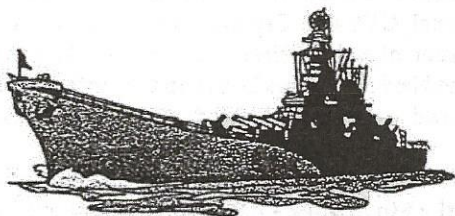


included LCDR Arthur Cumberledge and Aerm 2/c Wayne Self.

Heavies Duel - From 14 to 15 Nov 1942 USS Washington, BB-55, and USS South Dakota, BB-57 and four destroyers engage the IJN "battlegoon" Kirishima, two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and nine destroyers. After a two hour battle the Japanese had lost Kirishima and one destroyer while the U.S. had lost two destroyers. South Dakota was the most damaged American battleship since Pearl Harbor with 1-14" hit, 17-8" hits, 5-6" hits and 1-5" hit. Aerm 2/c Wayne Morris was a South Dakota crewman.



Operation Torch - The North Africa landings were directed by VADM Henry Kent Hewitt from USS Augusta, CI-31. As the invasion force approached the coast on 6 Nov 1942 heavy seas were reported and the HQ met forecast for the 8th was for prohibitively high surf which would make landings impossible. Staff Aerologist, LCDR "Dick" Steere, called for the storm in question to move off producing favorable surf conditions for the landing. On the 7th the sea began to subside and on the 8th it was calm with only a moderate ground swell. Surf conditions were at the lowest level of the month for the invasion. Vichy French resistance, however, was fierce and Augusta's guns sunk two destroyers, badly damaged and forced another to beach while assisting in damage to a heavy cruiser and another destroyer. Augusta Weather office crew included: WO "Chuck" ("Red") Barron, Caerog Burl Clark Champ, Aerogs 1/c Arliss Jones and Johnnie Reeves; Aerog 2/c Paldunas and S 1/c Israel Geller who was an expert at decoding Axis weather reports. This same unit went on to take part in all of the remaining amphibious operations in the "Med" during WW2. LCDR Steere would be promoted to CDR and transferred to forecast surf and swell for Operation Overlord at D-Day. WO Barron would continue with the amphibious staff and forecast for the remaining WW2 amphibious landings in the "Med" such as Anzio, Salerno and the south coast of France..

GCA Saves the Day - On 1 Jan 1943 Ground Control Approach equipment is called into emergency use for the first time at NAS Quonset Point when a snow storm closed down the field 30 minutes before a flight of PBY seaplanes

was to arrive. The GCA crew located the incoming a/c on radar and talked them down safely using the control tower to relay instructions. Their action took place only 9 days after the first successful, but still experimental, demonstration of GCA.

On 2 January 1943 Fleet Weather Central Pearl Harbor was moved from Ford Island to a location on "Kam" Highway (King Kamehameha Highway) in the dependant housing area outside the main gate of Pearl Harbor Naval Station..

A False Alarm - On 24 February 1943 USS Nassau, CVE-16, lowered a bathythermograph into the sea for seawater temperature measurements. USS Sterret, DD-407, sent the Task Group to General Quarters almost immediately with a sonar contact. Aerms hurriedly retrieved their instrument. The contact disappeared and ships in company resumed a normal state of readiness. The same situation developed seven times prior to the Task Group's return to port. It was later determined that the sub contact was, in fact, the attempted BT soundings by the Nassau Aerology Crew.

Commissionings - USS Core, CVE-13, 10 Dec 1942. Plank Owner, Aerog 3/c Floyd C. West. USS Princeton, CV-23, 25 Feb 1943. Plank owners: LT Norman Schryler, Aerms 3/c John H. Misinski, William C. Nopper and James F. Hurley; William J. Graves and William H. Crane. USS Mobile, CL-63, on 24 March. Plank owner Aerm 2/c Albert Smith. CV-10, USS Yorktown, on 15 April. Plank Owner Aerm 1/c August W. Hovland. USS Monterey, CVL-26, on 17 June. Plank owner LCDR Harry Choun. USS Liscombe Bay, CVE-56, on 7 Aug. Plank owners: WO Lyle Blakely, *Aerm 1/c Don Cruse, *Aerm 2/c Ken Fairbrother and *Aerms 3/c William D.E. Morgan, Perry L. Bruce, Robert Pinder, Larry Rickert and Russell Mahood. *denotes Wasp survivors. USS Guadalcanal, CVE-60, on 25 Sept. Plank owners: Caerm August F. Mayer, Aerm 1/c Eugene R. Alexander, Lowell P. Riggs, Michael Manko and Paul Culpin. USS Midway, CVE-60, on 23 Oct. Plank owners: LTJG Clarence W. Reynolds, Aerm 1/c Wesley Morris, Aerms 2/c William F. Suerstedt and James DuBois; S 1/c A.D. Seale and S 2/c Clarence J. Offerman and Joseph Pisaro. USS Kalinin Bay, CVE-68, on 27 Nov. Plank Owners: LTJG Don Johnson, Aerms 3/c John J. Agans, James E. Schwantner and James L. Stephens. USS Fanshaw Bay, CVE-70, on 9 Dec. Plank owner: Aerm 3/c Frederick A. Earle USS Gambier Bay, CVE-73, on 28 Dec. Plankowners: LTJG Rannie L. Odum, Aerm 1/c John Ammon (WIA), Aerm 2/c Reynders and Aerm 3/c Harry Rouse.

More New Ships - USS Rudyerd Bay, CVE-81, on 25 Feb 1944. Plank owner: LT Joseph P. Meehan. USS Cape Esperance, CVE-88, on 9 April. Plank owners: Aerm 1/c David J. Adams, Aerm 2/c Forrest B. Price and Aerm 3/c George A. Foust. USS Hancock, CV-19, on 15 April.