

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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REG. NO 27898

R. S. NO

REG. SHEET NO 13

U. S. S. BRISTER (DE 327)

FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

FILE NO.

DE327(FMR)/A9-4.
Serial #0204.

CONFIDENTIAL

30 Sept 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To : The Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
 Subj: War Diary of USS BRISTER (DE 327), Sept 1945.
 Ref : (a) PacFlt Conf. ltr 1CL-45 of 1 Jan 1945.
 Enc : (A) Copy of Action Report Serial #00186 of 9 Sept 1945.

(Secret) on RS-11-27

1. During the month of September, 1945, this vessel, as part of Escort Division 57, participated in the evacuation of Allied prisoners-of-war from Kiirun, Formosa, to Manila, and later went from Manila to Okinawa.

2. The chronological summary of the month follows:

1 Sept 1945 - 9 Sept 1945.
 Zone time - Minus 9.

The evacuation of Allied prisoners-of-war from KIIRUN, FORMOSA, to MANILA, P. I., is covered in the action report appended hereto as Enc (A).

10 Sept - 16 Sept 1945.
 Zone time - minus 9.

This period was spent in MANILA, awaiting orders and preparing for sea.

17 Sept - 20 Sept 1945.
 Zone time - minus 9.

Having been assigned to Task Force 74, we left MANILA at 0700 Item on 17 September, in company with USS BLOCK ISLAND (CVE 106)(with Rear Admiral D. KETCHAM, USN, ComCardiv 27, as OTC), USS THOMAS J. GARY (DE 326) (with Comdr. D. H. JOHNSON, USNR, ComCortDiv 57), USS FINCH (DE 328), and USS KRETCHMER (DE 329), to report to OKINAWA. Ship's clocks were temporarily shifted to minus 8 time, but this was corrected to minus 9 after arrival. We arrived at HAGUSHI Anchorage, OKINAWA, the morning of 20 September.

20 Sept - 26 Sept 1945
 Zone time - minus 9.

This period was spent at HAGUSHI Anchorage, OKINAWA.

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27 Sept - 30 Sept 1945.

Zone time - minus 9.

On 27 September, in company with USS GARY (DE 326), USS KRETCHMER (DE 329), and USS FORMOSE (DE 509), we escorted USS BLOCK ISLAND (CVE 106), USS GILBERT ISLANDS (CVE 107), and USS SALERNO BAY (CVE 110), while they conducted flight training operations west and northwest of OKINAWA, returning to the anchorage that night. The next day was spent in similar operations. We steamed in the operations area the night of 28 September, USS FINCH (DE 328), USS KULA GULF (CVE 178), and USS CANEY (AO 95) joining the group. A typhoon having been reported to be moving west and northwest from a point southeast of OKINAWA, at 0612 Item of the 29th, course was set northwest, at 10 knots, and preparations were made for heavy weather. All ships fueled from the CANEY en route. Floating mines were sighted, and one was destroyed just before dark. The group hove to the night of the 29th in the vicinity of 28° 38' N., 125° 47' E. to avoid running down mines and to await further reports of the expected typhoon track. USS SIBONEY (CVE 112) joined the group that night. At dawn on 30 September we ran northwest, later swinging around so that by sunset we were back in the vicinity where we had spent the previous night. Typhoon reports now indicated that it was safe to return to OKINAWA. Rather than steam that night through waters where mines were possible, however, reversals of course were made so that we spent the night in waters we had already traversed during the preceeding daylight hours.

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