

We're close to the Equator now. That and being in the Sulu Sea has given us very calm water.

Making ten knots - everything's going fine.

1330. 40 mm. and 20 mm. test firing.

Evening alert.

420th Day Out

Saturday, June 9 1945

Palawan - Phillipines.

The cruiser Boise and a destroyer (Grant) joined the force - very good air support so far.

General MacArthur is aboard the Boise. This operation must be fairly easy if he's going!!

The U.S.S. J.W. Grant which was in our old 112 div. and was hit in Surigao Straits looks damn good. She has a new director and looks in trip shape.

We are now at Palawan - this is the last stretch now. Into the China sea and on to Borneo.

General quarters will be sounded at 0400 tomorrow morning.

Evening alert.

421st Day Out

Sunday, June 10 1945

Brunei Bay - Borneo.

D-36

General quarters was sounded at 0410 as we entered Brunei Bay. Mine sweepers were sweeping for mines - so far sixty five have been taken care of. Only one casualty to the sweeps up to now, one AM hit a mine killing seven and wounding seventeen - the vessel remained afloat. Cruisers and destroyers bombarded the beach until it was a blazing hell which provided good coverage for the landing boats. Troops hit the beach at 0915 and have now gained a strong foothold. At 0900 a Jap flew in dropping a 500 pound bomb which just missed an unloaded transport. He got away unless our own aircraft shot it down.

Secured from G.Q. at 1115. Flash white - control green - 1400. Flash red - control green. Nothing within range.

The Aussie troops are encountering very light resistance so far. The Japs expected landing down south so this was a good surprize move. We have very good fighter coverage.

Evening alert.

422nd Day Out

Monday, June 11 1945

We expected enemy suicide small craft last night but nothing showed up. The Killen opened up on something with her forties but never got any dope on it. We're on screening partol coverage

D-37  
for the Boise furnishing sonar screen protection.

So far today, the Japs made three raids but did little or no damage. If they do once get in they never get away because we have some fast fighters around here - Spitfires P-38's, P-61's (night fighters).

Damon and Boots were playing - monk overboard, rescued same. X

Brunei Bay certainly is a beautiful spot. The sunsets and dawns are really beautiful. At the mouth of the bay are three small islands which I believe we now hold.

The troops are doing very well on the beach. No word how far inland yet.

Mine-sweepers are still securing mines. The bay is full of them.

Evening alert.

423rd Day Out

Tuesday, June 12 1945

Morning alert brought another raid, no damage.

We're still on screening patrol. The weather is rather cool which is a great relief.

I guess Damon will be more careful where he jumps from now on. When he fell overboard, he swam on his back, using his tail for a screw. The Skipper turned the ship around so Mack could dive in to rescue him. He certainly was glad to be back aboard.

The Aussies have landed on three different spots here in the bay - Labuan, Marau, and Brooketon point.

424th Day Out

Wednesday, June 13 1945

During evening alert last night, the Japanese staged another air attack. I couldn't tell if they caused much damage. The weather was so poor they must have bombed by guess work.

Pulled alongside the cruiser Cleveland this afternoon to refuel. Tankers are empty.

The town on Brunei sure is a mess. There are a few buildings yet standing which are of interesting design. Some have as many as four roofs.

We're still patrolling at the mouth of the bay, not much doing - I'm really surprised at the few air attacks ---?

425th Day Out

Thursday, June 14 1945

Came alongside the Cleveland. The Commodore went over for a conference.

Went alongside the Rocky Mountain to exchange one of the men.

1200. Steamed into the anchorage and dropped the hook about a hundred yards off the beach. The Waller stood in with her four-knot convoy. She left Morotai a day before us - what a dull trip that must have been.

1810: Underway to resume patrolling.

The Aussies have built a temporary airfield. Not bad time, I calls it!

Evening alert.

426th Day Out

Friday, June 15 1945

D-38  
Last night during evening alert, the Japs came again. Flash red - control yellow - but this time the men on the beach were ready. When the Nip was overhead search lights flashed on him - at the same time, ninety mm. from the beach plus forty mm. from the cruisers, put a solid wall of tracers up. Dead Jap in ten seconds.

0900: Returned to anchorage. Port watch.

Brunei which is the capital of this British protected sultanate certainly is a cute little spot - it's a shame it had to go through a bombardment.

The Japs have set fire to their oil dumps on Seria field which is about seventy miles from here - I could see the glow from it last night while on patrol.

427th Day Out

Saturday, June 16 1945

0900: Returned to the anchorage.

1200. Refueled from the Rocky Mountain.

I went ashore to a small island near the entrance to Brunei Bay. I hiked up to the top of the hill to a pre-war English built lighthouse over-looking the harbor - really a beautiful spot. Two small houses were still in good condition except for a few holes caused from strafing. The interiors were a filthy mess - Japs live like the dogs they were bred from. On a side of the island was a plot of ground used for growing vegetables. I had the pleasure of eating some sugar cane - compliments of the Nips. On the slope around the look-out station was very "green" grass, hip high, which was a sight for sore eyes. I returned to the sandy beach and had an excellent swim and returned to the ship - it was the prettiest island I've yet seen.

1800: Resumed patrol.

428th Day Out

Sunday, June 17 1945

Still on patrol in the entrance to the bay. The Aussies are making excellent headway on Brunei. They are aided by Dart-blowing Dyak natives.

We will get underway this evening, with four other destroyers we will escort the cruisers Phoenix and Nashville to Morotai by way of Tawitawian and Sanga Sanga.

442nd Day Out

Sunday, July 1 1945

General quarters was sounded at 1130 last night while the ship was put into condition afirm, water, circulation and all valves were secured and all hatches dogged. We steamed into mine infested Balikpapan at 0413 without mishap. We then took our patrol station (sonar in operation). At 0915 the Aussie troops went ashore with very little opposition, due to our carriers we had excellent air coverage. No bogies as yet. The U.S.S. Smith got an upexplodedshell from the beach through her forward stack. Small damage and no casualties.

Seven minesweepers were sunk due to mines. This area is lousy with them.

Four enemy ships are steaming towards this area. I'm afraid we will miss out on the fun, being in charge of all screening stations. G.Q. was secured at 1300.

Evening alert.

443rd Day Out

Monday, July 2 1945

Morning alert.

While in this area all hands must wear life jackets at all times.

All oil dumps on the beach are in flames.

On our patrol station we come within a hundred yards of two unexploded mines (marked). If we get a degree off station  
— Bang!

Two B-24's were lost today.

Aussie troops are really raising hell on the beach, bombing and burning everything in sight.

Some of our ships just caught some fire from the beach - I don't believe there was very much damage.

Evening alert.

Those four enemy ships hauled ass!

#1

U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562)

RADIO PRESS NEWS

JULY 3 1945

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA:

AUSTRALIAN FORCES HAVE LANDED AT BALIKPAPAN ON SOUTHEAST BORNEO AND HAVE SECURED A BEACHHEAD. THIRD BORNEO LANDING WAS MADE EARLY SUNDAY MORNING BY VETERAN AUSTRALIAN SEVENTH DIVISION. GENERAL MACARTHUR WENT ASHORE WITH REAR WAVES AND REPORTED GROUND TROOPS ADVANCED INLAND RAPIDLY WITH ONLY LIGHT LOSSES. BALIKPAPAN IS MAJOR PETRLEIM PQT WITH HUGE REFINERIES WHICH WERE BADLY BATERED BY WEEKS OF INTENSIVE AERIAL BOMBARDMENT. MACARTHUR SAYS KEY JAPANESE DEFENSES ON BORNEO NOW ISOLATED OR CRUSHED. DOMINATION OF BORNEO NOW ASSURED AND EAST INDIES SPLIT. STRATEGIC MAKASSAR STRAITS NOW ARE CONTROLLED BY OUR SURFACE CRAFT PLANES AND SUBMARINES MACARTHUR SAID. BALIKPAPAN LANDING HE SAYS VIRTUALLY COMPLETES ALLIED TACTICAL CONTROL OF SOUTHWEST PACIFIC.

444th Day Out

Tuesday, July 3 1945

During evening alert last night a Japanese bomber started coming in on us off our port boy. We were about to open up when one of our fighters nailed him, putting him in flames. This air coverage is damn good stuff. It sure as hell isn't like the Philippines six months ago!

The Waller steamed in today bringing us some "Uncle Sugar" mail.

Sound gear crapped out again. Tough watch. (1600 - back in operatin again!)

Scuttlebut says we're taking over the Wasaches duties. Nuts!

Evening alert.

445th Day Out

Wednesday, July 1945

At evening alert last night a Jap raider came in but before damage could be done a CAP shot it down (combat air patrol).

It rained very hard today but it was still a good fourth - turkey for chow!

We're still on the same patrol station, just off the coast. Things are rather quiet except for a few air raids. Old man Jap is getting weak!

The Diggers are meeting stiff resistance on the beach now but I don't believe it will last long, seeing that the enemy is cut off from any help from the homeland.

Evening alert.

446th Day Out

Thursday, July 5 1945

Morning alert.

Every once in a while the Japs fly into the area but they don't appear to be looking for trouble. Just looking the joint over, I guess.

We're still on patrol duty with no signs of being relieved. It's not bad duty though because the weather is fairly cool - the morning and evening alerts are what gripe me.

Pay day.

Evening alert.

447th Day Out

Friday, July 6 1945

Morning alert.

We went ot general quarters twice last night for surface contacts. Both were false alarms.

Rope yarn Sunday.

Evening alert.

452nd Day Out

Wednesday, July 11 1945

Anchored off the beach early this morning for fire support. The Japs have been counter-attacking giving the forces ashore a bad time.

Heavy gunfire has knocked the Nips back. In some spots they are being forced into the swamps. Native Dyake go in after them with poison blow guns. Wow! What allies!

Relieved from fire support and are now back on patrol. Situation ashore again in hand.

Evening alert.

(I don't see why we have these damn evening alerts. No air attacks for some time.)

453rd Day Out

Thursday, July 12 1945

Anchored for fire support but I don't believe we will be needed. Aussies are making out all right.

So far sixteen ships have been sunk or damaged in here due to enemy action.

Back on patrol.

Saufly lost a man overboard - we picked him up.

454th Day Out

Friday, July 13 1945

Again at anchorage for fire support.

We will leave Sunday for Leyre. From there, it's either China or Japan.

Back to ye ole patrol station.

455th Day Out

Saturday, July 14 1945

Anchored for fire support.

We leave here tomorrow at 1800 to escort a bunch of LST's over to Morotai where we will stay for about a week. Then up to Leyte.

Evening alert.

456th Day Out

Sunday, July 15 1945

0715: Refueled from a tanker.

We're again anchored. Had an air contact - PBY.

474th Day Out Thursday, Aug 2 1945  
Still in anchorage.

475th Day Out Friday, Aug 3 1945  
Swung ship (degausing).

476th Day Out Saturday, Aug 4 1945  
Degausing.

Went to Guinan and returned to Leyte Anchorage.  
Underway again. Anchorage at Guinan.

477th Day Out Sunday, Aug 5 1945

0630: Underway for Leyte.

0830: Leyte.

In a few moments we are joining a convoy headed for Ulited in the Carolines. The reason for the extra screening ships is from this report that arrived last night:

The U.S.S. Indianapolis (cruiser heavy) was just sunk between Leyte and Ulithi due to submarine action. Loss of men - about one-half! (100% casualties, 250 survivors).

My God, but they must have hit her with everything they had because with the heavy casualties it must have gone down very rapidly. I believe this happened last night.

We will be going through the same area so I gotta be on the ball for damn sure!!

478th Day Out Monday, Aug 6 1945

Underway.

Instead of a convoy we are just taking three destroyers from our squadron - Phillips, Coney, and Saufly.

We're making a highspeed run on this trip - about 22 knots.

Dope on the U.S.S. Indianapolis (CA-35): The cruiser was sunk by an enemy submarine just out of Ulithi, two torpedoes are known to have hit the machines. Casualties were very high - 300 out of 1200 survived (mostly wounded). Three fourths of the crew are lost. (Most of the 300 that were picked up were burned or had received shrapnel).

I wish to God that we could make contact on the sub that got the cruiser. I'm sure trying my darndest!!!

D-472  
 FLASH!!! News broadcast picked up from the Japs: The Japanese broadcasted this evening that they are willing to surrender to the Allies under one condition; that they may keep their Emperor as ruler. They have sent peace envoys to Switzerland for a conference.

I guess that's good news all right, but I would just as soon have them wiped out or at least hit them harder with the atomic bomb. I hate to see them get off so easy!!

483rd Day Out

Saturday, Aug 11 1945

We sighted a battleship with two escorts at dawn. Thank gosh, it turned out to be the U.S.S. New Mexico with a DD and DE escort!

No official confirmation on last night's broadcast.

Gosh, but it seems hard to believe that the war may be over soon. It certainly will be great to go home again.

11  
 1000: REPORT FROM ADMIRAL NIMITZ:  
 THE JAPANESE HAVE JUST ACCEPTED OUR TERMS FOR SURRENDER BUT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THIS SHIP IS TO CONTINUE ON THE OFFENSIVE AND DESTROY ANY ENEMY SIGHTED— ANITSUBMARINE WARFARE WILL CONTINUE IN CARE OF PIRATES.

Well, I'll be damned! The little bastards finally gave up! And here I am between Ulithi and Yap in the Carolines. What a time I would have if I were in the States!

484th Day Out

Sunday, Aug 12 1945

11  
 At 0130 while on patrol the word was passed to all hands that the war is officially over between the Japanese Empire and the U.S.A. The ship is to remain on the alert in case of a "mis-understanding".

0200: G.Q. for surface contact - friendly.

1645: Sonar contact - fish.

The contact I got this morning would turn out to be fish. I'd like to have gotten one more sub before this is all over.

Frankly, I'm disappointed. It seems to me the Japs got off pretty damned easy. It's taken us four years to get them in a position to repay them for all the foul things they have dealt us and now they are saving their Emperor and themselves. I just can't see it! I would be willing to stay out another year of it would mean slapping the living Hell out of them!!

485th Day Out

Monday, Aug 13 1945

11  
 Hell! This damn war isn't over - scuttlebut is flying around like mad.

1400: Returned to Ulithi anchorage.

486th Day Out

Tuesday, Aug 14 1945

Still on dope on the war ending.

I can't see why the Nips don't surrender. It's a sure thing they will never get a better deal!

Movies.

487th Day Out

Wednesday, Aug 15 1945

At last!! — The Japanese surrendered to the U.S.A. today and it has been broadcast as official!!

As soon as the news was received all the ships in this anchorage started raising hell. Fog and crash horns were blasted - even the general alarm (we went to g.q. when some guy pulled it). Old man Malpass is as jumpy as an old woman. Wonder how he ever made Commander? Boy, it all sounds too good to be true. I guess we should return to the States in a few months!

We get underway tomorrow for Leyte.

488th Day Out

Thursday, Aug 16 1945

We got underway at 1000 and are now on our way towards the Phillipines.

We are escorting a troop transport. The U.S.S. Admiral Benson.

Seeing there are just two of us, this is a fast trip - 22 knots.

489th Day Out

Friday, Aug 17 1945

Midway between Ulithi and Leyte. ETA - 0700 18th.

The navy has a point system out now. I've got three more years to go. Time overseas and battle stars don't count. Damn it!

Sonar watches are still in operation - the skipper can't sleep unless the ship's at general quarters and most likely would starve if the sound gear were secured, so — .

490th Day Out

Saturday, Aug 18 1945

1000: Arrived in Leyte and anchored.

The war isn't exactly over yet - papers have to be signed, etc.

We are again in the 7th fleet.

Stores have come aboard.

Underway tomorrow.

495th Day Out

Thursday, Aug 23 1945

Still tied alongside the Dobbin.

Stores are coming alongside.

Movies.

D-45  
If the Captain expects to change this ship to peacetime standards, I'm afraid he's due for a bad time - nine-tenths of the crew including myself, have never considered ourselves anything but civilians.

496th Day Out

Friday, Aug 24 1945

Nothing new - in fact, not a damn thing doing.

497th Day Out

Saturday, Aug 25 1945

Still alongside the tender and receiving stores.

498th Day Out

Sunday, Aug 26 1945

Church services aboard the Dobbin.

499th Day Out

Monday, Aug 27 1945

Got underway this morning to shift berths. We are now anchored alone in the bay.

Scuttlebut - we are going to China in the near future???  
Hmmm — I hear they have some cute little white Russians there!

500th Day Out

Tuesday, Aug 28 1945

Not much doing in here - just lying around.

No dope on just when we are leaving. I guess it will be another week or two.

501st Day Out

Wednesday, Aug 29 1945

San Francisco, Nashville, etc. of cruiser div. 6 pulled out - I think they got Stateside.

That leaves the St. Louis and our sqdn.

Our duty in China will be between Hanan and Korea.'

Nine Jap subs which surrendered pulled out today escorted by three DE's.

I guess the dope on us going to China is straight stuff.  
What I'm wondering is just when in the hell are we going home!!!

0730: Our purpose here is to clear the channel and other approaches to Shanghai of Japanese and our own mines so that heavier ships may dock at Shanghai to take on board the many allied prisoners of the Nips. The Navy stuff won't be in for another week.

The weather is very cool here in comparison with the Philippines. We're still lying adrift but will anchor pretty soon. The sweeps as usual have a nasty job ahead of them - for a change. I hope we have casualties!

511th Day Out

Saturday, Sept 8 1945

**D-45**  
A dispatch was received last night informing us that a Japanese marine suicide consisting of 2000 men and two hundred suicide boats are located in the Saddle islands. We now remain underway at night and anchor at night.

Two of our squadron, the Coney and Eaton, arrived last night with more minesweepers and one APD. We now have two cans, one APD and twenty four minesweepers under our command.

0600: Anchored.

We passed a sunken ship today which must have been about 300 feet long. Only the mast could be seen sticking out of the water.

512th Day Out

Sunday, Sept 9 1945

Saufly came in today with a Y.O.

Our interpreter and one of our radiomen are catching a plane and will fly into China near Shanghai to set up a radio station. Now, why couldn't I get a deal like that!!

**1111**  
1400: A Japanese LCI came into the area flying Jap colors so the Commodore sent a boarding party while our guns covered them. The men had no trouble and within a few minutes our colors flew above the Japs'. All ammunition was jetesined and guns, radio, etc, were destroyed (it carried 1-5" 3-3", and a quad twenty). Charts showing mine fields were captured which will be of great help. All prisoners with the exception of the Captain, Exec, and some snipes which totaled 140 men were placed aboard the APD. We furnished the prize crew which put Lt. Zumwalt in command of the Jap ship.

513th Day Out

Monday, Sept 10 1945

The cruisers Nashville and St. Louis pulled in today escorted by the Waller and Phillips.

Commodore and Intelligence officer went aboard the Nashville for a conference with the Admiral of CTS 74.3.

Refueled from the Nashville.

Four more Jap ships are anchored here now. It was discovered that they have orders from the Chinese government to sweep mines in this area. The APD is going to return the original crew to the LCI we captured.

Anchored for the night guarding the five Nip ships.

The rest of the destroyers went with the cruisers out to sea.

A very heavy storm is coming this way which is the reason for this change in anchorage.

The river pilot who brought us up here really knows his stuff. He's a tough old Scot.

1800: That Jap oiler sunk! We passed over the mine a half hour ahead of the oiler. It looks like our luck is still running true. The mine must have been set to go off after so many ships passed over it. (Magnetic action).

Whew!!

520th Day Out

Monday, Sept 17 1945

Early this morning a large gunboat, bearing Chinese colors approached the group. When she was about 2000 yards off our beam we challenged her in international code. The ship didn't answer and started to pass us so we went to general quarters. When they failed to answer again, we fired a five inch salvo across her bow. Result was - in five seconds she stopped dead in the water and dropped her hook. Our boarding party found them to be Chinese all right but no up on signaling.

A lot of Chinese junks are running around here. They're rather picturesque boats.

Movies on the fantail. "Keeper of the Flame".

521st Day Out

Tuesday, Sept 18 1945

We got underway this morning and went out to sea a short distance where we anchored.

The minesweepers are busy again.

An English task force is anchored near us - 1 aircraft carrier, 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers.

Movies on the fantail.

I was talking with one of the English river pilots today. He really gave the inside scoop on the conditions in Shanghai during his capture. I'll bet these guys did the same work for the Nips, though. He looked fat and healthy to me.

522nd Day Out

Wednesday, Sept 19 1945

It looks like the Robinson is getting screwed this time for damn sure!! All our squadron is going in with our heavy stuff plus the English into Shanghai - we have to stay out here with the minesweepers!!

We're anchored at the entrance busy one mile from the mouth of the Yangtze.