

HISTORY OF USS IZARD (DD 589)

While there may be other destroyers in the U.S. Navy with longer war records, any sailor from *USS IZARD* would be quick to tell the world that his ship had seen everything there was to see during World War II. While earning her ten Battle Stars, *USS IZARD* braved almost every danger known to modern warfare. Her war record is deceiving as she participated in 24 engagements while earning her Battle Stars.

USS IZARD was authorized by the Seventy Percent Naval Expansion Act of 19 July 1940. She was built at the Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina where her keel was laid on 9 May 1942. She was launched on 8 February 1943.

Mrs. Robert E. Lee, III, great-granddaughter of Lieutenant Ralph Izard, the ship's namesake, and wife of the eldest grandson of General Robert E. Lee, served as sponsor at the launching.

USS IZARD (DD 589), first ship of the name, was named in honor of Lieutenant Ralph Izard who was commissioned Midshipman on 2 October 1779. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 27 January 1807.

Midshipman Izard volunteered and took part in the expedition under Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, Jr. who commanded the U.S. Ketch *INTREPID*, which entered the harbor of Tripoli on 16 February 1804, and destroyed the former U.S. Frigate *PHILADELPHIA*. He was assigned to duty under Lieutenant Decatur, with Midshipman John Rowe and 15 men, to hold the spar deck. No firearms were to be used except in case of urgent necessity.

He also took part in the attacks on Tripoli during August and September 1804, as part of Commodore Edward Preble's squadron. At one time he was in command of Gunboat No. 2 with part of Commodore John Rodger's squadron in the Mediterranean in 1805.

Commander Earl K. Van Swearingen, USN, was given command of *USS IZARD* upon commissioning on 15 May 1943.

USS IZARD's war career commenced before her shakedown was completed. On 3 July 1943, she was ordered to command a task group of anti-submarine craft in a search for a German submarine that had torpedoed a merchant ship off the Carolina coast. *IZARD* led her search group as far south as Bermuda without any results, and returned seven days later.

About one month later, while completing her shakedown cruise off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a contact was made but the attack that followed was unproductive. *USS IZARD* completed her shakedown cruise, underwent minor repairs, and sailed for the Panama Canal and the Pacific War. On 23 September 1943, she transitted the Canal and sailed for San Diego on 25 September. Arriving on 2 October, she fueled and took on stores in preparation for the voyage to Pearl Harbor.

On 4 October, *IZARD* sailed for Pearl Harbor where she arrived on the 10th. Various training exercises were held in the Oahu area until 20 October when she stood out with Task Group 19.16 to train aviators for carrier landings. She returned to Pearl Harbor on the 22nd. Training exercises were then extended until 10 November at which time *IZARD* stood out in company with Task Group 50.1 consisting of *USS YORKTOWN*, *LEXINGTON*, *COWPENS*, *IZARD*, *CHARRETTE*, and *CONNERS*. Another task group almost as large got underway at the same time, giving all hands a hunch that something big was in the making.

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On 20 November, during flight operations, two air crewmen were rescued by *IZARD* when their plane crashed. At 1830 on 28 November an unidentified plane contact was picked up and fired on with undetermined results. At 1911 another plane definitely identified as enemy, closed *IZARD* and was promptly splashed by her after five-inch guns.

Air operations were carried out against the Gilbert Islands during the entire month of November as Task Group 50.4 and *IZARD*'s mission was to provide air, surface, and anti submarine protection to Makin Island. On 1 December while the carriers of the group were fueling, *IZARD* made a submarine contact nearby and attacked immediately. *USS CHARRETTE* came in following *IZARD*'s first attack and with an attack of her own, *IZARD* then made the third attack after which contact was lost. A three-hour retiring search failed to regain the contact.

On 6 December, *IZARD* joined a bombardment group to strike Nauru Island on 8 December. At 0700 the battleships of the groups opened fire on Nauru Island and 22 minutes later *IZARD* joined in for ten minutes. The effects could not be determined as the target was obscured with smoke. At 1210 an enemy plane approached the group and was promptly splashed by the Combat Air Patrol (CAP).

On 9 December *IZARD* began retiring toward Havannah Harbor, Efate. She arrived on 12 December and reported to Commander South Pacific for duty. Training exercises were carried out until 13 January 1944. On the 18th, *IZARD* sailed for Funafuti, Ellice Islands, arriving on the 20th.

On 22 January, Commander Central Pacific issued his orders for attacking the Japanese-held Marshall Islands. *IZARD* was included as a unit of Task Group 58.3 which was to provide air cover, take and maintain control of the air, and provide air support for the invasion and occupation of Kwajalein Atoll. *IZARD*'s job was to screen the aircraft carriers from submarine attack while they launched their planes.

On 23 January *IZARD* stood out to screen the sortie of heavy ships and later steamed for her objective. At 0440 on 29 January the carriers sent their first strikes toward Kwajalein. On the following day *IZARD* was dispatched to a position 120 miles southwest of Eniwetok to intercept any enemy opposition during the amphibious operations in the Marshalls. By 1630 the news of the damage inflicted on the first strike was broadcast to all units of Task Group 58.3. Four float planes and 17 Mitsubishi bombers were destroyed; the landing strip was left unusable, ammunition and fuel dumps were destroyed, and one medium, and one small merchant ship along with one trawler and 3 sampans were sunk. This damage was added to on the following day when the planes again scored, destroying more fuel dumps, ammunition storages, and setting fire to buildings.

By 4 February *IZARD* had entered Majuro Atoll, recently captured from the Japanese, and dropped her anchor. While there, instructions were received for the coming operation against Truk Island. The operation orders called for three carrier Task Groups to be designated as Task Force 58, to carry out heavy air strikes at Truk Atoll, the Japanese staging and Naval base, to destroy aircraft, aircraft installations, shipping and shipping facilities at Truk and surrounding areas. *IZARD* was assigned to Task Group 58.3 composed of the carriers *MONTEREY*, *COWPENS*, and *BUNKER HILL*, the battleships, *NORTH CAROLINA*, *MASSACHUSETTS*, *IOWA*, *NEW JERSEY*, *SOUTH DAKOTA*, and *ALABAMA*, the cruisers *MINNEAPOLIS* and *NEW ORLEANS*, and the destroyers *IZARD*, *CHARRETTE*, *CONNER*, *BELL*, *BRADFORD*, *BURNS*, *COWELL*, *BROWN*, *STERRETT*, *LANG*, and *WILSON*. The group stood out on 12 February and steamed for their attack position.

At 0642 on 16 February the group arrived off Truk and launched their first Air strikes. At 1135 *IZARD* left the carrier group in company with battleships, cruisers, and destroyers to destroy any shipping that the air strikes might flush from hiding. An enemy plane was taken under fire at 1317 but escaped without damage. At 1456 three enemy ships were sighted and at 1509 *IZARD* opened fire on a Jap freighter. *USS BURNS* and *BRADFORD* opened fire on the same target a little later. At 1513 a message was received to conserve ammunition and one minute later *IZARD* ceased firing. At 1517 *IZARD* was ordered to take an enemy destroyer under fire as her next target. At 1522 she opened fire and observation showed her shells to be hitting the target. At 1525 the enemy returned fire with one gun and was sur-

prisingly accurate. At 1528 *IZARD* put on all boilers and built up her maximum speed for fishtailing as the enemies shells were crossing her with regularity even though *IZARD*'s own shells were falling true. At 1529 the enemy ceased firing and one minute later was completely silenced as other destroyers joined in to help *IZARD*. After this skirmish was over the group continued to circle Truk throughout the night. However, no more contacts were made and the group rejoined the task force the following day.

Upon rejoining they learned that the air strike on Truk had taken the island by surprise and that many enemy planes had been destroyed on the ground and that 3 enemy cruisers had been sunk; 1 or 2 escort carriers had been present and had attempted to escape via North Pass, that the carrier planes hit 1 of the carriers and 1 light cruiser with bombs and had sunk 1 light carrier with torpedoes, and that of about 30 merchant ships present, many had been sunk and many were burning as the retirement began.

IZARD's next operation was to be in the Tinian-Saipan area on 22 February 1944. At 2314 *NORTH CAROLINA* and *IZARD* teamed up on an enemy plane to splash it. All air strikes were carried out on schedule and the expected enemy shipping failed to materialize. The force then began retiring to Majuro early on 23 February.

The result of the air strikes were gratifying however, as one 6000 ton merchant ship was sunk, strafed, bombed and burned were 2 tugs, 5 small escorts, 3 barges; shot down were 13 airborne enemy combat planes, destroyed on the ground were about 40 out of 60 or 70 enemy combat planes, the remainder being well strafed. Shore installations at Guam were damaged and 4 airborne enemy combat planes were shot down. Four enemy combat planes and 2 transports were destroyed on the new airfield at Guam. In addition the CAP destroyed 3 enemy planes, all with only the loss of one fighter and one night fighter.

Arriving at Majuro on 26 February 1944, *IZARD* underwent repairs and on the 28th sailed for Pearl Harbor. She arrived at 4 March and remained in the area until 15 March.

She then sailed for Majuro arriving on the 20th. Here she was assigned to a force that was to conduct air strikes against Palau and Yap, and on Woleai. On 22 March *IZARD* stood out for her objective and on 29 March while nearing Yap she came under air attack. The entire day of 30 March was spent in sending air strikes against Palau Island. *IZARD* opened fire several times when enemy planes closed the group, but inflicted no known damage.

More severe damage was inflicted the following day when Yap Island was struck by the air groups. Shipping and air installations took the brunt of attack as many planes were shot down while 8 ships were sunk by two squadrons alone in addition to damaging a destroyer tender and ten other ships.

On 1 April the force shifted toward Woleai Island to conduct their retiring strike there. At 0645 *IZARD* was presented a ringside seat to the destruction of two enemy merchant ships that were taken under fire by another destroyer division and sunk. Following the scheduled air strikes against Woleai, the force retired toward Majuro Atoll again, arriving on 6 April. *IZARD* entered dry-dock for repairs to her bottom on 10 April and the following day was floated again and assigned to Task Group 58.1 consisting of *USS HORNET*, *BATAAN*, *BELLEAU WOOD*, *COWPENS*, *SANTA FE*, *MOBILE*, *BLOXI*, *SAN JUAN*, *OAKLAND*, *IZARD*, *CHARRETTE*, *CONNER*, *BELL*, and *BURNS*. Their mission was to support the SEVENTH Fleet landings in the Hollandia, New Guinea area on 22 April. The group stood out on 13 April, fueled and held gunnery training the first day at sea and sailed on to rendezvous with another task group. While nearing Wakde on 19 April *IZARD* received her operation orders for shore bombardment in case she was needed. At 0630 on 21 April the carriers launched their first strikes, and continued launching and recovering all day.

At 0109 on 22 April, *IZARD* bombarded the eastern half of Wakde Island and Vandoemoear Island in support of amphibious operations in the Hollandia-Aitape area. The results could not be observed due to darkness and distance. No return fire was seen and the bombardment went off smoothly as scheduled.

On 26 April, *IZARD* steamed for Seeadler Harbor Manus Island as escort for Task Group 50.17. She arrived late on 28 April and on the following day received orders to strike Truk by air and hold shore bombardment on Ponape, and Satawan. The strikes were to continue for two days.

On 30 April *IZARD* closed the coast of Satawan and at 1545 opened fire on her target. She fired until 1553 at which time she had to relieve USS BRADFORD who had left the screen to join another bombardment section. Again the air strikes and bombardment was a great success as the anti-submarine patrol reported severe damage to enemy installations and shipping.

On 1 May between 1626 and 1648, *IZARD* bombarded the island of Japutik, in the Carolines. The enemy did not return the fire and her targets were well covered. Two buildings were destroyed but the results of the rest of the bombardment could not be seen.

On 3 May the entire task force retired to Kwajalein where they arrived on 4 May 1944. On 12 May *IZARD* sailed for Majuro, arriving on 14 May after holding gunnery exercises enroute. The remainder of May was spent undergoing training exercises in the Majuro area.

By 1 June the planning stage for the capture and occupation of the Marianas Island was well underway. It was assumed that the Japanese would oppose the landings there with everything they could muster including heavy surface units then concentrated in the Philippines, and in the Empire. The landings were set for 15 June when troops were to land on Saipan.

On 2 June, *IZARD* as part of Destroyer Squadron 46, stood out to screen the sortie of heavy ships. Training exercises at sea were held on 2 and 3 June after which the ships returned to Majuro to take on stores for the coming operation. On 6 June the force weighed anchor enroute to Saipan. Training drills were held while underway with anti-aircraft drills taking precedence. At 1845 on 10 June a message was received that the Japs knew when the group left Majuro and were searching for them. At 1528 fighter strikes were launched from the carriers against Guam and Rota. Their mission was to destroy aircraft over the target that might be used to interfere with the strikes on the following day.

At 0520 on 12 June, the carriers launched their scheduled strikes against Rota and Guam. Strikes were launched all morning and at 1245 word was received that friendly planes had already shot down 41 Japanese plants and destroyed 5 more on the ground at Rota. Heckling strikes were maintained over Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian all night. The strikes were continued on the following day. On 15 June, *IZARD* was sent to Iwo Jima to cover fighter strikes over that island. At 1805 a pilot from YORKTOWN was rescued when his plane crashed.

On 17 June, Naval Intelligence reported that the Japanese fleet had sortied from Borneo and the Philippines and was proceeding toward Saipan. *IZARD* was sent to intercept along with other destroyers, cruisers and battleships.

Long range air searches were sent out each day in an effort to discover the Jap fleet before being discovered. On 18 June a pilot and three enlisted men were rescued when their plane crashed astern of USS BELLEAU WOOD. On 19 June a large group of enemy planes were contacted at a distance of 125 miles. Immediately the carriers launched interceptors as the Task Group formed their anti-aircraft steaming disposition. The famous "Marianas Turkey Shoot" followed which lost a total of 299 planes for the enemy, breaking his once mighty air arm.

A search for the enemy fleet followed the next day. It was contacted at 300 miles and strikes sent out to blast it out of the seas. With the long flight to the target and the enemy steaming away the strikes did not return until after dark. With low fuel supply many planes had to make water landings, and the carriers fired star shells to guide the tired aviators back to their ships while the destroyers covered with smoke. Many grateful fliers were rescued by the speedy destroyers after their planes had landed in the water.

August 6th found *IZARD* underway for Eniwetok Atoll where she arrived on 9 August. She remained there undergoing repairs until 29 August when she got underway for strikes on Palau Island.

Arriving in the strike area on 7 September, the carriers of the task group launched their first flights against Jap installations on Ngesebus. Air strikes were continued through the next day and at 1900 on 8 September, the results of the raids were broadcast to all units. USS HORNET lost one pilot and plane to flake on 7 September but this was offset by the knocking out of the Ngesebus runway, and the destruction of Saipan Town, Middle Village and other facilities at Anguar. The few small boats remaining were sunk or burned.

On 9 September 1944, Task Group 38.1 turned toward Mindanao. Strikes were launched against Digos, Davao, and Sarangani in that area throughout the day. Little enemy activity was found and all bombs were directed toward the airfield at Tagana. At 2400 on 13 September Task Group 38.1 steamed southward toward Morotal to provide air support during the capture and occupation of that area by conducting air operations against the Southern Philippines enroute.

On 14 September the results of the previous strikes on the Philippines was broadcast to all units. Planes of the task group had shot down 55 enemy planes in the Cebu-Negros area on 12 September, 20 planes on the 13th, and 11 more were probably shot down. Approximately 85 more planes were destroyed on the ground. Five friendly pilots and 5 gunners were lost during the two days. Shipping in the area was also hit hard as one large cargo ship, and 5 small ones, one subchaser and four barges plus some small craft were sunk. Eight other cargo ships plus several small ships were damaged and some beached. The carriers of Task Group 38.1 continued their air strikes in support of the landing operations while the destroyers settled down to the ever-present drudgery of anti-submarine duty with only an occasional enemy plane coming within sight to break the long days of monotony.

However, things were to get a lot better for the destroyers. On 20 September the operation was shifted to Luzon, northern-most island in the Philippines and much nearer the Japanese home islands.

On 21 September the ships of the task group learned of the damage inflicted on enemy installations. Two small cargo ships were sunk, 1 large oiler, 5 large and 3 medium-sized merchantmen were damaged near Manila Harbor. More damage was inflicted on the following day before the task group retired to refuel at sea.

On 25 September *IZARD* steamed for Manus Island in the Admiralty Islands where she arrived on 28 September. On 2 October Task Force 38 stood out to sea for training exercises while enroute to strike Okinawa. By 10 October the force had arrived off Okinawa and began launching dawn fighter sweeps. Four more strikes plus a reconnaissance strike were launched during the day and after all had landed the days total showed this area to be a profitable target. During the early strikes 23 planes were destroyed, 1 medium and 7 small cargo ships damaged, plus 4 landing ships. Docks and warehouses were also badly damaged at the end of the day. Only two pilots and 1 crewman were lost during the strikes.

On 12 October the strikes were shifted to the Formosa area. The first day's operation showed the enemy had lost 124 aircraft with an additional 97 destroyed on the ground. The planes had sunk 2 large, 2 medium, and 12 small freighters, damaged 2 large, 7 medium and 10 small cargo ships, severally damaged an aluminum and alcohol plant and made destructive hits on docks and warehouses. Airfields were also hit hard. Task Force losses included 22 planes.

Numerous plane contacts hampered the task group on 12 and 13 October. At 1832 on 13 October a group of enemy torpedo planes succeeded in getting by the airborne opposition to torpedo USS CANNERRA. *IZARD*'s group shot down four planes. On 14 October between 1800 and 2000, an estimated 12 enemy planes attacked *IZARD*'s formation. USS HOUSTON was torpedoed during the attack. *IZARD* succeeded in shooting down four of the enemy marauders and making several hits on others.

IZARD continued supporting the Mariannas operation and on 23 June, received a report of the damage inflicted by her task group during the attack against the Jap fleet. Ten bomb hits had been scored on a "SHOKAKU" class carrier, bomb hits and two torpedo hits on a "NAYATAKA" class carrier, one torpedo hit on an "ATAGO" class cruiser, and bomb hits on a "SENDAI" class cruiser. All of this damage was inflicted while losing only 45 planes, most of which made successful water landings.

On 27 June 1944, *IZARD* entered port at Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. She stood out with a group of carriers for further strikes against the Bonin Islands on 30 June. Strikes were sent against the Bonins on 3 and 4 July as cruisers and destroyers maneuvered in close for shore bombardment. The bombardment was carried out successfully and on 5 July the ships headed for strikes against Guam and Rota in support of operations on Saipan. Strikes were launched against the Pagan Islands on the 5th and continued until the islands were secured during the latter part of the month. *IZARD* was always nearby serving as life-guard ship, shore bombardment, reconnaissance and many other duties.

On 23 July orders were received for a three day strike against Palau, Yap and Ulithi by Task Group 58.1, 58.2 and 58.3. The strikes were launched on 26, 27 and 28 July after which the ships returned to Saipan to rearm prior to striking the Bonin Islands again.

On 29 July *IZARD* made a brief submarine contact. After two depth charge attacks the contact was lost and a retiring search failed to relocate the contact.

On 2 August *IZARD*, as a unit of Task Group 58.1, departed Saipan Harbor and steamed for Iwo Jima, Haha Jima, and Chichi Jima to conduct air strikes and surface bombardment.

At 0929 on 4 August the carriers launched a fighter sweep against Chichi Jima. Their mission was to destroy enemy aircraft over the target or on the ground. At 1200 bombers and fighters were launched to strike shipping, aircraft and installations at Chichi Jima. At 0100 the following day Cruiser Division 13 was to be detached from the task group and with Destroyer Division 100, was to conduct bombardment of Chichi and Haha Jima.

However, at 1216 on 4 August, information was received that there was a 10 ship convoy 15 miles northwest of Chichi Jima. At 1251 four destroyers and Cruiser Division 13 were ordered to intercept and destroy the convoy. The cruiser SANTA FE and *IZARD* were in the lead. Several barges, one large sampan, one medium AK and one ship that was not identified but believed to be a large destroyer was contacted. At 1745 *IZARD* opened fire to port on a barge. Hits were observed on the first and third Salvos. The barge began smoking and sank shortly after.

At 1831 *IZARD* opened fire on a large sampan and continued firing until 1839. It was sinking as the destroyer pulled away in search of another target. At 1924 *IZARD* opened fire on a destroyer and one minute later sighted a man in the water close aboard. He was apparently an American aviator and *IZARD* reported him to USS BURNS which was then steaming astern of *IZARD*. The aviator was rescued by BURNS.

After the Jap destroyer was demolished, no more shipping was contacted during the night. On the morning of 5 August, *IZARD* was making her approach at Haha Jima for shore bombardment. At 1027 she commenced firing on an anti-aircraft battery on a ridge along the north shore of the harbor. At 1041 she opened fire on a seaplane base and dock area. Results could not be obtained as the target was obscured by smoke.

At 1055 shore batteries began returning fire and splashes were seen to hit directly astern of BURNS. *IZARD* began fistailing and at 1103 spotted the shore battery. Seven minutes later all was quiet as the enemy gun emplacement was destroyed by direct hits. At 1130 the bombardment was called off and all ships maneuvered to rejoin Task Group 58.1.

BACK

On 15 October *IZARD* was steaming as escort for the crippled USS HOUSTON which was being towed by USS BOSTON. Intermittent air attacks occurred until 16 October at which time the Task Group had withdrawn to the southern Philippines where strikes were to be carried out the following few days in support of landings on Leyte. USS *IZARD* continued escorting the carriers around Luzon until 23 October when she sailed for Ulithi Harbor to replenish. However, these orders were cancelled about four hours later when the Japanese fleet was detected steaming toward Leyte.

The well known "Battle for Leyte Gulf" followed, which saw the Japanese fleet lose 1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 5 carriers, with 2 battleships with 1 carrier probably sunk, 7 battleships, 4 cruisers and 4 destroyers badly damaged. During this action, *IZARD* was steaming with Task Group 38.1 which was striking the Jap fleet with every plane available. After this battle, *IZARD* steamed to Ulithi, arriving on 1 November to replenish and rearm.

The following day, 2 November 1944, *IZARD* stood out again to take her station in the van of carriers that were striking Luzon. She arrived and reported for duty on 4 November and was assigned an anti-submarine patrol to screen the heavy units of the fleet. She continued to operate with the fast carrier force around Luzon, Philippine Islands until 24 November when she put into port at Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island. She remained there until 15 December 1944.

At 0857 on 15 December USS *IZARD* stood out to screen the sortie of heavy ships prior to holding training exercises at sea. She put into Kossol Roads on 28 December and remained there until 1 January when she stood out with the fast carrier forces in support of the Lingayen Gulf landings. During this operation many ships were hit by the Japanese "Kamikaze".

On 5 January at 1712 an enemy plane crashed in flames, narrowly missing HMAS ARUNTA and causing minor damage to that vessel. Enemy planes remained in the area continuously. At 1912 *IZARD* opened fire on an enemy plane without scoring any apparent damage. January 6th came in with all hands alerted and at 0706 *IZARD* along with other ships opened fire on an enemy plane. The plane failed to escape as she was brought down in flames. Much gunfire was noted all morning until 0926 when *IZARD* took her station off Santiago Island for shore bombardment.

At 1152 an enemy plane came in low over the water and was taken under fire by the formation. Several ships scored hits before the plane was splashed. Another plane was destroyed at 1621 that afternoon as all ships again opened up with every gun aboard.

At 1729 the formation took another plane under fire and after damaging the plane, saw it crash into USS LOUISVILLE. At 2115 *IZARD* was ordered to sink a friendly Scout Observation Plane from USS COLUMBIA after it had been shot down by enemy aircraft and the pilot had been rescued.

At 1308 on 7 January 1945, *IZARD* opened fire on Port Sual. She continued firing until 1457, then joined the anti-submarine patrol. Several mines were discovered and exploded by her 20 millimeter guns later that day. At 0737 on 9 January *IZARD* returned to Port Sual and commenced pre-assault bombardment. At 0747 she had to train her guns at an enemy plane as it came in for its bombing run. The plane was splashed at some 3,000 yards.

At 0520 on 10 January a small craft was sighted as it tried to ram *IZARD* on her portside forward. The craft missed as it was taken under fire and succeeded in escaping. Enemy attacks continued sporadically but *IZARD* remained in the Lingayen Gulf area the rest of the month without incident as the Combat air patrol took care of the snoopers that approached the area.

On 13 February *IZARD* stood out for Ulithi, arriving on 16 February 1945. On 17 February *IZARD* was ordered to escort USS WEST VIRGINIA to Iwo Jima for fire support duty. She arrived off Iwo Jima on 19 February. At 1742 on 21 February *IZARD* relieved USS HARRY F. BAUER and contacted her shore fire control party (SFCP). At 1834 orders were received from the SFCP and *IZARD* opened fire. At 2030 she was ordered to fire harassing fire until 0015 on 22 February when she was directed to take enemy

movements in her area under fire. At 0110 the SFCP notified *IZARD* that her fire had knocked out many enemy vehicles including several tanks and armored trucks. At 1425 on 23 February *IZARD* was relieved by USS FULLAM. From then until 0700 on 24 February she was assigned screening and radar picket duty.

At 1515 on 24 February *IZARD* relieved USS IDAHO and at 1646 opened fire with a scout plane observing for her. *IZARD* was then sent off shore near Mount Suribachi to illuminate with searchlight if the need arose. She remained in that area until 0630 on 25 February when she was ordered to relieve USS HEYWOOD L. EDWARDS. By 0925 communications had been established with the plane spotter. The plane directed her fire to a troop movement where *IZARD* promptly dispersed the troops, killing a large portion of them. *IZARD* remained in the Iwo Jima area until 27 March and during that time fired a total of 3,330 rounds of five-inch ammunition, 2,450 rounds of 40 millimeter fire during her shore bombardment missions.

On 28 March *IZARD* steamed for Eniwetok Atoll, arriving on 2 April. On 4 April *IZARD* joined a convoy enroute to the Hawaiian Islands, where she arrived on 12 April. On 13 April she steamed on to Puget Sound, Washington, U.S.A. She arrived on 20 April, unloaded her depth charges and torpedoes and on 21 April, entered the Todd Pacific Shipyards, Seattle, Washington. There she remained until 14 June when she stood out for Bangor, Washington to take on her ammunition allowance. She remained in the area of Seattle until 19 June when she steamed for San Diego, arriving on 22 June.

She remained in the San Diego area undergoing minor repairs and holding training exercises until 30 June. On 30 June she departed for Pearl Harbor, arriving on 8 July.

USS *IZARD* remained in the Hawaiian area conducting training exercises until 26 July, when she sailed for San Francisco, arriving on the 31st. On 3 August she got underway in company with USS PENSACOLA enroute to Adak, Alaska for duty with the Northern Pacific Force. The ship arrived on 9 August and remained there until 20 August when she sailed for Attu. On 31 August *IZARD* stood out for Honshu, Japan.

While enroute, on 2 September, the Japanese Imperial Government surrendered unconditionally to the Supreme Allied Commander, General Douglas MacArthur, on board the USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay. That day was proclaimed V-J day by President Truman. For *IZARD* there was no V-J day, because at 0000 the date was moved ahead to 3 September 1945. Thus, *IZARD* was probably the only ship in the entire United States fleet that did not celebrate the occasion on 2 September.

USS *IZARD* continued operating in Northern Japan, liberating POW's and demobilizing Japanese Army and Navy forces until 15 November 1945. On 15 November she sailed for Pearl Harbor, and on 26 November continued on for Seattle, Washington. On 2 April 1946, she sailed on down the coast to San Diego where she was placed out of commission on 31 May 1946.

USS *IZARD* (DD 589) earned 10 Battle Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Medal for participating in the following operations:

1 Star/ Gilbert Islands Operation — 19 November to 8 December 1943

1 Star/ Marshall Islands Operation
Occupation of Kwajalein and Majuro Atolls — 29 January to 8 February 1944

1 Star/ Asiatic Pacific Raids — 1944
Truk Attack — 16 and 17 February 1944
Marianas Attack — 21 and 22 February 1944
Palau, Yap, Ulithi, Woleai Raid — 30 March to 1 April 1944
Truk, Satawan, Ponape Raid — 29 April to 1 May 1944

1 Star/ Hollandia Operation (Aitape Humboldt Bay—Tanahmerah Bay) — 21-24 April 1944

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1 Star/ Marianas Operation

Capture and Occupation of Saipan — 11-24 June 1944
First Bonins Raid — 15-16 June 1944
Battle of Philippine Sea — 19-20 June 1944
Second Bonins Raid — 24 June 1944
Third Bonins Raid — 3-4 July 1944
Capture and Occupation of Guam — 12 July to 15 August 1944
Palau, Yap, Ulithi Raid — 25-27 July 1944
Forth Bonins Raid — 4-5 August 1944

1 Star/ Western Caroline Islands Operation
Capture and Occupation of Southern Palau Islands — 6 September to 14 October 1944
Assaults on the Philippine Islands — 9-24 September 1944

1 Star/ Western New Guinea Operations
Morotai Landings — 15 September 1944

1 Star/ Leyte Operation
THIRD Fleet Supporting Operatins Okinawa Attack — 10 October 1944
Northern Luzon and Formosa Attacks — 11-14 October 1944
Luzon Attacks — 15, 17, 19 October 1944; 5, 6, 13, 14, 19, and 20 November 1944
Battle of Surigao Strait — 24-26 October 1944

1 Star/ Luzon Operation
Lingayen Gulf Landing — 4 to 18 January 1945

1 Star/ Iwo Jima Operation
Assault and Occupation of Iwo Jima — 19 February to 16 March 1945

USS *IZARD* also earned the Navy Occupation Service Medal, Pacific for the period from 7 September to 15 November 1945.

STATISTICS

OVERALL LENGTH	376 feet
BEAM	40 feet
SPEED	35 knots
DISPLACEMENT	2,050 tons

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