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COMMANDER MINE SQUADRON TWENTY
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~~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) PacFlt ltr. 1CL-45 of 1 January 1945.

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

W.R. Loud

RECEIVED S-C FILES
Room 2055 W.R. LOUD.

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CincPac

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16 NOV 1945
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WAR DIARY

1 July 1945 (Item)

(Numbered paragraphs following correspond in subject to subparagraphs (a) - (h), paragraph 14, of Pacific Fleet confidential letter 1CL-45).

1. Mine Squadron TWENTY is an administrative unit of Commander Minecraft, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and is attached to the THIRD Fleet, Pacific Fleet, for duty. Mine Squadron TWENTY is constituted as follows:

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

Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY performs additional duty as CTG 39.2 (Commander Mine Group TWO) under CTF 39 (Rear Admiral Alex. SHARP, USN, Commander Minecraft, Pacific Fleet, USCGC BIBB (CGC 31), temporary flagship). Task Group 39.2 is composed as follows:

Task Unit 39.2.1

DMS 10 SOUTHARD
DMS 13 HOPKINS

Task Unit 39.2.2

DMS 24 FORREST (F)
(Non-operational)

Task Unit 39.2.3

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

Task Unit 39.2.4.

DMS 29 BUTLER (Non-operational)
DMS 30 GHERARDI

2. Com3rdFlt OpPlans No. 3-45 and 6-45.
CominPac secret serial 00526 of 21 May 1945.
3. In ELLYSON anchored in berth K19, KERAMA RETTO.

4. Reporting aboard BIBB to Commander Minecraft, Pacific Fleet, daily in accordance with visual despatch from CominPac dated 0247 (Z) of 11 June 1945 ordering this command to temporary duty on his staff, preparing the operation plan for clearing enemy minefield (Area JUNEAU) in East China Sea.

5-8. No remarks.

2 July 1945 (Item)

1-4. Same as 1 July 1945.

5. Temporary duty with Staff, Commander Minecraft, Pacific Fleet, completed. Received CTF 39 secret despatch of 2 July confirming JIG Day

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of his operation order No. 7-45 as 5 July 1945.

6-8. No remarks.

3 July 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 1 July 1945 with the following addition: Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY assumed the additional duty as Commander Task Group 39.11 this date in accordance with CTF 39 operation order No. 7-45. Task Group 39.11 is constituted as follows:

TASK ORGANIZATION

39.11 MINE GROUP - Captain W.R. LOUD (Cominron 20)

Group Flagship - ELLYSON (DMS 19) - Lt. Comdr. MOUNTREY

180' AM GROUP - Captain T.W. DAVISON (Cominron 15)

(a) 39.11.1 Sweep Unit ONE - Captain T.W. DAVISON (Cominron 15)

AM 240	HAZARD (GF)	
AM 283	RANSOM	
AM 232	EXECUTE	
AM 285	RECRUIT	
AM 308	STRATEGY	
AM 310	SUCCESS	
AM 286	REFORM	
YMS 418		7 AM
YMS 271		3 YMS
YMS 471		2 PGM
PGM 19		
PGM 21		

(b) 39.11.2 Sweep Unit TWO - Lt. Comdr. R.R. FORRESTER (Comindiv 40)

AM 218	DENSITY (F)	
AM 219	DESIGN	
AM 220	DEVICE	
AM 239	GAYETY	
AM 221	DIPLOMA	
AM 267	NOTABLE	
AM 284	REBEL	
YMS 93		7 AM
YMS 176		3 YMS
YMS 283		2 PGM
PGM 10		
PGM 32		

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(c) 39.11.3 Sweep Unit THREE - Comdr. WETMORE (Cominron 11)

AM 273	PHANTOM (F)	
AM 266	NIMBLE	
AM 276	PIVOT	
AM 275	PIRATE	
AM 251	INFLECT	
AM 306	SPECTER	
AM 361	DUNLIN	
YMS 299		7 AM
YMS 331		3 YMS
YMS 398		2 PGM
PGM 23		
PGM 9		

220' AM GROUP - Commander G.W. ALLEN (Cominron 5)

(d) 39.11.4 Sweep Unit FOUR - Commander G.W. ALLEN (Cominron 5)

AM 117	STRIVE (GF) Lt.Comdr. E.B. KNOWLTON (Comindiv 17)	
AM 118	STEADY	
AM 318	DEVASTATOR	
AM 111	SAGE	
AM 324	VIGILANCE	
AM 107	PREVAIL	
YMS 81		6 AM
YMS 327		3 YMS
YMS 401		2 PGM
PGM 30		
PGM 31		

(e) 39.11.5 Sweep Unit FIVE - Lt.Comdr. D.D. LONG (Comindiv 24)

AM 375	POCHARD (F)	
AM 109	REQUISITE	
AM 126	TOKEN	
AM 127	TUMULT	
AM 128	VELOCITY	
AM 131	ZEAL	
YMS 362		6 AM
YMS 388		3 YMS
YMS 434		2 PGM
PGM 20		
PGM 29		

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(f) 39.11.6 Sweep Unit SIX - Lt. Comdr. R.W. COSTELLO (Comindiv 11)

AM 319 GLADIATOR (F)
AM 316 COMPETENT
AM 62 SHELLDRAKE
AM 323 TRIUMPH
AM 383 SURFBIRD
AM 387 TOUCAN
YMS 371 6 AM
YMS 376 3 YMS
YMS 430 2 PGM
PGM 11
PGM 16

(g) 39.11.7 Fire Support Unit - Captain W.R. LOUD (Cominron 20)

DMS 19 ELLYSON
DMS 20 HAMBLETON
DMS 30 GHERARDI (Comindiv 60)
DMS 27 JEFFERS
DMS 1 DORSEY 6 DMS
DMS 10 SOUTHARD 1 DM
DM 23 R.H. SMITH (FD)

(h) 39.11.8 Buoy Unit - Captain H.J. ARMSTRONG (Comindiv 8)

DM 29 HENRY A. WILEY (F)(FD)
DM 24 THOMAS E. FRASER (FD)
DM 25 SHANNON (Comindiv 7) 4 DM
DM 18 BREESE 1 DD
DD 804 ROOKS

(i) 39.11.9 Salvage Unit - Lt. Comdr. J.A. YOUNG, Jr.

ATF 73 MENOMINEE (F) 1 ATF
ARS 9 SHACKLE 1 ARS

(j) 39.11.10 RESERVE UNIT

220' AM

AM 124 THREAT
AM 110 REVENGE

180' AM

AM 238 GARLAND AM 223 DOUR
AM 269 OPPONENT AM 302 SIGNET
AM 304 SCURRY AM 303 SKIRMLSH
AM 307 STAUNCH AM 399 SERENE
AM 311 SUPERIOR

YMS 99, 177, 276, 286, 323, 343, 372, 376, 390,
415, 426, 461, 467

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(k) 39.11.11 "SC" Sweep Unit - Lieut. C.L. SCHERRER

SC 645
SC 1034 (F) 3 SC
SC 1036

2. CTF 39 Operation Order No. 7-45.
3. In ELLYSON anchored in berth K12, KERAMA RETTO.
- 4-8. No remarks.

4 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. In ELLYSON proceeding from KERAMA RETTO to Point A5, Lat. 27° 38' N, Long. 126° 01' E.
4. 0610 - Directed TU 39.11.8 sortie KERAMA RETTO and proceed on buoy laying duties assigned in CTF 39 operation order 7-45.
1228 - Task Group 39.11 less TU 39.11.8 sortied KERAMA RETTO.
Detailed activities of Task Group 39.11 with pertinent conclusions and recommendations will be found in the action report of CTG 39.11 on the clearance of enemy mines from Area JUNEAU.
- 5-8. No remarks.

5 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. Between 5 and 10 July CTG 39.11 operated within the northern half of Area JUNEAU which was a rectangular area bounded by the following points:
 - (a) Lat. 27° 00' N Long. 123° 50' E
 - (b) Lat. 28° 20' N Long. 125° 20' E
 - (c) Lat. 27° 38' N Long. 126° 01' E
 - (d) Lat. 26° 04' N Long. 124° 09' E
4. 0400 - Commenced forming TG 39.11 in minesweeping formation outlined in CTF 39 operation order 7-45.
0600 - Commenced sweep of sub-area ABLE, Area JUNEAU.

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1512 - Completed daily sweeping operations; formed the Task Group for night retirement.

1600 - Commenced retiring along track parallel to sweeping track on the reciprocal course.

5. Received CTF 39 secret despatch requesting delivery his Operation Order No. 7-45 to CTF 32 and confirming air cover arrangements for Task Group 39.11.

6-8. No remarks.

6 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.

4. 0400 - Commenced forming TG 39.11 in minesweeping formation.

0600 - Commenced sweep of sub-area BAKER, Area JUNEAU.

1500 - Completed daily sweeping operations and formed Task Group for night retirement.

1600 - Commenced retiring along track parallel and reciprocal to the day's sweeping course.

NOTE: On subsequent days until further notice Task Group 39.11 executed daily the schedule of days events as listed above. Each day a path approximately 7 miles wide was cleared to the southwest of that area cleared on the preceding day. Only important changes or supplements to this daily routine will be set down hereafter.

5-8. No remarks.

7-9 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.

4. Continued sweeping of Area JUNEAU.

5-8. No remarks.

10 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.

4. 1512 - CTG 39.11 in ELLYSON with T.E. FRASER, JEFFERS departed for BUCKNER BAY. CTU 39.11.8 (Captain H.J. ARMSTRONG, USN, Commander Mine Division EIGHT, USS H.A. WILEY (DM 29), flagship) became SOPA of TG 39.11. CTU 39.11.1 (Captain T.W. DAVISON, USN, Commander Mine Squadron FIFTEEN, USS HAZARD (AM 240), flagship) became OTC.

5-8. No remarks.

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11 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. Anchored in BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA SHIMA, replenishing fuel and provisions.
4. 0545 - Arrived BUCKNER BAY.
1800 - Departed BUCKNER BAY for Area JUNEAU to arrive dawn on 12 July.
- 5-8. No remarks.

12 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. Enroute Area JUNEAU.
4. 0545 - CTG 39.11 arrived JUNEAU Area and resumed duties as SOPA and OTC of Task Group 39.11.
- 5-8. No remarks.

13-14 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.
4. 1715 - Task Group 39.11 departed Area JUNEAU for BUCKNER BAY.
- 5-8. No remarks.

15 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. In ELLYSON, at BUCKNER BAY supervising logistic resupply of Task Group 39.11.
4. 1000 - Arrived BUCKNER BAY accompanied by first half of Task Group 39.11.
1430 - Slow convoy comprising remainder of Task Group 39.11 arrived BUCKNER BAY.
- 5-8. No remarks.

16 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 15 July 1945.
- 4-8. No remarks.

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17 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 15 July 1945.

4. 1359 - Directed Task Group 39.11 less all YMS's, PGM's, SHANNON, T.E. FRASER, MENOMINEE and SHACKLE to get underway immediately and sortie in numerical order of Task Units.

1700 - Standing to southeast of OKINAWA SHIMA to avoid typhoon approaching from the southwest.

5. 1118 - Received alert from CTF 39 to prepare for execution of his Typhoon Plan XRAY.

1258 - Received orders from CTF 39 to postpone sweeping operations in Area JUNEAU until further notice.

1333 - Received orders from CTF 39 to execute Typhoon Plan XRAY, clear net by 1700 and stand to southeast.

6-8. No remarks.

18-19 July 1945 (Item)

1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.

3. In ELLYSON standing to southeast of OKINAWA SHIMA to avoid typhoon.

4-8. No remarks.

20 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 18-19 July 1945.

4. 1900 - Departed Lat. 23° 54' N, Long. 131° 17' E for BUCKNER BAY.

5-8. No remarks.

21 July 1945 (Item)

1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.

3. In ELLYSON at BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA SHIMA.

4. 0652 - Arrived BUCKNER BAY.

5. 1413 - Directed TG 39.11 to sortie at 0800, 22 July for JUNEAU Area.
1735 - Directed CTU 39.11.8 to sortie prior dark for JUNEAU Area.

6-8. No remarks.

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22 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. In ELLYSON enroute JUNEAU Area.
4. 0800 - Sortied on schedule.
- 5-8. No remarks.

23-24 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.
- 4-8. No remarks.

25 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. In ELLYSON operating in vicinity of JUNEAU Area.
4. 1537 - CTG 39.11 in ELLYSON with T.E. FRASER, JEFFERS, DORSEY departed for BUCKNER BAY to arrive at dawn, July 26th.
5. Received CominPac despatch 250845 of July dissolving Task Force 39. All forces previously assigned were reassigned to Task Group 95.4 with Rear Admiral Alex. SHARP, USN, as CTG 95.4, USCGC BIBB (CGC 31), temporary flagship. Task Group 39.11 becomes Task Unit 95.4.11 with no change in ships assigned.
- 6-8. No remarks.

26 July 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.
3. In ELLYSON at BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA SHIMA.
4. 0505 - Arrived BUCKNER BAY.
0800 - Reported to CTG 95.4 for conference.
1800 - Departed BUCKNER BAY with T.E. FRASER, JEFFERS and DORSEY.
- 5-8. No remarks.

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27-29 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.

4-8. No remarks.

30 July 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 5 July 1945.

4. 1427 - Completed JUNEAU Operation and formed TU 95.4.11 for transit to BUCKNER BAY.
1800 - Departed JUNEAU independently, Capt. H.J. ARMSTRONG, USN, Commander Mine Division EIGHT in H.A. WILEY (DM 29) became SOPA of TU 95.4.11.

5-8. No remarks.

31 July 1945 (Item)

1-2. Same as 3 July 1945.

3. In ELLYSON at BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA SHIMA.

4. 0530 - Arrived BUCKNER BAY.

5. 2134 - Received CTG 95.4 visual despatch that TU 95.4.11 had been dissolved this date.

6-8. No remarks.

NOTE: During the month of July the weather was clear with calm seas, visibility 7-8 and winds generally from the southwest at 10-15 knots.