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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

REG. NO 632  
R. S. NO  
REG. SHEET NO 48

USS FINCH (DE 328)  
FLEET POST OFFICE

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San Francisco, California

FILE NO.

DE-328 (FMR)/A12-2/CDL-ts  
Serial 071

1 October 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
Subject: WAR DIARY - Month Ending 30 September 1945.  
Reference: (a) Art. 712 and 874(6), U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.  
(b) A1Nav 176-43.  
(c) Cominch Serial 7152, FF1/A12/A16-3, 29 Oct 43.

1. In accordance with the above references, the following is  
the War Diary of the U.S.S. FINCH (DE-328) for the month ending 30 September  
1945.

1 September:

Underway from San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I. to Korea in compliance with  
Com Seventh Fleet Secret Dispatch 280813 dated 25 August 1945 and  
ComCarDiv 27 Operation Order #2-45, Serial 0010, dated 29 August  
1945, in company with CarDiv 27 and CortDiv 57 less U.S.S. O'REILLY  
(DE-330) and U.S.S. KOINER (DE-331), Com Task Group (ComCarDiv 27),  
Rear Admiral D. Ketcham, USN, in U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-106) and  
ComCortDiv 57 in U.S.S. THOMAS J. GARY (DE-326). This task group  
designated TG 77.1. A typhoon has been reported about 400 miles  
South East of this task group, full preparations made for heavy  
weather.

0800 - Lat. 22° 52' N. Long. 127° 33' E.  
At 0900 U.S.S. CHEPACHET (AO-78) joined formation.  
1200 - Lat. 23° 25' N. Long. 127° 32' E.  
2000 - Lat. 23° 46' N. Long. 127° 48' E.

2 September:

0800 - Lat. 24° 51' N. Long. 128° 42' E.  
1200 - Lat. 25° 10' N. Long. 129° 12' E.  
2000 - Lat. 24° 40' N. Long. 130° 24' E.

3 September:

0800 - Lat. 23° 21' N. Long. 130° 45' E  
At 1132 changed course to 277° T, speed 16 knots proceeding to  
Formosa in accordance with Com 7th Fleet Dispatch 010040 dated  
1 September 1945, CTG 77.1 Dispatch 030538 dated 3 September 1945  
and ComCarDiv 27 Operation Order #3-45 dated 4 September 1945.  
U.S.S. CHEPACHET (AO-78) detached this task group, now composed of  
CarDiv 27 and CortDiv 57 less U.S.S. O'REILLY (DE-330) and U.S.S.  
KOINER (DE-331).  
1200 - Lat. 22° 55' N. Long. 130° 43' E.

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3 September (Continued):

At 1237 man overboard from U.S.S. SANTEE (CVE-29), this ship proceeding to effect rescue. At 1250 man sighted, floating face down in water and at 1300 man aboard. At 1400 Lieutenant Commander Victor (n) Gang, (MC), USNR, 99161, was pronounced dead by Lieutenant J. W. Coxe (MC), USNR. At 1615 attempts were made to pass body to U.S.S. SANTEE by breeches buoy, however heavy weather prevented. At 1830 funeral services were held by the commanding officer for Lieut. Comdr. Victor (n) Gang and his body was committed to the deep in position Latitude 23° 03' North, Longitude 129° 42' E.

2000 - Lat. 23° 06' N. Long. 129° 15' E.

4 September:

0800 - Lat. 23° 30' N. Long. 126° 37' E.  
1200 - Lat. 23° 30' N. Long. 125° 23' E.  
2000 - Lat. 23° 35' N. Long. 123° 34' E.

5 September:

At 0250 U.S.S. GARY and U.S.S. KRETCHMER detached for Kiirun, Formosa.  
0800 - Lat. 24° 54' N. Long. 122° 31' E.  
1200 - Lat. 25° 01' N. Long. 122° 42' E.  
2000 - Lat. 25° 05' N. Long. 122° 07' E.  
Remained in area East of Northern Formosa entire day acting as plane guard for carriers as planes were launched for show of force over Formosa.

6 September:

At 0551 departed task group in company with U.S.S. T.J. GARY and U.S.S. KRETCHMER and set course for Kiirun, Formosa. At 0857 entered harbor and moored to Meijicho Docks, Keeling Ko Harbor, Kiirun, Formosa. Ship remained at general quarters in event of trouble. At 1345 commenced loading 221 recovered Allied Military Personnel aboard for evacuation. Upon completion of loading of Recovered Allied Military Personnel, departed Kiirun, Formosa for rendezvous point. From 1752 until 2303 transferred 171 RAMP's from this ship to U.S.S. SANTEE (CVE-29), 11 of them being stretcher cases. 50 RAMP's were retained aboard for transportation to Manila, P.I. (See Action report for USS FINCH, (DE-328)(FMR)/A16/CDL-gm, Serial 066, dated 9 Sept 1945.)  
2000 - Lat. 25° 05' N. Long. 122° 05' E.  
At 2303 departed area East of Point Peitau Kaku, Formosa, set course and speed for Manila, P.I. in accordance with Com 7th Fleet Dispatch 010140 dated 1 September 1945 and C.T.G. 77.1 Dispatch 030538 dated 3 Sept 1945.

7 September:

0800 - Lat. 23° 00' N. Long. 122° 04' E.  
1200 - Lat. 22° 20' N. Long. 121° 30' E.

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7 September (Continued):

2000 - Lat. 20° 55' N. Long. 121° 10' E.

8 September:

0800 - Lat. 18° 23' N. Long. 120° 11' E.

1200 - Lat. 17° 25' N. Long. 120° 00' E.

2000 - Lat. 15° 41' N. Long. 119° 39' E.

9 September:

At 0800 entered Manila, P.I. Harbor and moored at Pier 1 for disembarking 50 Recovered Allied Military Personnel, thence departed Pier 1 to anchor in Berth 115 in Manila Bay.

10 September through 16 September:

On 10th September fueled and provisioned to capacity, returned to anchorage anchoring in Berth 125, Manila Bay, undergoing routine upkeep awaiting orders.

17 September:

At 0630 underway from Manila, P.I. to Okinawa in compliance with ComCarDiv 150132 dated 15 September 1945 and ComCarDiv 27 Op Order #4-45, in company with CarDiv 27 composed of U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-106) and CortDiv 57 minus U.S.S. O'REILLY (DE-330) and U.S.S. KOINER (DE-331). ComCarDiv 27 on U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND and ComCortDiv 57 on U.S.S. THOMAS J. GARY (DE-326).

0800 - Manila Bay, P.I.

1200 - Lat. 14° 31' N. Long. 120° 00' E.

2000 - Lat. 16° 10' N. Long. 119° 34' E.

18 September:

0800 - Lat. 18° 55' N. Long. 120° 19' E.

1200 - Lat. 19° 36' N. Long. 120° 56' E.

2000 - Lat. 20° 33.5' N. Long. 122° 37' E.

19 September:

0800 - Lat. 22° 09' N. Long. 124° 40' E.

1200 - Lat. 22° 50' N. Long. 125° 32' E.

At 1447 proceeded to investigate overturned life boat. No personnel found in vicinity, so destroyed boat in compliance with orders, by gunfire expending 35 rounds of 3"50 AA ammunition, 160 rounds of 40MM and 180 rounds of 20MM.

2000 - Lat. 24° 00' N. Long. 127° 02' E.

20 September:

0800 - Lat. 26° 18' N. Long. 127° 31' E.

At 1037 anchored in Berth 220 in Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa.

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21 September through 22 September:

Fueled and attempted to provision to capacity (none available), thence remained at anchor undergoing routine maintenance awaiting orders.

23 September through 27 September:

At 0530 on 23rd September underway for Buckner Bay Anchorage from Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa in compliance with ComCarDiv Dispatch 220927 dated 22 September 1945 for installation of new sound head. Anchored in Berth L151 Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

28 September:

At 0836 underway from Buckner Bay to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa in compliance with ComCarDiv 27 Dispatch 272056 dated 27 September 1945. Anchored in Berth 230 in Hagushi Anchorage. At 1535 departed Hagushi Anchorage in accordance with ComCarDiv 27 Dispatch 272056 dated 27 September 1945. Effected rendezvous as ordered and passed mail to U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-106) and U.S.S. GILBERT ISLAND (CVE-107), thence assumed station in screen. Operating in accordance with ComCarDiv 27 Op Plan #5-45 as modified by ComCarDiv 27 Dispatch 250233 dated 25 September 1945, in company with CarDiv 27 composed of U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-106), U.S.S. GILBERT ISLAND (CVE-107), U.S.S. KULA GULF (CVE-108), U.S.S. SALERNO BAY (CVE-110), U.S.S. CANEY (AO-95), CortDiv 57 less U.S.S. O'REILLY (DE-330) and U.S.S. KOINER (DE-331), plus U.S.S. FORMOE (DE-509), ComCarDiv 27 on U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND and ComCortDiv 57 on U.S.S. THOMAS J. GARY (DE-326).  
2000 - Lat. 26° 58' N. Long. 127° 39' E.

29 September:

0800 - Lat. 27° 34' N. Long. 127° 28' E.  
Transferred mail during day to USS GARY, USS BRISTER, USS KRETCHMER and USS SALERNO BAY.  
1200 - Lat. 28° 03' N. Long. 126° 48' E.  
At 1633 exploded floating mine in position Lat. 28° 23' N., Long. 126° 10' E., by gun fire expending 2 rounds 3"50 AA ammunition, 8 rounds of 40MM and 60 rounds of 20MM ammunition.  
2000 - Lat. 28° 45' N. Long. 125° 35' E.  
Layed to entire night in compliance with orders from ComCarDiv 27.

30 September:

0800 - Lat. 28° 43' N. Long. 125° 21' E.  
1200 - Lat. 29° 22' N. Long. 125° 03' E.  
2000 - Lat. 28° 35' N. Long. 125° 36' E.

*C. D. LeHardy*  
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