

USS BLUE (DD744)

THE LIMEX TASK GROUP WHICH IS OPERATING WITH US - WEATHER SLOWS DOWN OUR AIR STRIKES - WE WERE ASSIGNED TO GO IN FOR SHORE BOMBARDMENT BUT WAS CANCELLED LATER. OTHER BATTLESHIPS, CAUISERS & DESTROYERS SWEEP TOKYO BAY - ARE ON OUR WAY TO REFUEL & REPLENISH FROM TANKERS - PICK UP PILOT & RADIOMAN WHO FELL IN DRINK

19 - JULY - THURS - 45 - STILL ON OUR WAY TO REFUELING AREA -

20 - JULY - FRI - 45 - REFUEL FROM TANKER - ALSO TAKE ON AMMUNITION - DELIVER OFFICIAL MAIL TO OTHER TASK GROUP - RECEIVE TEN LETTERS TODAY -

21 - JULY - SAT - 45 - OUR SQUADRON GETS ORDERS TO LEAVE TASK GROUP AND HEAD FOR TOKYO BAY TO SHELL SHIPPING ON THE BEACH - WE ARE NOW HEADED TOWARDS JAPAN AND ARE

EXPECTED TO HIT TOMORROW MIDNIGHT - RIGHT OFF YOKOHAMA & TOKIO -

22 - JULY - SUN - 45 - STILL ON OUR WAY TOWARDS TOKYO BAY - WEATHER IS ADVERSE SO THE DD DEHAVEN TRIES A SPEED RUN ^{TO SEE} IF WE CAN MAKE THE NECESSARY SPEED - DEHAVEN QUALIFIES AND WE START RUN AT 1800 - OUR SQUADRON OF NINE DESTROYERS - GENERAL QUARTERS IS SOUNDED AT 2230 - WATER IS MORE CALM - WE PICK UP A SMALL CONVOY ON OUR SCREEN - EACH SHIP FIRES TWO TORPEDOES WITH ~~WAS~~ ^{WAS} ~~LOADED~~ ^{LOADED} OF 18 - SQUADRON FIVE INCH BATTERIES OPEN UP SOON AFTER - HITS ARE OBSERVED AS WE CAN SEE FIRE - THERE SHOOTING IS INACCURATE AND SHORT - WE ARE RIGHT OUTSIDE OF TOKYO BAY - PULL OUT OF AREA ABOUT

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0115- RESULTS: ONE MEDIUM CARGO SUNK, ONE SMALL CARGO SUNK, ONE MEDIUM DAMAGED AND PROBABLY SUNK AND ONE ESCORT DAMAGED. WE ARE NOW ON OUR WAY TO REJOIN OUR TASK GROUP OF THE THIRD FLEET.

23- July- MON-45- STILL ON OUR WAY TO REJOIN TASK FORCE 38- MEET TASK FORCE 38 AT 1800 AND TAKE OUR POSITIONS.

24- July- TUES-45- OUR PLANES TAKE OFF FOR STRIKES AGAINST KURE A JAP NAVAL BASE- STRIKES CONTINUE THROUGHOUT DAY AS WE ARE AT AA DEFENSE & GQ- RESULTS OF STRIKES- BATTLE SHIPS, CRUISERS, CVL'S, DESTROYERS, ETC. SUNK OR DAMAGED. A NUMBER OF B-29'S FLEW OVER OUR FORMATION, RETURNING FROM JAPAN. ALSO A NUMBER OF

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LIMEY PLANES FLEW OVER AS THEIR TASK GROUP WAS NEARBY- RECEIVED MAIL TODAY AND IT WAS SEVEN LETTERS.

25- July- WED-45- OUR PLANES CARRY STRIKES AGAINST KURE & KOBE- PULL OUT IN EVENING AND ARE ON OUR WAY TO REFUEL- SOME PLANES ARE SHOT DOWN OVER TASK GROUPS TODAY- AT GQ AND AA DEFENSE THROUGHOUT DAY.

26- July- THURS-45- REFUEL FROM TANKERS- RECEIVE SOME PROVISIONS- FIRE GUNNERY EXERCISES.

27- July- FRI-45- TAKE ON PROVISIONS FROM AK- REFUEL FROM TANKER- TAKE ON FRESH PROVISIONS FROM AF10- FIRE TODAY- ON OUR WAY TOWARDS TOKIO-

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28-July-SAT-45 OUR PLANES MAKE STRIKES AGAINST JAPAN AND INFLICT HEAVY DAMAGE UPON SHIPPING. MANY MAN O WARS WERE BEING HIT AT KURE. GOOD RESULTS TO DAY. AT 60 AND AA THROUGHOUT BIGGER PART OF DAY.

29-July-SUN-45. STILL CARRY OUT AIR STRIKES AGAINST JAPAN. FORCE OF BATTLESHIPS, CRUISERS, & DESTROYERS LEAVE TASK FORCE TO SHORE BOMBARD THE MAINLAND.

30-July-MON-45. CRUISERS, & DESTROYERS SHALL JAPAN. OUR PLANES CARRY OUT AIR STRIKE FOR 3rd SUCCESSIVE DAY WITH GOOD RESULTS. IN THE EVENING THE FORCE SETS OFF FOR FUELING AREA.

31-July-TUES-45. MEET TANKERS AT 1400 & REFUEL. RECEIVE MAIL

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TODAY. PASS PERSONNEL & FREIGHT TODAY.

1-AUG-WED-45. CONTINUE PASSING OF PILOTS, CREWMAN, MAIL & FREIGHT. SEND FOUR PILOTS & MEN WHO WERE SHOT DOWN IN TOKIO BAY RECOVERED BY OUR SUBMARINES TO CARRIER BENNINGTON. REFUEL FROM TANKERS. TYPHOON IS NEARBY AS WEATHER IS ADVERSE. ON OUR WAY TOWARDS JAPAN TO CARRY OUT NAVAL.

2-AUG-THURS-45. STILL SAILING ALONG WITH THE SEA A LITTLE MORE CALM. WE FIRE GUNNERY EXERCISES IN MORNING AND NOON. OUR ORDERS ARE CHANGED AND WE HEAD FOR TANKERS AGAIN TO TOP OFF.

3-AUG-FRI-45. TOP OFF FROM TANKERS AT 0600. RECEIVE

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CANDEEN GEAR FROM TANKERS.
FIRE IN AFTERNOON FOR GUNNERY
EXERCISES - ON OUR WAY TOWARDS
NIPPON - WORD IS RECEIVED OF-
FICIALLY THAT WE RECEIVED
STARS FOR (PALAU, Yap, Iwo Jima
on PHILIPPINES), IWO JIMA AND
A PHILIPPINE LIBERATION BAR-
MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

4- AUG - SAT - 45 - STILL ON OUR
WAY TOWARDS KYUSHU - TOP
OFF FUEL FROM SOUTH DAKOTA -
RECEIVE ORDERS THAT OUR
STRIKES ON KYUSHU ARE CAN-
CELLED - WE ARE NOW HEADED
NORTH FOR HAKAIDO.

5- AUG - SUN - 45 - ON OUR WAY
TOWARDS HAKAIDO - HOLD GUN-
NERY EXERCISES - TOP OFF FUEL
FROM CV BENNINGTON.

6- AUG - MON - 45 - STILL HEADED
NORTH - GUNNERY EXERCISES - TOP
OFF FUEL - SUPPOSED TO RE-

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FUEL FROM TANKERS TO-
MORROW -

7- AUG - TUES - 45 - REFUEL FROM
TANKERS - PASS MAIL ALL DAY -
ON OUR WAY TO HAKAIDO TO
MAKE STRIKES -

8- AUG - WED - 45 - SUPPOSED TO
MAKE STRIKES BUT CANCEL
THEM CAUSE OF ADVERSE
WEATHER - FIRST WORD IS
RECEIVED OF ATOMIC BOMB
BEING DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA.

9- AUG - THURS - 45 - MAKE STRIKES
ON HAKAIDO - JAP PLANES
SPLASHED OVER TASK FORCE.
NIP PLANE DIVES INTO DD
BORIE AND DAMAGES THE
BRIDGE. ONE GRACE (NIP BOMBER)
IS SPLASHED BY CARRIER AS
IT IS DIVING AND BARELY
MISSES CARRIER AS I COULD
SEE - RESULTS ON STRIKES
ARE VERY GOOD. WERE AT

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GO most of day. ANOTHER
ATOMIC BOMB HITS NAGASAKI.

10-AUG-FRI-45. OUR PLANES
MAKE LARGE SCALE STRIKES
AGAINST HOKKAIDO - BATTLESHIPS,
CRUISERS & DESTROYERS GO
IN FOR SHORE BOMBARDMENT -
RECEIVE WORD FROM SAN FRAN-
CISCO OF JAPAN WILLING TO
GIVE UP TO UNCONDITIONAL
SURRENDER - HEAD TO REFUEL
FROM TANKERS.

11-AUG-SAT-45. REFUEL FROM
TANKERS - STILL AWAITING ON
THE OFFICIAL OF UNCONDI-
TIONAL SURRENDER.

12-AUG-SUN-45. REFUEL FROM
CARRIER LEXINGTON - STRIKES
ARE CANCELLED AND WE ARE
AWAITING UPON JAPAN'S UN-
CONDITIONAL SURRENDER. OUR
TYPE SHIP IS DESIGNATED TO
SUPPLY A LANDING FORCE

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OF 40 MEN IN CASE PEACE
IS OFFICIALLY DECLARED - THEY
WILL BE ARMED WITH SMALL
ARMS AND ARE SUPPOSED
TO TAKE CARE OF NAVAL IN-
STALLATIONS.

13-AUG-MON-45. CONTINUE
STRIKES OVER JAPAN - JAP
PLANES COME OUT BUT ARE
SPLASHED - WE ARE AT GO AND
AA DEFENSE UNTIL ABOUT
2030 - STILL AWAITING PEACE
TREATY - RECEIVE MESSAGE
THAT IF PEACE IS ACCEPTED
WE ARE TO GO INTO TOKYO
WITH OUR DIVISION OF
DESTROYERS, BATTLESHIP
IOWA & CRUISER AMSTERDAM
TO TAKE OVER - START ON
OUR WAY TO REFUELING
AREA IN EVENING.

14-AUG-TUES-45. REFUEL
FROM TANKERS - PASS OFFICIAL
MAIL TO OTHER SHIPS IN