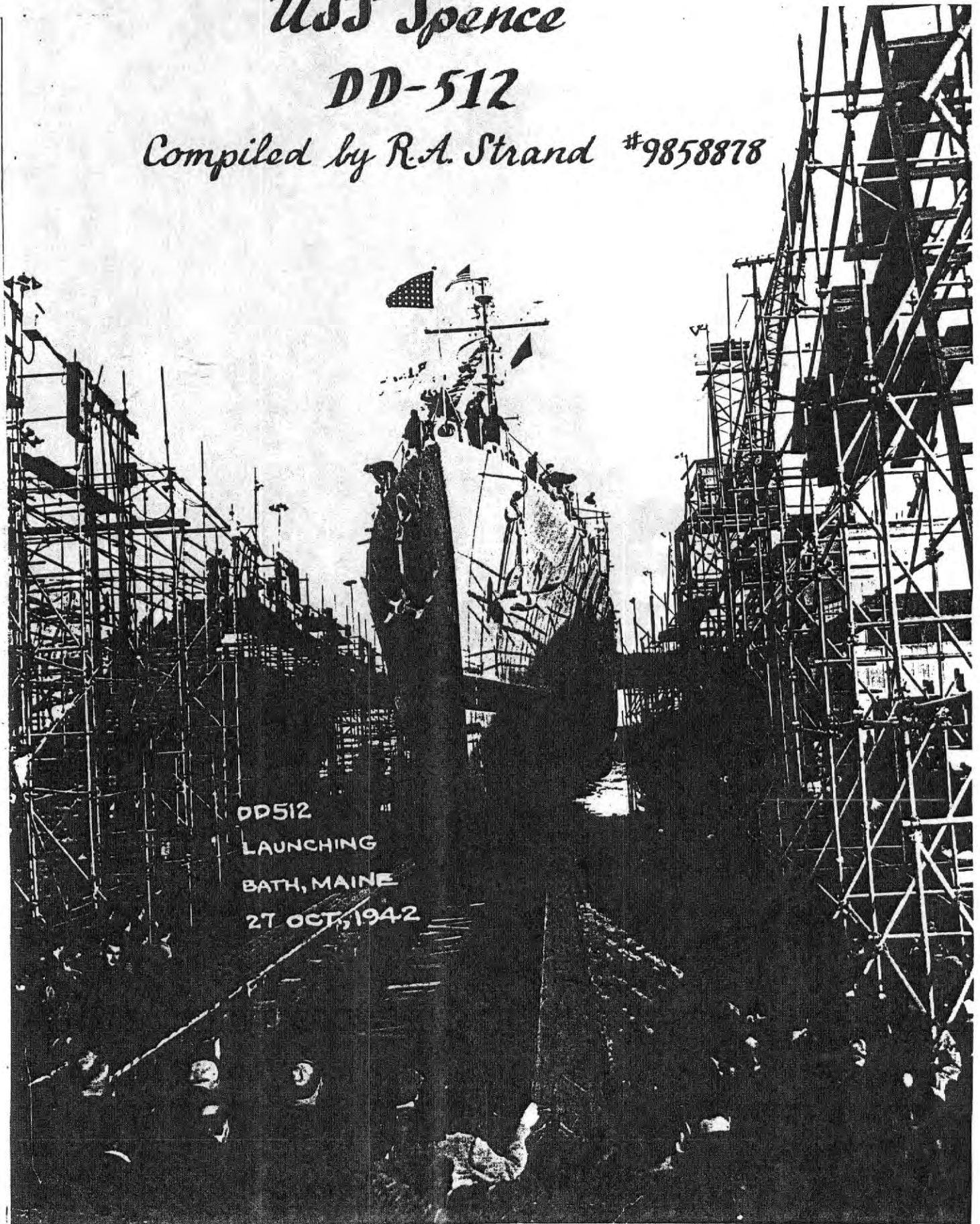
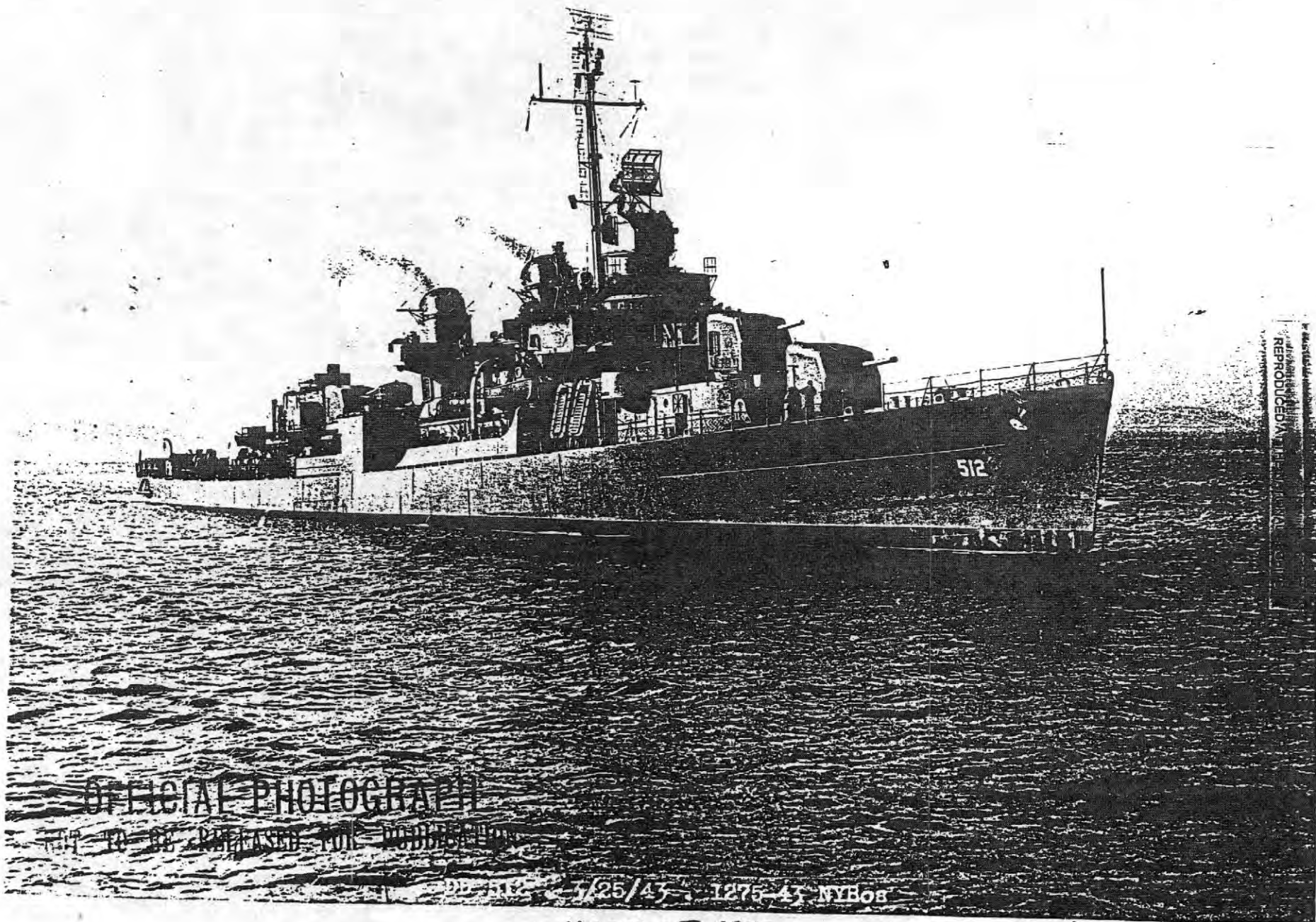


*Naval History
of the
USS Spence*

DD-512

Compiled by R.A. Strand #9858878





REPRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH

NOT TO BE RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION

DD FORM 13/25/43 1275-43 NYBOS

MARCH 25, 1943

BS# 42093

SHIPS SECTION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
NAVY DEPARTMENT

HISTORY OF THE USS SPENCE (DD 512)

Built--at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine; launched October 27, 1942; commissioned in January 8, 1943; sponsor was Mrs. Eben Leonard, great-granddaughter of Captain Robert T. Spence, USN, (deceased) of Portsmouth, N.H.

Description--Overall length of 376 feet, 6 inches; beam, 39 feet, 4 inches; and displacement 2,050 tons.

War Record--As a member of Destroyer Squadron 23, known as the "Little Beaver Squadron", the SPENCE participated in the raids against the Caroline Islands and in the Marianas Campaign. She was with the squadron when it became the first unit to bombard Kavieng in February, 1944.

In October, 1943, the SPENCE helped support the landings on Treasury Island, was the target of at least one Jap bomber, together with the USS Foote, but came out of the engagement unscathed. That same month she participated in the bombardment of Buka, Shortlands, Bougainville Island.

While the operations for Empress Augusta Bay and Treasury Island were still under way, the SPENCE one day was assigned the job of capturing seven Jap flyers sighted on a rubber liferaft. As the ship closed the raft, each held the muzzle of a machine gun to his mouth as a Jap officer fired a round. In five minutes they were all dead, including the officer who gave a farewell harangue, then shot himself. Later that month--November 1943--the ships of the squadron were almost continually surrounded by enemy planes. The SPENCE shot down one Jap plane on November 11 with her 5"/38 guns.

On the night of November 24-25, 1943, while operating with Destroyer Division 46 between Buka and Rabaul in anticipation of an expected Jap attempt to evacuate aviation personnel from Buka, the SPENCE helped to virtually annihilate a surprised and thoroughly confused enemy force of at least six Jap ships, with no damage to our forces. Destroyer Division 45, just ahead of Division 46, launched a torpedo attack against three Jap ships sighted about 52 miles off Cape St. George. One disappeared in a sheet of flame, the second exploded violently, while the third, although hit, remained under way. The SPENCE, with other ships of Division 46, closed the crippled Jap ship, believed to have been a Yupari-type light cruiser, but found her a tough one to sink. Gunfire from the SPENCE helped sink her about an hour later. Four major explosions rocked the ship before she finally sank. Meanwhile, Division 45 had routed another Japanese force, sank one enemy ship, and damaged one or two others. By the time the SPENCE rejoined Division 45, the chase had been abandoned.

In February, 1944, the SPENCE conducted an anti-submarine search off Buka Island. It was also during this month she participated in the first bombardment of Kavieng, New Ireland. During the second bombardment occurring on February 10, she faced heavy and accurate gunfire by enemy shore batteries but escaped undamaged along with other units of the Squadron.

She also helped sink one Jap merchant ship on February 22 with 8 salvos from her guns, although ships of Division 45 actually completed the destruction.

In late June, when it was discovered that the Japs were attempting to send shipping to Rota and Guam, the SPENCE and other members of the Task Unit assigned to sweep the area and to destroy any enemy shipping were coastal defenses. She effectively bombarded shore installations on Rota Island; bombarded and helped sink several sampans in Port Opra, set fire to four fuel tanks at Sumay Point, exploded one camouflaged fuel tank at Piti Village, and joined the other destroyers in bombarding Orotia airfield. Lost--It was announced on January 10, 1945 that the SPENCE had been lost during a typhoon of severe intensity during combat operations in the Western Pacific.

Presidential Unit Citation--Awarded to the SPENCE and other ships of the "Little Beaver Squadron," following their memorable war record in the Pacific.

**UNITS, COMPOSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF DESTROYERS
AND DESTROYER ESCORTS, AWARDED THE
P R E S I D E N T I A L U N I T C I T A T I O N**

UNIT	DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION	COMMANDING OFFICER
Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three	Nov. 1, 1943-Feb. 23, 1944 (Solomon Islands)	Capt. A. A. Burke (ComDesRon 23)
CHARLES AUSBURNE (DD 570) (DesRon 23 Flagship)		Cdr. L. K. Reynolds
STANLY (DD 478)		{ Cdr. R. W. Cavenagh
CLAXTON (DD 571)		{ Lt. Cdr. J. B. Morland
DYSON (DD 572)		Cdr. H. F. Stout
CONVERSE (DesDiv 46 Flagship)		Cdr. R. A. Gano
SPENCE (DD 512)		{ Cdr. B. L. Austin, ComDesDiv 46
		{ Cdr. R. W. Cavenagh, ComDesDiv 46
		{ Cdr. D. C. E. Hamberger
		Cdr. H. J. Armstrong

1941
1943

1943
1945

1942
1944

1940
1943

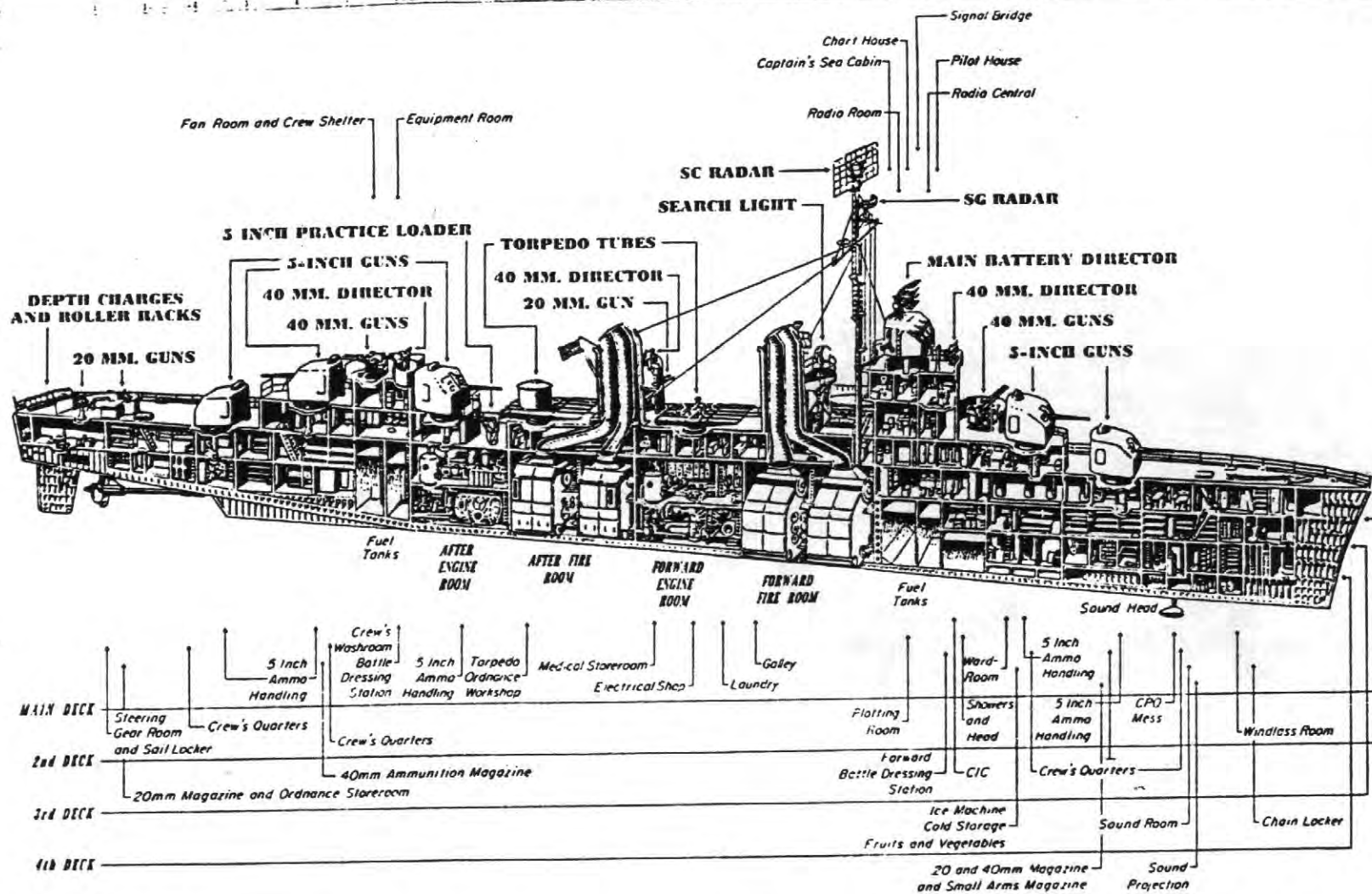
1939
1940

336

34

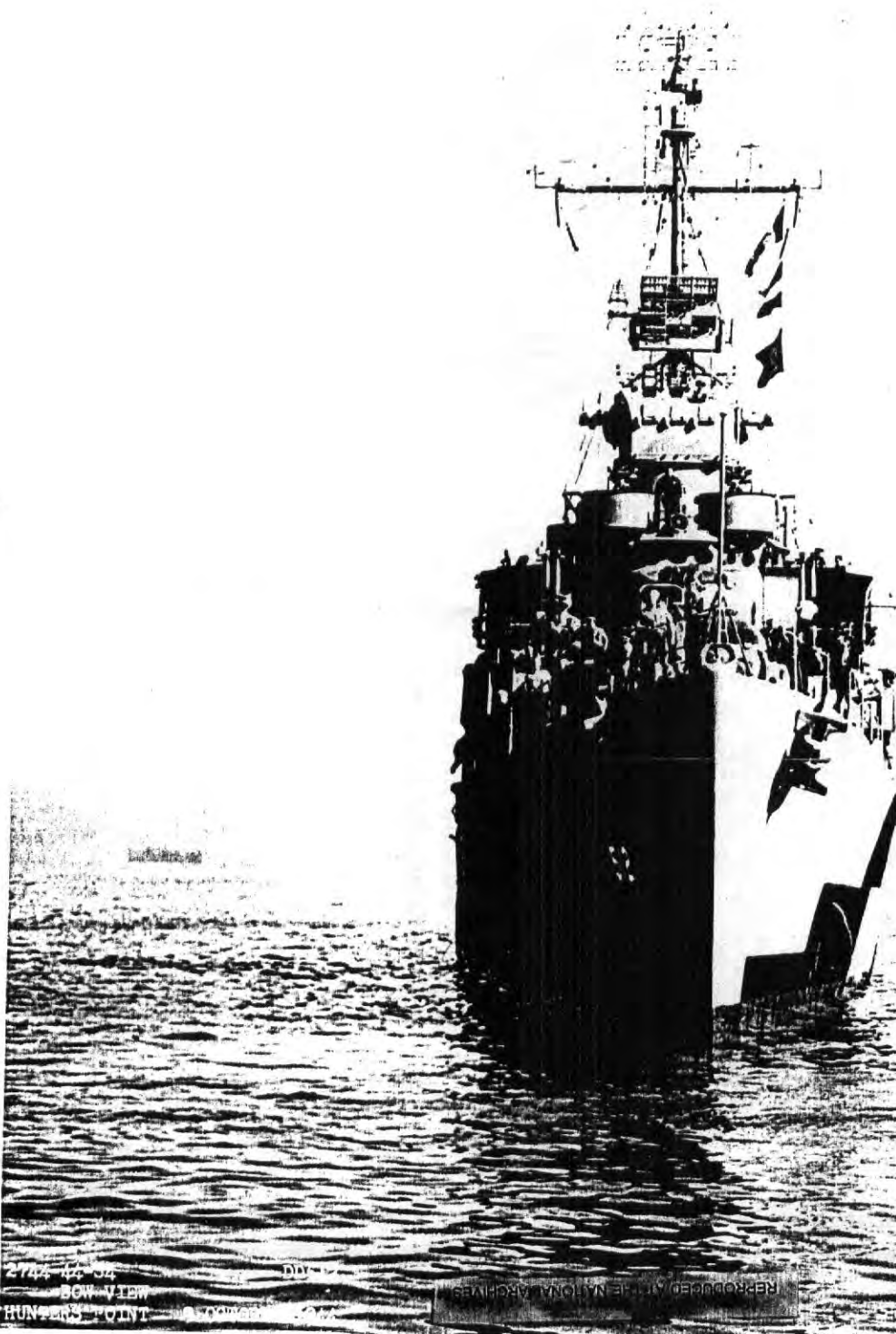
16
20

D



**TYPICAL WORLD WAR II DESTROYER
(FLETCHER CLASS)**

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
NOT TO BE RELEASED
FOR PUBLICATION
U.S. NAVAL DRYDOCKS
HUNTERS POINT
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF
RESTRICTED



HUNTERS POINT
OCTOBER 1944

2745 46 34
BOW VIEW
HUNTERS POINT

REPRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

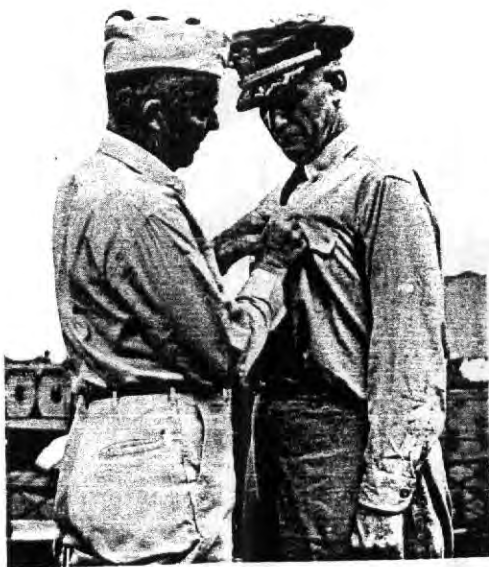
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
NOT TO BE RELEASED
FOR PUBLICATION
U.S. NAVAL DRYDOCKS
HUNTERS POINT
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF
RESTRICTED



HUNTERS POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
OCTOBER 1944

135480398a

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



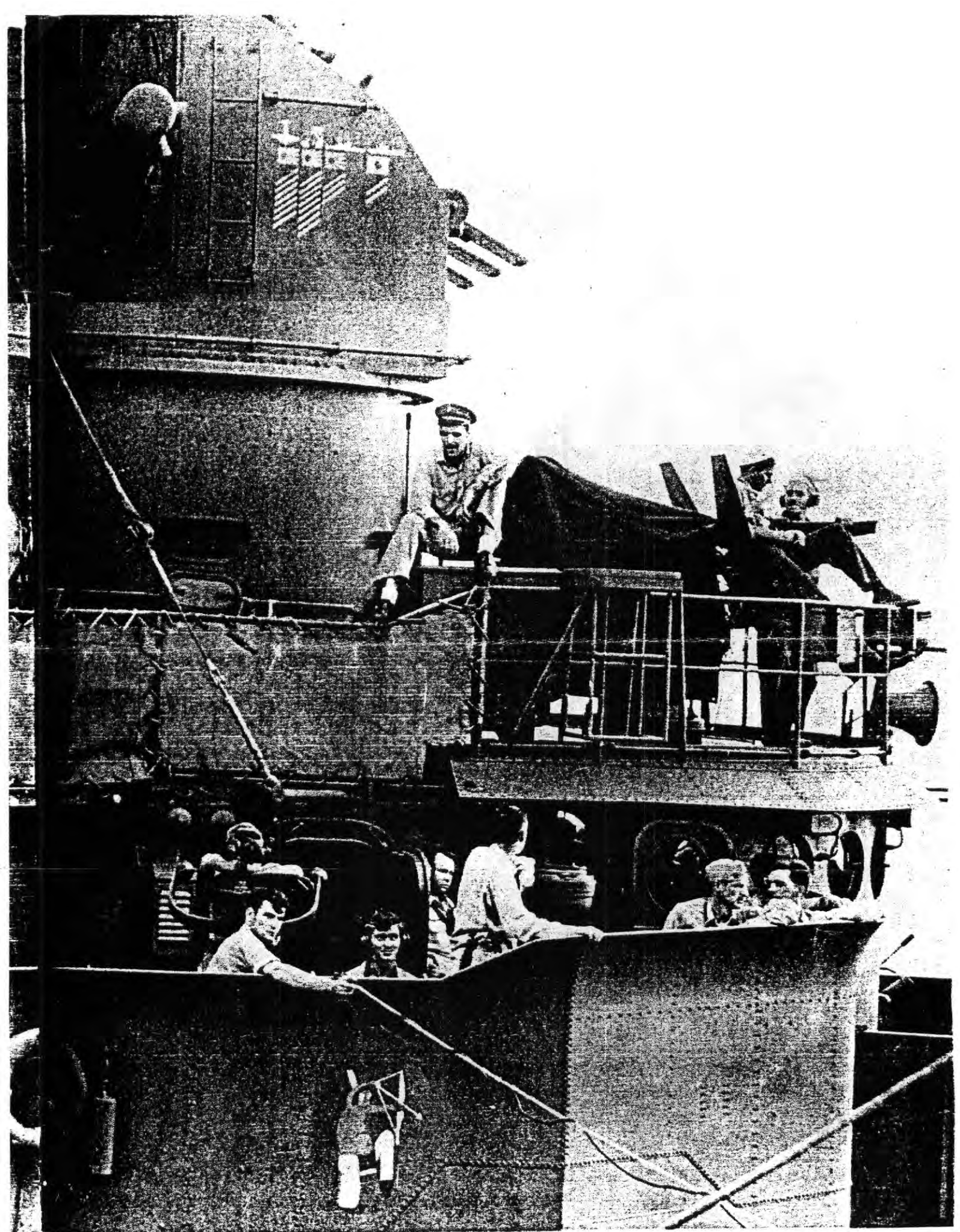
Above: Captain Arleigh A Burke USN receives the Navy Cross from Rear-Admiral Merrill in February 1944.

Right: Captain Burke and bridge personnel on board the *Charles Ausburne* take a rare moment of relaxation. Note the 'Little Beaver' insignia of DesRon 23 painted on the bridge wing.

Squadron 23 were known as the 'Little Beavers' from their unofficial insignia. The flagship was the *Fletcher Class Charles Ausburne*, which won 11 Battle Stars in three years. The nickname was won in November 1943, when DesRon 23 was refuelling at Hathorn Sound in Kula Gulf. Orders came through to steam at top speed to intercept a Japanese convoy evacuating air force personnel, and the *Charles Ausburne* confirmed that she and her three squadron-mates would make the arranged rendezvous by a specified time. Back at Admiral Halsey's headquarters the operations officer worked out the average speed needed for the run as 31 knots and remembered that Burke had recently insisted that his squadron could only make a maximum formation speed of 30 knots. With this in mind Admiral Halsey's next order to Burke read:

'Thirty-one knot Burke get athwart the Buka-Rabaul evacuation line about 35 miles west of Buka X If no enemy contacts by 0300 25th come south to





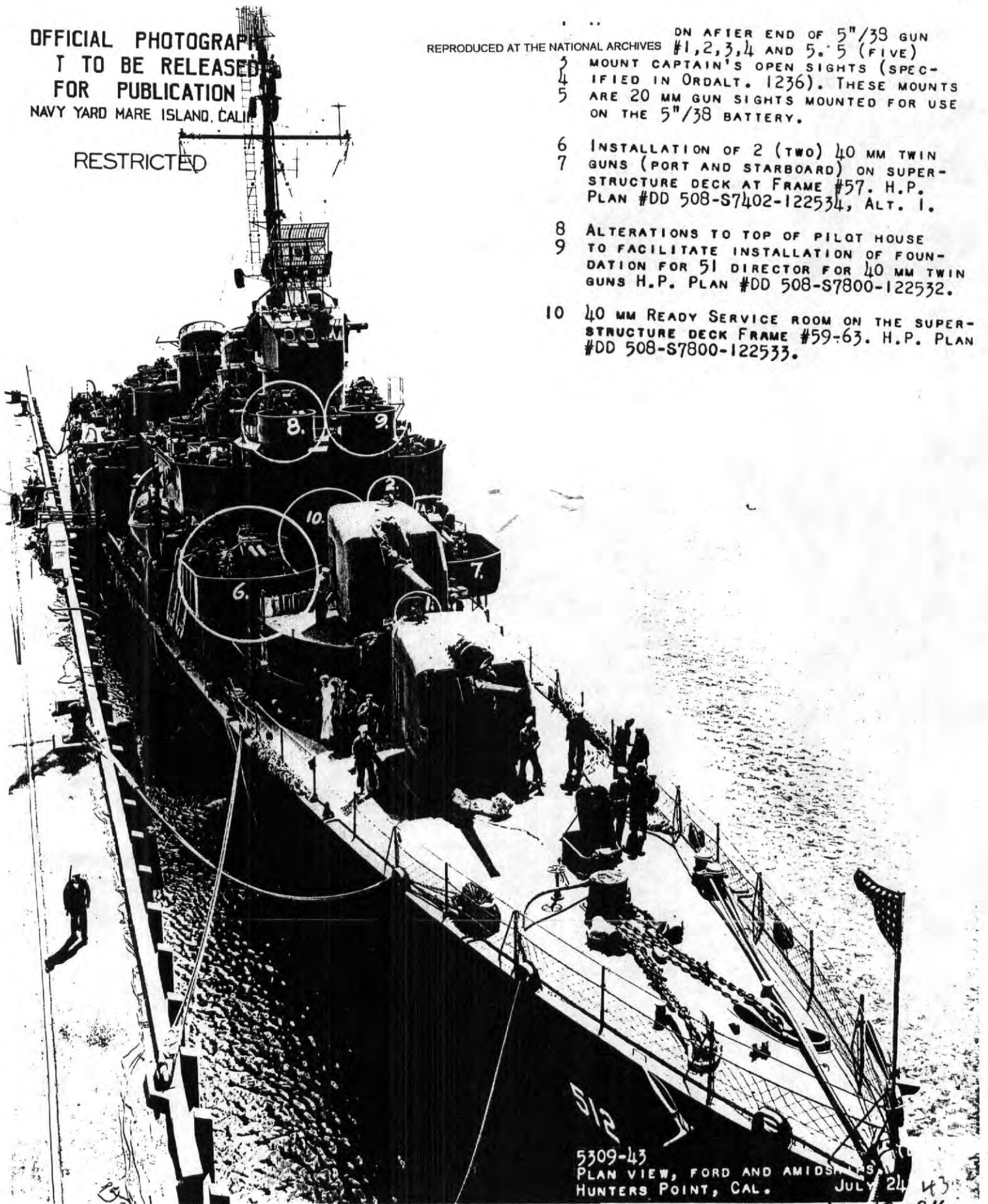
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
NOT TO BE RELEASED
FOR PUBLICATION
NAVY YARD MARE ISLAND, CALIF.

RESTRICTED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ON AFTER END OF 5"/38 GUN
#1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5. 5 (FIVE)

- 3 MOUNT CAPTAIN'S OPEN SIGHTS (SPECIFIED IN ORDALT. 1236). THESE MOUNTS ARE 20 MM GUN SIGHTS MOUNTED FOR USE ON THE 5"/38 BATTERY.
- 4
- 5
- 6 INSTALLATION OF 2 (TWO) 40 MM TWIN GUNS (PORT AND STARBOARD) ON SUPER-STRUCTURE DECK AT FRAME #57. H.P. PLAN #DD 508-S7402-122534, ALT. 1.
- 7
- 8 ALTERATIONS TO TOP OF PILOT HOUSE
- 9 TO FACILITATE INSTALLATION OF FOUNDATION FOR 51 DIRECTOR FOR 40 MM TWIN GUNS H.P. PLAN #DD 508-S7800-122532.
- 10 40 MM READY SERVICE ROOM ON THE SUPER-STRUCTURE DECK FRAME #59-63. H.P. PLAN #DD 508-S7800-122533.



5309-43

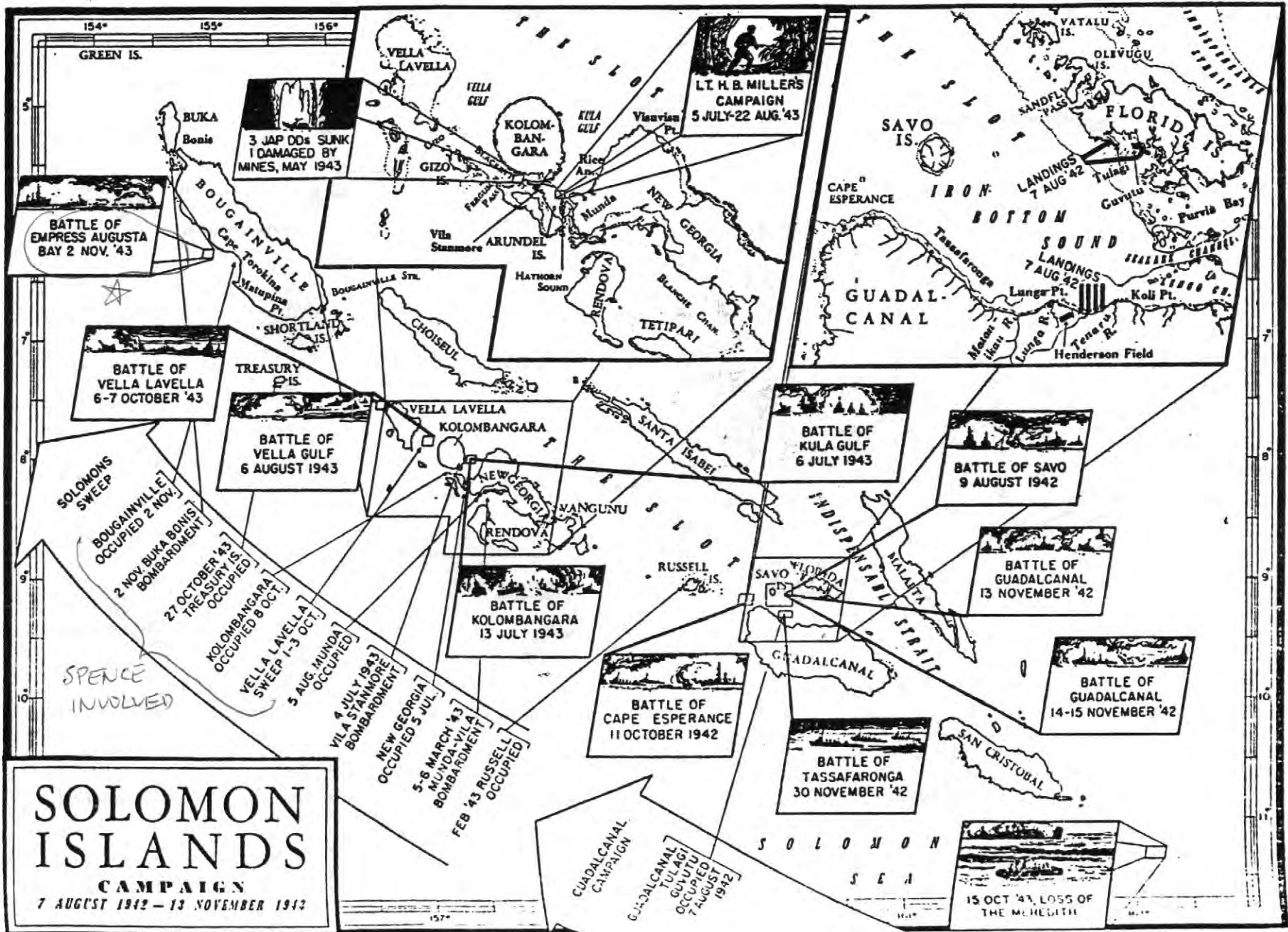
PLAN VIEW, FORD AND AMIDSHIP DECK
HUNTERS POINT, CAL.

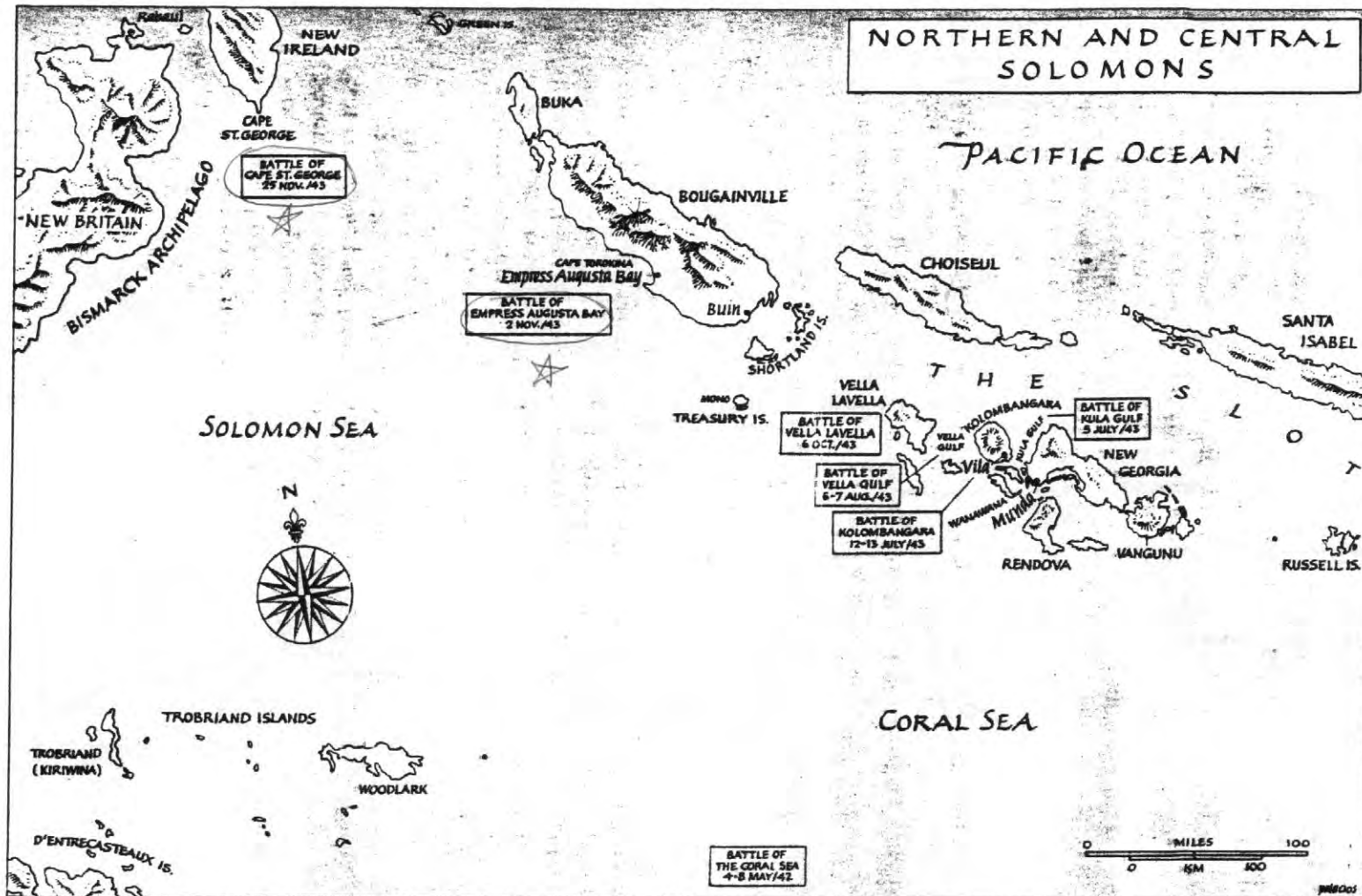
JULY 21 1943

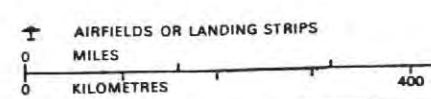
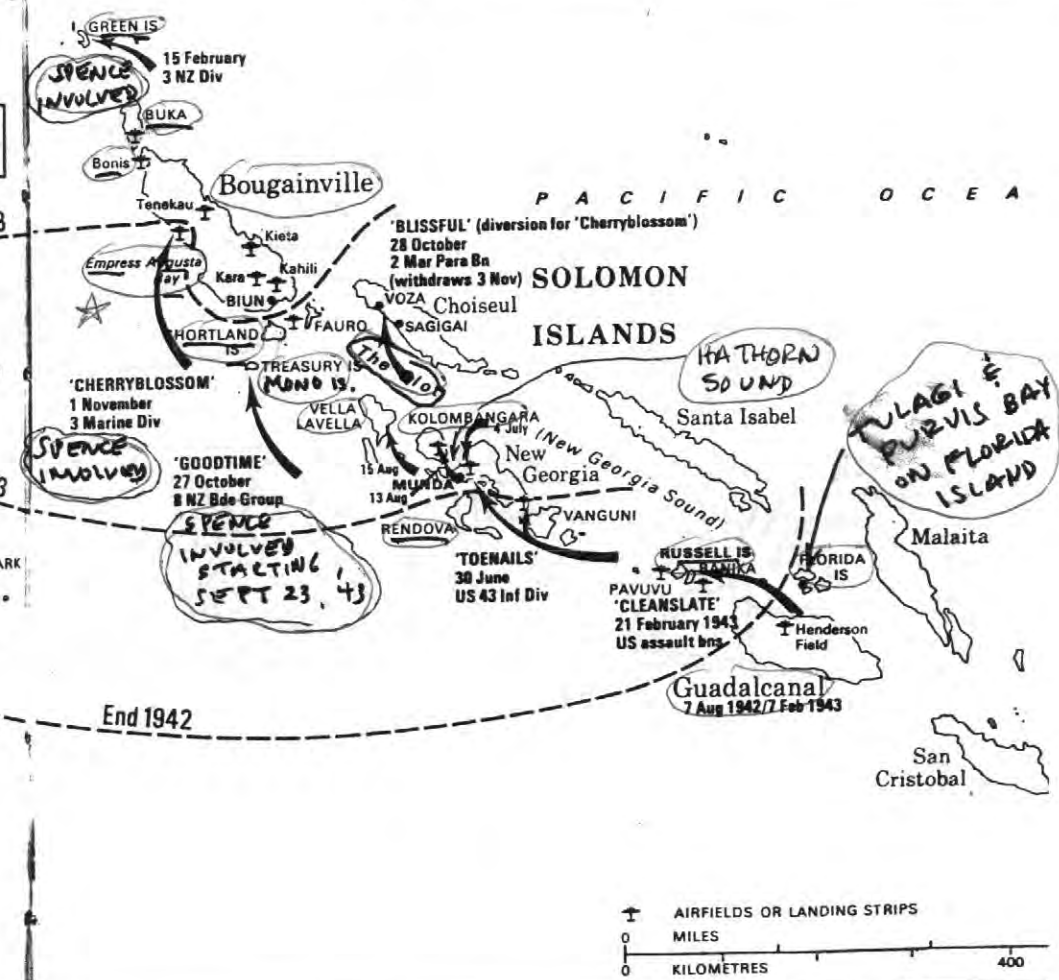
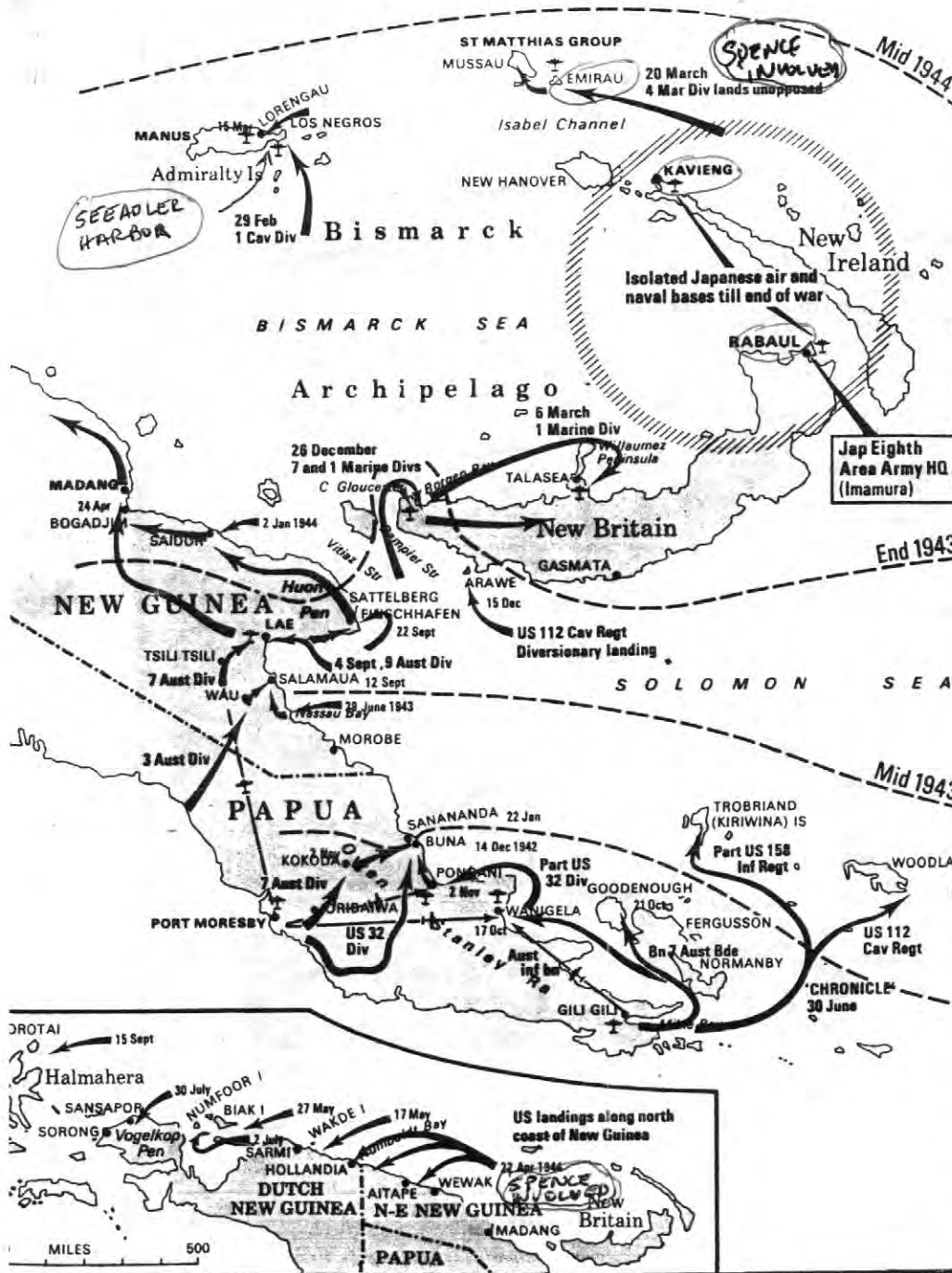
59 49 784

JULY 24, 1943

218







NOON READINGS OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE FOR U.S.S. SPENCE IN 1943-44

1943

Feb. 8	Shake-down	May 9	42 N. 71 W.	Jul. 7	38 N. 123 W.
to	in and out of		Anchored		Moored
Feb. 28	Quantanimo Bay	to	in	to	at
Mar. 2	22 N. 74 W.	↓	Boston	↓	Hunters Point
Mar. 3	32 N. 72 W.	May 17	42 N. 71 W.	Jul. 25	38 N. 123 W.
Mar. 4	37 N. 70 W.	May 18	39 N. 71 W.	Jul. 26	36 N. 128 W.
Mar. 5		May 19	37 N. 76 W.	Jul. 27	34 N. 136 W.
Mar. 6	42 N. 71 W.	May 20	At Norfolk	Jul. 28	31 N. 141 W.
	Anchored	May 21	37 N. 76 W.	Jul. 29	28 N. 147 W.
to	in	May 22	33 N. 69 W.	Jul. 30	24 N. 153 W.
↓	Boston	May 23	27 N. 65 W.	Jul. 31	21 N. 158 W.
Mar. 26	42 N. 71 W.	May 24	20 N. 61 W.	Aug. 1	Anchored
Mar. 27	41 N. 74 W.	May 25	14 N. 60 W.		at
	Moored	May 26	At Trinidad	to	Pearl
to	in	May 27	17 N. 67 W.	↓	Harbor
↓	Brooklyn	May 28	26 N. 70 W.	Aug. 25	21 N. 158 W.
Mar. 31	41 N. 74 W.	May 29	35 N. 72 W.	Aug. 26	17 N. 161 W.
Apr. 1	40 N. 74 W.	May 30	At Brooklyn	Aug. 27	13 N. 165 W.
Apr. 2	39 N. 71 W.	May 31	40 N. 71 W.	Aug. 28	10 N. 168 W.
Apr. 3	35 N. 69 W.	Jun 1	42 N. 71 W.	Aug. 29	5 N. 170 W.
Apr. 4	36 N. 67 W.	Jun 2	At Boston	Aug. 30	2 N. 171 W.
Apr. 5	34 N. 61 W.	Jun 3	40 N. 73 W.	Aug. 31	1 N. 174 W.
Apr. 6	33 N. 57 W.	Jun 4	41 N. 74 W.	Sep. 1	0 176 W.
Apr. 7	32 N. 54 W.		At Brooklyn		Flight
Apr. 8	32 N. 53 W.	Jun 5	37 N. 76 W.	to	Training
Apr. 9	30 N. 46 W.		Moored	↓	off
Apr. 10	29 N. 41 W.	to	at	Sep. 13	0 176 W.
Apr. 11	30 N. 38 W.	↓	Norfolk	Sep. 14	5 S. 175 W.
Apr. 12	30 N. 33 W.	Jun 9	37 N. 76 W.		Cross Int'l date line
Apr. 13	31 N. 30 W.	Jun 10	32 N. 70 W.	Sep. 16	10 S. 179 E.
Apr. 14	33 N. 27 W.	Jun 11	25 N. 65 W.	Sep. 17	14 S. 173 E.
Apr. 15	34 N. 23 W.	Jun 12	18 N. 60 W.	Sep. 18	18 S. 168 E.
Apr. 16	34 N. 18 W.	Jun 13	At Trinidad		Training runs
Apr. 17	34 N. 14 W.	Jun 14	12 N. 65 W.	to	in and out of
Apr. 18	34 N. 8 W.	Jun 15	13 N. 73 W.	↓	Efate in New-
Apr. 19	Moored at	Jun 16	At Cristobol	Sep. 22	18 S. 168 E.
Apr. 20	Casablanca	Jun 17	Panama Canal	Sep. 22	16 S. 164 E.
Apr. 21	34 N. 8 W.	Jun 18	9 N. 80 W.	Sep. 23	14 S. 159 E.
Apr. 22	36 N. 5 W.	Jun 19	Moored at		Patrolling
Apr. 23	At Gibraltar	Jun 20	Balboa	to	Solomon Is.
Apr. 24	35 N. 7 W.	Jun 21	9 N. 80 W.	↓	in and out
Apr. 25	34 N. 11 W.	Jun 22	9 N. 85 W.	Oct. 3	of Tulagi and
Apr. 26	35 N. 16 W.	Jun 23	11 N. 91 W.	Oct. 4	Port Purvis
Apr. 27	35 N. 21 W.	Jun 24	15 N. 96 W.	to	15 S. 167 E.
Apr. 28	36 N. 26 W.	Jun 25	17 N. 103 W.	↓	Moored at
Apr. 29	-	Jun 26	22 N. 109 W.	Oct. 7	Esperito Santos
Apr. 30	37 N. 36 W.	Jun 27	26 N. 115 W.		Supporting
May 1	38 N. 41 W.	Jun 28	33 N. 117 W.	to	landings and
May 2	39 N. 46 W.		Moored	↓	patrol duty
May 3	39 N. 51 W.	to	at	Oct. 22	in and out of
May 4	39 N. 56 W.	↓	San Diego		Tulagi and
May 5	39 N. 60 W.	Jul 2	33 N. 117 W.		Purvis Bay
May 6	39 N. 64 W.	Jul 3	38 N. 123 W.		
May 7	39 N. 69 W.	Jul 4	Moored at		
May 8	40 N. 74 W.	Jul 5	Hunters Point		
	In NYC area	Jul 6	San Francisco		

1943

Oct. 23 15 S. 167 E.
At Esperito

Oct. 24 Santos

Oct. 25 9 S. 160 E.
Returned to
Tulagi where
to Little Beaver
Squadron was
formed. Screen
landings on
Oct. 27 Treasury Is.

Oct. 28 8 S. 157 E.
to Moored at
Oct. 30 Purvis Bay

Oct. 31 Patrol near
Treasury Is.
Supported
landings on
Cape Torokina
Empress Augusta
Bay and was
involved in
naval battle.
Patrolling
Hathorn Sound
and Kula Gulf.

Nov. 12

Nov. 13 9 S. 160 E.
to Overhaul at
Purvis Bay

Nov. 22 9 S. 160 E.

Nov. 23 Patrolling
off Torokina
and Kula Gulf.
to In battle off
Nov. 25 Cape St. George

Nov. 26 9 S. 160 E.
to Moored at
Dec. 6 Purvis Bay

Dec. 7 Screening at
Russell and
Rendova Is.

Dec. 8 Engine has
problem and
on to Hathorn
Bay.

Dec. 9 9 S. 160 E.
to Moored at
Purvis Bay
for engine
Dec. 27 repair.

Dec. 28 Moored at
Tulagi

Dec. 29 Anchored at
Purvis Bay

Dec. 30 10 S. 161 E.

Dec. 31 7 S. 159 E.

1944

Jan. 1 8 S. 162 E.

Jan. 2 13 S. 165 E.

Jan. 3 15 S. 167 E.

Jan. 4 11 S. 163 E.

Jan. 5 8 S. 157 E.

Jan. 6 Escort in
to and out of
Jan. 10 Purvis Bay

Jan. 11 15 S. 167 E.
Training
to exercises
in and out
of Esperito
Santos

Jan. 27 15 S. 167 E.

Jan. 28 11 S. 160 E.

Jan. 29 8 S. 157 E.
to Anti-shiping
and anti-sub
search out of
Feb. 2 Purvis Bay.

Feb. 3 Anti-sub and
to bombardment
runs out of
Feb. 6 Hathorn Sound.

Feb. 7 8 S. 157 E.

Feb. 8 Moored in

Feb. 9 Hathorn Sound

Feb. 10 Barge hunt in
Bougainville
strait.

Feb. 11 9 S. 160 E.

Feb. 12 Moored at

Feb. 13 Purvis Bay

Feb. 14 5 S. 158 E..

Feb. 15 4 S. 157 E.

Feb. 16 6 S. 157 E.

Feb. 17 4 S. 157 E.

Feb. 18 3 S. 153 E.

Feb. 19 8 S. 157 E.

Feb. 20 8 S. 160 E.

Feb. 21 2 S. 155 E.

Feb. 22 1 S. 149 E.

Feb. 23 6 S. 154 E.

Feb. 24 9 S. 160 E.

Feb. 25 Purvis Bay

Feb. 26 Moored at

Feb. 27 Sunlight Channel

Feb. 28 8 S. 157 E.

Feb. 29 7 S. 155 E.

Mar. 1 5 S. 154 E.

Mar. 2 7 S. 155 E.

Mar. 3 9 S. 159 E.

Mar. 4 Purvis Bay.

Mar. 5 3 S. 155 E.

Mar. 6 1 S. 156 E.

Mar. 7 2 N. 151 E.

Mar. 8 3 N. 148 E.

Mar. 9 2 N. 158 E.

Mar. 10 3 S. 157 E.

Mar. 11 9 S. 160 E.
Moored at
to Purvis Bay

Mar. 14 9 S. 160 E.

Mar. 15 9 S. 162 E.

Mar. 16 Purvis Bay

Mar. 17 3 S. 155 E.

Mar. 18 6 S. 157 E.

Mar. 19 2 S. 153 E.

Mar. 20 1 S. 149 E.

Mar. 21 1 S. 149 E.

Mar. 22 3 S. 155 E.

Mar. 23 9 S. 160 E.

Mar. 24 Purvis Bay

Mar. 25 5 S. 161 E.

Mar. 26 2 S. 156 E.

Mar. 27 1 N. 150 E.

Mar. 28 1 N. 145 E.

Mar. 29 3 N. 138 E.

Mar. 30 5 N. 134 E.

Mar. 31 ---

Apr. 1 6 N. 143 E.

Apr. 2 0 146 E.

Apr. 3 0 152 E.

Apr. 4 1 S. 156 E.

Apr. 5 2 N. 162 E.

Apr. 6 5 N. 162 E.

Apr. 7 7 N. 171 E.
Docked at
to Majuro in
Marshall
Islands

Apr. 13 7 N. 171 E.

Apr. 14 5 N. 167 E.

Apr. 15 --

Apr. 16 1 N. 162 E.

Apr. 17 1 S. 157 E.

Apr. 18 0 151 E.

Apr. 19 1 N. 147 E.

Apr. 20 1 N. 147 E.

Apr. 21 2 S. 141 E.

Apr. 22 2 S. 141 E.

Apr. 23 1 S. 140 E.

Apr. 24 1 S. 144 E.

Apr. 25 2 S. 147 E.
Anchored
to at
Seeadler
Harbor

Apr. 28

Apr. 29 0 148 E.

Apr. 30 7 N. 152 E.

May 1 7 N. 158 E.

May 2 7 N. 162 E.

May 3 5 N. 166 E.

May 4 7 N. 171 E.
to at Majuro

May 6 7 N. 171 E.

May 7 10 N. 178 E.

May 8 7 N. 171 E.

1944

May 9 7 N. 171 E.

↓
to In dry dock
at
Majuro

May 23 7 N. 171 E.

↓
to Training
exercises
in and out
of Majuro

June 6 7 N. 171 E.

June 7 8 N. 165 E.

June 8 11 N. 160 E.

June 9 16 N. 160 E.

June 10 15 N. 154 E.

June 11 14 N. 149 E.

June 12 16 N. 146 E.

June 13 16 N. 147 E.

June 14 17 N. 148 E.

June 15 25 N. 144 E.

June 16 23 N. 142 E.

June 17 19 N. 144 E.

June 18 15 N. 143 E.

June 19 14 N. 144 E.

June 20 16 N. 148 E.

June 21 16 N. 144 E.

June 22 16 N. 139 E.

June 23 16 N. 144 E.

June 24 15 N. 144 E.

June 25 15 N. 144 E.

June 26 16 N. 147 E.

June 27 14 N. 145 E.

June 28 16 N. 144 E.

June 29 15 N. 144 E.

June 30 14 N. 145 E.

July 1 14 N. 145 E.

July 2 14 N. 144 E.

July 3 15 N. 148 E.

July 4 18 N. 153 E.

July 5 12 N. 159 E.

July 6 12 N. 163 E.

↓
to Repair and
change of
command at
Eniwetok

July 14 12 N. 163 E.

July 15 11 N. 158 E.

July 16 12 N. 152 E.

July 17 12 N. 145 E.

July 18 13 N. 146 E.

July 19 13 N. 146 E.

July 20 13 N. 146 E.

July 21 13 N. 136 E.

July 22 12 N. 146 E.

July 23 14 N. 147 E.

July 24 14 N. 146 E.

July 25 14 N. 146 E.

July 26 14 N. 146 E.

July 27 13 N. 147 E.

July 28 14 N. 146 E.

July 29 At Saipan

July 30 15 N. 145 E.

Aug. 1 13 N. 157 E.

Aug. 2 11 N. 162 E.

Aug. 3 12 N. 163 E.

Aug. 4 At Eniwetok

Aug. 5 13 N. 168 E.

Aug. 6 13 N. 174 E.

Aug. 7 15 N. 179 E.

Aug. 7 17 N. 174 W.

Aug. 8 18 N. 168 W.

Aug. 9 19 N. 162 W.

Aug. 10 Pearl Harbor

Aug. 11 22 N. 155 W.

Aug. 12 24 N. 150 W.

Aug. 13 26 N. 145 W.

Aug. 14 ---

Aug. 15 30 N. 134 W.

Aug. 16 31 N. 129 W.

Aug. 17 34 N. 124 W.

Aug. 18 38 N. 123 W.

↓
to In dry dock
at Hunters
Point in San
Francisco.
Dock trials
and test runs

Oct. 5 38 N. 123 W.

Oct. 6 34 N. 131 W.

Oct. 7 31 N. 139 W.

Oct. 8 28 N. 145 W.

Oct. 9 25 N. 150 W.

Oct. 10 22 N. 157 W.

Oct. 11 21 N. 158 W.

↓
to Training
exercises in
and out of
Pearl Harbor

Oct. 25 21 N. 158 W.

Oct. 26 20 N. 165 W.

Oct. 27 19 N. 172 W.

Oct. 28 17 N. 178 W.

Oct. 29 15 N. 175 E.

Oct. 30 13 N. 167 E.

Oct. 31 12 N. 163 E.

Nov. 1 At Eniwetok

Nov. 2 11 N. 162 E.

Nov. 3 11 N. 155 E.

Nov. 4 10 N. 148 E.

Nov. 5 10 N. 142 E.

Nov. 6 10 N. 140 E.

↓
to Moored
at
Ulithi

Nov. 9 10 N. 140 E.

Nov. 10 11 N. 141 E.

Nov. 11 13 N. 143 E.

Nov. 12 14 N. 136 E.

Nov. 13 17 N. 129 E.

Nov. 14 15 N. 124 E.

Nov. 15 15 N. 129 E.

Nov. 16 12 N. 132 E.

Nov. 17 13 N. 131 E.

Nov. 18 13 N. 129 E.

Nov. 19 16 N. 124 E.

Nov. 20 17 N. 130 E.

Nov. 21 15 N. 131 E.

Nov. 22 14 N. 132 E.

Nov. 23 13 N. 134 E.

Nov. 24 10 N. 140 E.

↓
to Moored at
Ulithi

Dec. 9 10 N. 140 E. **

Dec. 10 11 N. 141 E.

Dec. 11 13 N. 143 E.

Dec. 12 15 N. 136 E.

Dec. 13 16 N. 129 E.

Dec. 14 15 N. 124 E.

Dec. 15 15 N. 129 E.

Dec. 16 12 N. 133 E.

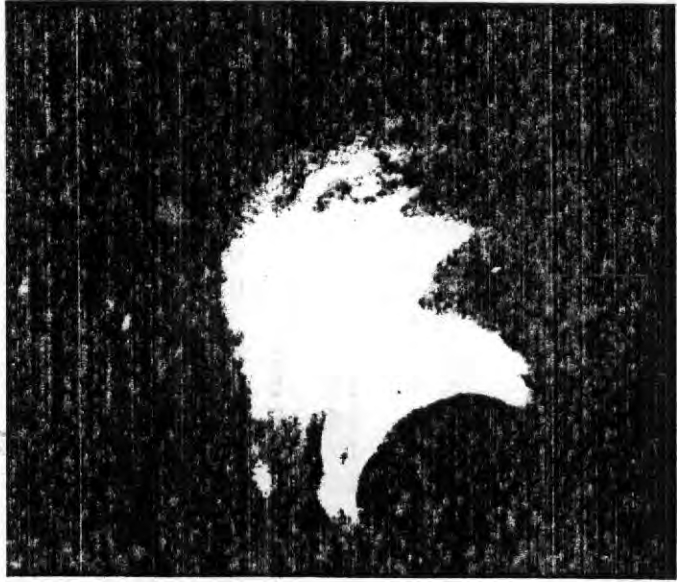
Dec. 17 13 N. 131 E.

Dec. 18 13 N. 129 E.

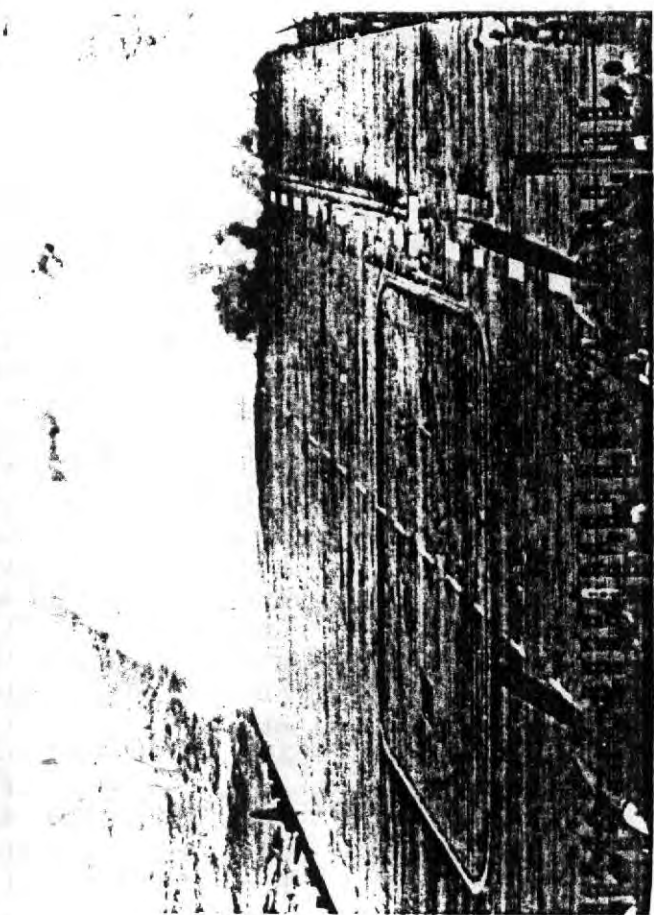
** The latitude and longitude readings from Dec. 9 to Dec. 18 were obtained from the deck log of the U.S.S. Tyson which was a part of the carrier group that included the U.S.S. Spence.

Gathered in tiny wardroom of DE *Tabberer* are the five who led in the destroyer-escort's heroic rescue work which lasted without rest or respite for more than 50 hours. Seated (l to r): Lt. Robert M. Surdam; Lt. Cdr. Henry L. Plage, and Lt. Howard J. Korth. Standing (l to r): Robert Cotton, TM 1st cl., and Louis A. Purvis, BM 1st cl.

Rescued were the survivors shown here from the DD *Spence* (seated) and from the DD *Hull* (standing), two of the three destroyers captured by Typhoon Cobra. Photo taken on deck of DE *Tabberer*.



Typhoon Viper, as it appeared on the radar screen of the carrier *Hornet* during the predawn hours of 5 June 1945.



Full fury of Typhoon Viper is revealed as mountainous waves sweep over the flight deck of the heavy carrier *Hornet* while the 27,000-ton carrier is being tossed about in the fury of the storm. Photo taken from bridge of *Hornet*.

Bob
ARRIVED ON USS SPOCK
CA 192,
MARCH 10 43
FIRST TRIP ESCORT DUTY TO CASABLANCA AND GIBRALTAR
LEFT BOSTON MARCH 26 RETURNED MAY 9 43 [GIVEN 4 DAYS LEAVE]
MAY 13 1943

Atlantic Ocean



SECOND TRIP - FLIGHT OPERATION EXERCISE WITH
USS YORKTOWN LEFT BOSTON MAY 17
ARRIVED BACK JUNE 11 1943

192 Atlantic Ocean



HIGHLIGHTS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN WAR DAIRY OF THE
U.S.S. SPENCE DD-512 FROM FEBRUARY 1943 TO DECEMBER 1944

May 18, 1942 Keel laid down by the Bath, Maine Iron Works.
Oct. 27, 1942 Launched at Bath, Maine. Cmd. Henry J. Armstrong
was appointed Captain of the U.S.S. Spence.

1943

Feb. 8 to 28 Shakedown cruise out of Quantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Mar. 1 to 5 Left Quantanamo Bay and sailed to Boston.
Mar. 6 to 19 Moored at Pier 4 at Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston. MARCH 10
Mar. 20 to 24 Moored at Pier 1 at Charlestown MY BROTHER,
Mar. 25 Moored at Piers 11 and 9 at Charlestown BOB STRAND,
Mar. 26 Left Boston for Brooklyn Navy Yard. ARRIVED ON SITE
Mar. 27 to 30 Moored at Brooklyn Navy Yard Pier 8 alongside U.S.S. Butler
Mar. 31 Left Brooklyn. Anchored off Sandy Hook, New Jersey with
many ships. Task Force 69 was formed.
Apr. 1 to 19 Escorted convoy UGS-7 from New York to Casablanca. Depth
charges dropped on April 7 at possible submarine.
Apr. 20 Moored at Casablanca.
Apr. 21 Left Casablanca for Gibraltar.
Apr. 22 Arrived at Gibraltar.
Apr. 23 to May 7 Left Gibraltar and escorted convoy GUS-6A to New York.
May 8 Arrived at New York. Task Force 69 dissolved. Spence
left for Boston.
May 9 to 13 Moored at Pier 3 East at South Boston Navy Yard.
May 14 to 15 In dry dock at South Boston Navy Yard.
May 16 Moored again at Pier 3 at South Boston Navy Yard.
May 17 Left Boston for Norfolk.
May 18 Enroute to Norfolk.
May 19 Arrived at Hampton Roads. Moored at Pier 5, Norfolk, VA.
May 20 Commander B. L. Austin came aboard. Hoisted pennant
Destroyer Division 46 formed.
May 21 to 24 Left Norfolk with U.S.S. Schroeder to escort the aircraft
carrier, U.S.S. Yorktown for flight training.
May 25 Passed the island of Barbados in Caribbean Sea.
May 26 to 29 Arrived at Trinidad, fueled and left singly for New York.
May 30 Arrived at Brooklyn Navy Yard at Pier 2.
May 31 Left Brooklyn to join U.S.S. Texas and U.S.S. Dashiell
for Boston.
June 1 Arrived in Boston, Pier 2 West, at South Boston Navy Yard.
June 2 Left Boston for New York screening for U.S.S. Monticello.
June 3 to 4 Moored at 35th Street Pier in Brooklyn.
June 5 Left Brooklyn with U.S.S. Dashiell for Norfolk.
June 6 Arrived in Norfolk, anchored in area "H" with other units.
June 7 Left Norfolk escorting H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth and then
returned.
June 8 Moored at Norfolk.
June 9 to 12 Left Norfolk with U.S.S. Dashiell escorting the aircraft
Carrier, U.S.S. Belleau Wood for flight training operation
on way to Trinidad.
June 13 Arrived Pier 1, Trinidad.
June 14 Left Trinidad.
June 15 Passed by Aruba independently on way to Panama Canal Zone.
June 16 Arrived at Port of Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone. U.S.S.
Spence assigned to Pacific Fleet.

1943

June 17 Moored at Pier 2B Coco Solo, Canal Zone and then started through the canal.

June 18 Moored at Balboa Harbor, Canal Zone Pier 14.

June 19 Moored at Pier 7 North Side, Balboa for ammunition.

June 20 Task Force 52.1 formed including U.S.S. Mobile, Brownson, Independence, Fullam, Thatcher, Schroeder, and Spence.

June 21 to 27 Left Balboa and sailed to San Diego.

June 28 to 30 Moored at Pier 3 destroyer base, San Diego.

July 1 Fueled at San Diego.

July 2 Left San Diego for San Francisco.

July 3 to 23 Arrived at San Francisco, Pier 3 Hunter's Point Navy Yard. Calibration and other navigational aids checked out.

July 24 Moored to Pier 43, San Francisco.

July 25 to 30 Left San Francisco for Pearl Harbor with Com Des Div 46 which included U.S.S. Schroeder, Fullam, Thatcher, Spence.

July 31 Arrived at Pearl Harbor.

Aug. 1 Moored at Pier K-1, Pearl Harbor.

Aug. 2 to 11 Moored at berth X-7 with U.S.S. Cascade. Fullam, Thatcher.

Aug. 12 to 16 Spence placed in dry dock at Pearl Harbor.

Aug. 17 to 24 Spence placed back in water and all systems tested.

Aug. 25 to 31 Left Pearl Harbor enroute to Baker Island with Task Force 11 which included the carriers Belleau Wood and Princeton.

Sep. 1 Supported troop landings on Baker Island.

Sep. 2 to 12 Steaming with Task Unit 11.2 off Baker Island supporting flight training operations with the carriers Belleau Wood, Princeton, and Bradford.

Sep. 13 Landed at Baker Island for men and material.

Sep. 14 to 15 Operating independently left Gardner Island for Esperito Santo at Efate in the New Hebrides Islands.

Sep. 16 to 17 Passed by Nukulailai Island on the 16th while enroute.

Sep. 18 Arrived at Havannah Harbor, berth 17 at Efate.

Sep. 19 to 23 Moored at Efate while making training runs in and out of the harbor.

Sep. 24 to 25 On patrol south of the Solomon Islands with Task Force 39.2

Sep. 26 Patrolling near Vella Lavella Island in the middle of the Solomon Islands and fired on enemy planes.

Sep. 27 Moored at Tulagi Harbor on Florida Island and then left.

Sep. 28 Spence set a surface craft on fire with her main batteries near Kolombangara Island and was patrolling between that island and Vella Lavella with U.S.S. Ausburne, Claxton, Dyson and Foote.

Sep. 29 Patrolling near Vella Lavella and then fueled and moored at Port Purvis on Florida Island.

Sep. 30 Operating near the western tip of Rendova Island and shot at an enemy submarine and planes.

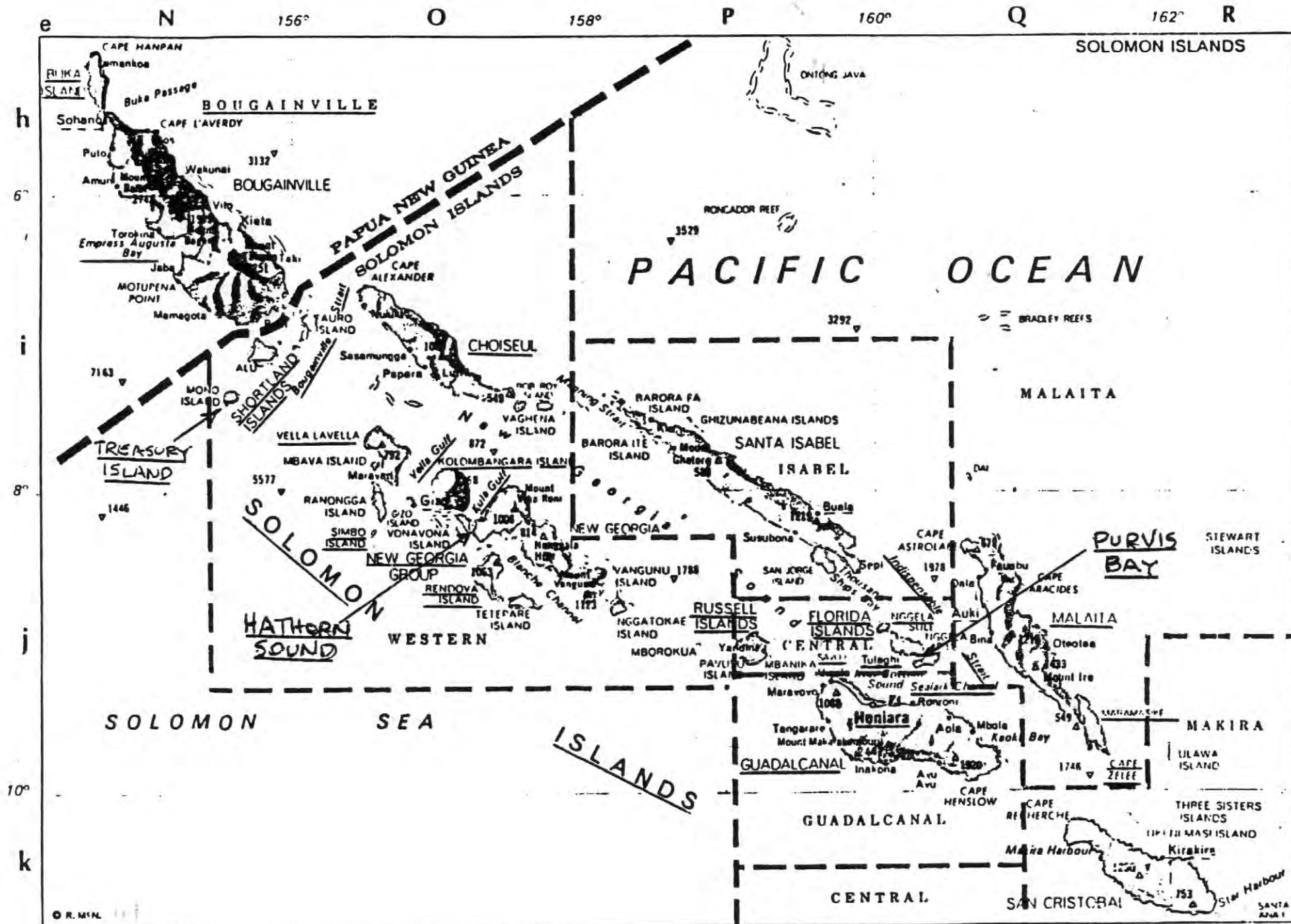
Oct. 1 to 3 Spence was with a force off Vella Lavella Island to intercept Japanese shipping and helped to destroy 20 Japanese barges in night action on October 1 and 2. Also shot at enemy planes before returning to Tulagi.

Oct. 4 to 6 Moored at Esperito Santo in the New Hebrides.

Oct. 7 to 8 Left Esperito Santo for Tulagi for escort duty between Tulagi and Purvis Bay.

Oct. 9 to 12 Anchored at Port Purvis.

Oct. 13 to 14 Left Purvis Bay to help in landings on Vella Lavella Island.



NAVAL ACTION IN "THE SLOT" SEPT '43 TILL MARCH '44

UNDERLINED NAMES APPEAR IN WAR DIARY OF U.S.S. SPENCE

1943

- Oct. 15 Patrolling near Russell Island northwest of Quadacanal then back to Purvis Bay.
- Oct. 16 Anchored at Purvis Bay.
- Oct. 17 Left Purvis Bay for Tulagi.
- Oct. 18 Moored at Tulagi but then left to patrol near Quadacanal.
- Oct. 19 to 20 Patrolling near Quadacanal off Lunga-Koli Point.
- Oct. 21 to 22 Escorting Task Force 35.1 from Quadacanal to Esperito Santo.
- Oct. 23 Arrived at Esperito Santo. Captain Arleigh Burke assumed command of DesRon 23, and the squadron became known as the "Little Beavers" because of their constant involvement in the battle for the Solomon Islands.
- Oct. 24 Left Esperito Santo to patrol off Bogaccio Island.
- Oct. 25 Left Esperito Santo to go to Tulagi and patrolling off Quadacanal at Taiuu Point.
- Oct, 26 Moored at Purvis Bay then left to patrol off Russell, Gatukai, and Rendova Islands.
- Oct. 27 Covered landing operations at Treasury Island then back to Purvis Bay.
- Oct. 28 to 30 Moored at Purvis Bay.
- Oct. 31 Left Purvis Bay to patrol near Treasury Island.
- Nov. 1 Bombardment of Buka and Bonis airfields and in the Shortland Islands in support of the landings at Cape Torokina on Bougainville Island.
- Nov. 2 Involved with the Empress Augusta Bay battle. In the early hours of Nov. 2, Task Force 39 intercepted an enemy force of two heavy and two light cruisers with six destroyers steaming toward Empress Augusta Bay to destroy the invading force at Cape Torokina. At 0231, Spence made radar contact at 16 miles. While closing the target, the Spence received a hit below the water line but continued in action. The Spence fired a spread of torpedoes at a ship 3,000 yards away and was rewarded with black smoke pouring from the target. As Spence retired to rendezvous with DesDev 45, she spotted another Japanese force 4,000 yards. She opened fire, was "on target", and watch one ship stop dead in the water and burn fiercely. Since Spence was low on ammunition, she called upon DesDiv 45 to pour shells into the ill-fated destroyer Hatsukaze which sank stern first. The Japanese light cruiser Sendai was also sunk in the engagement. When daybreak came, so did between 70 and 80 enemy aircraft and the task force downed over 20 of them in the action. During the night action, the Spence had a glancing collision with the U.S.S. Thatcher but continued with the battle.
- Nov. 3 Arrived at Port Purvis for repairs for the shell and collision damage.
- Nov. 4 Moored at Port Purvis for ammunition and Tulagi for fuel. Then sailed with U.S.S. Nashville for Kula Gulf.
- Nov. 5 Screening near Treasury Island. In the afternoon, the Spence was operating northwest of the island when she was attacked by enemy aircraft. One plane dropped three bombs, but the closest fell 75 yards off Spence's starboard beam.
- Nov. 6 Patrolling off Hathorn Sound on North Coast of New Georgia Island and in the Kula Gulf.
- Nov. 7 Moored at Hathorn Sound but left quickly to cover landings at Empress Augusta Bay.

1943

- Nov. 8 Returned to Port Purvis for fuel and ammunition. Big storm lashed the area.
- Nov. 9 Left Port Purvis for screening operations. Stopped to pick up a raft of Japanese survivors but they committed suicide with pistols rather than surrendering.
- Nov. 10 to 11 Screening near Empress Augusta Bay with enemy air attacks. Shot down a Japanese plane.
- Nov. 12 Enroute to Purvis Bay on patrol while screening for the LST's returning to Purvis Bay.
- Nov. 13 Arrived at Purvis Bay.
- Nov. 14 to 19 Seven-day overhaul at Purvis Bay.
- Nov. 20 to 21 Test runs out of Purvis Bay.
- Nov. 22 Left Purvis Bay for area near Treasury Island.
- Nov. 23 Patrolling off Cape Torokina, Bougainville and in Kula Gulf.
- Nov. 24 Heading back to Hathorn Bay for fuel. Ordered on patrol.
- Nov. 25 While fueling, the squadron was ordered northwest of Buka Island to intercept Japanese shipping which American intelligence had learned would attempt to evacuate aviation personnel from the Buka-Bonis airfields. Early that morning the "Little Beavers" were patrolling the Buka-Rabaul route. At 0142, in St. George Channel, Spence made surface radar contacts at 22,000 yards. The range closed rapidly; and at 0156, DesDiv 45 fired torpedoes at two Japanese ships and scored several hits. Several minutes later, American radar picked up a second group of three enemy ships. Spence and Converse were ordered to finish off the first group while DesDiv 45 bombarded the second group. In the first group, Onami exploded and sank immediately while Makinami was battered into a helpless cripple. Spence and Converse opened up on her with their main batteries and she sank at 0253. In the second group, DesDiv 45 sank Yugari. Three of the five Japanese destroyers had been sunk with no damage to DesRon 23. The squadron appropriately returned to Purvis Bay which happened to be Thanksgiving Day as well. Arrived at 2200 so Thanksgiving meal was served a day late.
- Nov. 26 to 30 Moored at Purvis Bay Berth 20.
- Dec. 1 to 6 Still moored at Purvis Bay.
- Dec. 7 Left Purvis Bay for screening operations past Russell, Gutakai, and Rendova Islands.
- Dec. 8 Spence developed a bearing problem in their drive and had to return to Hathorn Bay for repairs.
- Dec. 9 Must return to Port Purvis for complete repair.
- Dec. 10 to 25 At Port Purvis getting shaft bearing replaced.
- Dec. 26 Left Port Purvis for patrolling and test runs.
- Dec. 27 Returned to Purvis Bay after test runs.
- Dec. 28 Left for Tulagi where anchored.
- Dec. 29 Anchored again at Purvis Bay.
- Dec. 30 Left Purvis Bay for patrol off Rua Sura Island, Cape Zelee and Maramsike Passage.
- Dec. 31 Patrolling and screening for U.S.S. Bunker Hill and U.S.S. Monterey.

1944

Jan. 1 to 2 Task Force 37 was northeast of Choisuel Island. Escorted U.S.S. Patuxent back to Esperito Santo.

Jan 3 Left for rendezvous west of Choisuel Island with Task Unit 35.7.

Jan. 4 Escorted U.S.S. Saranac to rendezvous point.

Jan. 5 Rendezvous cancelled. Told to return to Purvis Bay.

Jan. 6 Arrived at Purvis Bay with U.S.S. Saranac.

Jan. 7 to 8 Anti-submarine patrol off Kukum Beach.

Jan. 9 to 10 Escorted U.S.S. Saranac to Purvis Bay and then to Esperito Santo.

Jan. 11 Arrived at Esperito Santo. U.S.S. Spence reassigned to Task Force 39.

Jan. 12 Training exercises southwest of Malakula Island all day and evening with simulated attacks.

Jan. 13 More exercises then arrived at Havannah Harbor at Efate.

Jan. 14 to 15 Training exercises west of Malakula Island then through Malo Strait.

Jan. 16 Moored at Esperito Santo.

Jan. 17 Conducted training exercises with Task Group 39.1.

Jan. 18 More training southwest of Malekula Island and then returned to Esperito Santo.

Jan. 19 Anti-submarine training exercises then return to Esperito Santo.

Jan. 20 Anchored at Esperito Santo.

Jan. 21 to 22 More training passing through Malo Strait.

Jan. 23 Drone exercises off Efate then returned to Esperito Santo.

Jan. 24 to 25 Anchored at Esperito Santo.

Jan. 26 Anti-aircraft practice west of Malekula Island. Returned to Esperito Santo.

Jan. 27 to 28 Task Forces 38 and 39 conducted tactical exercises.

Jan. 29 Entered Purvis Bay.

Jan. 30 to 31 Submarine search on Buka-Rabaul line south of New Georgia Island.

Feb. 1 Anti-shipping and anti-sub sweeps near Green Island and then to Treasury Island.

Feb. 2 Sweeps continued through Bougainville Strait and northwest of Choisuel Island.

Feb. 3 Anchored at Hathorn Sound.

Feb. 4 Anti-submarine search along Buka-Rabaul line.

Feb. 5 Bombardment of Hakela Plantation on Southeast coast of Buka Island of Japanese supply and bivouac areas.

Feb. 6 Patrol around Green Island and destroyed a large barge.

Feb. 7 to 8 Moored in Hathorn Sound.

Feb. 9 to 10 Left for east central coast of Bougainville. Barge hunt in Bougainville Strait. Fired on Tiaraka and Teopa Sino.

Feb. 11 Returned to Purvis Bay past Russell Island.

Feb. 12 Moored at Purvis Bay.

Feb. 13 Left Purvis Bay to conduct operation northeast of Buka Island through Sealark Channel.

Feb. 14 to 16 Operated in area northeast of Buka Island. No contacts made but expected Japanese to send help to Green Island.

Feb. 17 Search for Japanese shipping north of New Hanover.

1944

Feb. 18 Involved in first bombardment of Kavieng and Cape St. George, New Ireland Islands. Search for enemy ships off Cape St. George without luck.

Feb. 19 Refueled at Hathorn Sound and then on to Purvis Bay.

Feb. 20 to 21 Left Purvis Bay to sweep north of New Hanover through Indispensable Strait.

Feb. 22 Conducted sweep north and west of New Ireland. Encountering no ships they returned to Kavieng and shelled it again for the second time. Spence and DesDiv 45 sank a Japanese merchantman of about 5,000 tons with shell fire.

Feb. 23 Picked up U.S. plane survivors off Cape St. George enroute to Purvis Bay.

Feb. 24 Arrived at Purvis Bay.

Feb. 25 Anchored at Purvis Bay.

Feb. 26 Left Purvis Bay to escort convoy to entrance to Reynold's Sound, Russell Island. Then moored at Sunlight Channel.

Feb. 27 Left Sunlight Channel for screening off Green Island.

Feb. 28 Rendezvous at Simbo Island.

Feb. 29 Assembled task force completed with one tug, eleven LST's , and additional destroyers.

[Des Squad 23, the "little Beaver" group under the command of Capt. A.A. Burke was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its action in the Solomon Islands from Nov. 1 1943 to Feb. 23, 1944. The squadron was composed of the U.S.S. Ausburne, Stanly, Claxton, Dyson, Converse, and the Spence which was under the command of Cdr. H.J. Armstrong.]

Mar. 1 Escorted landing troops to Wisson Island Lagoon on Green Island.

Mar. 2 to 3 Escorted LST's back to Lunga Point, Quada canal then on to Purvis Bay.

Mar. 4 Moored at Purvis Bay.

Mar. 5 Left Purvis Bay and crossed north of Nggela Group through Indispensable Strait and passed Cape Astrolable.

Mar. 6 Operated with Task Force 39 northeast of Bougainville past Greenwich Island.

Mar. 7 to 10 Operated with Task Force 39 north of Bismark Archipelago. No contacts made along the Truk-Kavieng supply route.

Mar. 11 Arrived at Purvis Bay.

Mar. 12 to 14 Moored at Purvis Bay.

Mar. 15 Training exercise through Sealark Channel by bombing Roa Sura Island and then returned to Purvis Bay.

Mar. 16 Moored at Purvis Bay.

Mar. 17 to 21 Passed north of Nggela Group through Indispensable Strait to cover the occupation of Emirau Island north of New Hanover Island.

Mar. 22 Fueling rendezvous east of Buka Island then returned to Purvis Bay.

Mar. 23 Arrived at Purvis Bay.

Mar. 24 Spence assigned from the South Pacific Force to the Central Force and was to rendezvous northeast of Bougainville Island

1944

Mar. 25 Enroute to rendezvous point, Task Group 36.2 included the following: Yorktown, San Juan, Baltimore, Boston, Langley, Princeton, Canberra, Maury, Gridley, Ausburne, McCall, Dyson, Case, Stanly, Craven, Thatcher, and Spence.

Mar. 26 Refueled at sea and left to meet Task Force 57 north of Bougainville.

Mar. 27 Renamed Task Force 58.3 to include the Lexington, North Carolina, South Dakota, Alabama, Massachusetts, Louisville, Indianapolis, and DesDiv 28.

Mar. 28 to 31 Task Force 58 bombed and shelled the bases at Palau, Yap and Ulithi. Some aircraft shot down.

Apr. 1 Air strikes against Woleai Island.

Apr. 2 Fleet refueled at sea.

Apr. 3 to 5 Enroute to Majuro Atoll while screening for Task Group 58.3.

Apr. 6 to 12 Docked at Majuro Atoll.

Apr. 13 Left Majuro for north coast of New Guinea at Humbolt Bay.

Apr. 14 During training exercises on the way, seaman from U.S.S. Enterprise fell overboard but Spence found him.

Apr. 15 to 17 Cruising toward Humboldt Bay with training exercises.

Apr. 18 Cruising 90 miles north of Emirau Island.

Apr. 19 Completed fueling at sea and had a mail call. Some planes spotted.

Apr. 20 Preparations being made for strike on New Guinea.

Apr. 21 Air strikes made on New Guinea with task force 60 miles north of Humboldt Bay.

Apr. 22 Air strikes continuing with the Spence 50 miles north of Humboldt Bay.

Apr. 23 to 24 Air strikes continued but then Spence left for Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands, for an overhaul.

Apr. 25 Contacted Manus Island then entrance to Seeadler Harbor.

Apr. 26 to 28 Anchored at Seeadler Harbor.

Apr. 29 Left Seeadler Harbor to rendezvous 100 miles northeast of Manus Island.

Apr. 30 Joined in bombardment of Truk-Nonnoi area.

May 1 Screening operation during bombing of Ponape.

May 2 to 3 Enroute to Majuro.

May 4 to 5 Arrived and moored at Majuro.

May 6 to 8 Screening outside of Majuro for incoming ships.

May 9 Entered floating dry dock at Majuro.

May 10 to 22 Spence overhauled.

May 23 to 29 Training exercises in and out of Majuro.

May 30 Moored at Majuro.

May 31 Training exercises.

Jun. 1 More training exercises.

Jun. 2 to 5 Moored at Majuro.

Jun. 6 to 8 More training exercises.

Jun. 9 to 11 Left Majuro and enroute to Mariana Islands for raid.

Jun. 12 Involved in air attack on Saipan and Tinian as well as a bombardment of the Islands.

Jun. 13 Task Force operating northwest of Saipan as more air strikes were carried out.

Jun. 14 Refueled at sea.

Jun. 15 to 16 Screened for air raids on Iwo Jima and Pagan in Bonin Is. and then returned to bombard the Mariana Islands.

June 17 Refueled while underway.

1944

Jun. 18 Task Force 58 cruising west to meet Japanese fleet. Picked up U.S. plane survivors.

Jun. 19 Japanese planes approaching Task Force. Spence participated in the "Marianas Turkey Shoot" during which hundreds of Japanese planes were shot down. This was the last offensive action by the Japanese in World War 2 in central Pacific.

Jun. 20 Task Force refueled at sea.

Jun. 21 Steaming west in pursuit of fleeing Japanese Navy.

Jun. 22 While other groups did make contact with the enemy, the group in which Spence was involved ended the pursuit and headed north.

Jun. 23 Operated near Guam, Tinian, and Saipan to support the invading U.S. forces.

Jun. 24 Refueled and carriers bombed Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Jun. 25 Continued to steam in area in screening operations with the carriers.

Jun. 26 Steamed easterly with the Spence carrying mail and pilots to the carriers.

Jun. 27 Conducted anti-shipping sweeps in the Guam and Rota areas. Spence bombarded Orte field, Guam and sugar mills on Rota setting fuel tanks afire and sinking two sampans.

Jun. 28 to 29 Refueled and operated west of Saipan.

Jun. 30 Bombarded anti-aircraft guns at Agana and Orte field, Guam.

Jul. 1 to 2 Operated off Guam and Rota.

Jul. 3 Refueled and screened for the carriers.

Jul. 4 Left area and headed to Eniwetok.

Jul. 5 Conducted gunnery exercises on way to Eniwetok.

Jul. 6 Arrived at Eniwetok and moored at berth 531. Lt.Com. Andrea came aboard to become the new captain of the Spence.

Jul. 7 New Captain inspected ship with new ammunition placed on board and ship refueled.

Jul. 8 Change of command ceremony held with Com. Armstrong leaving the Spence at 1810.

Jul. 9 Moored as before.

Jul. 10 Inspection of living spaces by new captain. Keel damage repaired.

Jul. 11 to 13 Moored as before at berth 522.

Jul. 14 Spence got underway with Task Force 58.3 and held anti-aircraft practice.

Jul. 15 to 17 Cruising toward Marianas to cover landings on Guam and on the 17th refueled at sea.

Jul. 18 to 20 Supported air strikes against Guam.

Jul. 21 Supported the landings on Guam.

Jul. 22 Refueled at sea.

Jul. 23 Carrier planes struck Guam and Tinian.

Jul. 24 Troops landed on Tinian. Fleet operating southeast of Guam. Spence distributed mail to fleet.

Jul. 25 to 28 Screening for aircraft carriers for air strikes against Tinian and Guam.

Jul. 29 Refueled at Saipan.

Jul. 30 Fleet departed for Eniwetok.

Jul. 31 -----

Aug. 1 Still cruising toward Eniwetok.

Aug. 2 Arrived at Eniwetok.

1944

Aug. 3 Moored at Eniwetok.
Aug. 4 Left for Pearl Harbor.
Aug. 5 to 9 Conducted gunnery practices on way to Pearl Harbor.
Aug. 10 Arrived at Pearl Harbor. Assigned to escort duty and left for San Francisco.
Aug. 11 to 17 Enroute to San Francisco. Picked up man who fell overboard.
Aug. 18 Arrived at San Francisco. Ammunition taken off ship. To be at Hunter's Point for 6-week overhaul. A portion of the Spence crew left on a 3-week leave.
Aug. 19 to 22 Moored at Hunter's Point.
Aug. 23 to Sep. 13 Spence in dry dock 4.
Sep. 14 to 22 Spence taken out of dry dock and moored at berth 4.
Sep. 23 Spence moored at berth 6.
Sep. 24 to 30 Spence held dock trials, took on ammunition, and docked at berth 8.
Oct. 1 to 4 Test runs made on guns and engines.
Oct. 5 Left for Pearl Harbor at 1910.
Oct. 6 to 9 Enroute to Pearl Harbor holding gunnery practice along the way.
Oct. 10 Arrived at Pearl Harbor and docked at berth D-2.
Oct. 11 to 12 Docked at Pearl Harbor.
Oct. 13 to 24 Training exercises in and out of Pearl Harbor including gunnery, torpedo, submarine, etc. practices.
Oct. 25 Left Pearl Harbor for Eniwetok.
Oct. 26 to 30 Enroute to Eniwetok.
Oct. 31 Arrived at Eniwetok.
* Nov. 1 Moored at Eniwetok and then left for Ulithi, Carolina Is.
Nov. 3 to 5 Enroute to Ulithi holding gunnery practices and other tests.
Nov. 6 Arrived at Ulithi.
Nov. 7 to 9 Moored at Ulithi docking at berth 329. Typhoon warning. Refueled and took on ammunition.
Nov. 10 Left Ulithi for Guam again carrying out test firings.
Nov. 11 Arrived at Guam. More gunnery and flight operations. Picked up U.S. pilot from sea with Task Force 38.5.
Nov. 12 Picked up another U.S. pilot during operations.
Nov. 13 On way to rendezvous with Task Force 38.1. Refueled but almost collided with the U.S.S. Wasp when steering rudder jammed left.
Nov. 14 Joined Task Force 38.1.
Nov. 15 Lost mail bag in transfer operation between ships. Could not be found.
Nov. 16 to 18 Steaming with Task Force 38.1 which included the carriers Wasp, Yorktown, Cowpens, and Intrepid. Refueled on the 16th and 18th.
Nov. 19 to 23 Operated just east of Luzon Island with Task Force. Fired on Japanese plane. Spence serving as communication link between Task Group 38.1 and Task Group 38.2. Serving as mail delivery between ships. Mail bag lost again during a transfer. Refueled on the 21st but still had steering control problems.
Nov. 24 Arrived at Ulithi and moored at berth 416.
Nov. 25 to 30 Moored at Ulithi.

1944

- ** Dec. 1 to 9 Possibly moored at Ulithi (Spence log not available)
- Dec. 10 to 16 Left Ulithi to support the Luzon air strikes that were requested to keep the Japanese air force from striking at ground troops landing in the Philippines. Weather was deteriorating as Typhoon Cobra approached.
- Dec. 17 Attempt to refuel the Spence had to be abandoned because of weather conditions when hoses broke off and the Spence nearly collided with the U.S.S. New Jersey with Admiral Halsey aboard. The near-collision prompted him to call off refueling operations until the next day.
- Dec. 18 Weather conditions worsened in the morning and the rolling motion prevented the Spence from taking on sea water for ballast. Around the noon hour the rudder once again jammed and left the Spence helpless to fight the gigantic waves and it capsized. Only the crew topside at the time had any opportunity to survive.

* The war diary of the U.S.S. Spence for November and December was not available in the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

** The deck log for the U.S.S. Spence was available for November but not for December. Location of the Spence for the first 8 days of December is not certain. The deck log of the U.S.S. Tyson was used to pin point the Spence location from the 9th to the 18th since it was in the same task group.

IN ADDITION TO THE U.S.S. SPENCE RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR ITS ACTION IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, THE SPENCE ALSO RECEIVED EIGHT BATTLE STARS FOR ITS WORLD WAR 2 NAVAL SERVICE IN THE PACIFIC.

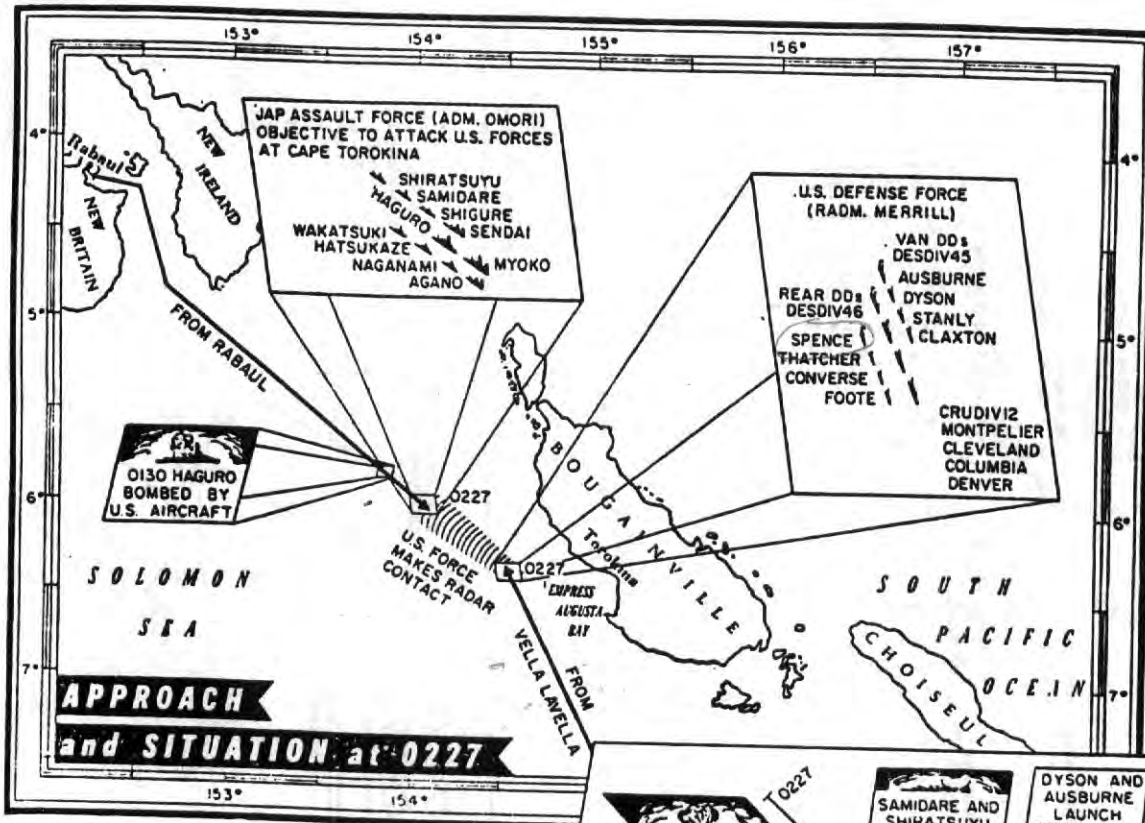
Reading suggestions:

Jones, Ken. Destroyer Squadron 23; Combat Exploits of Arleigh Burke's Gallant Force. Philadelphia: Chilton, 1959.
(Narrative history of the "Little Beaver" Squadron.)

Adamson, Hans and Kosco, George. Halsey's Typhoons. New York, Crown Publishing Co. 1967.

Fahey, James J. Pacific War Dairy 1942-1945. Houghton-Mifflin 1967.
(A detailed description of daily life of a sailor in the Pacific War.)

Spector, Ronald. Eagle Against the Sun. The American War With Japan. New York Free Press. 1986.

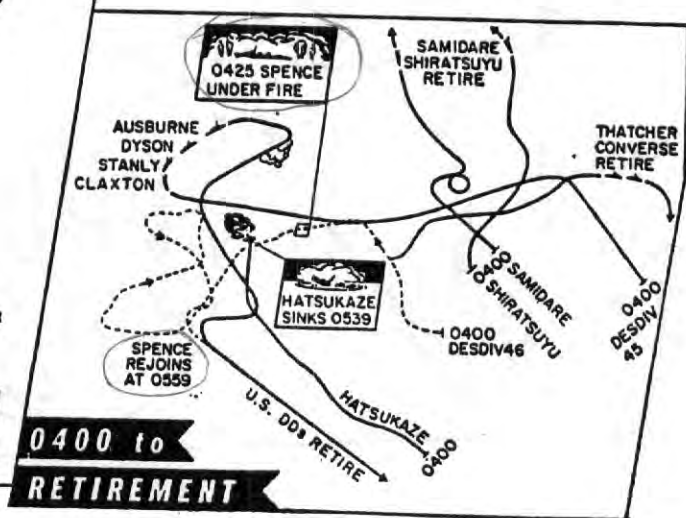
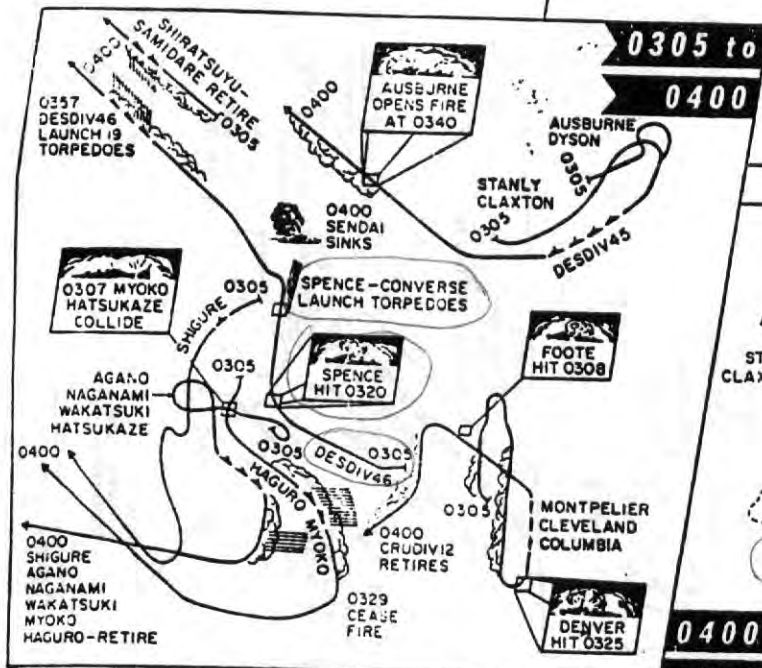
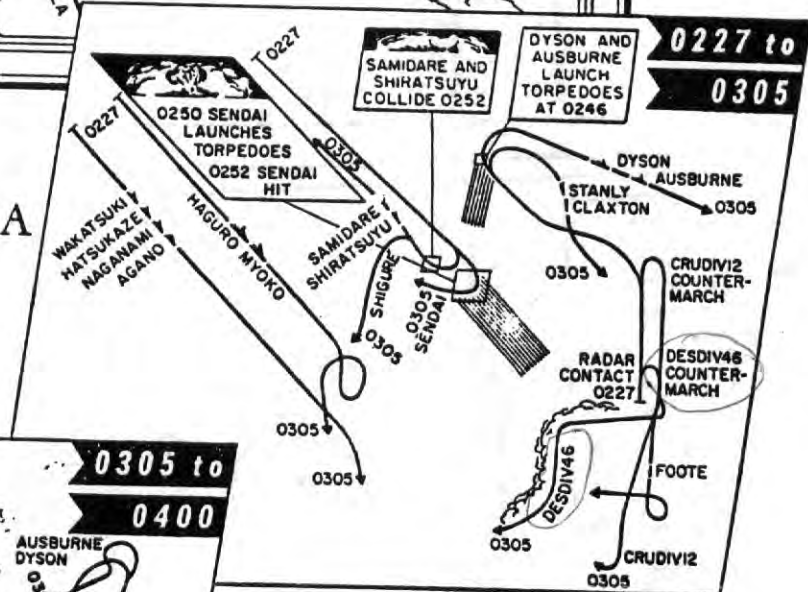


SCORE

JAPANESE LOSSES

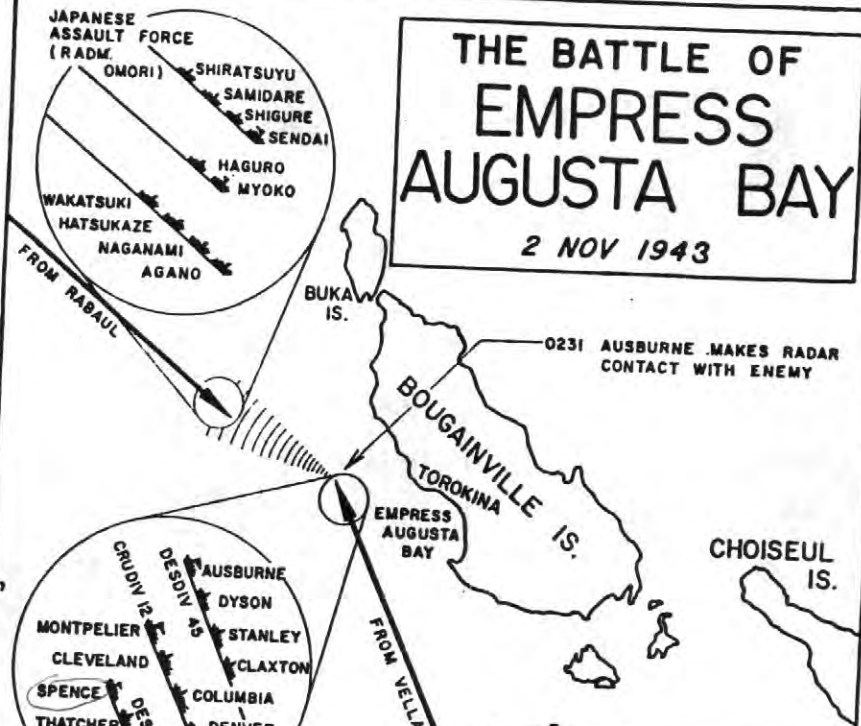
- 1 CRUISER
Sunk
- 1 DESTROYER
Sunk
- 2 CRUISERS
Damaged
- 1 DESTROYER
Damaged
- UNITED STATES LOSSES
- 2 CRUISERS
Damaged
- 1 DESTROYER
Damaged

THE BATTLE OF
EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY
NIGHT OF 2 NOV. 1942

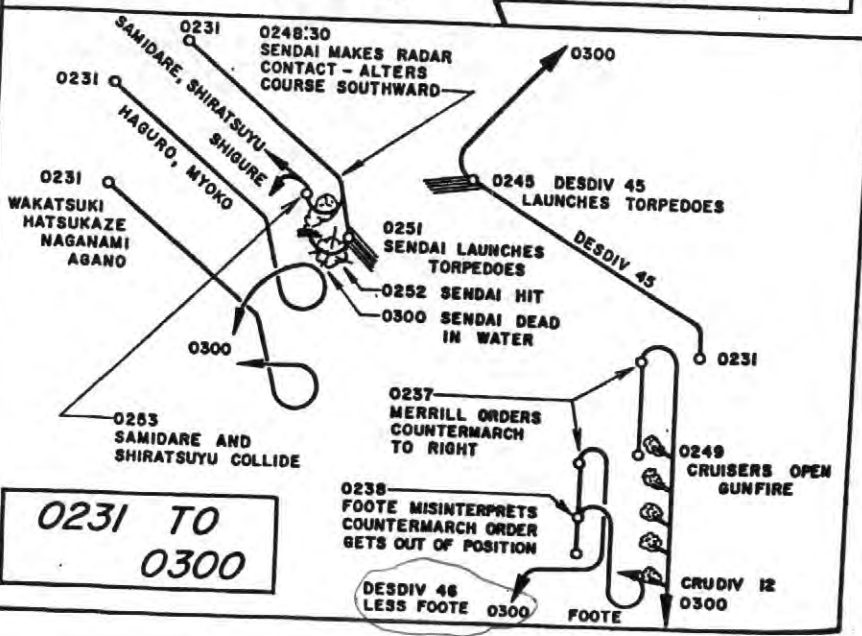


THE BATTLE OF EMPRESS AUGUSTA BAY

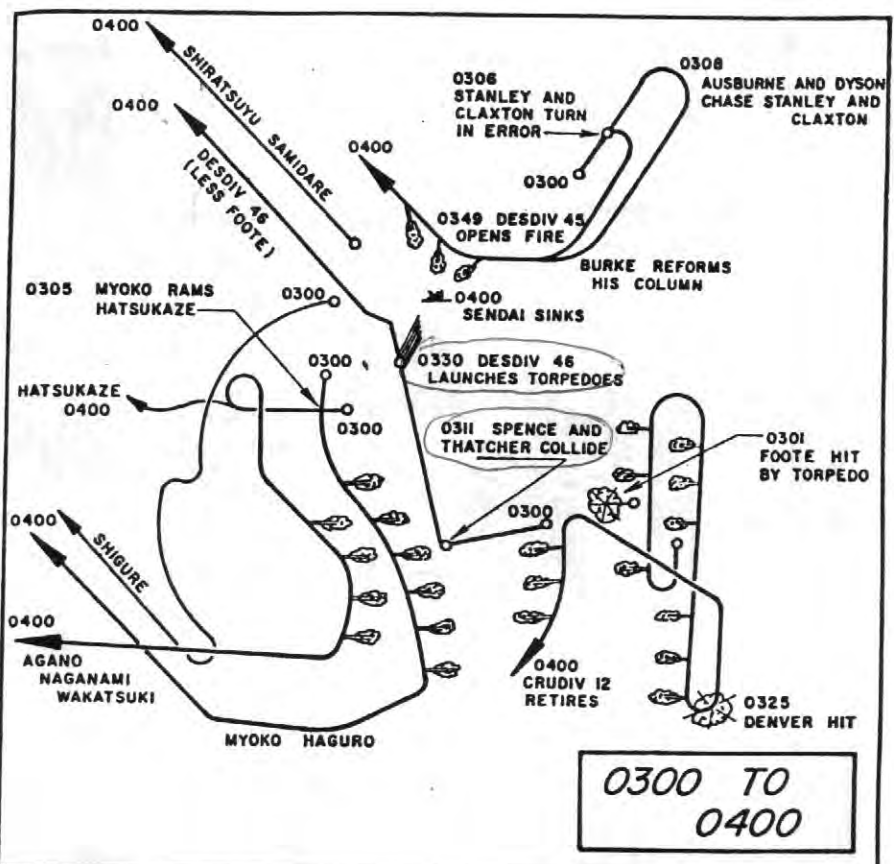
2 NOV 1943



APPROACH AND POSITION AT 0231

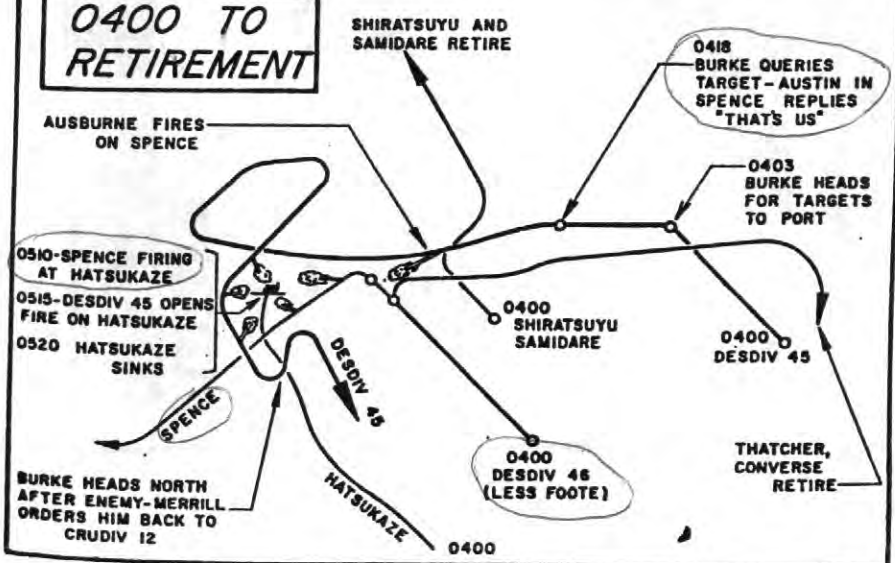


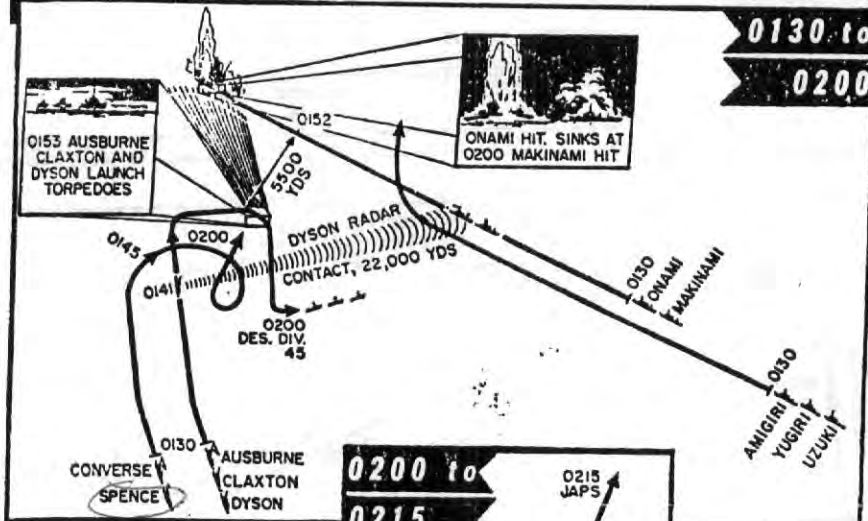
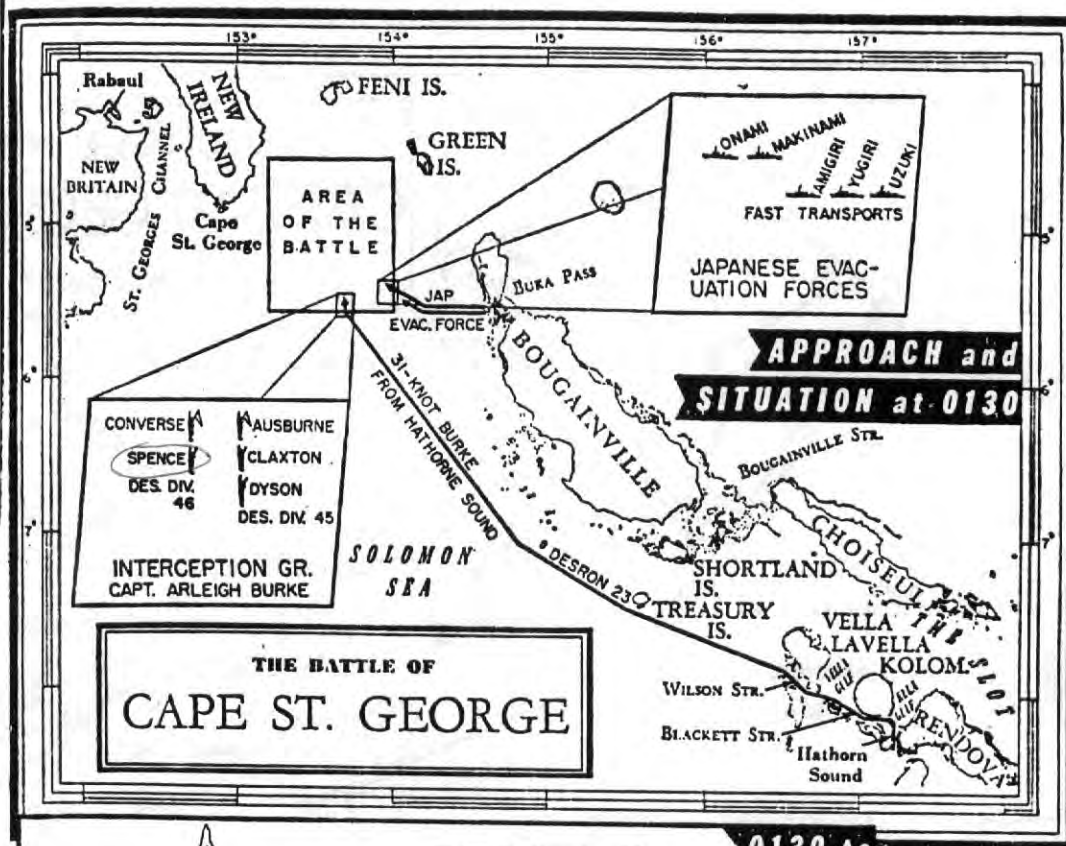
0231 TO 0300



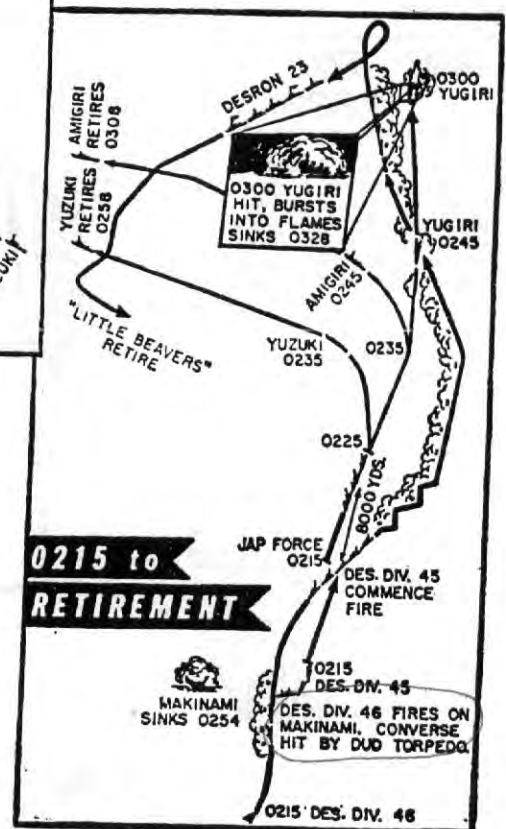
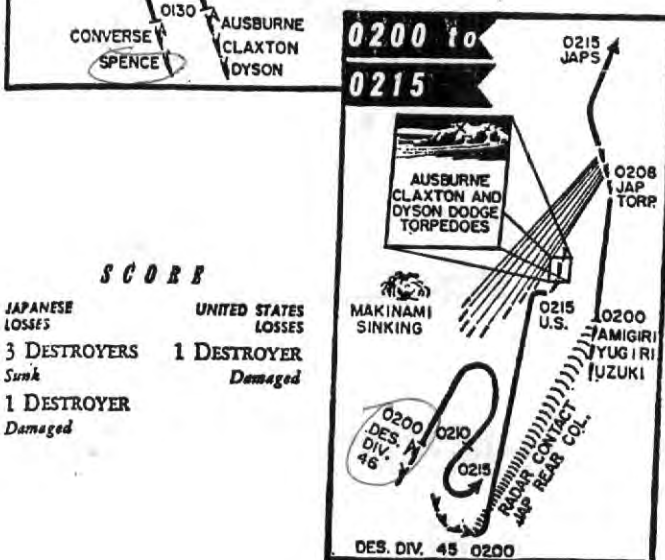
0300 TO 0400

0400 TO RETIREMENT





NIGHT OF 25 NOV. 1943



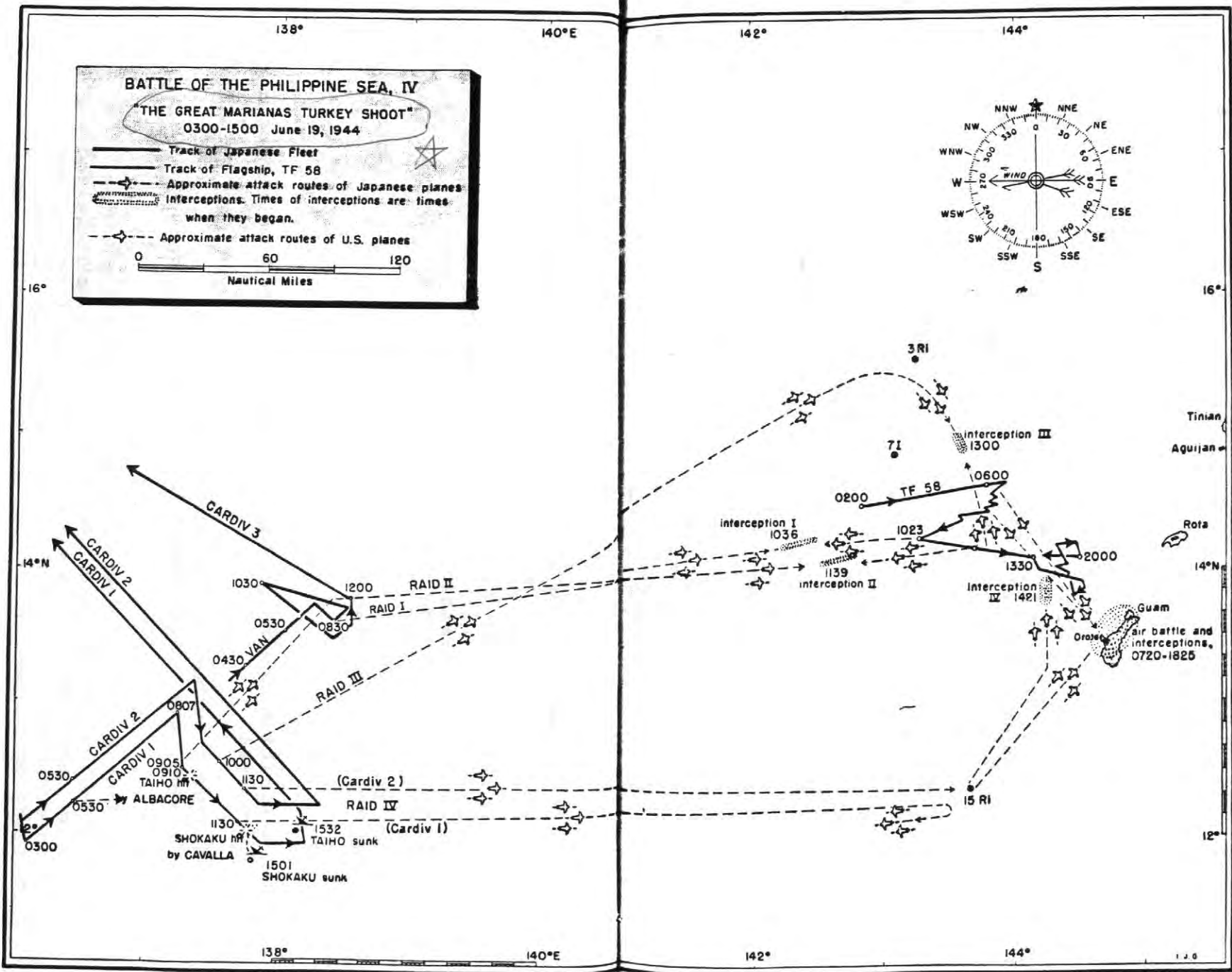
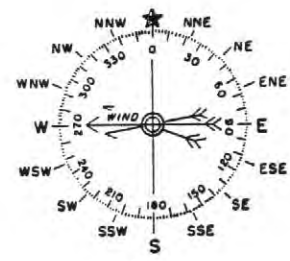
SCORE

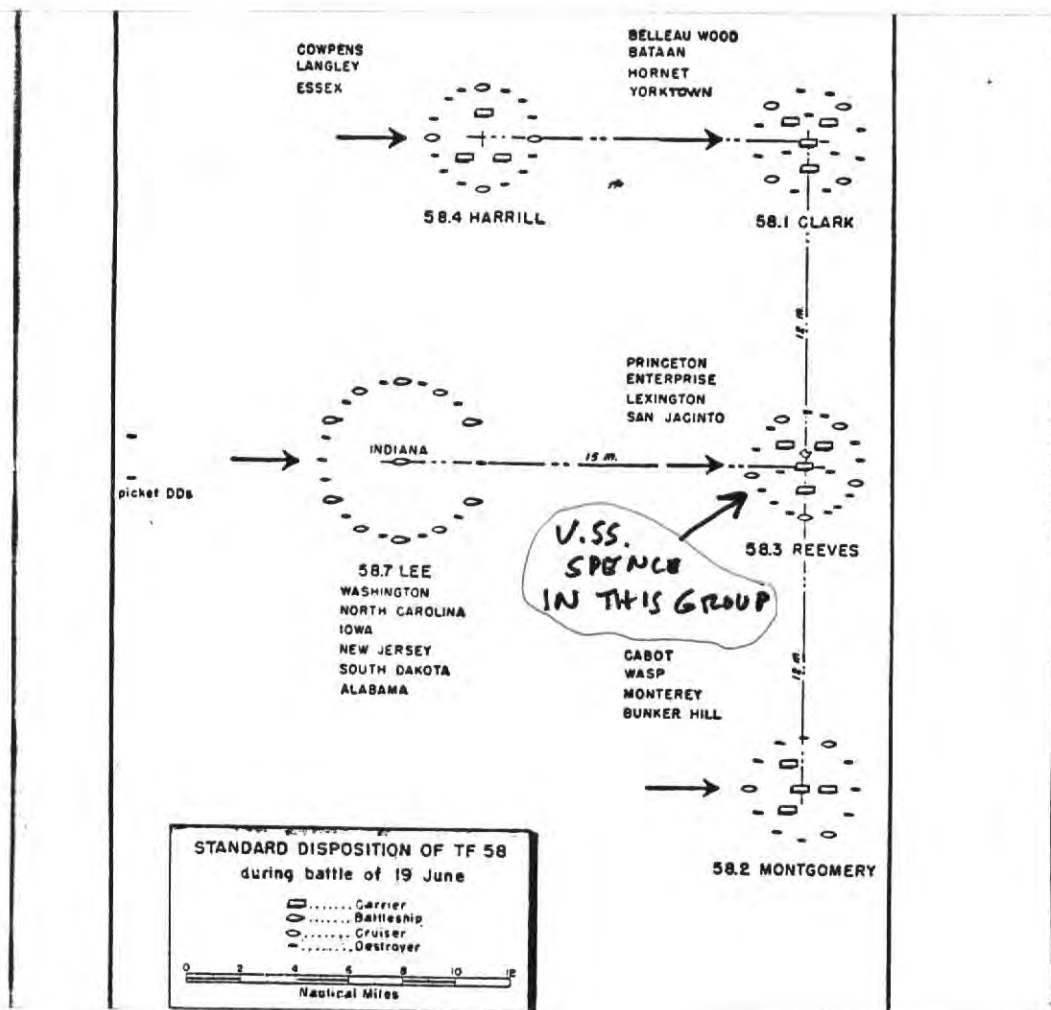
JAPANESE LOSSES	UNITED STATES LOSSES
3 DESTROYERS Sunk	1 DESTROYER Damaged
1 DESTROYER Damaged	

BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA, IV
THE GREAT MARIANAS TURKEY SHOOT*
 0300-1500 June 19, 1944

——— Track of Japanese Fleet
 ——— Track of Flagship, TF 58
 - - - - - Approximate attack routes of Japanese planes
 - - - - - Interceptions. Times of interceptions are times when they began.
 - - - - - Approximate attack routes of U.S. planes

0 60 120
 Nautical Miles





List of books relating to the exploits of
U.S.S. SPENCE DD 512

Books describing their naval action in the Solomon Islands where many of their battle stars were earned while a member of the "Little Beaver" squadron, DESRON 23.

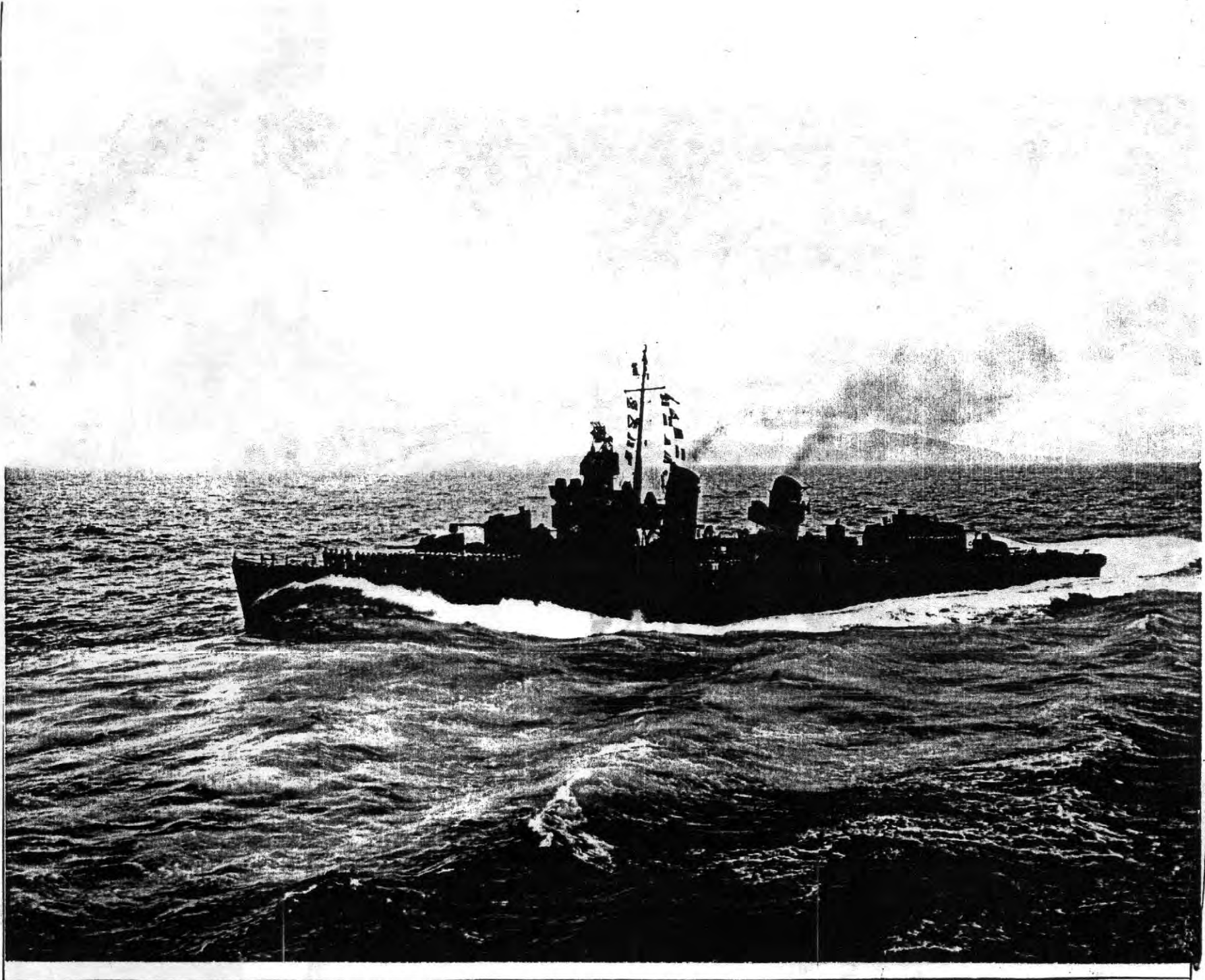
"Destroyer Squadron 23" by Ken Jones
"Night Work" by Fletcher Pratt

Books describing the plight of the Spence in Typhoon Cobra in December, 1944.

"Halsey's Typhoons" by Adamson and Kosko
"Typhoon, the Other Enemy" by C. Raymond Calhoun

An excellent book that describes the everyday hardships experienced by the enlisted man during the Solomon Island action as seen through the eyes of a petty officer rather than an officer. Mr. Fahey maintained a diary (though not permitted) while serving on the cruiser, Montpelier, which served with the Spence in the Solomon action.

"Pacific War Dairy" by James J. Fahey



NOTES:

U.S.S. SPENCE MARCH 1944
ASSIGNED TO CENTRAL PACIFIC FORCE

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH
NOT TO BE RELEASED
FOR PUBLICATION
NAVY YARD MARE ISLAND, CALIF.

RESTRICTED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



5303-43
STERN VIEW. ALTERATION
PHOTOS No. 5307-43 TO
HUNTERS POINT, CAL.
10349
JULY 24, 1943