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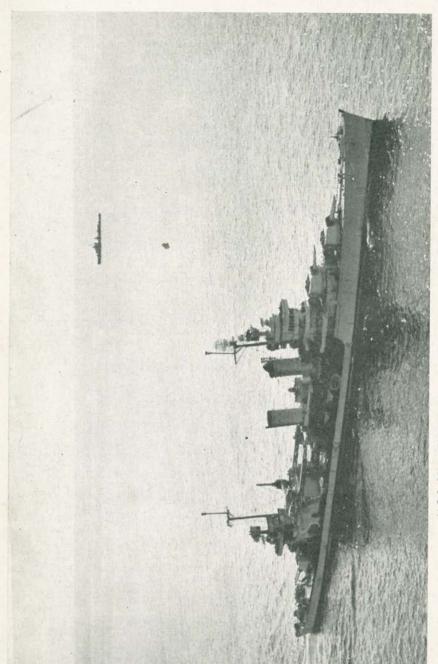
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THE "MINNIE"

OR

THE WAR CRUISE of the U.S.S. MINNEAPOLIS

By
A. T. LUEY and H. P. BRUVOLD



U.S.S. MINNEAPOLIS — CA-36 — DISGUISED AS A DESTROYER

Dedication

THIS BOOK is dedicated to the brave men who lost their lives while serving on board the U.S.S. Minneapolis. Their supreme sacrifice in no small measure contributed to keeping the ship afloat and fighting, and her crew safe to accomplish their part in final victory with which this book deals.

The "Minnie"

or

The War Cruise of the

U. S. S. Minneapolis



by

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PREFACE

When the war ended and good old Uncle Sam saw fit to return us to civilian life by way of the "Magic Carpet," we rejoiced. But it was with certain misgivings that we were leaving the ship which had seen us safely across the Pacific from every point of the compass and at times against terrific odds.

So we should not soon forget the adventure she had provided, we immediately began gathering material to use in telling the story of the wartime cruise of the U.S.S. MINNE-APOLIS. This story was written on the way back to San Francisco (changed enroute to Portland) aboard the U.S.S. CARTERET. There are undoubtedly discrepancies and omissions. But to those who have served aboard the MINNIE it should serve as a guide to remember incidents and details peculiar to your own life on board, and to the casual reader it should picture the shipboard life and accomplishments of a heavy cruiser during the war in the Pacific.

We are grateful to all who assisted in gathering and making material available to us. We especially wish to thank Lt. Cmdr. E. W. Dobie, Jr., and Chiefs Wheeler, Fristad and Wilson who reconstructed the first four months of the war for us in absence of the ship's log. Finally, and most definitely, thanks to our wives for trying to straighten out this jumbled report and helping to make it comprehensible.

A. T. LUEY H. P. BRUVOLD

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PROLOGUE

The MINNIE was built in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, launched in September, 1933, and commissioned in May, 1934. She is slightly over 580 feet long and is 60 feet wide at the beam. Originally built as a ten thousand ton cruiser, she has taken on weight over the years and is now up to her full load displacement of over thirteen thousand tons. She is designed for and will do a little under 32 knots at this time of writing. At this top speed her cruising range is nearly 2,000 miles, while at her economical speed of 11 knots she will go one-third the distance around the world. Her turbins develop 107,000 horsepower.

At present the MINNIE carries only two motor whale boats, whereas in prewar days she accommodated several motor boats and motor launches on her boat deck. During the war she handled conveniently four of the old type Curtis scout observation biplanes, commonly known as "Socks." Now, she has only one catapult and has aboard but two of the new all-metal monoplanes referred to as "Sea Scouts." Her superstructure has been altered considerably during the war chiefly to accommodate automatic weapons and to provide for war-time ship handling. She was originally designed to accommodate 700 enlisted men and 60 officers but during the war this was increased to 1160 men and 90 officers.

There are three sister ships left, the New Orleans, San Francisco, and Tuscaloosa. The New Orleans had her bow blown off in the battle of Tassafaronga a few seconds after the MINNIE lost hers. The San Francisco was heavily damaged on August 13, 1942, while engaged in a duel with a Jap battlewagon.

DATA ON SISTER SHIPS OF THE U.S.S. MINNEAPOLIS

Name	Numbe	r Commissioned	Builder
*Astoria	CA34	12 April '34	Puget Sound NY
New Orleans	CA32	15 Sept. '34	
San Francisco	CA38	10 Feb. '34	Mare Island NY
Tuscaloosa	CA37	17 Aug. '34	N.Y. Shipbuild'g Co.
*Quincy	CA39	9 June '36	Bethlehem; Quincy
*Vincennes	CA44	24 Feb. '37	Bethlehem; Quincy

^{*} Sunk with the Australian cruiser Canberra on 9 August 1942 off Guadalcanal in the action known as the "Battle of Savo Island."

The MINNIE is truly a veteran. Only a very few other fighting ships in Uncle Sam's navy have more battle stars than

the Minneapolis. During one twenty-month cruise in the Pacific she covered a distance equivalent to nearly seven times around the world. She was in port only eight days during this period which netted each crewman 48 hours of leave. The Minneapolis has served with the Third, Fifth and Seventh Fleets and in all types of operations. Many times the crew could not help but believe that the old ship was classed as expendable, as whenever there was a job to do, the MINNIE seemed to be assigned to help do it. Censorship kept her name out of the hometown papers because she was always in action. It has been said the ships that get the publicity are the ones that get sunk, but the Nips couldn't sink the MINNIE although they tried time after time.

RIBBONS AND STARS

For service on the *Minneapolis*, her men have earned the following ribbons:

American Defense Ribbon
 Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon
 Philippine Liberation Ribbon
 Poet
 1939 to 7 Dec. 1941
 Dec. 1945
 Philippine Liberation Ribbon
 Oct. 1944 to 3 Mar. 1945

Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon are accredited for service on board during the following events or dates:

1. 20 Feb. 1942 Bougainvi	11e
4-8 May 1947 Coral Soa	
3. 3-6 June 1942Midway	
4. 7-9 Aug. 1942 Guadalcan	al al
5. 10 Aug. 1942 Guadalcan	al
6. 23-25 Aug. 1942 Fastern Sc	lomons
7. 30 Nov. 1942 Tassafaror	nga
8. 5 Oct. 1943 Wake Islands Wak	nd
	ands
10. 29 Jan. 8 Feb. 1944 Marshall I	
11. 16 Feb. 1944Truk	
12. 11 June 15 Aug. 1944Saipan-Gua	am
13. 21 April 1 June 1944Western N	lew Guinea—
Holland 14. 6 Sept. 4 Oct. 1944 — Western C	Carolines—Palau
15. 10 Oct. 16 Dec. 1944Leyte	
16. 6 Jan. 14 Feb. 1945Luzon—L	ingayen Gulf
17. 25 Mar. 12 April 1945Okinawa	9

The Philippine Liberation Ribbon is awarded as follows:

- a. If on board from 17 to 20 Oct. 1944.
- b. If participant in any engagement during campaign.
- c. If on board for thirty days from 17 Oct. 1944 to 3 March 1945 while ship was in Pacific waters.
- Any two of the above entitles man to bronze star on ribbon.
- 2. All three entitles man to two stars and ribbon.

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE

1941

Operating in Pearl Harbor Area Dec. 7 through 16 Relief of Wake Island Dec. 16 through 29

1942

Patrol from Johnson Island to 180° Meridian Submarine "Field Day" entering Pearl Harbor Patrol Duty Battle of Bougainville Battle of Salamaua and Lae Pearl Harbor Battle of Coral Sea Noumea Battle of Midway Pearl Harbor Guadalcanal Occupation Occupation of Funifuti Pearl Harbor Area Espiritu Santo Battle of Tassafaronga MINNIE Torpedoed Nov. 30 Tulagi Dec. 1 through 12

Dec. 31 through Jan. 12 Jan. 13 Jan. 19 through 25 Feb. 20 March 10 April 1 through 15 May 4 through 7 May 12 through 15 June 4 through 6 June 13 through July 7 Aug. 7 through 28 Sept. 29 through Oct. 5 Sept. 20 through Nov. 17 Nov. 23 through 29

1943

Espiritu Santo Underway for Pearl Harbor (Boilers gave out) Espiritu Santo Pago Pago Pearl Harbor Bremerton Mare Island (overhaul) Under the Golden Gate Pearl Harbor Area Wake Island Pearl Harbor Area Makin occupation Marshall Islands (raid and air attack) Pearl Harbor Area

Dec. 16 through Jan. 6 Jan. 7 through 8 Jan. 9 through Feb. 12 Feb. 18 March 2 April 19 April 24 through Sept. 9 Sept. 10 Sept. 14 through 29 Oct. 5 through 6 Oct. 11 through Nov. 10 Nov. 20 through 25 Dec. 3 through 4

Dec. 9 through Jan. 22

1944

Jan. 30

Bombarded Taroa, Maleolap Atoll Bombarded Kwajalein Island and covered landings Majuro Circumnavigation of Truk and air strike Mariannas air strike Majuro Pearl Harbor Majuro Air strike on Palau, Woleai and Majuro Hollandia landing Truk air strike (second). Satawan bombardment Majuro Kwajalein Bombarded Guam landings. Bombarded Guam First Battle of the Philippine Covering operations around Saipan Bombarded Guam Off Saipan Guam landings and fire support Eniwetok Espiritu Santo Guadalcanal area Palau operation Leyte operation (Oct. 25— Battle of Surigao) Ulithi Luzon air strikes with Task Force "38" Leyte Gulf covering operations Kossol Roads Leyte Gulf covering continued Mindoro pursuit San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf

Jan. 31 through Feb. 8 Feb. 9 through 11

Feb. 16 through 17 Feb. 22 Feb. 26 through 28 March 4 through 14 March 20 through 22

March 30 through April 1 April 6 through 13 April 21 through 25

April 29 through 30 May 4 through June 6 June 7 through 10

June 14 through 15 June 17

June 19 through 21

June 22 through July 7
July 8 through 11
July 13 through 18
July 18 through Aug. 9
Aug. 12 through 19
Aug. 24 through 27
Aug. 29 through Sept. 6
Sept. 12 through 25
Sept. 28 through Oct. 12

Oct. 18 through 29 Nov. 1 through 5

Nov. 9 through 16 Nov. 17 through Dec. 3 Dec. 4 through 10 Dec. 12 through 26 Dec. 26 through 28 Dec. 28 through Jan. 2

1945

Lingayen Gulf landings and fire support Lingayen protective force Lingayen Gulf Corregidor landing Lingayen Gulf San Pedro Bay Ulithi Drydock, Guam Ulithi Okinawa operation Typhoon weather enroute to Pearl Harbor Pearl Harbor Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington San Diego area (shakedown cruise) Pearl Harbor (additional shakedown) Ulithi Leyte Subic Bay V-J Day Manila Bay-Admiral Kinkaid Eighty miles east of Shanghai Tsingtao "Show of Force" Off west coast of Korea

Jan. 6 through 11
Jan. 11 through 18
Jan. 18 through Feb. 14
Feb. 15 through 16
Feb. 17 through 26
March 1 through 2
March 5 through 14
March 15 through 19
March 20 through 21
March 25 through April 12
April 16 through 19

April 19 through 27 April 27 through 29

May 5 through July 2

July 5 through 16

July 22 through 31 August 9 Aug. 11 through 12 Aug. 14 through 27 August 15

Aug. 27 through 28 August 31 September 1 September 2

SECOND WORLD WAR ENDS OFFICIALLY!!!

Visited ports of Dairen, Port
Arthur and Chingwangtau
Jinsen Harbor. Admiral Kinkaid signs peace treaty and
leaves the ship.
Visited ports of Chefoo and
Dairen
Jinsen Harbor
Covered 1st Marine Div. landings at Taku
Chingwangtau
Chefoo
Weihaiwei

Sept. 3 through 6

Sept. 6 through 12

September 13 Sept. 16 through 19

Oct. 1 through 2 Oct. 3 through 6 October 7 Oct. 8 through 14

THE "MINNIE"

PEARL HARBOR

7 December 1941

Fortunately for the MINNIE, the outbreak of the war found her operating several miles outside of Pearl Harbor, so she escaped the disaster which resulted from the Japanese treachery of unannounced war. As the ship steamed towards Pearl the smoke and fires from the attack became visible over the horizon and it was thought it was due to fires in the cane fields, as they were burned regularly each year in conjunction with the harvest.

News of the attack reached the ship shortly after 0830 when the well-known message was received, "The Japanese

are attacking Pearl Harbor; this is no drill."

On the afternoon of the 7th, the MINNIE rendezvoued with a number of old cruisers and destroyers and headed southwest with the intent of closing the enemy. At that time our intelligence reported Japanese homing procedure from that area, but it turned out to be deceptive traffic from a Jap sub and the sortie was to no avail. On the 10th the MINNIE returned to Pearl for fuel and provisions and left the next day with 4 DD's to join and escort the Saratoga which was enroute from the States.

On December 16th the MINNIE left Pearl again with the Saratoga and other escorts to assist the garrison at Wake Island. Enroute, she put on her war paint of blue-grey and painted her brightwork—to the joy of the deck force. On the 23d the force was within 100 miles of Wake but word was received that the island had fallen, so the force turned about and commenced the return to Pearl. On the 24th the course was changed for Midway and on arriving there, planes and Marines were

put ashore to strengthen their garrison.

On leaving Midway, the MINNIE returned to Pearl, arriving on the 29th. Two days later she was underway again with the Saratoga and 4 DD's with orders to drive off a Jap force that was bombarding the Johnston Islands. With most of our Pacific fleet lying in shambles at Pearl, the prospects of engaging the Japanese fleet were none too inviting. Many an old hand later remarked that they felt they had a new lease on life when failure to contact the Jap force indicated they had retired to one of their Pacific outposts.

However, all elements of the Japanese fleet had not retired and in the evening dusk on January 11th, the MINNIE spotted a torpeodo headed for the Saratoga. A warning was immediately flashed by signal light but it was already too late to do anything and the fish struck home. It was by no means a mortal blow and the Saratoga made for Pearl under her own

power.

At this time the Japs were claiming they had Pearl Harbor bottled up—and they had good reason to believe so. When the MINNIE arrived off the entrance on the 13th she found herself in a wolf-pack of submarines which were determined to finish off the Saratoga. The sea seemed alive with the tin fish—but none of them found their mark. While planes, destroyers and smaller craft were racing around madly, dropping depth charges left and right, the Saratoga slipped into port. Unofficially, seven subs were sunk, none of our ships were damaged, and Pearl Harbor was no longer bottled up. The next day found the crew of the MINNIE enjoying their first liberty since the war started and an opportunity to see the extensive damage of the Dec. 7th attack.

CARRIER AIR BATTLES

20 February - 6 June 1942

During the early part of the war the MINNIE acted as a portion of the carrier screen for the Lexington and Yorktown. While thus engaged she took part in the Battles of Bougain-ville, Salamaua and Lae, Coral Sea and Midway. These actions consisted entirely of air strikes and, as a result, the role of the MINNIE was limited to defensive AA fire when our carriers were under attack. During these operations our planes sank 32 and damaged 28 Jap ships for a grand total of 60, while our losses, in comparison, were very light. This was a good start on our revenge for Pearl Harbor.

Bougainville

On the 19th of January the MINNIE left Pearl for a six-day patrol with several other cruisers and destroyers. The cruise was uneventful and the force returned to Pearl on the 25th. On the 31st the MINNIE sortied with the Lexington, Pensacola, San Francisco and nine destroyers for the southwest Pacific. Intelligence reports indicated that the Japs were using Rabaul as a major advance base and Vice Admiral Wilson Brown, in command of the task force, decided to make a surprise attack there.

At dawn, on the 20th of February, the force was within 400 miles of its objective with an additional 200 miles to go before the air strike could safely be launched. Success of the operation depended upon a surprise attack and when a Jap

patrol plane put in its appearance at 0930 every effort was made to shoot him down at once. However, the sky was filled with clouds and he managed to remain hidden long enough to get out a contact report to his home base before the combat air patrol shot him down. A little later a second patrol plane was discovered and "splashed" and all hopes of a surprise attack were put aside. In fact, the tables were now turned and our force prepared itself for the attack that was sure to follow.

Shortly after noon the first Jap attack came in. It consisted of nine twin-engined bombers flying in three vees of three. However, they didn't last long, six being shot down by the combat air patrol, two by a concentrated AA fire from the ships, while the last turned his damaged plane and fled. The second attack came in shortly after the first—once again nine twin-engined bombers in the same formation. This was the time Edward (Butch) O'Hare performed the remarkable feat of shooting down five and damaging a sixth Jap plane in a single handed attack. Two other planes were downed by the CAP and AA fire and the two survivors turned and fled.

In the light of later aerial engagements, this battle seems small, but at the time AA defensive weapons and tactics were so under-developed that it assumed major proportions. It was during this affair that Joe Daugherty and "Punchy" Tate got rifles from the Armory and manned the boat deck—aug-

menting the meager AA battery.

On the afternoon of the 20th, the force retired southeast, rounded the Solomon Islands and continued to the south, rendezvouing with a fueling group north of New Caledonia. Later this task force joined the Yorktown and her escorts and preparations were made for a strike on Lae and Salamaua.

Salamaua and Lae

As a result of the Japanese landings on Salamaua and Lae, the combined carrier task forces conducted a surprise attack across the Owen Stanley mountains of New Guinea on the 10th of March. Evidently, this maneuver was considered impossible by the Japs and they were completely unprepared for it. As a result, the Japs were caught utterly by surprise and our attacking planes had a field day. They sank 1 heavy cruiser, 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer and 5 transports and in addition left 2 destroyers, 1 mine layer and 1 gun boat on fire. All of this was done at a cost of only one of our planes which was damaged by AA fire and was seen to make a perfect water landing. All of the other planes returned safely to their carriers.

After this operation, the MINNIE returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving on the 26th of March, for overhaul and installation of new equipment including automatic weapon directors and search radar. On the 15th of April the MINNIE put out to sea and joined the Lexington group enroute to the southwest Pacific.

Coral Sea

On the 28th of April the force arrived in the Coral Sea area and conducted patrol operations for several days. The Yorktown and her group made a rendezvous on May 1st and fueling operations were carried out in preparation for a strike at Tulagi. May 3rd found the force enroute to the objective and on the 4th, planes from the Yorktown carried out the strike. The Lexington, with the MINNIE and her other escorts, guarded the left flank during this operation. This was another surprise attack and caught the Japs "with their pants down" and sank 14 and damaged a 15th ship in the Gavatu and Tulagi harbors. Our plane losses were very small and the Japs had to cross off 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 3 transports, 4 gunboats and 1 seaplane tender and make preparations to repair 1 destroyer.

All was quiet for a few days until our search plane located a second enemy force on the 7th of May. Our planes attacked that morning and sank a carrier (Ryukaku) in 20 minutes. It was caught with its flight deck full of planes and didn't have a chance. In addition, one light cruiser was sunk and several other vessels damaged. That evening enemy planes located our force but did not press home an attack due to an efficient CAP and a heavy barrage of AA fire which drove them

off with heavy losses.

Shortly after dusk, the Lexington almost took on board a flight of four Jap fighters. They got in a landing circle with their running lights on at only a few hundred feet altitude and commenced their run in. As the first one approached the stern of the Lex, she opened fire and put out a message that no U.S. planes in the air had rounded wing tips! Later that night we learned that the Jap force was only 30 miles from us.

On the morning of the 8th, a second strike group was launched to attack the enemy force, now 120 miles away. But that morning the Japs also attacked in force with torpedo planes and dive bombers in a coordinated assault that damaged the Lexington. The MINNIE was directly between the attacking planes and their target and succeeded in bringing down four of them in addition to making it impossible for several other planes to make an unopposed attack on the Lex. The Lex also shot down four planes with her AA fire but this was not enough and when the attacking planes departed at 1133, the

Lex was seriously on fire from three torpedo and two dive bomb hits. The MINNIE suffered two near misses which caused only minor damage. It was during this action that Van Wert, GM 3/c, brought down one attacking plane with only 20 rounds of 20mm fire.

Then followed one of the most dramatic chapters of naval history. Books have been written about it and still they fail to do complete justice to the event. Suffice to say here that the MINNIE rescued 624 men, 1 reporter and 49 officers, including Vice Admiral A. W. Fitch from the Lexington.

To the men on the Minneapolis nothing seemed too good for the oil-stained, battle-scarred veterans from the Lex, and while the supply officer was stretching Naval Regulations beyond their elastic limit to issue small stores and clothing to the survivors, the ship's crew literally gave them the shirts off their backs.

During the day's action, our planes damaged another carrier, three cruisers and three destroyers which brought the total Jap losses to 16 ships sunk and nine damaged. Our losses consisted of the Lexington, one destroyer and an oiler which was sunk several hundred miles away from the main scene of operations. The battle of the Coral Sea was one of the most expensive of the war for the Japanese and was the first real check to their southward expansion.

On the 9th of May the MINNIE headed for Noumea, New Caledonia, arrived on the 12th and ran into a revolution between the Vichy and Free French groups. The Free French had kidnapped the governor—so—no liberty for the crew. Two days later she was underway again for Pearl Harbor, which she reached on the 25th. After two days of rest and relaxation, during which time stores and ammunition were loaded, the MINNIE was underway again to operate in the screen of the Hornet.

Contrary to the ideas of a landlubber, when a warship puts into port after an extended operation, all is not a bed of roses. Dreams of liberty can't be fulfilled until the all-important jobs of preparing the ship for sea are completed. Even for the unskilled, this means hours of work handling stores which always seem to arrive during a meal or in the middle of the night. And for the rated men it is their only opportunity to get some difficult work done in the yard and installed and tested before putting to sea again. The unusually long cruises during this period, coupled with the short stays in port, made this normally difficult task even more hectic.

4

Midway

On the 3rd of June our reconnaissance planes spotted a large Jap force 600 miles from Midway proceeding to attack and occupy that island outpost. However, on the following day, planes from the Hornet, Yorktown and Enterprise, with Flying Fortresses from Midway, decided the battle at the start by sinking or damaging three of the four Japanese carriers. Later in the day, two large enemy air attacks on the Yorktown could be seen fifteen miles away but they did not attempt to attack the Hornet which the MINNIE was screening. As a result of these attacks, the Yorktown was disabled and later, while she was under tow, she was sunk by torpedoes from a Jap submarine.

On the following days the MINNIE sailed westward with the Hornet and Enterprise in pursuit of the remnants of the Japanese force. When the battle ended on the 6th of June the Jap losses stood at 2 large and 2 small carriers, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers and 275 planes while 3 battleships, 4 cruisers, 5 destroyers and 5 transports limped off in a badly damaged condition. In addition, conservative estimates placed the Japanese

loss of life at 20,000 men.

One day, during the westward pursuit of the remnants of the battered Jap fleet, the MINNIE catapulted two SOC's to take a "look see" at the show. Larry Booda was one of the pilots. They got within sight of the Japs and witnessed several dive bombing and torpedo attacks by our planes. Booda claimed one Jap heavy unit fired her AA at him. Also, as a point of human interest, Larry landed while on this flight, climbed out on a wing and obeyed an urgent call of nature. This feat he was quite careful to explain in detail upon his recovery that afternoon.

On the 8th of June, our force commenced retiring to the northeast and after fueling, steamed northward. After the ship was full of rumors of orders to go to Alaska, the course was altered to the southeast for Pearl Harbor, which was reached on the 13th. This time the crew had a better opportunity to rest and it wasn't until the 7th of July that the MINNIE got underway to join forces in the attack on Guadalcanal.

OCCUPATION OF THE SOLOMONS

August 7 to October 11, 1942

"D" Day for the attack on Guadalcanal was August 7th and found the MINNIE operating in the screen of the Saratoga whose planes were carrying out an aerial bombardment of the Japanese positions. Everything proceeded according to plan

and the Japs, who were caught by surprise, put up an ineffectual resistance to the landings. During the day the Japanese lost thirty planes in two air attacks, while our losses were light.

On the evening of the 9th, the MINNIE expected to be detached from the screen of the Saratoga to go in and support additional landings off Lunga Point. The assignment did not materialize as expected and instead, the Astoria, Quincy, Vincennes and Canberra were detached for the mission while the MINNIE remained with the carriers south of the island. The fate of the cruisers that went in is, of course, well known. Their loss was a shock to the men of the MINNIE—especially the Astoria, which was their berthmate.

This was the beginning of one of the bloodiest campaigns of the war—for the Marines and Army troops ashore and the Navy in the famous "Sleepless Lagoon." Jap naval prisoners spoke with horror of the operations in the area, while we soon began to call it "Iron Bottom Bay."

Jap military personnel were indoctrinated with the belief that were they ever captured they would soon be put to death by the cruel Americans. It is reported that one Japanese sailor while being interrogated by an intelligence officer made his supposedly dying request thusly, "Before you kill me I should like to see how one of your six-inch machine guns work." He had undoubtedly seen some of our six-inch cruisers in action from the receiving end.

On the evening of the 13th the MINNIE retired with the carriers for fuel while the San Francisco, Atlanta and Juneau, plus seven destroyers, engaged a Japanese task force just east of Savo Island. This is another well-known battle in which our only survivor, the heavily damaged San Francisco, earned a unit citation.

The MINNIE saw no action after the landings on Guadal-canal until the Battle of the Eastern Solomons which occurred on the 24th of August. During this engagement the MINNIE continued to operate in the screen of the Saratoga and helped fight off eighty enemy planes which came from two large and several small carriers. Seventy-one of the attackers were shot down—47 by the combat air patrol and 24 by ship's AA fire. During this attack we lost eight pilots and the Enterprise suffered one bomb hit.

For the remainder of the month the MINNIE continued to operate in the Guadalcanal sector to protect our landings. On August 31st the Saratoga was hit by a submarine torpedo and the MINNIE took her in tow for four and a half hours after which she was able to proceed under her own power. While the Sara was in tow she was able to launch her planes and sent

them into Henderson Field to augment the forces of U.S. planes there. All hands of the MINNIE layed aft to the fantail to watch these unique operations. At best, with the Sara's engines helping some, the MINNIE couldn't move the big girl much faster than ten knots, and all hands prayed when the first plane trundled down the flight deck. All planes were successfully launched, although several came dangerously close to going

in the deep.

On September 6th the MINNIE was anchored at Tonga Tabu, waiting to escort the damaged Saratoga back to Pearl. On the 8th, Captain F. J. Lowry was relieved by Captain C. E. Rosendahl. Her orders were changed on the 9th and she was underway for Espiritu Santo to join forces with a marine landing group destined to augment our troops on Guadalcanal. The support force left on the 14th, but due to the appearance of an enemy formation of three battle wagons, four heavy cruisers and several destroyers northeast of Guadalcanal, they conducted a two-day retirement and then successfully landed the Marines on the 18th. The MINNIE laid off Lunga Pt. until dusk, then retired, leaving the beaches piled high with supplies. Just as she left Sealark Channel, with the transports in company, word was received that Jap battleships were raising hell bombarding the beaches at Lunga Pt. Had she remained in the area for another few hours the MINNIE would have had a nice little "brawl" on her hands.

The force retired without further trouble and arrived at Espiritu Santo on September 21st. On the 28th, the MINNIE left this harbor to take part in the unopposed occupation of Funafuti. This operation was completed by October 5th, at which time she returned to Espiritu. On October 11th she left for Pearl Harbor, arriving there on the 20th for the purpose of effecting repairs to her rudder. Sources that are usually very reliable indicate that the consumption of spirits in the Oahu

area increased markedly upon her arrival.

BATTLE OF TASSAFARONGA

30 November 1942

On the 16th of November the MINNIE got underway from Pearl Harbor, bound for Espiritu Santo, arriving there November 23rd. The seven days in transit were crammed with drills except for a breather when the equator was crossed. The crossing of the equator is quite an event at sea. The "Pollywogs," or men who haven't had the privilege of sailing across Neptune's boundary line before are welcomed with open arms and a long line of paddles swung with vigor by the old hands.

The Pollywogs take generous drinks of mixtures consisting of mineral oil, mustard, quinine, salt peter and cascara. The results are wonderful to behold. And after the last egg is broken over a shaved head and King Neptune's barber gives the Pollywog a real haircut, he is admitted into the royal domain under the classification of "Shellback." Any sailor who has gone through this proceedure is sure to have a certificate testifying that he has been properly initiated into the "Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep"—because if he hasn't, he will be given a repeat performance the next time he crosses the line!

Espiritu offered a breathing spell—six days long, while the MINNIE fueled and lay peacefully at anchor awaiting orders. Then the orders came; to proceed to Guadalcanal at high speed, go into "Sleepless Lagoon" and stop the latest intrusion of the "Tokyo Express" bound for the reinforcement of Nippon's Guadalcanal invaders. This "Express" was reported to consist of 10 destroyers and 4 transports and had to be stopped at all costs. The MINNIE, carrying the flag of Rear Admiral Wright, under the command of Capt. Rosendahl, had the honor of leading into the engagement the cruisers Northhampton, Pensacola, New Orleans and Honolulu, as well as several destroyers.

One of the very few newspaper articles to be printed about the MINNIE during the war resulted from this engagement. It was written by Foster Hailey and appeared in the New York Times on the 12th of March 1944. This expert account of the MINNIE'S actions is reprinted here in its entirety with the permission of Foster Hailey and the New York Times. In reply to our request Hailey wrote: "For the men of the Minnieha-ha you may have my 'ONE THOUSAND MEN AND A SHIP,' and my shirt, too, if you need it."

Out of the early morning mist off a Japanese-held island in the Central Pacific stood a big blue-grey cruiser with the white numeral 36 on her bow plate.

At the signal from the Flag to commence firing, flame and smoke gushed from the muzzles of her 8-inch rifles. Red hot bullets screamed through the blue air toward the white beach where the Japanese crouched in their pillboxes and slit trenches.

If the bandy legged men ashore that day last fall recognized the silhouette and read the number they could be pardoned for believing they were being shelled by a ghost ship. For by all the laws of buoyancy and the word of Radio Tokyo that heavy cruiser should have been on the bottom of Iron Bottom Bay off Savo Island in the Solomons

The story of why she isn't on the bottom, of how she got back with the fleet, begins ten months before—on the black night of Nov. 30, 1942. It is the story of 1,000 unsinkable guys who refused to accept the inevitable, who fought and strained and almost by sheer will-



BEFORE REPAIRS STARTED IN TULAGI

power got their stricken cruiser alongside a friendly tropic beach, patched her up with coconut logs and baling wire and sailed her back to a drydock where America's great industrial machine could make her battleworthy again.

It is one of the unsung sagas of the fleet. With a few notable exceptions it has been permissible only to tell the story of those ships that were lost. This is the story of one that came back with her colors still flying. But to begin at the beginning.

The U.S.S. Minneapolis, Captain Charles E. Rosendahl commanding stood westward through Lengo Channel off the north coast of Guadalcanal in the early evening of Nov. 30, 1942. She flew the flag of Rear Admiral Carleton H. Wright, Task Force Comander, South Pacific Fleet.

Ahead were four destroyers. Astern were the heavy cruisers New Orleans, Pensacola and Northhampton, a light cruiser and two more destroyers. The sea was calm, the sky was overcast. The wake from the force, plowing the dark blue waters at twenty-seven knots, broke in a white phosphorescent froth on the coral beaches of Guadalcanal and the small islands that dot the passage to the north toward Florida. The eleven ships were in Condition 1, all guns manned, hatches battened down. They were looking for fight and ready for it.

Word had come that the Japanese were preparing for another largescale effort to reinforce their hard-pressed toops on Guadalcanal. Twice before that November they had been turned back with crushing losses by South Pacific task forces and Navy and Marine fliers from Guadalcanal. They were making what turned out to be their last try.

Admiral William F. Halsey, South Pacific area commander, had sent the task force up the line with the same orders he had given Callaghan, Scott and Lee: "Find the enemy and destroy him."

As the force cleared the channel Admiral Wr.ght turned his column of ships slightly to the northward to clear Lunga Point and gain an unobstructed sweep of the enemy-held beach from the Matanikau River to Cape Esperance.

The enemy transport train, entering Iron Bottom Bay (so-called by American sailors because of the many ships sunk in its once quiet waters) through the south passage between Savo and Cape Esperance, was approaching Tassafaronga Beach, the favorite Japanese unloading area. Admiral Wright turned back westward and bore in at high speed to engage.

At 2318 hours (11:18 P.M.) the leading destroyers reported they were in range and asked permission to launch torpedos and illuminate the targets. Permission was given.

As the brilliant flares broke from the destroyers' shells high over the Japanese vessels and floated down under their small white parachutes, illuminating the enemy transports, Admiral Wright ordered the cruisers to open fire. The Minneapolis, leading the column, immediately responded. The other cruisers followed as they closed.

What was not evident at the time and was learned too late to permit remedial action was that the Japanese had split their escort group when they steamed past Savo. Part of the group went in with the transports. The others maneuvered off Cape Esperance to guard against the approach of any American ships from that direction.

When the American force opened fire, quickly sinking or disabling two troop transports, an ammunition ship and two destroyers or light cruisers, the enemy vessels off Cape Esperance steamed in to the attack. Seven minutes after the action had started they launched their torpedos.

In the violence of the firing against the transport train, with the flash of the American guns blinding lookouts on the American vessels, the approach of the enemy ships went undetected until it was too late. Four of the American cruisers were hit in almost as many minutes.

The Minneapolis was the first struck. Torpedos hit her. She stopped as if she had been slapped in the bow with the Empire State Building, and dropped out of line. The real battle aboard the Minneapolis began as the fighting ended for her.

The shock of torpedo explosions against a vessel of more than 10,000 tons doing twenty knots almost defies comparison. It is like an earthquake. It is like the collision of two trains. It is like a ship running at full speed against an iceberg, as the Titantic did thirty-two years ago.

For a moment everything was confus on. Practically every man aboard ship had been knocked down. Captain Rosendahl was slammed to his knees and then engulfed in a tidal wave. Half-dazed, their eyes full of oil and salt water, the men climbed back to their feet to keep on fighting and to start an action requiring much more courage than that needed to fire a gun at an enemy—the job of saving a ship that appeared to be sinking.

For those topside in the open air, their eyes already accustomed to the blackness of the night, the shock was bad enough. In the murmuring darkness of below-decks the effect was like a cataclysm. There always is the pound of the engines, the quiver of the propeller's drive, the creak and groan of straining beams. Now, as the battle lights went out, was added the scream of parting bulkheads, the ominous sound of rushing water, the smell of oil and salt water and blood.

Among the men below, like their brothers-in-arms above, there was only a momentary stunned immobility. Then the months and years of practice, the ingrained discipline of fighting men, asserted themselves. The men started to work; those who could.

Water Tender 2/c F. I. Coppage was with the amidships repair party, standing by in a compartment on the second deck between the places where the torpedos struck. With him was Chief Water Tender James W. Tompkins and Fireman 1/c Harold G. Tobin. All three were thrown violently to the deck. Coppage had a broken leg. The bones were sticking out on either side. The other leg was badly bruised.

With the water rushing in through the ruptured bulkhead, Coppage knew he had to get out. Even with his bad leg it would have been a comparatively simple matter for him. He could have crawled into the next compartment and dogged the door. But there were his two shipmates. They had been knocked unconscious. Dragging his shattered leg, he started pushing and pulling his two dazed companions toward safety.

Other damage-control men, working their way forward, heard him cajoling and commanding and tugging at his two dazed shipmates. "Come on, we've got to get out of here," he was yelling. "Come on. It's only a little farther."

Before help reached them he had dragged himself and the two other men out of the damaged compartment and had the door dogged down behind them. Only then did he collapse. He was carried to the sick bay, where Dr. Harry Walker, the former University of Kentucky and Brooklyn Dodger quarterback, was at work on the bruised and



UNLOADING THE WOUNDED

bleeding men coming to him. He was working as calmly as if he were in the receiving ward of Harlem Hospital, where he served his internship. When the water threatened to inundate the sick bay he calmly took his patients and his staff to the after-dressing station and continued his work there.

Operating only with flashlight illumination part of the time, Dr. Walker did his job so well that of the thirty-five seriously injured men taken ashore the next day not a one needed further operative treatment. Working with him were Dr. V. J. Donnelly, junior medical officer, and Lieut. Don Thompson, dental officer. Dr. Thompson had taken pre-medicine with the idea of becoming a medical practitioner like his father back in Idaho. In times of stress he was like a third medical officer.

If there is one place worse than another on a ship that apparently is sinking it is the engine or fire rooms. When the torpedos struck the Minneapolis all three forward fire rooms were quickly flooded. Of the thirty-seven men working there only one got out, a slightly built youngster from McCamey, Texas. Bob Collins was a Water Tender 2/c. He was tending the fuel pumps.

"I was knocked off my feet," he said, "and then I remember seeing a wall of oil and water pouring across the fire room at me. I don't remember how I got into the air lock. I suppose the water lifted me up the ladder. I got into the lock just below the armored deck and dogged the door behind me. It wasn't tightly shut, though, because the water kept creeping in. I started to work on the dogs above me. They were tight and I had to use a hammer."

The water meantime had crept halfway up the lock. Collins was crouching on the upper steps of the ladder, pounding at the dogs of the hatch over his head.

"I had loosened three of the eight dogs on the door when I dropped the hammer. I suppose I was nervous. I held my breath and dived into the water trying to find the hammer, but I couldn't. Then I heard the people overhead opening the hatch."

He was all right when they pulled him out, and turned to in helping get the ship in shape.

The man who opened the lock and pulled Collins out was Water Tender 2/c Claud Hardy. He risked the possibility that opening the lock would let more water into the ship and trap him, too, just on the chance that someone had been able to reach it from the fire room.

After he had helped secure the second-deck hatches, Hardy, who had some knowledge of pharmacy and first aid, volunteered to help Dr. Walker, and worked with the injured the rest of the night.

Hardy was older than most of the crew; father, in fact, of a gunners mate on the New Orleans. Capt. Rosendahl remembered the relationship the next day and called Hardy to the bridge.

"I want a report," he told Hardy in dead seriousness, "on damage and injuries aboard the New Orleans" (which was lying not far away in Tulagi harbor). Especially, I want a report on Gunner's Mate Hardy."

With beaming face, Hardy shoved off in a small boat to check on his youngster, whom he found uninjured.

But to get below decks again. In charge of No. 1 engine room was Lieut. (j.g.) Herman Miller. In the dim light of the emergency circuit, which had gone on when the regular lights went out, he saw the pressure gauges from the forward fire rooms drop to zero. As calmly as if carrying out a damage-control problem he and his engine-room

crew shifted to the after fire room lines. Then the engine room began to fill with steam. The heat went up and up. Finally he ordered his men out and then himself left.

Among the crew was Machinist's Mate 1/c William Robert Anderson. In a hurried consultation outside the engine room they decided that if the leaking steam pipe was secured they might be able to return.

"I think I can make it, sir," Anderson volunteered.

They decided that the main steam line had been ruptured. The valve that controlled it was at the farther end of the engine room.

Three times Anderson plunged into the white opaqueness and the blistering heat, holding his breath as he felt his way along the familiar passageway toward the steam-line valve. Twice the heat, cooking exposed parts of his body like a chicken in a pot, drove him out. The third time he made it and closed the valve.

Still the steam came in, apparently from another leak, so Lieutenant Miller took his crew to the after engine room. Steam was coming from No. 4 fire room and the engines were turning over.

The men in No. 4 knew what had happened to their comrades forward—caught with no hope of escape and drowned in oil and water. They didn't know about conditions topside, didn't know what minute another torpedo might come tearing through the side of the ship and trap them, too.

There were no heroics. There seldom are. They just went ahead doing what they had always done, watching the fires, steam flowing to the engines that would keep the Minneapolis moving and take her safely to port.

She had not gone far when the twisted pipes leading to the fresh water tanks finally gave way.

"Go ahead on salt water," Captain Rosendahl ordered.

He thought enough of the guts of the No. 4 fireroom crew to mention them all in his recommendation for awards.

In a no less dangerous place than the "black gang", as the engineering division was called in the old coaling days, were the damage-control people in Central Station under Lieut. D. C. (Scotty) McIver, and those in the plotting room adjoining under the command of Lieut. E. W. (Gil) Dobie. Entry to their stations, deep in the bowels of the ship, was through a three-deck-high tube which was barely large enough to admit a full-size man.

Everyone had thought of Scotty as a sort of Nervous Nellie. He'd dress up for routine general quarters in more gear than Mrs. Astor ever hung on her horse—canteen, bowie knife, pistol, chlorine bag for sharks, extra clips of ammunition.

"Where you headed, Commando?" we used to call after him when he'd pass through the wardroom on his way to Central Station.

Scotty had no nerves when the torpedoes struck.

"It was just like damage-control drill," one of the men with him reported to his division officer. "Mr. McIver climbed up off the deck and went ahead checking damage just like it was a drill."

Every man jack that was down there in that constricted sweat box with Scotty voluntarily lauded his coolness and his courage.

The water creeping aft as the ship lost buoyancy forward finally threatened to cover their escape hatch and they were ordered topside. Last man up the narrow tube was Scotty.

Gil Dobie and his gang, including Ensign David Arthur Broad, took things just as easy. Before leaving on orders they secured all the gear, and Dobie took the records of the night's firing topside with him. Ensign Broad, when ordered from his station, joined the amidships repair party to take the place of injured men and worked all night helping to shore up threatened bulkheads, restore lighting and remove wounded.

It was well for the Minneapolis that her men thought little of their personal safety and only of their job and their ship. Eighty feet of the cruiser's bow twisted and torn like a tin Christmas toy, hung like a pendulant weight forward, pulling her down into the sea. Amidships a great hole yawned into which the water rushed after the explosion like a tidal wave.

Badly hurt, her screws barely turning, just coasting through the water on her momentum, she resumed firing.

Comdr. Richard G. (Dick) McCool, the executive officer, who was acting that night as gunnery officer, his old job (he had taken over the higher ranking position just the day before), had brought a Japanese cruiser under fire just before the torpedoes hit. When he found power still flowing to the turrets he opened again.

Down in the forward magazine, at the usual battle stations, were the mess boys and stewards. Among them was the captain's little Chamoro boy from Guam, Aguan.

"We were scared when the torpedoes hit, Captain," he told Captain Rosendahl the next day. "Then we got the order, 'more powder,' and we started to work again. Everybody was happy."

"It was some minutes after we were hit before I could get any kind of complete picture of our condition," said Captain Rosendahl, "and when it came it didn't look too happy for us. Admiral Wright thought we were going down and as soon as communication was restored turned command over to Admiral Tisdale aboard another cruiser.

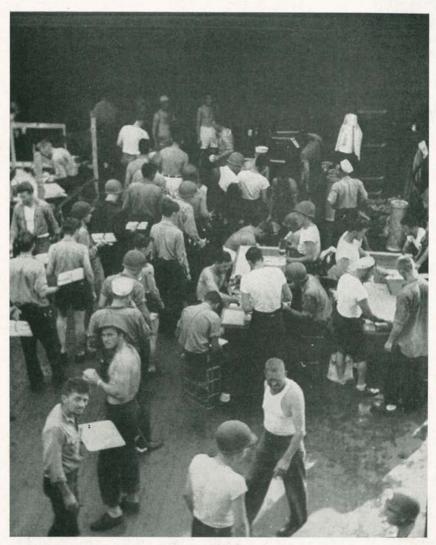
"After a few minutes Parker (Lieut Comdr. Al Parker, the chief engineer) reported that he could get a few turns on the screws, so I decided to make for Lunga Point, where, if I had to beach her, we would be off a friendly territory. I wanted to give my men as good a chance of survival as I could.

"I still didn't think much of our chances. She was losing buoyancy forward and it didn't look like we could stop her. The fight had swept on past and there wasn't a friendly sh'p in sight. A big Japanese transport drifted past our stern and sank not far off. Then the bow of a Japanese destroyer or cruiser drifted past, almost fouling us.

"I didn't know radio communication had been restored, so I decided to send a small boat to Lunga Point to let the marines know we were coming and ask for some PT boats or destroyers to screen us. The chief quartermaster, Godsoe, who was a swell person to have around in a tight spot, volunteered to take it in. By the time he was ready to shove off things were more under control.

"McCool had left the director platform to take charge of damage control and with Chanler (Comdr. Hubert W. Chanler) and Scotty McIver had been able to stop the water forward and reduce the list. Al Parker reported he could make turns for three or three and a half knots. I decided to make for Tulagi.

"Those were the longest hours I ever spent. Lieut. Comdr. John Grider, the navigator, had to work with little information and improvised equipment. We had asked Tulagi for an escort, but they didn't



CHOW LINE AT TULAGI

pick us up until almost daylight. A minesweeper and several PT's escorted us in. Then the real job began."

The Minneapolis went alongside Tulagi in shallow water. There was no dock or even a semblance of one, so the lines holding her were made fast to stumps and trees ashore. Some abandoned Higgins boats were strung together to provide a gangway from the stern of the ship to the beach.

The first task was to camouflage the ship so that Japanese planes could not see her. Some camouflage nets were obtained from the marines ashore. Then the crew, using hatchets, cane knives and bowies, cut trees and branches and palm fronds to lace through the net and drape over turrets, guns and super-structure. Since the cut foliage browned up quickly, it had to be renewed often.

Oil and muck was all over the ship. Oily water was sloshing around as high as the second deck and as far aft as amidships. With no power except that supplied by the minesweeper and no fresh water, the job of trying to clean her up was almost hopeless.

Up on the hill above the beach was a spring. Parties were organized to carry water aboard. The metal tanks in which the powder bags for the 8-inch guns had been stored were found to be very handy water containers.

While the housekeeping was going on the ship's repair crews started to work. The forward bulkheads were shored up with timbers cut ashore. Where there was a leakage emergency patches were welded on. Much of the electric wiring had been shorted and emergency circuits had to be rigged.

The marines and Seabees ashore lent tools and materials and after a few days a submarine salvage tug, which had been working on the sunken transport President Coolidge at another base, was detached and steamed up to Tulagi. She had to spread her equipment through three damaged cruisers, however. The bulk of the work was done by each ship's company.

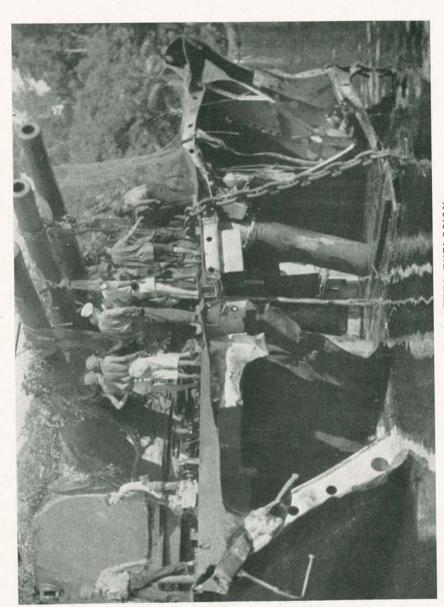
Tulagi at that time still was very much a front line and there was hardly a day without several air raid alarms. Fortunately, the Japanese apparently never discovered the Minnapolis. At least they never attacked. The Japanese fliers pounded at the much less vulnerable target of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal.

On Dec. 5, with watertight integrity largely restored, a spark from one of the torches being used to cut away the twisted bow apparently ignited trapped gasoline or torpedo gas in one of the partly submerged compartments. An explosion ripped out the repair work; the ship started to go down by the head.

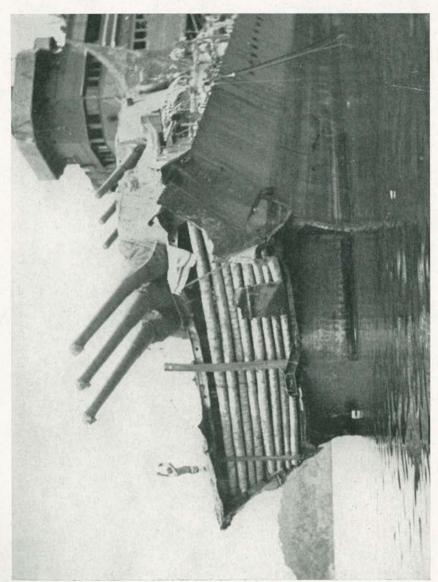
"I really thought we were going to lose her, right there alongside the beach," Captain Rosendahl said. "In a matter of minutes we lost seven feet of freeboard that had been won inch by inch with the most grueling sort of work."

The crew met this new disaster with the same calm courage and fortitude they had shown five nights before. Commander McCool, Commander Chanler and Scotty McIver rallied all available men to start the backbreaking job of restoring the shoring, repairing this new damage and again pumping out the flooded compartments.

Working day and night in the sizzling heat, with little rest, only emergency rations and not much sleep, the crew regained the free-board the explosion had cost them. By Dec. 12 they were ready for sea.



BOW SETTLING AFTER EXPLOSION



A FOUR-DOLLAR COCOANUT PALM BOW TAKEN FROM TULAGI'S JUNGLES

'With only thin bulkheads to take the force of the seas," Captain Rosedahl explained, "we decided we had to get more protection there so we bought \$4 worth of logs from the Tulagi natives. We paid for them out of the welfare fund. We floated them out to the ship, hoisted them aboard and lashed them across the bow, making them fast to the exposed chain pipes"

The Minneapolis was an odd-looking ship as she stood out of Tulagi and headed east through Sealark Channel under escort of a salvage tug and two destroyers. Her stub bow of logs was pushing a great wall of water in front of her. Along her port side the water boiled in and out of the hole in her side, creating great whirlpools.

At slow speed she steamed crabwise toward a Pacific base, moving through waters where enemy submarines were thicker than porpoises. Forunately, the weather remained good and although there were two submarine contacts, no attacks were made. On Dec. 16 she limped into port and tied up alongside a repair ship, safe at last.

As the Minneapolis limped into harbor, every ship there manned the rails. Those who had them broke out their bands. She crept to her mooring to a wave of martial music and cheers. Captain Rosendahl and his crew stood on her dirty, oily decks and cried unashamedly at the unexpected welcome.

With all the facilities available there the work of reconditioning went ahead swiftly. The temporary bow of logs was taken off and a stub bow of steel plates, extending a few feet below the water, was bolted and welded in place. More interior bracing was added and steel I-beams replaced the logs holding the bulkhead of No. 1 engine room, which had been cleared of muck and put back in operation.

On January 7, 1943, the Minneapolis left for Pearl Harbor with the damaged Pensacola, a mine sweeper and several destroyers. They were 185 miles at sea when the damaged boiler tubes, which Al Parker and his men had been nursing along like incubator babies, finally gave up the ghost. The Minneapolis had to take a tow from the minesweeper and turn back.

For another month, through several disheartening foul-ups that culminated when the ship carrying the new boiler tubes ran aground within a few miles of the base, the Minneapolis lay in port making shift with little water, lights or other ordinary conveniences of life afloat.

On Feb. 12 everything again was in readiness and with an escort of an old tanker and two destroyers she started again for Pearl Harbor. Enroute a battleship joined up to provide protection against Japanese surface interception. She reached the Hawaiian Islands safely on March 2.

When the report of her damage had been received in Pearl Harbor, blueprints had been broken out and the work of prefabrication begun in the shops there. By the time the Minneapolis arrived the bow plates were ready to be put in place.

Captain Rosendahl left her in Pearl Harbor to return to Washington, to elevation to rear admiral and appointment as commander of the expanding lighter-than-air program. Commander McCool moved into the skipper's cabin and took her home.

Late in the summer, battle-worthy again, the Minneapolis cleared the Golden Gate and stood westward to rejoin the Pacific Fleet—a better ship than she had ever been before. Aboard her now are only part of the crew that fought her and saved her and took her safely home. Wherever they are, whatever they are doing, each man can carry

with him the memory of what Captain Rosendahl told Washington

in the final line of his report.

"The highest praise the commanding officer can offer," he wrote, "is that he cannot conceive of anyone doing any more or any better than did the Minneapolis personnel."

* * *

One man who also deserves mention—as well as many others—is "Whispering" Sam Jones, who held forth in No. 4 fire room and kept steam on the line during the return to Tulagi. He was later rewarded by the Navy with the Silver Star and a promotion to Ensign. "Whispering" Sam was well known and well liked on the MINNIE. Everything about him was big—his laugh, his voice, his unprintable stories and vocabulary, his unquenchable thirst and his stomach. The only thing that ever quieted him down, except a direct order from an extremely superior officer, was a hernia operation at Pearl—and that only for a day or two.

Several items that won't want to be forgotten: . . . the wave of water from the torpedo amidships which had men swimming on the boat deck and drenched the crews of sky forward and sky aft . . . jettisoning ship of tools, instruments, several hundred crates of potatoes—even preparations to throw over a catapult . . . emptying 8-inch powder tins at the bow while gun shields were being burnt off . . . transfer of personnel . . . the water situation—showers and laundry in the trickle of a stream at Tulagi . . the Marines camping on the beach . . . waiting, waiting for boiler tubes.

On the 22nd of Jan. while waiting for the boiler tubes in Espiritu, a ceremony took place on the Enterprise in which Vice Admiral Fitch presented the following awards to Minneapolis personnel:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

Cmdr. H. W. Chanler; Lt. Comdr. A. E. Parker; Lt. (j.g.) H. Miller; Ensign A. W. Bain; C.Q.M. D. J. Godsoe; C.W.T. S. L. Jones; MM 1/c W. R. Anderson; WT 2/c Claud Hardy; GM 3/c W. D. Upshaw; WT 2/c F. I. Coppage (in hospital).

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FROM COMSOPACFOR

Comdr. R. G. McCool; Capt. A. H. Schierman, USMC; Lieut. O. C. Ferrell, Jr.; Lieut. J. B. Kaye; Ensign D. A. Broad; SF 1/c H. T. Claudy, Jr.; SF 1/c L. W. Gibson; SF 2/c M. R. Box; SF 2/c R. B. Medearis; SF 2/c C. J. Sinclair.

In connection with the above, Capt. Rosendahl made the following statement to all hands: "On behalf of your other

shipmates and myself, I sincerely congratulate each of you Minneapolis officers and men who have just received awards or commendations from Comsopac. In my opinion, the award or commendation made to each one of you is richly deserved and represents the minimum recognition which is at all consistent with your conduct and performance of duty on the occasion of 30 Nov. - 1 Dec. and the trying days immediately following. As your Commanding Officer, I am proud of every one of you and indeed of every officer and enlisted man who was on board the Minneapolis on the night of 30 Nov. - 1 Dec.

"As a matter of fact, in justice to Minneapolis personnel who have been recommended for but have not yet received awards of commendations, in all candor I must state I am confident that collectively the awards and commendations just extended by Comsopac to some of our shipmates surely must be intended to represent only a TOKEN installment of the full recognition due the entire Minneapolis personnel universally for their outstanding performance in the engagement and in subsequently bringing their badly damaged ship into port."

NOTE: At a later date various other awards were made to the men, after most of them had been transfered to other duties. A commendation reached Comdr. T. Pearson a few months after the Battle of Surigao St.

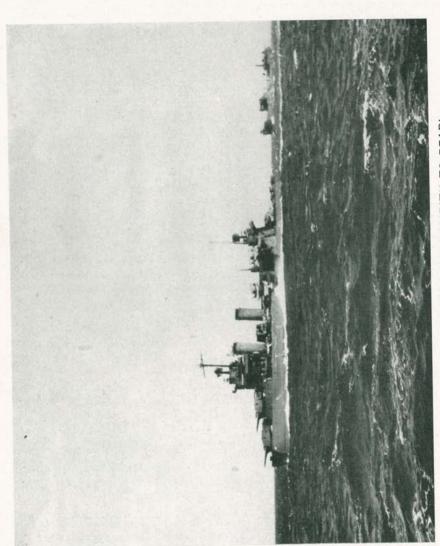
STATESIDE FOR OVERHAUL

12 February — 10 September 1943

On the second and successful attempt to leave Espiritu Santo on the 12th of February, the MINNIE made for Pago Pago as the first step in returning to Pearl Harbor. The trip was uneventful save for a few submarine scares. And although it was an undisputed fact that any type of torpedo hit would sink the ship, everyone went calmly about his duties.

On the 18th of February the MINNIE made a 24-hour stop at Pago Pago and then resumed her voyage to Pearl, arriving on the 2nd of March. Here the first leave party was detached and repairs were commenced on the hull. At this time Cmdr. R. G. McCool took command of the ship as Capt. Rosendahl left for Washington, D. C. to assume new duties in the lighter-than-air field.

With a new bow and a patch on the side, the MINNIE sailed from Pearl for Bremerton where she left her number one turret for the New Orleans. Then she sailed for Mare Island, arriving on the 24th of April after a very rough trip down the coast.



THE "MINNIE" ENROUTE FROM ESPIRITU TO PEARL

Here all the fittings were installed in her new bow-a new number one turret put in place, new boilers placed in the forward fire rooms, armor plates renewed on the port side, new automatic weapons installed, and a thousand and one other items of repair and overhaul necessary to a battle weary ship were made.

During this extended stay at Mare Island, the men and officers of the MINNIE also "suffered" an overhaul—of the most pleasant type. The remainder of the ship's company left at various times on the 45-day leave, bringing back with them their wives and/or stories of wild escapades. The town of Vallejo—usually called "Valley-joe"—and surrounding area became dotted with the homes of the men of the MINNE-APOLIS. Chabot Terrace, more familiarly known as "Shabby Acres," developed into quite a settlement while the afternoon's 'cruiser' bus to San Francisco carried men the other direction.

The tempo of the life was quick, sincere and yet full of gaiety and this brief interlude in the war will always be remembered by the crew of the MINNIE with a deep feeling of thankfulness.

Captain Richard W. Bates assumed command in July. On September 10th, the ship sailed from San Francisco for Pearl the beginning of a cruise that was to last twenty long months. The sun was setting as she went under the Golden Gate Bridge, and the golden reflections of the windows made San Francisco a jewel studded city in the gathering darkness. Five months of yard overhaul plus a nearly 75 per cent turnover in personnel, many of whom heretofore had been strictly landlubbers, presented many knotty problems to be solved before things could be considered to be on an even keel again. And although the men found the change from "shore duty" at Mare Island to life at sea difficult to assimilate, they entered into their new jobs with a will.

The MINNIE arrived at Pearl Harbor on the 14th of Septem-The next week was spent in the yard; then came a fourday rehearsal at Kahoolawa Island for the bombardment of Wake. Back to Pearl for a brief stay and on September 29th, the MINNIE weighed anchor for Wake, in company with

Task Force 15.

REVEILLE AT WAKE

5 and 6 October 1943

For almost two years the captors of Wake Island had lived peacefully on their newly-acquired outpost which served to guard their Mid-Pacific island fortresses of the Marshalls and The airfields of these islands made them valuable and were always the objects of our destructive raids.

planned campaign to crash this inner empire followed a pattern of neutralizing by bombardment enemy positions capable of striking against us and subsequently capturing stepping stones

that the Navy might stride through to Japan.

The MINNIE'S guns helped initiate this plan by reveilleing the Japs on Wake Island, October 5th. Flying the flag of Rear Admiral E. G. Small, commander of the Southern Bombardment unit, the fighting veteran returned to heckle Hirohito's Heavenly Sons, accompanied in column by the New Orleans, San Francisco, and three destroyers. Spotting planes were launched shortly before noon and the force came around to its firing course. At 1230 we commenced scheduled firing on pre-arranged targets at 18,500 yards. Almost immediately, shore batteries commenced return fire, salvos falling 1,000 yards short. Continuous fire from this battery necessitated checking fire on pre-arranged targets and shifting fire to it. Results were undetermined but the battery was temporarily silenced. It appeared to be of 5- or 6-inch caliber.

This was the "baptism of fire" for most of the men on the ship. But the boys learned rapidly to watch the beach for the "blinking flashes" and "plop" of enemy shells. The old hands took it all matter-of-factly, consoling the boots with "The ones you hear won't hurt hurt you. It's the babies you don't hear that are dangerous." Morale building continued with, "And if they do hit you, you'll probably never know it. So, why worry?" Nice people!

We resumed fire on scheduled targets, continuing with only slight interference from shore batteries until early afternoon, when we shifted fire to silence a shore battery on Wilkes Island, which was beginning to find our range. This battery was straddled and silenced by our gunfire after it had in turn straddled the MINNIE. One, presumably 3-inch shell, appeared to miss us by the simple expedient of going between the stacks. This was a trifle close for comfort.

At this time we saw a New Orleans SOC shot down in flames by Jap Zeros. Both pilot and radioman parachuted clear, but on the way down were strafed by the persistent enemy. The pilot was wounded in the leg. Both men were rescued by a destroyer, and our Combat Air Patrol gave chase to the Zeros, leaving one Nip smoking.

We shifted fire to a smoking patrol vessel that had previously been damaged by our planes. Neither of two nine-gun salvos hit this target and we resumed counter-battery fire at another spitting shore battery.

On the second phase of our scheduled firing, several shore batteries continued to fire on the three cruisers, but the range was closed and both main and secondary batteries were brought to bear. After concentrated counter-battery fire these guns were completely silenced and scheduled firing was finished without further incident.

Several heavy explosions were noted as a result of the bombardment, and large fires continued to burn long after we cleared the area. These eminently satisfactory conflagrations assured the crew that they had given Mikado's Merry Men a bad time. We remained in the area throughout the night and part of the next day, the carriers continuing to launch strikes on the 6th. That afternoon, the carrier strikes completed, the entire force proceeded to Pearl, arriving October 11th.

TAKING MAKIN

20 November — 4 December 1943

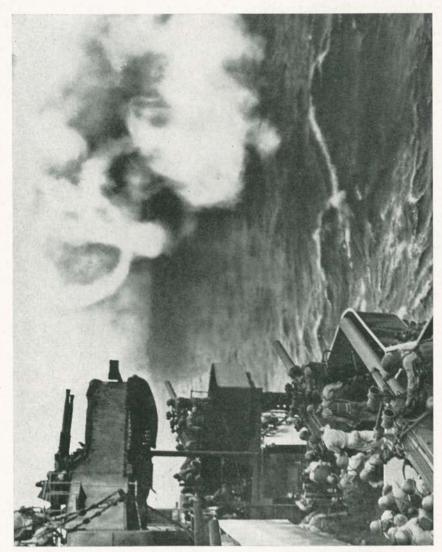
After one month of gunnery runs, pleasantly interspersed by liberties in Honolulu and swimming on the beach at Waikiki, the MINNIE again sailed westward on November 10th as part of Task Force 52, an amphibious attack force. The objective was Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. This was to become one of the stepping stones in the realization of the previous plan.

Enroute, this force crossed that imaginary line bounding the domain and kingdom of the legendary ruler of the waves, Neptune the Great, a place most welcome to those who had crossed it before, but fraught with peril for the Pollywogs. These innocents, being the more numerous aboard, attempted to turn the tables and run the show themselves. However, on November 15th, King Neptune—ably enacted by Boatswain's Mate Joe N. Sowers, the sole plank owner aboard (he had served aboard the MINNEAPOLIS ever since she was commissioned)—and his coterie of Trusty Shellbacks, somewhat wroth because the spirited Pollywogs had not shown the proper respect and trepidation for the forthcoming event, duly initiated the neophytes into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep after prolonged visitation of paddling, hair cutting, greasing, and other such unpleasantries upon them.

On November 20th, this force arrived off Makin and proceeded to carry out scheduled bombardment and landing operations. Air strikes from carriers of Task Force 58 began early in the morning. "How" hour bombardment commenced at 0630 and continued until the first wave of "P" boats was 500 yards from the beach. The troops landed with little or no

opposition.

Shifting fire to the southern end of the island, we continued bombardment until noon. For the next four days, we stood



SMOKE RINGS FOR THE JAPS AT MAKIN

by for call fire, retiring at night with units of our task force. The fact that we were not called upon for supporting fire was indicative of the comparative ease with which the island was captured. This was in direct contrast to the terrific difficulty which the Marines experienced in taking the island of Tarawa at the same time.

Beginning November 22nd, the MINNIE, together with the New Orleans, San Francisco, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Idaho, and escorting ships, assumed patrol duty for the protection of the transport area, retiring with them at night.

At dawn of the 24th, we observed the Liscome Bay's tragic end. She lay just off our starboard bow when hit by a submarine torpedo, exploded violently and sank in about thirty minutes. The explosion hurled fire hundreds of feet in the air and the burst of flame appeared to "mushroom" on top, probably due to gasoline burning in mid-air. It was a colorful but terrifying display. How death to the greater part of a ship's crew (over 800) can come so suddenly was exemplified here. Too much credit cannot be given the extremely vulnerable and expendable escort carriers that were always on the spot when needed. Destroyers searched the area, dropping depth charges, but results were undetermined.

Later in the day many high-flying "bogies" were reported closing from the west. Outlying units reported being attacked by bombers but ships of our group were not bothered.

The island being well in hand, CruDivSix joined forces with the big carriers Lexington, Yorktown and Cowpens plus escort carriers, cruisers and destroyers on the 26th of November and proceeded to carry out air strikes on the Marshall Islands. On the morning of December 4th this group arrived with striking range of its objective, Kwajalein Atoll.

Early in the morning carriers began launching strikes and soon reported several enemy men-of-war in the lagoon, evidently taken completely by surprise.

At noon this group was attacked by Jap torpedo planes which seemed to appear suddenly from nowhere. We observed the Lexington knock down three planes while we were manning our air defense stations. We remained at air defense but no more enemy planes approached until late afternoon when bogies were reported closing from westward. At eight o'clock that night we saw firing, and shortly afterward saw a Jap Betty fly right over the formation within five hundred yards of the ships. We did not open fire because the OTC had not given permission. However, the spud locker detail was standing by on the boat deck ready to heave spuds had it come any closer.

Enemy planes attacked in small groups while one snooper remained about fifteen miles away from the formation, apparently directing their activities. Two of the attacking planes were shot down by adjacent ships. At 2330 the Lexington reported a torpedo hit astern—steering control lost but able to maneuver by use of her screws. This air attack ended with moonset at 0200 of the 5th, and the task force retired towards Pearl, striking Wotje Atoll enroute.

We dropped anchor at Pearl on December 9th and had a much appreciated rest (exclusive of New Year's Eve liberties, of course) until January 22nd, which was interrupted only by brief gun-

nery runs at Kahoolawa Island.

STEPPING INTO THE MARSHALLS

30 January — 8 February 1944

To begin the offensive operations of the new year, the MIN-NIE set out, a unit of the most powerful island invasion force of the war to date, with high hopes and a flock of G.I.'s and Leathernecks to invade and occupy the Marshalls. The occupation objective was Kwajalein Atoll, the world's largest. The army was to take Kwajalein Island at the south and the Marines were to storm Roi Island to the north.

This action was divided into three phases: (1) bombardment of Taroa Island; (2) preliminary bombardment of Kwajalein with capture of Enubiji, and the initial assault of Kwajalein; and (3) operations inside the lagoon.

The day before the big gang started working the main island over, a smaller group, including the MINNIE, flagship of Vice Admiral R. C. Giffin, the San Francisco, the New Orleans, and escorting destroyers, took a swipe at Taroa, an island in the Maleolap Atoll to the east of Kwajalein on the outer fringe of the Marshalls. The Nippers had a beautiful airfield there that the operation plan called for being rendered temporarily useless. So the heavy cruisers cut loose and decorated it with a pretty design of eight-inch shell holes, complying with the plan. At a range of 9,550 yards there appeared to be a slight question as to who owned the place. The MINNIE was heavily shelled. at times being straddled by what seemed to be three six-inch coastal defense guns as well as lesser dual purpose guns. little Sons of Heaven were apparently angry, as indicated by their return fire. Thirty-six splashes were counted falling from twenty-five yards over to fifteen hundred short; strangely enough they won no cigar!

It was here that Ens. A. F. Cannell, who had come aboard but a short time beforehand, was lost over the side, probably



KWAJALEIN UNDER PRE-INVASION BOMBARDMENT

due to radical maneuvers and a rough sea. He was given up as lost after an unsuccessful destroyer and air search.

The New Orleans and San Francisco pursued three small AKs seen to escape from the harbor but were unsuccessful in overtaking them. One of our planes on a four-hour search found a small government boat, but it was not worth chasing.

On January 31st the force proceeded to carry out scheduled bombardment of Kwajalein Island, preparatory to the landings which took place on the following day. Our planes spotted for both the ship's guns and army artillery which was set up on the previously occupied island of Enubiji. It was while spotting for this army artillery that Ens. W. M. "Bud" Sayers, one of our aviators, and Capt. Tyson, an army artillery spotter, were shot down. Their plane burst into flames, allowing them no chance to escape as it plunged thousands of feet into the sea. Bud's death was a real loss to his friends, for he was one of the most popular j.o.'s aboard. Profiting from our experience at Tarawa, Kwajalein was given a thorough and merciless pounding. Because of this destructive fire, we found that we could steam into the lagoon on the third day and conduct bombardment of several of the smaller islands as our troops occupied each little island link of the chain.

This may well be a good spot to rise up and state that a Pacific Atoll is not entirely what it is cracked up to be. Due to such romantic cinema escapades as those of Dorothy Lamour, the public has developed a keen but misplaced affection for the spots. At least a few million sailors, Marines, and G.I.'s are ready to debunk that theory in its entirety. Chief Yeoman L. C. Dowling's description fits well here.

"A Pacific Atoll is an over-publicized bit of second rate real estate. A group of islands form a circle around a lagoon, like a chain of beads, usually connected with each other by a coral reef which might just show above the water at low tide, with maybe an opening in the lagoon here and there for ships to get through. The water in the lagoon is quiet and surprisingly deep. The islands are all sizes; tiny ones with one or two coconut palms on them and big ones several miles long and across, covered thickly with palms and vegetation. They rise a few feet out of the water and from a distance look like some helter-skelter brushes floating here and there on the surface, bristle side up. They're worth about a dollar seventy-five a hundred. It was the custom of the Japs to take the biggest island of an atoll and put an airfield on it after hacking out the coconut palms to make room. It was then heavily fortified and just a skeleton force placed on the other islands. The poor

natives have nothing to say about it; all they do is run around and 'wish to God the war was over.' "

The assault of the smaller islands continued until February 8 at which time all were in our control. The only mishap during the entire bombardment occurred when the San Francisco received a 20m.m. armor-piercing bullet in the forward officers' head from one of the smaller islands. (There were no casualties!)

Prior to leaving the area, Captain R. W. Bates and a party from the ship conducted an inspection tour which revealed a lot of information on the effectiveness of shore bombardment. In a sector where the MINNIE had been firing 8-inch armorpiercing shells at a concrete pillbox, it was noted that the structure had been shattered, leaving nearly 200 dead Japs in the ruins. The Million Dollar Show had effectively "mowed down" all the pretty palm trees and the island in general was a scene of desolation and ruin.

CruDivSix and destroyers arrived at Majuro the morning of February 9th, and remained there two days, being assigned tanker convoy duty previous to the Truk operation.

FORBIDDEN FORTRESS FORAYS

14 February — 4 March 1944

St. Valentine's Day found the MINNIE and New Orleans on a westerly course attached to Task Group 58.3, a part of the now famous Task Force "58." The old cruisers were really stepping out with fast company this time. On the receiving end of this hit-and-run raid was the Central-Pacific stronghold, Truk, long known as the Forbidden Fortress.

Air groups were launched from the fast carriers early the morning of February 16th to proceed on assigned missions. Two hours later plane reports began pouring in, indicating that the enemy was taken completely by surprise and that there were innumerable juicy targets available, including merchantmen and men-of-war in the harbor, and elaborate military installations and grounded planes on and near the air fields. Fighters, dive-bombers, and torpedo planes really went to work with wonderful results. The Jap bastion must have burned merrily, as smoke could be seen from the ship, on a hazy horizon, although the main island was invisible.

Just before noon several crippled men-of-war were reported leaving the hell hole through North Pass. The MINNIE and New Orleans joined forces with the New Jersey, Iowa, and DesDiv 91 to pursue the fleeing Japs. The leading wagon ran



A PACIFIC ATOLL PREPARED FOR INVASION



A JAP MERCHANTMAN WITH U.S.S. IOWA

up "Speed 35" by signal hoist. That was just a little too much for the old girls, but the "MIN" and the "No Boat" managed to keep pace just under 32 knots, although it was quite a strain.

Contact with the enemy was made in mid-afternoon; a light cruiser, escorting destroyer, and a small merchant vessel. The MINNIE and the New Orleans took the cruiser under fire at an opening range of 19, 200 yards while the Iowa blew the merchantman sky high with three or four broadsides from her secondary battery. The enemy cruiser was at a slight disadvantage, being already damaged by a previous bomb hit and having only six-inch guns, but she wasn't giving up without a scrap. She dropped several salvos about 400 yards short and fired a spread of torpedoes to bracket our battle line, causing us to effect radical evasive maneuvers. One tin fish passed astern and one just ahead of the MINNIE. After fourteen minutes of brutal punishment, the Jap capsized from the effect of several eight-inch nine gun salvos laid on her water line, and sank. Secondary battery fire picked up where the main battery left off—this time finding the destroyer which burned fiercely, enveloped in black smoke, and sank almost immediately.

The Combat Air Patrol accompanied this force assuming the role of target spotters. A Jap Val evaded them and dove on the Iowa, strafing and dropping a small bomb. No damage was incurred and this Nip had had his fun for the war as

three minutes later a F6F gave him the works.

About 4 o'clock the Iowa and New Jersey began lobbing 16-inch shells at an unseen target at maximum range. As the force changed course to the southwest in the late afternoon, an SBD came in to make a message drop. By mistake, the Iowa took the plane under fire and shot it down. No evidence of the plane or pilot could be found by a rescue destroyer.

At dusk the destroyer Burns was directed to investigate a small patrol craft sighted on the horizon. The little vessel put up an amazing running battle for twenty minutes. It was like a big bulldog after some stray cat—very vicious feline at that! The little ship went to pieces rapidly when the destroyer's forward five-inch gun found its target. How a human body could have stayed together, much less remained alive, is hard to understand; yet six Jap survivors, very much alive, were rescued by the victor.

At 0800 the following morning the group rejoined the carriers, proud to have been the first non-Jap ships to circumnavigate the forbidden fortress island of Truk in many years. But greater than pride was the sense of security upon returning close to the protective air arm of the carriers. Air attacks on the island continued through the morning of February 19th.

after which the force retired toward the Mariannas, fueling enroute.

This fueling at sea process was one of our Navy's "secret weapons." No doubt a similar procedure was used by the enemy since tankers were often observed to follow their battle forces in the open sea. But the Japs' older and better established bases were usually much nearer them than ours were to us; therefore, raids such as this depended entirely upon the ability of our warships to refuel while underway. Destroyers usually fueled from cruisers or wagons to speed up the process. The big ships quenched their thirst directly from the tankers, sometimes one on either side using two six-inch connections per ship. A tremendous amount of fuel could be transferred rapidly this way. To make this little event ultra-secret, it was often carried out at night, many times without the aid of moonlight. Red flashlights were used for signalling between ships.

A subsequent photographic study of the Truk area indicated that this first foray against Nippon's Pearl Harbor was quite successful and evidently took them by surprise. Official communiques listed twenty-three ships sunk, six probably sunk and eleven damaged. This mortal blow was not confined to enemy naval power alone as one of the primary objectives was to paralyze the island as an operating base for both ships and aircraft. This was very effectively done by our carrier planes which left the area having complete control of the air and with every worthwhile target hard hit.

As we approached the Mariannas the night of February 20th, bogies began to appear on the radar screen. At midnight air defense was sounded, providing all topside personnel a chance to see the North Carolina shoot down a single plane. Sporadic air attacks continued throughout the night, the MINNIE'S five-inch boys claiming one plane early in the morning. All told, this force which was now designated as "58.2", shot down twelve planes and damaged or drove off many more. For the most part, the planes were large twin engine radar-equipped Bettys or their equivalent, attempting to attack by the light of a full moon. Billowy, high-riding clouds afforded occasional protection but for the most part the MINNIE stood out in stark relief against a moonlit backdrop. On this occasion Capt. R. W. Bates is reputed to have said, "Navigator, get me out of this moonbeam!"

Very effective air strikes were launched on the islands of the Mariannas group that day and this force left the area late in the afternoon to arrive at Majuro on the 26th of February. Two days later we were underway for Pearl Harbor, arriving at noon on the 4th of March. This respite lasted eleven days,

officers and men attending various schools during the period. As the MINNIE steamed seaward past the channel entrance buoys to Pearl Harbor, little did her men dream that it would be well over a year before they should again return to this

Paradise of the Pacific.

After an uneventful cruise the now veteran raider arrived at Majuro on the 20th of March. About this time Majuro was called the "Atoll of the World," only spelled and pronounced differently. At best, it was not a very romantic spot to be even in the Pacific Atoll category. But as a harbor, better atolls are just not available in the Pacific. The Germans had used it prior to and during the last war and although the Japs had abandoned the spot some time previous to our arrival in '43, save for weather observers and a few civilians, it had been an important logistics base in their eastward expansion plan, possibly figuring in on the Pearl Harbor episode. Large as our fleet is today, it could be comfortably anchored in the sheltered waters of Majuro's lagoon.

RAIDING CRUISES

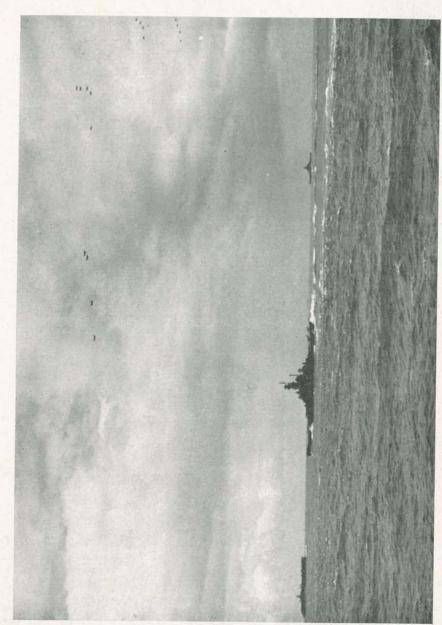
30 March — 4 May 1944

The Fifth Fleet got pretty cocky about this time. They had found the carrier punch to be a knock-out blow and coupled with wagon and cruiser bombardment, a lethal combination that would put the Nips out for the count. Now, having securely set foot in both the Marshalls and the Gilberts, our Navy began kicking the Japs around as far west as the task force leg could safely extend itself. The rapid fire hit-and-run raids kept the little men of Japan guessing—and paved the road

to the Philippines.

On the 22nd of March, Admiral Spruance, commanding Task Force "50", took the MINNIE along with his flattops on an air strike against Palau, Woleai, and Yap. The Palau islands, of course, were destined to become an important base in operations against the Philippines; but the strikes against Woleai and Yap were more or less made for their nuisance and intelligence value in addition to giving the little slant-eyed people something to think about. However, Ulithi Atoll, just north of Yap, was to become an important logistics stop enroute to points west, as the war progressed.

Everything went along smoothly right on through the fueling stage of the operation, until the late afternoon of March 29th, when enemy activity developed. The air patrol took care of the situation nicely, shooting down three snoopers in the vicinity. Air strikes were launched against Palau, Woleai and Yap



CARRIER ATTACK PLANES FORMING-UP FOR A STRIKE

for three days, beginning March 30th. We had a few lively brushes with Jap planes, but that was to be expected right in the enemy's own back yard. The Navy Hellcats and Wildcats are nothing short of terrific and they are undoubtedly driven by the hottest pilots in the world. You may rest assured that the crew of the MINNIE directed many a silent prayer for those pilots and planes for their part in protecting us. The Cabot's planes alone accounted for nine Jap Bettys in this little skirmish; other carriers probably did as well. Lt. Dale Parker attempted an air-sea rescue, but failed to contact the survivor. This force headed back for Majuro on the afternoon of April 1st, arriving on April 6th.

A week later, the Minnie again left Majuro as a unit of Task Force "58" under the command of Vice Admiral M. A. Mitscher and proceeded to the area of Humboldt Bay, New Guinea, on April 21st. Our air force neutralized air fields on Wadke Island and in the Hollandia area in support of MacArthur's southwest Pacific landings at Hollandia, Tanemerah Bay, and Aitape. About the most disagreeable part of this expedition was the weather. The sun never appeared, and the heat and humidity was not unlike that of an incubator. We operated here until March 27th, at which time we joined a tanker group north of Manus to fuel while proceeding towards Truk for a follow-up raid and general reconnaissance.

Our planes took off with the first light of dawn for the initial strike, as was the customary procedure. Much to their amazement, some escort fighter pilots found themselves in a group of Jap Zeros and hurriedly relayed this information to their base, asking for support. So, coincident with our strike, we found ourselves engaged in repelling an attack of six planes which were downed by coordinated AA fire and CAP interception. With the exception of flares dropped by Jap planes off New Guinea, this was the only enemy action observed by the surface craft of the force on this cruise.

Following the Truk raid, the MINNIE was detached with the other heavy cruisers to bombard the Japanese post of Satawan in the Nomoi Atoll. This bombardment was virtually a rehearsal as indicated by a statement from the Task Force commander to the effect that he didn't want any dead heroes in this operation—there were many much more important ones coming up. No enemy opposition was encountered and photographs taken indicated that our exercises were carried out in the best of form. At the same time the battleships were bombarding Ponape for a similar purpose. We rejoined forces and returned to Majuro on May 4th, remaining there until June 6th when we left for Roi, arriving the following day.

During the stay at Majuro, Capt. R. W. Bates was relieved by Capt. H. B. Slocum. It is interesting to note here that Capt. Slocum had been driven out of Manila at the outset of the war and the day he took over the command of the MINNIE he stated that he was most anxious for a speedy return. (Nine months later his ship was bombarding Corregidor.)

STEPPING TO JAP SOIL

14 June - 25 July 1944

The next scheduled operation called for the assault and capture of Saipan. Tinian and Guam, strategic island outposts on the road to Tokyo. The capture of Saipan and Tinian would place U.S. troops on Japanese soil for the first time. With this objective in mind, the MINNIE sortied from Roi anchorage on June 10th to join a mighty force of warships and transports. As part of a fire support unit, we arrived off the west coast of Tinian on the 14th to carry out our bombardment and counterbattery fire together with the New Mexico and San Francisco. Enemy guns, searchlight positions, buildings and other military positions were taken under fire for two days. Subsequent That mornoperations proved that our fire had been effective. ing we observed the destroyer. Braine, firing at targets near Tinian town and drawing return fire from a twin-mount sixinch battery. This battery was observed by our top spotters but we did not fire because it was outside our area. Later, at this same spot, the Colorado received a score of hits and suffered many casualties as a result of not neutralizing these guns.

0830 was "H" hour on the 15th and the first wave could be seen from the MINNIE as it approached the landing beach. And although heavy bombardment and air support continued until the last minute, reports indicated that the landing parties met stiff resistance from machine guns and mortar fire. But the troops moved in and secured their initial objectives as the ships continued to deliver fire support under the direction of

shore fire control parties.

Late that afternoon we secured from bombardment and went to air defense stations, having received the report that fifteen low-flying planes were coming from east of Saipan. In spite of a furious AA barrage, we were attacked by a Jap fighter who dropped his bomb close aboard the port side abreast the hangar before he was brought down by AA gunners. No damage was sustained, but water from this bomb burst drenched top-side personnel on the after section of the ship and gave everyone a thorough scare.

That evening we proceeded to Guam and early the next morning commenced bombarding its west coast. However,

after 40 minutes the operation was broken off due to the threat of a Japanese task force approaching from the west. The MINNIE proceeded towards Saipan with CruDiv 6. That evening all hands earned a "Well done" from Adm. Ainsworth by fueling during pitch dark just east of Rota Island. The afternoon of the 17th saw CruDiv 6 rendezvous with TF58—which consisted of three large carrier groups and a fourth group of battleships and cruisers which included the MINNIE.

The first Battle of the Philippine Sea commenced on the morning of the 19th, continuing until the 21st. During that time TF58 had both to defend our transports and troops at Saipan and attempt to attack the enemy carrier force. There have been reams written about it, but here is our version. The Japs had the advantage of being able to make one-way flights with their planes from their carriers to Rota and Guam, attacking our ships enroute. This advantage was neutralized by our air strikes at the enemy-held fields, making it virtually impossible for them to land at the end of their long trip.

The first day of the battle the enemy carriers threw their "Sunday Punch"—typical of Japanese tactics—and the MIN-NIE was at air defense from early in the forenoon until late in the afternoon. During this time we were under concentrated attacks by three groups of planes with single or small groups of planes attacking continuously. The enemy planes were estimated to have totaled more than 350, of which about 300 were shot down. Approximately 45 of the enemy planes attacked our group, but no major damage was sustained. At 1049 two Zekes approached our stern in a glide. One dropped a bomb which scored a near miss off our starboard bow, putting about 175 shrapnel holes in same. Three men in sky forward, and two on the signal bridge were slightly injured by flying shrapnel. Officers who lived in the J. O. bunkroom up forward bemoaned their fate as they sorted over their clothing. The shrapnel had gone through lockers and put holes as big as your fist in everything they owned. One of the aviators rescued a once-beautiful pair of pink silk (non regulation) skivvies from its stowage in his shrapnel-torn locker. It had been folded many times into a very compact bundle. number of small pieces of shrapnel had gone through the folds: consequently, when held up in its full dimensions there appeared to have just vacated six families of ambitious moths. pilot treasured the article even more in its holey state, as he said it would be used as Exhibit A in his claim for a Purple Heart!

The second day our search planes located the enemy and that afternoon a very effective strike was launched against the enemy



A JAP JILL MEETS HIS WATERLOO

carriers and fueling groups. That night as our planes returned, the carriers illuminated the sky with rockets, searchlights and

flares in an effort to guide the pilots.

Our search planes failed to find the retreating enemy force on the third day and the pursuit was abandoned. The MINNIE returned to Saipan with CruDiv 6 to act as a covering force for fueling groups until the 7th of July, and then departed for Guam.

RETURN TO GUAM

8 July — 9 August 1944

The bombardment of Guam was resumed on July 8th and for four days a slow, deliberate fire was delivered on targets visible from the ship and air. On the evening of the 11th, the MINNIE sailed for Saipan, refueled, provisioned and then returned to Guam to continue bombardment on the 18th.

The systematic destruction of Agana town was so complete that not a single building was left standing. And the probing guns of the bombardment fleet, coupled with frequent air attacks, uncovered many ingeniously camouflaged Japanese defense positions. The MINNIE had a ringside seat for many of the air strikes and the topside personnel watched hundreds of 500 and 1,000 pound bombs explode on the beach only 4,500 yards away. We could watch the bombs as they were dropped from the planes during the glide runs and follow them to the ground where they would explode and send up "compression rings." easily visible because of the smoke. Civilians at home would undoubtedly have paid plenty to witness such a sight, but it soon became such a common occurrence that the men cat-napped or talked of other things.

The first wave hit the beach shortly after 0800 on the 21st of July and the MINNIE then stood by to deliver call fire. This was continued without interruption until August 9th except for a night bombardment mission against Rota Island on July 25th to destroy the airstrip. While firing as directed by the shore fire control parties, the ship encountered no enemy action, but our fire succeeded in breaking up several fierce counter attacks by the Japs. In appreciation of this good work we received a letter of commendation from the commanding general of the Third Marines and the ship received a Japanese barometer and a machine gun as small souvenirs for our assistance. The machine gun was presented to the City of Minneapolis.

A copy of the letter follows herewith:

10 August 1944

From: The Commanding General To: C.O. USS Minneapolis

Via: (1) CTG 56.2 (2) CTF 53 Subject: Letter of Appreciation

- 1. The officers and men of the 3rd Marine Division wish to take this opportunity to express their appreciation for your splendid support and constant cooperation during the invasion and subsequent securing of the Island of Guam.
- 2. Your deep support and night harrassing fires, and above all the "call fires" you provided for the Second Battalion, Third Marines, were a prime factor in the success of the operation.
- 3. Please express to all hands our thanks for a job well done. Our best to you for continued success.

/s/ A. H. Turnage

We were saddened on this operation by the loss of our senior aviator, Lt. Dale Parker, and radioman, Herbert Larson, who were shot down over enemy lines while spotting our fire. Part of their plane, bearing Dale's pinup girl insignia, was reported found after the island was captured, but there was no trace of either pilot or radioman.

You may be interested to know that during the month of July alone, your ship, the MINNIE, expended over a million dollars worth of ammunition in repossessing the island of Guam.

On the 9th of August, call fire duties being completed, we sailed for Eniwetok Atoll. After taking on stores and fuel we sailed for Espiritu Santo on the 19th, arriving five days later.

PALAU OPERATION

6-25 September 1944

On the 28th of August the MINNIE sailed from Espiritu for Guadalcanal to take part in the rehearsal of the Palau operation. The main lesson learned was how to squeeze into position and get room to shoot. The large number of ships involved in a very limited area of operation made this a difficult task. In addition, the old hands experienced a feeling of satisfaction in operating with freedom in an area which had proved so disastrous only ten months before. And "Iron Bottom Bay," as the

name of a club at Tulagi, took on a much happier significance. Tribute must be paid to the man who designed its unique "head" of beer bottles set in concrete, who will, if he pursues this profession, undoubtedly outclass that one-time specialist, Chick Sales.

The MINNIE left for Palau on September 6th as a part of Rear Admiral J. B. Oldendorf's force and commenced the bombardment of Angaur Island six days later. On the 13th, while the MINNIE was delivering protective fire for mine sweeping operations, the U.S.S. Perry (DMS-517) struck a mine and capsized only a few miles away. Destroyers conducted rescue operations and transferred eight officers and 54 enlisted men to the MINNIE. In spite of everything Dr. Miller and Dr. Bonebrake could do, three of the injured died and funeral services were held for them at sea.

The bombarding ships ringed around the small island of Angaur and subjected it to an intense barrage. The only danger here was from ricocheting shells fired by ships on the opposite side of the island. At one time several of these splashed very close to the MINNIE, and later two admirals had a strong but eloquent discussion of a similar event over the TBS (Talk Between Ships).

Troops landing on Angaur on the 15th met no resistance and the entire island was captured with only a few casualties.

The MIN then joined forces with the ships bombarding Pelelieu and during a pre "H" hour bombardment on the 16th she fired so many 5-inch salvos in rapid succession that the paint was blistered on the guns. Landings here met with considerable resistance from enemy mortar positions and a large amount of call fire was delivered throughout the remainder of the operation.

The Marines had a bit more trouble here than the army had on Angaur. In one instance a single smart Jap, called "the Mole," dashed back and forth in a labyrinth of passageways atop Bloody Nose Ridge killing dozens of Marines before some sharpshooter put an end to his activities. The MINNIE did considerable call firing at caves and entrenchments on Pelelieu and adjoining Ngesebus Island. Air action was negligible except for a few single plane nuisance raids made by enterprising Nip float plane pilots along about dusk. Their missions were probably of a reconnaissance nature as they were very elusive and only on rare occasions dropped small bombs. These planes no doubt operated from the large island of the Palau group, Babelthuap, where tens of thousands of Jap troops had been bypassed. Unquestionably, intelligence was being sought with which to plan an attack or escape. One such amphibious reenforcement of Pelelieu was thwarted by sinking several troop-laden barges.

On the 18th we sailed north to Kossol Roads to take fuel and ammunition. This place consists mostly of long reefs, serving



20 m.m. GUN CREW WATCHING A SHORE BOMBARDMENT

to break down the force of the waves and provide an anchorage. Submarine nets were used here in conjunction with the reefs for torpedo protection. This was standard practice in all temporary harbors. We returned for additional call fire support the next

day, and left for Manus on the 25th of September.

For two weeks the MINNIE stayed in Seeadler Harbor, fueling, provisioning and providing a much-needed rest and relaxation for the men and officers. The climax of this relaxation was undoubtedly reached one evening shortly after the Fleet Officers Club closed. An entirely too festive group of officers stormed the dock to find their ship's boat. In the resulting squeeze an extremely senior officer suddenly found himself determining if he were still a qualified swimmer. Needless to say, important changes were in effect the next day.

"WE RETURN" — SURIGAO STRAIT OPERATION

16-29 October 1944

Once again, under the direction of R. Adm. Oldendorf, the MINNIE sailed from Seeadler Harbor for the Philippines, on Columbus Day. Advance groups seized Dinagat and Homouhon Islands on the 16th, and two days later the MINNIE entered Leyte Gulf to commence delivering scheduled fire as a part of the southern bombardment group. Troops landed the 20th, while the MINNIE continued to deliver scheduled fire on the town of Rizal.

During this operation, call fire duties were light: the emphasis of support being interdiction and harrassing fire. Evidently, the Japs did not have time to prepare defenses or else they expected the Philippine operation to begin at some other point. However, the Nips were not willing to give up Leyte without a serious struggle, and small air attacks, springing from the all-too-numerous air strips in the Philippine area were thrown at the attacking forces.

It was here, in their desperation, that the Japs began using Kamikazi attacks. All types of planes were used in these death dives. The heaviest attacks came on the 20th and 21st when twin-engined planes were used. During the confusion of an attack on the transports, the AK Warhawk collided with the Tennessee. Several ships were damaged during these two days, two cruisers and at least two destroyers seriously enough to force them to leave the area.

Apparently, returning Jap pilots greatly over-estimated their destructive ability in their reports, for the Japs decided to send a strong surface force up Surigao Strait with the obvious intention of cleaning out Leyte Gulf.

On the 24th the MINNIE joined a large force composed as follows: battle line—California, Maryland, West Virginia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee; right flank—Phoenix, Boise, HMAS Shropshire, and Nashville; left flank—Louisville, Portland, MINNIE, Denver, and Columbia; escorts—DesDiv 47. This force took station in the northern end of Surigao Strait while in the Strait itself were 30 PT boats and three sections of de-

stroyers, waiting to launch their torpedos.

At 0026 on the 25th the first contact with the enemy was made by a patrolling PT boat. From then on PT's and DD's stationed in the Strait continued to send in position reports while they attacked the enemy with their tin fish. The MINNIE opened fire at 0350, range 15,800 yards, using split salvo fire as her structure was not thought up to a 9-gun salvo due to previous bomb damage. Firing was continued for twenty minutes until the target disappeared at a range of 13,600 yards. This was thought to be the battleship Fuso, and before she went down she succeeded in straddling the MINNIE several times. Once the ship shuddered as if hit—something big had come close that time—and the next morning a wire cable lifeline on the boatdeck was found neatly severed.

But this enemy fire ceased abruptly as the groups of 6-, 8- and 16-inch tracers chased each other high across the sky to converge like streamers of a rainbow at the pot of gold, which finally blew up. The MINNIE later fired on two other targets, one a destroyer without a bow which promptly sank, and the other, a damaged ship at maximum range which was later sunk by planes

Credit for the excellent gunnery performance of the MINNIE that night was in no small measure due to Lt. Cmdr. John B. Kaye, then assistant gunnery officer. His record of 72 months on board was surpassed by few.

Inasmuch as the action was at night and conducted by radar, it was only natural that reports on this engagement would be confused. Our battleships, two of which didn't fire a shot, were given great credit, while the MINNIE, the first ship of the group to open fire, put out 300 rounds and was credited with an "assist" in sinking the battleship. In all probability the greatest credit should be given to the PT boats and destroyers which were in the Strait, for when the MINNIE opened fire there were only two remaining enemy contacts closing us. In spite of whom gets the credit, the important thing was that the Japs were completely defeated, loosing 2 BB's (Fuso and Yamashiro), 1 CA, 1 CL, 6 DD's, and having 1 CA, 1 CL, and 4 DD's damaged.

The wagons and cruisers steamed around in columns looking for further trouble on the 25th, and not finding any, broke up to refuel and re-ammo on the next day. Things were rather tense

during this period and would have been much more so if the escort carrier group hadn't broken up the Jap surface force that steamed out of the St. Bernardino Strait. The MINNIE stayed in the Leyte area until October 29th, then departed for Ulithi in the company of the old battle wagons and three cruisers. The day before leaving, Lt. (j.g.) Ludwig rescued an Enterprise aviator who was shot down by Jap fighters in an air action on the other side of Leyte. Incidentally, Lt. Ludwig was later killed in a plane crash at Pearl Harbor.

The crew of the MINNIE will well recall how much they appreciated leaving San Pedro harbor, even for a forlorn spot like the island of Mog Mog, for having participated in the biggest surface engagement of the war and forty-three air attacks during an interim of ten days left all hands at least a bit war-worn. In addition, continual rain had made the long hours at general quarters and air defense even less attractive than they would ordi-The weather, however, had to give us one last slap, and as the MINNIE steamed out of Leyte Gulf, she stuck her nose into the center of a typhoon. At the start of it, men were on the fo'c's'le attempting to rig in the paravane gear. But they soon had to give up as the winds became too intense and one paravane was lost. Steaming at five knots, the task force went through the "core" of the storm, which, curiously enough, was comparatively quiet. The ships of the group suffered only superficial damage, mostly to their spotting planes which lay about in grotesque positions when the storm died down the next day.

The MINNIE'S stay at Ulithi lasted from 1-5 November, after which she got underway with a carrier force to make strikes against the northern Philippines. This continued in an uneventful manner until the 16th, when the MINNIE was detached and proceeded to Leyte Gulf to resume operations with the Seventh Fleet on a temporary duty status.

The period from November 17th to December 3rd was monotonous and unpleasant. The MINNIE, as a unit of the Leyte Gulf Protective Group, cruised around the Gulf day after day. The Kamikazi Special Attack Corps made visits on the 27th and 29th, damaging the Colorado, Maryland, St. Louis, and other smaller craft. The MINNIE fired on eight planes those two days, successfully warding off all would-be attackers. The monotony of "just planes" was broken the first two days of December by a submarine scare. Torpedo and periscope reports accompanied an air attack on December 2nd. A submarine contact was reported beneath the ship so the MINNIE left the spot post haste so that a DD might go about its business of dropping depth charges.

On December 4th the MINNIE anchored at Kossol Roads for a stay of six days. Thence, she returned to Leyte with a task

group consisting of six escort carriers, four cruisers and three battleships, plus escorting destroyers.

Enemy activity prevailed from December 12th to 26th. While the MIN lay fueling alongside the British tanker Bishopdale on the 14th, a Jap Hamp dove from the sun out of a hazy sky to score a near miss on the MINNIE'S bridge and go right on through an empty tank in the tanker's bow. It was a complete surprise and not a shot was fired. One man of the tanker's crew was beheaded and several were injured. One man on the MINNIE was blown over the side to be rescued by a shipmate. It was more than apparent that Lady Luck was still smiling on the veteran cruiser.

Christmas Day was a gala one for everyone. Peace and quiet prevailed in the air. All hands had turkey and trimmings, the enlisted men eating theirs at noon and the officers having theirs for dinner. To top it all off, the long-awaited mail arrived. Both first and second class—hundreds of bags in all—and all for the MINNIE! The Christmas spirit permeated every compartment of the ship that was inhabitated and was as near to the real thing as could be expected under the circumstances and 5,000 miles from home.

The day after Christmas brought the MINNIE back to a world at war. Rear Admiral T. E. Chandler's command formed up late in the afternoon with orders to get underway immediately. His force, which was practically all of the heavy ships at Leyte at the time, included the MINNIE, Louisville, Phoenix, Boise and destroyers. All the carrier forces and other heavy units were getting ready for the Lingayen operation or were off striking at the home islands.

A Japanese task force was steaming in toward our recently established beachhead at Mindoro. As our force left Leyte, we were accompanied by a small air attack. The force traveled at high speed all night, arriving at San Jose, Mindoro early in the morning. The Jap force had raided the beach about midnight, beaching and partly burning two Liberty ships and starting large fires on the beach with their gunfire. The night of December 27th enemy ships were reported 50 miles distant, but our force was not powerful enough to go looking for trouble. These were probably Jap ships, and if they were, they, too, must not have been disposed to fight as no contact was ever made and further reports were not forthcoming.

Incidentally, on the previous night, our Army Air Corps reported Jap landings and attacked what they thought to be enemy landing craft. They definitely succeeded in putting two of our own PT boats out of commission. It was a nasty way to treat the Navy's PT's after they had driven off the Jap bombarding force, but it was just another case of mistaken identity.

While this force was looking for the Nip force, convoys enroute from Leyte to Mindoro were subjected to heavy suicide attacks. Our force passed many derelicts and damaged vessels on

the trip back to Levte.

Although the MINNIE did not fire a shot, this speed run was unparalleled for tenseness and anxiety among all hands as they believed they were going against a superior force in either number or weight, or both. Again, Miss Luck must have been a passenger.

LINGAYEN GULF AND CORREGIDOR

6 January — 16 February

The Philippine campaign was moving fast now—much faster than the Japs probably anticipated. The time was ripe to capitalize on their rapidly weakening air and naval force. On the other hand, they had in desperation and with a true "Bushido Spirit" adapted suicide tactics to all conventional ways of fighting and were, more than ever, a vicious enemy. Our plan called for reversing their tactics by landing at Lingayen and taking Manila and Corregidor as they had taken it from us in 1942.

The MINNIE'S part in this "Big Show" was to be that of a fire support ship in a task force group under the command of Vice Admiral J. B. Oldendorf on the California. His group was further broken down into two fire support units; one to support landings at the southern indentation of the Gulf in the San Fabian area and the other to neutralize installations and protect landings by warding off enemy attacks and actions from along the coast to the north. The MINNIE was assigned to this latter force. She sortied with this unit through Surigao Strait to join a force of escort carriers. The disposition was then composed of three wagons, three heavy cruisers, six escort carriers, three oilers, and screening cans.

The Kamikazi initiation of this operation came while the cans were fueling on January 4th. A suicide plane managed to get through the radar guard undetected and almost without warning dove nearly straight down, crashing the superstructure and flight deck of the escort carrier, Ommaney Bay. Gasoline fires were soon out of control due to ruptured fire mains. The ship was given up for lost and finished off by our own torpedoes. The MIN took aboard three officers and one hundred one enlisted men, survivors of the tragedy. Suicide and torpedo attacks continued against the fire support units resulting in serious damage to an-

other escort carrier and a destroyer escort.

On January 6th the escort carrier group moved out to sea west of the Gulf to conduct air strikes and furnish air support while

the shore fire support ships entered the Gulf to begin their scheduled bombardment. The MINNIE'S group conducted bombardment of assigned areas in the vicinity of San Fernando and Poro Point, firing also on coast defense guns, trucks, tanks, and suicide aircraft, nearly every day for five days. Our troops began pouring ashore on January 9th, the largest initial Pacific assault landing made in the war and against relatively light ground opposition.

"I shall return!" MacArthur had promised repeatedly, and so he had in a big way, but the Navy had caught hell getting him there.

By the close of the week ending January 11th, which had been a very hectic one for the men of the MINNEAPOLIS, almost every large ship and many of the destroyers in the Gulf had been damaged. CA-36 was one of the lucky few that weren't. For the Jap it was strictly a one-way ride, but with his life he attempted to take as many of ours as possible.

Here are some of the events of interest by days and in order of occurrence:

JANUARY 6-Fired on an enemy tanker in a cover at San Fernando with fire returned by a shore battery 1,000 yards short; suicide plane shot down, a near miss on the New Mexico; Pilot Lt. (j.g.) W. J. "the Jug" Joyce, Jr., and radioman, William Markovich, shot down in aerial combat by mistake—rescued by destroyer Ingrahm: DD Sumner suicided: Kamikazi fighter plane dove on the MINNIE, scoring a very near miss off the starboard bow. The automatic battery showed its metal and by accurate shooting cut the Nip to pieces in time to swerve him off the course. Resulting damage included losing the starboard paravane, damaging the SK radar antenna, wounding two of the MIN's men, and eliminating another pilot and plane of the Imperial Air Force, during which process part of his jaw and a pocketful of change were scattered across our deck; a Val crashed on the HMAS Australia; we received burn casualties from destroyer Walke in pitch blackness by whale boat in a very heavy sea; many of the Nips were seen to crash, shot down by our air patrol and ship's AA air.

JANUARY 7th—Jap Betty taken under fire; Australia straddled by shore battery; twelve inch mortar dropped several shells near the MINNIE forcing her to get underway and luckily, too, as one dropped in the exact spot she had vacated. Shrapnel scattered over the ship but there were no casualties; twelve inch mortar shells drop almost straight down and whistle eerily before they hit; observed suicide attack on destroyer Palmer.

JANUARY 8th—Two twin-engined Jap planes (Dianas) taken under fire in succession by the ship. They crashed the Australia, doing extensive damage; one of our own fighters shot down by ship's AA fire.



WAVE OF "P" BOATS APPROACHING A LANDING BEACH

JANUARY 9th—Received a near bomb miss off the MIN-NIE'S port quarter as her planes were warming up on the catapults in the early morning darkness; fired at a Val as it dive-bombed the New Mexico; fired and observed fire at several twin and single engined suicide planes, one Frances crashing the destroyer Wilson; backed down from three determined Jap swimmers with demolition charges strapped to their backs. They were later killed by the destroyer Laffey and a landing crew; the Columbia, Louisville and HMAS Australia withdrew from the area due to excessive battle damage, the latter ship having absorbed five crash dives.

The MINNIE left the Gulf late in the afternoon of January 11th to operate with the CVE's for a week which was, in comparison to the previous seven days, uneventful, and what a relief! On January 18th she returned to the Gulf for a long, but more peaceful, stay until February 26th, interrupted only by a two-day expedition to Corregidor. The Japs apparently decided it was useless to try to stop our forces with aircraft in the Philippines and our duties were confined to call fire activities—one of these directed at a Jap counter-attack in the San Fabian area on January 27th.

Early on the morning of February 15th, the MINNIE, Portland, HMAS Shropshire and six destroyers made a speed run down to Corregidor. In the evening we retired to the westward and returned for the "Big Show" on the "Rock" the next morning. Only two firing runs were made, using the main battery at point blank range at cave installations. Our planes were not used for spotting but were airborn with instructions to rescue paratroopers who missed the "Rock." In addition they scouted for mines, one of which Lt. Ludwig exploded with his 30 caliber machine gun. It gave his SOC quite a lift, Destroyers also busied themselves exploding floating mines which were very plentiful in the area.

The MINNIE'S crew really had a ringside seat at the beautifully coordinated assault of the island fortress guarding the entrance to Manila Bay. A-25's, A-26's, B-24's, and B-25's armed with rockets, machine guns, high level block busters and low level parachute bombs came in, wave upon wave, giving the "Rock" a thorough treatment. Then followed the C-46's and C-47's, dropping clouds of troops and equipment, coordinated with amphibious landings. A highly valued piece of Pacific real estate changed ownership that day—but fast!

The MINNIE went back to Lingayen that night to resume her previous duties and finally returned to San Pedro Harbor, Leyte, on the 1st of March. The next day she headed for Ulithi, staying there until the 14th. While there, the crew enjoyed a bit of liberty and grog at Mog Island, a third rate "atoll link." At this time they also witnessed the honorable death of some enterprising Jap pilots from Yap, one damaging the new carrier, Ran-

dolph, and the other crashing an island of the atoll, which unfortunately did not sink.

The Ides of March saw the MINNEAPOLIS in a floating drydock at Guam, with all hands turning to on the sides. After a rush job of bottom scraping and painting, and making repairs to the screws and port bilge keel, 40 feet of which had been dangling loose, we returned to Ulithi to make preparations for the Okinawa operation.

OKINAWA OPERATION 25 March — 12 April 1945

The crew of the MINNIE figured they'd miss at least the opening phases of the Okinawa operation. But to miss anything as hot as that was not for a fighting ship. So, on the first day of spring, just six days after entering drydock, the MINNIE left Ulithi along with Task Force 54, a very powerful fire support force composed of BatDivs 2, 3, 4 and 15 plus CruDivs 4, 5, 6 and 13 plus DesRon 55.

This campaign brought the war very close to the main islands of Japan. Knowing the Nipponese would be very perturbed about this move, strong British and American carrier forces were dispersed to intercept one-way flights from Japan, Formosa and the China coast. Picket destroyers encircled the island to give radar

warning and direct the combat air patrol.

Into this situation the MINNIE steamed on March 25th to begin her part in the operation by bombarding Keramo Retto, a group of rocky islands jutting out of the Pacific ten miles southwest of Okinawa. Landings were made at the "Retto" from March 26th to 28th against little resistance. Hundreds of small, plywood, warheaded suicide boats were captured here and later on, at Okinawa. As anticipated, this group of islands made an excellent logistics area and seaplane base. We were the first large ship to steam in and take on ammunition from an LST in the Retto, even before the main landings commenced in Okinawa!

The days spent in the Retto will not soon be forgotten by the MINNIE'S crew. The men on the guns kept a constant alert lookout for the "Good Sergeant" of the Emperor who was always eager to avail himself of an opportunity to drape his anatomy along with his Mitsubishi flying machine from some non-firing ship's yardarm. Pulling away from an ammunition ship here was

worth more than last year's War Bond allotment.

The MINNIE'S prearranged bombardment of Okinawa in the Naha district began on March 29th and continued until the army and marines made their initial landings on Easter Sunday against light opposition. After the landings, we fired harassing fire as directed by shore fire control parties for the army on their southern beaches. The targets included tanks, buildings, mortars, coastal defense guns, AA emplacements and troop concentrations. On one occasion the MINNIE'S guns very neatly silenced a busy mortar emplacement that was seriously hindering our troop's advancement.

During one lull in the procedings our CIC was surprised to find itself busily engaged in giving the latest press news to the shore fire control party on the beach. It was just after one of the numerous shake-ups of the Japanese cabinet and the men on the beach had heard rumors that the new prime minister was an anti-military man so they were hoping for the best. There was also a Lt. (j.g.) liaison officer in the beach party who was anxiously awaiting a promotion and asked us for the latest AllNavs! That's just another example of what men will start thinking about when the firing dies down for a minute.

Air action was continuous. Warnings of large attacks usually came several hours in advance from intelligence picked up by outlying carrier forces. The radar pickets gave warning as the suiciders closed the island. The combat air patrol and fighter director teams did a wonderful job but despite their efforts many planes came through. During the first week there were many planes shot down by ship's AA fire, some of them crashing very close to the MINNIE. On one occasion, early in the morning, a destroyer fired one round of 5" by radar, making a direct hit on a Betty which burned like a Comet as it passed between the destroyer and the MINNIE to crash 1000 yards away.

The Okinawa area had been warned of a possible large air attack on April 6th. The MINNIE did not fire a shot that day, but observed many planes and a great deal of AA fire. Several ships on picket duty were damaged in addition to a few in the transport area, but the enemy's plane losses ran very high.

On the next day the Jap fleet was reported to be on the move. With a dozen wagons and cruisers and a score of destroyers, our fleet formed up and headed north to meet them. Our carrier planes meanwhile got busy and intercetped their force, sinking the battleship Yamoto, one or two light cruisers and four DD's in addition to strafing and rocketing four others. This was the last offensive move of the Japanese fleet and our surface force returned to Okinawa to continue assisting the troops with call fire. The only incident involving the surface force during the sortie was an air attack, which ended with a Kamikazi crashing the Maryland's Turret III.

Night air attacks continued, usually made by twin-engined radar-equipped planes. These did little damage and many were shot down in flames. The MINNIE escaped most of these night

raids since she was generally off on a night harassing and interdiction firing assignment. It seemed that since the MINNIE was scheduled to leave for that long-promised yard overhaul that they were determined to squeeze everything out of her that they could. As a result it was a rare occurence when she silenced her guns and retired for the night. She was bothered to some extent on these missions by suicide boats, one of which closed to 1200 yards before a screening destroyer picked it up with a searchlight and sent it scurrying for cover with 40 m.m. fire.

On April 10th, Meyerhoff, a five-inch gunner, died on duty from apoplexy attributed to combat fatigue. This was all too understandable, as everyone was tense and tired from long days and nights at air defense and general quarters.

Most welcome news reached the MINNIE on April 11th—orders to be detached in a few days and return to the States. Along with the good word came the bad—a heavy air attack could be expected the next day.

All was calm until the afternoon of the 12th. Reports of many bogies began coming in from the picket ships and the bombardment force made ready by forming up in a large circular disposition. The air patrol had a field day; Marine Corsairs from the airfield captured on Okinawa took over the close-in protection. The attack broke with several Vals dropping out of the sky in flames, victims of our CAP. Then, one came in on the port beam in a power glide run, target angle zero. A curtain of steel stopped him well clear of the ship. About this time the after 40 m.m. crew reported seeing planes low on the horizon astern. They had eluded the air patrol by sneaking in low around the islands. MINNIE bore the brunt of this suicide attack, firing at eight planes. They were either Jills or Kates and filed by low on the water like ducks in a shooting gallery. The automatic weapon gunners did themselves proud, splashing one after the other, but two damaged ones got through and crashed on the Idaho and a destrover.

This attack ended with little more success for the Japs than the one of April 6th. However, at this stage of the operation, our naval losses in men and material were greater than those of the army and marines. Over 80 ships had been sunk or damaged, mainly by suicide planes attacking radar picket destroyers and destroyer escorts. The baka bomb made its first appearance at this time, sinking the destroyer Mannert L. Abele, whose skipper, Cmdr. Parker, was formerly our engineering officer.

Unexpectedly, after the long air attack, orders arrived for the MINNIE to rendezvous with the New Jersey and proceed back to the States. It was a tired but jubilant crew aboard the old ship as she strained her boilers to do twenty-eight knots, course



A KAMIKAZI FALLS SHORT

120 degrees, disregarding all zig-zag plans to increase the distance between her and Kamikazi land.

Two days later found the MIN rendezvoused with a fueling group, quenching her thirst with the "black liquid." Then she joined the New Jersey, stopped at Ulithi for three days, and proceeded to Pearl Harbor without escort, arriving on April 27th.

BACK ALIVE IN FORTY-FIVE

29 April — 14 August 1945

Previous to her arrival at Pearl Harbor, all hands had been informed of the MINNIE'S intentions to put in at her stateside home port, Mare Island, San Francisco. The feeling in the hearts of the men was almost inconceivable. Especially happy were those whose homes were in the Bay area or who had friends, relatives or "near" relatives in the land of sunshine. The "little bird" had made his rounds (uncensored, of course) and many wives and sweethearts were standing by to welcome the battle-scarred veteran under the Golden Gate after twenty months in enemy waters.

But orders were changed, as they usually are, and leaving Pearl April 29th, the eyes of the MIN turned toward Bremerton, Washington. Cheers arose in the ranks of the Seattleites above groans of the Californians. Nevertheless, general happiness prevailed as the prospect of liberty and leave anywhere in Uncle Sugar was satisfactory—even in Texas! (There were about 75 Texans aboard!) Radar contacts the early morning of May 5th appeared as the end of a sweet dream come true. Dawn broke with all eyes searching out the fog-blanketed islands at the entrance to Puget Sound. The ship anchored in the afternoon near number one drydock and half the officers and men made ready to go on 21 days leave.

The stay in Bremerton was highlighted by two ship's dances in Seattle for each leave party as it awaited the other's return. These were gala events. Yard workers of both sexes turned to with the usual buzz and chatter, noisier than a hive of bees in a gallon pail. Fire watches and details caused more distress for the

numbers left aboard than any other single job.

The unmarried and duty-bound men lived at Craven Center Barracks in the yard. Likewise, officers moved into BOQ. Many of the married men and officers lived across the channel in East Port Orchard, a navy housing project. Coal and wood stoves provided for cooking and heating. The place looked like an Indian village when smoke hung over the treetops in early morning. Regardless of the limited facilities, the "Tepees on the Hill" provided a real haven for war and sea-weary men of the MINNIE.

During the first part of June, Capt. Roy C. Hudson relieved Capt. H. B. Slocum. After two trial runs, the rejuvenated cruiser departed on July 2nd to go to San Diego for training her crew, despite the fact that three-fourths of them were "old hands." Eleven days were spent in the area, mostly at sea where the "old girl" limbered up new and repaired equipment and practiced techniques and procedures of ever-changing modern naval warfare. She "let go" from the the dock in San Diego Bay early the morning of July 16th after last minute ammunition replenishing. In the navy you usually take on ammunition on the run, load stores at night or during chow and sit on your dead end with nothing to do when there is plenty of time to do something!

The crossing to Pearl Harbor was pleasant, interrupted only by the occasional chatter and thump of anti-aircraft weapons in towed sleeve practices. But these were participated in enthusiastically, the men knowing only too well that a dead eye was their

only answer to the Jap Kamikazi.

The stay at Pearl lasted until July 31st. Most of the time was spent re-rehearsing the practices of the San Diego shakedown cruise, Kahoolawai Island again being on the receiving end of the MINNIE'S belching batteries. Life on that island should be immune to shell shock as it has undoubtedly been the most consistently bombarded island in the Pacific. Yet there has never been a Jap killed there!

Plowing through submarine-infested waters at a good clip, the old warrior arrived at Ulithi Atoll August 9th. She stopped only long enough to fuel before proceeding on to Leyte in the Philippines. The powers that be were again kind to her as just one day ahead occurred the disastrous submarine torpedoing of the USS Indianapolis. A merchantman met a similar fate astern, but

again the MINNIE ran the gaunlet unscathed.

The ship arrived at Leyte August 11th, stayed two days, and

shoved off for Subic Bay, arriving there three days later.

It is significant to recall that this was the first time since the war began that all of the surviving ships of the Astoria class were together. The Quincy, Astoria and Vincennes had paid the supreme price in gallant action with Japanese submarines and destroyers in the early phases of the war. The Tuscaloosa had earned her place in the galaxy of American fighting ships during months of action in the Atlantic as well as the Pacific. Now, as the war drew to a close, the tranquil waters of Subic Bay afforded a picturesque anchorage for the survivors to the end, the Tuscaloosa, the San Francisco, the New Orleans, and the MINNE-APOLIS. All had racked up a good score in many fiery actions, but of the group, the MINNIE stood out with more operations and more accredited battle stars under her armor belt than any one of her sisters.

THE END OF THE WAR

August 15 —

The MINNIE was five days out of Pearl Harbor when news of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima reached the crew via the ship's "news press." Mild celebration mingled with awe and wild speculation spread among the sailors as all hands waited for further news and events. On August 8th, the second bomb demolished Nagasaki. Russia leaped into the war, launching her armies in Manchuria. Two days later the Tokyo radio broadcast an appeal for peace. The official note reached Washington through neutral channels, the Japs agreeing to the Potsdam Ultimatum with the one condition that Hirohito retain his sovereignty and "prerogatives."

Radio news and scuttlebutt spread like gasoline vapor throughout the ship as President Truman consulted his advisors and made peace negotiations. But swinging on the hook in the azure waters of Subic Bay, the MINNIE prepared steadily for the next operation. Peace seemed possible, but to those veterans, Jap deceit and treachery were too well known. The ship was readving herself to carry the fight to the shores of Japan and no act of Nipponese trickery would delay her.

Then, a few minutes after nine on August 15th, a perceptible tremor of human excitement froze all activities momentarily. The grapevine was hot.

"The Japanese have accepted our surrender terms. It's on the radio!"

Confirmation came when Henry C. Mueller, boatswain's mate first class sounded his pipe over the squawk box and proclaimed in a booming voice: "President Truman has announced that the State Department has received official Japanese acceptance of the surrender demands of the United Nations!"

Captain Hudson dispatched his orderly, requesting that the complete statement of Secretary of the Navy Forrestal be read to the ship's company.

The realization that the end of the war had come was too staggering to evoke a violent demonstration. Men who had not known a day or night of peace in nearly four years merely slapped each other on the back and exchanged handshakes.

The use of pyrotechnics and searchlights was permitted but the men of the MINNIE were content to celebrate without this aid. On the beach, rockets and flares of many colors streamed across an overcast sky. The rugged, tropical-forested mountains formed a perfect backdrop for the display. The war was at an end, but not the work of the MINNIE.

On August 16th, everyone was "walking in a dream," as one fellow put it in a letter home. The war was over far sooner than anticipated by the sailors on the MINNEAPOLIS.

The following Saturday, Rear Admiral Good made the first peace-time inspection of the crew. Everyone looked his best and many were the compliments as this party moved from bow to stern threading through the ranks of dungaree-clad sailors.

That same afternoon a powder magazine explosion occurred on Grande Island in the entrance to Subic Bay. Part of the crew was on liberty there, but fortunately no one was seriously injured.

This was the late monsoon season and the men of the crew going on liberty were due to get soaked, but not with beer as there was never quite enough. However, the officers' club on the mainland had a larger and more varied supply of beverages so the patrons with fortitude enough to brave the downpour were due to absorb a lot of liquid internally as well as externally.

On August 26th the MINNIE hauled anchor to proceed with the USS Waller, DD, to Manila. There she took aboard Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid and his staff. In action previous to and during the Battle of the Coral Sea this ship had flown his flag. It was fitting that he should end the war as he had begun it, aboard his battling "Miss Minnie," as AP correspondent John Grover dubbed her.

The good ship threaded her way through the wreckage of Manila Bay and out to the open sea the morning of August 28th to rendezvous with her sisters of CruDivSix and escorting DD's. Steaming northward past Luzon, this force joined up with the Guam and Alaska. These sleek, new, streamlined greyhounds of the sea rounded out an impressive group for a Yellow Sea "Show of Power."

This was the first battle force to enter the forbidden waters where the ships of Nippon had reigned supreme for years. Furrowing the muddy yellow water eighty miles east of Shanghai the force proceeded on to enter the harbor of Tsingtao in column. Natives massed on the shore to gaze at the procession as the gray warriors, like soldiers in review, headed west to Dairen.

On September 2nd, President Truman's speech was heard on the ship after the signing of the peace treaty aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. The escorting DD's were exploding floating mines frequently everywhere in these waters. This day the destruction of the last source of danger for our fleet seemed a fitting means of celebration for the official end of World War II.

At Dairen, AP correspondent John Grover, an American Japanese language interpreter and an intelligence officer, landed to investigate the evacuation of American prisoners of war. The fleet visited the ports of Port Arthur and Chingwangtau before picking up the evacuation party three days later. They reported everything well in the hands of the Russians with vodka and saki flowing freely.

After fueling at sea, the MINNIE dropped anchor in inner Jinsen Harbor in the van of Vice Admiral Daniel E. Barbey's force of LST's and attack transports. The APA's busied themselves like mother ducks under the watchful eye of the cruiser drakes as broods of "P" boats fanned out in irregular patterns toward the shore.

The 24th Army Corps under the command of Lt. General J. R. Hodges had the situation well in hand when the General' and Admiral Kinkaid went ashore on September 9th for the signing of the Korean part of the Japanese peace treaty at Keijo, the capital of Korea. This job completed, the admiral and his staff transferred to his flag ship, the Rocky Mount.

Bereft of dignitaries, the MINNIE shifted to the outer anchorage to resume her normal duties with the division. The Officers of the Deck were so "braid" conscious by that time that on one occasion four beeps were sounded for a boatload of USS San Francisco basketball players! Undoubtedly they felt honored!

CruDivSix weighed anchor September 11th, made the ports of Chefoo and Dairen, fueled at sea, and returned to Jinsen on the 16th. While there, six cruiser planes conducted an air show on a small scale over Gunzan, Korea. The airplane drivers were welcomed by school children who spelled out "USA" in parade and unfurled "Old Glory" as the planes buzzed about in formation.

On September 29th, the MINNIE left Jinsen for Taku, China to cover the First Marine Division landings. She lay at anchor thirteen miles out in the muddy choppy waters of the Gulf of Chili while 18,000 Leathernecks hit the beach.

During the first ten days of October, the China patrol duty found the MINNIE visiting Chingwangtau, Chefoo, and Weihaiwei. Captain Hudson and Commander Maginnis took landing parties ashore on several occasions for liaison and diplomatic meetings with Chinese and American forces. The MINNIE was the first ship to anchor in the picturesque little harbor of Weihaiwei since the Japanese forced the British to leave the summer home of their Asiatic Fleet some half dozen years ago. At the same time, the San Francisco was anchored at Chefoo, the summer home of the U. S. Asiatic Fleet.

On the 10th of October, which day in China is equivalent to our 4th of July, Captain Hudson and fifteen officers attended festivities in Weihaiwei. They were received in grand style, driven about in captured Japanese automobiles, served a ten-course banquet in the local Chamber of Commerce building and presented on stage before a mass gathering of 5,000 Chinese. Captain Hudson was one of the principle speakers at this time and later did much to promote better relationships with this faction of China.

Also on this day, the "Magic Carpet" descended on the battleworn cruiser to whisk away 163 men and three officers who had "points" enough under the navy's demobilization plan. Among these lucky people were the authors of this yarn, so our story draws to a close.

The good ship's job seemed to be about finished, though she may spend a bit more time in China, and then retire to the reserve fleet* as scheduled. There has never been a man aboard her who will not admit her fate has frequently been in the hands of Divine Providence and that God has been kind to her and her sailors.

NOTE*: The MINNIE made one trip on Magic Carpet duty and is now in the Reserve Fleet on the east coast at Philadelphia.

SHIP'S ROSTER

The roster of officers and crew is divided into four parts as follows:

1. Officers of the ship's company.

2. Admirals and their staffs.

3. Men who were on board after October, 1945.

 Men who were detached from the ship prior to October, 1945.

This roster was obtained from the ship's files that were available in October, 1945, and unfortunately, is not complete in regard to the addresses. The Bureau of Personnel, which would have willingly supplied the missing addresses under normal circumstances, was unable to do so, due to the excessive work involved in the demobilization process.

* * *

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ABEL, JAMES D. 605 36 20
ABHERVE, VICTOR H. 341 67 89
ABY, LEROY K, 662 51 43
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ADAMS, JAMES L, 662 52 86
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BELL, ARTHUR L, 301 17 79
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BELL, JOHN A, 347 03 00
BELL, ORLANDO, JR, 337 58 66
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BELT, HOMER W, 312 19 75
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BULM, JOHN E, 664 08 21
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BLYTHE, HAROLD T, 261 99 89
BOBBITT, ARGUS L, 630 39 58
BOGHERT, FREEMAN (N) 413 13 15
BOCK, PALMER E, 300 35 19
BOECKER, STEWART B, 610 15 37
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BOGLE, WILLIAM N, 279 55 80
BOGUE, HOWARD (N) 664 85 82
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BENCHOFF, CARL W, JR, 258 14 25
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BENNEKER, WILLIAM J, 414 36 50
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BERRY, LINCOLN P, 376 03 56
BERRY, WILLIAM A, 376 11 40
BERRY, WILLIAM B, 365 55 05
BERSABE, FELIX (N) 497 85 06
BERNEY, WILLIAM B, 365 55 05
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BIGELOW, LESTER R, 300 16 40
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BINGHAM, ROBERT E, 329 25 96
BISHOP, WILLIAM E, 636 90 36
BLACK, RICHARD S, 652 95 44
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BLACK, RICHARD S, 663 97 81
BLACK, ROBERT M, 382 83 78
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BLOUNT, DONALD A, 668 17 86
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BOHALL, LESLIE E, 721 16 95

BRICKACH, WILLIAM A, 201 62 42 BRIDGES, JOE L, 346 20 93 BRIGHTMAN, RAYMOND B, 380 04 01 BRIGHTMAN, RAYMOND B, 380 04 01
BRINEGAR, OLIVER R, 616 27 58
BRINGMAN, RALPH E, 621 66 87
BRITENACH, WILLIAM (N) 287 14 54
BRITTON, JACK N, 272 51 45
BROADSTON, LEONARD R, 555 69 91
BRODERICK, DURWOOD D, 381 18 86
BROLLIAR, JACK L, 385 87 73
BROMAN, RICHARD E, 380 97 99
BROMBERECK, HARRY S, 305 92 71
BROOKS, DELPHIA (N) 291 64 63
BROOKS, GORDON F, 385 78 73
BROOKS, MALCOM G, 554 22 98
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BROWN, CHARLIE L, 300 14 91
BROWN, CLAUD E, 268 29 69
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BROWN, DONALD P, 385 80 33
BROWN, ELDAN E, 393 59 92
BROWN, HAROLD P, 321 33 05
BROWN, MANNIE (N) 664 90 68
BROWN, VICTOR F, 414 43 58
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BROWN, WILLIAM E, 321 02 73
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BROWN, WILLIAM P, 223 59 17
BRUCE, GEORGE G, 287 04 16
BRUCE, JOHN J, 291 19 63
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BRYAN, WILLIAM T, 321 46 44
BRYANT, BURTON D, 400 17 78
BRYANT CHARLES C. 272 14 84 BRYAN, WILLIAM T, 321 46 44
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BRYANT, CHARLES C, 272 14 84
BRYANT, LOUIS J, 316 35 67
BRYSON, DAVE, 295 29 01
BUBAN, PETER (N) 321 46 20
BUCHANAN, RICHARD W, 250 52 97
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BUCKLES, GILBERT R, 312 31 58
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BUGG, SIMON A, 381 41 66
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BULLARD, ROBERT L, 624 39 13
BULONG, LEONCIO B, 680 25 92
BUNTIN, JAMES A, 381 25 01
BUNTROCK, GEORGE E, 368 21 61 BUNTROCK, GEORGE E, 368 21 61 BUNYARD, WILLARD H, 662 52 93 BURCHAM, JAMES S, 256 87 83 BURCHETTE, DAVID C, 265 88 24 BURCK, CARL J, 328 58 96

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CALEY, FRED (N) 615 46 48
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CALLIA, CHARLIE (N) 274 50 25
CALTAGERONE, ALBERT J, 726 17 35
CALTRIDER, OWEN R, 554 00 21
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CAMACHO, RAYMOND (N) 632 10 99
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CANTRELL, ROBERT O'NIEL, 356 26 74
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CARDENAS, EDUARDO (N) 625 54 57
CARETTI, JOHN L, 377 10 28
CAREY, MORRIS "J", 341 64 29
CARLSON, RICHARD L, 300 17 53
CARLTON, DAVID A, 268 28 35
CARLTON, MAX B, 356 27 46
CARMICKLE, FRANK (N) 336 19 91
CARNEY, STEPHEN "J", 311 51 04
CARPENTER, CHESTER H, 257 99 07
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CARPENTIER, EDWARD J, 662 51 63
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CARR, MEREDITH E, 300 04 17
CARRICK, ARTHUR E, 346 20 17
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CARRICK, JAMES M, JR, 223 50 59 CANTERBURRY, CLOVIS M, 265 88 19

CARROLL, JOHN C, 296 02 29
CARROLL, ROBERT E, 638 98 29
CARROLL, WILLIAM B, 295 13 71
CARRUBBA, ROY E, 300 83 76
CARSTEN, ROBERT L, 382 64 00
CARSWELL, HENRY C, 637 81 02
CARTER, ALLEN B, 393 39 19
CARTER, ALLEN T, 655 01 68
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CARTER, DOUGHLAS B, 654 37 09
CARTER, FRED (N) 618 28 78
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CHURCH, VERL W, 393 18 99
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CLARK, CARL D, 632 10 70
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CARTER JACK M, 616 42 63
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CARTER, LAWRENCE E, 680 09 69
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CASEY, J 1, 272 93 18
CASH, CHARLIE C, 616 52 57
CASHMAN, PAUL J, 257 95 63
CASHMORE, GEORGE G, 618 61 24
CASHWELL, BILLE T, 262 23 01
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CASSETY, FRED T, 295 72 60
CASWELL, WILLIAM B, 382 32 25
CATALDO, ANTHONY J, 337 37 00
CAUTRELL, WILLIAM T, 382 64 35
CAVINESS, WILLIAM G, 337 37 30
CAWLEY, JOHN M, 705 18 01
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CELY, JOHN F, 657 22 36
CERNIGLIA, AMDEDEO J, 601 11 90
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CHANDLER, ROBERT C, 291 55 61
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CHAPMAN, ROBERT J, 600 19 66
CHAPPLE, RALPH S, 291 57 51
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CONSTABLE, JORICHARD 250 40 86
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COOPER, LLOYD N, 648 06 28
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COPPENING, JR, FRANK K, 657 32 31
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COX, ELBOWOOD C, 356 32 32
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DAILEY, WILLIAM M, 341 64 50
DAHLE, MGRET E, NOBER CLIFT, SPEPT V, 0630 09 28
DAMMATO, NICHOLAS (N) 662 57 92
DAMRON, CIPNE (N) 630 09 28
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ZETT, METHOD J, (UNKNOWN)
ZETT, WILLIAM J, (UNKNOWN)
ZHAR, JOHN (N) 560 10 29
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