

November 14, 1944—When the six Red Cross women who were to be passengers on the Warren's second trip to Leyte first came aboard, one of our crew remarked that old superstition of the sea—"Women on board ship bring bad luck." Right or not, we all remembered the warning when the Jap torpedo bomber came so near to hitting us with her deadly charge yesterday afternoon as we sailed in toward Leyte Gulf.

The Warren's luck held good however, and we cheered as the Jill slipped past our fantail and crashed

into the sea. Only at the very last moment had a burst from the after five-inch lifted the right wing and thrown the plane off course.

As we came into the bay today, we watched a Nip divebomber smash into the water a few hundred yards ahead of us, and we opened futile fire on the escorting Zeroes which twisted and darted out of range. And we thrilled as one of our Lightnings swooped down with blinding speed from high above to explode a Zero in mid-air with a single burst from his guns.

Leyte was still a hot target for the Jap air forces. We discharged our cargo once more within the space of a few hours, and once again slipped away through the darkness, headed for New Guinea.

