

THE MANSFIELD STORY

Like so many other destroyers of our navy, the USS Mansfield has a distinguished record of loyal service that rivals that of any commissioned destroyer today. Her contributions to winning the war in the Pacific and to supporting our foreign policy in Chinese and Japanese waters in the long months that followed have been varied and many. She has, in war and peace, discharged her duties faithfully and proved herself worthy of the flag she flies.

Commissioned at Bath, Maine in April 1944, the USS Mansfield, geared for war, passed through the Panama Canal in September of 1944 and steamed into the blue waters of the Pacific. Since that fateful day, she has neither navigated nor seen any other ocean. The historic Pacific alone has borne the weight of this super-destroyer. For almost three years, during the war and the turbulent months that followed, she covered the span of this mighty ocean, performing her duties in the traditional navy manner. The ship's log tells an endless story of missions and adventures that carried the Mansfield from Ulithi, an island stronghold in the Western Pacific, to Leyte, Samar, and Luzon in support of the Philippine Landings, assisting General McArthur in fulfilling his promise "I shall return". While in this campaign, she steamed up and down the South China Sea in company with the famed "Luzon-Saigon Night Express".

Finishing her job here, the 728 moved on to lend a hand in the invasion and occupation of Iwo Jima and the ensuing strikes against the Japanese mainland in the spring of 1945. The final, bitterly-won victory at Okinawa was made possible by the relentless operations against the enemy by Task Force 38, of which the Mansfield was a working unit.

Months of combat cruising, featured by continuous enemy action, was culminated on the night of 22-23 July, 1945, when, the Mansfield, in company with eight of her "sisters" of DesRon 61, raced into Sagami Nada, a bay only a few miles south of Tokyo, and delivered a destructive torpedo attack against the enemy's shipping, sinking two ships, leaving a third afire, and crippling a fourth.

On 27 August, in company with the USS Blue, she effected the capture of the Japanese submarine I-400. And finally, on the memorable day of September 7, the Mansfield, joining in the procession of our Pacific armada, steamed into Tokyo to participate in and witness the Japanese surrender.