

Aug. No. 1258

R.S. No.

COMMANDER MINE SQUADRON TWENTY
Care of Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

FC6-20/A12
Serial: 037

3 May 1945. JUN 6 1945

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Subject: War Diary, submission of.

Reference: (a) Cominch ltr. FFL/A12-1/A16-3 serial 7152 of
29 Oct 1943 (N.D. Bulletin 43-1531).

1. In accordance with reference (a), the War Diary for the
period 1 April - 30 April 1945, is submitted herewith.

R.A. Larkin
R.A. LARKIN.

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WAR DIARY

1 April 1945 (Love Day)

NOTE: Numbered paragraphs following correspond in subject to subparagraphs of paragraph 3 of Cominch ltr. Navy Dept. Bulletin 43-1531 (Cumulative Edition).

1. Mine Squadron TWENTY, operating under Commander Minecraft, U.S. Pacific Fleet, constituted as follows:

<u>MinDiv 58</u>	<u>MinDiv 59</u>	<u>MinDiv 60</u>
Comdr. F.P. MITCHELL, USN DMS 24 FORREST (F) 26 HOBSON 25 FITCH 23 MACOMB (FD)	Capt. R.A. LARKIN, USN DMS 19 ELLYSON (FF) 20 HAMBLETON 21 RODMAN 22 EMMONS (FD)	Comdr. M.D. MATTHEWS, USN DMS 29 BUTLER (F) 28 HARDING 27 JEFFERS (FD) 30 GHERARDI

Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY assigned additional duty CTG 52.3 with Task Group constituted as follows:

<u>TU 52.3.2</u> (ComMinDiv 58)	<u>TU 52.3.3</u> (ComMinDiv 59)	<u>TU 52.3.4</u> (ComMinDiv 60)
MinDiv 58 less FITCH DM 33 GWIN (Cominron 3)	MinDiv 59 DM 32 LINDSEY	MinDiv 60 DM 29 HENRY A. WILEY

Task Group 52.3 operates under the command of CTG 52.2 Commander Mine Flotilla (Rear Admiral Alex. Sharp, USN, Commander Minecraft, U.S. Pacific Fleet).

2. ComPhibsPac (CTF 51) OpPlan A1-45.
3. In ELLYSON operating as directed in vicinity of OKINAWA Island.
4. At 0530, when released by CTU 54.1.1 the commander of Retirement Unit ONE, proceeded to area Baker ONE to stand by.
At 1730 in compliance with orders from CTG 52.2 entered KERAMA RETTO anchorage for conference.
5. Received CTF 51 orders to establish A/S patrol line northwest of IE SHIMA with TU 52.3.3. Previous orders of CTG 52.2 to sweep in Q2, Q3, F2 and F3 were cancelled.

6-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

2 April 1945 (Love plus One)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. 0030 (I) Underway to comply with CTF 51 orders to establish A/S patrol line northwest of IE SHIMA. "Red" alert sounded and harbor covered with smoke as ELLYSON proceeded towards southern gate. Made sortie about 0115 and proceeded at 25 knots to patrol station joining RODMAN and HAMBLETON already on station about 0400 (I).

0612 (I) ELLYSON engaged low flying Jap "VAL" and splashed it at about 4500 yards.

0730 MACOMB joined A/S patrol line.

1815 RODMAN attacked sound contact in Lat. 26-57 Long. 127-21. Contact lost after one attack. MACOMB and A/S plane 13V461 assisted RODMAN in search until 0400 when search was abandoned.

5-6. No remarks.

7. Ammunition expended as reported by ELLYSON.

WAR DIARY

3 April 1945 (Love plus Two)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. 0240 (I) ELLYSON, HAMBLETON attacked by two or three enemy A/C who employed window jamming tactics and dropped brilliant flares. A/C retired after being engaged.

0240 - 0410 ELLYSON, HAMBLETON, RODMAN were attacked three times by single enemy A/C. No visible result from gunfire. No casualties in any ship.

0700 Rendezvous with PORTLAND and W.D. PORTER in Charlie ONE effected.

1000 Proceeded west and north of IE SHIMA with PORTLAND, W.D. PORTER, and TU 52.3.3 to cover sweeping operations of TU 52.5.1 and TU 52.5.3 in George ONE.

1130 LINDSEY rejoined.

1630 Sweeping operations completed TU 52.3.3 proceeded on westerly course at 10 knots awaiting receipt of instructions for night employment.

1750 Enemy A/C detected in vicinity of own friendly fighters. At 1757 Jap plane identified as "VAL" made suicide attack on TU 52.3.3 and crashed within 30 feet of HAMBLETON. The right wing striking magnetic cable reel and the explosion following the crash throwing debris on deck. No casualties reported.

1800 Ordered to retire with TU 52.5.1 and 52.5.3. Reversed course to close and formed TU 52.5.1 and 52.5.3 in division columns with division leaders abeam. Stationed one DMS on each bow and one on each quarter. Retired on route Brown as directed.

5-7. No remarks.

4 April 1945 (Love plus Three)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At 0600 detached MACOMB and TU 52.5.1 to proceed as previously directed. Assembled remainder of TU 52.3.3 and proceeded towards rendezvous with WICHITA and BEALE. Sweep Unit 52.5.3 following.

0745 Joined WITCHITA and BEALE formed circular screen with BEALE, ELLYSON, HAMBLETON, RODMAN, EMMONS.

1000 Sweep Unit 52.5.3 supported by LINDSEY arrived and commenced sweeping in George ONE.

1530 Sweepers recovered gear and unit left the area.

1900 Received night patrol assignments and proceeded accordingly.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

5 April 1945 (Love plus Four)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At 0400 (I) TU 52.3.3 less LINDSEY proceeded to George Three area and at 0700 began streaming moored and acoustic minesweeping gear.

At 0800 (I) commenced exploratory sweep through George Three, How Four, King Three. Sweep completed at 1705, results all areas negative.

At 2000 took up night patrol stations.

5. Received CTG 52.2 orders for ELLYSON, HAMBLETON to support sweep unit in area Dog Two and RODMAN, EMMONS to support sweep unit in George One, on 6 April.

6-7. No remarks.

6 April 1945 (Love plus Five)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At 0800, ELLYSON and HAMBLETON joined TU 52.4.2 in Dog Two to cover their sweeping operations.

At 1100 RODMAN and EMMONS joined TU 52.5.3 in George One as support.

At 1430 TU 52.4.2 recovered sweep gear ELLYSON and HAMBLETON proceeded to KERAMA RETTO for logistics.

At about 1630 intercepted call for assistance from RODMAN who reported unit under heavy air attack. RODMAN damaged by plane hit in forecastle.

At about 1715 intercepted report EMMONS hit, on fire and being abandoned.

Air attack in progress on KERAMA RETTO.

Reversed course and proceeded at best speed (19 knots due to propeller damage in HAMBLETON) to assist RODMAN, EMMONS and TU 52.5.3 still under air attack.

At about 2100 (I) made contact with TU 52.5.3 retiring at best speed attack having ended. Ascertained RODMAN proceeding under own power to KERAMA RETTO. Detached HAMBLETON to join as escort to KERAMA RETTO. Proceeded with ELLYSON to vicinity of EMMONS abandoned before dark.

Aided by LCI 558 and 559 determined EMMONS condition and reported as follows to CTF 51: About 30 feet of stern destroyed by explosion, fires burning in bow prevent running tow line, draft forward 15 feet indicating little underwater damage. Salvagable but drifting south at one knot toward enemy territory. Estimate EMMONS will reach shallow water within three to four hours. Permission to sink EMMONS requested.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

7 April 1945 (Love plus Six)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. At about 0200 received information two tugs enroute to assist.
At 0230 received instructions to sink EMMONS from CTF 51.
At 0318 in Lat. 26-43.2 N Long. 128-02.2 E EMMONS was sunk in
25 fathoms water by ELLYSON. Ship observed to capsize and sink stern first.
ELLYSON retired at good speed.
At 0400 HAMBLETON escorting RODMAN and TU 52.5.3 reported arrival
at northern gate at KERAMA RETTO.
0715 ELLYSON arrived KERAMA RETTO. Both ELLYSON and HAMBLETON
proceeded to complete logistic requirements.
1745 (I) Underway with ELLYSON and HAMBLETON for night stations
153 and 154, in support of TU 52.18.3 and TU 52.17.2 in stations 135 and 146.
2100 (I) Arrived on station.

5-7. No remarks.

8 April 1945 (Love plus Seven)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. At 0730 (I) intercepted report of mining of PGM 11 and YMS 103 in
NAKAGUSUKU-WAN. ELLYSON closed entrance and offered medical assistance.
At about 0815 U.S.S. ESTES (CTG 51.19) and WICHITA with screening
destroyers approached and stood into NAKAGUSUKU WAN. ELLYSON returned to
station.
At 1345 (I) ELLYSON relieved HARDING on stations A6 and A7 on order
from CTG 51.5. HARDING proceeded to KERAMA RETTO to fuel.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

9 April 1945 (Love plus Eight)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. On A/S patrol in stations A6 and A7 east of OKINAWA.
At 1500 HOBSON reported as relief for ELLYSON and conveyed CTG 51.5 orders for ELLYSON to close KENTON (APA 122) for provisions.
At 1830 ELLYSON went alongside KENTON in transport area.
At 1845 air alert sounded area was covered by smoke on order of CTF 51.
At 1915 intercepted relayed message from STERETT reporting damage during air attack by four VAL planes. JEFFERS standing by.
At 1940 received orders from Screen Commander CTG 51.5 to proceed to support station 148 and establish contact with LCI 1560.
After receiving provisions departed transport area and proceeded to assigned station.
5. Received EMMONS [redacted] transmitted by WAYNE (APA54) and RODMAN [redacted] reporting air action on 6 April 1945.
- 6-7. No remarks.

10 April 1945 (Love plus Nine)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. At 0530 (I) received orders from Commander Screen (CTG 51.5) for ELLYSON to proceed to Radar Picket Station 4.
At 0915 arrived on station.
During afternoon LCS 39, 119, 12 and 40 reported for duty on RP 4. Formed LCS in column at 600 yards distance for night cruising.
- 5-7. No remarks.

11 April 1945 (Love plus Ten)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. ELLYSON on Radar Picket Station #4 northeast of OKINAWA. LCS 12, 39, 40, and 119 present in support.
- 5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

12 April 1945 (Love plus Eleven)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. ELLYSON plus LCS 12, 39, 40 and 119 on Radar Picket Station 4 northeast of OKINAWA as before. At 1130 U.S.S. WICKES (DD578) joined and assumed duty as radar picket, ELLYSON remain in support.

At 1530 enemy aircraft were reported approaching from north. Combat Air Patrol downed two unidentified planes within sight. No attack on this unit ensued. Other picket stations were engaged. JEFFERS received some damage and ABELE was sunk.

5-7. No remarks.

13 April 1945 (Love plus Twelve)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. ELLYSON, WICKES, LCS 12 (CTU 52.19.3) LCS 39, LCS 40 and LCS 119 on Radar Picket Station No. 4 northeast of OKINAWA. No contacts.

5-7. No remarks.

14 April 1945 (Love plus Thirteen)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4-7. Same as 13 April 1945.

15 April 1945 (Love plus Fourteen)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At 1230 on orders from Commander Transport Screen (CTG 51.5) ELLYSON departed for fuel leaving U.S.S. WICKES in charge of Radar Picket Station 4.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

16 April 1945 (Love plus Fifteen)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. On orders from Commander Transport Screen (CTG 51.5) ELLYSON departed KERAMA RETTO and closed U.S.S. BISCAYNE (CTG 51.5) for mail and orders. At 1110 proceeded to station B-27 in antisubscreen. At 1630 proceeded to station D41 in subscreen, arriving at 2145 (I), and assuming command of Dog Sector with following ships in stations indicated:

D35	SHELDRAKE	AM62	D41	ELLYSON	DMS19
D36	HALLORAN	DE305	D42	CONNELLY	DE306
D37	GRADY	DE445	D43	BEALE	DD471
D38	METCALF	DD595	D44	MCCLELLAND	DE750
D39	SHANNON	DM25	D45	SIMS	APD50
D40	HEED	AM100			

5-7. No remarks.

17 April 1945 (Love plus Sixteen)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. On antisubmarine Screen in charge of "D" sector composed of ships as listed on 16 April with following changes.

D37 GRADY DE445 relieved at 1030 by SWEARER DE186.
D38 METCALF DD595 relieved at 1600 by ABERCROMBIE DE343.
D43 BEALE DD471 relieved at 2100 by HARRY F. BAUER DM26.
D45 SIMS APD50 relieved at 1610 by EISELE DE34.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

18 April 1945 (Love plus Seventeen)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. On A/S Screen in charge of "D" Sector extending from west of IE SHIMA around through north and northeast.

At 0950 SHANNON in D39 relieved by MUSTIN (DD413).

At 1000 MCCLELLAND (DE750) departed on orders of CTG 51.5 without relief.

At 1700 in accordance with orders of Commander Transport Screen (CTG 51.5) ships were directed to proceed to stations as follows:

ELLYSON (DMS 19) HARRY F. BAUER (DM26) to #149.

CONNELLY (DE306) EISELE (DE34) to KILLER STATION #4.

HEED (AM100) MUSTIN (DD413) to Transport area.

5-7. No remarks.

19 April 1945 (Love plus Eighteen)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At daylight 0520 ELLYSON left station 149 to proceed to transport area off HAGUSHI BEACH to fuel and supervise fueling operations of ships assigned.

At 1320 turned over supervision of fueling operations to PUTNAM (DD757) and proceeded to KERAMA RETTO for ammunition.

At 1910 completed replenishing ammunition and reported ready for assignment.

At 2120 in accordance with orders of screen commander (CTG 51.5) took night station on patrol line 3000 yards outside of C-26.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

20 April 1945 (Love plus Nineteen)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. At 0637 in accordance with orders of Screen Commander (CTG 51.5) proceeded to patrol station C-24.
At about 1200 having been relieved by CROSLEY (APD87) proceeded in accordance with orders of CTG 51.5 to station 153.
At 1315 relieved GHERARDI on station 153 and assumed support duty for Anti-Small Craft screen consisting of following vessels in stations indicated:
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| #135 Vacant | #138 LCI 439 |
| #136 LCI 464 | #139 LCI 440 |
| #137 LCI 559 | #140 LCI 475 |

5-7. No remarks.

21 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. On patrol in station 153 in support of Anti-Small Craft Screen consisting of LCI vessels in stations as given in 20 April.
At daylight LCI 372 (CTU 52.17.3) took station 135 and LCI 475 departed without disclosing her orders.
- 5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

22 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty One)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. On patrol in station 153 in support of Anti-Small Craft Screen in consisting of following vessels:

Station #135 LCI 372
136 LCI 464
137 LCI 559
TA 0669-0674 PCS 1403

Station #138 LCI 439
139 LCI 475
140 Vacant

1030 LCI 372 reported two small sailing vessels apparently loaded with civilians outside the reef in vicinity target area 0500 and requested instructions. On my orders the boats were intercepted, 6 women, 6 men and 6 children with personal effects were taken on board LCI 372 and the boats destroyed. CTF 51 later directed the transfer of these civilians to the Civil Affairs Authorities ashore.

1820 (I) LCI 372 reported having transferred civilians to U.S.S. BOWDITCH (AGS4) for further transfer to Army authorities and Civil Affairs personnel.

5-7. No remarks.

23 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Two)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. On patrol in station 153 in support of Anti-Small Craft Screen consisting of:

Station #135 LCI 372
136 LCI 464
137 LCI 559
138 Vacant

Station #139 LCI 440 (CTU 52.17.3)
140 LCI 475
153 North FAIR (DE35)
153 South HAMBLETON (DMS20)

1305 ABERCROMBIE (DE343) relieved FAIR.

LCI 559 departed at 0700 for logistics with orders to return to screen prior 1700.

5. Received [REDACTED] creating task unit 51.29.21 and assigning HOBSON thereto for passage to ULITHI for Battle Damage repairs and further reporting to CTU 94.6.2. ETD OKINAWA 1600 (I) 24 April.

6-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

24 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Three)

- 1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.
4. On patrol in station 153 in support of Anti-Small Craft Screen consisting of

Station #135 LCI 372	Station #138 LCI 439
136 Vacant	139 Vacant
137 LCI 559	140 LCI 475
153 (N) ABERCROMBIE (DE343)	
153 (S) GHERARDI relieving HAMBLETON	

LCI departed at 0700 for KERAMA RETTO for repairs and logistics.
0930 HAMBLETON departed for fuel.
1145 FAIR (DE35) relieved ABERCROMBIE.
1800 GHERARDI relieved by HAMBLETON.
1841 ELLYSON relieved by GHERARDI.

ELLYSON directed by CTG 51.5 to remain in vicinity of station 153 during night and close transport area for fuel in morning.

5-7. No remarks.

25 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Four)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. In compliance with previous orders proceeded in ELLYSON to transport area to report to CTG 51.5 for fueling assignment. On reporting ELLYSON was directed to fuel from SUAMICO (AO49). At 0800 assumed charge of fueling operations in compliance with orders from CTG 51.5.

Following ships reported and were given fueling assignments:

HARRY F. BAUER (DM26)	FINNEGAN (DE307)
OBERRENDER (DE344)	ENGLAND (DE635)
ELLYSON (DMS19)	GRADY (DE445)
GWIN (DM33)	SEDERSTROM (DE31)
GILLIGAN (DE508)	O'NEILL (DE188)
STRINGHAM (APD6)	HALLORAN (DE305)
SCRIBNER (APD122)	MCCLELLAN (DE750)
	CONNELLY (DE306)

1856 Fueling completed SUAMICO proceeded to assigned berth. ELLYSON directed to proceed to station 155.

2030 Assumed sector command of Anti-Small Craft Screen stations 101 to 106 inclusive.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

26 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Five)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. In compliance with orders of CTG 51.5 ELLYSON proceeded at daylight to KERAMA RETTO for provisions. Completed logistic requirements and reported for duty at 1757 (I). ELLYSON directed to remain at KERAMA RETTO and to proceed at daylight to Transport Area off HAGUSHI Beach and report to CTG 51.5 for further assignment.

5-7. No remarks.

27 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Six)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. ELLYSON after receiving U.S. Mail off HAGUSHI Beach proceeded as directed by CTG 51.5 to relieve GHERARDI in station 153 on Anti-Small Craft Screen.

1345 On relieving GHERARDI proceeded to support of Sweep Unit in "J-1" under CTG 52.7.

1900 Sweep Unit having recovered gear ELLYSON took up patrol on station 153.

During night several enemy aircraft were taken under fire by ELLYSON and HAMBLETON in station south of ELLYSON. Results negative.

5-7. No remarks.

28 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Seven)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. During early morning HAMBLETON and ELLYSON engaged enemy aircraft in vicinity of patrol stations. Results negative.

0515 ELLYSON proceeded to area "H-1" to cover sweep unit under CTG 52.7.

During afternoon many enemy aircraft reported approaching from north. None came within range of ELLYSON.

1654 ELLYSON sighted and sank floating mine in Lat. 26-44.3 N Long. 128-23.7 E.

1930 Sweep Unit having recovered gear ELLYSON proceeded to patrol station 153 in Anti-Small Craft Screen.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

29 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Eight)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At daylight ELLYSON returned to support CTG 52.7 in "H-1" during sweeping operations.

1830 Sweep Unit having recovered gear ELLYSON proceeded to station 153 in Anti-Small Craft Screen.

5-7. No remarks.

30 April 1945 (Love plus Twenty Nine)

1-3. Same as 1 April 1945.

4. At daylight ELLYSON proceeded to "J-1" to support sweeping unit.

1130 Sweeping completed ELLYSON returned to station 153 in Anti-Small Craft Screen.

1700 In compliance with orders of CTF 51 ELLYSON departed to rendezvous with TU 19.18.15 in Lat. 24-45 N Long. 129-10 E at 2100 (I). TU consisting of:

CASTOR AKS 1 (Convoy Commodore)
VIRGO AKA 20
MOLINE VICTORY
BATES APD 47 (CTU 19.18.15)
HERBERT APD 22
PATHFINDER AGS 1

2130 Effectuated rendezvous and joined screen in station 3.

5-7. No remarks.