

ships of Task Force 16, VADM W.F. "Bull" Halsey, north of the Hawaiian islands and proceeded to the launch point, 650 miles from Nippon without making port.

Battle of the Coral Sea - From 4 to 8 May 1942 the first Naval battle was fought without the opposing ships making visual contact and with all action between air and sea forces. USS Yorktown, CV-5, and Lexington, CV-2, engaged IJN carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku. It was a pyrrhic victory in that Lexington was lost and Yorktown damaged but operational. Our a/c sunk the light carrier Shoho and damaged Zuikaku. The Japanese retired from action and their attempted occupation of Port Moresby put off. Lt Raring and Aerog 1/c Chester A. Beason were USS Lexington weathermen.



Nazis Stung by Wasp - In mid April of 1942 USS Wasp, CV-7, on special ferry duty out of Glasgow Scotland, entered the Mediter-ranean Sea and launched 47 RAF Spitfires to Malta. When the operation was repeated on 9 May Winston Churchill sent the message, "Who says a WASP cannot sting twice?" Weather crew: LCDR Gus Lentz, Caerog Leo A. Lee, Aerog 2/c Don Cruse and Ken Fairbrother, Aerog 3/c Jim Black, Perry Bruce and Jim Morgan.

Weather Training Expands - In early 1942, classes at the Naval Training School, Aerography, at NAS Lakehurst, N.J. increased in size and scope to instruct 75 sailors and 7 Marines in a 12 week course. The school was moved to the former Newman school in Lakewood, NJ which consisted of five primary buildings. A former Catholic Prep school on 180 acres served to provide an additional area for messing and berthing.

A Japanese carrier force launched diversionary raids on Dutch Harbor from 3 to 4 June. Navy PBYS located the force but AAF bombing attempts were unsuccessful.

Battle of Midway, a Turning Point - Broken codes and good intelligence work enabled a much smaller American carrier force to defeat a strong Japanese task force bent on capturing Midway. RADM F.J. Fletcher in USS Yorktown, CV-5 and RADM R.A. Spruance with USS Enterprise, CV-6 and USS Hornet, CV-8 along with land based Navy, Marine and Army air from Midway took on the IJN from 3 to 6 June 1942 and sent them away with heavy losses

totaling two heavy and two light carriers, one heavy cruiser, 258 aircraft and a large percentage of their experienced carrier pilots. US losses were Yorktown, torpedoed while damaged and under tow, and the destroyer Haman.

Aerological personnel aboard Yorktown were; LCDR H.E. "Hubie" Strange, Aerog 1/c August W. "Bill" Hovland, Aerogs 2/c Robert Sheehan, Alex Abel and George Wright; Aerogs 3/c Luther "Gus" Korn and Robert Humphrey and Seamen 1/c Harry Whidden, Joseph Doiron, Robert Martin, Daniel Zaffarino and Joseph Ramsey. S 2/c Edward Snopkowski was stationed on Midway.

On 10 June 1942 patrol planes of PatWing 4 discovered that Japanese troops had seized Attu and Kiska. WO Walter Winfrey was WIA at Kiska by machine gun fire and captured as was Aerog 2/c James Turner. Caerog "Willy" House evaded capture for forty nine days but was finally forced to surrender in a condition of near starvation. PBYS operating from the seaplane tender Gillis in Nazan Bay, Atka Island hit ships and enemy positions in an intense 48 hour attack which exhausted their gasoline and bomb supply but was not successful in driving out the Japanese.

Flying (Aerographer) Tigers - On 24 July 1942 three Navy Aerographers mates were released from active duty to report to the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Co. of New York. These three personnel along with two Army weather observers became the Aerological branch of the American Volunteer Group, better known as the "Flying Tigers". They were Aerog 2/c D.A. Whelpley, Aerog 3/c A.W. Fritzke and Aerog 3/c R.S. Richardson.

Guadalcanal - From 7 Aug to 9 Feb 1942 US forces fought to take Guadalcanal. The First Marine division made the first Marine amphibious landing in force of WW2 with air support from the carriers Saratoga, Enterprise and Wasp, RADM Noyes, and by Navy, Marine and Army units of Aircraft South Pacific under RADM J.S. McCain.

Battle of Savo Island - On the evening of Aug 7th VADM Mikawa, Japanese CinC at Rabaul, New Guinea, assembled five heavy cruisers and two light cruisers and set off for Guadalcanal. The Japanese ships slipped thru "the slot", a narrow gap between the two chains of the Solomons and approached Savo Island in the evening. RADM Fletcher had just withdrawn the U.S. carriers due to a low fuel state and a low level of available fighters. Allied cruisers and destroyers had taken up precautionary positions for the night but co-operation and watch keeping were poor and Mikawa caught both northern and southern groups by surprise and within an hour was turning back thru the slot leaving four of five allied cruisers sunk or sinking and a fifth badly damaged. Savo Island was one of the worst defeats for our Navy during the war and it is fortunate that Mikawa did not follow up his advantage and attack the mass of transport and supply ships lying defenseless at Lunga