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

FC6-20/A12  
Serial: 040

11 May 1945.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY.  
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Subject: War Diary, submission of.  
Reference: (a) Cominch ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 serial 7152 of  
29 October 1943 (N.D. Bulletin 43-1531).

*Received*

1. In accordance with reference (a), the war diary for the period 1 May - 10 May 1945, inclusive, the date of my detachment, is submitted herewith.

*R. A. Larkin*  
R.A. LARKIN.

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WAR DIARY

1 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty)

NOTE: Paragraphs following correspond in substance with instructions of Cominch ltr. Navy Dept. Bulletin 43-1531 (Cumulative Edition).

1. Mine Squadron TWENTY, an administrative unit of FIFTH Pacific Fleet, and operating under Commander Minecraft, Pacific Fleet, is constituted as follows:

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

Cominron TWENTY performs additional duty as CTG 52.3 under CTG 52.2 (Rear Admiral Alex. SHARP, USN, CominPac, U.S.S. TERROR, CM5, Flagship). Task Group 52.3 constituted as follows:

<u>TU 52.3.2</u>	<u>TU 52.3.3</u>	<u>TU 52.3.4</u>
(Cmdr. F.P. MITCHELL, USN)	(Capt. R.A. LARKIN, USN)	(Cmdr. M.D. MATTHEWS, USN)
MinDiv 58 less FITCH	MinDiv 59	MinDiv 60
DM 33 GWIN	DM 32 LINDSEY	DM 29 H.A. WILEY

2. ComPhibsPac (CTF 51) OpPlan A1-45.

3. In ELLYSON operating as directed in vicinity of OKINAWA ISLAND. Following ships of TG 52.3 are not operational.

DMS 25 FITCH at Pearl Harbor for repairs after grounding.  
DMS 26 HOBSON at ULITHI for battle damage repairs.  
DMS 21 RODMAN at KERAMA RETTO for battle damage repairs.  
DMS 29 BUTLER at KERAMA RETTO for battle damage repairs.  
DMS 28 HARDING at KERAMA RETTO for battle damage repairs.  
DM 32 LINDSEY at KERAMA RETTO for battle damage repairs.

4. Operational ships of TG 52.3 operating individually as directed by Commander Transport Screen, CTG 51.5 (Capt. F. MOOSBRUGGER, USN, U.S.S. BISCAYNE, AGC18, Flagship). Orders received and information from intercepted despatches and observations indicate following general employment.

<u>TU 52.3.2</u>	
DMS 24 FORREST (Comindiv 58 & CTU 52.3.2)	- Unknown.
DMS 23 MACOMB (FD)	- Radar Picket #9.
DM 33 GWIN	- Support RP #9.

WAR DIARY

1 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty) (Cont'd)

TU 52.3.3

- DMS 19 ELLYSON (Cominron 20 & CTG 52.3) - Additional escort TU 19.18.15 to OKINAWA.  
DMS 20 HAMBLETON - Completing logistics.

TU 52.3.4

- DMS 27 JEFFERS (FD) - Unknown.  
DMS 30 GHERARDI - Anti-Small Craft Screen.  
DM 29 H.A. WILEY - Radar Picket #3.

5-7. No remarks.

2 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty One)

1-2. Same as 1 May 1945.

3. Same as 1 May except HAMBLETON (DMS 20) made available for immediate drydocking for replacement of propeller damaged in torpedo net on 30 March 1945.

4. According to available information operational ships of TG 52.3 were employed as follows:

TU 52.3.2

- DMS 24 FORREST (F) - Unknown.  
23 MACOMB (FD) - TG 51.5 as Radar Picket #9.  
DM 33 GWIN - KERAMA RETTO - logistics.

TU 52.3.3

- DMS 19 ELLYSON (GF) - After fueling reported to TG 51.19 in screen station.

TU 52.3.4

- DMS 27 JEFFERS (FD) - Unknown.  
30 GHERARDI - TG 51.19 in screen station.  
DM 29 HENRY A. WILEY - TG 51.5 in Radar Picket #3.

5-7. No remarks.

# WAR DIARY

3 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Two)

1-2. Same as 1 May 1945 except HOBSON (DMS 26) detached from TG 52.3 and FIFTH Fleet.

9 3. In ELLYSON operating as directed in vicinity of OKINAWA GUNTO.

4. Ships of MinRon 20 and TG 52.3 employed as indicated:

Unit				Oper.	Employment
Admin	Tactical			Control	
MinDiv 58	52.3.2	DMS 24	FORREST (F)	CTG 52.1	CVE Screen
"	- - -	DMS 26	HOBSON	?	Enroute NYd, P.H. repairs
"	- - -	DMS 25	FITCH	?	NYd, P.H. repairs
"	52.3.2	DMS 23	MACOMB (FD)	CTG 51.5	Radar Picket #9
MinDiv 9	52.3.2	DM 32	GWIN	CTG 51.5	Radar Picket #9
MinDiv 59	52.3.3	DMS 19	ELLYSON (SF)	CTG 51.19	Screen off East Beach
"	"	DMS 20	HAMBLETON	CTG 51.15	Replacement of propeller
"	"	DMS 21	RODMAN	CTG 51.15	Battle Damage Repairs
MinDiv 9	"	DM 33	LINDSEY	CTG 51.15	" " "
MinDiv 60	52.3.4	DMS 29	BUTLER (F)	CTG 51.5	" " "
"	"	DMS 28	HARDING	CTG 51.15	" " "
"	"	DMS 27	JEFFERS (FD)	CTG 51.5	?
"	"	DMS 30	GHERARDI	CTG 51.5	Anti Small Craft Screen #154
MinDiv 8	"	DM 29	H.A. WILEY	CTG 51.5	Radar Picket Support #12

5. Received CinCPac despatch of 30 April detaching HOBSON (DMS26) from FIFTH Fleet to proceed to Pearl Harbor for battle damage repairs.

Received MACOMB despatch of 3 May reporting action with enemy air craft at 1830 (I) 3 May. One TONY shot down, one plane hit MACOMB vicinity Number 3 5"/38 gun demolishing gun, damaging 40mm mounts and after deck house - 3 KIA, 9 WIA, 3 MIA.

6-7. No remarks.



WAR DIARY

4 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Three)

1-4. Same as 3 May except HAMBLETON now operating under CTG 51.5 and assigned to AntiSub Screening Station B-29.

Intercepted report that GWIN in support of Radar Picket #9 had been hit by enemy aircraft.

5. Received CTF 51 despatch of 4 May assigning RODMAN to TU 51.29.1 for passage to ULITHI with BIRMINGHAM (ComCruDiv 13 and CTU 52.19.1) and WANUCK ETD 1200 (I) 4 May. On arrival 8 May RODMAN to report to ComServRon 10 for repairs.

Departure of TU 51.29.1 delayed 24 hours.

6-7. No remarks.

5 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Four)

1-4. Same as 4 May except H.A.WILEY when relieved on Radar Picket Station 12 will report to CTG 51.5 off HAGUSHI Beach for logistics assignment.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

6 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Five)

1-2. Same as 3 May 1945.

3. In ELLYSON operating as directed in vicinity of OKINAWA GUNTO.  
Non-operational ships of MinRon 20 and TG 52.3 disposed as follows:

Admin Unit	Tactical Unit		Operational Control	Employment
MinDiv 58	- - -	DMS 25 FITCH		NYd, P.H.
"	- - -	DMS 26 HOBSON		Enroute NYd, P.H.
"	52.3.2	DMS 23 MACOMB	CTG 51.15	KERAMA RETTO - repairs
MinDiv 59	52.3.3	DMS 21 RODMAN		Enroute ULITHI - repairs.
MinDiv 9	52.3.3	DM 33 LINDSEY	CTG 51.15	KERAMA RETTO - repairs
MinDiv 60	52.3.4	DMS 29 BUTLER (F)	CTG 51.5	Battle Damage Repairs
"	"	DMS 28 HARDING	CTG 51.15	KERAMA RETTO - repairs

4. Operational ships of MinRon 20 and TG 52.3 employed as follows:

Admin Unit	Tactical Unit		Operational Control	Employment
MinDiv 58	52.3.2	DMS 24 FORREST (F)	CTG 51.5	Screen Sta. 154
MinDiv 9	"	DMS 32 GWIN	CTG 51.5	Support RP 16
MinDiv 59	52.3.3	DMS 19 ELLYSON (SF)	CTG 51.19	Patrol Eastern OKINAWA
"	"	DMS 20 HAMBLETON	CTG 51.5	Screen Sta 153
MinDiv 60	52.3.4	DMS 27 JEFFERS	CTG 51.5	
"	"	DMS 30 GHERARDI	CTG 51.5	
MinDiv 8	52.3.4	DM 29 H.A. WILEY	CTG 51.5	Logistics

5-7. No remarks.

7 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Six)

1-4. Same as 6 May 1945.

5-7. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

8 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Seven)

- 1-3. Same as 6 May 1945.
4. Same as 6 May except:  
ELLYSON relieved on station and reported to CTG 51.5  
for logistics.  
H.A. WILEY assumed duty as RP 16 Support.
- 5-7. No remarks.

9 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Eight)

- 1-3. Same as 6 May 1945.
4. Same as 8 May except:  
ELLYSON completed logistics and assumed patrol on  
station 153.  
HAMBLETON relieved by ELLYSON and proceeded to report  
to CTG 51.5 for logistics.
- 5-7. No remarks.

10 May 1945 (Love plus Thirty Nine)

- 1-3. Same as 6 May 1945.
4. Same as 6 May with changes to date and following:  
ELLYSON relieved on station 153 to proceed to KERAMA  
RETTO to effect relief of Squadron Commander.
- 5-7. No remarks.

164  
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**COMMANDER MINE SQUADRON TWENTY**  
Care of Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

FC6-20/A12  
Serial: 072

5 June 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ A-L

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

Subject: War Diary, submission of.

Reference: (a) PacFlt ltr. 1CL-45 of 1 January 1945.

1. In accordance with reference (a), the War Diary for the period 11 May - 31 May 1945, is submitted herewith.

*W.R. Loud*  
W.R. LOUD.

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WAR DIARY

11 May 1945 (Item)

(The numbered paragraphs 1-8 below correspond to the subparagraphs (a) - (h), paragraph 14 of PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 1CL-45 of 1 January 1945).

1. Mine Squadron TWENTY is an administrative unit of Commander Minecraft, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and is attached to the FIFTH Fleet, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for duty. Cominron 20 is designated CTG 52.3 under CTG 52.2 (Rear Admiral Alex. SHARP, USN, CominPac, USS BIBB (CGC31), temporary flagship).

Mine Squadron TWENTY is composed of:

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

Task Group 52.3 is composed as follows:

<u>Task Unit 52.3.2</u>	<u>Task Unit 52.3.3</u>	<u>Task Unit 52.3.4</u>
(Comdr. F.P. MITCHELL, USN)	(Capt. W.R. LOUD, USN)	(Capt. M.D. MATTHEWS, USN)
MinDiv 58 less FITCH	MinDiv 59	MinDiv 60
DM 33 GWIN	DM 32 LINDSEY	DM 29 HENRY A. WILEY
(HOBSON, MACOMB non-operational)	(RODMAN, LINDSEY non-operational)	(HARDING, JEFFERS non-operational)

Captain Wayne R. LOUD, USN, relieved Captain Richard A. LARKIN, USN, as Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY this date.

2. ComPhibsPac OpPlan A1-45.
3. In ELLYSON operating as directed in vicinity of OKINAWA GUNTO.
4. Patrolling on A/S screen off OKINAWA SHIMA.
- 5-8. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

12-16 May 1945 (Item)

1-4. Same as 11 May 1945.

5-8. No remarks.

17 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. 0800 (I) Proceeded KERAMA RETTO for logistics in accordance with CTG 51.5 (Captain MOOSEBURGER, Commander Transport Screen, USS BISCAYNE (AGC18), flagship) despatch of 16 May.

1853 Underway in ELLYSON, proceeding to a point bearing 0050 (T), distant 20 miles from ZAMPA MISAKI Point for aircraft rescue mission in accordance with ComDesRon TWO's TBS transmission 171755 (I). Numerous enemy aircraft reported to northward.

2019 - 2036 Engaged enemy snoopers aircraft with negative results.

2110 Received orders from CTG 51.5 to take charge of BOYD (DD544), COWELL (DD547) and GHERARDI (DMS30), proceed IE SHIMA, anchor and await a possible aircraft rescue mission.

2122 Rendezvoused with COWELL and BOYD; formed column; order, ELLYSON, COWELL, BOYD and proceeded at 15 knots towards IE SHIMA.

2140 GHERARDI joined and was assigned #4 position. Since enemy aircraft were closing formation, ships were informed that high speed and independent evasive tactics would be employed when under attack.

2209 Formation engaged enemy snoopers aircraft with negative results. Commenced patrol off north coast IE SHIMA in view of inadvisability of anchoring while air attacks were imminent.

5-8. No remarks.

18 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. At 0130 received orders from CTG 51.21 (SOPA, IE SHIMA) to search for downed aviator 7-8 miles north of IE SHIMA. Formed line, distance 1000 yards and conducted search at speed of 10 knots. Reported negative results to CTG 51.21 at 0630 and continued search. At 0828 CTG 51.5 directed discontinue search and proceed HAGUSHI transport area. On arrival ships were assigned to the transport area anti-aircraft screen.

5-8. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

19 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. 0635 In accordance with CTG 51.5 orders joined A/S screen off OKINAWA SHIMA. At 1500 BUTLER (DMS 29) relieved ELLYSON. Proceeded KERAMA RETTO as directed by CTG 51.5.

5-8. No remarks.

20 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. In compliance with CTG 52.2 190156 (Z) reported aboard his flagship (USS BIBB (EGC31)) at 0930 for conference of squadron commanders.

1537 Returned to ELLYSON and proceeded to take screening station Baker 5, relieving HAMBLETON in accordance with orders from CTG 51.5. Directed HAMBLETON to report to him. Assumed command screening Sector ABLE, consisting of:

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>STATION</u>
USS TRACY (DM 19)	Baker 1
USS DEVASTATOR (AM 318)	Baker 2
USS REVENGE (AM 110)	Baker 3
USS SPEAR (AM 322)	Baker 4
USS ELLYSON (DMS 19)	Baker 5

ELLYSON assumed additional duty as radar picket on station Baker 5.

5-8. No remarks.

21 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. Patrolling on station Baker 5 with additional duty as Commander Screening Sector ABLE. Sector ABLE is now composed of various escort vessels as assigned and relieved by CTG 51.5.

5. Received CTF 51 despatch directing that for mutual AA support during dusk alerts units on stations Baker 1, 2, 3 and Baker 4, 5, 6 concentrate in Baker 2 and 5 respectively and patrol their collective stations together: plan to be effective on signal.

6-8. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

22 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. Formed Sector ABLE into dusk AA disposition in accordance with CTF 51 instructions. This formation was assumed as routine on succeeding nights when heavy air attacks was anticipated by CTF 51 and is therefore not referred to further.

5-8. No remarks.

23-25 May 1945 (Item)

1-4. Same as 21 May 1945.

5-8. No remarks.

26 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. 2004 Relieved on station Baker 5 by USS H.F. BAUER (DM 26) and as Commander Screening Sector ABLE by C.O. USS H.F. BAUER. Proceeded station B-26 as directed by CTG 51.5.

5. Received BUTLER (DMS 29) despatch of 25 May giving preliminary report of damage sustained during suicide near miss on morning of 25 May 1945.

6-8. No remarks.

27 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 11 May 1945.

4. 0605 In accordance with orders from CTG 51.5 assumed command of underway fueling group consisting of USS CACOPAN (AO52), USS ELLYSON (DMS19) and various ships as assigned to be fueled.

0744 Ceased operations and returned to HAGUSHI transport area due to imminence of enemy air attacks.

0845 Resumed fueling operations.

0929 Cancelled fueling and returned transport area as enemy aircraft again in immediate vicinity.

1045 Resumed fueling operations.

1521 Relieved by CO USS HAMBLETON (DMS20) as OTC fueling group.

1755 Relieved USS DALY (DD519) on southern half of patrol station 153.

5. Received CTG 51.5 despatch of 27 May directing TG 51.5 take dusk anti-aircraft formation daily returning to regular stations one hour after sunset.

6-8. No remarks.



WAR DIARY

28 May 1945 (Item)

1. Operational control of Mine Squadron TWENTY passed to Commander THIRD Fleet, Pacific Fleet, through Commander Task Group 32.2 (Rear Admiral Alex. SHARP, USN, CominPac, USS BIBB (CGC31), temporary flagship) who is also Commander Task Force 39 (Commander Mine Flotilla).

Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY performs additional duty as CTG 32.3 under CTG 32.2. Task Group 32.3 is constituted as follows:

Task Unit 32.3.2  
(Comdr. F.P. MITCHELL, USN)

\* MinDiv 58 less FITCH  
DM 33 GWIN

\* Non-operational due to  
battle damage.

Task Unit 32.3.3  
(Capt. W.R. LOUD, USN)

\*\* MinDiv 59  
\*\* DM 32 LINDSEY

\*\* RODMAN, LINDSEY non-  
operational due to  
battle damage.

Task Unit 32.3.4  
(Capt. M.D. MATTHEWS, USN)

\*\*\* MinDiv 60  
DM 29 H.A. WILEY

\*\*\* BUTLER, HARDING, JEFFERS  
non-operational due to  
battle damage.

Cominron TWENTY also performs additional duty as CTG 39.2 (Commander Mine Group TWO) under CTF 39 (Commander Mine Flotilla). Task Group 39.2 is constituted as follows:

Task Unit 39.2.1

DMS 10 SOUTHARD  
DMS 13 HOPKINS

Task Unit 39.2.3

DMS 19 ELLYSON (GF)(FF)(F)  
DMS 20 HAMBLETON

Task Unit 39.2.2

DMS 24 FORREST (F)  
(Non-operational)

Task Unit 39.2.4

DMS 29 BUTLER (F) (Non-operational)  
DMS 30 GHERARDI

2. ComTHIRD Fleet Operation Plan No. 3-45.

CominPac secret despatch

CominPac secret serial 00526 of 21 May 1945.

3. In ELLYSON operating as directed in vicinity of OKINAWA GUNTO.

4. Patrolling on southern half of screening station 153 off NAKAGUSUKU WAN assuming dusk AA formation daily with screening vessels from adjacent stations in company.

5. Received CominPac secret despatch of 28 May organizing minecraft in OKINAWA GUNTO into Task Force 39 and Task Group 32.2.

Received FORREST secret despatch of 27 May reporting details of damage sustained during suicidal attack by enemy plane on 27 May 1945.

6-8. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

29-30 May 1945 (Item)

1-4. Same as 28 May 1945.

5-8. No remarks.

31 May 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 28 May 1945.

4. Relieved on southern half station 153 by USS FLEMING (DE32),  
proceeded HAGUSHI transport area for mail, thence to station 155A off OKINAWA  
SHIMA.

5-8. No remarks.