

# DesRon 61

## DesDiv 121

USS DeHaven  
DD 727

USS Mansfield  
DD 728

USS Swenson  
DD 729

USS Collett  
DD 730

USS Maddox  
DD 731

## DesDiv 122

USS Blue  
DD 744

USS Brush  
DD 745

USS Taussig  
DD 746

USS Moore  
DD 747

Dear Sir:

Some 3,000 Crew Members of DesRon 61, a group of nine U.S. Destroyers, are requesting The Secretary of the Navy to review our request for a Presidential Citation for the raid into Tokyo Bay on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1945. This was the only surface action in history in Tokyo Bay.

Senators Levin of Michigan and Kerry of Nebraska, Representatives Brown of Ohio and Goss of Florida are lead-off participants for our cause.

I am asking you to make this request to the Secretary of the Navy for a review on my behalf and become a active member of the team.

I will be anxiously waiting for your response to my request.

Additionally, I would appreciate copies of correspondence to and from the Secretary of the Navy.

**Yours truly**

Attachment - Condensed description of the "Tokyo Bay Shootout"

## The First Surface Action In History Inside Tokyo Bay

This article from The Miami Tribune published in the \*"Moore News" August 26, 1945

DesRon 61, a group of 9 U.S. Destroyers, Blast Japanese convoy in Tokyo Bay on the evening of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1945.

On the dark and windy night of July 22<sup>nd</sup> nine destroyers detached from Admiral Halsey's Task Group 38.1 and catfooted into Tokyo Bay and blew hell out of a Japanese Convoy in an operation comparable to a Japanese sea raid on Alcatraz Island or a Nazi swoop around the Statue of Liberty.

Capt. T.H. Hederman, aboard squadron flagship USS DeHaven DD 727, commanded the sensational operation, which was carried out without the loss of a single man or ship.

The sea was choppy and a typhoon was blowing up north far away when we moved in off Oshima Island and saw the twinkling lights along the island chain at the entrance to the bay.

Oshima Island lies directly athwart the entrance to Tokyo Bay. It is Japan's Corregidor.

The nine "Cans" running in a column at high speed swept into the mouth of the bay about midnight. Suddenly we picked up targets in the vicinity of Norkima Saki Peninsula, and at that range we knew they were bigger than picket boats or destroyers. It was a big convoy trying to sneak out by night along the coastline.

We closed to 10,000 Yards and opened fire with our torpedoes. It was so quiet you could hear down the line as the tin fish hit the water. In less than four minutes 18 torpedoes were streaking through the water. At the same time the "Tin Cans" opened up with their five-inch guns

It was apparent that not until that moment were the Japanese aware of the destroyers presence. We saw one-half ship explode and then another caught fire. They tried to turn and run away, but we reversed course and blazed away. They tried to fire back, but apparently the enemy was firing anti-aircraft guns.

The one sided battle lasted less than a half hour and was the first surface action in history inside Tokyo Bay

\* "Moore News" was published on the USS Samuel N. Moore DD 747