

U.S.S. SHERIDAN

14 November, 1943

To all the officers and men of the United States Navy, and United States Marine Corps on board the U.S.S. SHERIDAN.

As we are now entering the final stage of our operation and soon will be in the combat zone I take this opportunity to advise all hands that we are about to enter into the biggest offensive yet undertaken by any of our forces, the taking of the Gilbert Island group. We are a chosen and privileged group.

Our government and our people have indicated their confidence in our ability, by choosing us to perform this task. That confidence must and will be fulfilled by the successful accomplishment of the task we are about to undertake.

I know each and everyone of us will prove ourselves worthy of that confidence because we firmly believe in the principles of democracy for which we are fighting.

In this and other of our future assignments we must always have before our minds that our enemy is a strong and wily foe, that no quarter will be asked nor given. We must also remember that in successfully accomplishing our mission we are avenging the loss of our shipmates in past actions. This is not a one man job, each and everyone of us must know and do their job. There is no luck in this work, but plain hard work, hard fighting, common sense, and carrying our share of the load. Our load is a big one, but our lives, the lives of our shipmates around us and the lives of our dear ones at home, makes that load worthy of everything we have to put into the effort to make this a successful venture. Therefore let us be alert and make no mistakes. Mistakes cost lives and lives cannot be replaced.

I want to thank you for your cooperation in the past, you have done a fine job. In the coming event, I know you will do much better because it will not be play, but a matter of life and death and we want life.

I am proud to command you. We have a job to do, a big one. Lets go - plenty of success and may God bless you and give you strength to carry out your mission.

Signed J.J. Mockrish,
Commander, D-M, USNR,
Commanding.

Also signed James De Vere Myers
(Carpenter's Mate, U.S.S. SHERIDAN)