

February 2, 1996

Dear Clyde,

Here is a condensed story of some of the CVE's that went through the big typhoon in June of '45 (see page 19). I left a lot out, so the story would fit in *THE CVE PIPER*. Also, here is a large and small picture of our ship, Windham Bay, with a battered flight deck. Whatever one you want to run with the story. I would like the 8x10 one back for it's the only one I have of that scene.

Thanks and take care,
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Typhoon!

■ **Some sailors recall personal experiences during 1945 storm**

This is a story we submitted and was printed in the February issue of the CVE Piper.

This is a brief story of CVE's sailing through a Typhoon in June of 1945, this is the U.S.S. Windham Bay's (CVE - 92) condensed story.

Typhoon deja vu for the sailors of Adml. Halsey's 3d Fleet. In Dec. of '44 many of them had ridden through a "killer" Typhoon. In June of '45 they found themselves in another. In a remarkably similar set of circumstances - Halsey led his Fleet into another Typhoon. This time though, it was the larger ships that suffered major damage, that is not to say that the small "Escort Carriers" had an easy time - far from it.

Part of Rear Adml. D. Beary's Task Group 30.8, the Logistic Group, the CVE's received a ride that their crews would not forget. Beary was sure the course his Group was on would lead them into the storm. His Group was on (300 degrees) and would run it back into the storm and so reported to Halsey at 0245 hrs., 5 June '45. He was right, but after several other courses proved too much for the CVE's, the course was returned to 300 degrees at 0310. Not quite an hour later all CVE's were directed to proceed independently through the storm.

Windham Bay's sister ships such as the Salamua, had major damage, wrecking parked airplanes. She also had a loss of one crew member due to the storm. This all within 10 minutes. Another CVE, the Attu, had a near collision with two different Tankers. The Bougainville had twenty - seven planes lost overboard or wrecked.

Other CVE's damaged in the Typhoon were the Altamaha, Nehenta Bay, Marcus Island, and the Cape Esperance.

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Now to the Windham Bay's story:

On the night of 4 - 5 June '45, the Logistic Support Group and two Groups of Task Force 38 steamed at full steam East, to get out of the way of the dreaded Typhoon. The effort was unsuccessful, as mountainous seas and wind gusting up to 150 knots battered the ships. Planes on the "Windy's" flight deck were ripped from their steel cable moorings and tossed about like match sticks, despite the efforts of the flight deck crew who braved the wind and high seas. Planes on the hanger deck then broke loose, one which crashed into other parked planes and then caromed into the bottom of the elevator pit. Tons of water cascaded into the "Windy" through the elevators, despite the fact they were in the "Up" position.

The "Windy's" running lights, forward lookout platforms, forward 40mm guns, gun mounts, and gun tubs were ripped off, 20 ft. of flight deck was smashed down on the Forecastle, and splits opened along the ship's side.

story cont. in "Condensed Log"

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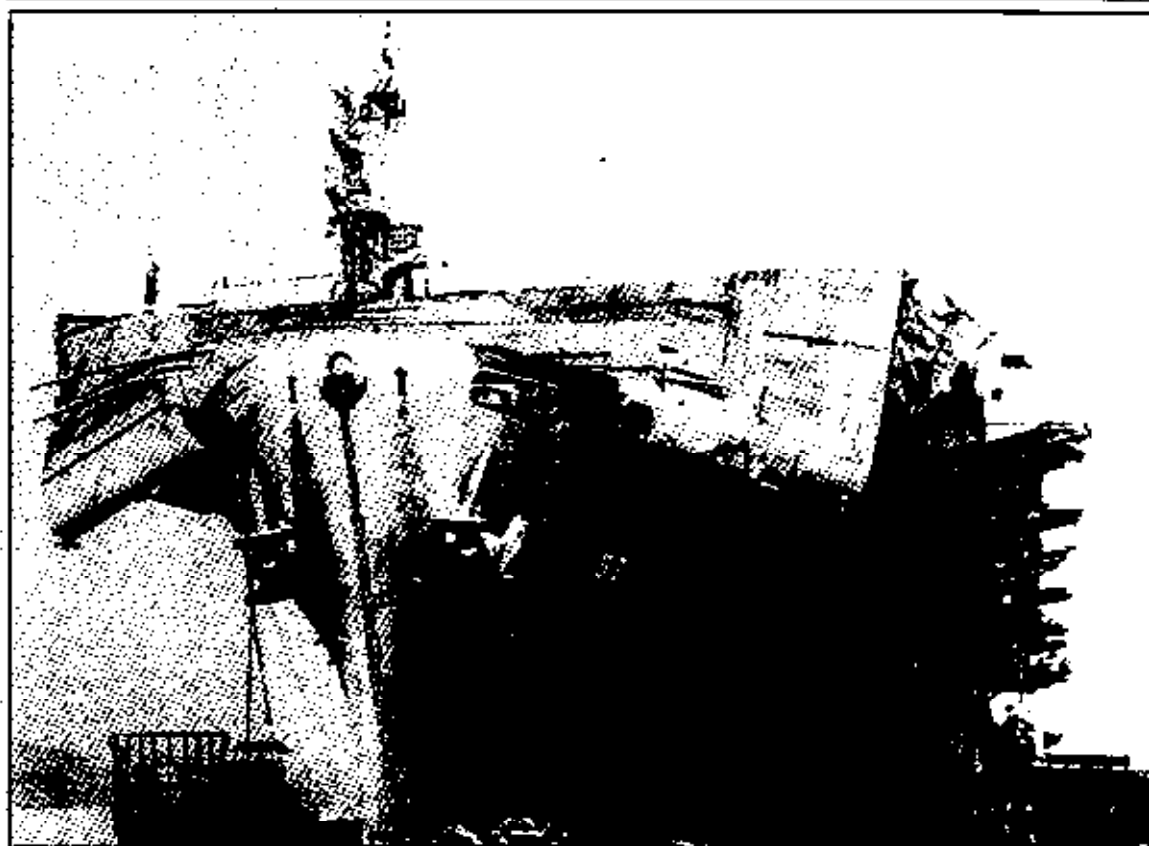
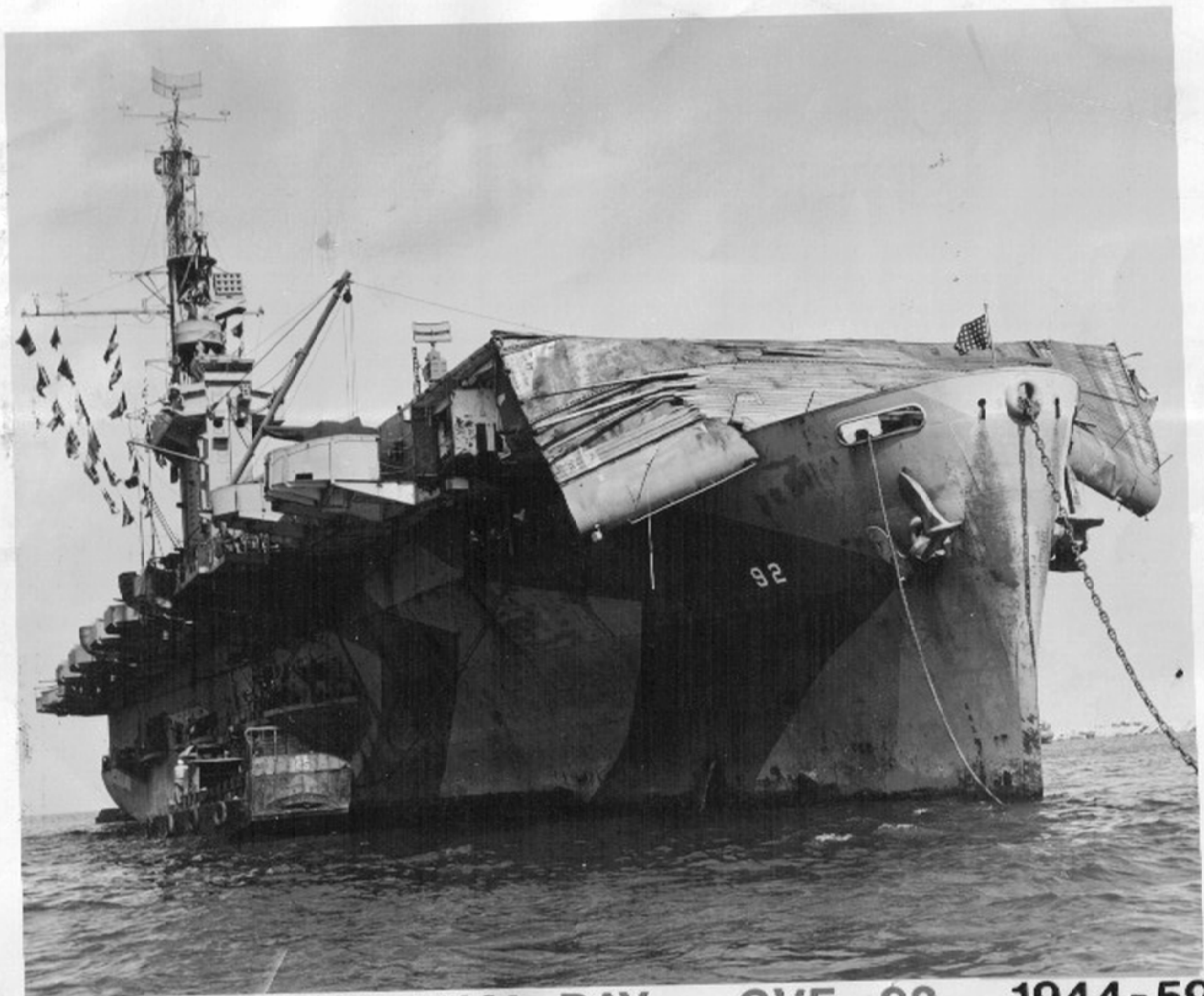


Photo courtesy of BILL MILLER

Severe damage to the flight deck of the USS Windham Bay (CVE-92) was sustained during a typhoon in June of 1945. The running lights, forward lookout platforms, forward 40mm guns, gun mounts, and gun tubs were ripped off, 20 feet of the flight deck was smashed down onto the forecandle, and splits were opened along the ship's side.

JUNE 1945 TYPHOON Damage



USS WINDHAM BAY CVE-92 1944-59