

Bellinger list fame) was stationed aboard USS California. USS Indianapolis was steaming toward Johnston island at the time with LCDR Oberholtzer, Caerog Duke Chamberlain, Aerog 1/c James Tenbrink and Aerogs 2/c Charlie Thompson and Kelly Harp.

Assault on the Philippines - Fleet Weather Central Cavite was destroyed in initial Japanese attacks requiring a move to the Manila observatory. On 24 Dec 1941 weather personnel moved to Corregidor and continued the fleet broadcast. LCDR Denys Knoll, was evacuated via USS Spearfish to Australia by orders of the President. CDR Tarnowski commented that LCDR Knoll was the finest Naval Officer that he ever worked for. LT S.W. Denham and Caerog Harry S. Campbell were evacuated earlier in USS William B. Preston, AVP-20.

Corregidor Falls on 6 May 1942 - According to CDR Tarnowski there were no weather men in the Bataan Death March since they all moved to Corregidor. The March apparently consisted of men who were captured on the mainland. TSGT "Bob" Taylor USMC, assigned at MCAF Tsan Kou, outside Tsingtao, China in 1948 and 1949, was reputed to have survived the Bataan Death March. Aerog 1/c Jimmy Mullen, Zemo Tarnowski and Harry Cook, Aerog 2/c Don W. McConn and Aerog 3/c Barton F. Pinson were all POWs. S 1/c William A. Menna, Harold R. Payne and Lloyd R. Rhine were all assigned to the Navy Ground Defense Force and were captured and made POWs. Harry Cook and Harold R. Payne were reported as killed while on a working party while confined at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp, Palawan Island. Data in this paragraph comes from CDR Zemo Tarnowski.

Early Reverses - On 10 Dec 1941 the island of Guam surrendered to invading Japanese troops. Aerological personnel on board included Caerog Luther Jones who was beheaded by Japanese troops along with RMI Weed when the men were captured in the jungle. Aerog 1/c William H. Sager, Aerogs 2/c Norman D. Bircher and Robert W. Jones were captured.

Wake Island Surrender - on 23 Dec 1941. Aerological personnel captured were Aerog 1/c Walter Cook who would return to Lakehurst as a Meteorology instructor in the mid 1940s, Aerog 3/c Howard D. Miller and S 1/c Floyd A. Dixon. Two marine aerographer's mates and A school class 22 classmates of S 1/c Dixon were also on the island according to X-AGC Paul Carrigan. No information on their fate is available.

On 11 Jan 1942 USS Saratoga, CV-5, was hit by a torpedo from the Japanese submarine I-6. Saratoga was able to steam to port but was out of action for four months for repair. On board were Aerog 2/c R.W. Echols, Aerog 3/c R.T. Daniels and S 1/c R.C. VanWyche.

On the Attack - On 1 Feb 1942 the carriers Yorktown and Enterprise, CV-5 and CV-6, approached under cloud cover which hampered enemy aircraft and attacked the Gilbert and Marshall islands. Aerographers on board were; LCDR H.E. "Hubie" Strange, Aerog 1/c August W. "Bill" Hovland, Aerogs 2/c Alex Abel and Robert Sheehan, Aerogs 3/c Luther Corn and Robert Humphrey and Seamen Joseph Dorion, Robert Martin, Joseph Ramsey and Daniel Zaffarino.

On 19 Feb 1942, while at anchor in Darwin harbor, Australia, USS William B. Preston, AVP-20 (WW1 destroyer conversion), was hit portside on the after deck house by a 550 lb bomb. An ensuing fire caused a ready service magazine to detonate and damage primary steering. The XO manned secondary steering and managed to get underway and avoid falling bombs and ships in distress. Weather staff aboard included; Lt S. W. Denham and Caerog Harry S. Campbell.

A Tale from USS Houston - On 28 Feb 1942 USS Houston, CA-30, was hit by 4 torpedoes and numerous shells from IJN cruisers and destroyers in Sunda Strait. She sank in 45 minutes. Aerog 1/c Walter G. Lee was drowned. Sulo Suomi swam for 8 hours in shark infested waters before being picked up by a Japanese ship. He was sent to a POW camp in Molmein, Burma (as in "by the old Molmein pagoda looking eastward to the sea...etc Kipling).

Bridge on the River Kwai - Sulo and fellow POWs were conscripted to build a railroad which was to run to the bridge on the River Kwai. Sound familiar? Many remember the movie of the same name in which William Holden played a sailor masquerading as a CDR in order to obtain better treatment in prison camp. Sulo recounts that the model for Holden's role was a Houston sailor who had opted to go to a POW camp for British troops since he had made many friends during port visits in British Singapore. Impersonating an officer was a figment of Hollywood hype according to Sulo.

Murder Most Foul in the Philippines - On 15 Oct 1942 Aerog 1/c, Harry Cook was executed by machine gun fire after being forced to dig his own grave with others in a POW working party at Palawan, P.I. Gasoline was poured into the grave with their bodies and set afire. Cook had developed the method of intercepting Japanese weather reports at the Monkey Point Comm Station and incorporating them into his far east weather maps while serving as section leader at Fleet Weather Central Cavite.

Shangri La - On 18 April 1942 USS Hornet launched 16 B-25s of the 17th AAF Air Group, LTCOL Jimmie Doolittle commanding, for the first raid on the Japanese homeland during WW2. Hornet had sortied from Alameda on 2 April, made rendezvous with Enterprise and other