

I boarded the South Dakota at Pearl Harbor while she was in dry dock for repairs after she struck the reef. We put out to sea and soon learned that we were soon to engage a Japanese task force. When the forces came close enough for planes to attack and to return to their base Carrier the Battle of Santa Cruz began. What a battle!

I was also in the 1st Division with Battle Station on the #1 turret shell deck. We sent 2700 pound shells up the hoist to the guns. They rammed the shells, with 600 pounds of powder behind the shells. When three of these were fired in unison, the recoil was easily felt.

I continued aboard thru all her battles and watched the signing of the Peace Treaty as we were anchored near the Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Returning to the U.S.A. we were delighted to see the Golden Gate Bridge as we entered San Francisco Bay. I left the South Dakota to return to Oklahoma for separation from the Navy.

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