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COMMANDER MINE SQUADRON TWENTY
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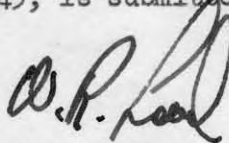
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15 SEP 1945

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) PacFlt ltr. 1CL-45 of 1 January 1945.

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



W.R. LOUD.

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WAR DIARY

1 August 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 Task Force 95 (CTF 95 - Vice Admiral J.B. OLDENDORF, USN, Commander Battleship Squadron ONE, U.S.S. TENNESSEE (BB 43) Flagship). Mine Squadron TWENTY is assigned to Task Group 95.4 (CTG 95.4 - Rear Admiral ALEX SHARP, USN, Commander Minecraft, USCGC BIBB (CGC 31), temporary flagship), for duty. Mine Squadron TWENTY is constituted as follows:

<u>MinDiv 58</u> (Comdr. F.P. MITCHELL, USN)	<u>MinDiv 59</u> (Capt. W.R. LOUD, USN)	<u>MinDiv 60</u> (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

2. ComBatRon ONE Operation Plan No. 3-45.
3. In ELLYSON at Buckner Bay, Okinawa Shima.
4-8. No remarks.

2-6 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 1 August.
4-8. No remarks.

7 August 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 1 August with the following addendum:
Cominron 20 performs additional duty as CTU 95.4.1. Task Unit 95.4.1 is organized as follows:

TU 95.4.1 High Speed Minesweeping Unit - Captain W.R. LOUD (Cominron 20).
(a) Mine Division 59 (temporary) - Captain W.R. LOUD, USN.

DMS 19 ELLYSON
DMS 20 HAMBLETON
DMS 23 MACOMB
DMS 13 HOPKINS
DM 24 FRASER
DM 18 BREESE

(b) Mine Division 60 (temporary) - Commander E.W. TAYLOR, USN.

DMS 30 GHERARDI
DMS 27 JEFFERS
DMS 10 SOUTHARD
DMS 1 DORSEY
DM 33 GWIN

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2. ComBatRon ONE OpPlan 3-45.
CominPac OpOrd 10-45.
3. In ELLYSON at Buckner Bay, Okinawa Shima.
4. No remarks.
5. Received and placed into effect CominPac OpOrd 10-45 directing TU 95.4.1 to clear minefield across entrance to Yellow Sea. At 1810, after personal conference with CTG 95.4 informed Task Unit 95.4.1 that operation was cancelled in accordance with CTG 95.4's verbal instructions.
- 6-8. No remarks.

8-9 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 7 August.
- 4-8. No remarks.

10 August 1945 (Item)

1. Same as August 7.
2. ComBatRon OpPlan 3-45 and CominPac OpOrd 9-45.
3. 0000 - 1700 - In ELLYSON at Buckner Bay, Okinawa Shima.
1700 - 2400 - Proceeding with TU 95.4.1 from Buckner Bay to Point Elk Lat. 28° 47' N, Long. 126 58' E via route around southern tip of Okinawa, thence paralleling west coast of island and passing approximately five miles to westward of Ie Jima and Theya Retto.
4. 1000 - Conferred with CTG 95.4 and CTF 95, receiving orders to sweep certain areas in Area Skagway as defined in CominPac OpOrd 9-45 using ships as assigned in CominPac OpOrd 10-45. CominPac's OpOrd 10-45 was verbally cancelled.
1700 - Departed Buckner Bay for Pt. Elk Area Skogway.
5. 0845 - Received CTG 95.4 urgent, voice radio transmission informing that minesweeping operation assigned in his operation order 10-45 had been cancelled.
0928 - Received orders from CTG 95.4 via voice radio to confer with originator and CTF 95 aboard U.S.S. TENNESSEE immediately.
1242 - Directed TU 95.4.1 to prepare to get underway at 1700.
- 6-8. No remarks.

11 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 10 August.
3. 0000 - 0608 - Proceeding to Pt. Elk and operating in the immediate vicinity thereof.
0608 - 1630 - Proceeding from Pt. Elk to Buckner Bay, via route passing to northward of Theya Retto and thence along east coast of Okinawa Shima.
4. 0500 - Arrived Pt. Elk and commenced minesweeping operations.
0608 - Received urgent voice radio transmission from CTG 95.4 to return immediately with TU 95.4.1 to Buckner Bay.
0730 - Departed Pt. Elk for Buckner Bay.

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5. 1645 - Received verbal instructions from CTG 95.4 to prepare to proceed Tokyo Area and conduct minesweeping operations as directed.
- 1744 - Received voice radio transmission from CTG 95.4 to be ready for sea at daylight, 12 August.
- 6-8. No remarks.

12 August 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 1 August.
2. ComBatRon ONE OpPlan 3-45.
3. En ELLYSON at Buckner Bay, Okinawa Shima.
4. TU 95.4.1 refueled and conducted minesweeping exercises preparatory to departing Buckner Bay.
5. Received reencypherment by CTG 95.4 of CincPac Top Secret despatch of 12 August to CTG 95 directing action addee fuel all fast minesweepers and proceed immediately toward Tokyo.
- 6-8. No remarks.

13 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 1 August.
3. Proceeding on course approximately 060°T at 20 knots from Buckner Bay toward Tokyo Bay.
4. 0530 - Departed Buckner Bay with ships formerly assigned to TU 95.4.1 less SOUTHARD, DORSEY and BREESE.
5. Received TBS instructions from CTF 95 directing all fast minesweepers depart Buckner Bay at first light enroute Tokyo.
- 6-8. No remarks.

14 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 1 August.
3. Proceeding along route 150 miles from east coast of Shikoku and and Honshu Islands, Japan. At 1900 turned to 120° T and headed for Pt. Look, Lat. 31 North, Long. 143 East.
4. 1900 - Changed course to 120°T to effect rendezvous with Task Group 30.8 (Rear Admiral Beary, USN, U.S.S. DETROIT (CL 8), Flagship).
5. Received Com3rdFlt 140233 directing fast minesweepers divert to Pt. Look where report to CTG 30.8,
6. Received CTF 31 (Rear Admiral O.M. Badger, USN, ComBatDiv 7, U.S.S. IOWA (BB 61), Flagship), top secret despatch organizing Task Force 31 with fast minesweepers assigned as Task Group 31.2.
- 7-8. No remarks.

15 August 1945 (Item)

1. Mine Squadron 20, an administrative unit of Commander Minecraft, Pacific Fleet, is attached to the Third Fleet. It is assigned to Task Force 31 (Tokyo Occupation Force) for duty.

WAR DIARY

Mine Squadron 20 is constituted as follows:

<u>MinDiv 58</u> (Comdr. F.P. MITCHELL, USN)	<u>MinDiv 59</u> (Capt. W.R. LOUD, USN)	<u>MinDiv 60</u> (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
DMS 26 HOBSON	DMS 21 RODMAN	DMS 28 HARDING
DMS 23 MACOMB	D	DMS 27 JEFFERS

Commander Mine Squadron 20 performs additional duty as CTG 31.2 (Minesweeping Group) under CTF 31.

Task Group 31.2 is constituted as follows:

MinDiv 59 (temporary) - Captain W.R. LOUD, USN.

DMS 19 ELLYSON (F)
DMS 20 HAMBLETON
DMS 23 MACOMB
DMS 13 HOPKINS
DM 24 FRASER (FD)

MinDiv 60 (temporary) - Commander E.W. TAYLOR, USN.

DMS 30 GHERARDI
DMS 27 JEFFERS
DM 33 GWIN

2. Com3rdFlt OpPlan 9-45.
3. Steaming in vicinity Point Look.
4. Minron 20 is disposed in scouting line attempting to effect rendezvous with Task Group 30.8,
- 5-8. No remarks.

16 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 15 August.
4. 1030 - Joined TG 30.8.
5. Received CTG 95.4 despatch informing that Comindiv 13 in REVENGE (AM 110) with TOKEN (AM 126), TUMULT (AM 127), Comindiv 24 in POCHARD (AM 375), Cominron 104 in PICKET (ACM 8) and YMS 177, 268, 276, 343, 362, 371, 390, 415, 426, 441, 461, 467 will sortie Buckner Bay on 17th for Point Look to report to Com3rdFlt for duty.
- 6-8. No remarks.

17 - 20 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 15 August 1945.
3. Steaming in vicinity Pt. Look as temporary unit of TG 30.8.
- 4-8. No remarks.

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21 August 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 15 August.
2. Com3rdFlt OpPlan 9-45 and CTF 31 OpOrd 7-45.
3. Steaming in vicinity Pt. Look.
4. 1500 - Joined Task Force 31.
- 5-8. No remarks.

22 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 15 August.
4. 0500 - Comindiv 13 with AM's and YMS's listed in CTG 95.4 despatch of 16 August reported for duty.
1330 - Formed TG 31.2 as rear group in Task Force 31 cruising formation.
- 5-8. No remarks.

23 August 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 15 August with the following change: FITCH (DMS 25), plus AM's and YMS's listed on 16 August having reported for duty, Task Group 31.2 is now constituted as follows:

TASK GROUP 31.2

(a) 31.2.1 MINESWEEPING UNIT ABLE

(b) 31.2.11 SWEEP UNIT ELEVEN

DMS 19 ELLYSON (GF)
DMS 30 GHERARDI (Comindiv 60)
DMS 20 HAMBLETON
DMS 25 FITCH
DMS 23 MACOMB
DMS 27 JEFFERS
DMS 13 HOPKINS 7 DMS

(c) 31.2.12 BUOY UNIT - Comdr. F.S. STEINKE

DM 33 GWIN (F)
DM 24 T.E. FRASER (FD) 2 DM

(d) 31.2.2 MINESWEEPING UNIT BAKER - LtCdr J.L. JACKSON (Comindiv 13)

(e) 31.2.21 SWEEP UNIT TWENTY-ONE - LtCdr J.L. JACKSON

AM 110 REVENGE (F)
AM 126 TOKEN
AM 127 TUMULT
AM 375 POCHARD (Comindiv 24)
AM 109 REQUISITE
AM 111 SAGE 6 AM

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(f) 31.2.22 YMS TYPE UNIT - LtCdr E.B. DEXTER (Cominron 104).

ACM 8 PICKET (F) 1 ACM

(g) 31.2.23 SWEEP UNIT TWENTY-THREE - Lt. J.L. GRACE

YMS 371 (F), 177, 268, 276,
343, 262 6 YMS

(h) 31.2.24 SWEEP UNIT TWENTY- FOUR - Lt. M.R. BALL

YMS 426 (F), 390, 415, 441,
461, 467 6 YMS

- 2-3. Same as 15 August.
- 4. No remarks.
- 5. Received Com3rdFlt despatch placing into effect his operation plan No. 10-45 for the entry of Third Fleet units into Sagami Wan.

24 - 25 August 1945 (Item)

- 1. Same as 23 August.
- 2. Com3RDFlt OpPlans 9-45 and 10-45 and CTF 31 OpOrd 1-45.
- 3. Cruising in vicinity of Pt. Look.
- 4-8. No remarks.

26 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 24 August.
- 3. Proceeding by direct route from Pt. Look to Sagami Wan.
- 4-8. No remarks.

27 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 26 August.
- 4. 1600 - Detached ELLYSON to enter Sagami Wan in order confer with CTF 31; directed Comdr. F.S. STEINKE, CO, U.S.S. GWIN (DM 33) to assume tactical command of TG 31.2 and maneuver them outside Sagami Wan during the night.
- 5-8. No remarks.

28 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 24 August.
- 3. Operating in Sagami Wan and Tokyo Bay as directed by CTF 31.
- 4. 0730 - Commenced entry of TG 31.2 into Tokyo Bay in accordance with CTG 31.2 Minesweeping Order No. 1-45.
1100 - Led San Diego and screen into Tokyo Bay, using ELLYSON and HAMBLETON to sweep ahead.
1600 - Anchored off Yokosuka Naval Base, Tokyo Bay supervising sweeping activities of TG 31.2.
- 5-8. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

29 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 28 August.
4. 0630 - Conducted Com3rdFlt in Missouri with Iowa and screen into Tokyo Bay using ELLYSON, MACOMB and JEFFERS to sweep ahead.
1200 - Anchored in Tokyo Bay supervising sweeping activities of TG 31.2.
- 5-8. No remarks.

30-31 August 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 28 August.
- 4-8. No remarks.

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