

That we were victorious in this action there can be no question for not one of the Jap planes got away that night...all hit the East China sea in flames. We had seen the enemy at close hand and had been in our first action. We felt then we could cope with any situation that might arise. Our gunners really demonstrated their ability to handle their guns. The TELFAIR crew was now a tested fighting unit.

Our Beach Party while on the beaches at IE SHIMA had all the thrills they could wish for from living in fox holes to being constantly subjected to Jap sniper fire. Among the many hair-raising experiences they encountered was the one on the day one of our boats brought needed supplies to the beach. Jap snipers covering the beach tried their best to hit the men unloading supplies as well as the boat crew. Outside of a couple of holes in the side of the boat the Jap marksmen were unable to score any hits. Not far from where the Beach Party bivouacked was where Ernie Pyle was killed. All members of the Beach Party visited his grave and read the marker that says, "Here **Lies** the 77th Division Buddy, ERNIE PYLE".

We were all shocked as we know you were over the death of President Roosevelt which was announced to us over the speaker system by the Captain who directed that the colors be half masted for thirty days and that Sunday April 15th be the date of a memorial service to be conducted by the Chaplain for our departed Commander-in-Chief.

Well, to get along, our assigned tasks having been accomplished it wasn't long before we received orders to move out. It was quite a relief to put Okinawa behind us for we had been living under tremendous tension for more than a month. Sleep was something you caught by the wink rather than by the hour and we were several winks behind. After we were at sea the Captain announced our destination as Ulithi, some 1200 miles south and east of the Okinawa Gunto and another of those Atols which have proved so valuable to us. Maybe your short wave radios have picked up that station WVTY, whose announcer always signs off with, "This is Ulithi, WVTY on the Pacific Ocean Network, presenting the finest in music and entertainment for you the listeners on this, THE ROAD TO TOKIO".

Maybe you heard the NAVY-HOUR broadcast not long ago with Lieutenant Robert Taylor as Master of Ceremonies in which was presented "The Fleet That Came To Stay" a dramatic story of the KAMIKAZE attacks on Okinawa. We are proud to have been a part of that fleet.

Our stay at Ulithi was pleasant because of the foresight and planning by our Navy leaders who had established a Fleet Recreation Area here where ships could send their personnel for relaxation, of the he-man type. You should have seen us in our what-nots, playing baseball, basketball, volley ball, handball, pitching horseshoes, and swimming, with movies at night.

Through the instrumentality of radio, we probably heard as soon as you of the Un-Conditional surrender of Germany which brought V-E Day. The Captain published to all hands President Truman's message of Un-Conditional surrender and designated Sunday 13 May for the holding of a memorial service as a fitting manner in which to commemorate this event.

We will be blossoming out with a new campaign ribbon, and you will be interested to learn that the officers and men of the TELFAIR have been authorized to wear the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, with bronze star.

More honors came our way when the Captain called all hands to quarters one day (after we left Ulithi) and at an Honors Ceremony made the following presentations: