

TO: USS COGSWELL DD65I ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 6098, Oceanside Calif. 92052-6098  
FROM: HOWARD VINGENT PERNO, Ser.# 725-58-07  
10325 GRIDLEY Rd. Santa Fe Springs, Calif. 90670-4101  
RE: HISTORY OF THE 'COGSWELL BY THIS S 2/c (from day as it left  
HAWAII, MEMBER OF TASK FORCE 58) March 5, 1944 AS IT HAPPENED\*\*\*\*\*

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I received your pkg. as a new comer in the Association & I thank you for acknowledging me as a past member of the Cogswell. I'll be 85 this Jan. 17, 2011 so FORGIVE ME IF MY WRITING etc. FALTERS AT TIMES.

On page 19 of your Aug. 2010 'SCUTTLEBUTT' a 'HEATHER BOLLINGER' sought information as to her 'GREAT UNCLE, NOBLE HUNDLEY' & my memory was alerted. As a history buff in both Grammar School & one & a half yr. of High School, when I joined the Navy at the age of 16 to follow my Father's WWI as a member of the USNAVY, etc. so I from DAY ONE from 'BOOT CAMP' to 'TORPEDO TRAINING at NEWPORT, LONG ISLAND' to the USS PRAIRIE a DESTROYER TENDER in ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND, TO THE 'COGSWELL', (copy enclosed) of it's 'DAILY HISTORY' during WWII, while I was aboard.

Ms. Heather's seeking of information was & still is a part of the recorded 'HISTORY OF THE COGSWELL AND WWII' as it took place, not as parts of the war were disclosed after same. See pages 31 & 32 of my journal as to her GREAT UNCLE as part of the war to defeat JAPAN. Tell her 'we' the members of the Cogswell were greatly effected by his accident, knowing it could 'BE' each & every seaman, had we stood where he did at the time.

I had written 3 journals while serving in the USNAVY. No. 1 Journal was asked for by Cpt. Kneeland of the USS Prairie as the 'SCUTTLEBUTT' plus personal knowledge he believed was 'FOR THE GOOD OF THE SERVICE' better 'DESTROYED' that the BLUE JACKET'S MANUAL I ENLISTED UNDER ON OCT. 21, 1944 was a peace time Manual by one of the many 'ERRORS' not corrected at that time. YES, as a good 'SAILOR' he received both the JOURNAL & the 1940 version of the Manual. As I left the Prairie for the Cogswell I watched him toss the Manual over the side, into the Deep Blue Sea, what happened to the Journal remains a mystery ??????? But, his last words to me was that while the Prairie was returning to the States from Newfoundland & I was standing PORT SIDE BRIDGE WATCH, I HEARD A STRANGE NOISE coming from a cloud at sea level. For a moment or two I saw a large BATTLE SHIP in great speed pass us in the distance & enter another cloud. I reported same to the BRIDGE OFFICER & was told I was either crazy or ??? that had it been true more than I would have seen or heard what I described, they hadn't.::?

Cpt. Kneeland as he bid me good bye stated, 'HE HAD BEEN TOLD LATER THAT A 'GERMAN MAN OF WAR' on or about that date had been reported in that area & along the coast of America, etc. & told me to keep up the good work, etc. on my 1st Ship Of War.\*\*\*\*

I thank you for giving me John Poulos's telephone no., & I talked to him for a few minutes. I was going to mail him the copy of my Journal but believed it better in your hands for distribution for all members, so all members can know that one of their own also wrote 'HISTORY' as to the COGSWELL, at all ranks & rates, for the good of the SHIP & CREW. Reminding them that we the TIN CAN SAILERS were the 1st to be fired at by the enemy approaching. Further our guns were not allowed to be fired inboard of the CARRIERS & Ships, but they could fire outboard where we were during 'ACTION' \*\*\*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Vince Perno

PS: As the Skullery Maid on the Cogswell I knew & was not aware of ranks, rates of many aboard. Last names of the few I remember, never ratings were known at the time (TO ME) as the four (4) P's were Porter, Perry, Poulos & myself Perno. I guess it took too long to clean up the MESS HALL for (HA-HA) FUN & GAMES AT SEA WHILE AT WAR ???????

MY COPY

FOR THE GOOD  
OF THE SERVICE  
???

Though against Army  
Regulations to keep a Diary  
I am going to write just  
a few facts that stick  
in my mind as I travel  
from place to place. I'll  
try to be serious, but  
who can tell.

(1)

Truk in the Caroline group.  
Guam ~~was~~ bombed on the  
22nd of Feb. Oh yes, on the  
way back we were attacked  
from the Green Isl. This took  
place Feb. 24 so on the 25  
we hit the green Isl. The  
report was not a man lived,  
not a tree stood, & not a  
stone remained unturned. The  
place was totally destroyed with  
loss of all Jap lines & property.  
We returned to the Marshall  
Isl. on the 29th. We left  
for Espiritos Santos, New  
Hebrides March 7 and attacked  
Massau (New Ireland) Left  
Massau March 26, and at-  
tacked Paluau on March 29.

Then without pausing for any reason or without care stopping at an Island we hit Yap March 30 & Uoleai on the 31st. Only then did we return to Majuro for 7 days. While there we did not do anything but work our selves to death. The Navy doesn't give a damn for anyone in particular. They thinks the body can go on endlessly without rest. We left Majuro March 13 and proceeded to Hollandia (New Guinea) & proceeded to level it to the ground. April 22 troops occupied it. In the next day we again hit Truk. We came

so close we could see it  
as plain as anything. On  
the 25<sup>th</sup> of March we hit Ponape.  
We proceeded to go back to Majuro.  
We stayed in port 2 wks. then  
went out for 3 days of drills.  
May 10 we escorted carriers  
& battleships for a 4 day cruise.  
Went back to Majuro and  
stayed until June 3. It is  
worse than doing nothing.  
I'd much rather of stayed out  
to sea (no women). When  
we left the scuttlebut was  
we were going on the big-  
gest strike yet. All indic-  
ations affirm this though. As  
we have hit everything else  
from P.H. to the Philippines

This is to be the greatest  
strike yet. On June the 11  
bomber forces struck Saipan.  
On June 12 we again hit  
Saipan. News came in that  
2 scout planes risked their  
lives by landing in the rough  
ocean to pick up 4 pilots each.  
They strapped 1 on each wing  
& put 2 in the cockpit with  
them. They then took off &  
flew back to the fleet. The Com-  
mander took a chance on be-  
ing bombed by lighting up all  
ships to give the pilots a  
chance to land safely with  
the rescued men. I watched 1  
plane come in with ~~rough~~  
half his right wing gone.

Also watched a T.B.F. come in with a hole a ft. wide in his port wing & no tail to speak of. They're really the best flyers in the world. We just received news we're to proceed to Eniwitok with confidential reports & movies of the battle. We're proceeding under a speed of 30 knots. We should be there the 14 & be back the 16 in time to take or participate in the invasion of Saipan, Tinian, & Guam. Going back to the strike on Yap. I witnessed the prettiest yet deadliest sight in the world. We are at condition 1 easy. We have got contacts from 3

6

groups of "Bogies". Every-  
thing is quiet, then comes  
the word "Action Port" +  
then "Load". All of a sud-  
den the sky is lit up for  
a radius of 25 miles around  
us. The task force is  
in contact with Jap Planes.  
all over you can see tracers  
from 20's + 40's the 5 inch  
keep up a steady fire. And  
then a burst of flame as a  
Jap comes down. All of a  
sudden it is quiet again +  
we proceed on our way. In  
just 2 1/2 minutes of firing  
we were credited with 15  
Bogies. By we I mean the  
task force.



We reached Eniwetok on  
schedule & started back to  
join up with the task force.  
There is supposed to be a  
Jap Task Force in the vicinity.  
We are between 3 fires. Our  
ships don't know we're coming.  
Our task force don't know  
how we're coming back, the  
Japs are on the lookout for  
us & we have to run the  
gauntlet of the Jap held Caroline  
Islands. This is the worst run  
in the Pacific. And we did it  
twice. We passed 2 Jap cruisers  
& a tin can on the horizon & we  
were quick as mice. Lucky us  
they didn't see us. The whole  
American Force is at Rongerik

silence. Now one knows  
whats going on. We are back  
with the Task group now  
screening the landing parties  
on Guam, Saipan, Rota, & Tinian.  
On ~~Saipan~~ Saipan the Japs were  
waiting with tanks & blew  
our landing parties to hell.  
So our battleships went in  
& bombarded for 1 day. The  
next day our troops landed.  
June 18 we were attacked by  
400 Bogies. At the end of  
the encounter a total of 301  
planes were shot down & 25  
probables. I watched the cruiser  
Birmingham shoot down 3 bombers.  
On the 17 of June the Japs also  
struck & were repulsed by

bitter A.A. fire aided by  
fighter planes. On this day our  
only casualty was the bombing  
of the U.S.S. Black. On the  
18 the Battleship South Dakota  
was hit by a bomb. No  
serious damage was done. Now  
we're finally contacted the  
Jap fleet. It is about 250 or  
300 miles away. We are run-  
ning low on fuel, & besides  
we have to screen our land-  
ing parties so the fleet it-  
self cannot attack. Instead  
we are sending over 300 planes  
We just got word our planes  
are over the Japs. We are now  
waiting for our planes to come  
back. It is the night of June 29,  
10

It seems the Jap Task Force was divided into 3 groups. One group the one we hit had 9 carriers with cruisers, battleships & destroyer escorts. It is over 500 miles away. So we are waiting for our planes which we know are low on fuel. The first planes came in at about 7:15 P.M. They were out of fuel & just made the carrier. We have our Truck lights on & are playing search lights all over the sky to help our planes. Both crash boats are manned ready for use. I just saw one of our own planes come in with smoke trailing, he skimmied the water 3 times

and then hit burning. the  
unlucky Devil. Oh yes to  
show you what kind of  
stuff Navy Pilots are made  
of, I'll tell you an incident that  
no Marine, Soldier, Coast Guard  
or any one else can equal. Our  
Hell Cat pilots escorted our  
planes all the way to the Jap  
task force & broke up the  
meager opposition that they  
put up. They then strafed  
the carrier decks & cleared  
them of gun crews & planes.  
All this while our men  
knew they didn't have  
enough fuel in their fighter  
planes to even start back.  
One by one they made

crash landings along side  
the remaining Jap fleet.  
The Navy Pilot is the ~~man~~  
unsung Hero of this war.  
100 of our planes crashed  
out of fuel before they  
could land. One plane ran  
right ~~up~~ across the Lex-  
ington's flight deck smashed  
into 2 planes & went off  
the bow. One more dead pilot.  
We were busy all night  
picking up pilots. We picked  
up 2 pilots & 3 crew members.  
One of our men Dalke jumped  
out of the whale back & saved a  
pilot who was going down. This  
said Pilot told us when he  
left the Jap carrier he had

made his run on us almost completely on his side. We haven't got the full report on the battle as yet. A Jap plane just flew over our cam & flopped into the drink. The 2 crew members were picked up & taken aboard the Lexington as American Pilots. Imagine the surprise when they found out. Another Bogie just landed his fuelers plane on the Lex's flight deck. I don't know how ~~they~~ they mistook us for a Jap tank force, but they did. We have Bogies on our Radar screen so we're quit picking up pilots, but the bogies faded out so we

continued picking them up on  
into the next day June 31.  
The Battleship task force is  
on its way to finish up  
what the planes failed to get.  
They are traveling at a speed  
of 30 knots. I'm hoping  
they have good hunting. Jap  
planes from Guam are  
still bothering us at night.  
The Jap planes which attacked  
us on the 18 instead of returning  
to the carriers landed on Guam.

Oh yes, just to let you  
know what Gentlemen the  
Officers of the American Navy are  
here's an incident to show you  
what bastards they really  
are. The pilots & crew men



we picked up were in sick bay being looked over for any ~~wound~~ wounds of any kind. The executive officer walked in & put his arm around 1 of the pilots & invited the 2 ~~off~~ pilots only to come to the officers ward room. Leaving the 3 crew members just standing there. But the pilots were really gentlemen. The one drew himself away from the exec's arm & told him in front of everyone if his crew wasn't good enough to go in our officers ward room they could take it & jam it up their ass. Bravo for the pilots. We all feel the same way.

For the next two or three  
wks. now we are just going  
to ~~patrol~~ patrol around Saipan,  
Guam, Tinian, & Rota. We  
still haven't landed on Guam.

July 4th has come & we  
have been asked to  
participate in shore bom-  
barding. The 4 cons in  
our division are to do the  
bombarding. Our principal  
objectives are 5 coastal  
towns which have factories.  
We went <sup>in</sup> ~~up~~ to 2 miles  
the first night & fired  
100 rounds per ship. We  
know they have 8-6-12  
inch guns on Guam &  
we are trying to draw them

fire to make them give up  
their gun positions. But we  
went through with no  
interruptions. The next  
day we spent patrolling  
the sea lanes, looking  
for Jap shipping (no luck).  
The night of July 5, we  
again hit ~~the~~ ~~the~~. This  
time we went in to 600  
yds. We saw people  
swimming out of a pineapple  
factory. We again shot  
up 100 rounds of ammo-  
nition. We then proceeded  
under full steam to head  
back to the fleet. Started  
back to Eniwetok on the 6, entered  
the 9 & pulled up to the tender

for repairs on the Sugar  
Charley Radar. We left  
Cruetz on the 14. Our object  
now is the invasion of Guam.  
The invasion day is July 21, I  
believe. Started Bombing  
Guam the 17. We bombed  
them the 18, 19, 20, we are  
to escort the carriers. The  
19 of July we escorted 3  
battle wagons into Saipan  
harbor. There was the most  
strange sight of the war, all  
the Destroyers were firing at  
Guam & Rota from Saipan  
harbor. The peculiar part was  
that 3/4 of the ships was  
eating while the condition  
watch fired the guns.

Steve tied up to the Iowa while  
we're in Saipan. 4. Marines  
have come aboard from  
the Island. They say there  
were 18,000 casualties on the  
Saipan raid or rather invasion.  
The Japs were intertrenched in  
caves so bad that they are  
still alive. No one can get  
to them. The Marines told  
us how when they trapped  
the Japs on the end of the  
Island the Japs tried one  
desperate ruse. They stripped  
all the women, there were sup-  
posed to have been 10 to 15  
thousand on the Island. But most  
of them escaped. They then forced  
the naked women to march in

front of them, thinking the  
Americans wouldn't fire on  
the women. Poor women,  
they're all dead. And the  
war goes on. We're now back  
with the carriers doing our  
duty. There's a scuttlebutt  
going on about going back to the  
states before Nov. In fact a  
couple of guys bet \$100 apiece  
on it. Oh, Lord please make  
it true. Left Guam July  
22, and proceeded to Yap,  
Woleai & Palau. We hit  
Palau the 25, 26, 27 of July.  
Another task force struck  
the other two. We got (trawler  
I.D.D., I.A.K. (cargo transport) got  
hits on 2 more A.K.s we also

got around 10 planes. We  
also took photographs in  
preparation for an invasion  
probably. Today July 25,  
we contacted a ship sub, +  
dropped 9 depth charges  
on it. It was marked  
down as a probable. July  
26 we got a contact on  
2 more subs. Our next  
object is Bonin Island.  
It is 500 miles from Japan  
They're getting closer little  
by little. At the present  
we are on our way back  
to Saipan. July 27, still  
saw us bombarding Pheo,  
Wobai, + Yap. We left that  
group of islands almost in

ruins. July 31, Returned  
to Saipan. They were still  
bombing Tinian. Our ships  
are also bombarding the  
Japs on Tinian.

Aug. 1, Underway for  
patrol duty. Aug. 2, Task  
Group Off Saipan.

Aug. 4, Planes from  
carriers began bombing the  
Bonin Islands. We  
sank what few ships  
that were in the harbor.  
Our planes sighted a Jap  
convoy running to the Jap  
mainland and we were  
given permission to go after  
them. We had 7 carriers &  
3 light cruisers. The Japs  
had 11 supply ships, 3



destroyers, <sup>ms.</sup> 2 cruisers. We  
got a credit for 1 AK & 1 can.  
and we got credits for  
the cruiser that was sunk.  
All in all everything was  
work but 1 D.C. & 1 of the  
cruisers. We have 4 Jap  
ships on the director now.  
1 for bombardments with 5  
black marks on it, 1  
flag for the cruiser, 1 for 2  
gunboats, & 1 for a plane.  
There was no opposition  
from planes, but the Jap  
ships were firing back at  
us almost as fast as we  
fired at them. We were  
lucky. The Japs scored no  
hits on any of us. At the  
end of the fight we were only

387 miles from the Naval Base  
at Yokohama. This is the closest  
any Naval surface ship has  
been to Japan since  
the beginning of the war.

Aug. 15, We were attacked by  
2 or 3 Jap planes early that  
morning, but they stayed out  
of range. The soldiers then  
landed the island of Chichi  
Jima, the main island of the Bonin  
group. We bombed the town  
& damaged the ships that were  
in the harbor, we also got  
a few shore batteries. They  
fired at us, but a soon as  
they fired we moved them  
out. We are now heading  
back to Saigon.

Aug. 19, Met the Battle

Wagons as they came from  
Saipan. They are to operate  
as a raiding force & intercept-  
ing force. And we are assigned  
to them as the occasion arises.

Aug. 11, Arrived in Eniwetok

Aug. 20, Out for Patrol

Aug. 21, Returned & anchored  
in Bay. Aug. 30, Left  
Eniwetok with Battle Wagons &  
Cruisers.

Sept. 2, Crossed the Equator  
& initiated the Rally wags.

— — Our Squadron received  
a "Unit  ~~Citation~~ Citation"

Sept. 6, Bombarded the Palawan  
Islands. Sept. 7, Went in  
with cruisers and shore bom-  
barded Angor & Belien of the  
Palawan Islands. We returned

3 towns & set 2 oil dumps  
on fire.

Sept. 8, The Phillipines, our  
long awaited objective. Planes  
made raids on Tyndana Isl.  
and had no opposition.

Sept. 9, Still sending in strikes  
the planes have bombarded  
Henderson & Clarke field,  
shot up all the planes  
on the ground & knocked  
down what few opposed  
them. One dive bomber  
broke through our air defense  
& made a run on the base  
& strafed the camp. A few  
men were killed & the  
plane got away. We got  
holy hell from the fleet  
commander for not getting

the plane. Sept. 10 The  
dead men were given Sea  
Burial Today. We left  
the Mindanao Island area.  
Sept. 11, Battleships joined  
our group & we refueled.  
Late tonight we started  
back to Mindanao.

Sept. 12, More bombarding  
today. We send over  
waves of planes every hour.

Sept. 13, Still sending in  
waves over.

Sept. 14, Had aboard Pilot that  
was knocked down over  
Mindanao, The natives hid  
him for 2 days, He was  
dressed as a native & said  
he walked right by hundreds  
of Japs. We transferred

him to a carrier. Left the  
Mindanao area late tonight.  
Sept. 15, Arrived in Palawan area  
& sent planes to help with  
the invasion of the Palawan Islands  
Araquis & Peleliu.  
Sept. 16, Still operating around  
Palawan. Picked up 2 pilots that  
were bunched down while  
the strike at the Bonins, were  
in progress. They were at sea  
in just their Mae Wests for  
10 days. One of our search  
planes picked them up. Sept. 21,  
Left Palawan area. I got  
the report on the strike at  
Mindanao. 500 planes destroyed  
40 fishing boats sunk - 27  
ships of all types sunk - dam-  
aged 37 others - several air

fields destroyed & many  
Sampans sunk. The Islands  
we hit were Cebu, Panay, Iloilo,  
Bohol, Leyte, & the Samar Is.  
Sept. 23, Fuelled today &  
headed back for the Philippines  
Sept. 24, Made Air strikes &  
bombarded the "San Bernardino  
Straights".

Sept. 27, Anchored at Cosco  
Roads, in the Palawan Is.

Sept. 28, Went out to Patrol

Sept 29, Returned this morn-  
ing but left again this  
afternoon.

Sept. Returned but left  
again in the afternoon. We're  
out of supplies almost. The  
carriers have no ammunition  
or chow & there are no

supply ships here. We  
are waiting for them but  
have no idea when  
they'll get here. ~~Some~~  
Lose weight if this keeps  
up.

Sept. 2. On our way to  
the Ulitka Bay. Should  
get there sometime this  
afternoon. There's supposed  
to be supplies here (I hope)  
Expect a hurricane eye  
were right in the middle  
of it.

Oct. 3. Anchored in Ulitka  
Bay in early afternoon.  
Ulitka is in the gap Feb.

Oct. 6. Left this afternoon

Oct. 9. We're transferring  
passengers & mail to the



Erreg when we took  
green water over the faists  
Five men are hurt &  
in bad cond ition.  
Four have broken legs  
Oct. 16, made air strikes  
on Ryukyu Islands, Sumi  
may - Estimated dam  
age was 221 planes  
destroyed 16 A. Ks sunk  
and 22 Damaged. Ab  
Hiro, Aluminium Plant, docks,  
ships, warehouses, oil dumps  
& alcohol plant destroyed &  
damaged. No enemy oppos-  
ition over task group. Trans-  
ferred 4 of the guys who were  
hurt. One of them died. His  
name was Humdley. He

Had a wife + 2 kids.  
He had a concussion of  
the brain.

Oct. 11, refueled

Oct. 12, Made a strike on  
Fanning Islands. Lured  
a few bogies around the  
task group.

Oct. 13, Another strike on  
Fanning, expect enemy  
planes to attack. The  
cruiser U.S.S. Pamlico  
caught a torpedo in her  
side. She's assigned to  
bring her back to Ulithi.  
We left the task group about  
1900 with 5 cans & 4 cruisers  
to help protect the Pamlico  
in case the Japs know

she's been hit. There's  
a possibility of getting  
credit for 2 more planes.  
One of the cruisers is towing  
the Pambray.

Oct. 14, Bogies all day  
& night. A converted carrier  
joined up with us.

Oct. 15, Jug joined us at  
0130. We are bait for  
the Jap fleet. I just got  
a T.B.S. from Admiral Nimitz  
& he says that we are in-  
dispensable. The idea is  
he wants the Jap fleet  
to attack us so he can  
attack them. Another C.V.  
joined us this morning.  
at 0400 this morning

the cruiser Houston took  
2 Torpedoes. She's with us  
now too. Attached again  
and we get credit for 1 of  
the Jap planes.

Oct. 16 My own planes  
attached this morning. The  
crew is almost dead on their  
feet. We haven't been able  
to sleep & eat only had  
coffee & sandwiches to eat.  
The Houston just got hit  
by another fish. She's in  
bad shape. In fact we  
all are. Our reports report  
large Jap took force only  
250 miles away. It's a  
bad place for us, especially  
since we've been going into

circles the last 6 hrs.

At 1500 cans started pick-  
ing up survivors as they  
jumped over the side. Two  
more cans are going along  
side. Make one of them.

The other ships just buzz-  
ed too near Japs.

Oct. 17. Our task force came  
up from the Philippines &  
sent the Jap fleet into being  
refueled from a cruiser  
this morning & got fresh  
water too. Went alongside  
the Cambers & gave them  
some fresh water, she  
needed it bad too. We're  
working in salt water now

Jap planes attacked our  
four Hospital ships at  
Leyte Isl. 39.4 has been  
called out again. We  
didn't get to supply up.  
Made heavy air attack  
on Jap group coming out  
of San Bernardino St.  
Were heading in to  
intercept Jap ships as  
they come out. Now we  
had many Bqins today.  
but 39.3 has been under  
heavy attack all day.  
(were with 39.2 again) The  
ships shot down 15 &  
our planes got 250 over  
the task group & 200 on  
the outer fringe of the T-2.

we joined the battle  
force 6 battle ships 7  
cruisers - 16 cans. The  
invasion force are having  
hard times with Jap ships  
at Leyte. Sent the 6  
battle cruisers to help them  
while 3 of the cruisers went  
back to the carriers. No  
report on air attacks yet.  
A number of Jap ships are  
hit & are falling out  
of the Jap T. S. & we are  
going after them. The  
19 cruisers New Orleans,  
Wichita Santa Fe, & Mobile  
with 12 cans made up  
the group. Sighted a single  
carrier about 1630 & the

cruisers opened fire on it.  
The carrier returned the  
fire, but their aim is  
bad. She was sunk in  
less than 1 hr. There  
were no survivors. Healed  
after a cruise of 2 cans.  
Caught up with them  
about 2000. The cruisers  
started firing. After  
seeing 1 hit the two  
cans began tail end  
of them. We got permis-  
sion to make a torpedo  
run on the cruiser. We  
led the way with 2 cans  
behind us. We fired  
3 fish apiece. The cruiser  
fired at us but didn't