

George D. Cihla, 306-51-00

U.S.S. Cushing., (DD 797)

My Whereabouts
And
Doings Overseas

1944

June 8 – Boarded the U.S.S. Intrepid (air craft carrier) from Treasure Island Calif. On the way to Hawaii I slept between two trailers. What an experience.

June 9 Disembarked from U.S. for Pearl Harbor. Ate two meals a day. One at 3 in the morning & one at 7 at night.

June. 13 Arrived in Pearl Harbor. Went to U.S. Receiving Bks.

June 16 Assigned to the U.S.S. Cushing (DD797). It is now that I realized I should have took the Army.

June 17 – Left Pearl Harbor for Marshall Islands. We slept under the torpedo tubes for 3 weeks. All my gear was practically ruined. We went with the Denver, Franklin & 4 Destroyers.

June 21 – Arrived in Enewetak atoll.

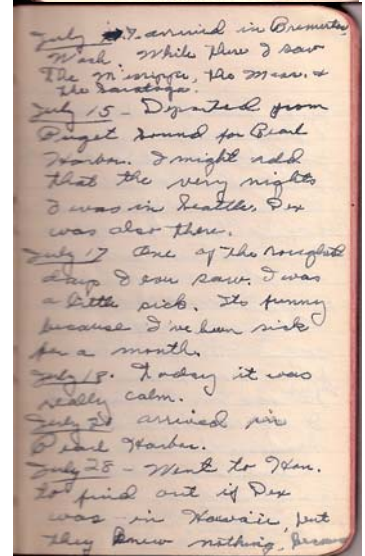
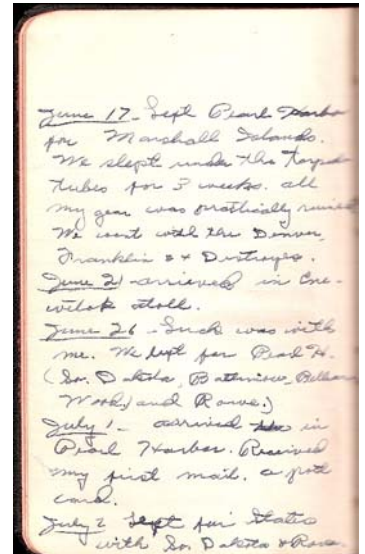
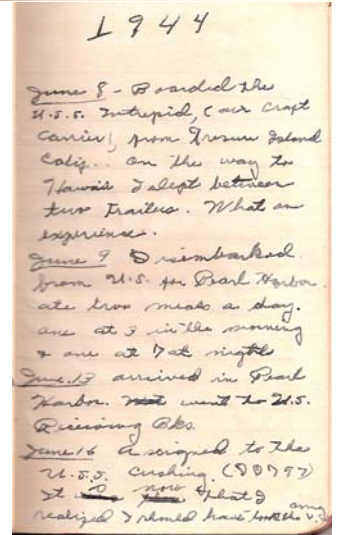
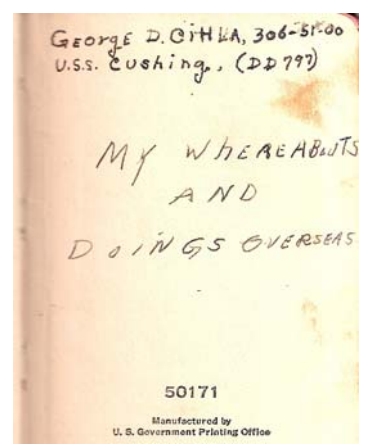
June 26 – Luck was with me. We left for Pearl H. (So. Dakota, Baltimore, Belleau Wood and Rowe.)

July 1 – Arrived in Pearl Harbor. Received my first mail. A post card.

July 2 Left for States with So. Dakota & Rowe.

July 7 – Arrived in Bremerton, Wash. While there I saw the Mississippi, the Mass. & the Saratoga.

July 15 – Departed from Puget Sound for Pearl Harbor. I might add that the very nights I was in Seattle, Dex was also there.



July 17 One of the roughest days I ever saw. I was a little sick. It's funny because I've been sick for a month.

July 18 · Today it was really calm.

July 20 Arrived in Pearl Harbor.

July 28 – Went to Hon. to find out if Dex was in Hawaii, but they knew nothing. Because if he was there he was new & they had no records.

July 29 – Went out with the [Independence](#) and [Cowpens](#) on test runs.

Aug. 4 Tried to get dope on Dex, but no soap.

Aug 5 Went out with [Enterprise](#) on test run.

Aug 8 – Got a letter from Dex letting me know he was in Hawaii, before I couldn't find him, because he had only a temporary address.

August 10 – Went to Honolulu & went to the Red Cross. They called, but Dex was out. They said they would call again at 3:00. So I came back at 2:00 and sat around a few minutes & looked up and there was Dex. Gee, it felt good to see him. I forgot all about this hell hole I'm in & enjoyed myself. We went out to Waikiki. What a time.

August 11 – Went to Waikiki with Dex. We rode the surf & then went to the officer's club. He sure treated me swell. He gave me a knife & a lighter. When we said good-bye that night I knew it would be for some time. I sure felt bad.

August. 15 – Left Pearl Harbor for Enewetak again.

August 24 – Arrived in Enewetak. I wonder where we'll go from here.

August 28 – Assigned to [task force 58](#). The famous [5th Flt](#). The next day we were changed to 38. The same outfit, but now in the [third flt](#). Now we're going to the [So. Pacific](#).

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now in the third flt. Now we're going to the So. Pacific.
Sept 1 - Crossed the Equator. We didn't have initiation from King Neptune, because of bad danger. We were not very far from New Hebrides, but I think we were going to the Palau Islands.
Sept. 6 - Our planes took off to bomb Palau. They met no opposition. They are going to bomb for the next two days. In our group

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Sept. 6 – Our planes took off to bomb Palau. They met no opposition. They are going to bomb for the next two days. In our group we have about 12 carriers, so they must really be laying it on them. We're only 40 miles from the island.

Sept 8, – Ended three days at Palau Is. Carrier planes bombed continuously & the [cruisers](#) shelled the Island. There was no resistance except [AA fire](#) on the planes. I believe we will strike at the [Philippines](#) next - [Mindanao](#).

Sept 9
We made 25 knots last night coming from Palau to Mindanao (the largest island in the Philippines). Today was the first day that carrier planes struck the Philippines since the war started. They bombed the island & sunk 46 [Sampans](#) (small craft), a whole convoy of them. Our planes shot down 4 observation [plane](#) planes. There was little AA fire on the planes & no air resistance at all. This is funny because we are only 40 miles from the island.

Sept. 10.
Our planes are still bombing the island. We haven't been attacked as yet.

Sept. 11.
Today we fueled from a [tanker](#). It sure is rough. We received mail, but I didn't get any.

Sept. 12.
Today our planes bombed almost every island in the Philippines. We aren't very far from [Manila](#). Our planes shot down 2 [Bettys](#) & 1 [Dinah](#) today. 4 planes came within 18 miles of our task group. The [Iowa](#) & [New Jersey](#) joined up with us. The Captain said our planes spotted enemy warships today. They think we will meet the [Jap fleet](#). I'll be glad when I get back home. This heat doesn't agree with me. If people only knew what us guys go through.

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Today I got my first glimpse of the Philippine Islands. We sighted land. I don't see how we can come so close with out being attacked. Our planes are really doing a lot of damage. The food is really getting bad!

Sept. 14.

I really got a good glimpse of the Philippines today. It was a clear day. Nothing new except that we are now leaving this area & are heading east to fuel. Our planes bombed all day today. Our forces are supposed to invade Palau the 15th.

Sept 15

We are just a little ways from Palau today. We're supposed to fuel tomorrow. Evening - We received word that our forces have landed on Palau. They are meeting stiff opposition. We landed our ~~troops~~ 30,000 troops & they are believed to have the same. We are supposed to bomb Palau tomorrow.

Sept. 16

We fueled today & received a little mail. I got a letter from Tud. It was dated the 2nd of August. This ship is getting more like a boot camp every day. The heat is terrific.

Sept 17

Nothing new today. We're only a little way off Palau. I guess it's tough going over this. Our planes did a little bombing today. I can hardly eat the food now. They're getting pretty low on it.

Sept 18

Nothing new today. We are still at Palau. I'm really fed up with this ship. The most you can do is look at the food. People will wonder why I act the way I do when I get back, but if they could see me now they would know I won't take any guff from anybody. I'm going to be my own boss.

Sept 19

We fueled today. They told us we're heading north. Back to the Philippines. I just happen to think, when I'm getting up in the morning people back home are going to bed. I'm a day & a half ahead.

Sept 20

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Sept 19
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Tomorrow our planes are going to hit Manila & various cities on the island of [Luzon](#). The captain said we should meet some resistance.

Sept. 21

It rained all last night & most of today. Last night when I got off watch it was pitch dark & raining. What a feeling that was to come back aft. Today our planes hit Manila. They did a lot of damage, but I don't know how much. They met a lot of resistance. Tonight at sunset we were in sight of Luzon. Saw long ranges of mountains. We are supposed to leave this area tomorrow night.

Sept 22

We were supposed to fuel today, but at 5 this morning we picked up enemy planes. It was too dark so they stayed out until about six, then 4 [bombers](#) came in. Our [Hellcats](#) chased them away, but 5 minutes later 15 [torpedo planes](#) came in our task group. They went for the carriers, but none of them made it. A [can](#) shot one down & the rest beat it. They didn't come back because it rained hard all day & it was really rough. You can't walk anyplace on the ship without getting wet. It's a wonder nobody's been washed overboard yet. Our sound gear went out of order. I don't know what we're going to do. We're going to fuel tomorrow & the next day we're going to strike the Philippines again. We could see the island of Luzon all morning.

Sept 23.

We've been hearing comments over the radio all day about the raid on Manila. We really did a lot of damage, 144 planes shot down in the air, 140 on the ground. They sunk a lot of ships & did other damage. [Adm. Halsey](#) sent our outfit congratulations, also the Sec. of the Navy. [Radio Tokyo](#) was really burned up. They said the Philippines declared war on us. We fueled today & received all our back mail. I received 11 letters. Boy, it sure felt good to get mail.

Sept 24

Our planes bombed Luzon today. Don't know how much damage was done yet. They sunk a lot of ships. Tonight we are heading for [Manus Is.](#) (the biggest Is In the [Admiralty Group](#)). We have to have our sound gear fixed. We will only be there a few days.

Sept 25

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& fuel began to think
when I'm getting up
in the morning people
back home a thing to do
I'm away & a hell cat.
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We are with 38.1 now. A plane from the Wasp crashed today & we picked up the pilot. The Wasp gave us 25 gallons of ice cream for it. We fueled from the Hornet.

Sept 26

Nothing new today except that I received my shots.

Sept 27

Nothing new today either. We're pretty close to our destination.

Sept 28

Today we arrived at Manus Is. It sure is a big place. We are only going to be here a few days. All our mail is up at Saipan. Everybody secured from watch except us.

Sept 29.

We hauled stores all day and stood watches besides. Boy will I ever be glad when I get off this hell-hole.

Sept. 30.

We pulled into a floating drydock today. It's raining hard & they got us scraping the bottom of the boat.

October 1

We left Manus Is. today. I don't know where.

Oct 2 to 7

It's been rough for the past week. You couldn't walk anyplace without getting wet. One man was washed overboard but we picked him up. I haven't been writing in here lately because when it's rough you have no ambition at all. This all seems like a horrible nightmare to me. We rejoined 38.2 a few days ago.

Oct 9

To my amazement we're ~~in the China Sea~~, about 600 miles from Japan. We are attacking Formosa tomorrow. This is the first raid on it. It is a big place & we should hit trouble. I hope I come out of this one ok.

Oct 10

Our planes bombed islands near Formosa today. They did a lot of damage. They also sank a cruiser.

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Oct 11

We fueled today. Received mail & moccasins.

Oct 12

Our planes bombed Formosa today. They did a lot of damage, but met much resistance.

7:00 P.M.

I saw my first action. Planes came in waves until 2:30 in the morning. I never sweat so much in all my life. We almost got hit twice. We hit a few planes & downed one. It was just like the 4th of July. They came pretty close to our carriers but none were hit.

Friday Oct 13

We bombed Formosa again. They hit airfields. We expect action again tonight. They hit two cruisers but didn't do much damage.

They attacked in waves until about 12:00 o'clock ([Canberra](#), [Houston](#)).

Sunday Oct 15

We fueled again today. I received 3 letters.

Oct 16 to 20 – We've been heading back toward Luzon.

Oct 21

Our planes are bombing Luzon today. We picked up a pilot this morning.

Oct 24

We are about 50 miles off Luzon. We have been a picket for the past day. We were attacked by 3 planes about 2 last night. We didn't hit them, but our [night fighters](#) got them. We shot down a bomber this morning. He was going to make a [suicide run](#) on us, but we got him first.

Oct 25 [Today may be an important day in this war.](#) We are heading for part of the Jap fleet & they are heading for us.

Our battleships & cr. have gone ahead to meet them. Our planes have gone to attack them also. TU77 (Task Unit 77) is under attack So of Manila by 4 Jap B.B. & 8 cruisers. I don't know what the outcome of the day will be.

Afternoon - The [7th fleet](#) is having trouble down near [Leyte](#) so we are going down to help them. Most of 38 is staying here but our

The original 38.2 a few days ago. My plane was in action in all. This all seems like a horrible nightmare to me.
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To my amazement with ~~the~~ about 600 miles from Japan. We are attacking Formosa tomorrow. This is the first raid on it. It is a big place & we should hit trouble. I hope I came out of this one ok.
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islands near Formosa today. They did a lot of damage. They also had a success.
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group plus 6 BB is going down there. The whole thing is sort of screwed up.

Oct 26

The Japs got away last night through the S.B Straights. The Iowa & New Jersey trapped a cruiser in there though. They sunk it. A U.S. sub put 5 torpedoes in a Jap B.B. up north. They left it dead in the water. We lost the Princeton two days ago. It was a CVE. It's pretty quiet today..

Oct 28

We are near the S.B. Straits today, say we are now going 150 miles away from the formation to pick up survivors. We are all alone. We picked up 14 survivors. When we were on our way back (we were all alone) a sub fired a torpedo. Our sound gear picked it up & we dodged it just in time. That's the closet I came to getting it yet. I hope my luck holds out.

Oct 29

We were attacked twice by enemy planes. Our planes shot down most of them. One Jap plane crashed on the Intrepid, but didn't do much damage. A few men were killed though. The food is getting bad again. I sure wish this thing was over.

Nov. 10.

We pulled into the Ulithi Group today. We've been trying to get into port for a month now, but the Japs have been keeping us busy. I received letters and a watch from Dex today. These islands are small. I'm going ashore tomorrow.

Nov. 12 I went ashore today. It was the first time I've been ashore since August 12. I had a lot of fun.

Nov. 13. We left Ulithi today for the Philippines. We have the flag aboard. We are now ComDesRon 53.

Nov. 16 We made another attack on Luzon today.

Nov. 17. - We are now in 38.4. We are heading back to Ulithi.

Nov. 22 We arrived into Ulithi today. We are leaving in about a week. I believe we are going north.

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I don't know what the
outcome of the day will
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afternoon - The deck is
having trouble down here
perhaps we are going down

to help them. Not 9:30
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Nov 23 Thanksgiving – We had a good meal today. But everything went on as usual.

Dec 15.
We have been back in the Manila area for about 2 days now. We have been only about 75 miles from land but, we haven't met any opposition. We invaded an island on the West Coast of the Philippines today.

Dec. 16
0800 – Many enemy planes have been reported coming at our task force from the coast. Our fighters shot down 4 Bettys already.
0900 – Our planes shot down most of the enemy planes & the rest ran home.

Dec. 17
There is a bad storm today. Even when you walk on the super-deck you get drenched.

Dec 18.
There is really a storm out there. We were supposed to fuel yesterday & today, but the storm prevented it. A lot of the ships are dead in the water. (This Typhoon is the one in which the Hull was sunk. Several other ships are still missing.) The waves are about 50 ft high. Just like mountains. This little ship is really bobbing around. I believe they said the wind was about 100 miles per hour. A CVE just missed ramming into us this morning.

Dec 19
The Hull (a DD) turned over yesterday. Only 10 men got off. There are still 4 DD's missing.

Dec 24.
We pulled in port (Ulithi) this afternoon. I carried ammunition tonight. A nice way to spend Christmas Eve.

Dec. 25.
We had good chow today. We also received 57 sacks of packages & letters. They tried to treat us the best they could, but it couldn't compare with being home.

Dec 28
I went on a recreation party to Mog-Mog today.

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Dec 24 (Ulithi)
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Dec. 30

We left port for the Philippines today.

1945

January 1, 1945

Today is the beginning of another year for me in the Navy. I hope it's my last. We had a good meal today.

January 4 & 5

We hit Formosa for two days now. I don't think much damage was done because of the bad weather.

January 7

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We have been given official word that our forces are going to land in [Lingayen Gulf](#) about 75 miles north of Manila tomorrow. The Captain says it will be a real bloody battle.

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We have been about 70 miles off Formosa all day. The weather has been pretty bad. I don't think we did much damage. The Captain told us we are going into the [So. China Sea](#). This should be it. Either the Jap fleet or us. I hope & pray that we come out on top.

January 11

We've been heading down the So. China Sea yesterday & all day. The skipper says we'll be 50 miles off the China Coast tomorrow. They figure the Jap Fleet is at Saigon in [French-Indo China](#). T.F. 30 is going to get them. (The tankers came in here with us.)

commemorative tonight. a nice way to spend Christmas eve.
Dec. 30.
We had good news today. We also received 57 packages & messages from below. My friend wrote me but they could not be delivered because of being home.
Dec. 31
I went on a recreation party to Nag-Nag today.
Jan. 1.
We had good news for the Philippines today.

January 1, 1945
Today is the beginning of another year for me in the Navy. I hope it's my last. We had a good meal today.
January 4 & 5
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January 12

Our planes hit the China coast today. They sunk a lot of shipping including 1 heavy cruiser & 2 destroyers. There has been no opposition to speak of. I wonder when those Japs are going to come out. We have been only about 40 or 50 miles off the China Coast all day. We are going to fuel tomorrow.

January 15 to 18

~~We've~~ Our planes have been hitting [Hong Kong](#), [Canton](#) & Formosa for the past few days. There has been a heavy storm for the past few days delaying operations to some extent. There has been no opposition as yet.

January 20

We left the China Sea this evening. When we were in the Straits the Japs sent the planes out to get us. They didn't have much luck though. We opened fire for about five minutes. No damage was done. We had [General Quarters](#) until 10:30.

January 21

On and off all day enemy planes have been coming in, but our fighters have been shooting them down. They shot down 11 [Zekes](#) & 9 [Tojos](#). At 8:00 tonight a low flying plane got into our Task Group, but the [Boston](#) shot it down.

January 22 to February 7.

We have been in Ulithi for almost 3 weeks. We left today for Tokyo.

February 16-17.

We have been 50 miles off Tokyo for two days. The first day I saw six Jap planes go down. Our combat air patrol shot them down. We are a scouting force 50 miles ahead of the Task Force. Just 2 destroyers. We were at G.Q. 36 hours.

February 18. - Our forces invaded [Iwo Jima](#) today. We are about 30 miles from the beach. We got a few glimpses.

Feb. 21

We were attacked tonight, but no damage was done to our group.

January 11
We were heading down the So China Sea yesterday & all day today. The skipper says we're 50 miles off the China Coast tomorrow. They figured the Japs wouldn't be in the area - Indochina - Indochina. T. F. 33 is going to get them. (The tankers come in here with us)

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March 18-19 -

We've been about 30 miles off [Kyushu](#) today & yesterday. Just three of us; [Uhlmann](#) - Cushing - [Colahan](#)

20 March Furious air Battle. Shot down one plane. Hit and assisted 3 others in drink. Franklin hit, Enterprise hit.

22 March Bomb misses us by 400 yards, shrapnel all over our ship. [Halsey Powell](#) hit.

23 March [Haggard](#) rams sub sinking it.

24 March Shore bombardment.
[OKINAWA](#)

1 April Patrolled Landing.

2 April OKINAWA
Sub contact. Dropped charges causing oil slick, but we aren't sure of sinking.

3 April Another sub contact. More charges dropped - another oil slick. Still no definite confirmation.

6-7 April Furious Jap air attack on our task group, believe we're shielding oilers 50 miles away, 166 planes downed.

12 April. Heavy air raid, we never fired, but [CAP](#) got 5.

14 April Japs again. We fired but no hits, 7 downed. [Sigsbee](#) & [Hunt](#) hit.

16 April Cushing under attack. Shot one down, probably another. Plane dove on [Benham](#): fell short causing some casualties.

16 April - 11 May
Still off OKINAWA.

11 May Suicide dove on us but was downed by Hellcat 1/2 mile from us. [Bunker Hill](#) hit.

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14 MAY arrived Ulithi - 61 days at sea.
24 MAY JUNE 10 Patrolled OKINAWA & KYUSHU
13 JUNE - Arrived Saipan July.
14 JUNE - Det foot on Philippines for first time - Saipan
14 - 30 JUNE Still in Philippines

14 May Arrived Ulithi. 61 days at sea.

24 May June 10 – Patrolled OKINAWA & KYUSHU

13 June - Arrived Leyte Gulf.

14 June – Set foot on Philippines for first time – [Samar](#).

14 – 30 June

Still in Philippines.

1 July – Rated Radioman 3/C. Left Leyte.

10 July – Hit Tokyo area. No opposition.

13 July – Hit [Hokkaido](#) Island.

14 July – Hit Hokkaido again.

15 July – Fueled – saw British Fleet.

16 July. – Hit Tokyo area.

17 July – Hit Tokyo area.

18 July – Hit Tokyo area. Picket line. First Jap plane came near us but beat it.

July 23 – Raids on Tokyo area.

July 24 – Our squadron with the [Pasadena](#), [Wilkes-Barre](#), [Astoria](#) & [Springfield](#) bombarded the southern most tip of [Honshu](#). Our target was a radar station. We were 4 ½ miles from the coast.

July 27 – Fueled today & carried mail to the [King George V](#). Saw all of [British Pac Fleet](#).

28 July.

Picket Duty off Honshu. We missed a mine by 10 yards!!!

August 9.

Hit Northern Honshu today. One Jap plane got in task group. We picked it up & opened fire first, CAP had her smoking. Went down & shot Jap from Wasp. – Bonnie hit by

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down 10 yards from Wasp. [Borie](#) hit by suicider. Russia enters war.

10 August.

Picked up two British flyers from [Victorious](#). They were out of gas. Surrender terms are being talked over. Hit Honshu & Hokkaido.

11-15 August – Talk of Surrender of Japan. We are off Tokyo. Japs have been trying to get into T.G. all the time.

15 AUGUST East Long time.

END OF WAR

Ø8Ø5 – We went to GQ at about Ø9ØØ. We had Japs all around us. When Adm. Halsey gave his victory speech a Zeke was splashed 30 miles from us by our CAP. It sure was funny to have people in Wash. celebrating victory while we were at GQ. We secured at about Ø1ØØ.

Aug 27

Arrived in [Sagami](#). Was just outside [Tokyo Bay](#). Patrolled between [Oshima](#) & Honshu. Stopped several Jap boats. Saw [Fujiyama](#) at sunset.

28-29-30 – Still on Patrol.

30 Aug. – Pulled into Tokyo Bay.

Sept 2 - Peace terms signed. Still in Tokyo Bay.

Sept 4 – Went alongside dock at [Yokosuka Naval Base](#) to pick up [Lt. Gen. Sutherland](#) & take him to [Missouri](#).

(Last entry)

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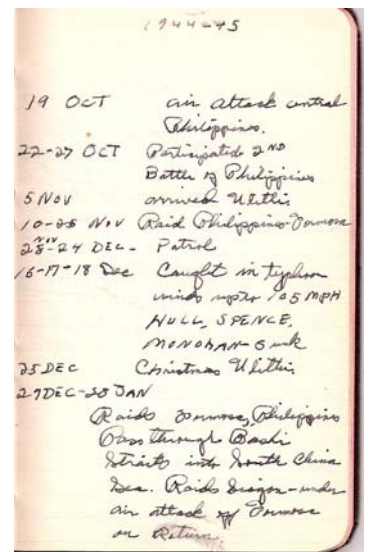
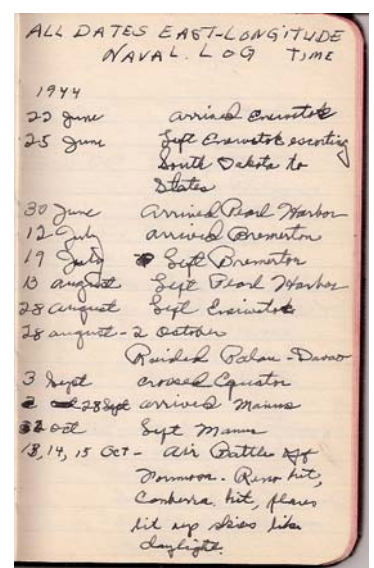
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The following entries are a synopsis of events which eventually lead back into the continuation of the diary as depicted above. There are some ships and places not mentioned in prior entries.

ALL DATES EAST-LONGITUDE NAVAL LOG TIME

1944

- 22 June Arrived Enewetak
- 25 June Left Enewetak escorting South Dakota to States
- 30 June Arrived Pearl Harbor
- 12 July Arrived Bremerton
- 19 July Left Bremerton
- 13 August Left Pearl Harbor
- 28 August Left Enewetak
- 28 August – 2 October
Raided Palau – [Davao](#)
- 3 Sept Crossed Equator
- 28 Sept Arrived Manus
- 2 Oct Left Manus
- 13, 14, 15 Oct - Air Battle off Formosa. [Reno](#) hit, Canberra hit,
flares lit up skies like daylight.
- 19 Oct Air Attack central Philippines.
- 22-27 Oct Participated 2nd Battle of Philippines
- 5 Nov Arrived Ulithi
- 10-25 Nov Raid Philippines – Formosa
- 28 Nov – 24 Dec - Patrol
- 16-17-18 Dec Caught in typhoon. Winds up to 105 MPH.
HULL, [SPENCE](#), [MONAGHAN](#) – Sunk



25 Dec Christmas Ulithi.

29 Dec – 20 Jan

Raids Formosa, Philippines. Pass through [Bashi Straits](#) into South China Sea. Raids Saigon – under air attack off Formosa on return.

28 Jan Arrived Ulithi.

10 Feb Left Ulithi.

16-17 Feb Raided Mainland Japan – Cushing in Radar Picket 35 miles from entrance to Tokyo Bay

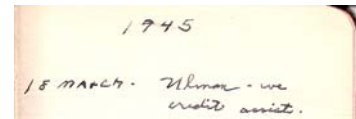
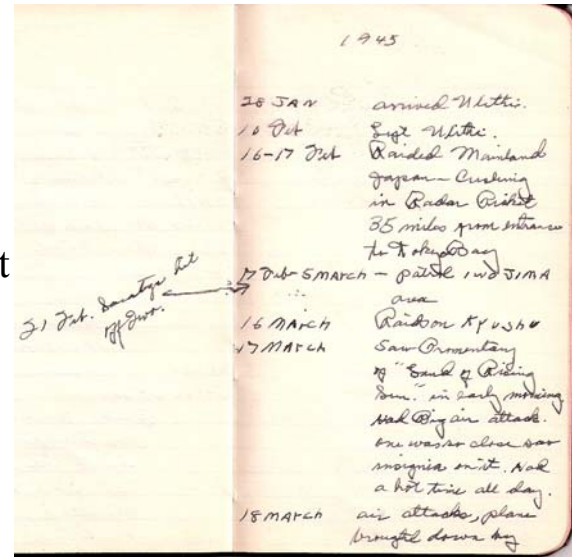
17 Feb – 5 March Patrol IWO JIMA area.

21 Feb. Saratoga hit off Iwo.

16 March Raids on KYUSHU

17 March Saw Promontory of [“Land of Rising Sun”](#) in early morning. Had Big Air Attack. One was so close saw insignia on it. Had a hot time all day.

18 March Air attacks, plane brought down by Uhlmann – we credit assist.



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