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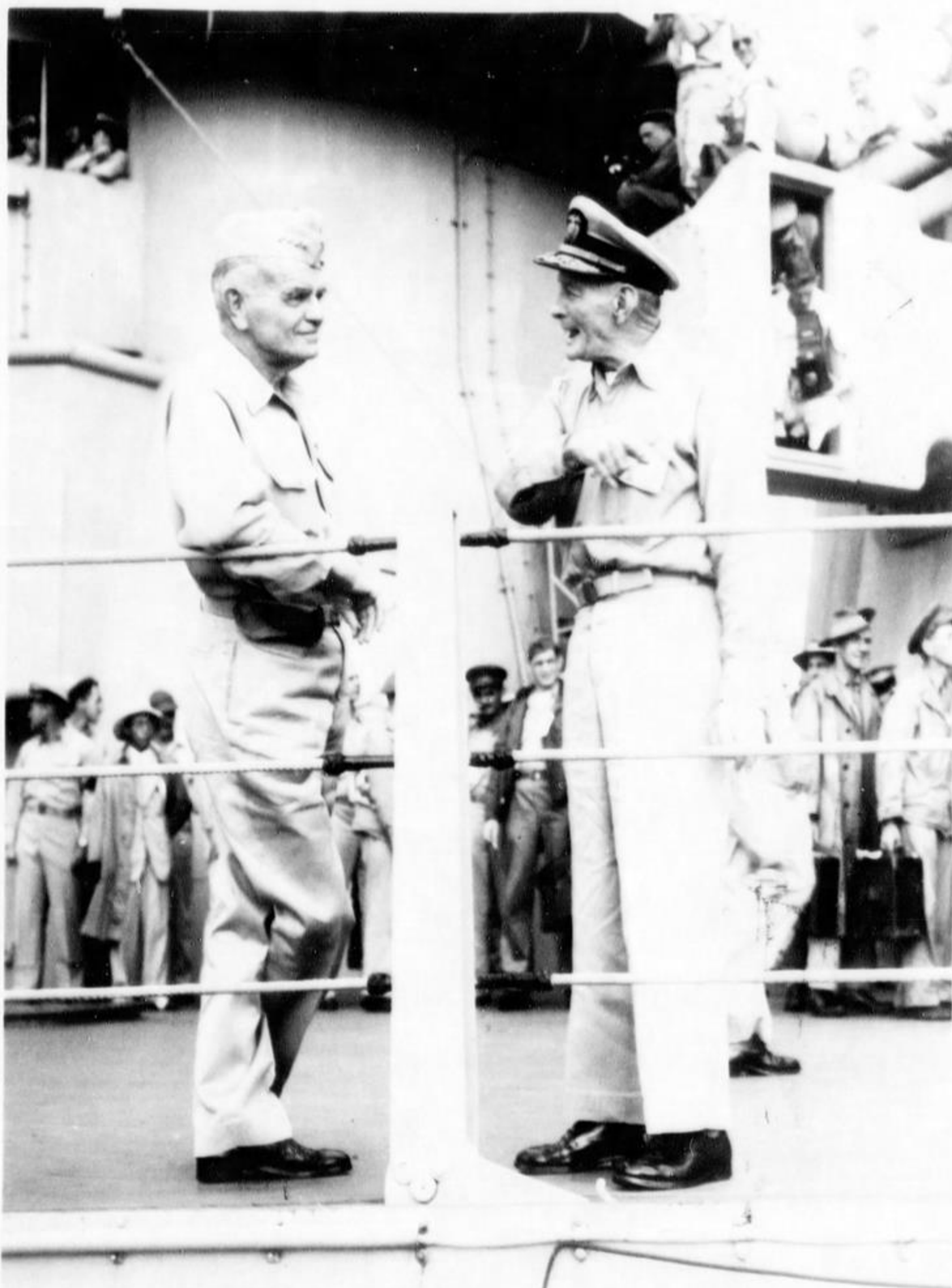
Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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# ACTION REPORT

16 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER - CONFIDENTIAL



COACHING STAFF FOR VICTORY

COMMANDER TASK GROUP 38.1  
COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION THREE.

138572

FB2-3/A16-3  
(00-dbc)

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AIR FORCE  
COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION THREE

REC. NO 9663  
T NO 175

Serial: 0413

10 September 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commander Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE.  
(Commander Carrier Division THREE - Rear Admiral  
T. L. SPRAGUE, USN., USS BENNINGTON, Flagship.)  
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via: (1) Commander Task Force THIRTY-EIGHT.  
(2) Commander THIRD Fleet.  
(3) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific  
Fleet.

Subject: Report of Operations of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT  
POINT ONE from 16 August 1945 to 2 September 1945.  
(East Longitude Dates)

References: (a) U. S. Navy Regulations, 1920, Article 712.  
(b) PacFlt Conf. ltr. 1CL-45.  
(c) Com3rdFlt Operation Plan 9-45.  
(d) Com2ndCarTaskForPac (CTF 38) OpOrder 2-45.  
(e) Commander Task Group 38.1 OpPlan 1-45.  
(f) Com3rdFlt Standard Instructions 1-45.

Enclosure: (A) Action Report of U.S.S. BENNINGTON (CV-20); *M-ser. 138417*  
(B) Action Report of U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CV-16); *-Missing*  
(C) Action Report of U.S.S. HANCOCK (CV-19); *-M-ser. 138382*  
(D) Action Report of U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD (CVL-24); *-Missing*  
(E) Action Report of U.S.S. SAN JACINTO (CVL-30); *M-ser. 138284*

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (f)  
the Action Report of Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE is  
hereby submitted.

*T. L. Sprague*  
T. L. SPRAGUE.

9 02437

10 September 1945.

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Subject: Action Report - 16 August 1945 to 2 Sept 1945.  
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PART I - BRIEF SUMMARY

1. This action report covers the period from 16 August 1945 to 2 September 1945. During this period Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT ONE was operating as part of Task Force THIRTY-EIGHT maintaining air patrols and conducting reconnaissance flights over the island of Honshu.

PART II - PRELIMINARIES

1. Task Group 38.1 was organized as follows:-

Task Group 38.1 - Rear Admiral T. L. SPRAGUE

(a) Task Unit 38.1.1 (Carriers) Rear Admiral T. L. SPRAGUE.

	BENNINGTON (F)	Braun	Air Group 1	
##	LEXINGTON	Robbins	Air Group 94	
	HANCOCK	Hickey	Air Group 6	3 CV
	BELLEAU WOOD	Tomlinson	Air Group 31	
x	SAN JACINTO	Goodwin	Air Group 49	2 CVL

(b) Task Unit 38.1.2 (Support Unit) Rear Admiral SHAFROTH.

Task Unit 38.1.3 (Battleship Support Unit)  
Rear Admiral SHAFROTH.

BatDiv 8 + Rear Admiral SHAFROTH.

	ALABAMA (F)	Goggins		
	INDIANA	Old		
//	MASSACHUSETTS	Redman		3 BB

Task Unit 38.1.4 (Cruiser Support Unit)  
Rear Admiral HOLDEN.

\* CruDiv 13 - Rear Admiral HOLDEN

	TOPEKA (F)	Wattles		
	DULUTH	Osburn		
	ATLANTA	Colyear		
	DAYTON	Steinhagen		4 CL

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CruDiv 20 (less PROVIDENCE, LITTLE ROCK) Captain HUNT.

OKLAHOMA CITY (F) Hunt  
AMSTERDAM Lawton 2 CL

\*\* TUCSON Ayrault  
\*\* ASTORIA Hamilton 2 CL

(c) Task Unit 38.1.5 (Screen) Commodore SIMPSON.

/ SAN JUAN (F) Bahm 1 CL

DesRon 61 - Captain HEDERMAN.

DesDiv 121 - Captain HEDERMAN.

xx DEHAVEN (F) Groverman  
MANSFIELD Smythe  
LYMAN K. SWENSON Braun  
COLLETT Collett (Herms)  
MADDOX Santmyers 5 DD

DesDiv 122 - Commander McCLAIN (Acting)

BLUE (F) Bryan  
BRUSH Smith  
TAUSSIG McClain  
SAMUEL N. MOORE Lincoln (Bowen)  
HIGBEE Williamson 5 DD

DesRon 25 (less LITTLE and SIGSBEE) Captain LUDEWIG

DesDiv 49 - Captain LUDEWIG

# JOHN RODGERS (F) Franklin  
# HARRISON Combs  
## MC KEE Allen  
## MURRAY deVos (Radel) 4 DD

DesDiv 50 - Captain WINN.

# RINGGOLD (F) Christie  
SCHROEDER McElrath  
DASHIELL Cordiner 3 DD

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(d) Task Unit 38.1.12 (Carrier Support Unit)  
Commodore SIMPSON.

SAN JUAN (F) Bahm 1 CL

CruDiv 20 (less PROVIDENCE, LITTLE ROCK) Captain HUNT.

OKLAHOMA CITY (F) Hunt  
AMSTERDAM Lawton 2 CL

(e) Task Unit 38.1.13 (Carrier Screen) Commodore SIMPSON.

DesRon 25 (Less LITTLE and SIGSBEE) Captain LUDEWIG.

DesDiv 122 - Commander McCLAIN (Acting) 11 DD

(f) Task Unit 38.1.24 (Light Forces Screen)  
Captain HEDERMAN.

DesRon 61 (less DesDiv 122)

DEHAVEN (F) Groverman  
MINSFIELD Smythe  
LYMAN K. SWENSON Braun  
COLLETT Collett (Herms)  
MADDOX Santmyers 5 DD

NOTE: \* CruDiv 18 in TOPEKA with DAYTON, ATLANTA and DULUTH  
detached on 20 August 1945.  
\*\* TUCSON and ASTORIA reported for duty on 20 Aug 1945.  
# HARRISON and RINGGOLD detached 22 August 1945.  
## LEXINGTON, MC KEE and MURRAY detached 30 August 1945.  
/ ComTaskFlot 6 in SAN JUAN detached 23 August 1945.  
// MASSACHUSETTS and ASTORIA detached 30 August 1945.  
x SAN JACINTO detached 31 August 1945.  
xx DEHAVEN detached 1 September 1945.

Comdr. COLLETT was relieved by Comdr. Herms on  
18 August 1945.  
Comdr. LINCOLN was relieved by Comdr. BOWEN on  
27 August 1945.  
Comdr. DEVOS was relieved by Lt. Comdr. RADEL on  
29 August 1945.

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PART III - CHRONOLOGY

1. Principal events are set forth chronologically with all dates East Longitude and all times Zone Minus Nine (Item).

16 August 1945

During night 15/16 August Task Force 38 steamed in vicinity 32°45' N, 142°20' E.

- 0926 Commenced launching aircraft - tow planes.
- 0745 Formed 5-V for gunnery exercises.
- 0815-1019 Topped off destroyers.
- 1024 Formed 5-R; Task Groups began closing up for photography of Task Force.
- 1141 ALABAMA designated guide and Commander Task Unit 38.1.2 given tactical command of Task Group 38.1 because of casualty to BENNINGTON steering.
- 1146 Commander Task Group resumed tactical command.
- 1250 Formed 5-V for gunnery exercise.
- 1537 Formed 5-R.
- 1555 Completed air operations.

17 August 1945

- 0445-0715 Topped off destroyers.
- 0730 Commenced launching tow planes.
- 0750 Formed 5-V for gunnery.
- 0945 Task Groups of Task Force 38 commenced closing up for aerial photography.

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1040 Ceased gunnery, formed 5-R.

1152-1238 Task Force photographed.

1254 Formed 5-V for gunnery.

1737 Formed 5-R.

During night 17/18 August Task Force 38 steamed toward 32°00' N, 143°30' E, fueling rendezvous.

18 August 1945.

On 18 August 1945 Commander FIRST Carrier Task Force, Vice Admiral Frederick C. Sherman, USN, hoisted his flag in U.S.S. LEXINGTON.

0230 Radar contact with Task Group 30.8 at 200°, 35 miles.

0415 Commenced launching routine patrols.

0525 Formed 5-F, commenced fueling.

1626 Task Unit 30.8.1 commenced withdrawal, Task Group replenishment completed.

1658 Formed 5-R.

1725 Completed air operations.

During morning ships not fueling or replenishing conducted gunnery exercises. During night 18/19 August Task Force 38 maneuvered to return to fueling rendezvous 32°-00'N, 143°30'E.

19 August 1945.

0200 Radio contact with Task Group 30.8

0502 Formed 5-F, commenced fueling.

1630 Service ships departed formation.

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1756 Formed 5-R.

During the day personnel for marine company for duty with CTF 31 in connection with landings at Yokosuka were transferred to APA's and APD's. During night 19/20 August Task Force 38 steamed on various courses to return to fueling rendezvous 32°00'N, 143°30'E.

20 August 1945.

0440 Formed 5-F, commenced exercises.

0916 Commander Cruiser Division EIGHTEEN in TOPEKA with DAYTON, ATLANTA and DULUTH detached from Task Group 38.1 in accordance with Commander Task Force 38 dispatch 190646.

1550 Commander FIRST Carrier Task Force hauled down his flag in LEXINGTON to transfer to WASP in Task Group 38.3.

1605 TUCSON reported for duty with Task Group 38.1.

1750 ASTORIA reported for duty with Task Group 38.1.

During day personnel of Bluejacket Base Maintenance Company were transferred to APA's and APD's for duty with CTF 31 in connection with landings at Yokosuka. During night 20/21 August Task Force 38 maneuvered to return to same fueling rendezvous.

21 August 1945.

0418 Commenced launching routine patrols.

0443 Formed 5-F and commenced fueling.

1658 Due to heavy seas, all replenishment discontinued.

1720 Formed 5-R.

1805 Completed air operations.

During night 21/22 August Task Force 38 steamed on northeasterly course to rendezvous with fueling group.



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22 August 1945.

0448 Formed 5-F, commenced fueling.  
0800 Fueling group released, to clear formation.  
0835 Formed 5-R.  
1130 Commenced launching aircraft for photographic mission.  
1732 Completed air operations.  
2245 HARRISON and RINGGOLD detached to proceed and report to ANTIETAM, en route to Guam.

23 August 1945.

0554 APA PRESIDIO entered formation to transfer mail and freight for Task Group 38.1.  
1400 ComTHIRDFleet Operation Order 10-45, Top Secret Serial 00276, and CTF 38 Operation Order 4-45, Top Secret Dispatch 220230 became effective.  
1500 Commander Task Flotilla SIX in SAN JUAN detached from Task Group 38.1 to proceed and assume duty as Commander Task Group 30.6.  
1725 PRESIDIO departed formation.  
During night 23/24 August Task Group 38.4 steamed toward 0600/24 rendezvous 35°00'N, 144°00'E. Task Group 38.1, en route 25 August launching point, remained in company until 0400/24.

24 August 1945.

0423 Commenced launching routine patrols.  
1200-1433 Topped off destroyers.

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1750 Completed air operations.

During night 24/25 August Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 0415/25 launching point 39°30'N, 143°41'E.

25 August 1945.

0350 All launches cancelled because of low visibility.

0500 Commenced launching weather recco flight.

0630 Stationed radar pickets (Tomcats).

0630 Commenced launching patrols and POW Camp recco flights over Japan, and routine patrols.

0735-0950 Topped off destroyers.

1103 SAN JACINTO F6F crashed in water in formation. JOHN RODGERS picked up pilot at 1115.

1805 Completed air operations.

During night 25/26 August Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 26 August launch point 40°30'N, 143°40'E.

26 August 1945.

0400 Stationed radar pickets (Tomcats).

0415 Scheduled launch delayed on account of bad weather over group.

0427 Commenced launching scheduled patrols and POW Missions and routine patrols.

0535-0720 Topped off destroyers.

1755 Completed air operations.

During night 26/27 August Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 38°40'N, 145°15'E, 0400/27 fueling rendezvous.

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27 August 1945.

- 0240 Radio contact with fueling group, Task Unit 30.8.37.
- 0429 Formed 5-F, commenced fueling on course 180°.
- 0448 Commenced launching routine patrols and POW relief missions. (Method Baker)
- 1005 BELLEAU WOOD CAP sighted a Jap submarine at 38°40'N, 143°12'E (bearing 295°, 98 miles from Task Group 38.1). BLUE and MANSFIELD detached to intercept and capture. Commander THIRD Fleet advised.
- 1050 Second Jap submarine reported at 37°42'N, 144°52'E. (bearing 255°, 14 miles). MURRAY and DASHIELL detached to seize. Commander THIRD Fleet was immediately advised of this sub also, and orders were received from him to capture and escort with one DD to Guam if fuel would permit, otherwise to Sagami Wan. (Later, on orders of Commander THIRD Fleet; the BLUE, proceeding with Sub #1, an I-15 class, was relieved by WEAVER and a prize crew; MURRAY with Sub #2, I-14 class was relieved by BANGUST and prize crew.)
- 1210 Launched special mission to orbit Jap subs, to attack only if attempt made to submerge. BENNINGTON VT assisted in capture of Sub #1 by persuading it to change course to the southward enabling DD's to intercept.
- 1814 Completed fueling and replenishing.
- 1835 DASHIELL returned from capture of Sub #2.
- 1920 Completed air operations.
- During night 27/28 August, with Task Unit 30.8.37 in company, Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 38°40'N, 145°15'E.

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28 August 1945.

- 0503 Comrienced fueling and replenishing. Commenced launching POW missions and routine patrols.
- 1220 MANSFIELD rejoined.
- 1450 BLUE rejoined.
- 1745 Completed air operations.
- 1803 Formed 5-R.
- 2355 MURRAY rejoined.

During night 28/29 August, Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 35°40'N, 142°30'E, 0430/29 launching point for air operations over Tokyo area.

29 August 1945.

- 0357 Stationed radar pickets (Tomcats).
- 0430 Commenced launching POW missions, and CAP over Tokyo area and routine patrols.
- 0913 TAUSSIG detached to proceed to Sagami Wan to transfer SAN JACINTO patient to AH for treatment.
- 1750 Completed air operations.
- 1830 MADDOX detached to proceed to 37°45'N, 143°20'E, to rendezvous with 10 friendly submarines and escort them to rendezvous off Sagami Wan.

During night 29/30 August Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 35°40'N, 142°30'E, 0430/30 launching point.

30 August 1945

- 0330 TAUSSIG rejoined.
- 0345 Stationed radar pickets (Tomcats).

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- 0430 Commenced launching POW missions and CAP over Tokyo area and routine patrols.
- 0450 Topped off destroyers.
- 1103 BENNINGTON VF crashed in water on take off when engine cut out. TAUSSIG picked up pilot at 1125.
- 1727 BENNINGTON VF landed in water south of formation. Pilot rescued by BRUSH at 1737.
- 1802 LEKINGTON, escorted by MC KEE and MURRAY; detached to proceed for duty with Task Group 38.3. MC KEE and MURRAY to rejoin upon completion of escort duty.
- 1803 MASSACHUSETTS and ASTORIA, carrying 741 officers and enlisted passengers from Task Group 38.1, escorted by MANSFIELD and COLLETT, detached to return to the United States of America. MANSFIELD and COLLETT were to rejoin after unit made rendezvous with Task Group 38.3 to receive additional homeward bound personnel.
- 1805 Completed air operations.
- During night 30/31 August Task Group 38.1 steamed toward 38°40'N, 145°15'E, 0500/31 fueling rendezvous.

31 August 1945.

- 0315 Radio contact with Task Unit 30.8.37.
- 0443 Formed 5F, commenced fueling.
- 0457 Commenced launching routine patrols.
- 1015 Cancelled scheduled patrol launch.
- 1415 SAN JACINTO, with passengers for the United States, BRUSH and BLUE detached to proceed to Task Group 30.8, where SAN JACINTO to pick up additional passengers and proceed homeward. BRUSH and BLUE to rejoin Task Group 38.1.

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1745 Ceased replenishment.

During night 31 August Task Unit 30.8.37 remained with Task Group 38.1, to resume replenishment on the morrow.

1 September 1945.

0455 Commenced fueling and replenishing.

0500 Commenced launching routine patrols.

1105 Launched photo mission to Kamaishi.

1313 DEHLVEN left formation on mission to Tokyo Bay.

1708 Replenishment group released.

1715 Formed 5-R.

2225 COLLETT and MANSFIELD rejoined.

During day conducted gunnery exercises. During night steamed toward 0500/2 launching point 34°30'N, 140°15'E.

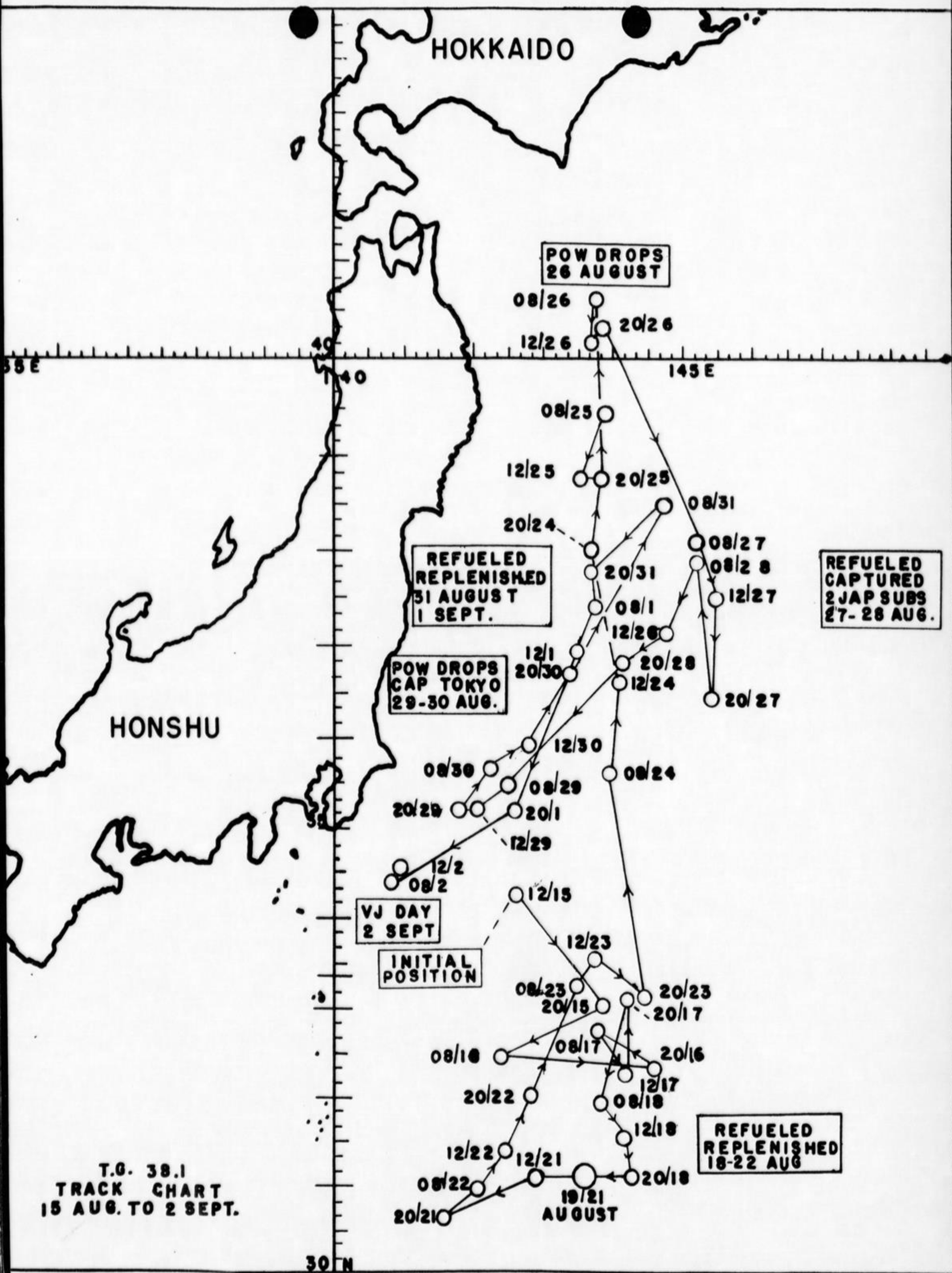
2 September 1945.

0305 Radar contact with Task Group 38.4 195°, 38 miles.

0455 Commenced launching routine patrols.

0740 Launched all available aircraft for flight over Tokyo Bay during surrender ceremony.

1159 Commenced topping off destroyers.



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PART IV - COMMENTS

AIR OPERATIONS

AIRFIELD RECONNAISSANCE

1. All Japanese airfields in assigned areas were searched and photographed. In all cases, airplanes were found parked in rows in the open field area. No attempt was made to camouflage airplanes or parking area and pilots making low altitude reconnaissance encountered no resistance.

AIR SUPPORT OF LANDING OCCUPATION FORCE

1. Aircraft from this Task Group operated in support of the landing of occupation forces in Tokyo Bay area. Combat air patrol was furnished over Atsugi Airfield and anchorages in Sagami Wan and Tokyo Wan. Air observers, air support groups, photographic planes and channel shipping patrols were also airborne. These planes furnished air cover for any emergency support but were not called on for any action. No airborne Japanese planes were seen.

P.O.W. MISSIONS.

1. Most of the flights in this period of time were flown by VT and VF to search for prisoner of war camps. Honshu was thoroughly searched by small increments of territory and numerous unlisted camps were discovered and supplied. Torpedo planes were equipped with 75 pound supply packages of K-rations, sulpha drugs, bandages, magazines and clothing and these were dropped on the basis of one package for every 50 prisoners. Special supply drops were as sign requests dictated for individual camps. Parachutes from Mark 5 and Mark 6 parachute flares were used for this purpose. Full photographic coverage was also taken and prints forwarded to CTG 30.6 to aid in ground search and evacuation. The missions were unusually successful in spite of inclement weather and all camps in the area were supplied with some of the necessities and comforts of life. It was evident by the elation of prisoners shown in photos that the immediate appearance of carrier aircraft raised the morale of allied prisoners of war.



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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Date	Blanket Patrol Japan	POW Search & Supply	CAP over Friendly Forces Japan	Aerial Display to cover Landings	Aerial Parade Surrender Ceremonies
8/25	140	14			
8/26	146				
8/27	143				
8/28		48			
8/29		148	161		
8/30		154	169	39	
9/1	4				
9/2					176
	433	364	330	39	176

Date	DCAP	RAF CAP	ASP	Weather Search	Sub Escort	Spec, Escort	Air Losses Planes	Men
8/18	48	48	16					
8/21	72							
8/24	32							
8/25	50	24		6				
8/26	56	32					1 Hellcat	None
8/27	24				18		1 Hellcat	None
8/28	20							
8/29	44	8					1 VT (Empire)	1 Pilot*
8/30	34	8				6		
8/31	8							
9/1	32							
9/2	32							
	452	120	16	6	18	6	2 Hellcats 1 VT	1 Pilot

\* In addition to pilot reported as killed, one passenger officer and one crewman were injured.

Note: Dates omitted in the above statistics indicate that no operational flights were conducted.

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OTHER FLIGHTS

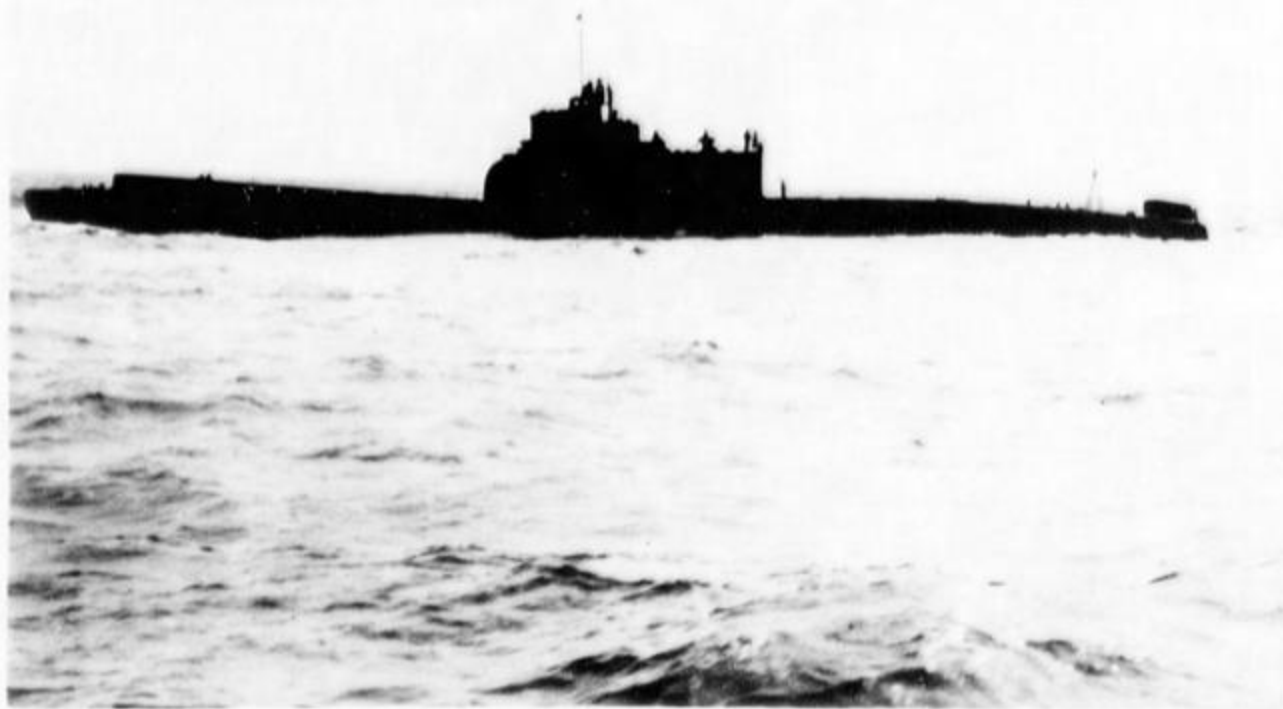
Date	Tow Sleeve	Message Drop	Task Force Photo Parade	Cruiser Plane Flights
8/16	10			
8/17	12			2
8/18		1		6
8/22			348	
8/24		2		
8/30		1		
9/1	9		4 (Group)	
<hr/>				
	31	4	352	8

RECAPITULATION -

Blanket Patrol	433
POW Search & Supply	364
CAP over Friendly Forces	330
Cover for Landings	39
Surrender Ceremonies	176
DCAP	452
RAPCAP	120
ASP	16
Weather Search	6
Sub. Escort	18
Special Escort	6
Tow Sleeve	31
Message Drop	4
Photo Parade	352
Cruiser Plane Flights	8
TOTAL FLIGHTS	<hr/> 2355



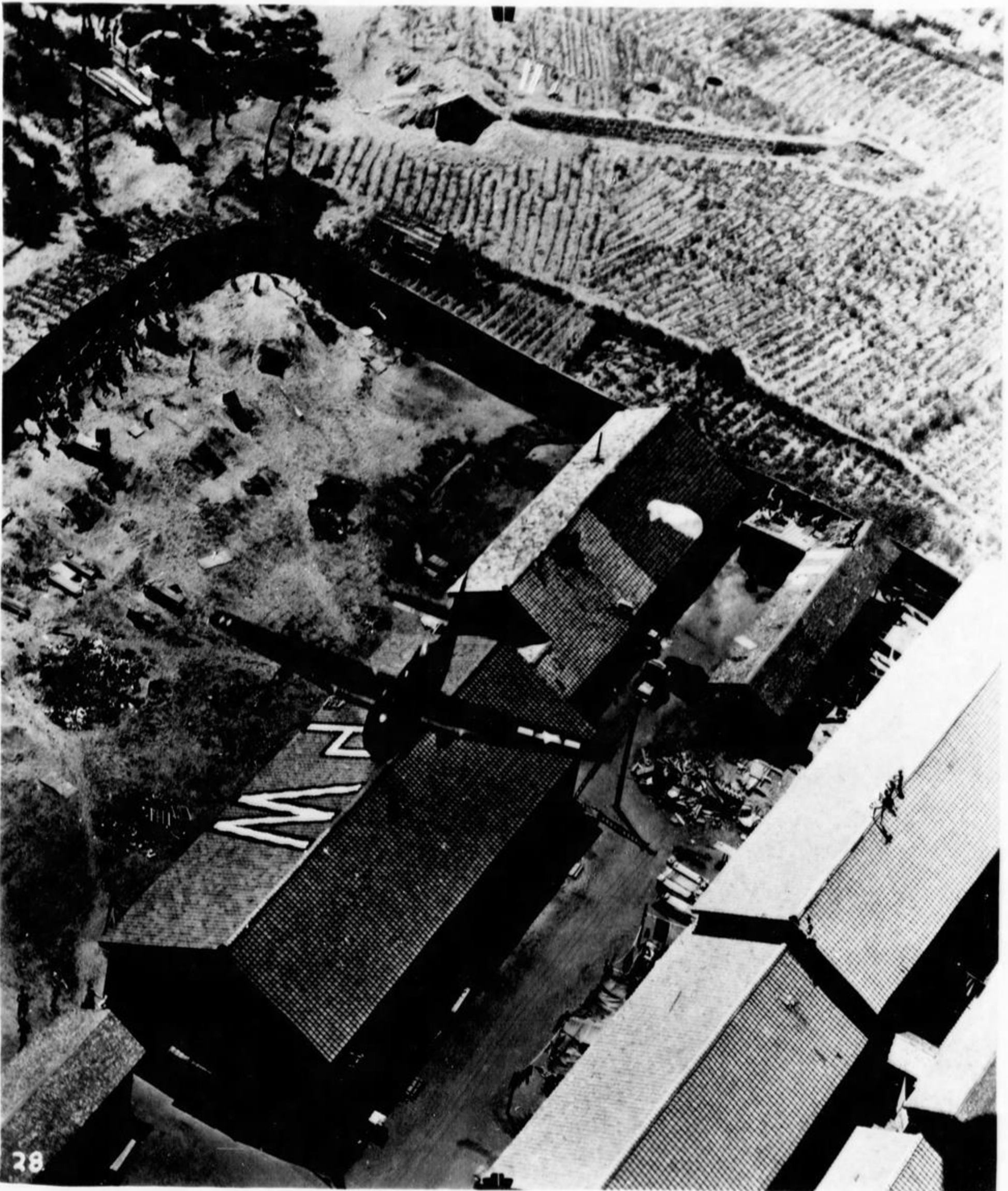
Boarding Party from USS MURRAY



Jap Sub I-14 surrendering

TG 38.1 destroyers, assisted by aircraft 'captured' two Jap Submarines  
27 August 1945

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Food, Medical Supplies, Clothing, and Cigarettes  
were dropped to Prisoners of War in 28 Camps.  
NIIGATA NORTH CAMP Lexington Photo

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20 Prisoner of War camps were 'discovered' by TG 38.1  
IWAKE POW CAMP Bennington Photo

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KAWASAKI WATERFRONT CAMP

Bennington Photo

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ComCarDiv-5 1

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ComCarDiv-7 1

AUTHENTICATED:

*W. F. Rowland*

W. F. ROWLAND, Lt. Comdr., USNR.  
Flag Secretary.