

June 4, 2005

Dear Joe -

Hi, hope you are doing well, as far we are all "hanging in" here. I wanted to send this account of your Dad's, Mike & John Monicelli. They all were on the USS Misbrara during WWII together. Your Dad compiled this journey of the Pacific happening. This account covers a three year span as you can see. A brief explanation -

Aunt Fabe Bahl has been in a nursing home in Cape May Unit House for almost two years. She is 93 yrs old and is in severe dementia. A few months ago Dewey sold her house to my son Mike & Daughter Rosemary. He cleaned out the house but left a box of family photo's & Papers. He told Rosemary he did not want the photo's or papers so I have been sorting out photo's. In the box was this account of the USS Misbrara & photo enclosed. Your Dad, Mike & Uncle John were so young and saw much of the war first hand. I believe your Dad must have sent this to Mike after the war. Any way Joe, I thought that you should have it.

I hope you and your family are all well.
Take good care,

Sincerely,
Mary

USS NIOBRARA

U S S NIOBRARA commissioned March 13, 1943, Sparrow
Point Shipyard, Baltimore, Maryland.

Sailed for Norfolk, March 14

Arrived Norfolk, March 15

Left Norfolk, April 17

Arrived Port Arthur, Texas, April 23. Passed Mine
50 ft. off; an American Mine had broken loose.

Left Port Arthur, April 24

Close Sub contact, April 28

Arrived Argentia, Newfoundland, May 4

Left Newfoundland, May 7

Arrived Norfolk, May 11

Left Norfolk, May 21

Arrived Aruba, N. W. I., May 28

Left Aruba, May 30

Arrived New York, June 9

Left New York, June 16

Arrived Oran, N. W. Africa, June 26

Left Oran, July 28

Arrived Norfolk, August 8

Left Norfolk, August 12

Arrived Port Arthur, August 19
Left Port Arthur, August 20
Arrived Norfolk, August 27
Left Norfolk, Sept. 23
Arrived Casablanca, October 10
Left Casablanca, October 15
Arrived Norfolk, November 2
Left Norfolk, November 14
Arrived Beaumont, Texas, November 20
Left Beaumont, November 21
Arrived Norfolk, November 28
Left Norfolk, November 30
Arrived Huston, Texas, December 7
Left Huston, December 8
Arrived Norfolk, December 15
Left Norfolk, December 17
Arrived Aruba, N. W. I., December 24
Left Aruba, December 26
Arrived Norfolk, January 2, 1944
Left Norfolk, January 3

Arrived Casablanca, January 20
Left Casablanca, January 29
Arrived Norfolk, February 16
Left Norfolk, February 24
Arrived Bermuda, February 27
Left Bermuda, March 1
Arrived Norfolk, March 4
Left Norfolk, March 5
Arrived Baytown, Texas, March 12
Left Baytown, March 13
Arrived Norfolk, March 20, Crane installed.
Left Norfolk, April 25
Arrived Aruba, April 30
Left Aruba, May 1
Arrived Colon, Panama, May 3
Left Colon, May 4. Passed through Panama Canal.
Arrived Balboa, Panama, May 4
Left Balboa, May 5
Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, May 19
Left Pearl Harbor, May 26
Crossed International Date Line, May 31

Arrived Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Is. June 4

Left Kwajalein, June 16

Arrived Eniwetok, Marshall Is., June 18. Refueled
U S S Tennessee, Yorktown, Biloxi, Mobile and Escorts.

Left Eniwetok, July 1

Crossed International Date Line, July 4

Arrived Pearl Harbor, July 8

Left Pearl Harbor, July 9

Crossed International Date Line, July 13

Arrived Eniwetok, July 18

Rammed U S S Prairie, destroying our Starboard 26 ft.
Whaleboat, July 18

Refueled U S S Wasp and smaller Carriers, July 19

Rammed U S S Corregidor, damaging our starboard bridge,
August 10

Left Eniwetok, August 31

Passed between Guam and Rota Islands in sight of both,
September 3

Refueled U S S Franklin and San Jacinto and Escorts,
September 4

Arrived Saipan, Caroline Is., September 5. Anchored
opposite sugar mill on Saipan, between Saipan and
Tinian Islands.

Left Saipan, September 9
Arrived Eniwetok, September 14
Left Eniwetok, September 26
Arrived Babelthaup, Palau Is., October 1. Anchored
off Jap-held Bebelthaup in Kassel Roads.
Left Babelthaup, October 18
Crossed Equator, October 20
Arrived Manus, Admiralty Islands, October 21
Refueled U S S Maryland, November 4
Left Manus, November 8
Crossed Equator, November 10
Arrived Ulithi, Caroline Islands, November 11
Left Ulithi, November 17
Crossed Equator, November 19
Arrived Manus, November 20
Left Manus, November 26
Crossed Equator, November 27
Arrived Ulithi, November 30
Left Ulithi, December 3
Arrived Palau Islands, December 5
Left Palau Islands, January 8, 1945

Arrived Leyte, Philippine Is., January 10, day of invasion of Luzon.

Left Leyte, January 14 with convoy of nine Tankers, two Carriers, seven Escorts to refuel fleet in South China Sea. Refueled 3rd Fleet there, 220 miles off Hong Kong, China. Traveled via Sulu Straits into Sulu Sea. Returned same route. Passed Mindanao in Mindanao Sea, Panay and Negros Islands.

Note: Tokyo Rose reported eight Tankers had been sunk in the Sulu Straits two days before we arrived there on our return trip. Instead, our Escorts sank two Jap Troop-laden Barges in the Straits.

Sighted both Bataan and Corregidor sometime between January 10 and 14.

Night of January 16 passed by Mindoro while it was being bombed by Jap bombers; Eight Jap bombers passed directly over ship.

Refueled in severe storm in South China Sea, Jan. 17

Arrived Ulithi, January 27

Left Ulithi, February 7

Arrived Saipan, February 9

Left Saipan, March 23

Arrived Ulithi, March 24

Left Ulithi, April 5 to refuel 3rd and 5th Fleets at Sea for invasion of Okinawa, Ryukyu Is. Started refueling with U S S Missouri.

April 6, Japanese plane attack of 187 planes. 116 shot down. Five American ships sunk, eighteen damaged by Suicide planes. Four ships burned around us all night. Jap Sub sighted within twenty yards of

starboard bow was, even then, being chased by two Destroyers.

Left Okinawa, April 8

Arrived Ulithi, April 13

Left Ulithi April 19 for Operational Area of Fleet.

Refueled Task Forces off Okinawa, April 26, 27 and 28.

Refueled Battleships Washington and South Dakota, May 1.

Refueled U S S Iowa, San Diego, Flint and Escorts, May 2

Arrived Ulithi, May 7

Spent Day with John on beach at Ulithi, May 9

Left Ulithi, May 25. Band from USS Essex aboard.

Arrived Leyte, May 28

Left Leyte, June 5

Arrive Ulithi, June 8

Left Ulithi, June 23

Arrived Okinawa, June 28. Missed floating Mine by 15 ft

Left Okinawa, July 3, Missed Another Mine by 40 ft.

Arrived Ulithi, July 9, 27 Cargo and Transports, 4 Escorts

Arrived Okinawa, July 14, started refueling Task Force

Left Okinawa, July 23, missed another Mine by 100 yds.

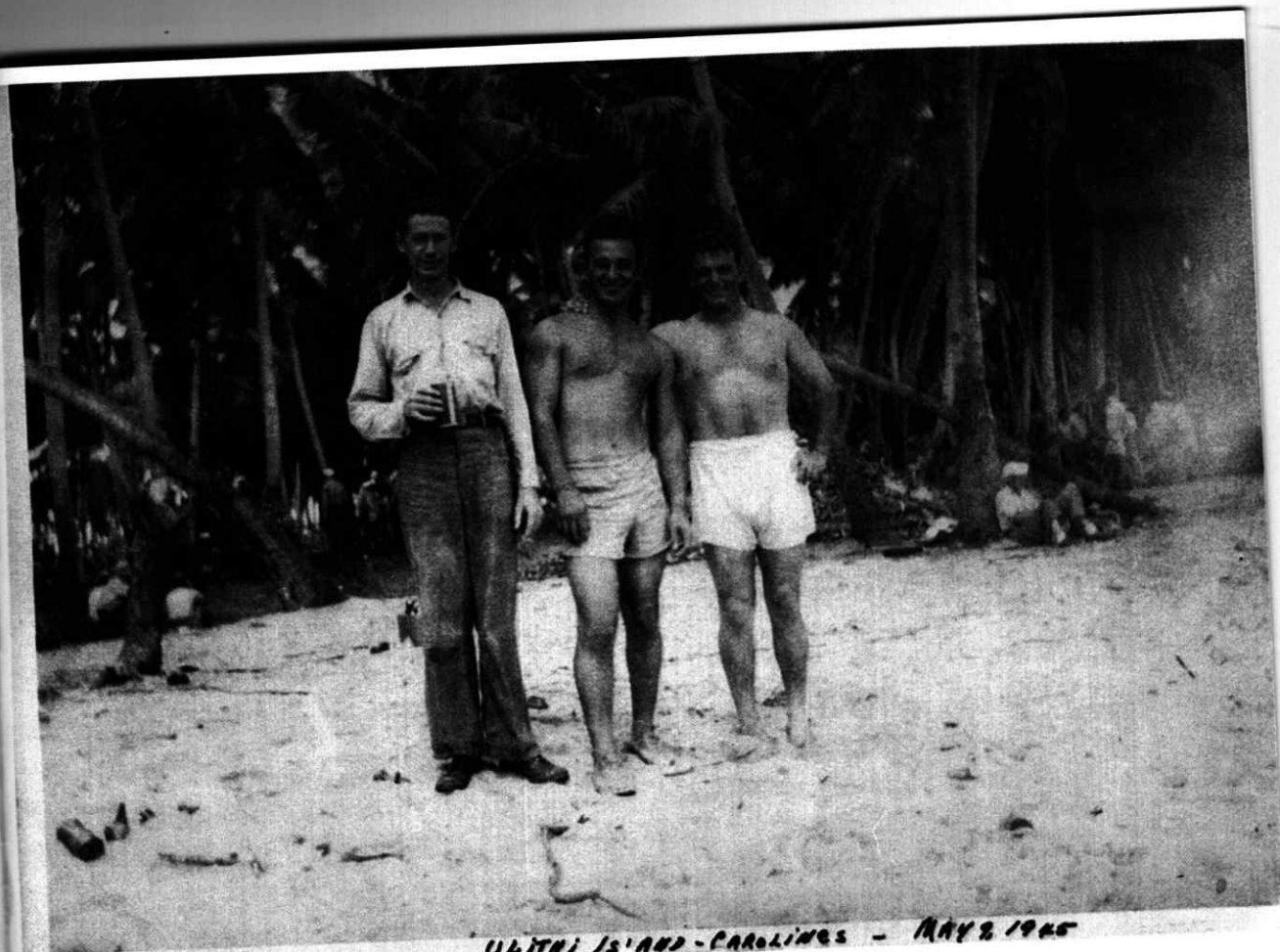
Arrived Ulithi, July 27

This is where Parker was transferred to the States
and discharged from the Service.

Compiled by

Joseph Parker Hillman





ULITHI ISLAND - CAROLINES - MAY 2, 1945