

**Espiritu Santo. NOTES.**

431208-440317.

**Left PH 431208 on the Hutchins DD476**(P119 U.S. Destroyers), Capt. E.W. Herron, for "Cocoanut College" via Funafuti (431213) (Formerly held by the Japanese.) Commodore K.M. Mc Manes on board as passenger. (See P268 "DESTROYER).

**Checking out of the Moana hotel, etc.**

**"Crossing the Line"** ceremony, crawling thru canvas tunnel filled with garbage, being paddled while trying to crawl (slippery), **Mc Manes** wasn't required to do this. Climbing over cargo net rigged as obstacle 10 ft. high? while being sprayed with high pressure streams of water from two fire hoses. (Probably impossible to have climbed over if those directing the hoses didn't relent at least a little bit, kissing "The baby's" grease covered stomach,(fireman from engine room gang). Fortunately I was loaned the clothing which I wore - - - my own would have been ruined! Now a "SHELLBACK!" (Neither longitude nor date affixed to card... simply good security precaution.) Was able to plead successfully to not have my hair cut in usually grotesque fashion since I explained that I was to report to the Commander South Pacific (Gen. Mc Arthur's command) and the haircut probably wouldn't be appreciated.

**DD division:** Hutchins, Claxton, Dyson ++? Steamed along at usually 27k. Needed for a coming operation. At this speed needed to stop for fuel oil at **Funafuti** which had rather recently been retaken from the Japanese. fuelled late in the day from a tanker anchored in the lagoon.

**Long hours...**General Quarters early every morning and evening with heavy, and often dirty, life jacket and the mandatory steel helmet.

**At Espiritu Santo** reported in to REPCOMDESPAC **Capt. William M. Cole** on the destroyer tender **DIXIE**.

**"Black Cat"** PBY patrol squadron across anchorage. **Winfield Fromm** from AIL attached to help training...JMS visit during heavy rain. PBY crash on takeoff!! JMS to coxswain as we tied up at "Cocoanut College" dock; "This will be something to watch!" Engines started to roar on dangerous down wind takeoff! Porpoised twice

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