Reported for duty November 28, 1942
Captain Berkey USN
Captain Wright USN
Executive Officer Cmdr. Boyce USN
Eng. Officer Lt. Cmdr. Packer USN
Nav. Officer Heinz USN
Lt. Lieut. Francis USN
Md. Officer Cmdr. Hardesty USN
Comd. Officer Lt. Cmdr. Bullen
Comm. Officer Lt. Utecht
Supply Officer Lt. Tinling
Jan. 3 - Left Philadelphia on a shake down cruise. It was the first cruise for most of us and we all got quite a thrill.

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

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

Feb. 3 - Arrived in Annapolis Md.

Feb. 4 - Liberty in Washington D.C.

I saw the hotel that stayed in in 1939. We didn't pay any attention to the historical spots because all
we were interested in these
the night spots which is only
natural for a sailor on leave.

FEB 6: Left Annapolis

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

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

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

MAR 7: Left Panama

MAR 12: Arrived in San Pedro,
Calif.

MAR 12-13-14-15: Had liberty and
went into Long Beach and Los Angeles. Both of these places are very nice.
MAR 16 Left San Pedro for adventure that most of us knew nothing about.
MAR 22 - Arrived in Pearl Harbor.
MAR 24 - Left Pearl Harbor for a little firing practice.
MAR 28 - Arrived back in Pearl Harbor this time to get some liberty in Honolulu. Incidentally we had to carry our gas masks ashore every time we went. Liberty started at 1000 in the morning and expired at 1730. We had this kind of liberty for a few more days while we were
awaiting further orders.

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

APRIL 20 Arrived at the island of Adak, one of the Aleutian chain and which is to be our operating base while we are here.

APRIL 21 Left Adak to join another force.

APRIL 22 Crossed the 180th Meridian.

APRIL 24 Joined task force 200 miles off Japan.

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

APRIL 28 Arrived in Adak for
April 29 Lift Adak
April 30 General Quarters at 1000 enemy planes.
They failed to attack.
May 6-200 miles off Japan on patrol duty.
May 9-joined large force for invasion of Attu.
May 11 Troops landing on Attu under heavy opposition and fog which is very plentiful in this part of the world.
May 15 Fighting continues on Attu.
May 16 Submarine contacts one of dozens. I guess the Japs are trying to prevent us from taking over the island because it will
May 11. Charleston attacked by 5 torpedo planes (slight damage).

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

May 24. We have traveled 27,185 miles since our Commissioning.


May 28. Left Adak.

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

June 18 Arrived in Adak for fuel provisions and mail.

June 26 Left Adak.

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

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

July 11 Bombers sink 2 of re-maining two ships.

July 13 Arrived at Adak for fuel provisions and mail.

July 20 Left Adak.

July 22 Bombarded Kiska again.
July 23. Jap fleet reported leaving Paramushiro.
July 24. General Quarters all night.
July 31. Arrived Adak for fuel, provisions, ammunition and mail.
Aug. 3. Left Adak for more patrol duty.
Aug. 7. Arrived in Adak.
Aug. 10. Two 24s collided in mid-air and crashed into the harbor.
Aug. 11. Practiced bombardment on island of sitka.
Aug. 13. Left Adak en route to Kiska with invasion force zero hour tomorrow at dawn.
Aug 15 - 6,000 troops ashore on first day. Visibility is very poor. Bombarded at intervals all day. Shore party reports our shelling very good.

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

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

Aug 19 - Arrived at Adak.

Aug 21 - Getting very tired of this weather because we haven't seen the sun in ages.
Aug 30. Left Adak with everyone in high spirits because we are headed for Pearl Harbor once again.

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

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

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

Sept 16. Carriers launched planes at 4:30 AM. Made six strikes. Lost about six planes with heavy damage inflicted.
on the enemy their loss 
estimated at about twenty 
planes. During the 
operation we crossed the 
equator and are now 
shell backs. The initiative 
was really rugged.

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

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

Sept 28. Left Pearl enroute to Wake Is
Oct 5. H.Q. at 4:00 AM planes take off at 4:30 AM make five strikes. We move in to twelve thousand yards to bombard. We know we are moving into 2,000 yds. to shell them with 300 rds of six in and 870 rds of fire in under heavy fire from Jap shore batteries. They hit all around us but never came close enough to do any damage. Our fighter planes shot down quite a few Jap planes before they could attack us.

Oct 6. Planes take off at 4:30 AM 5 strikes all told. Great sport watching our main
battery blow shore guns
and buildings sky high
Island is covered with
hundreds of fires. Whole
Island is a shambles.
We were at G.S. for 34 hrs
Oct. 11. Arrived in Pearl Harbor
for a little liberty and
recreation while we take
on fuel provisions and
ammunition.
Oct. 20. Left Pearl Harbor bound
for the New Hebrides.
We should see plenty of
action there.
Nov. 4 Arrived in “Espiritu Santo”
located at the northern
tip of the New Hebrides Island.
Nov. 5. Left "Es熟悉ta Santa" doing 30 knots, heading for "Guadalcanal."

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

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

Nov. 8 6:30 A.M. Have been at B.G. for almost forty hours, Japs all around, no but haven't attacked us yet.

8:30 P.M. About forty Jap dive and torpedo bombers.
attacked us. The night was black, but the flaming wrecks of eight Jap Bombers lit up the sea very well. One flaming Jap just cleared our forecastle, dropping his torpedo as he passed over. The torpedo cleared us hitting the water at a side. The bomb cradle hit on our deck.

1:30 A.M. Japs attacking again. Not two more bombers in flames and two that didn't burn. The Japs seem to be afraid to press their attack.

7:30 A.M. Headed again for Tsu-shi-ga.
Nov. 9. One hundred Japs attacked our carriers in daylight, eighty-eight of them going under, all Japs should go. Some difference between a day and night attack.

Nov. 10. Arrived back in Tulagi.

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

Nov. 13. Arrived in "Espiritu Santo".

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

Nov. 20. Arrived at Tarawa (Gilbert Islands) and began a bombardment which lasted for four days. Japs em.
placements and gun posi-
tions were surrounded
by seven feet of concrete
and they took considerable
punishment before they
were knocked out. This
ship alone fired well over
twenty-four hundred
rounds on to Tarawa. "After
two hours of sustained
bombardment the Marines
began to land. The first
three waves were wiped
out but the fourth secured
a beachhead and through
the glasses we were able
to watch them in hand
to hand fighting.

Nov. 22. Our destroyer screen
Nov. 28 The Gilbert Islands have been overrun, the next stop being a large air strike on the Marshall Islands.

Dec. 3 Attached Marshall Islands knocked out four transports, two light cruisers shot down seventeen Jap planes.

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

Dec. 10 Arrived in Pearl Harbor 8:15 A.M.

Note: In one year of service aboard Santa Fe have traveled 83,000 miles.

Dec. 15 Captain Denby made Admiral.
and has been assigned to some other duty. 

Dec. 25 Left Pearl Harbor for the good old United States which we havens seen in about ten months.

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

Jan 4 Arrived back in Long Beach to get some good liberty for a change. This was just like heaven after being in Honolulu for so long.
Jan 13 - Reluctantly left the states for an unknown destination.

Jan 21 - Arrived at Tarawa Roads.

Jan 22 - Left Tarawa Roads bound for the Marshall Islands and their capture.

Jan 30 - Attacked and landed troops on the Marshall Islands.

Feb 3 - Anchored in the Lagoon off Kwajalein.

Feb 12 - Left Kwajalein bound for Hik.

Feb 16 - Attacked 12 ships and heavily damaged 37 ships. 23 ships definitely sunk.

Feb 17 - Left Hik after powering it for two days headed for Saipan 120 mi north of Guam 1400 mi from Tokyo.
Feb. 11. Detected by the Japs undergoing an all night torpedo attack which lasted well into daylight and planes could be seen burning all over the place.

Feb. 12. Our planes attacked raised hell with Jap planes knocking down over a hundred and also an aircraft carrier.


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

Mar 15 - Underway at 0700 to join a large task force for current operation.

Mar 18 - Joined a force of 106 warships bound for Palau and Yap to very strong Japanese bases.

Mar 29 - Detected by Japanese warship all night air attack.

Mar 30 - Planes strike Palau result: 12 AK sunk 4 destroyers sunk 3 CL badly damaged one beached.

1 CVE beached 1 CVE burning 3 H0 sunk. Heat of evening and all night torpedos attacked.

Mar 31 - Air strike at Yap.

April 1 - Air strike at Palau. Fighters have been shooting
Down Bette's flak boats who had tried to attack us. Before we arrived the Japs sent most of their planes to New Guinea. Army planes caught them and destroyed 160 on the ground and 60 in the air.

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

April 6. Arrived in Majuro for fuel provisions and ammunition.

April 13. Left Majuro for another
to strike the island.
The planes were an hour late in taking off
so the Japs should be ready and waiting.
Tonight the Captain told
us that we were to
bombard the island
of Wake along with
the Bismarck, Molokai and
five destroyers. Our ob-
jective is to bombard
the air strips to put
them out of commission
so that the Japs would
be unable to use them
to get planes off the
ground to launch an
attack. We powered up
rounds of 5" and 6" projectiles were on the beach that is the Santa Fe alone. The other two cruisers were to fire as much. It was so dark that we couldn't see much but there sure was plenty of noise. I think if there had been many more salvos we would all have gone crazy.

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

April 23 Today we fired and await further orders.
April 24. Japs came searching for our troops with no luck whatsoever. Deciding that they couldn't locate us, they headed for home on the way paying a visit to Hollandia where our troops are. On arriving at Hollandia the Japs discovered a lone Destroyer patrolling the entrance. They launched twelve torpedoes and scored twelve misses.

April 25. The Captain addressed the crew and said that we were to proceed to
the Admiralty Islands, a newly acquired territory, to reflect our damaged and lost aircraft and to avoid further orders.

April 26. To-day is our first anniversary of war action. April 26, 1943 we fired our first shells on Attu then occupied by the Japs. This afternoon we fired from a tanker at 1200.

April 30. We went to General Quarters at about 0500. This morning to launch an air strike on Sunk. We were at H.Q. all day long. At night the M.S. Battery had to be on the
alert all night long in case we had an air attack. We would be on the half and ready to go. This is the battery I am on. Consequently I didn't get a damn bit of sleep. So to top it all off it rained cats and dogs all night long. I think that this is my for the worst night I have ever spent any place.

April 30. We crossed the international date line therefore today is also Sunday and we are still at Naval Station. Still no trouble and it is still raining. I guess
The captain and the admiral decided that there was no more immediate danger because we received this afternoon. Tonight at 2000 we went to General Quarters for a general alert.

May 1, Air strike on Ponape and our battleships bombarded. May 3, Back in the Marshalls again.

Three men from our ship were drowned while on a recreation party.

June 6, Left Majuro with the whole fleet. The captain made a speech tonight and he stated that we can expect the Japs to come after.
us with just about every thing he has. We are
bound for Saipan, Tinian and Tinian, these islands
in the Marianas group. Incidentally these islands
are closer to Tokyo than they are to our own base at
Majuro. By capturing these islands we will
be inflicting a great deal of damage upon the
enemy as it will greatly cut his supply lines
to his men in islands of the south. It is only
1200 miles from the Japanese mainland. From now
until we arrive in dangerous
waters we will conduct
a program extensively of drills
including firing of all batteries
and casualties that might
occur if we actually become
engaged in a battle with
enemy ships.

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

June 12. This afternoon at 1300
a group of lighter planes
took off from our carriers bound for Saipan, the large mountainous Japanese-held island. So might we got a report that our planes did a great job by baggin all approximately 60 enemy planes with comparatively little damage inflicted upon us. Tomorrow there will be another large airstrike, but this time they are really going to work them up. Because we are sending dive bombers and torpedoes planes in both loaded down with bombs for the purpose of...
June 13: Today the battleships bombed the island of Suran. We were laying off as a sort of protection and we could see those 16-inch shells really missing that place up. You know a shell that size weighs about 2,000 lbs and that is a fairly big object loaded with high explosives.

June 14: Our Northern force ran into another Jap convoy. Five ships were sunk. The battleships bombarded all day. Tomorrow—45 transports, carrying our troops, will arrive.
June 15. Troops landed no stream at 6 A.M. Jap planes attacked us all hell loose loose on our fort beams as about 6 Japs attacked at once. One of them got away. All day we were under concentrated air attack. Our fighters are having a field day. The Japs pulled what might have been a very clever and successful maneuver if it hadn't been for the fact that we had more fighters in the air than all their planes put together. They launched their planes from carriers about 500 mi. away from us. This put them out of range of our planes.
This idea was to strike in land on Guam, refuel and take on bombs, strike us again and return to their carriers. Our fighters really went to town on them though. The ones that were lucky enough to land were destroyed on the ground. At the end of the day the score was 78 Japs for 66 our force. 54 for one of the other groups and there are still two forces that we have heard from as yet. We estimate that about 306 Japs hit the ships today. Three of our ships were damaged and we lost less than 25 of our fighters. Incidentally, our ship damages were very slight.
June 16. We are making 23 knots in pursuit of the Jap task force.

June 17, 1942

Still chasing the Japs. I guess they aren't too anxious to stick around and play with us. Tokyo Rose reports our fleet destroyed again. She must be president of the associated lie club of Japan.

June 20. At 4 PM search planes located the Jap force. Their force consisted of 40 ships including 4 BBs, 4 CVs, 14 Cruisers, a few tankers and the rest destroyers. We launched 200 planes. Our planes sunk 2 tankers, 1 carrier and damaged 2 Carriers and battle ships and many others. Our planes did not return until
after dark. Because of this we lost quite a few of them. Planes that were unable to land and were low on fuel were dropping all around me. We all felt like hell being unable to do anything about it. By using search lights, flares, shells and our manning lights we managed to land most of those who found their way back. I think it would have been great for safe sushi. Our total loss was about a hundred planes but we expect to pick up most of the men.

June 21, 22 - We chased the Japs again but were unable to catch them because they had a pretty good start on us. We are returning to Eniwetok for supplies, fuel & troops.
June 27. Arrived in Eniwetok.
June 30. Left port destination unknown.
July 3. Joined up with another force. We now have 4 large carriers, 3 small ones, 9 CL, 1 CA, and destroyers with us. We are going to raid an island called Tinian. This is about 670 miles from the city of Tokyo, and they that is really getting close. We have been sighted and are sending planes in to strafe to keep them away from us tonight.
July 4. Our fighters can't have done a good job, for we haven't seen any Jap planes as yet. Our bombers started to work on the islands. They will continue all day. There are 5 Jap cargo ships in the harbor.
at 3PM Cn Div. 13 and Cn Div. 18 started to bombard. We were the leading ship in column. Much to our surprise we found about 300 planes on the field. About 5 Zeros took off and one of them shot down one of the Santa Fe's spotting planes but not without going down himself. Later a destroyer picked up the pilot and the radio man and neither was hurt. We really gave those planes and the field a going over. The place was just a mass of smoke when we finished. Who could find a more appropriate day for something like this than July 4th. Why the japs held these planes down I don't know but it as a good thing they did because they would probably reached the hull of us.
July 5. The Captain told me today that we destroyed about 100 Jap planes on the ground besides the airfield. We are leaving for Idrija where we will take up our stations on patrol protecting the island from possible air attack so that our soldiers and Marines may go to taking over the place. Immediately.

July 6. To day we fulfilled our duties.

July 7. To night I had the 8-12 watch. Shortly after we went on watch we received word that there were Japs around us but that they weren't looking for us and we're going over to bomb Saipan. We had night fighters
and they were being directed
to intercept these planes if nec-
ecessary. A short while after our
first contact gun fire from a
plane was visible on our star-
board beam; it was one of our
fighters shooting down a Jap
medium bomber. It was one
of the prettiest sights I have ever
seen. The fight started up
fairly high and ended with
the Betty bursting into flames
the most beautiful colors of
red, orange I have ever seen.
We had to go to 31 20 because
we were afraid that we might
be attacked. While at our battle-
stations we received word that
our fighter exploded another
Betty. After this everything was pretty quiet and live seems about 500. Incidentally while we are operating in this area the planes from our carriers are going to be bombing the Japanese islands of Okinawa, Tinian and Rota to soften them up for a forthcoming invasion which will just about clean up the Mariana Islands which is a great hurdle on our way to the Philippines and the mainland of Japan.

July 9. We received some more in this unofficial word stating that the japs on Saipan had torn through the Army lines and had forced the retreat into the sea of the Marine artillery unit.
Somehow or other the infantry must have closed in because they killed approximately 1000 of an estimated 3000 Japs.

July 12 A destroyer picked up a sailor on Guam who had been there since the Japs took it over in the early stages of the war.

July 13 Our troops landed on Guam. Planes from our force helped cover the beach heads.

July 13 Our force left Guam and headed for Yap and Palau also troops landed on Guam.

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

Augs We are about ready to hit
The Bonin Islands.
August 11. We sent our first air strike in this N. W. They found four trans- porters, 6 cargo ships and escort.
August 13. We went in close to finish off the ships that remained of the small convoy. One of the ships was a Jap training cruiser. A destroyer in our group picked up some survivors who were mid- shipmen and they reported that we fired with uncanny accuracy. The first salvo scored a direct hit and that was fired the Santa Fe. Incidentally all this is taking place only 350 miles from the Japanese mainland.
August 14. We bombarded the Bonin Islands and sunk four more transports.
Aug 13 - Left Emiratah and don't expect to leave until at least the end of the month at which time something big is expected to take place.

Aug 18- We have just left Emiratah and are headed for the islands of Yap and Palan it is to be an invasion operation on the latter.

Aug 17 - Our carrier planes sent strikes over Yap and Palau to soften them up for the coming invasion.

Aug 18 - This morning our force refueled at sea and upon completion will head for the Philippines at a speed of 25 knots.

Aug 19 - We are 60 mi from Mindanao and so far there is no indication that the Japanese know we are here. This is the farthest west any U.S. Naval...
Russell has been since the out
break of the war with Japan. It
is a little too close to suit me. The
Captain thinks that the Japs have
from 500 to 1000 planes so we are
anticipating some very hot air ac-
tion. Our planes have reported
ships in the harbor that have
been damaged so the Santa Fe,
Birmingham and 400.45. have been
detached to go in and polish them
off. Again the Santa Fe accomplishes an-
other first. This time we are the first
to enter the Philippines. In this little
skirmish the Santa Fe was credited with
4 A.K.
Sept 21. We have left very little on
Mindanao worth using. We are now
heading north to hit Samar which
will be another precision bombing
Sept 12 Today we sent our planes in to Samar and are 50 mi from the island. The planes shot down 23 enemy planes and damaged 18 on the ground and sunk 27 merchantmen and 17 destroyers.
Sept 13 A jap dive bomber dropped a bomb intended for the Lexington, but did no damage. Today is B day on Palau for our troops to land.
Sept 14 Today the Santa Fe's float planes went on a rescue mission to pick up pilots that were downed around Samar. These men that were shot down had to hide in the hills so they wouldn't be captured. Our planes brought them safely back to the Santa Fe.
Sept 15 Today we are making an air strike on Manila. It seems that each time we make a strike it is
much closer to Japan to continue.

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

Our losses were only 15 planes and I think most of the personal were rescued.

The planes sunk are:

- Large: 1
- Large D.O., 1 floating dry dock, 4 Large D.O.
- 2 small D.O.

Sept 21 Combined damage at Leyte:

- 144 planes shot down, 285 destroyed on the ground, 30 ships sunk and 27 probably sunk.

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

Sept 24 Our planes hit Samar.

No air opposition. 10 planes were destroyed on the ground. Sunb 2,000

1,025, 5 transports, 3000, 11 cargo ships
damaged 8 oilers and 35 cargo ships
and sunk and damaged smaller craft.
The Captain said we are leaving this
area and going into a harbor at Palau.
The operation was highly successful.

Sept 29 We arrived in the harbor of
Palau. This island has a great many
Japanese on it and we are anchored about
10,000 yards from the beach.

Sept 30 Left for Ulithi Island. Don't have
to leave on account of a bad storm.

Oct 1 At noon today we start in to
the Island of Okinawa it is halfway
between Formosa & Japan only 255 miles from
the main land of Japan.

Oct 10 Our planes sunk 57 surface craft
and destroyed 30 planes.

Oct 11 Still sending raids on. Our planes
shot down 124 enemy aircraft and did heavy damage to enemy shipping and shore defense installations. 97 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground sunk 2 large cargo ships, 2 medium cargo ships, 13 small cargo ships. Extensive damage was inflicted upon hangars, buildings, oil dumps, ware houses, docks and industrial establishments.

Oct 12. We stayed at B.O all night. 11 planes shot down attacking our ships. We shot up two 0.50 that were in the line of fire while we were shooting at our flying planes.

Oct 13. Went to B.O. Many enemy planes reported. The U.S. Corbetta took a torpedo and is dead in the water. The Wichita is towing her and only able to do 3 knots. We are flying nineteen damaged plane noses so far all 95.
Oct 14 Our Div is still playing nursemaid now to 2 ships as the U.S.S. Houston was torpedoed and in pretty bad shape.

Oct 16 Two years in the Navy today.

Oct 17 All night enemy planes attacking all over the place trying to locate us but aren't having much luck.

Oct 17 This morning we went to B.O. at 0930. Enemy planes reported. There were 65 planes in all. Our fighters shot down 62 of them with only three getting in area. The first one came in and launched her torpedoes that hit the Houston which is the second time she has been hit in three days. Another plane came in and was heading directly at us when it launched its torpedoes.
and almost simultaneously we
made a sharp turn and avoided
being hit. The plane went on
our bow and exploded burning a
number of our men including some
survivors of the Houston that were
aboard. One of the Marines that sur-
ved the Houston torpedoing died
from burns received on the Santa Fe.
Oct 20 Day on the Philippines. Unit in
13 to stand by in case the Japs flat
comes out.
Oct 24 A Jap task force of 4 8,000 and
13,000 are 110 miles from us.
The Princeton was first hit by a Jap
torpedo bomb. There are enemy
planes all around us their object
of course being the carriers. The
Santa Fe is helping in the destruction
of these planes. The Princeton has
had some tremendous internal explo-
sions and is in very bad condition.
The Reno has orders to sink it. The
Birmingham went alongside the
Princeton to fight fires and an ex-
plosion killed upwards of 200 men
and wounded about 300 beside wrek-
topside stations from the main deck
up.
Oct 25 - Cow Dnr 13 has been sent
to the north to sink couple of
crippled enemy ships (a carrier and
a cruiser). The battle ships were
with us but went south where
there is a big naval engagement
underway.
Oct 25. At 1700 we came upon a
jet carrier and had no trouble
sinking it as it was dead in the water.
Later we came upon a cruiser that was supposed to have been damaged but was doing 32 knots. I went down below decks and the damn thing started to come in straight at us at about 20 knots. Knowing that ships like this carry torpedos I was plenty scared because I was just below the water line where they are most likely to hit. I'm telling you I was the happiest guy in the world when we got the word that this ship was on its way down to Davy Jones locker.

Since commissioning we have traveled 17,500 miles. We sent planes into Peiping and Damas today to knock out Jap planes strafing our troops.
Oct 22nd: Here is a report of Jap shipping losses in the last three days:
1 Battle ship sunk
1 Battle ship probably sunk
7 Battle ships damaged
2 Large carriers sunk
2 Small carriers sunk
Many other carriers damaged
Several cruisers damaged
4 Destroyers sunk
Several other destroyers damaged
Our losses:
9 Carriers sunk (Princeton and 9
baby flattops)
5 PT Boats were also sunk.
Oct 20 Pulled into Subic for fuel and
supplies.
Oct 31 Changed Captain and Adminal
The Captains name is Litch. The Admiral
Day 10. Sailed to second class, spent the day, but our orders were changed. We are going on a raid to Formosa.

Hour 7: Today we sent another strike to Manila Harbor. Heavy damage was inflicted upon planes and ships of all kinds. At 1330 this afternoon we were called to NG J. 6 Jap dive bombers came in. They dove on the Sea in a suicide dive. These are the tactics the Japs have been using lately. 13 men were killed on the Sea when this plane hit the signal bridge.

Hour 11: We went close to Long to launch an air strike. On this strike we sunk 6 X X X 4 cargo ships and transports with 8,000 Jap troops.

Hour 13: Today our planes hit Sagana
and Manila sank a number of ships. Enemy planes have been bothering us for some time now but they haven't had much success.

Nov. 17 Anchored in Enithi.
Nov. 20 Went to D.G. Sub contacts in the harbor just as we went to D.G. a tanker blew up off our port bow.

Nov. 22 Weighed anchor at Enithi and
for Leyte
Nov. 25 Sent first air strikes into Leyte. Enemy planes came in and
devastated the city. One of them crashed on the flight deck but only slight damage was done. Another one came in and was shot down by the Santa Fe's machine guns.

Nov. 29 We received word that the Montpelier and St. Louis were
hit by bombs down south. The Montpelier just came out of the status.

Dec. 1944 Entered Ulithi for fuel and provisions.
Dec. 1944 Left Ulithi for Leyte air strike.
Dec. 19 Our carrier planes hit Leyte & Manila with little opposition.
Dec. 20 Still striking and still now opposition.

Few planes came in fairly close but were disposed of by our fighters.

Dec. 20 Storm of noon. Two destroyers battered by wind and high seas and sink with very few survivors.

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

Dec. 24 Arrived in Ulithi and are to have midnight Mass tonight.

Dec. 26 The U.S.S. Mobile, one of our ships, has just left for the states in our place. If the Admiral hadn't been one way we would be now.
Jan 3, 1945. Today we hit Formosa with an air strike. The weather is very bad, our planes had trouble seeing their targets. A lot of damage was inflicted, however.

Jan 5, 1945. Refueled at sea and received mail.

Jan 7, 1945. Sent planes to strike Leyte. American troops land on Leyte. The weather is still very bad.

Jan 8, 1945. Still striking Leyte. The Seventh Fleet has been hard hit by these Jap suicide dive bombers. I am keeping my fingers crossed because as yet they haven’t bothered me much.

Jan 9, 1945. Hit Formosa again inflicting severe damage to the Jap shipping and air power.

The Captain just told me that we are going through the Bashi Straits which are between Formosa and Leyte.
and strike Southern China and Indo-China with our Carrier based planes.

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

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

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

Jan 13. One year ago today we left Long Beach, 366 days without a liberty. Today we are flying and tomorrow or the next day will strike Hong Kong, China. Yesterday we were exactly half way
around the world.

Jan 17 Made strikes on Hainan and Hong Kong.

The weather is still very stormy. The
Jet planes are having trouble locating us.

Jan 18 Headed south. We are supposed to
leave the China Sea via the Lianyung Straits
tomorrow night.

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

Jan 20. The weather is clear and the
fliers are trying like hell to find
us, but aren't having much success.

We were because our fighters are
hitting them to the draw.

Jan 21. Well we got out of the China Sea
with out a casualty and are attacking
enemy "Barco's" attacking our
place dropped bombs on the island. Only
slight. Another crashed into the island.
causing heavy damage to material
and planes. A.D.D. and a carrier were
hit in the other force.

Jan 22 Today our bit Okinawa again. No
enemy planes were able to shadow the form
ation. Anybody that says our Navy
pilots aren't any good is crazy because
they have saved our necks a great
many times.

Jan 28 Entered Wotabi and left Feb 1 headed
for Tokyo to knock out munitions
plants and air force. This will bring
us pretty darn close to the Japanese
mainland.

Feb 15 This morning we sent a bomb
strike into Tokyo. We are 75 mi from
there now. Our planes destroyed
some 300 Jap planes, blew up hangars
and airfields, and destroyed an Aircraft
factory.
Feb 14 We sent more strikes into Tokyo again this morning. We still haven't had a ship hit by the enemy. All strikes were cancelled.

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

Feb 18 We started bombarding today. The Marines had pretty rough going once they landed because the Japanese dug-in to caves and the Naval bombardment apparently didn't kill many because there is a awful lot of resistance.

Feb 20 We are still at D. Grandma haven't had any sleep. One of our planes was hit by Jap AA fire and a Marine spotting who was in the rear cockpit was badly wounded by shrapnel.
Feb. 21 Last night we fired all night long.
The Marine officer died today. We fired 4,000 rounds of ammunition. I was one of many enemy planes in the vicinity. B.O.B. and the Nevada shot one friend down.

I suppose this will be another sleepless night.

Feb. 22 We had burial services for the Marine officer today.

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

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

Feb. 26 The weather is still so bad that we are recalling all strikes and heading for Japan to refuel.
Feb. 27. The Captain told us that we were going into Ulithi to meet the Birmingham and transfer the Admiral. It looks very much like we are going to return to the good old U.S.A.

May. 1. Arrived Ulithi with everything looking toward the best. Suttle built his flying around fast and furious.

June 8. Today a tug came along side with three Norwegian girls in it. All hands went wild because there were the first women we had seen in over a year. When they returned in the afternoon the Skipper and the Eng. got sore and called all hands to quarters and really bullied us out. You couldn't blame anyone because it was a wonderful sight for my eyes.
March 10. Transferred the Admiral to the Birmingham. It is still not known definitely whether we will get our state side orders. Everyone is hoping for the best because we have had just about enough of this war for a while.

Mar. 11. Tonight we had the news from the Langley over to flying force. While we were all seated on the fantail listening to them, a Japanese cruiser dived on the Randolph and we all went to B-9. Boy, it is a good thing we didn't get hit aft or it would have killed about three fourths of the crew.

Mar. 14. Well we missed out again because today we left for another operation.
Mar. 15 Early this morning we got strikes into K-yards. The Japs picked up because there are many Bogs. As yet none of our ships have been hit. Everyone has been under attack but us. We can see planes being shot down on the horizon. So far we have destroyed about 825 Jap planes via ships gunfire and our own planes. Last night we had little sleep because the Japs were around all night. This morning a Jap plane dropped out of the clouds and let a string of bombs go on the U.S.S. Franklin carrier in our force. At that time she was launching a strike. All the planes on the flight deck were loaded with bombs and torpedoes. Boy what a mess! Gasoline lines...
was broken and fire raged from stem to stern. Bombs, rockets and everything else was blowing up. This was the worst sight I had seen in my whole life. I'm not sure how anyone can possibly survive. The Santa Fe has been ordered to go alongside the Franklin to help fight fire and rescue men. This is really a dangerous assignment because you can never tell when a powder magazine will blow up and blow us to smithereens.

Our captain has moved right in front across as he possibly can. She tried to stop and her flight deck was hanging us and really beating hell out of our side. She has already sunk out of our fire with most survivors coming aboard by the
hundreds. All told a little over 1/2 of the men were saved, I'm telling you that is a surprise to me. The U.S.S. Pittsburgh, a heavy cruiser has been ordered to take her in tow at speed of about 4 to 6 Kts.

May 20 We had a couple of planes make an attack today but didn't do any damage. Our strikes have been very successful. Destroyed 210 Jap planes, 8 merchantmen, hulled damage 2 CVE, 2 BB, 1 CV and 1 CV under construction, 3 CVL, 2 CA, 1 CL, 5 DD and 91 merchantmen.

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

May 22 We met the fueling group today, All ships fueled and headed for Japan except the Santa Fe, was a frigate.
and the Enterprise and 700 who are going into Ulithi.

Mar 22 The captain told me today that we will be in Ulithi a few days while the Franklin makes minor repairs then we will head for home. It is almost too good to be true.

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

Mar 26 Today we took just about all ammunition off.
April 11, 1942

Mr. Churchill met with the Cabinet before the Commons on Monday, April 11th, 1942.

The Prime Minister and his Ministers were all present, and all listened carefully to the Prime Minister's speech. He reviewed the situation and explained the measures that he had taken and the steps he had planned to take to deal with the emergency.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need for unity and cooperation among all the Allies. He appealed to the people to continue their efforts and to support the war effort in every way possible.

The meeting was adjourned after the Prime Minister had concluded his speech, and the Cabinet was left to consider the measures that had been announced.
Mama birthday.
F. H. Gadbois  U.S.S. Santa Fe
Duty Commencing July 26, 1945

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

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

Sept. 29, Today we arrived in Sasebo on the island of Kyushu in the Japanese mainland. There aren’t any occupational troops here as yet but they are expected in a few days. We steamed in the harbor early this afternoon. We saw three Jap carriers that we believe were damaged when our planes attacked this base last