

REMARKS OPERATIONAL

U. S. S. NICHOLAS (DD449)

Date July 6, 1943

ZONE DESCRIPTION 11

00-04 Steaming on base course 292°T and PGC, 277°PSC, speed 30 knots, 318 RPM, in company with Task Group 36.1 in cruising formation, HONOLULU (CTG 36.1 and guide), HELENA, ST. LOUIS in column in that order; destroyers in van; NICHOLAS #1 (3045), O'BANNON #2 (3315), destroyers in rear; RADFORD #3 (165) JENKINS #4 (3225), ship darkened, in material condition Baker, condition of readiness II-M; steaming on boilers #1, 2, 3, and 4. 0010 Went to General Quarters. 0028 Changed speed to 27 knots, 280 RPM. 0140 Enemy contact reported by Task Group Commander, formed battle formation. 0148 Ships left to 232°T. 0152 Ships right to 292°T; leading target bearing 197°T, distant 6 miles. 0159 Ordered to attack, using normal fire distribution; commenced firing at leading ship; believed to be destroyer. 0206 Ships right 180°; ceased fire. 0211 Ships right 30° to 142°T to close range on second enemy group - believed to be three (3) light cruisers, one (1) heavy cruiser. 0217 Ships left to 082°T. 0224 Ships right to 112°T. 0228 Ships right to 282°T. 0235 Contact on enemy ship on port bow, course 120°T, speed 12 knots. 0242 Fired half salvo torpedo spread; opened fire with main battery, target bearing 206°T, distant 5000 yards. 0244 Ceased firing; target - destroyer, believed to be sunk; Ships right to 292°T, no enemy contacts by radar. 0254 Changed speed to 28 knots, 294 RPM. 0256 Left task group at 35 knots, 393 RPM on various courses to make sweep of Vella Gulf for enemy ships. 0315 No contacts; reversed course to rejoin. 0335 RADFORD identified hulk as bow of HELENA; ordered to pick up survivors. 0337 Ordered to assist RADFORD; stood over to hulk. 0340 At survivor area, lowered boats and proceeded with rescue work. Average steam 590; average RPM 255.8.

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Lieutenant D-V(G), USNR.

04-08 Lying to as before. 0408 Surface radar contact bearing 271°T, distant 16000 yards. Went ahead to 27 knots, 280 RPM on course 320°T to investigate. 0408 Contact reversed course and headed 300°T at 30 knots. 0414 RADFORD reported two contacts standing out of Kula Gulf. 0417 Contact continued on course 300°T at 30 knots; unable to pick up contact, returned to survivor area. 0518 Surface contact bearing 159°T, distant 13,500 yards. 0522 Fired half salvo torpedoes; went ahead full power on course 020°T. 0528 Heard torpedo detonations. 0532 Changed course to 310°T; RADFORD opened fire on target. 0535 Opened fire with star shells followed by AA common - target identified as Sendai class light cruiser and destroyer in flames, both ships hit by torpedoes and gunfire, probably sunk. 0539 Ceased fire - returned to survivor area. 0605 Surface contact bearing 178°T distant 6 miles, standing out of Kula Gulf. 0610 Enemy opened fire; opened fire on enemy; went ahead full power on course 110°T. 0615 Ceased fire; retiring to Tulagi; 291 HELENA survivors aboard. 0707 Fighter cover overhead; RADFORD assumed "Fighter Director". Average steam 590; average RPM 232.6.

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08-12 Steaming as before. 0800 Position: Lat. 08-08-45 (S), Long. 158-05-00 (E). 1120 Changed speed to 30 knots, 318 RPM. 1145 Changed course to 088°T and PGC, 090°PSC; changed speed to 25 knots, 257 RPM. Average steam 590; average RPM 377.3.

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Lieutenant D-V(G), USNR.

Approved:

A. J. Hill
A. J. HILL,

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

Examined:

L. L. Swider
L. L. SWIDER,

Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N., Navigator.

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12-16 Steaming as before. 1200 Position: Lat. 09-10-00 (S), Long. 159-56-00 (E). 1217 Made all preparations for entering port. 1240 Steaming on various courses and at various speeds conforming to movements of guide, entering Tulagi Harbor, Captain at the conn, navigator on the bridge. 1323 Moored alongside HONOLULU, starboard side to with 6 - 6 inch manila lines, for transfer of HELENA survivors. 1355 Completed transferring 289 HELENA survivors. 1445 Made all preparations for getting underway. 1551 Underway on various courses and at various speeds, Captain at the conn, navigator on the bridge, to go alongside fuel barge. 1555 Moored alongside fuel barge with 6 - 6 inch manila lines for purpose of fueling. 1558 Commenced fueling; draft forward 9 feet, 9 inches; draft aft 17 feet, 2 inches. Average steam ; average RPM

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16-18 Moored as before. 1620 Completed fueling, draft after fueling; forward 11 feet 4 inches; aft 17 feet 11 inches. 1631 Underway from alongside fuel barge, steaming on various courses and at various speeds, standing out of Tulagi Harbor; order of destroyers of Task Group 36.1: #1 RADFORD, #2 JENKINS, #3 O'BANNON, #4 CHEVALIER, #5 NICHOLAS. 1650 Conducting anti-submarine patrol awaiting sortie of HONOLULU (CTG 36.1) and ST. LOUIS. 1701 Cruisers stand out. 1717 Come to base course 180°T and PGC, 171°PSC. 1725 Speed increased to 20 knots. 1733 Destroyers formed column, distance 600 yards. 1738 Steaming on various courses thru Sealark Channel. Average steam 590; average RPM 158.

J. C. Everett
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Lieutenant (jg), D-V(G), USNR.

18-20 Steaming as before. 1825 Changed base course to 110°T and PGC, 108°PSC, changed speed to 20 knots, 201 RPM. 1900 Changed speed to 18 knots, 179 RPM. Average steam 590; average RPM 188.3.

W. H. Gabelman
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20-24 Steaming as before. 2000 Position: Lat. 08-46 (S), Long. 159-50 (E). 2028 Changed base course to 120°T and PGC, 116°PSC. 2115 Light reported showing off port beam; RADFORD left formation to investigate. 2125 RADFORD reported results of investigation negative; rejoining formation. 2140 O'BANNON reported surface radar contact bearing 293°T, distant 8000 yards; left formation to investigate. 2213 O'BANNON reported contact friendly small craft; rejoining formation. 2256 Changed base course to 090°T and PGC, 086°PSC. Average steam 590; average RPM 187.9.

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Approved:

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