

DESTROYER DIVISION FIFTEEN  
U.S.S. STERETT, Flagship

FB4-15/A16-3  
RWS/clh  
Serial 0016

C/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.,  
1 September 1943.

~~SECRET~~  
DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commander Destroyer Division FIFTEEN.  
To : The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.


Subject: War Diary.

Reference: (a) Cominch rest. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 of  
October 19, 1942.  
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920, Articles  
712(2), (3), and 874(6).

Enclosure: (A) CDD-15 War Diary for the month of  
August 1943.  
(B) CDD-15 Action report for 6-7 August  
1943, serial 005. *M-20 53806*  
(C) CDD-15 Action report for 9-10 August  
1943, serial 006. *M-20 53809*

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b),  
enclosures (A),(B), and (C) are herewith submitted.

2. For detailed information on ships of Des-  
troyer Division FIFTEEN, see war diaries of U.S.S. LANG, U.S.S.  
WILSON, U.S.S. STERETT, and U.S.S. STACK.

  
RODGER W. SIMPSON,  
Commander, U.S.Navy.

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DESTROYER DIVISION FIFTEEN  
U.S.S. STERETT, Flagship

S-E-C-R-E-T

COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION FIFTEEN'S WAR DIARY FOR THE  
MONTH OF AUGUST 1943:

This war diary is written in accordance with Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet restricted letter FF1/A12-1/A16-3, serial 2899 of October 19, 1942. Numbered paragraphs refer to paragraph three of subject letter. Information relative to ships movements may be obtained from the war diaries of U.S.S. LANG, U.S.S. STERETT, U.S.S. WILSON, and U.S.S. STACK.

1 August 1943:

- (1) Task Group 31.2, under operational control CTF-31.
- (2) CTF-31 operational plans in effect.
- (3) 0800: Patrolling off Onaiavise Entrance, New Georgia.  
1200: Three miles N. E. of Tetipan Island, New Georgia.  
2000: 8-22 S. 159-10 E.

(4) Steaming with STACK and STERETT escorting five LCI's to Onaiavisi Entrance, New Georgia. Formation speed ten knots, patrolling at twelve knots. At 0331 entered Blanche Channel. At 0700 LCI's commenced landing operations. USS LANG, STACK and STERETT, patrolling. At 0825 six enemy dive bombers bombed friendly landing craft at Onaiavisi Entrance. USS LANG opened fire on the dive bombers, and at 0825 $\frac{1}{2}$  one Japanese dive bomber made near miss of about one hundred feet off port bow of LANG. Bomb estimated to be one hundred pounds, fragmentation type. Several small holes made by shrapnel, all above main deck. No casualties to personnel. Attacking plane hit by 20 m.m. of LANG's and left smoking and was seen to crash in jungle. At 1051 departed with LCI's enroute Purvis Bay. At 1551 LANG and STERETT left formation proceeding to rendezvous with Task Group 31.2. At 1856 Rendezvoused with Task Group 31.2; U.S.S. MAURY (O.T.C. and guide, CDD-44), GRIDLEY, CRAVEN, and WILSON. Formed sections as follows: First; MAURY, GRIDLEY and CRAVEN; second; LANG (CDD-15 Com-Div-A-2), STERETT and WILSON. Set course for Kula Gulf. At 2347 entered Kula Gulf.

(5) ----

(6) Received the following: RDO Koli Point; 010037, 302223, 310521, 010036, 010037, 010720. ComThirdFleet; 310630. SENT: CDD-15 010411.

(7) No remarks.

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2 August 1943:

(1), (2) As before.

(3) 0800 8-57 S. 159-32 E. 1200: Tulagi Harbor.  
2000 Purvis Bay.

(4) Steaming as before. 0300 Departed Kula Gulf, no enemy contacts. Enroute Tulagi. At 1016 entered Tulagi Harbor; LANG, STERETT and WILSON fueled. At 1343 LANG got underway. At 1448 LANG anchored Purvis Bay. STERETT and WILSON completed fueling and stood in Purvis Bay and anchored.

(5) ----

(6) Received for info: Comthirdfleet 020347 and RDO Koli Point 020614.

(7) No remarks.

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3,4,5, August 1943:

(1), (2) As before.

(3) Purvis Bay.

(4) Anchored as before.

(5) ----

(6) No orders received.

(7) No remarks.

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6 August 1943:

(1) As before.

(2) As before, plus CDD-12 secret battle plan.

(3) 0800: Purvis Bay. 1200: Off entrance to Purvis Bay.  
2000: 6 miles West of Baniata Point, Rendova, New Georgia.

(4) Anchored as before. 1130 Task Group 31.2 underway consisting of: Division A-1:- CDD-12 (OTC) in DUNLAP, MAURY and CRAVEN; Division A-2:- CDD-15 in LANG, STERETT and STACK. Task Group proceeding Vella Gulf via sortie South and West of Rendova, and Gizo Strait. At 2159 entered Vella Gulf. At 2336 made contact with three Japanese destroyers and one cruiser, see war action report of CDD-15 secret serial 005 of 12 August 1943.

(5) ----

(6) Received: RDO Koli Point secret despatch 060206 and 060223.

(7) No remarks.

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7 August 1943:

(1), (2) As before.

(3) 0800: 8-56 S. 159-32 E.; 1200: Tulagi Harbor;  
2000: 10 miles SE Russell Islands.

(4) Engaging enemy as before. 0210 Took departure Vella Gulf, At 0950 entered Tulagi Harbor, all ships fueled. At 1259 LANG underway proceeding to join three LST's enroute Rendova. At 1455 Relieved USS MAURY. At 1842 USS STACK relieved LANG. LANG enroute Purvis Bay. At 2350 LANG anchored Purvis Bay.

(5) ----

(6) Received: For info: RDO Koli Point secret despatch 061520. CTG-31.2 070015 and complied. RDO Koli Point 07122 and complied. CTG-31.2 071056, but cancelled for LANG. RDO Koli Point 070145 and complied.

(7) No remarks.  
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8 August 1943:

(1), (2) As before.

(3) Purvis Bay.

(4) Anchored as before.

(5) ----

(6) Received for info: Comthirdfleet 080530 and 070358.

(7) No remarks.  
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S-E-C-R-E-T

9 August 1943:

(1),(2) As before.

(3) Purvis Bay. 2000: 6 mi. S. of Tetipan Is., New Georgia.

(4) At 1315 LANG underway in company with Task Group 31.2 CDD-12 in DUNLAP (OTC and guide) with GRIDLEY and CRAVEN as Division A-1; Division A-2: CDD-15 in LANG with STERETT and WILSON. At 1813 Formed line of division 270° relative, 3,000 yards, enroute Vella Gulf. 2250 Entered Vella Gulf, searching for enemy barges or "Tokyo Express".

(5) ----

(6) Received: for info: Rdo Koli Point 090048 and complied. STACK's 090135 for information.

(7) No remarks. -----

10 August 1943:

(1), (2) As before.

(3) 0800: 6 miles S. Russell Island. 1200: Tulagi Harbor.  
2000: Purvis Bay.

(4) At 0017 engaged Japanese barges (See CDD-15 action report serial 006). At 0230 took departure from Vella Gulf via Gizo Strait. At 1120 entered Tulagi Harbor, took on ammunition and fueled. At 1804 LANG underway and anchored in Purvis Bay at 1904.

(5) ----

(6) Received: RDO Koli Point 101054 and complied by CDD-15 102145.

(7) No remarks. -----

11 August 1943:

(1),(2) As before.

(3) Purvis Bay.

(4) As before.

(5) ----

(6) No orders received.

(7) No remarks. -----