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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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SERIAL: 058

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET
CARRIER DIVISION TWENTY-SEVEN

121
1651
Reg. No.
R. S. No.

CONFIDENTIAL

1 October 1945.

From: Commander Carrier Division TWENTY-SEVEN.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for the month of September 1945, Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. ltr. 1 CL-45 of 1 January 1945.
Enclosure: (A) War Diary for the month of September 1945.

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

Edward J. O'Neill
EDWARD J. O'NEILL
By Direction.

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET
CARRIER DIVISION-27

WAR DIARY
SEPTEMBER 1945.

CARRIER DIVISION-27
USS BLOCK ISLAND, Flagship.

Commander Carrier Division-27 Rear Admiral DIXWELL KETCHAM, USN.
Next higher echelon - Commander Escort Carrier Force, Pacific
Fleet. Time Zone - as indicated.

Composition of Carrier Division-27:

USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106
USS GILBERT ISLAND, CVE-107
USS KULA GULF, CVE-108
USS CAPE GLOUCESTER, CVE-109
USS VELLA GULF, CVE-111
USS SIBONEY, CVE-112

1 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Yellow Sea, Keijo area, Korea. OTC
and guide in USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106. The ships in this Task
Group are on condition ONE EASY due to imminence of typhoon.
Effected rendezvous at 0900 I with the USS CHEPACHET, AO-78 and
its escort the USS WALTON, DE-361, 50 miles north of 26-50N -
127-32E. The CHEPACHET joined our formation and the WALTON was
told to proceed on duty assigned and it set course for Okinawa.
At 1835 I the BLOCK ISLAND moved out of formation to operate on
an emergency appendectomy. At 1845 I effected rendezvous with
T.G. 71.2, minesweeping group.

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 22-56N 127-32E |
| | 1200I | 23-29N 127-30E |
| | 2000I | 23-37N 127-43E |

2 September 1945.

Steaming on various courses and speeds to escape typhoon center.
No flight operations conducted. At 0703 I the center of the
typhoon was reported 300 miles west of us and moving in a
northwesterly direction.

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2 September 1945, Cont'd.

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 24-55N |
| | | 128-37E |
| | 1200I | 25-06N |
| | | 129-10E |
| | 2000I | 24-47N |
| | | 130-16E |

3 September 1945.

Steaming on various courses and speeds to escape typhoon center. No flight operations conducted. At 0700I the USS CHEPACHET, AO-78, departed this formation enroute to Okinawa. Orders to proceed to Yellow Sea were cancelled and the Task Group was ordered to set course for Kiirun, Formosa. Planes from this Task Group are to drop food and medical supplies to Allied POW and civilian internees and to evacuate as many as possible to a forward area. Lt. Comdr. Victor W. GANG, (MC) USNR, attached to the USS SANTEE, CVE-29, was swept overboard while on the forecastle of the SANTEE and was picked up dead by the USS FINCH, DE-328. Burial at sea was conducted by the FINCH. During the day the USS GARY, DE-326 and USS KRETCHMER, DE-329 were fueled. The USS BRISTER, DE-327, when partially fueled, carried away the fuel line due to rough seas making further fueling impossible.

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 23-32N |
| | | 130-47E |
| | 1200I | 22-56N |
| | | 130-36E |
| | 2000I | 23-06N |
| | | 129-13E |

4 September 1945.

Steaming enroute to Formosa. Weather calming down and seas comparatively smooth. No flight operations conducted but the planes are being loaded with food and supplies to be flown to the POW camps. 1530 I Colonel A. D. COOLEY, USMC, with a detachment of Marines and Navy medical personnel disembarked this vessel and boarded the USS GARY, DE-326 to be taken to Kiirun Harbor, Formosa, thence to aid in evacuation of the POW. T.G. 71.2 departed this formation enroute to Okinawa. The USS KRETCHMER, DE-329, was designated to accompany the GARY.

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 23-28N |
| | | 126-37E |
| | 1200I | 23-34N |
| | | 125-30E |
| | 2000I | 22-38N |
| | | 123-32E |

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5 September 1945.

Steaming off the northeast coast of Formosa. Flights consisted of 8 VF on TCAP, 3 VT on photo, 8 VF on reconnaissance, 1 VT on passenger flight and 9 VT on special supply flights over Matsuyama Airfield, Formosa. Colonel A. D. COOLEY, USMC, with his Marine detachment and Navy medical personnel proceeded to Kiirun Harbor, Formosa on the GARY and upon docking entered the city of Kiirun. There he commandeered a railway train running from Kiirun to Taihoku where the prisoner of war camps were located. In the meantime Major Peter FOLGER, USMCR, was flown in a TBM-3, piloted by Captain Dick JOHNSON, USMC, to the Matsuyama Airfield, Taihoku. Major Folger was met by the Jap commander of the airfield and was driven to the prison camps to determine what was needed by the POW. Meanwhile Captain Johnson stayed with his plane on the airfield and was asked numerous questions as to the Task Group's strength and number of planes. These questions remained unanswered. These suspicious actions caused Captain Johnson to request additional air support for cover of the airfield and in reply to his request, a total of 74 sorties were flown over Taihoku and Matsuyama Airfield in a show of strength. Later in the afternoon Major Folger was flown back aboard this vessel and reported that there were 1088 ambulatory patients, 150 bed patients and 79 non-movable patients, a total of 1278. It was then decided by CTG 77.1 that all the patients except the immovables be put aboard the vessels in this Task Group. The two DEs, GARY and KRETCHMER, received 312 liberated POW aboard and transported them to the carriers waiting offshore and transferred them to the BLOCK ISLAND and SANTEE. Here the prisoners were given fresh clothes, baths, cots and food and were made comfortable for the night. Colonel Cooley stayed in Taihoku making preparations to remove the remaining POW from the island.

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 24-53N |
| | | 122-31E |
| | 1200I | 25-00N |
| | | 122-43E |
| | 2000I | 25-07N |
| | | 122-13E |

6 September 1945.

At daybreak this Task Group rendezvoused with the British T.G. 111.3 under the command of Rear Admiral SERVIES. At 0700I the DEs GARY, KRETCHMER, BRISTER and FINCH left for Kiirun Harbor to pick up the remaining liberated men (except for the non-movable patients) and to distribute them among the ships in the Task Group. The same procedure was followed regarding their care. A total of 1152 liberated men were received on board in the past two days.

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6 September 1945, Cont'd.

Colonel Cooley and his detachment returned on board, less the doctors and corpsmen who were left on the island to care for the non-movable patients. At 2330 I the transfer of the patients was completed and the Task Group left for Manila P. I.

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 25-12N 122-28E |
| | 1200I | 25-08N 122-05E |
| | 2000I | 25-00N 122-07E |

7 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Manila, P. I.

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 23-55N 121-59E |
| | 1200I | 22-33N 121-30E |
| | 2000I | 21-04N 120-58E |

8 September 1945.

Enroute to Manila, P. I. Launched 2 VT on passenger flights to Manila.

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 18-26N 120-11E |
| | 1200I | 17-33N 119-59E |
| | 2000I | 15-43N 119-38E |

9 September 1945.

At 0824 dropped anchor in Manila Bay, P. I. Passengers departed the ship.

10-13 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

14 September 1945.

Pursuant to orders Com7thFleet, Task Group 77.1 was dissolved upon reporting to CTF-74 for duty this date. ComCortDiv-57 also reported to CTF-74 for duty. The USS SIBONEY, CVE-112,

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14 September 1945, Cont'd.

at Leyte, reported to CCD-27 for duty. The USS KULA GULF, CVE-108, at Leyte, reported to Com7thFleet for duty.

15 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

16 September 1945.

Pursuant to orders Commanding Officer, Third Marine Air Wing, Captain J. J. O'Brien, USMCR, was detached to Commanding Officer, Receiving Station, Cavite, P. I. for future transfer to Third Marine Air Wing, Navy No. 61, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

17 September 1945.

At 0630, in accordance with CCD-27 Operations Order 4-45 and conforming with CTF-74 dispatch dated 14 September 1945, the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, sortied from Manila Bay, P. I. as Task Unit CCD-27 of Task Force 74, enroute to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa, escorted by CortDiv-57 less KOINER and O'REILLY. First Lieutenant H. P. HARMER, USMCR, attached to VMF-511, is presumed lost. He was ferrying an FG-1D, Bureau Number 92069, from CNAB, Samar to Sangley Point, Luzon. He departed Samar at 0818 I for Sangley Point and was last seen over Nichols Field, Luzon.

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|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 1200I | 14-33N |
| | | 120-03E |
| | 2000I | 16-09N |
| | | 119-36E |

18 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa. Flights for the day were 8 VF and 8 VT on Anti-Mine Patrol.

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 18-51N |
| | | 120-24E |
| | 1200I | 19-37N |
| | | 120-56E |
| | 2000I | 20-32N |
| | | 123-37E |

19 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa. Flights

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19 September 1945, Cont'd.

for the day were 6 VT on Anti-Mine Patrol and 1 VT on radio check flight. In accordance with Com7thFleet orders dated 17 September 1945, the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107, reported for duty in CCD-27.

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 22-09N 124-39E |
| | 1200I | 22-44N 125-23E |
| | 2000I | 23-56N 127-00E |

20 September 1945.

At 0830I dropped anchor in Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa.

Position: 26-13N
127-33E

21 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with Com7thFleet orders dated 21 September 1945, the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110 reported to CTF-74 for duty with CCD-27. Pursuant to orders CCD-27 Commander T. W. Mc Knight, (A-1) USNR, was detached to Base Hospital No. 10, Navy No. 128 % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California for duty.

22 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with MarCorps Dispatch 131821, dated 21 September 1945, Major Peter Folger, USMCR, was detached to Commanding General, Second Marine Air Wing, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

23 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with Com7thFleet orders dated 15 September 1945, the USS KULA GULF, CVE-108, reported for duty in CCD-27.

24 September 1945.

Anchored as before. Pursuant to orders CinePac, dated 24 September 1945, the USS SIBONEY, CVE-112, was ordered to report to Com5thFleet for duty as relief for the USS MAKIN ISLAND, CVE-93, and relief flagship for ComEsCarFor.

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25 September 1945.

Anchored as before. The USS KULA GULF, CVE-108, departed Leyte Gulf enroute to Okinawa, escorted by the USS PEIFFER, DE-588.

26 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with orders CincPac dated 24 September 1945, the USS SIBONEY, CVE-112, reported to Com5thFleet for duty. Pursuant to orders CCD-27, Lt. (j.g.) Francis A. Keating (C) USNR, was detached on temporary additional duty.

27 September 1945.

At 0647, in accordance with CCD-27 Operation Order 5-45, the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, in company with the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110 and escorted by the USS GARY, DE-326, the USS BRISTER, DE-327, the USS KRETCHMER, DE-329 and the USS FORMOE, DE-509, sortied from Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa as CCD-27 Task Unit enroute to operations area to conduct flight operations. OTC and guide in USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106. ComCortDiv-57 is in the USS GARY, DE-326. Flights for the day were 24 VF and 16 VT on training flights from the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, 23 VF and 13 VT on training flights from the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and 34 VF and 14 VT on training flights from the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110. Returned to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa and dropped anchor at 1818.

Position: 1200I 26-59N
127-25E

28 September 1945.

At 0650, in accordance with CCD-27 Operation Order 5-45, the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, in company with the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110 and escorted by the USS GARY, DE-326, the USS BRISTER, DE-327, the USS KRETCHMER, DE-329 and the USS FORMOE, DE-509, sortied from Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa as CCD-27 Task Unit enroute to operations area to conduct flight operations and to rendezvous with the USS CANEY, AO-95. Flights for the day were 30 VF and 19 VT on training flights from the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, 30 VF and 19 VT on training flights from the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and 27 VF and 23 VT on training flights from the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110. At 1625 rendezvoused with the USS KULA GULF, CVE-108 and the USS FINCH, DE-328. At 2210 rendezvoused with the USS CANEY, AO-95.

Positions: 0800I 26-30N
128-48E
1200I 27-19N
127-35E
2000I 26-58N
127-38E

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29 September 1945.

Steaming on a northwesterly course to avoid typhoon. During the day the USS CANEY, AO-95, refueled all ships in the unit less FINCH. At 1635 a horned type spherical floating mine was destroyed by gunfire by the USS FINCH, DE-328, in position 28-18N - 126-06E. At 1845 a similar mine was sunk by gunfire by the USS KULA GULF, CVE-108, in position 28-33N - 125-43E. Due to numerous mines in the vicinity it was decided by CCD-27 to lie to until dawn.

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 27-36N |
| | | 127-18E |
| | 1200I | 27-56N |
| | | 126-43E |
| | 2000I | 28-36N |
| | | 125-46E |

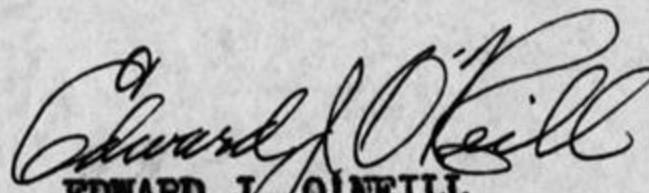
30 September 1945.

From 0000 to 1616 lying to in position 28-36N - 125-46E. At 0617 underway on a northwesterly course. At 0620 rendezvoused with the USS SIBONEY, CVE-112. At 1300 changed course heading toward Okinawa. In accordance with CTF-74, T. U. CCD-27 was designated T. G. 74.3

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------|
| Positions: | 0800I | 28-43N |
| | | 125-21E |
| | 1200I | 29-19N |
| | | 124-58E |
| | 2000I | 28-37N |
| | | 125-41E |

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