

HALSEY THE FIGHTER

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., U.S.N., Commander, Third Fleet, has held a fighting command against the Japanese virtually without interruption since the outbreak of war.

During that three-year period, under command of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U.S.N., he conducted the highly successful campaign in the South Pacific and the subsequent operations by the Third Fleet leading to the occupation of the Philippines. It was his drive and audacity that accounted, in large measure, for the success of these forces.

Admiral Halsey has been described in an official citation as "a forceful and inspiring leader." In World War I, he was awarded the Navy Cross for destroyer service and cited for his "vigorous and unrelenting" prosecution of offensive and defensive action. In this war he has been cited for "brilliant and audacious attack"; for "invincible determination to destroy the enemy," and "daring initiative and superb tactical skill."

Admiral Halsey's own formula for war is: "Hit hard, hit ~~fast~~, hit often."

He insists on full flexibility in carrying out a mission, without adhering to rigid, written plans conceived before the tactical situation develops.

"I believe in violating the rules," he says. "We violate them every day. We do the unexpected -- we expose ourselves to shore-based planes. We don't stay behind the battle with our carriers. But, most important, whatever we do -- we do fast!"

Long before the outbreak of this war, Admiral Halsey appreciated the military significance of the airplane. That accounted for his decision to take up aviation. He has been a Naval aviator for more than a decade.

He foresaw that the advent of the plane would require a change in Naval strategy and tactics. During World War I, these revolved about the battleship. It packed the biggest punch. But, in the interim between wars, a new offensive member had joined the fleet -- the aircraft carrier.

In the changed development since the last war, fleet operations centered around the carrier. To Admiral Halsey, and other far-sighted Navy leaders, this did not mean that the battleship had lost its usefulness. Speed and power are indispensable to any team.

With this reorganized team of ships, starring the aircraft carrier, Admiral Halsey attained the speed which he desired.

This formation, known as the carrier task force, was tried out originally in the series of sensational hit-run raids on the Marshalls and Gilberts, Wake and Marcus early in the war. It reached a high state of perfection under Admiral Halsey's supervision.

The task force made it possible to leap-frog and by-pass. With proper logistical support, it became the primary Naval weapon for fighting across the broad expanses of the Pacific.

In the organization of task forces, Admiral Halsey originally placed the accent on speed, rather than weight. Now that the weight is available, too, he still insists on speed.

Every ship in a Halsey task force must have high speed. Radio silence is maintained when the task force heads out from an advance anchorage. Every device of deception and surprise is used. When the objective is reached, our carrier planes strike out of the skies like a thunderbolt.

Fleet Admiral Nimitz has this to say about Admiral Halsey:

"He can calculate to a cat's whisker when successful manipulations will bring the best results and the greatest returns. He is militarily audacious and neither foolhardy nor reckless."

His cat-whisker calculations of the enemy's strength and weakness accounted for the speed-up in the current Philippines campaign.

In providing aerial protection for the Palau operations last September, Admiral Halsey's planes thoroughly worked over Luzon and the Central Philippines. Studying over reports on his flagship, Admiral Halsey concluded that the enemy did not have sufficient aerial strength to resist an invasion in the Central Philippine sector. He proposed that the Philippines be invaded at Leyte. His philosophy was to hit while the hitting was good -- hit while the enemy airforce was groggy and before reinforcements could arrive.

The success of Admiral Halsey's various operations against the Japanese may be attributed to other characteristics:

First, he has a flair for skillful maneuvering. In his Navy War College days in the early 1930's, he continually impressed his instructors and classmates. In working out tactical problems, he specialized in the new, the unorthodox and unexpected.

Second, his associates say he "has a way about him" in maneuvering aircraft carriers. "He handles them like destroyers," they say -- probably a hang-over from his long destroyer experience.

Third, he elicits devoted cooperation from members of his Staff and the officers and men of his command. As one Staff member commented: "He seems to wave a magic wand and bring out the best in all of us."

He instills in his men an implicit faith. One illustration will suffice:

As Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet headed into the China Sea in mid-January, two bluejackets were talking on the fantail. At that time, the China Sea had been a Japanese Lake for nearly three years. To penetrate it was a daring move.

one bluejacket asked.

"What do you think of going into the China Sea?"

"Well," the other replied, "if the Boss says we will go there, I'm all set."

HALSEY THE PHRASE-MAKER

Admiral Halsey is master of colorful language. He has probably added more quotable phrases to the language of this war than any other military leader. A collection of "Halseyisms" follows:

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When Admiral Halsey sailed into Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941, and first witnessed the devastation the Japs had wrought, he loosed a barrage of expletives.

"Before we get through with them," he roared, "the Japanese language will be spoken only in Hell."

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Pinning medals on the faded khaki shirts of 13 men on Guadalcanal, November 9, 1942, the Admiral gave his famous recipe for victory:

"The way to win this war is to kill Japs -- kill Japs -- kill more Japs."

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Congratulating General Alexander M. Patch on his victory at Guadalcanal, Admiral Halsey resorted to punning:

"Having sent General Patch to do a tailoring job on Guadalcanal," the message read, "I am surprised and pleased at the speed with which he removed the enemy's pants to accomplish it."

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After the battle of Santa Cruz Islands, October 26, 1942, Admiral Halsey flashed the news in typical language:

"We licked the Hell out of the Japs."

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"All the Axis is hearing the tolling of the bells," he said on one occasion. "And we are doing the rope pulling."

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Admiral Halsey's most publicized remark was made after the three-day sweep of Formosa, October 12, 13, 14. While Halsey maintained radio silence, Jap propagandists were making fantastic claims about damage done to the Third Fleet.

When the Admiral finally broke radio silence, he ironically observed that his ships, sunk by Jap radio announcement, had been salvaged and were "retiring at high speed toward the Japanese fleet."

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Officers and men under Halsey's command have been promised they can look forward to at least one good liberty town.

"We will by-pass all smaller towns and turn them loose on Tokyo," the Admiral said. "That will be a liberty town they'll really enjoy."

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Last September, Admiral Halsey was asked whether he and Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher were planning more trouble for the Japs.

"Sure," Halsey replied, "our dirty trick department is working overtime."

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Last September 20th and 21st, the Third Fleet brought the war back to Luzon with a series of devastating air sweeps over Luzon to protect the Palau operations. Admiral Halsey was immensely pleased. He dashed off a message of congratulations to the commander of his fast carrier task forces:

"The gate receipts from the recent exceptional performance at Luzon were gratifying and although the capacity audience (the Japs) hissed, very little was thrown at the players. As long as the audience has a spot to hiss in, the performers will stay on the road."

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At a press conference with the late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox in the Navy Department in January, 1944, Admiral Halsey read off a typical piece of Jap propaganda to the effect that the "invincible" Jap army and navy were "majestically defending" their outer bases.

"That 'majestically defending,' " Secretary Knox interjected with scorn.

Admiral Halsey rejoined:

"They certainly smell when they are 'majestically defending' too."

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The afternoon before Admiral Halsey launched his hit-run raid on the Marshalls, shortly after outbreak of war, a Jap plane passed overhead without sighting his task force. Halsey dictated this message:

"From the American Admiral in charge of the striking force, to the Japanese Admiral on the Marshall Islands:

"It is a pleasure to thank you for having your patrol planes not sight my force."

The message was translated into Japanese, printed, and next day dropped by Halsey's pilots along with their bombs -- much to the Admiral's satisfaction.

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When Admiral Halsey heard the Jap radio asking, last November, "Where is the American Fleet?", he turned to his aide and said:

"Send them our latitude and longitude."

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A fellow officer once said of Admiral Halsey that "it will take the rest of his life to get over his mad at the Japs." He has expressed his contempt over and over again in countless scathing comments. For instance --

"I haven't got the mentality of a rat, so I can't think what the Japanese plans are. The Japs have built up a mythical reputation as super fighting men, especially in the jungle, but they are only rats, and the only thing to do is to exterminate them."

"The only good Jap is the Jap who's been dead six months."

"The day will come when all Jap ships will be good ships -- at the bottom of the ocean."

"When we get to Tokyo, where we're bound to get eventually, we'll have a little celebration where Tokyo was."

"As a strategist, the Jap is a good ping-pong player."

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Shortly after assuming command in the South Pacific on October 18, 1942, Admiral Halsey was asked by his division commanders what were his instructions. Halsey's answer was simply:

"Attack -- attack -- attack."

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After another Third Fleet carrier sweep far into Japanese territory, Admiral Halsey messaged his fast task forces:

"To my group of stars: I am booking you to appear before the best audience in the Asiatic station because of the brilliant performance just turned in."

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Admiral Halsey fairly burst with pride when his forces penetrated the South China Sea on a series of strikes which wrecked enemy shipping and shore installations on the Asiatic mainland. To these forces he sent the following congratulatory message:

"The operation just completed has been difficult but historic. I realize that you have driven yourselves almost beyond endurance because of the high stakes involved, because you knew that the enemy was also near exhaustion, and because you knew your actions would spare the lives of many Americans in later operations. Your work has been done magnificently well. I am so proud of you that words cannot express my feelings. We have driven the enemy from the seas and back to his inner defenses."

Actions in which the various commands of Admiral Halsey have participated:

Admiral Halsey flew flag in the ENTERPRISE as skipper of a task force ferrying WILDCATS to Wake early in December, 1941.

31 January 1942	Commanded one of two task forces (flag in ENTERPRISE) which raided Marshalls and Gilberts.
24 February 1942	Flag in ENTERPRISE, led task force raid on Wake.
4 March 1942	Still ENTERPRISE, raided Marcus Island, 975 miles from Japan.
18 April 1942	Commanded task force, flag in ENTERPRISE, which ferried Doolittle flyers for Tokyo raid.
18 October 1942	Assumed duty as Commander, So. Pac, Area and So. Pac. Force.

FIRST SOLOMONS CAMPAIGN

26 October 1942	Battle of Santa Cruz Islands. Engagement between U.S. carriers and Japanese carriers operating with a powerful enemy force moving to support land operations at Guadalcanal.
13-14-15 November	Battle of Guadalcanal. Enemy concentrated invasion force at Rabaul. U.S. Naval forces covering reinforcements for troops on Guadalcanal met and decisively defeated this force in a series of violent engagements.
30 November	Battle of Tassafaronga (Lunga Point). A Japanese attempt to reinforce Guadalcanal was defeated.
8 February 1943	The Japanese completed their withdrawal from Guadalcanal. The first Solomons campaign, except for incidental mopping up, ended.

CENTRAL SOLOMONS CAMPAIGN

21 February 1943	Our forces made landings in the Russell Islands, 60 miles northwest of Guadalcanal, began construction of strong defenses.
20 June	A task force of cruisers and destroyers under Rear Admiral A.S. Merrill bombarded installations on Bougainville.
30 June	Landing at Rendova, covered by two groups of destroyers.

- 6 July First Battle of Kula Gulf. A task force of cruisers and destroyers under command of Rear Admiral W.L. Ainsworth intercepted the "Tokyo Express."
- 13 July Second Battle of Kula Gulf. The circumstances of the First Battle of Kula Gulf were repeated. The two engagements in Kula Gulf removed a threat of naval action by the enemy which might have jeopardized our landings on the north coast of New Georgia, and effectively prevented the Japanese from using the Kula Gulf route to supply and reinforce their garrisons at Vila and Munda.
- 5 August Fall of Munda, climaxing Central Solomons campaign.
- 6 August 1943 Battle of Vella Gulf. Japanese destroyers escorting reinforcements were intercepted by a destroyer force under Commander Frederick Moosbrugger.

In reviewing a year of warfare in the South Pacific since the landings on Guadalcanal 7 August 1942, Admiral Halsey said, "We have made an earnest offensive beginning . . . We have made the waters of the middle Solomons costly and dangerous for the Japanese."

When Munda was secured, General MacArthur, congratulated Admiral Halsey, who was in charge of the operations that deprived the Japs of their foothold in the Central Solomons.

- 15 August 1943 Invasion of Vella LaVella Island.
- 17-18 August Four U.S. destroyers under Captain T.J. Ryan, Jr., U.S.N., intercepted four enemy destroyers and a number of barges north of Vella Gulf. Our forces scored heavily with gunfire; action broken off by enemy.
- 25 August New Georgia campaign ended with occupation of Bairoko Harbor.
- 6-7 October Action off Vella LaVella. A task group of three of our destroyers under Captain Frank R. Walker, U.S.N., repulsed a superior enemy force.
- 6 October End of Central Solomons campaign. Enemy had completed evacuation of troops from Kolombangara Island and Vella LaVella.

BOUGAINVILLE CAMPAIGN

26-27 October 1943	Invasion and occupation of Mono and Stirling in the Treasury Islands. Landings on Mono preceded by bombardment by a task force commanded by Rear Admiral T.S. Wilkinson.
28 October	Landing on Choiseul.
1 November	Invasion of Bougainville, preceded by bombardment of enemy positions at Buka and Bonis by task force under Rear Admiral A.S. Merrill.
1 November	Following bombardment of Buka and Bonis, Rear Admiral Merrill's forces bombarded Morgusaia Island in the Shortlands.
2 November 1943	Battle of Empress Augusta Bay. Rear Admiral Merrill's force attacked a Japanese force, but the enemy retired after suffering considerable damage.
8 November	Enemy air attack on a force of U.S. light cruisers under Rear Admiral L.T. DuBose.
12-13 November	Rear Admiral Merrill's task force, engaged in covering transports en route to Torokina Point, attacked by enemy forces.
25 November	Four U.S. destroyers attacked a superior enemy force off Cape St. George.
20 December	American destroyers bombarded a Japanese concentration on Northeastern Bougainville.
23 December	Cruisers and destroyers bombarded the Buka-Bonis area.
27 December	Another force shelled the Kieta Area.

BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO OPERATIONS

5 November 1943	Air strike at Rabaul by a carrier task force under Rear Admiral F.C. Sherman.
11 November	Two task forces under Rear Admiral Sherman and Rear Admiral A.E. Montgomery struck at Rabaul.
25 December	Strike at Kavieng by planes from a carrier task force.
1 January 1944	Carrier strike at Kavieng.
4 January	Successful attack on two destroyers by U.S. task force off the entrance to Kavieng.

17-29 February

U.S. destroyers bombarded Kavieng and Rabaul and conducted anti-shipping sweeps in the Bismarck area. These were our first surface bombardments of these enemy bases. There was no air nor surface opposition and only slight resistance from shore batteries.

FINAL STAGES OF SOLOMONS CAMPAIGN

8-25 January 1944

Enemy troop and supply concentrations and staging points in the northern Solmons were subjected to six surface bombardments. Four were in broad daylight. There was no air or surface opposition, and negligible reply from shore batteries. Two strikes on Southern Empress Augusta Bay, two on northeastern Bougainville and one on Choiseul Bay were conducted by destroyers. One on the Shortland area was by cruisers and destroyers.

15 February

Landing on Green Island. On the same date two destroyer task groups under Captain R.W. Simpson and Captain A.A. Burke bombarded Rabaul and Kavieng. The task force making the landing was under command of Rear Admiral Wilkinson. A task force of cruisers and destroyers covered the advance and retirement of the assault forces. An aircraft task force under Vice Admiral Fitch and a support force of cruisers and destroyers commanded by Rear Admiral Merrill participated in the operation, which flanked Rabaul.

7 March

Jap ground forces attacked our positions in Torckina area on Bougainville. Fighting continued until 25 March when the Japs abandoned their effort and retired.

ST. MATTHIAS GROUP

19 March 1944

Fourth Marines landed unopposed on Emirau Island, St. Matthias group (75 miles northwest of Kavieng), thus completing the encirclement of Rabaul, Kavieng, and other enemy positions in the Bismarck Archipelago and Solomon Islands. Diversionary bombardment of Kavieng was conducted by heavy surface ships, which poured in more than 1,000 tons of shells. Operation was under general direction of Admiral Halsey.

22 March

U.S. Pacific Fleet destroyers bombarded Mussau Islands, largest of St. Matthias Group, 15 miles northwest of Emirau.

The South Pacific campaign ended with the occupation of Emirau Island.

15 June 1944

Vice Admiral J.H. Newton, U.S.N., relieved Admiral Halsey as Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force. Admiral Nimitz announced Admiral Halsey "will henceforth command the Third Fleet which will operate in the Pacific Ocean in the same way that the Fifth Fleet is operating under the command of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, U.S.N."

THE THIRD FLEET GOES INTO ACTION

5 September 1944

The Third Fleet opened its assault on the Palaus when aircraft of a fast carrier task force bombed shore installations and left 17 small craft burning.

5-7 September

Planes from other Third Fleet carrier units bombed and strafed Yap and Ulithi in the Western Carolines.

6 September

Battleships of the Third Fleet shelled enemy installations in the Palaus.

8 September

Carrier aircraft made their first attack on Mindanao in the Philippines. The strike was virtually unopposed. 68 enemy aircraft were shot down, 32 loaded freighters in convoy were sunk by combined air and surface attack; 20 ships in Davao Gulf were damaged; 20 small craft were sunk, 17 damaged.

9 September

Carrier aircraft attacked Angaur, Peleliu and Koror in the Palau Group, bombed installations and shipping.

10-11 September

Babelthup, Peleliu and Angaur were attacked by carrier aircraft of the Pacific Fleet. On the 11th these islands were bombarded by battleships.

11-13 September

Carrier aircraft shot down 156 enemy aircraft and destroyed 277 on the ground in strikes at Leyte, Cebu, Negros and Panay Islands in the Visayas group, Philippines. 40 enemy ships were sunk, 44 damaged. Ground installations were damaged.

12 September

Carrier aircraft hit Angaur, Peleliu and Ngesebus in the Palau Islands.

14 September

Supported by fleet air and surface units the First Marine Division landed on Peleliu in the Palau Islands.

- 15 September Carrier aircraft bombed enemy positions and installations on Babelthuap and Peleliu in the Palau Islands.
- 16 September The 81st Infantry Division, U.S. Army, invaded Angaur, southernmost of the Palau Islands, under cover of air and surface bombardment. Opposition was light.
- 19 September Organized resistance ceased on Angaur Island.
- 20-21 September Elements of the 81st Infantry Division, covered by ships of the Pacific Fleet, occupied Ulithi Atoll in the Western Carolines. They were unopposed.

"THE SECOND BATTLE OF MANILA BAY"

The Pacific war came back, after 2 1/2 years, to the Island of Luzon, with a smashing two-day attack by carrier based aircraft of the Pacific Fleet. Japanese losses:

- 1 40 ships sunk
- 11 ships probably sunk
- 6 small craft sunk
- 11 small craft damaged
- 2 floating drydocks damaged
- 169 aircraft shot down
- 188 aircraft destroyed on the ground
- 45 aircraft damaged on the ground
- 3 aircraft damaged by ships' gunfire
- Extensive, widespread damage to military targets
- Our losses: 11 aircraft

- 23 September Carrier planes of the Third Fleet struck at Cebu, Leyte, Negros, Luzon and Nactan in the Visayas Group of the Philippine Island.
- 27 September First Marine Division landed on Ngesebus and Kongauru in the Palau Islands, with the usual air and surface bombardment cover. Both islands were quickly secured.
- 8 October Elements of the 81st Infantry Division landed on Garakayo in the southern Palau Islands. The island was secured the following day.
- 9 October For the first time of the war, carrier aircraft of Task Force 58, operating as a unit of the Third Fleet, attacked the Ryukyu Archipelago. The strikes were in great force.

10 October	Troops of the 81st Infantry Division landed on Bairakaseru Island, Palau. There was no opposition.
	Our carrier planes attacked Luzon Island in force.
12 October	Organized resistance on Peleliu ceased. Mopping up continued. Through 9 December, total Japanese casualties on Peleliu and Angaur were 13,354 killed, 433 taken prisoner.
11-15 October	Aircraft of Task Force 58 struck Formosa in force 11-13 October. Air battles ensued which lasted until the 15th. Enemy losses were: 416 aircraft destroyed; 32 ships sunk, 13 probably sunk, 55 damaged. We lost 66 aircraft. Ground installations were extensively damaged.
13 October	Luzon was attacked by carrier aircraft. No airborne opposition.
15-16 October	Carrier aircraft attacked Manila area. Japanese losses were: 20 aircraft shot down, 30-40 destroyed on the ground.
17-18 October	Carrier aircraft attacked northern Luzon and the Manila area. 56 enemy aircraft were destroyed; four ships were sunk, 23 damaged. Our losses were: 7 aircraft.
19 October	Carrier aircraft of a fast carrier task force bombed, rocketed and strafed targets in the Visayas Group, Philippine Islands. (U.S. 6th Army, under command of General MacArthur began landings on Leyte supported by the largest concentration of Allied forces yet assembled in the Pacific.)
20 October	Carrier aircraft strafed and bombed enemy aircraft and shipping targets in the Philippine Islands.
22-27 October	<u>BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF:</u> Units of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet and Vice Admiral Kinkaid's Seventh Fleet cut a sixty-ship Japanese force to ribbons. This was one of the decisive victories of the war in the Pacific.
28 October	Carrier aircraft attacked southern Luzon and the Central Philippines. Enemy losses: 3 cargo vessels sunk, 1 cruiser probably sunk, 2 cruisers and 1 tanker damaged; 78 aircraft shot down, 12 destroyed on the ground.
1 November	A carrier group of the Third Fleet was attacked in the western Pacific by enemy aircraft. Damage was inflicted on several ships. Ten of the attacking aircraft were destroyed.

4 November	Carrier aircraft of the Third Fleet attacked Manila Harbor and five nearby airfields. 191 enemy aircraft were destroyed. 2 enemy cruisers, 3 destroyers and several cargo ships were damaged.
5 November	Carrier aircraft of the Third Fleet continued attacks on Luzon. In addition to the enemy's aircraft losses of 4 November, 249 aircraft were destroyed. 3 cargo vessels and an oiler were sunk. 6 other vessels were damaged. Ground installations were heavily damaged.
10 November	Carrier aircraft of the Third Fleet attacked a 10-ship enemy convoy just outside Ormoc Bay, destroying 7 ships, probably sinking 2 others, and damaging the other ship. 15 enemy aircraft were downed. We lost 9 aircraft.
12 November	Carrier aircraft attacked shipping in Manila Bay. 1 light cruiser, 4 destroyers, 11 cargo ships and oilers were sunk. 28 enemy aircraft were downed, 130-140 strafed on the ground.
18 November	Aircraft from a carrier task force struck shipping and airfields in and around Manila. 10 ships were damaged, 1 sunk; 100 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground.
24 November	Carrier based aircraft of the Third Fleet attacked Luzon. 18 vessels were sunk; 15 were damaged. 87 enemy aircraft were destroyed.
13-15 December	Carrier aircraft of the Pacific Fleet bombed and strafed harbor and airfield installations on Luzon. Enemy losses: 34 ships sunk, 36 damaged; 61 aircraft destroyed in the air, 208 destroyed on the ground. We lost 27 aircraft.
20 December	Organized resistance on Leyte ended.
3-4 January 1945	Formosa and Okinawa strike by Third Fleet.
7-8 January	Luzon sweep, also by Third Fleet.
9 January	Landings on Luzon
11 January	Attacks on the enemy off the coast of French Indo-China between Saigon and Camranh Bay. Carrier aircraft sank 25 ships, including a light cruiser.
13-15 January	Carrier aircraft struck at targets on Formosa and along the China Coast, including Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Hongkong.

20 January

Formosa strike. An estimated 60,000 tons of shipping sunk; and 65,000 tons damaged by carrier aircraft.

21 January

Attack on Okinawa.

A recapitulation showed that in the past five months, Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet destroyed 7,315 enemy planes and sank 90 warships, and 2,000,000 tons of merchant and transport vessels.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
THIRD FLEET

26 January 1945

MEMORANDUM:

It has now been five months since Admiral W.F. Halsey, Jr., U.S.N., as Commander THIRD Fleet, was placed in command of the Western Pacific Task Forces.

During these five months Admiral Halsey has exercised command from his Flagship in company with the THIRD Fleet at sea. The Flagship has steamed 51,650 miles, equivalent to two trips around the world.

During this period the THIRD Fleet has inflicted greater loss upon the Japanese than any Fleet of any country in history has inflicted upon an enemy.

The losses inflicted are as follows:

Sunk - - Warships

1 Battleship (The Musashi) of a class similar to the BISMARCK in size and armament.

4 Carriers

4 Heavy Cruisers

3 Light Cruisers

21 Destroyers

18 Destroyer Escorts

4 Submarines

35 Small combat ships

90 Total

Estimated Tonnage -- 241,000

Sunk -- Support and Merchant Shipping

212 Ships over 1,000 tons in size

147 Ships under 1,000 tons in size

214 Small craft

573 Total

Estimated Tonnage - - 776,000

Estimated Combine Total Shipping Sunk - - -1,017,000

Damaged -- Warships

8 Battleships -- Two of these (The Fuso and the Yamashiro later sunk by the SEVENTH Fleet.)

6 Heavy cruisers

8 Light cruisers

32 Destroyers

42 Escort Vessels

2 Submarines

54 Other small combat ships

152 Total

Damaged -- Support and Merchant Shipping

408 Ships over 1,000 tons

192 Ships under 1,000 tons

411 Small craft

1,011 Total

Note: Some ships damaged by the THIRD Fleet later sunk by other forces. (7th Fleet, Submarines, Army and Marine shore based air.)

Likewise some ships sunk by THIRD Fleet undoubtedly previously damaged by other forces. (7th Fleet, Submarines, Army and Marine shore based air.)

Also there is some duplication in vessels damaged in one attack by THIRD Fleet, and then sunk in a later attack by THIRD Fleet.

It is impossible to accurately determine this factor, but because of it totals sunk and totals damaged should not be added together.

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed:

Shot down in aerial combat	1904
Burned and destroyed aground	<u>2466</u>
Total --	4370

338 enemy airfields attacked, ground installations damaged. Numerous Naval bases, shore installations, industrial areas, barracks, bombed -- strafed - burned.

Highlights:

3,757 mile cruise in the CHINA SEA with the first carrier attacks on the China and Indo-China coast, cutting through the last sea route to Japan's Southern Empire.

Spearheaded and supported General MacArthur's landings at LEYTE, MINDORO, and LUZON.

The Battle for LEYTE GULF, 24-27 October, in which practically the entire Jap Navy was involved and the Japanese suffered greater damage than was suffered in any other Naval Battle in History.

The Amphibious landings on and conquest of air and naval bases at Peleliu and Angaur in Palau Islands, 15 September-14 October 1944.

The first carrier attack on concentrated land based air in the Central PHILIPPINES on 13 September, leading to the Commander THIRD Fleet's recommendation of change in, and speeding up of, war plans -- and the LEYTE landings of 20 October.

The first carrier attack on OKINAWA on 10 October.

The first air attack on the Japanese in MANILA HARBOR 21-22 September.

ADMIRAL WILLIAM FREDERICK HALSEY, JR., U.S. NAVY

Admiral Halsey is one of the high ranking Naval Officers who has spent his whole life in the Navy. When he was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on October 30, 1882, his father, later Captain William Frederick Halsey, U.S. Navy (now deceased), had the rank of Master and was attached to the U.S.S. IROQUOIS on the Pacific Station. When asked ~~what~~ schools he had attended prior to entering the Naval Academy, Admiral Halsey said: "Many-- and the University of Virginia." His formal education started in a kindergarten in Coronado, California, and included attendance at public schools in Vallejo, California, the Pingoy-Swarthmore School, St. John's College Preparatory School, Annapolis, and the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Annapolis.

He was appointed to the Naval Academy by President McKinley in 1900. He played football at the Naval Academy and was winner of the Thompson trophy cup in athletics. He was a member of the Lucky Bag Staff and served on numerous committees, among which were the Class Crest Committee, Class Supper Committee, Christmas Card Committee, Class German and Graduation Ball Committees and the "Hustlers":

Admiral Halsey graduated from the Naval Academy on February 1, 1904, and was assigned to the U.S.S. MISSOURI. In December, 1905, he was transferred to the ex-Spanish vessel U.S.S. DON JUAN de AUSTRIA. He was commissioned Ensign on February 2, 1906, having completed the two years sea duty, required by existing laws, before commissioning. He remained on the DON JUAN de AUSTRIA until she was decommissioned in March, 1907. He next joined the U.S.S. KANSAS when she was commissioned on April 11, 1907, and made the cruise around the world with the Battle Fleet in that vessel. He was promoted to Lieutenant, both grades, on February 2, 1909. On April 17 of that year he was transferred to the Reserve Torpedo Flotilla, Charleston, South Carolina, where after completing instruction in torpedoes, he was assigned to duty in command of the U.S.S. DUPONT, torpedo boat. He joined the destroyer LAMSON when she was commissioned on February 10, 1910, and two months later he was ordered to the Receiving Ship FRANKLIN at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia. He assumed command of the U.S.S. FLUSSER in August, 1912, and on February, 1913, was assigned to command the First Group Torpedo Flotilla, Atlantic Fleet, of which the FLUSSER was flagship. He was transferred to command of the U.S.S. JARVIS in August, 1913, and in July, 1915, he reported to the Naval Academy where he served as one of the executive officers on the Academic Staff until November 19, 1917, being promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Commander while in that assignment.

During the World War Admiral Halsey had duty in the Destroyer Force based on Queenstown, Ireland. He reported there on January 18, 1918, and, after temporary duty in the U.S.S. DUNCAN, he assumed command of the U.S.S. BENHAM on February 19 with the rank of Commander. He was transferred to command of the U.S.S. SHAW on May 19. He was detached from her on August 20, 1918, with orders for duty in connection with fitting out the U.S.S. YARNALL at the William Cramp and Sons plant, Philadelphia. She was commissioned on November 29, eighteen days after the signing of the Armistice.

Admiral Halsey was awarded the Navy Cross for his service during the World War and was cited as follows:

"For distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. BENHAM and the U.S.S. SHAW, engaged in the important, exacting, and hazardous duty of patrolling the waters infested with enemy submarines and mines, in escorting and protecting vitally important convoy of troops and supplies through these waters, and in offensive and defensive action, vigorously and unremittingly prosecuted against all forms of enemy naval activity."

Admiral Halsey was detached from the U.S.S. YARNALL when she was placed in reserve on January 9, 1919. From January 15, 1919, until September 16, 1921, he had command successively of the destroyers CHAUNCEY, JOHN FRANCIS BURNES and WICKES, Destroyer Squadrons, Pacific Fleet. He had a tour of duty in the Office of Naval Intelligence, Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., from October 21, 1921, until September 18, 1922, and served as Naval Attache at the American Embassy, Berlin, Germany, from October 27, 1922, until July 5, 1924, with additional duty as Naval Attache at Christiana, Norway; Copenhagen, Denmark, and Stockholm, Sweden. When he was detached from that duty he assumed command of the U.S.S. DALE operating with the U.S. Naval Forces in European waters. On June 30, 1925, he was transferred to the U.S.S. OSBORNE and served as her commanding officer until he was ordered back to the United States in October, 1925. He served as executive officer of the battleship WYOMING, from January, 1926, until January, 1927. On January 25 he reported as commanding officer of the U.S.S. REINA MERCEDES, Station Ship at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in February, 1927, and was detached from that duty in the REINA MERCEDES in June, 1930.

After a year as commander of Squadron 14, Scouting Fleet, Admiral Halsey was under instruction at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, from July 1, 1932, until May 27, 1933, and at the Army War College, Washington, D.C., in the year 1933-1934. Following completion of that course, he had flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and qualified as a Naval Aviator in December, 1934. He remained at Pensacola, with duty involving flying until May 31, 1935, and reported as commanding officer of the U.S.S. SARATOGA on July 6 of that year.

Admiral Halsey served as Commandant of the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, from June 30, 1937, until May 21, 1938, and attained flag rank on March 1, 1938, while serving in that assignment. He returned to sea as Commander, Carrier Division Two, U.S.S. YORKTOWN, flagship, in June, 1938. In May, 1939, he was transferred to command of Carrier Division One, U.S.S. SARATOGA, flagship, and in June, 1940, he assumed command of Aircraft, Battle Force, with accompanying rank of Vice Admiral and with additional duty in command of Carrier Division Two.

In February, 1942, Admiral Halsey was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the President of the United States with the following citation:

"For distinguished service in a duty of great responsibility as Commander of the Marshall Raiding Force, United States Pacific Fleet, and especially for his brilliant and audacious attack against the Marshall and Gilbert Islands on January 31, 1942. By his great skill and determination this drive inflicted heavy damage to enemy ships and planes."

In April, 1942, Admiral Halsey's title was changed to Commander, Carriers, Pacific Fleet, with additional duty as Commander, Carrier Division Two. On October 18, 1942, he assumed duty as Commander, South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force. He is now Commander of the Third Fleet.

On November 25, 1942, he was promoted to the rank of Admiral for temporary service, to rank from November 18, 1942.

On January 12, 1944, Admiral Halsey was awarded the Gold Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Service Medal in the name of the President of the United States, by the Secretary of the Navy. The citation is as follows:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Government of the United States in a position of great responsibility as Commander South Pacific Force and South Pacific Area from October 19, 1942, to December 7, 1943. In command of Naval forces and certain Army ground and air forces during this critical period, Admiral Halsey conducted a brilliantly planned and consistently sustained offensive, driving the enemy steadily northward, and occupying strategic positions through the Solomons, thereby securing the South Pacific Area for the United Nations. A forceful and inspiring leader, Admiral Halsey indoctrinated his command with his own fighting spirit and an invincible determination to destroy the enemy. His daring initiative and superb tactical skill have been responsible for the continued success of the South Pacific Campaign and have contributed vitally toward breaking down Japanese resistance."

The War Department has awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to Admiral Halsey, with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in a position of great responsibility from December 8, 1943, to May 1, 1944. Having created and integrated, well-knit combat force through his superior leadership, personal guidance and strict adherence to the sound principles of unity of command. Admiral Halsey used this powerful striking force with such vigor and determination as to crush the Japanese garrison on certain South Pacific island groups and isolate enemy forces in others. As a result of Admiral Halsey's conduct of command, the Army forces in the South Pacific Area were splendidly cared for and were able to accomplish the combat and logistic missions assigned in the most effective manner."

In addition to the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Gold Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Service Medal, and the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Admiral Halsey has the Mexican Service Medal; the Victory Medal, Destroyer Clasp; the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal; the "Gold Cross of the Chevalier of the Order of the Savior" awarded by the Government of Japan; and the "Al Merito" first class" awarded

• Empire awarded by the Government of Great Britain.

His home address is: **The Marlborough Apartments**, 917
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