are wearing white clothes and capes used when committing Hari Kari. Those bastards are actually crazy - it's not easy to fight a mad man.

Manila is off our beam now - almost there.

2000; The Japs came again, six fighters came over our task force. Our carrier fighters shot four down but the other two got through. The first one started its suicide dive on one of our two carriers, the U.S.S. Kipton Bay. The Jap dove right into the AA fire and Crashed below the flight deck on the port side. She is still afloat but is unable to land or launch her aircraft. A crash tug now has her in tow. The remaining Jap dove for an Australian transport with three thousand American troops aboard. It landed in the wake of the ship. By the way it exploded, it must have been loaded with hand grenades and shrapnel bombs - Thank God, it didn't hit the transport.

Up ahead, three suicides crashed into another carrier, sinking her. Another carrier was severely damaged.

That leaves us ten C.V.E.'s for air support, about 250 planes. On Luzon the Japs have over 500. I'm afraid we're going to catch hell tomorrow. Those odds don't exactly appeal to me.

We're four hours from the Gulf. - Here goes nothing -

269th Day Out

Tuesday, Jan 9 1945

(Lingayen Gulf, Luzon)

0400. After barely missing some mines, we are now at our objective. We got a very warm welcome by the Japs - what an attack. The cruiser Colombia received a suicide amidships; the already damaged New Mexico received another suicide; the already damaged West Virginia got a suicide on secondary con; an Australian cruiser - the Australian got a stack knocked to hell; a 2200 destroyer got her fantail chewed up; the New comb got her fox-dog knocked off; A D.E. got a stack knocked off.

The above tidings are what I've seen. - God knows what else and I'm beginning to wish I were out of this damn place. I just saw the California - also damaged.

0930. Operations have started. Our men are swarming towards the beach - what a sight. Our guns have turned the beach into a blazing hell.

1015. They're on the beach now. From what I can see, we're getting such resistance. The area was pretty well cleared

1100. 9000 yards now. We're got a break now and can more or less relax - no Jap planes. Belay that.

1600. What a day! The Army is dug in deep and things don't look half bad but - you never can tell what these Japs will do next.

Just secured from another air attack (they come about every half hour). The Japs raised hell but the mighty Robinson is still afloat and a fighting son-of-a-bitch! One Nip was shot down right over us - lucky he didn't crash us.

D-24

Lingayen Gulf is the same spot the Japanese landed when they took Luzon, perfect landing conditions. By the time the men hit the beach, Naval guns had cleared a good sized area for them where it was impossible for anything alive to survive. Unlike the others I've seen, this landing worked like clockwork, precise in every detail.

270th Day Out

Wednesday, Jan 19 1945

The Robinson is no longer a Virgin:

The Japanese just came out with something new, suicide boats. After going on watch this morning, the gulf was full of Jap suicide boats. Like most of the Fleet, we were anchored. I was on the sonar gear at the time when I picked up screws off our port bow which I reported. It turned out to be a sleek Japanese speedboat loaded with TNT arranged to go off on contact. It ramm'd our bow but Thank God, it didn't go off. The two Japs, seeing us put a spot on them, hauled ass, but before leaving, they threw "one" of the "thirty" boxes at our bow. I was sitting in the sonar chair when the bomb went off. It threw back my head, turning on the fathometer - I jumped up, putting on my life jacket but not knowing whether to start swimming or man my station, I sat down, lighting a cigarette and wished the damn thing would sink - sudden explosions do strange things to a man. Men were thrown out of their racks, shrapnel flew and damn near all hands ran to their battle stations in their skivvies. The sound gear was knocked and the lower soundroom is a mess. A lot of gear was broken but - no casualties. I hate to think what would have happened if we had got the whole boat load. Other ships didn't fare so well. An APD was sunk, and an LST was sunk. A transport was damaged. These Japs are getting desperate!!

1000. Just had an air attack. A jap started a suicide dive for us. When I looked up and saw how close he was, I pulled down my helmet and hit the deck. Every gun on the ship was firing so fast I guess the Nip lost faith and swerved over to land in the wake of the ship behind us - whew!! We had a row of bombs land 100 yards ahead of us - close. The way things are going lately, I'm as shaky as an old woman. Guess I eat all of a mouthfull a day.

We've had air attacks all day but it's quiet now - for a change.

I'm sleeping topside!!!

261st Day Out

Thursday, Jan 11 1945

Last night about all hands slept topside last night. I slept on the flying bridge.

While on Midwatch last night, I listened to ships reporting that the Japs are swimming out to the ships with TNT tied to their backs. I don't believe they did much damage - one shot and they would go sky high - what next?

Thirty four transports came in today which unloaded their troops with no strain. We've been under air attack almost all day - the sky is almost black with flak.

I believe we will be leaving this hell hole soon. I certainly hope so - this place is getting on my nerves.

At night we have men stationed all over the ship with Thompsons and rifles. No more sneaky, dirty work around this ship, I hope.

272nd Day Out

Friday, Jan 12 1945

Last night the night guards opened up on a small boat which later proved to be empty.

The Japs are right on schedule, every morning and evening at the same time they launch an air attack, 0630 and 1900.

We have P61 night fighters here now. Those guys are really on the ball - radar is tops.

A complete beach head has been established on Lingayen. That's what I call quick work!

This engagement was a cinch for the army but the fleet sure took a pounding. Air action is still heavy. It doesn't do a hell of a lot of good to bomb Jap air fields. They just use the beaches.

1600. Thank gosh! We're getting underway. 5 destroyers, 6 P.P.D.'s and us are taking 10 transports back to Leyte. We're underway now - laying a smoke screen.

A few Japs flew over the formation but heavy AA fire drove them off. Most likely this trip will prove to be nasty without air coverage but it will be worth it to get away from this damn place.

273rd Day Out

Saturday, Jan 13 1945

The Jap air force is following us all the way through the China Sea. They hit us this morning right on schedule. One went into a suicide dive and crashed on one of the transports off our beam. The explosion knocked a number of men off the ship into the water. Two tincans stayed back to search for survivors. The transport is afloat and steaming but her steering gear is fouled up.

Sometimes these Japs pull the most stupid tricks. They cut in on the TBS today in perfect English but without a call sign! "A plane will dive down from overcast over the formation - all ships attention - do not fire - do not fire. He is friendly - he is friendly - over". Boy, what a surprise he got! Later on while under another attack, a lone Jap headed towards the formation, again we received TBS interference, "Cease firing - I'm friendly" - still no call sign. He got a tender welcome.

1800. A transport just reported a torpedo crossing her bow. All this, and now subs.

274th Day Out

Sunday, Jan 14 1945

Air alert this morning but they stayed out of range.

The Skipper is requesting tender repairs. We need them bad. No. 1 and 2 guns are out, the fix-dog is fouled up, and the lower sound room needs repairs.

This last trip was short but it was the worst few days I've ever spent. Guess we will be steaming back there in a few days.

G.U. 1700.

1900. One of our planes sighted an enemy wolf (Japanese destroyer) and the first thing we heard over the TBS was "purple investigate", so we left the group and steamed to the spot where the Jap was. The Captain wanted to hunt it down but we were ordered back - would have been a nice fight!

275th Day Out

Monday, Jan 15 1945

We were at g.q. almost all of last night due to Jap PT boats, torpedos in the water, etc. Personally, I think that these transports are too jumpy, they think they see everything - damned if I saw anything.

Burial services were held aboard the U.S.S. Zealand. Deitte got a sub contact, we made several runs and even had two Hell cats strafe the area we dropped depth charges. Another ship sighted a whale - guess that's what it was.

1600 - We just steamed into Leyte, boy has this place changed. It looks almost like Manus. There are millions of ships around here in two anchorages, quite a change.

288th Day Out

Sunday, Jan 28 1945

I stayed aboard today and did some reading and then wrote letters.

We're getting underway tomorrow - back to Leyte, I guess.

289th Day Out

Monday, Jan 29 1945

We got another day's extension so we won't get underway until tomorrow morning.

A small amount of mail arrived today. I got one letter marked Nov. - our mail should be waiting for us at the Philippines - hope so.

Hardy, Katz, and another deck ape were taken off the ship and thrown into the Navy Brig ashore. It's about time we got rid of those guys - they've caused nothing but trouble ever since they came aboard.

The ship is getting prepared for sea.

Double features on the foc'sle.

290th Day Out

Tuesday, Jan 30 1945

Special sea detail was set at 0815 and we got underway at 0900, Leyte bound.

We're herding a converted seaplane tender, the two of us are all along - no fuss or bother.

The training control went out on the sound gear so now we have one soundman on the stack and a soundman and radarman down in the lower sound room to train the projector by hand. It will take from two to three days alongside a tender to rewind the motor but I'm afraid we will have steaming orders for Lingayen gulf before we can get it fixed. We will have a hell of a time if we run into a submarine, although we can manage an attack.

Tokyo Rose has reported over the radio that the destroyer 562 has been sunk. They got our number at Lingayen when they came up to our bow that morning. I hope nobody at home heard the broadcast over the short wave. Mom would hit the overhead.

291st Day Out

Wednesday, Jan 31 1945

The U.S.S. Robinson has been commissioned a year today.

The Captain congratulated us today on our record for the past year. We've done more than the average destroyer is expected to do. 9000 rounds of five inch projectiles have been dispensed against the enemy up to now and we've traveled 60,000 miles. I didn't know before but we've got credit for wiping out a tank division on Saipan, also stopping and helped wipe out a banzai attack. We've been in nine engagements - not bad for the length of time we've been out here. The Captain said we can't be sure of the amount of planes we've shot down but the main thing is that we've kept them from hitting us.

327th Day Out

Thursday, March 8 1945

Special sea detail was set at 0600 this morning and are now underway. We will hit Mindanao the morning of the 10th.

This is a large, fast group that we're in. Everything from L.C.S. to Cruisers - nothing to slow us down.

328th Day Out

Friday, March 9 1945

The Captain gave us the dope this morning:

HOW hour is 0630 tomorrow morning - troops will land through the day.  
Alert watches must be maintained for suicide aircraft and suicide small craft.

Japanese aircraft have been following us all night and this morning, whenever they come in less than 5 miles we go to general quarters but they stay out of range —

Had a surface contact last night which turned out to be a Dutch hospital ship - probably coming from Hollandia.

The sonarman have been instructed to expect enemy submarine action.

This should be an easy operation but I have an odd feeling that our luck has about run out ———?

329th Day Out

Saturday, March 10 1945

Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippines.

1100. What a day! The beach was bombarded with shells and rockets starting at dawn. We went to general quarters at 0600 and took our screening station about 4000 yards from the beach (with our guns still unchanged we were unable to bombard). Some natives came out in a sailboat and informed us that in some areas the Japs have run for the hills. In a group of islands adjoining Zamboanga a "midget submarine" base was discovered and shelled. At 0910 the troops went ashore under a terrific rocket barrage, from what I could see there was no return fire of any importance. It's almost 1200 and not a single Japanese plane has arrived!

An L.S.T. was just hit from the beach - it's being towed away. I believe we will return to Leyte soon. The Captain's relief is waiting to take command of the ship. We're certainly losing a damn good Skipper!

This is our eleventh operation - so far there's nothing to it.

330th Day Out

Sunday, March 11 1945

General quarters was sounded at 1900 last night, on our patrol station we spotted some enemy pill boxes on the beach so we started shelling with 5 inch. Our guns are so shot we were lucky if we got one.

This morning we tried again. We hit one and was lucky at that - I certainly would hate to run into any trouble with these guns. Can't hit the broad side of a barn. Half of our shots fell short and landed in the water. "Range" - 1400 yards!

No dope on our troops ashore - shouldn't be too bad.

331st Day Out

Monday, March 12 1945

Last night all ships and small craft retired a few miles away from Zamboanga - we just returned and have assumed our patrol station.

The reason for these withdrawals is that natives have informed us of a number of Japanese PT boats operating in these waters. PT's are mean hunks of gear!!

We pulled alongside the Nickolis and took on fifty one rounds of AA common (amount expended yesterday).

1800. Retiring for the night.

332nd Day Out

Tuesday, March 13 1945

At 0700 the Rocky Mountain, two destroyers and us, returned to Zamboanga to resume screening.

A native came alongside in an outrigger early this morning and came aboard to give the Captain some information on a Japanese movements ashore.

Seeing that sections of the beach are now secured, natives have started coming out in their boats. They certainly go wild when we steam by - they salute, wave their hats and yell with joy. It must be a wonderful feeling to have the Japanese yoke lifted from your shoulders after three years.

Things are going very well on the beach. The main city has been recaptured and secured.

333rd Day Out

Wednesday, March 14 1945

Rope Yarn Sunday - 1300.

General quarters was sounded twice last night for air contacts. The Japs did some minor bombing on the beach.

Last night we had fire support station right next to the island. In fact, we were damn near on the front lines seeing that we were from 500 to 1400 yards from the beach. We steamed back and forth at five knots waiting for calls from the beach to bombard. Firing could easily be seen by the Japs and Americans - lucky the Nips didn't have anything heavy as we made a very good target. The only trouble with that station is that we were on the windward side - the smell of burning and rotting bodies was almost sickening. I was surprised at the size of Zamboanga. It's knocked to pieces now but I could see that it used to be a good sized place.

D-27  
 The Skipper's relief flew in today and most likely will come aboard today. He's sure getting a salty tin can - all shot to hell. We rated an overhaul long ago!

334th Day Out

Thursday, March 15 1945

This morning we pulled alongside the Rocky Mountain to refuel. While alongside about ten boats full of Morro's (head hunters) came beside us and dove for coins. The Morro natives are different from the Northern people. They are much larger and very well built with bronze skins - thick lips and flat noses seem to indicate a bit a Negro, but all in all, they're a very handsome race. One of the girls was really a doll. The younger kids looked like the Japanese got their two cents worth in (large teeth and ugly as hell). One Morro had three very small sons that were cute as the dickens. They looked like they were about at the first-step stage but to my surprise, they dove for coins as well as the rest.

After fueling ship we again took up our patrol station.

1500. Pulled alongside an ammunition ship - we took on 150 rounds.

2000. An LCM was just sunk by enemy small craft. Sounds like suicide stuff!

335th Day Out

Friday, March 16 1945

Basilan - Philippines.

At 0700 we anchored next to the Rmand the Skipper reported for a special mission. At 0730 we steamed over to Basilan which is the nearest island to Zamboanga. B-25's hit the coastal village and strafed trenches while we laid to about five miles off the beach. After about ten minutes of this our spotter started giving us information so we opened up. Our spotter would fly over the area and direct our fire on houses, trenches, installations and any troop movements. I can't understand how but our firing was damn good today. The ole mighty R is the first ship to shell Basilan.

We've now taken our new patrol station just off Basilan. There must be a hundred small sailboats out here - most of the natives are fishing. The outriggers they make can really make knots and are quite seaworthy.

336th Day Out

Saturday, March 17 1945

Troops are now ashore on Basilan and are making good headway.

Fighting is still raging on Zamboanga. Last night support was needed so a destroyer was kept rather busy all night shelling enemy installations. The Japs have a lot of room to run around in which accounts for our slow advancement - I don't think we landed enough troops considering the size of Mindanao.

We pulled alongside an LST and took on the amount of ammunition expended yesterday.

Our new Captain arrived aboard today - seems to be all right.

341st Day Out

Thursday, March 22 1945

While in anchorage the whole ship is holding a field day - new paint, etc.

Nothing new.

Natives still come around but are kept away from the ship - for what reason I don't know.

Movies.

342nd Day Out

Friday, March 23 1945

We're leaving Zamboanga tomorrow. I'm not sure but I hear that we're going to either Leyte or Mindoro to receive stores. In the near future we're taking our squadron on a special mission - most likely to secure another stepping stone towards Borneo. Operations in the Philippines are coming quick and fast now.

Movies on the foc'sle.

343rd Day Out

Saturday, March 24 1945

Our orders have been changed - we're not leaving until tomorrow evening.

We're still in anchorage in the straits.

There's another operation coming up in about three weeks - I believe it's the largest Jap-held base in the Philippines - Davao.

Believe it or not we received mail - the U.S.S. Waller brought it down from Mindoro.

U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562)  
FLAGSHIP  
DESTROYER DIVISION 112  
precedence PRIORITY  
Crypto Ch PLAIN

ACTION

HEADING: MANUS S-4189 212355/94

**0-28**

PALAWAN CMA ZAMBOANGA CMA PANAY AND OTHER ISLAND OPERATIONS IN THE VISAYAN GROUP CMA ALL REPRESENT SPLENDID PERFORMANCES WHICH REFLECT GREATEST CREDIT ON ALL CONCERNEDX THEIR PERFECT COORDINATION CMA THEIR RESOLUTE DETERMINATION AND THEIR COMPLETE SUCCESS SHOW THE FIGHTING SERVICES AT THEIR BESTX PLEASE INFORM ALL RANKSX MACARTHUR

WU/DW/TOR:2249/JI

DATE: MARCH 23-45

SUPR. POOL

FROM: RDO LEYTE  
ACTION TO: 7TH FLEET

349th Day Out

Friday, March 30 1945

Still alongside the Whitney - nothing new.

Natives have been around all day, selling their usual junk-grass skirts and beads, etc.

351 Day Out

Sunday, April 1 1945

Easter Sunday.

We have a mascot aboard now. Ens. Lake bought a monkey from a native on the beach. It's a cute little fellow and quite tame. X

Stores are coming aboard pretty good now. It's hard to get equipment around this area because it's all 5th Fleet and we're in the 7th.

352nd Day Out

Fresh apples, carrots and cabbage arrived aboard - it's the first fresh stores we've had in a long time.

Still tied up alongside the tender Dobben.

I believe we're getting underway the 5th.

353rd Day Out

Tuesday, April 3 1945

The ship is undergoing a general going-over, painting, over-hauling, etc.

We won't have any recreation here this time.

Movies.

354th Day Out

Wednesday, April 4 1945

Last night a radar contact was made so the nest we're tied up with went to general quarter - we were at condition red for about an hour but nothing showed up.

Nothing new.

355th Day Out

Thursday, April 5 1945

We're leaving the tender early tomorrow morning to get our torpedos replaced. Some new hands and stores.

Movies on the foc'sle.

361st Day Out

Wednesday, April 11 1945

Mindoro, Philippines.

We will be here for about four days. Then we're off to another operation. It will feel good to be doing something again.

Stores have come aboard.

Captain held an informal inspection of lower holds and living quarters.

Movies on the foc'sle.

362nd Day Out

Thursday, April 12 1945

Nothing much doing here in anchorage - we've received all our stores and ammunition so all we have to do is lie around and wait.

Recreation (beer) parties are being sent over to some small sandbar near the ship but sad as it is, I'm restricted.

G.S.K. working party left for some tender.

363rd Day Out

Friday, April 13 1945

Just secured from the watch on the gangway.

We're leaving in a few days to hit some place on Mindanao - rather near Zamboanga, I believe.

Friday the 13th has run true to form. Just received word that our President has died in office.

We're now on patrol just off Samar.

NOTICE TO ALL HANDS

THE OFFICERS OF THE USS ROBINSON HEREBY CHALLENGE THE CHIEFS TO A SOFTBALL GAME OF NINE INNINGS (OR AS MANY INNINGS AS THE CHIEFS CAN STAND) THE MORNING OF 13 APRIL 1945 TENDERING TO THEM THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

- A IN CASE OF RAIN, MIST, OR HEAVY DEW, THE CHIEFS WILL GRATIOUSLY BE ALLOWED TO CALL THE GAME OFF BECAUSE OF RHEUMATISM.
- B ALL CHIEFS OVER 70 YEARS OF AGE WILL PLEASE TAKE THE PROPER PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.
- C IF THE CHIEFS ARE UNABLE TO SCRAPE UP 10 PHYSICALLY CAPABLE "OLD MEN", A TEN RUN HANDICAP MIGHT EVEN BE GRANTED.

THE OFFICERS

P.S. EVEN SNIPES WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY .....

364th Day Out

Saturday, April 14 1945

We returned to Leyte early this morning and received mail from another destroyer.

At 0900 we joined a task force consisting of LCI landing craft full of troops. We are taking this force along with other screening ships to the attack on Mindanao a short distance from Zamboanga - D-day is the 17th and HOW hour is 0800.

Steaming along at twelve knots - no trouble so far - looks like a good trip.

365th Day Out

Sunday, April 15 1945

Morning alert.

Steaming very slow now - about eight knots.

This force is pretty large - three light cruisers, tincans and about a hundred troop carriers.

We will arrive at our destination 0500 the 17th.

The Robinson has been assigned as radar picket and fighter director ship.

366th Day Out

Monday, April 16 1945

Another force of landing craft have joined our group of one hundred - a lot of men!

1000. Boots, our mascot puppy, was officially sworn into the Navy by the Captain. His service record will be sent to Washington, his rate now is AM (Apprentice Mascot) and draws 50¢ plus 10¢ sea pay. X

A carrier-based plane just crashed off our beam. When we pulled alongside one of themen shouts, "Glad ta see ya". Both are aboard.

An LSM was sighted. Upon coming alongside, we found out it was lost from the Zamboanga group due to engine trouble. Earlier they had tried to make land but were chased away by Jap small craft and while going into open sea, they became lost. They also were glad to see us.

367th Day Out

Tuesday, April 17 1945

Mindanao. Malabang and Parang.

At 0500 we steamed in sight of Mindanao. The cruisers and destroyers took their stations and bombarded installations on the beach. We're the PD ship so we took a screening station a few miles off the island to do the proverbial figure eights.

The men are doing very well on the beach. In spite of heavy resistance they have reached Davao Bay which is twenty five miles from Davao itself. The Japs have captured sixteen guns from Bataan placed on the beach to guard its entrance plus land-based torpedoes and other installations. It would have been rough going to make alanding in the bay - so we came up from behind. Not bad, I calls it!

Something is cooking but can't get any dope.

379th Day Out

Sunday, April 29 1945

Natives came out this morning to trade. Their craftsmanship is a lot better than the northern people. For a blanket and two shirts, I got a large engraved bolo - the steel isn't cast iron junk like up north but fine tempered steel.

Just received our orders and are now underway for Tawitawi which is situated in the Sulu Archipelago - forty miles from Borneo! We're escorting a tanker which seems to be a new job - steaming at fourteen knots.

I believe in the near future we will join units of the seventh fleet which will soon hit Borneo.

Looks like a bit of action coming up.

380th Day Out

Monday, April 30 1945

These islands were just taken fifteen days ago and seeing most of the islands in this group are Jap- held the natives must be watched - any who look like Nips we scare away by firing around their boats. Most of these people are Moros - I just finished trading with them - money and cateyes.

Underway at 1600. We're taking this same tanker up north of Borneo to join the seventh fleet - we're to report to the Rocky Mountain for orders.

I don't like this idea of steaming around with just a tanker. This is nasty territory and would hate like hell to run into anything sizeable - sub bait, that's us!

2000. Radar contact - natives. Three star shells - scared niggers!!!

383rd Day Out

Wednesday, May 2 1945

Tarakan - Borneo. Dutch.

1100. Steaming through the straits leading to Tarakan which lies just off Borneo, passed alongside a sunken ship - oil is coming to the surface along with a few bodies. Don't know whether it's ours or the Japs.

Just passed the Boise, the ole Jenkins is alongside with her bow almost to the water's edge - hit a damn mine! We operated with her at Zamboange.

Dropped the anchor just off Tarakan. The Australians have already put troops ashore supported by the 7th Fleet.

Shell oil has several refineries here. I can see several tanks from here. Japs will miss that!

Jap suicide boats are active around here. Must be on the alert tonight!

1700. YMS 464 was just sunk by Jap shore guns - just a big puff of smoke and she was gone. A seahawk (DDO is going in to pick up survivors.)

1710. Two more YMS's were just hit but were able to withdraw. Nasty business, sweeping mines!

1800. LST was just sunk - not very healthy around here. I wish we could knock those damn guns out!

U.S.S. Rushmore DD just received a torpedo in her bow from a midget sub - never a dull moment!

Midget sub surfaced next to the beach and was captured "by natives". It's alongside the Waller now.

Re-anchored in mouth of the straits - sonar listening watch for submarines.

We are sonar destroyer here so we won't have to patrol.

383rd Day Out

Thursday, May 3 1945

( Radar picket station "Roger".

( 1300. Relieved by HMAS Burdekin.

( 1400. Returned to Tarakan and anchored off the beach. We are now fire support and are subject to call fire at any moment.

The Australians are still catching hell. They are good fighters but seem rather slow.

( I just came down below. While topside I was watching an SC when shells splashed all around her - she was having a hell of a time dodging them but finally got away - as far as I could see she didn't get a scratch!

( Just heard about a transport and a tanker being hit - these damn Japs are holding a field day!

384th Day Out

Friday, May 4 1945

( Steamed up to Point Roger and relieved the U.S.S. Waller - Flagship 22nd Squadron.

( Two Aussie officers came aboard to connect communications with the fire party (spotter) on the beach.

1200. Commenced bombarding imbedded pill boxes on the beach just beyond the air strip. There are two battalions of Japs entrenched there.

1315. Secured - we threw about 250 shells in the enemy positions. We did damn good!

388th Day Out

Tuesday, May 8 1945

We got underway at 0630. We're screen commander for a rather mixed group of ships - DE, LCI's, SC, net-layer and a limey corvet. We should reach Morotai about the 11th and will leave the 17th to return to Borneo to hit the mainland.

With the Commodore aboard we are now having both morning and evening alerts.

We are now quite close to the Equator - it's hot as hell!

I'm sure getting tired of this rotten existence, over a year now and God only knows how much longer.

Calm weather - good breeze, making twelve knots. Tack group speed - nine knots. We're up in front.

389th Day Out

Wednesday, May 9 1945

News Flash! GERMANY HAS UNCONDITIONALLY SURRENDERED!

Boy, that certainly is great news. I only regret that the President couldn't have lived a month longer to see the victory which he hoped so much to see.

The war sure as hell isn't over for us for damn sure. I'll bet the people back home are going wild - to some the war is over.

Steaming at 12 knots - should hit the Celebes in the morning.

Anti-aircraft practice.

Evening alert.

390th Day Out

May 10 1945

0730. We're alongside the Celebes now. I can see an active volcano off our beam.

We're now passing through some kind of passage.

Open sea again - should hit Morotai in the early morning.

Evening alert.

391st Day Out

May 11 1945

Morotai - Netherland East Indies.

At 0615 during morning alert, we steamed between two Japanese-held islands which were being bombed by B-24's. Two hours later we steamed into the anchorage off Morotai - nice place but hot as hell!

After refueling, we anchored about 2000 yards off the beach.

Movies tonight.

A small amount of mail arrived aboard.

396th Day Out

Wednesday, May 16 1945

Field Day.

Not a damn thing going on!!

Boy, this si the life. All I have to do is stand a few gangway watches so the rest of my time is free. Just lie around and sweat and sweat!!!

We're about 1 degree of the equator which accoounts for the intense heat.

397th Day Out

Thursday, May 17 1945

Not a blasted thing doing - this lying around is getting tiresome!!!

Well, I'll be damned!! - A german submarine surrendered a little ways off Mindanao. May wonders never cease.

It's so damn hot it's painful making these entries once a day. Can hardly stay below without drowning in your own sweat!

398th Day Out

Friday, May 18 1945

Got underway this morning and steamed out a few miles for AA practice along with the Waller. The Waller has new guns and fire control gear sbut we still out shot her - we're still the best damn firing ship in DesPac!

Returned to Morotai and after refueling, we again anchored in ye old sweatbox!

Nothing doing - we took on a few stores. Otherwise not a damn thing.

399th Day Out

Saturday, May 19 1945

Another German sub surrendered somewhere around here.

Received fresh meat aboard.

This life is killing me - wish to God we could get underway. This heat is terrific!

400th Day Out

Sunday, May 20 1945

Damn good chow today. Chicken which could actually be eaten!

Old man Smith is coming aboard in a few days.

401st Day Out

Monday, May 21 1945

Recreation parties are still being sent to the beach.

Nothing to do but read and sleep.

Movies on foc'sle.

D-34

We will take our squadron with six cruisers which will be the first group to hit the island!

Enemy surface forces are in that area so we may be in on a bit of sea action.

408th Day Out

Monday, May 28 1945

Went ashore today. Went swimming and messed around with some air corps guys.

Nothing new.

This diary is rather dull this last month - nothing to put in it!

409th Day Out

Tuesday, May 29 1945

We're not standing sound watches now - just port gangway.

Mail came aboard.

410th Day Out

Wednesday, May 30 1945

Got underway early this morning with seven destroyers (some of our squadron) for AA practice.

Boy, what a time that was. It was mostly tracking exercises. Spit-fires made strafing and suicide runs on us - they certainly came close!

Returned to Morotai for anchorage.

411th Day Out

Thursday, May 31 1945

Mail arrived aboard.

Liberty party went to the beach.

Nothing new.

412th Day Out

Friday, June 1 1945

Our old squadron 56 which went up north has but two destroyers left afloat - Lieutze (stern blown off) (sunk 6/5/45) and O'Leary (stern blown off). We certainly were lucky to be left behind. All the cans we've operated with in Saipan and down from squadron 56 have met something. The Newcomb from our old 112 Division is a burnt hulk, the old Bryant and Bush have gone down - my God, but it gives a guy an awful feeling to hear about destroyers you've operated with over a year going down. I have a lot of friends on most of them.