

Q: When you finished this duty, that concluded your tour in the western Pacific and you returned to the United States.

Grant: That's right. Then I had some shore duty in the Pentagon, which is always rather boring.

Q: You went from Australia to the naval air station in Jacksonville, didn't you?

Grant: That's right. I went to Jacksonville and was in command of the ^{A and R} ~~ARR~~, which I believe they now call ONR, ~~at Jacksonville~~ and stayed there probably nine or ten months. Then I was sent to Tacoma, Washington to put in commission the CUMBERLAND SOUND which was a large new type sea plane tender. When that was commissioned, we were sent down to Long Beach for our indoctrination training.

When I first took command of the CUMBERLAND SOUND as prospective commanding officer, I believe they call it, I first looked up the history of the officers who were going to serve on the ship and I found out to my consternation, that only one was a Naval Academy graduate, and only two out of the fifty had ever been to sea before. I thought to myself --my gosh, I have to take this ship out to sea. ^{!!}

Q: In those days I guess that wasn't particularly unusual, was it?

Grant: No, probably not, but to me it was rather a traumatic experience because I had never had command of a ship with so few experienced officers. I knew there were several chiefs ^{petty officer} aboard who had been there for several years (in the Navy). On my first personnel inspection, I found out that there were about twenty chiefs with three and four hash marks on their arm, so I wasn't worried anymore about that ship. I knew chiefs that had been in the Navy for sixteen or twenty years could really handle things. Of course the senior chief, I made Chief Master at Arms and he did a very good job. I could still tell, as most commanding officers can, that something was wrong ^{but} and I didn't really know what was wrong. So one day I called in the Chief Master at Arms, and old chief ^{who} ~~that~~ had been in the Navy for twenty years, and asked him what was the matter with the ship, what was the matter with the men. He said, "Captain, you want me to tell you true?" I said, "I certainly do. That's what I called you in here for." He said, "Well Captain, these young kids ~~that are all~~ --I mean Sir, I mean these young officers-- don't know anything about the Navy; they don't know anything about discipline; they call the men by their first name and they let the men call them by their first name, which, of course, is not very good for discipline. When some of the men do something wrong and I put them on report, their division officer gets them out of it. I am practically helpless. I certainly would appreciate it if something could be done about it."

I said, "Well, I certainly agree with you, Chief. I knew something was wrong but I didn't know what it was. What do you suggest?" He said, "Well, there has to be a little more discipline on here and if you will appoint me, if you will excuse the expression, Chief Son of a Bitch on this ship, I'll get things in order, if you'll back me up." I said, "Okay, Chief, from now on you're Chief Son of a Bitch; I'll back you up ^{at} every mast case there is." In about a month things were really straightened out. In the meantime, of course, I'd called in the officers and gave them a little lecture on what the Navy was all about, and what the difference was between Navy discipline and discipline in an office ashore, and they understood it. They were all nice kids, but they had never been to sea before and this was an entirely different view point which they had to assimilate and get used to.

Anyway when we went down to Long Beach for our indoctrination cruises, which lasted about three months, we got a citation from the training command down there ^{to the effect} that we were the best ship that had ever been trained for the last year. I gave credit for it all to my Chief Son of a Bitch.

Q: After you had been through the training command in Long Beach, what were the operations for the CUMBERLAND SOUND?

Grant: We first went out to Kwajalein. On the way we stopped at Hawaii and got the final orders from Admiral Nimitz and we went to Kwajalein. On the way I got orders from Admiral Nimitz explaining just what our program was going to be. We stayed in Kwajalein

for maybe a month or so, sending out patrols all around the atoll. There must have been twenty or thirty U.S. ships in there. We were patrolling the whole atoll to be sure that no Japanese planes sneaked up on us.

Then, after the whole Navy moved a little farther west, we went to Ulithi, which ^{is} a large atoll southwest of Guam, not far from Yap. There we stayed for another three or four months, sending out patrols twenty-four hours a day around the whole atoll of Ulithi just to be sure that no Japanese planes came in and surprised us.

Q: How many planes did you have?

Grant: I think we had twelve planes at that time. It was on that occasion, when we were in Ulithi, that the kamikaze came over which I previously had mentioned.

When the war was practically at an end, we were ordered up to Tokyo Bay. We arrived there in the middle of a typhoon and had to ~~sail~~ ^{stay} around outside the bay two or three hundred miles away until the typhoon was over. Then we came back and I happened to be one of six ships which was ordered to Tokyo Bay three days before the peace treaty was signed. Our duties then were to establish a sea plane base and run logistic flights between Tokyo and Guam, bringing up all sorts of supplies which were needed in an emergency-- things that ships could bring but it would take too long to bring. ^{We had} Also to patrol the entire coast of Japan to be sure that Japan was

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living up to its commitments in the peace treaty and not having any ships around which might threaten our ships.

Q: This is preparatory to the peace treaty signing?

Grant: Both preparatory to, and also after. The Japanese had surrendered but there had been no peace treaty signed. When Admiral Nimitz arrived from Hawaii, I happened to be the one who met him at his plane when he landed in Tokyo Bay from Hawaii.

Q: Where were you when you met him?

Grant: I was in Tokyo Bay. I had a small boat which I took out to his plane, met him ~~at the plane~~, and took him immediately to the MISSOURI, where, as everyone knows, the peace treaty was signed.

Q: Can you tell me what he looked like, what he said, what his attitude was?

Grant: If you know Admiral Nimitz, he doesn't say very much at any time. I said, "Good afternoon, Admiral. This is quite an eventful day, isn't it?" He said, "Yeh." And I think that's all the conversation I had from there on ^{all the way} ~~back~~ to the MISSOURI. I tried to say a few things making an effort to make him feel at home but he, as everyone knows, is very taciturn and doesn't say