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COMMANDER MINE SQUADRON TWENTY
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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY.
To: Chief of Naval Operations.
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 September 1945 - 30 September 1945, is submitted herewith.

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Room 2055

ROUTE TO: 03 (Rm. 3604) W.R. LOUD.

29 OCT 1945

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WAR DIARY

1 September 1945 (Item)

(Numbered paragraphs 1-8 below correspond in subject to subparagraphs (a)-(h), paragraph 14, of PacFlt Conf Ltr. LCL-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 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 (F)
DMS 25 FITCH	DMS 20 HAMBLETON	DMS 29 BUTLER
DMS 26 HOBSON	DMS 21 RODMAN	DMS 28 HARDING
DMS 23 MACOMB		DMS 27 JEFFERS

Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY performs additional duty as CTG 31.2 under CTF 31 (Rear Admiral O.M. BADGER, U.S.N., ComBatDiv 7, U.S.S. IOWA (BB61), Flagship). Task Group 31.2 is 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 (G)	
AM 126 TOKEN	
AM 127 TUMULT	
AM 375 POCHARD (Comindiv 24)	
AM 109 REQUISITE	
AM 111 SAGE	6 AM

WAR DIARY

(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. Com3rdFlt OpPlans 9-45 and 10-45 and CTF 31 OpOrd 1-45.
- 3. Anchored in Tokyo Bay supervising sweeping activities of TG 31.2.
- 4-8. No remarks.

2 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-4. Same as 1 September.
- 5. Received CTF 31 despatch notifying Com3rdFlt that all DM's and DMS's could be released from Task Force 31 on 3 September upon completion of fueling.
- 6-8. No remarks.

3 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-4. Same as 1 September.
- 5. Com3rdFlt despatch directed Cominron 20 to depart Tokyo Bay for Okinawa at dawn on 4 September, reporting to Com5thFlt upon departure.
- 6-8. No remarks.

4 September 1945 (Item)

1. Mine Squadron 20 is in tactical command of the following ships during passage from Tokyo Bay to Buckner Bay, Okinawa:

DMS 19 ELLYSON (F)
DMS 13 HOPKINS
DMS 20 HAMBLETON
DMS 23 MACOMB
DMS 25 FITCH
DMS 27 JEFFERS
DMS 30 GHERARDI
DM 24 T.E. FRASER
DM 33 GWIN

- 2. Com5thFlt Operation Plan No. 6-45.
- 3. 0000 to 0600 in ELLYSON at Tokyo Bay, Honshu.

WAR DIARY

11 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 6 September.
- 3. 0530 Underway in ELLYSON from Buckner Bay, proceeding to BUNGO SUIDO to confer with Japanese Minecraft representatives.
- 4-8. No remarks.

12 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 6 September 1945.
- 3. 0000 to 0900 Proceeding BUNGO SUIDO from Buckner Bay.
0900 to 1230 In ELLYSON at Bungo Suido.
1230 to 2400 Proceeding Buckner Bay from BUNGO SUIDO.
- 4. Conferred with the following Jap Minecraft Officers:

Comdr TADENUMA (Staff Officer Mine Squadron KURE).
LtComdr ICHINOSE (Mine Officer SAEKI defense Unit).
Lt TAKASHIMA (Paymaster).

Following topics were discussed in preparation for minesweeping operations in BUNGO SUIDO and HIRO WAN (a) depth setting of moored mines in BUNGO SUIDO (b) Number of mines laid and when (c) was any sweeping done (d) are controlled mines present or have they been destroyed (e) have attempts been made to remove pressure mines (f) have magnetic or acoustic sweeping been attempted and, if so, where and what results (g) Where are Jap channels (h) When were channels swept and have they been used since (i) How many Jap minesweepers are available or would be available for BUNGO SUIDO and HIRO WAN.

13 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 6 September.
- 3. 0000 to 1800 Proceeding Buckner Bay from BUNGO SUIDO.
1800 to 2400 In ELLYSON anchored at Buckner Bay, Okinawa.
- 4-8. No remarks.

14 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 13 September.
- 4. 0600 CTG 52.2 in GHERARDI left Buckner Bay in company with JEFFERS. and FITCH to conduct minesweeping operations in Van DIEMEN Straits. HAMBLETON will join upon completion of availability which expires 1600 on 16 September.
- 5. Received CTF 52 despatch to CTG 52.3 directing him to sail TG 52.4 to Point PULLET to arrive 0600 22 September and report to CTG 52.7 (Cominron 20); TG 52.4 then dissolved and becomes part of TG 52.7 BUNGO SUIDO SWEEP GROUP.

15 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 13 September.
- 4. 1300 MACOMB returned to Buckner Bay.
- 5-8. No remarks.

16 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 13 September.

WAR DIARY

3. 0000 to 0600 In Ellyson anchored at Buckner Bay.
0600 to 2400 Proceeding from Buckner Bay on route to North of Okinawa and thence West to retire from impending typhoon.
4. 0800 In accordance with orders from ComServDiv 104 to execute Typhoon Plan Retirement West and CominPac order for Cominron 20 to take charge of all 220-foot AM's less SUSTAIN and DMS types less HOPKINS and SOUTHARD, Cominron 20 in Ellyson departed Buckner Bay with the following ships:

DMS 19 ELLYSON
DMS 23 MACOMB
AM 117 STRIVE
AM 114 STAFF
AM 116 SPEED
AM 107 PREVAIL
AM 376 PTARMIGAN
AM 105 PIONEER
AM 118 STEADY
AM 323 TRIUMPH

- 5-8. No remarks.

17 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 13 September.
3. Steaming to the Westward of Okinawa to avoid approaching typhoon.
- 4-8. No remarks.

18 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 13 September.
3. 0000 to 0600 Steaming toward Buckner Bay; using route North of Okinawa.
0600 to 2400 In Ellyson anchored at Buckner Bay.
4. No remarks.
5. Com5thFlt despatch established OpPlan No. 9-45 in which TF 52 was designated as Mine Force under Rear Admiral Struble, USN, CominPac, USS TERROR (CM 5) Flagship.
- 6-8. No remarks.

19 September 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 18 September.
2. Com5thFlt OpPlan No. 6-45 and 9-45.
3. Same as 18 September.
4. 1800 MACOMB departed Okinawa for SASEBO.
5. Received CTG 52.6 despatch directing forces for BUNGO SUIDO SWEEP GROUP (CTG 52.7) assemble under Cominron 104 in PICKET (ACM 8) with following YMS's assigned to CTG 52.7: YMS 93, 177, 268, 276 323, 343, 362, 371, 390, 415, 418, 426, 431, 443, 461, 467, 471 475 and Picket. FRASER (DM 24) will escort group to Point PULLET, arriving 0600 on 22 September and reporting to CTG 52.7; FRASER to

WAR DIARY

return upon completion of duty.

20 September 1945 (Item)

1. Commander Mine Squadron TWENTY performs additional duty as CTG 52.7 under CTF 52 (Rear Admiral STRUBLE, CominPac, USS TERROR (CM 5), Flagship. Task Group 52.7 is constituted as follows:

DMS 19 ELLYSON (GF)
DM 25 BAUER
AM 216 DEFT
ATA 188
PGM 24
LCI 423
LCI 327
LCI 818

2. Com5thFlt OpPlans 6-45 and 9-45. CTF 52 OpPlans 18-45 and 20-45.
3. 0000 to 0600 In Ellyson anchored in Buckner Bay.
0600 to 2400 Proceeding with TG 52.7 to BUNGO SUIDO.
4. 0600 Underway from Buckner Bay to conduct sweep operations in BUNGO SUIDO and the Inland Sea.
0749 LCI 818 reported excessive vibration in her starboard shaft, Cominron 20 directed her to return to Buckner Bay and report to Commander Mincraft, U.S. Pacific Fleet for repairs.
5. Received CominPac despatch to TETON requesting Japanese representatives rendezvous with Captain W.R. LOUD in Ellyson at Lat 32-30 N Long 132-30 E at 0900 on 22 September.
Received CominPac OpPlan 20-45 establishing organization of Task Force 52 (mine Force, Fifth Fleet, Under Rear Admiral STRUBLE, USN, CominPac, USS TERROR (CM 5) Flagship. TG 52.2 (Van DIEMEN Sweep Group) is under command of Comdr E.W. TAYLOR, USN, Comindiv 60, U.S.S. GHERARDI DMS 30. TG 52.7 (BUNGO SUIDO SWEEP GROUP) is under command of Captain, W.R. LOUD, USN, Cominron 20, USS ELLYSON (DMS 19).

21 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 20 September.
4-8. No remarks.

22 September 1945 (Item)

1. Same as 1 September.
Cominron 20 performs additional duty as CTG 52.7 under CTF 52 (Rear Admiral STRUBLE, U.S.N., CominPac, U.S.S. TERROR (CM 5) Flagship.
Task Group 52.7 - BUNGO SUIDO SWEEP GROUP - Capt W.R. LOUD.

(a) 52.7.1 Flagship Unit - LtComdr R.W. MOUNTREY.

DMS 19 ELLYSON (GF)
PGM 24

1 DMS
1 PGM

WAR DIARY

- (b) 52.7.2 ABIE MIKE UNIT - Comdr S.B. WETMORE (Cominron 11)
- (c) 52.7.21 SWEEP UNIT TWENTY-ONE - Comdr S.B. WETMORE (Cominron 11)
- AM 273 PHANTOM (F)
 AM 283 RANSON
 AM 361 DUNLIN
 AM 233 FACILITY
 AM 306 SPECTER
 AM 307 STAUNCH
 AM 216 DEFT 7 AM
- (d) 52.7.3 YOKE MIKE SUGAR UNIT - LtComdr E.B. DEXTER (Cominron 104)
- ACM 8 PICKET (F) 1 ACM
- (e) 52.7.31 SWEEP UNIT THIRTY-ONE - Lt W.G. MALLERY
- YMS 323 (F), 93, 177, 268, 276, 343 6 YMS
- (f) 52.7.32 SWEEP UNIT THIRTY-TWO - Lt. V.A. LANG
- YMS 418 (F) 362, 371, 415, 426, 475 5 YMS
- (g) 52.7.33 SWEEP UNIT THIRTY-THREE - Lt H.J. BATEMAN
- YMS 431 (F) 443, 461, 467, 471, 475 6 YMS
- (h) 52.7.5 BUOY AND NET UNIT - Comdr R.C. WILLIAMS
- DM 26 HARRY F. BAUER
 DM 19 TRACY 2 DM
- (i) 52.7.6 GUNBOAT UNIT - LtComdr E.C. FOLGER (ComLCIFlot 19)
- LCI 423 (F), 327, 817, 884, 1088, 1089 6 LCI
- (j) 52.7.7 SERVICE UNIT
- ATA 188 1 ATA
2. Same as 20 September.
3. 0000 to 0900 Proceeding BUNGO SUIDO
 0900 to 1500 Entered BUNGO SUIDO and proceeded to anchorage Beppu Wan, Kyushu with Sweep unit 21 sweeping for moored mines ahead of formation.
 1500 to 2400 In Ellyson anchored in Beppu Wan, Kyushu.
4. 0400 Cominron 11 reported for duty with TU 52.7.21, TRACY, LCI's 817, 884, 1088 and 1089 in company.
 0530 Cominron 104, with TU 52.7.31, 52.7.32, 52.7.33 in company reported for duty in TG 52.7.
 1800 Conferred with the following Japanese representatives:

WAR DIARY

LtComdr URABLE (Staff Officer No. 8 Special Attack Squadron)
LtComdr ICHINOSE (Mine Officer SAEKI Defense Unit)
Lt TAKASHIMA (Paymaster)

Discussed plans for using Japanese Minesweepers to sweep moored mines in the Western channel of BUNGO SUIDO.

5-8. No remarks.

23 September 1945 (Item)

1-3. Same as 22 September.

4. Sweep Unit 21 swept a 1000-yard path to Westward of East Channel centerline and continued sweep of Southern Area BUNGO SUIDO. Sweep Units 31, 32, and 33 proceeded thru Inland Sea and commenced sweep for magnetic mines in the Hiro Wan and Aki Nada Areas. Conferred with the following Japanese Representatives at SAEKI:

Rear Admiral T. KIYOT (Comdr No. 8 Special Attack Squadron).
Captain H. ASAHIRO (Chief of Staff No. 8 Special Attack Squadron).
LtComdr URAB (Staff Officer, No. 8 Special Attack Squadron).

5-8. No remarks.

24 September 1945 (Item)

1. Comindiv 17 reported for duty in TG 52.7 as CTU 52.7.22. Ships in company organized under CTU 52.7.2 as follows:

52.7.22 SWEEP UNIT TWENTY-TWO - LtComdr E.B. KNOWLTON (Comindiv 17)

AM 117 STRIVE (F)
AM 114 STAFF
AM 116 SPEED
AM 118 STEADY
AM 119 SUSTAIN
AM 105 PIONEER
AM 107 PREVAIL

7 AM

2. Same as 22 September.

3. CTG 52.7 in Ellyson moved anchorage to GUNCHU, SHIKOKU.

4. Task Unit 52.7.21 continued sweep Southern Area Bungo Suido. Sweep units 31, 32, and 33 continued sweep of Hiro Wan and Aki Nada Areas. CTG 52.7 in Ellyson with ATA 188, Picket and PGM 24 proceeded GUNCHU. CTU 52.7.5 was directed to destroy 2 Jap human torpedoes located on Beach at FUKURU WAN. No attacks or hostility was displayed by the Japs inhabiting the locale.

Conferred with the following Japanese:

ASATO OKADA (LIASON INTERPRETER KURU)
Comdr TADENUMA (Staff Officer Mine Squadron KURE)
Discussed plans for employing Jap minesweepers for magnetic

WAR DIARY

minesweeping inside the 10 fathom curve in the Hiro Wan area.

5. Informed Com5thPhibby despatch that HOBBY (APD 95) could enter Hiro Wan on 29 September.
6-8. No remarks.

25 September 1945 (ITEM)

- 1-3. Same as 24 September.
4. AM's continued sweep of Southern Area Bungo Suido. Sweep units 31, 32, and 33 continued sweeping Hiro Wan and Aki Nada Areas. 1200 Comindiv 42 in RANSON assumed command of CTU 52.7.2 and CTU 52.7.21 upon departure of Cominron 11 who was ordered to return Okinawa for new sweeping assignment. 1520 Large Jap Hospital ship, employing full hospital procedure, entered Bungo Suido and proceeded to Beppu Wan, Kyushu. She was identified as the Takasago Maru, repatriating Japanese soldiers.
5-8. No remarks.

26 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 24 September.
4. Sweep units 2, 31, 32, 33 continued operations of 25 September.
5-8. No remarks.

27 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 24 September.
3. CTG 52.7 in Ellyson shifted anchorage to SUKUMO KO, SHIKOKU.
4. Sweep Units 2, 31, 32, and 33 continued sweep operations in the BUNGO SUIDO, HIRO WAN, and AKI NADA AREAS.
5-8. No remarks.

28 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 27 September.
4. 0800 CTU 52.9.11 in SHOVELER (AM 382) with SAYAGUTUCK (AO 75) reported for duty to CTG 52.7 in SUKUMO KO. All ships TG 52.7 less YMS's fueled. Sweep unit 21 swept Eastern side of BUNGO SUIDO East Channel. Sweep Unit 22 continued sweep Southern Area BUNGO SUIDO. Sweep Units 31, 32, and 33 continued sweep operations in HIRO WAN and AKI NADA Areas. 1712 CTG 52.7 directed CTU 52.9.11 in SHOVELER to depart with SAYAGATUCK for WAKAYAMA.
5-8. No remarks.

29 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 27 September.
3. CTG 52.7 in ELLYSON shifted anchorage to HIRO WAN.
4. Sweep Unit 2 continued sweep Southern Area of BUNGO SUIDO. Sweep Units 31, 32 and 33 continued sweep of HIRO and AKI NADA Areas. CTG 52.7 in ELLYSON with ATA 188, Picket and PGM 24 proceeded to

WAR DIARY

HIRO WAN anchorage.

Conferred with the following Japanese representatives:

Captain KODA (Harbor Masters Office, Hiro)
Comdr TADENUMA (Staff Officer Mine Squadron KURE)
ASATA OKADA (Liason Interpreter KURE)

Discussed the progress made by Japanese magnetic minesweepers sweeping inside the 10 fathom curve at HIRO WAN.

5. Com5thPhib despatch received stating the HOBBY (APD 95) would arrive Point BUNGO about 0500 on 1 October and requested 1 vessel of TG 52.7 meet and lead her to HIRO WAN anchorage.
- 6-8. No remarks.

30 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 29 September.
4. GRAFFIAS (AF 29) was escorted Beppu Wan, Kyushu and provisioned Task Units 2, 5 and 6. Sweep Units 31, 32 and 33 continued sweep of Areas in Hiro Wan and Aki Nada.
5. Received Com5thPhib despatch which outlined the effective Entry Plan to Hiro Wan. Units would pass point Cardiff as follows:
Fire Support Unit 0600, Augurn with Mt McKinley and Hansford 0615, Transport Group 0630; other amphibious shipping as directed by ComPhibGrp 11. CTG 52.7 is requested to provide 1 minecraft capable of making 15 knots to rendezvous at the entrance to the swept channel with fire support unit and another to rendezvous with the Transport Group and lead to Hiro Wan anchorage. Jap pilots are to be taken aboard an APD at Point Cardiff and delivered to transports during transit of restricted zone in IYO NADA to avoid slowing the transports.
- 6-8. No remarks.

WAR DIARY

0600 to 2400 Proceeding with MinRon 20 and assigned ships for Tokyo Bay to Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

4. CTG 31.2 (Cominron 20) reported to CTG 31.8 that CTU 31.2.2 (Comindiv 13 in REVENGE) is senior officer of TG 31.2 and has assumed command.

0600 Reported to Com5thFlt for duty. MinRon 20 proceeding to Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

- 5-8. No remarks.

5 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 4 September.

- 4-8. No remarks.

6 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-2. Same as 4 September.

3. 0000 to 0600 Proceeding Buckner Bay, Okinawa from Tokyo Bay.
0600 to 2400 Anchored in Buckner Bay.

- 4-8. No remarks.

7 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 6 September.

4. 0600 FITCH sortied from Buckner Bay to rendezvous with SHANNON (DM 25) at Lat 36-18 Long 126 to deliver mail and interpreter and upon completion to return to Buckner Bay.

- 5-8. No remarks.

8 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 6 September.

4. 0600 MACOMB sortied from Buckner Bay with TU 52.9.11 to rendezvous with CTG 52.3 at Lat 32-20 N Long 129-22 E.

- 5-8. No remarks.

9 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 6 September.

4. 1135 FITCH reported independently duty completed.

- 5-8. No remarks.

10 September 1945 (Item)

- 1-3. Same as 6 September.

- 4-8. No remarks.