

~~SECRET~~WAR DIARY

launched a heavy fighter sweep which was followed in a short time by the first strike.

While the force was only about one hundred miles off the coast of Samar Island the heavy ships fueled destroyers during the morning and early afternoon, this ship fueling the U.S.S. BURNS, BELL, COWELL, CONNER and CHARRETTE.

From time to time during the morning reports concerning enemy aircraft in the vicinity were received, but none approached close enough to require the setting of Condition I. At 1400, however, Air Attack was sounded and all hands stood to battle stations, with the exception of the fueling detail which continued to fuel destroyers. No attack developed, and at 1505, Air Attack Easy was set. The ship secured from Air Attack at 1535, with the exception of the Anti-aircraft battery and Combat Information Center which remained on an Air Attack basis until 1800. At 1618 the formation axis was rotated to 120°(T).

At 1950 U.S.S. SWENSON reported a sound contact, evaluated 75%. The SWENSON and the BLUE were ordered to remain in the vicinity of the contact and rejoin the Task Group in the morning at the fueling area, at approximately 13°-30'N; 129°-00'E. Another sound contact was reported by the U.S.S. MOORE at 2144, but she was unable to develop the contact.

12 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

13°-15.9' N  
128°-57.5' E

1200 Position

13°-34.7' N  
128°-21.6' E

2000 Position

14°-53.8' N  
127°-10.6' E

Steaming toward 13°-20'N, 129°-00'E for rendezvous with fueling group. At 0522 stood to General Quarters stations for dawn alert; secured at 0622. At dawn rendezvoused with units of Task Group 30.8, and at 0636 came to the fueling course, 306°(T), and reduced speed to 10 knots. Maneuvered independently on station while waiting to fuel. Received the U.S.S. COWELL alongside to port at 0646 and transferred 73,030 gallons of fuel oil to her.

Alongside port side of U.S.S. MONONGAHILA for fueling at 0925. During the operation, U.S.S. BLUE came alongside to port to deliver official mail, and the U.S.S. COTTEN came alongside port quarter to deliver air freight. At 1310 finished fueling from MONONGAHILA, having received 21,082 barrels.

Upon completion of fueling, pursuant to dispatch orders of ComThird Fleet, Task Groups 38.1, 38.3 and 38.4 began approach to strike position at 15°-30'N, 123°-30'E, from where air strikes are to be launched at dawn tomorrow against targets in the Central and Southern Luzon Areas.

Stood to Air Attack Stations at 1809 for dusk alert; secured at 1857.

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By: [Signature]

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13 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position15°-31.0' N  
123°-17.9' E1200 Position15°-37.9' N  
124°-05.0' E2000 Position15°-37.3' N  
125°-03.2' E

Approaching dawn strike position at 15°-30' N, 123°-30' E. from where carriers will launch heavy air strikes against shipping, airfields, and harbor installations in Central and Southern Luzon. At 0548 stood to Air Attack Stations for dawn alert; secured at 0650 with the exception of the Anti-aircraft batteries which remained at Air Attack. At dawn the carriers launched a fighter sweep which was followed by the first strike. At 0720 Condition III was set in the Anti-aircraft batteries.

Strikes continued throughout the day, all ships maneuvering to conform to flight operations of the carriers. During the early afternoon an enemy plane was shot down by the Combat Air Patrol about 15 miles from the formation. Other enemy planes were reported nearby and at 1439 all hands stood to Air Attack Stations. Formation 5 Victor was formed on order of the Task Group Commander. The enemy planes previously reported did not close the task force. Secured from Air Attack at 1525, with the exception of the Gunnery Department, which remained in Condition One Easy - Air Attack.

In the late afternoon the force began retiring toward 15°-30' N; 125°-30' E. for a midnight rendezvous with the U.S.S. WASP and escorts, as ordered by ComThird Fleet on 11 November 1944.

14 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position15°-19.4' N  
123°-38.5' E1200 Position15°-21.2' N  
123°-53.9' E2000 Position15°-22.6' N  
125°-36.2' E

Returning to strike position to resume air attacks on enemy shipping, air fields and harbor installations in the Manila-Cavite Area of Luzon. Task Force 38 is in fleet cruising disposition 3 William, fleet axis 120°(T). Fleet guide is Task Group 38.3 in station 1. Task Group 38.1 is in cruising disposition 5 Victor, axis 120°(T), course 265°(T), speed 20 knots.

Shortly after midnight, rendezvoused with ComTask Force 38, Vice Admiral McCAIN in U.S.S. WASP, which joined Task Group 38.1. Admiral McCAIN assumed tactical command of Task Force 38, relieving Rear Admiral SHERMAN, ComTask Group 38.3. Task Group 38.1 was designated guide of the fleet disposition.

At 0548 stood to Air Attack Stations for dawn alert; secured at 0648. At dawn the carriers launched planes for continued strikes at yesterday's targets. The carrier axis was rotated to 080°(T), within the formation axis which remained 120°(T), as set out in Annex Charlie to ComFirstCarTaskForPac Op-order 11-44.

Cruising formation 5 Roger at 0730.

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By JIA/PADA Date 1985

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Strikes continued during the morning and until mid-afternoon. Unidentified aircraft were reported from time to time but until 1125 none approached close enough to be a threat to the force. At that time, however, Air Attack was sounded and Condition "Zebra" was set. Almost immediately the unidentified planes which had caused the alert were found to be friendly, and at 1134 secured from Air Attack with the exception of the Anti-aircraft batteries, which set Condition Air Attack - Easy.

U.S.S. BRUSH alongside at 1208 to transfer patients. At 1631 U.S.S. SWENSON alongside to receive gunnery equipment.

Following radio orders of ComThird Fleet, the Task Groups began retiring in the late afternoon on courses which will take them to 15°-30' N, 127°-30' E at 0600 tomorrow morning.

15 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

15°-39.4' N  
127°-44.7' E

1200 Position

15°-02.7' N  
128°-41.9' E

2000 Position

13°-43.1' N  
130°-37.0' E

Proceeding as directed by dispatch of ComThird Fleet dated 11 November 1944 to 15°-30' N, 127°-30' E. At 0533 stood to General Quarters Stations for dawn alert; secured at 0633.

Task Group 38.3, in accordance with instructions contained in the dispatch referred to above, left at 0600 for Ulithi Atoll, by direct route. Task Groups 38.1 and 38.4 have been directed to proceed to 11°-50' N, 132°-10' E where, at 0700 tomorrow, a rendezvous will be made with Task Group 38.2 and with units of Task Group 30.7 for fueling.

At 1018 rotated formation axis to 080°(T). Maneuvered as required by routine carrier flight operations while proceeding to rendezvous point.

16 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

11°-53.9' N  
132°-05.0' E

1200 Position

12°-02.0' N  
132°-43.6' E

2000 Position

12°-52.2' N  
133°-46.0' E

At dawn rendezvoused with fueling group. U.S.S. KENNEBAGO assumed formation guide at 0617. Station units zig-zagged independently on station while waiting to fuel, and the heavy ships fueled destroyers, this ship fueling the U.S.S. BOYD and SPENCE.

Alongside the U.S.S. CHIKASKIA at 0900; fueling course 075°(T), speed 10 knots. While this ship was fueling, the U.S.S. MUGFORD came alongside the port quarter for the transfer of personnel. At 0959 the U.S.S. LEWIS HANCOCK came alongside our port quarter to deliver mail.

Fueling was completed at 1121, this ship having received 10,837 barrels of fuel oil. Resumed station in disposition. U.S.S. 9

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By JAX/TBA/DAN 12/86

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SWENSON alongside to deliver mail at 1229.

At 1335 U.S.S. HORNET and escorts left this task group and joined Task Group 38.4. There now remain in Task Group 38.1 the following carriers: WASP, YORKTOWN and COWPENS.

Upon completion of fueling operation, Task Groups, 38.1, 38.2 which had joined the force in the early morning, and 38.4 departed from the fueling area and steamed toward operating area extending south and west of 13°-55'N, 132°-47'E.

17 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

12°-59.9' N  
131°-06.9' E

1200 Position

13°-20.1' N  
131°-25.1' E

2000 Position

12°-47.9' N  
130°-31.8' E

Operating in the western part of an area extending 150 miles west and 75 miles south of 13°-55'N; 132°-47'E. as directed by ComThird Fleet by radio on 16 November 1944. Task Group 38.1 is in cruising disposition 5 Roger, axis 080°(T), speed 18 knots on course 260°(T).

At 0750 the U.S.S. WASP, escorted by the U.S.S. COWELL, IZARD and CONNER left the formation to effectuate the transfer of ComTask Force 38 and staff to the U.S.S. HANCOCK. ComTask Group 38.1 in U.S.S. YORKTOWN has been directed to take tactical command of Task Force 38. U.S.S. WASP and escorts returned to the formation at 1115. At 1345 ComTask Force 38 in U.S.S. HANCOCK assumed tactical command of Task Force 38. Formation axis rotated to 060°(T) at 1415, and at 1553 formed cruising disposition 5 Roger Dog.

In the late afternoon, following orders of ComThird Fleet, Task Groups 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 began steaming toward 13°-20'N, 129°-00'E where, at noon tomorrow, the force will meet units of Task Group 30.8 and will fuel.

18 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

13°-14.3' N  
128°-33' E

1200 Position

13°-00.2' N  
129°-24.0' E

2000 Position

13°-48.3' N  
127°-33.5' E

Steaming to fueling rendezvous at approximately 13°-20'N, 129°-00'E in company with Task Groups 38.2 and 38.4. The Task Groups are in fleet cruising disposition 5 X-ray, Task Group 38.2 is fleet guide on axis 060°(T). Task Group 38.1 is in cruising disposition 5 Roger Dog, on formation axis 080°(T). Base course is 270°(T); fleet speed 18 knots. ComTask Force 38 is in U.S.S. HANCOCK; ComTask Group 38.1 is in U.S.S. YORKTOWN.

At 0527 stood to General Quarters Stations for dawn alert. Secured at 0627.

Shortly after nine o'clock CombatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of Task Unit 38.1.2 and maneuvered the unit astern of the

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By: J.A. [unclear] Date: 12/14/04

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By: IAC/HRNA, Date: 12/16

carrier formation for gunnery exercises. Both 5"/38 Cal. and the machine gun batteries participated. Exercises were completed at 1047. Resumed station in formation.

At noon rendezvoused with with tankers. This ship did not fuel, but as other units were alongside tankers, the U.S.S. CONNER and CHARRETTE came alongside this ship and received fuel.

Pursuant to orders of ComTask Force 38, at 1506 the U.S.S. ALABAMA left this task group and reported to Task Group 38.4 for temporary duty. The U.S.S. OAKLAND left Task Group 38.4 and took the ALABAMA's station in this group.

Task Force 38 has been ordered by ComThird Fleet to proceed to 16°-00'N; 124°-00'E, where at dawn tomorrow strikes will be launched against Japanese shipping, aircraft and installations in the Luzon-Mindoro Areas of the Philippines. Hence, at 1600 fleet course was changed to 295°(T) and speed increased to 25 knots for the approach to the strike position.

19 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

15°-43.1' N  
123°-27.3' E

1200 Position

15°-45.0' N  
123°-44.4' E

2000 Position

15°-36.7' N  
125°-00' E

Steaming to strike position at 16°-00'N; 124°-00'E.

At 0133 the U.S.S. YORKTOWN reported an unidentified aircraft bearing 200°(T), range 30 miles, closing the formation. A night fighter was reported in the vicinity of the unidentified plane. The Task Group Commander released batteries at 0140, as the "bogies" continued to close. At 0144 executed 90° emergency turn. The night fighter having been instructed to keep clear, this ship opened fire on the enemy plane with 5" battery. The plane reversed it's course immediately and began opening range. At 0149 executed turn to 295°(T). The night fighter resumed pursuit of the enemy plane and at 0210 shot down an "Emily", 61 miles from the formation.

All hands stood to Air Attack Stations for dawn alert at 0549; secured at 0653, when no enemy aircraft appeared.

Our carriers began launching the fighter sweep, followed by the first strike at dawn. All ships were maneuvered to conform to their operations.

At 0653 formation axis was rotated to 060°(T).

Strikes continued to be launched and recovered throughout the morning and afternoon.

At 1255 the U.S.S. HANCOCK reported by high frequency radio that a fire on her flight deck would necessitate it's being out of operation for about 20 minutes.

At 1717 an unidentified plane was reported bearing 307°(T), distance 42 miles. All hands stood to Air Attack Stations at 1718. As an attack did not develop, secured from Air Attack at 1752; however in the Gunnery Department, two watches were left on station, in order that all anti-aircraft batteries would be fully manned.

Formation speed was increased from 17 to 25 knots at 1807, and at 1811 the U.S.S. BLUE reported to the Task Group Commander

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that some of her fore-castle plates were buckling and that she was taking water in the bow. As a result, speed was reduced to 22 knots.

Several groups of "Bettys" were reported in the vicinity during the early evening. At 1824 various units of Task Group 38.3 were observed firing.

Executed emergency course changes as directed by O.T.C. At 1915 after all contact with enemy planes had been lost, set Condition III

Upon orders of ComThird Fleet, Task Groups 38.1, 38.2 and 38.4 are retiring from strike area and proceeding to 16°-00'N, 132°-00'E to arrive by midnight tomorrow.

20 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

150°-36.5' N  
129°-01.4' E

1200 Position

16°-27.4' N  
129°-49.8' E

2000 Position

16°-45.8' N  
130°-59.1' E

Steaming in cruising disposition 5 Victor Dog. At sunrise formed cruising disposition 5 Roger Dog. At 0900 U.S.S. OAKLAND, BOYD, BROWN and COWELL left the formation, pursuant to ComTaskFor Thirty Eight orders, the OAKLAND to report to Task Group 38.4 and the PASADENA, DYSON, THORNE, WILLS and MC CALL joined this Task Group all on permanent duty except the PASADENA and MC CALL which are assigned to Task Group 38.1 only temporarily.

During the afternoon the carriers and an escort of destroyers left the formation and conducted gunnery exercises.

Carriers conducted routine flight operations during the day, launching and recovering Combat Air Patrol and Anti-Submarine, Anti-Snooper Patrol.

21 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

14°-33.0' N  
130°-46.1' E

1200 Position

14°-37.5' N  
131°-22.0' E

2000 Position

14°-14.6' N  
131°-58.0' E

Steaming toward rendezvous with fueling group. Rendezvous effected at dawn; fueling exercise commenced at 0817. At 0830 went along port side of U.S.S. CHIKASKIA and began receiving fuel. Fueling course is 080°(T), speed 10 knots. Cast off from tanker at 1145, after receiving 1,069 barrels fuel oil. All ships zig-zagged independently on station prior to and upon completion of fueling. Fueling exercises were completed at 1400 and cruising disposition 5 Roger was formed immediately.

Pursuant to orders of ComThird Fleet at 1421, U.S.S. BOSTON and PORTLAND with escorting destroyers were detached from the task group and proceeded on assigned duty. At 1458 formation axis was rotated to 060°(T); fleet course 045°(T); speed 16 knots.

Vice Admiral W.A. LEE, CombatPac, transferred his flag from U.S.S. WASHINGTON to U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA.

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By I.A. FROM, Date 12/16

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Continued on various courses as directed by O.T.C. The Task Groups are proceeding to an area at about 14°N, 132°E and will operate there until further orders are received.

22 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

13°-13.9' N  
132°-22.3' E

1200 Position

13°-29.0' N  
131°-26.4' E

2000 Position

13°-07.0' N  
130°-33.0' E

At 0902 received U.S.S. DYSON along port quarter for transfer of U.S. Mail. Rear Admiral G.B. DAVIS, ComBatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of Task Unit 38.1.2 and DesDiv-122 at 0925 and maneuvered the ships under his command into position for 5" and machine gun firing which was conducted during the morning.

In the afternoon, this ship and the U.S.S. ALABAMA conducted gunnery exercises, firing the Main Battery. At 1330 all hands stood to General Quarters Stations for the exercise. The U.S.S. ALABAMA opened fire with her main battery at 1413, this ship acting as target ship. At 1529 this ship opened fire at the wake of the U.S.S. ALABAMA. Exercise was completed at 1552. Secured from General Quarters, and began maneuvering to take station in Task Group 38.1.

23 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

13°-24.2' N  
132°-53.2' E

1200 Position

12°-54.5' N  
133°-47.1' E

2000 Position

11°-45.9' N  
135°-40.9' E

Formation course is 065°(T); speed 18 knots. Carriers conducted routine patrol operations during the day. Gunnery exercises were held during the afternoon. During the exercises ComBatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of the battleships and their screen.

In general a course toward Ulithi Atoll is being followed, as ComThird Fleet has directed the Task Groups to enter port tomorrow.

24 NOVEMBER 1944

0800 Position

10°-14.9' N  
133°-44.0' E

1200 Position

09°-37.5' N  
139°-45.6' E

Steaming toward Ulithi Atoll, prior to entering port. Shortly after dawn conducted a short 5" battery test firing exercise. At 1053 the lookouts sighted land, identified as Pig Island, Ulithi Atoll, bearing 060°(T). Launched two aircraft for anti-submarine shortly after 1130. Made preparations to enter port.

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By: J.A. [unclear] Date: 12/16

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At 1259 stood to Air Attack Stations for entry into the lagoon. Entered Muga Channel at 1334 and at 1427 anchored in Berth #6 Urushi Anchorage, Ulithi Atoll.

Set the Port War Watch and began following normal port routine; made preparations to receive tanker to port. At 1535 U.S.S. NANTAHALA alongside. Fueling was completed at 1733. Normal drill and recreations schedule will be followed as permitted by fueling and provisioning requirements. Administrative SOPA is ComSeron 10 in the PRAIRIE. Condition III is set in the Gunnery Department each morning and evening for an hour preceding sunrise and following sunset.

25 - 30 NOVEMBER 1944

Anchored as before. Following normal port routine as permitted by availability, provisioning schedule, and conditions of readiness. Making routine repairs and machinery overhaul in preparation for further operations at sea.

25 NOVEMBER 1944

Assumed radar guard at 0800. Conducted diving operations during morning to repair paravane gear. Transferred empty powder cans to LCI alongside. Received aboard 40 rounds of catapult service charges. Began receiving stores.

26 NOVEMBER 1944

Our planes flew anti-submarine patrol missions during the day. Continued receiving stores and provisions. Received RANIER alongside to port for transfer of ammunition; received: 200 rounds - Flashless 5" powder; 410 rounds - 5"/38 Cal. projectiles, Mk. 32, Mod. 40; 50 rounds - 5"/38 Cal. projectiles, AA Common; 8,000 rounds - 40MM, HEIT; 2000 rounds - 20MM, HEI; 6 - 100lb bombs, AN-30 with 6 fuses; 75 - Mk. 42, Mech. time fuses; 40 - catapult service load charges.

27 NOVEMBER 1944

Planes flew anti-submarine patrol missions. Assumed radar guard at 0800. Conducted flight operations for radar tracking drill during forenoon. At 1310 an unidentified plane was detected by radar bearing, 065°(T), distance 38 miles. The plane continued to approach the Atoll, and at 1418 all hands stood to Air Attack Stations. The aircraft was identified as friendly; and at 1422, secured from Air Attack. At 1559, pursuant to orders of ComThird Fleet, set Condition III in the Gunnery Department. Conducted operation to qualify divers during the afternoon.

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 BY: JAK/STW/DWG  
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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

WAR DIARY

28 NOVEMBER 1944


Aircraft conducted routine training flights. Diving operations for qualification made during the afternoon from the port quarter.


29 NOVEMBER 1944

Provisioning ship operations.

30 NOVEMBER 1944

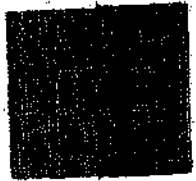
Aircraft flew anti-submarine patrol missions. At 1920 received word from ALABAMA that a whaleboat had been swamped astern of her and that a number of men were in the water. Turned on searchlights and sent boats to assist in recovering men who were from MILLER and OWENS.

SUBMITTED:   
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED:   
W.W. WARLICK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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Authority: *100-988133*  
BY: *J.A. FORD, DAB, 1/86*

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BY: JAX/NARA, Date: 10/16/06



BB59/A12-1/A16-2

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

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By: JAX/MSDA, Dtd 1/16

At 1043 No. 1 shaft was secured as a result of a hot spring bearing. Superficial examination and further trials were undertaken. At 1700 a dispatch was sent by ComTask Group 38.1 recommending that the ship return to Ulithi for repairs if operations permitted, and in the meantime, the shaft, which had been following free, was to be stopped for inspection and repair of bearing. ComTask Group 38.1 designated escorts to accompany MASSACHUSETTS and directed that we leave the formation and remain nearby. In accordance with these orders, this ship and escorting destroyers FRANKS and BUCHANAN cleared the formation at 1752.

The rendezvous with Task Group 38.2 had been made and the two groups were operating together when a dispatch was received from ComThird Fleet, cancelling a rendezvous with Task Group 38.3 at 0700, 2 December, and ordering Task Groups 38.1 and 38.2 to return to port. This dispatch further ordered MASSACHUSETTS to remain at sea as a unit of Task Group 38.5. However, when ComThird Fleet was advised of MASSACHUSETTS' engineering difficulties, he directed that we remain with Task Group 38.1 and return to Ulithi. Accordingly, this ship continued to maneuver independently throughout the night, keeping in contact with Task Group 38.1, enroute to Ulithi.

2 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
10°-13.0' N	10°-16.7' N
139°-45.7' E	139°-53.8' E

Operating independently with escorts in general vicinity of Task Groups 38.1 and 38.2 while work on damaged spring bearing continues. Permission to conduct speed tests to determine condition of spring bearing prior to entry into port was granted by ComTask Group 38.1. Accordingly, maneuvered at various speeds during the morning gradually building up to a speed of 25 knots.

All hands exercised at General Quarters Stations for drill purposes from 1015 to 1115.

Launched aircraft for Anti-Submarine patrol at 1330, and made preparation to enter port. Stood to Air Attack Stations while entering port; anchored in Berth #38, Urushi Anchorage, Ulithi Atoll at 1504.

Set the Port War Watch except in the Anti-Aircraft Battery, which remains in Condition III. Began following normal port routine. In general the ship is darkened and is in Material Condition "Yoke" from sunset to sunrise.

3 DECEMBER 1944

Anchored and following normal port routine. Fueling, provisioning, receiving ammunition, and making repairs necessary prior to operating at sea. The ship is on four hours notice for getting underway with four boilers to be available. Administrative SOPA is in PRAIRIE (ComSerRcn 10).

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4 DECEMBER 1944

Aircraft conducted routine training flights during the morning and afternoon. At 1800, pursuant to orders of ComThird Fleet, all ships set clocks ahead to minus ten (-10) time.

5 DECEMBER 1944

MOUNT BAKER (E4) alongside at 0654 for transfer of ammunition. Received following: 735 - Mk. 32, Mod. 40, 5"/38 Cal. projectiles. Transferred to MOUNT BAKER the following: 73 - Mk. 32, Mod. 17, 5"/38 Cal. projectiles; 657 - Mk. 32, Mod. 40, 5"/38 Cal. projectiles. Aircraft conducted training flights during afternoon.

6 DECEMBER 1944

At 0620 stationed the anchor detail as the force of the wind increased to 35 knots. Secured the detail shortly thereafter when the wind dropped to 15 knots. Assumed radar guard at 0800, and hoisted out two aircraft for anti-submarine flights. Exercised at General Quarters for drill purposes from 1015 to 1130. At 1148 CAPE TRINITY came alongside to receive 16"/45 Cal. ammunition from this ship.

7 DECEMBER 1944

Completed transfer of ammunition to CAPE TRINITY at 0315, transferring: 18 Charges, SPD 4815; 21 Charges, SPD 4976; 152 Charges, SPD 6943; 30 Mk. 13, Mod. 1, 16"/45 Cal. projectiles; 168- Mk. 13, Mod. 2, H.C. Projectiles.

Routine training flight and anti-submarine patrol flights conducted during morning. Exercised at General Quarters for drill purposes from 1015 to 1130. During the afternoon catapulted two planes, for anti-submarine patrol. Commenced receiving stores and provisions.

8 DECEMBER 1944

At 0122 Pontoon Barge #412-1 was received alongside to transfer freight aboard this ship. Continued to provision ship from various LCM's which came alongside with stores and provisions. Task Group 38.5 stood into the harbor and anchored in assigned berths at 1000. At 1810 ComThird Fleet reported an unidentified aircraft bearing 235° (T), distance 33 miles. At 1827 received "Flash Red" and all hands stood to Air Attack Stations. Secured at 1845 after the contact had been identified as friendly.

9 DECEMBER 1944

Conducted routine aircraft flights for training exercises. At 0907 received ENOREE (AO 69) alongside for delivery of fuel. Received 4,473 barrels of fuel oil.

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 Date: 12/11/01  
 By: J.A. [unclear]

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10 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position10°-28.7' N  
139°-53.9' E1200 Position11°-06.5' N  
140°-39.5' E2000 Position11°-54.0' N  
139°-41.3' E

Anchored as before, making preparations to get underway for operations in connection with Mindoro landings by Southwest Pacific Forces, pursuant to ComThird Fleet orders and to instructions contained in ComTask Group 38.1 Op Order 17-44 (Revised). 0517 Underway from Berth #38, Urushi Anchorage; sortied as directed in Annex "B" to the Op Order mentioned above. Passed entrance buoys at 0622. At 0653 formed cruising disposition 5 Roger; formation axis 070°(T); course 080°(T); speed 15 knots.

MASSACHUSETTS is a unit of Task Group 38.1, organized as follows:

Task Group 38.1

Task Unit 38.1.1 - Rear Admiral A.E. MONTGOMERY, U.S.N.  
YORKTOWN (F)  
WASP  
COWPENS  
MONTEREY

Task Unit 38.1.2 - Rear Admiral G.B. DAVIS, U.S.N.  
BatDiv 8 - Rear Admiral G.B. DAVIS, U.S.N.  
MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
ALABAMA

CruDiv 10 - Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, U.S.N.  
BOSTON (F)  
BALTIMORE

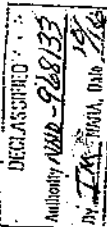
CruDiv 6 - Rear Admiral C.T. JOY, U.S.N.  
SAN FRANCISCO  
NEW ORLEANS  
SAN DIEGO

Task Unit 38.1.3 - Captain H.B. JARRETT, U.S.N.

DesRon 53DesRon 47

(less TRATHEN, HAZELWOOD, HEERMAN, HOEL, HARLEY and JOHNSTON); (plus HOBBY, WILLS, BUCHANAN and BROWN)

Conducted gunnery, radar and tracking exercises as authorized in Annex "H" to ComTask Group 38.1 Op Order 17-44 (Revised). At 0633 formed special disposition, ComTask Unit 38.1.2 assuming tactical command of Task Unit 38.1.2 and escorts for the exercise. Ammunition expended: 90 rounds, 20MM; 92 rounds, 40MM (75% HET and 25% HEIT); 86 rounds, AA Common, base detonator, 5"/38 Cal. projectiles; 34 rounds, 5"/38 Cal. powder, Index 3468; 22 rounds, Index 3991; 18 rounds, Index 3024; 11 rounds, 3591; 1 rounds, Index 4747. Formed cruising disposition 8 Sugar at 1003. Rejoined Task Group 38.1 at 1246, in formation 5 "Roger".



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11 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
12°-49.0' N 136°-41.1' E	13°-21.6' N 135°-59.5' E	13°-47.6' N 134°-43.3' E

Continuing with exercises outlined in operation order. At 0653 ALABAMA reported sighting an object resembling a mine about 300 yards off her starboard bow. This object was sunk by gunfire at 0721. At 0902 Task Unit 38.1.2 detached for exercises and formed cruising disposition 8 Roger, ComBatDiv 8 assuming tactical command. Conducted gunnery exercises during morning. Expended 438 rounds, 20MM ammunition and 582 rounds, 40MM ammunition, (75% HEFT, 25% HEIT); 15 rounds, 5"/38 Cal. AA Common with base detonator; 7 rounds, 5"/38 Cal. powder, Index 3991; 5 rounds, Index 3468; 3 rounds, Index 3024. At 1135 formed cruising disposition 8 Sugar. Rejoined Task Group 38.1 at 1645, formed cruising disposition 5 Roger, axis 070°(T), base course 270°(T), speed 18 knots. Maneuvered as necessary to conform to carrier flight operations.

12 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
14°-39.7' N 131°-30.3' E	14°-46.5' N 131°-42.4' E	15°-30.3' N 130°-49.2' E

Carried out exercises involving simulated night aircraft attacks on the Task Group during the forenoon. At 1030 BALTIMORE reported a surface contact bearing 085°(T), distance 21 miles. This contact was identified as Task Group 38.3. Rendezvoused at noon with Task Groups 38.2 and 38.3 at approximately 15°-N, 132°-E; scheduled exercises were completed at that time.

Changed fleet course to 300°(T) at 1239; began proceeding to fueling area, the northeast corner of which is 18°-N, 130°-E, for dawn fueling rendezvous with units of Task Group 30.8, as set out in ComTask Group 38.1 Op Order.

Carriers conducted routine flight operations, all ships maneuvered accordingly.

13 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
17°-09.9' N 128°-50.0' E	17°-24.4' N 129-19.0' E	17°-37.2' N 127°-38.9' E

Effected dawn fueling rendezvous with units of Task Group 30.8 at approximately 17°-10'N, 128°-20'E. Zig-zagged independently on station while carriers, cruisers and destroyers fueled. 0755 FRANKS alongside to receive U.S. Mail from this ship. At 1035 STOCKHAM alongside with official mail. Fueling operation completed at 1147, formed

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cruising disposition 5 Roger at 1200, axis 070°(T), course 250°(T), speed 18 knots.

Shortly after noon, fleet course was changed to 285°(T), and speed increased to 22 knots for approach to position from which air strikes will be launched tomorrow against Japanese aircraft and airfields, primarily, and also against installations and shipping on and adjacent to the Island of Luzon.

At 1800 all hands stood to Air Attack Stations for dusk alert. Secured at 1850. Changed course to 247°(T) at 1830, increased speed to 23 knots.

14 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
15°-57.1' N 123°-34.6' E	15°-33.9' N 123°-47.3' E	15°-11.5' N 125°-02.7' E

Approaching strike position at 16°-15' N; 123°-45' E, from where the first of a series of air strikes is to be launched against Japanese aircraft, airfields and facilities on the Island of Luzon at dawn in support of landings on the Island of Mindoro by airborne and amphibious troops under the command of General MacArthur. Our purpose is to neutralize enemy air power in the Northern and Central Philippines and to deny the use of Luzon harbors to enemy combatant and support shipping by means of heavy air strikes against and a continuous patrol over all Japanese airfields in the area. Task Group 38.1 has been assigned as its target area, Southern Luzon, south of 14°-50' N, including Quezon airfield but excepting Bataan Peninsula, and north of a line extending from 14°-35' N, 125°-00' E, to 14°-35' N, 121°-50' E, to 13°-35' N, 121°-50' E, thence due west.

Fleet is in disposition 5 X-ray, fleet axis 100°(T), fleet speed 23 knots. T.G. 38.1 is in cruising disposition 5 Roger, axis 070°(T), base course 247°(T).

At 0200 changed course to 244°(T). At 2345 an unidentified plane was reported by WASP, bearing 275°(T), distance 48 miles. The plane continued to close the formation slowly. At 0415 one of our night fighters intercepted the plane, identified as an "Emily", and shot it down. All hands stood to General Quarters Stations for dawn alert at 0605. No enemy attack developed, so secured at 0705.

Thirty minutes before sunrise, heavy fighter sweeps were launched in order to catch the enemy by surprise if possible, and to keep his aircraft pinned to the ground. Our fighters evidently were successful in accomplishing this purpose, as very few enemy airborne planes were reported. Fighter sweeps continued throughout the day, no dive bombers or torpedo bombers being launched as the primary target of the days sweeps is enemy aircraft.

At 0722 rotated formation axis to 100°(T), changed speed to 21 knots. MASSACHUSETTS assumed Radar Guard at 0800. Throughout the day, method "Able" was used to launch and recover planes, all ships maneuvering accordingly. The Task Force retired slowly eastward during the day, and at dusk, after all planes except the night "hecklers" were aboard, continued the retirement until 2000 at which time,

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changed course to  $345^{\circ}$ (T). Courses are being followed which will return the Task Force to the strike position shortly before dawn.

15 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
$16^{\circ}-03.3'$ N	$15^{\circ}-47.0'$ N	$15^{\circ}-43.5'$ N
$123^{\circ}-31.3'$ E	$123^{\circ}-59.7'$ E	$125^{\circ}-13.9'$ E

Returning to strike position for continuation of strikes against Luzon. At 0200 changed course to  $244^{\circ}$ (T); and at 0230 changed course to  $230^{\circ}$ (T); speed 20 knots. All hands stood to General Quarters Stations at 0605 for dawn alert. Secured at 0705. Thirty minutes before sunrise the carriers launched the first of the days air strikes. Strikes continued through the morning and afternoon, all ships maneuvering with the carriers. Courses were followed which moved the Task Group slowly to the east. At 1717 formation axis was rotated to  $090^{\circ}$ (T). Late in the afternoon, after all planes, except night "hecklers" were aboard the carriers, the force retired eastward a short distance for the night. All hands stood to Air Attack Stations at 1814 for dusk alert; secured at 1914.

16 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
$16^{\circ}-18.8'$ N	$16^{\circ}-35.9'$ N	$16^{\circ}-59.8'$ N
$123^{\circ}-42.9'$ E	$124^{\circ}-08.1'$ E	$125^{\circ}-32.6'$ E

Returned to strike position for continued strikes against enemy targets on Luzon. Stood to General Quarters Stations for dawn alert at 0605. As no enemy opposition developed in the vicinity of the Task Group, secured at 0705. At 0715 rotated formation axis to  $060^{\circ}$ (T).

Shortly before dawn our carriers began launching planes for additional strikes. Cruising disposition 5 Victor formed at 0815 at 18 knots. At 0823 several groups of unidentified aircraft were detected approaching the formation. All hands stood to Air Attack Stations at 0829. Shortly thereafter two of the groups of planes were identified as friendly and the remainder faded from our radar screens. Secured from Air Attack at 0913.

Continued air strikes throughout the day, all units maneuvering with the carriers. Formed cruising disposition 5 Roger at 1210 on course  $235^{\circ}$ (T) at 18 knots; axis  $060^{\circ}$ (T). At dusk, upon completion of strikes, the Task Force began retiring to the southeast. Stood to Air Attack Stations at 1808 for dusk alert; secured at 1905.

The present series of strikes has been completed with today's operations. All Task Groups are retiring toward  $14^{\circ}-40'$  N,  $124^{\circ}-10'$  E., for a fueling rendezvous tomorrow at 1000.

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17 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position15°-13.8' N  
129°-36.8' E1200 Position14°-42.1' N  
130°-02.5' E2000 Position15°-03.2' N  
128°-56.5' E

At 0511 HALSEY POWELL picked up surface contact 28 miles distant, which was identified as the tanker group. Maneuvered on various courses and speeds to rendezvous with units of Task Group 30.8. At 1029 commenced fueling exercises. UHLMAN alongside to fuel at 1047. Completed at 1319 after parting the fueling hoses because of heavy seas. The force of the wind and seas has been increasing, and fueling was conducted with difficulty. Hence at 1342 fueling exercises were discontinued. The Task Groups steamed westward at 15 knots in order to avoid a tropical disturbance to the east of the force. ComThird Fleet reported heavy seas, strong winds, and falling barometer as of 1300. He estimates a tropical disturbance of increasing intensity is located at about 15°N, 138°E, moving north northwest.

ComThird Fleet after discontinuing the fueling operation, ordered a fueling rendezvous at 17°N, 128°E, tomorrow morning at 0600, for the purpose of fueling those ships not able to receive fuel today. This point was changed to 15°-30'N, 127°-40'E, and the time of rendezvous changed to 0700 by a later dispatch. ComTask Group 38.1 ordered the BB's and CV's in his group to be prepared to fuel destroyers if the rendezvous with the tanker group was not made.

From the wind and barometer indications, it appeared that the typhoon was heading for the force. The direction of the wind did not materially change during the afternoon and evening, and the barometer dropped slowly even though the track of the force was to the westward, away from the storm.

18 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position14°-42.5' N  
127°-36.8' E1200 Position14°-02.4' N  
127°-34.5' E2000 Position13°-09.5' N  
128°-28.7' E

At 0000 changed course to 180°(T). The storm increased in intensity during the night. The barometer continued to drop slowly and the seas continued to be heavy. At 0200 changed course to 320°(T). Course was changed to 180°(T) at 0503 and to 150°(T) at 0615.

The Task Force remains in fleet cruising disposition 3 "William", fleet axis 040°(T). Task Group 38.1 is the southernmost of the Task Groups and therefore is farther removed from the center of the storm than either of the other groups. Even so during the morning, as the barometer continued to drop it became apparent that the storm center was not far distant.

The typhoon made it impossible to fuel from tankers, so the scheduled rendezvous was not made. Instead the tanker group was instructed to remain in a fueling area nearby. An attempt was made

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about 0800 to fuel destroyers over the sterns of the carriers, but the operation was not successful and was discontinued.

By 0800 visibility was limited to a few hundred yards and the storm had increased to such proportions that some of the ships began to report personnel lost over the side and the sustaining of material damage. At 0912 the MONTEREY reported all the planes on her hangar deck to be on fire and the loss of a gun director. Shortly thereafter she reported loss of steering control and that she was dead in the water. Her fire was brought under control at 0945, but not before the ship had sustained severe damage, accordingly, shortly after 1000 ComTask Group 38.1 directed that the McCORD, BROWN, TWINING, HAGGARD and sea going tugs stand by the MONTEREY. This group was designated Task Unit 38.1.4. NEW ORLEANS also joined this group.

At 1030 an unidentified ship was detected by radar drifting through the formation. Avoiding action was taken, and at 1035 a CVE, apparently dead in the water, was sighted about 500 yards off the starboard bow. An unsuccessful effort was made to communicate with the ship, later identified as RUDYARD BAY, but it was soon lost from view. A warning was sent to other units in this group by MASSACHUSETTS.

Between 1000 and 1100 BOSTON reported losing a plane over the side and COWPENS reported several planes on her hangar deck to be afire. Course was changed to 220°(T) at 1049 and to 200°(T) at 1055. Speed was reduced from 14 knots to 12 knots. COWPENS could not make the course changes and dropped out of the formation. HALSEY POWELL and BENHAM remained with her. During this period, the barometer dropped to 29.36. It steadied at about 1100, however and began to rise slowly. The center of the typhoon was estimated about 55 miles northward at about 14°N, 128°E, at noon. Course was changed to 120°(T) at 1159.

At 1245 COWPENS reported her fire had been extinguished and that she was making three knots. BALTIMORE was directed to join COWPENS and escorts. This unit is designated Task Unit 38.1.5.

Meanwhile the BROWN and other ships of Task Unit 38.1.4 had attempted to rejoin but were unable to do so because of heavy seas.

During the afternoon the sea began to subside, visibility improved steadily, and the barometer continued to rise.

At 1800 changed course to 200°(T), slowed to 11 knots.

ComThird Fleet directed that the Task Force rendezvous with Task Groups 30.8 and 30.7 at 12°N, 129°E tomorrow morning at 0700 for fueling operations.

Minor damage was sustained by this ship during the storm, but all can be repaired except one aircraft, which is damaged beyond repair.

19 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position

11°-52.6' N  
128°-54.0' E

1200 Position

12°-34.1' N  
128°-33.1' E

2000 Position

13°-45.0' N  
127°-38.0' E

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Steaming toward fueling rendezvous. At 0200 MONTEREY, NEW ORLEANS and escorts, (T.U. 38.1.4) rejoined the formation. Met tankers at dawn and commenced fueling exercise at 0815. Received UHLMAN alongside to port for fuel. UHLMAN completed receiving fuel at 0948. Zig-zagged independently on station while waiting to go alongside tanker. At 1200 went along port side of CHICKASKIA to fuel. Operation completed at 1505. Formed cruising disposition 5 Roger at 1538, at 1603 rotated axis to 180°(T). Changed course to 290°(T), increased speed to 17 knots at 1654.

Various messages were received during the day indicating that the HULL capsized and sank during the typhoon, and that the SPENCE, MONAGHAN, WATERMAN (DE 740) and MELVIN R. NARVMAN (DE 416) are unaccounted for. A search is being made by carrier planes and by destroyers for the above named ships and for any survivors therefrom.

During the day, ComThird Fleet formed one task group and one task unit, T.G. 30.3 consisting of MONTEREY, COWPENS, SAN JACINTO, HICKOX, LAWS, DYSON, BUCHANAN, and T.U. 30.8.18 consisting of BENHAM, ALYWIN and TEKESTA. These forces were directed to proceed to Ulithi upon completion of fueling today. The CABOT has taken MONTEREY's station in Task Group 38.1. COWPENS's station remains unoccupied.

ComThird Fleet has ordered Task Force 38 to proceed upon completion of fueling to 16°-15'N, 123°-45'E, arriving prior to dawn, 21 December 1944 at which time heavy strikes are to be launched against Japanese airfields on Luzon, targets being the same as those of the strikes of 14 - 16 December.

20 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position

16°-02.8' N  
128°-11.4' E

1200 Position

16°-21.0' N  
127°-57.6' E

2000 Position

16°-49.4' N  
126°-53.6' E

Steaming toward strike position off Luzon, as directed by ComThird Fleet. The Task Force is passing through the same general area in which it was operating during the typhoon, so all lookouts have been instructed to watch for survivors of ships lost in the storm. Task Group 30.8 is conducting a thorough search of the area, also.

At midnight BALTIMORE reported hearing shouts from someone in the water close by. Immediately thereafter our lookouts observed lights on the water off the port quarter. HAGGARD was detailed to investigate.

At 0200 changed course to 050°(T).

A 360° Air Search to 250 miles was launched by carriers at dawn to search for survivors and for ships that have not been heard from since the storm. These searches located several vessels with which contact had been lost.

At 0702 formation axis rotated to 090°(T). Course changed to 315°(T) at 0750. One of the escorts reported a sound contact nearby at 1050. All ships executed an emergency turn left to 195°(T); re-

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turning to base course at 1125. The sound contact was lost by the escorting destroyer at 1130.

RUDYARD BAY reported that DE 186 had picked up survivors of SPENCE, which had capsized during the typhoon. It is feared that only few of the personnel survived.

HAGGARD alongside to port at 1235 to deliver official mail.

At 1900 changed course to 2580(T). Increased speed to 22 knots.

The Task Force is encountering heavy swells and numerous squalls, accompanied by high winds. All ships are rolling heavily. Apparently the course followed toward tomorrow's strike position is taking the Task Force closer to the typhoon and into heavy swells resulting from it.

21 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
15°-51.7' N 126°-40.0' E	15°-24.7' N 127°-19.1' E	14°-52.2' N 127°-20.7' E

Shortly after midnight a message was received from ComThird Fleet cancelling the air strikes against Luzon which had been scheduled for today, and directing Task Force 38 to proceed to 14°-40' N, 129°-10' E via 14°-05' N, 128°-02' E. Accordingly, at 0204 course was changed to 1150(T) and speed reduced to 18 knots. Task Groups 30.7 and 30.8 have been diverted from their courses toward previously designated rendezvous and have been directed to continue the search for survivors of ships lost in the typhoon. Further, ComThird Fleet divided the Task Groups of Task Force 38, directing that two groups operate in sixty mile square areas, whose two southwest corners are 15°-45' N, 123° E. and 15° N, 126°-40' E., assisting in the search for survivors, and that the third group proceed to the rendezvous point previously designated. Task Group 38.1 and 38.2 are searching in the areas designated; Task Group 38.3 is proceeding to the rendezvous point.

During the morning a number of life rafts and quantities of debris were sighted. At 1047 BROWN reported picking up thirteen survivors of HULL, all in good condition with the exception of one man who had been bitten by a shark.

Searched designated area thoroughly and after dark steamed on courses which will take the groups to tomorrow's fueling point.

22 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
15°-16.8' N 129°-58.3' E	15°-35.5' N 130°-25.3' E	15°-16.5' N 132°-05.2' E

Rendezvoused at 0700 with tankers of Task Group 30.8; commenced fueling at 0745. At 0758 BROWN alongside to port to receive fuel.

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Operation completed at 0910. Zig-zagged independently on station while waiting to fuel. At 1000 alongside MERRIMACK to fuel. Completed fueling and left from alongside MERRIMACK at 1219.

After fueling operations completed at 1230, formed cruising disposition 5 Roger, axis 090°(T), speed 17 knots, course 300°(T). Maneuvered as required to conform to carrier flight operations.

ComThird Fleet has ordered Task Force 38 to proceed to Ulithi arriving prior to dark on December 24, for fueling, rearming and provisioning.

At 1718 changed course to 120°(T), speed 18 knots. All groups are proceeding toward Ulithi.

23 DECEMBER 1944

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
13°-55.8' N 134°-48.2' E	13°-57.1' N 135°-37.8' E	13°-29.3' N 137°-23.3' E

At 0801 T.U. 38.1.2 detached for exercises under direction of ComBatDiv 8. Took station about 5 miles astern of carriers, formed cruising disposition 8 Roger, speed 16 knots, course 090°(T), and began gunnery exercises, firing 5" and machine gun batteries at towed sleeves.

At 1300 all hands stood to Air Attack Stations for drills. Visual Fighter Director Drill conducted; secured from Air Attack upon completion of drills at 1530.

Task Unit 38.1.2 was directed to rejoin Task Group 38.1 at 1625. Formed cruising disposition 5 Roger, course and axis 090°(T). At 1716 changed course to 140°(T); and at 2000 changed course to 147°(T); speed changed to 18 knots.

Task Group 38.1 has been instructed by CTF 38 to enter Ulithi at 1400 tomorrow.

24 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position

Lat. 10°-45.7'N.-Long.139°-07.4'E.

Continued toward Ulithi Atoll.

At 0930 formed cruising disposition 5 Roger 1; axis 090°(T), course 162°(T), speed 18 knots. All hands stood to Air Attack Stations at 0947 for drill purposes. Catapulted one aircraft for anti-submarine patrol. No towing runs were made at proper bearings for this ship to fire during the gunnery exercises which were being conducted, so secured from Air Attack Stations at 1057.

Made preparations to enter port, and changed to minus ten (-10) zone time. Entered channel at 1400, and at 1438 anchored in berth #39, Urushi Anchorage, Ulithi Atoll.

Set the Port War Watch, and began following normal port routine. However the anti-aircraft battery will remain in Condition III during our stay in port, except when provisioning ship. Basically the ship is in Material Condition "X-ray" during daylight and during darkness

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in Material Condition "Yoke" second deck and below, Condition "X-ray" above.

25-29 DECEMBER 1944

Fueling, provisioning and rearming. Conducting necessary repairs and upkeep prior to getting underway. Task Groups 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 present. Admiral W.F. HALSEY, U.S.N., Commander Third Fleet is Senior Officer Present except during a brief visit by Fleet Admiral C.W. NIMITZ, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Area. Administrative SOPA is ComSerRon 10 in PRAIRIE.

25 DECEMBER 1944

At 1345, LCM 49 alongside with freight from ALABAMA.

26 DECEMBER 1944

Began receiving GSK Stores via lighters alongside at 0135. Provisions were also brought aboard from an LCM which came alongside at 0225. In order to provision ship the Port War Watch was set in the Gunnery Department at 0715.

At 0815 mustered crew forward for official ceremonies in connection with relieving Command of Battleship Division EIGHT. Rear Admiral Glenn B. DAVIS read his orders detaching him from duty as Commander Battleship Division EIGHT and ordered his flag hauled down at 0825. At 0827 Rear Admiral John F. SHAFROTH assumed command of Battleship Division EIGHT and ordered his flag broken at the main.

ENOREE (AO 69) alongside to port at 1330 to deliver fuel. Fueling completed at 1541. MASSACHUSETTS received 381,977 gallons fuel oil.

At 1628 set Condition III in the Gunnery Department for dusk alert.

Conducted diving operations to effect repairs to main injection valve.

27 DECEMBER 1944

Set Condition III in Gunnery Department at 0556 for dawn alert. Continued provisioning ship.

At 0852 LCM received alongside with following ammunition: 200 - 5"/38 Cal. Smokeless Powder Charges; 200 - 5"/38 Cal. AA Common Projectiles; 20 - No-load Catapult Shots.

Continued diving operations to repair injection valve during the day.

Condition III set in Gunnery Department for dusk alert at 1730.

28 DECEMBER 1944

Continued provisioning ship. Conducted anti-submarine patrol, flight operations during morning and afternoon. At 1620, as plane #09665 was landing astern of the ship the port wing float snapped off and the plane overturned. Neither the pilot nor radioman was

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injured and plane was recovered, but cannot be repaired.

Diving operations were completed; a main injection valve having been repaired.

29 DECEMBER 1944

0235 Transferred both of our damaged planes to YSD 42. Conducted diving operations to inspect previous work. At 1520 received aboard one new aircraft #09596 as replacement of one damaged plane.

30 DECEMBER 1944

2000 Position

11°-24.7' N  
138°-28.2' E

Making preparations to get underway in accordance with Commander Second Carrier Task Force, Pacific's Operation Order 5-44, dated 27 December 1944, and Commander Task Group 38.1 Operation Order 18-44, dated 27 December 1944. MASSACHUSETTS is a unit of Task Group 38.1, which is organized as follows:

Task Force 38

- Vice Admiral J.S. McCain, Com-  
SecondCarTaskForPac, ComTaskFor 38.

Task Group 38.1

- Rear Admiral A.W. Radford

Task Unit 38.1.1

- Rear Admiral Radford  
YORKTOWN (F)

WASP

CABOT

COWPENS

Task Unit 38.1.2

- Vice Admiral W.A. Lee, Jr., Com-  
BatRon 2. ComTask Force 34.  
SOUTH DAKOTA (FF) ComBatRon 2.  
MASSACHUSETTS (F) ComBatDiv 8 (Rear  
Adm. J.F. Shafroth)

CruDiv 10

- Rear Admiral L.J. Wiltse  
BOSTON (F)  
BALTIMORE

(less CANBERRA, QUINCY)

CruDiv 6

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN DIEGO

(less WICHITA, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS)

Task Unit 38.1.3

- Captain J.H. Carter

DesRon 61DesRon 53

- (less HALSEY POWELL)

ComThird Fleet, Admiral W.F. HALSEY in NEW JERSEY; ComTask Force 38, Vice Admiral McCAIN in HANCOCK; ComTask Group 38.1, Rear Admiral RADFORD in YORKTOWN; ComBatRon 2, Vice Admiral LEE in SOUTH DAKOTA; ComBatDiv 8, Rear Admiral SHAFROTH in MASSACHUSETTS.

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Underway at 0620, sortied in accordance with Annex "B" to Com-Task Group 38.1 Op Order 18-44. Passed entrance buoys at 0713. At 0729 changed to minus nine (-9) zone time. Formed cruising disposition 1 George at 0716, speed 15 knots. Conducted gunnery exercises as outlined in Appendix 2 to Annex "H" to ComTask Group 38.1, Op-Order 18-44. Formed cruising disposition 5 Roger at 1215, axis 070°(T), course 300°(T); speed 18 knots.

At 1800 rendezvoused with Task Groups, 38.2 and 38.3 at 11°N., 139°E.

31 DECEMBER 1944

0800 Position

14°-42.5' N  
136°-08.0' E

1200 Position

14°-30.3' N  
135°-50.1' E

2000 Position

15°-26.0' N  
135°-20.7' E

At 0626 rotated carrier axis to 120°(T). Maneuvered to conform to carrier flight operations.

Lookouts sighted a yellow life raft at 1207. BRUSH investigated and reported the raft contained a body.

During the morning the boilers began salting. It was suspected that the difficulty was caused by a leak in the main condenser. Permission was obtained from the Task Group Commander to drop out of formation and proceed independently with escorting destroyers to the fueling rendezvous at 20°(N)., 128°-30'E. on 2 January. At 1749 left Task Group 38.1 and proceeded independently with MADDOX and TAUSSIG as escorts. Locked No. 3 shaft at 1844 and proceeded with investigation and repairs. Made 15 knots with the remaining three shafts; base course is 300°(T).

SUBMITTED: *P.S. Savidge, Jr.*  
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED:

*W.W. Warlick*  
W.W. WARLICK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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R. S. No.

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Authority: NND-928123  
Date: 11/19/2016  
BY: J.A. FINN, DND 316

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

1 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position  
18°-06.8' N  
131°-08.4' E

1200 Position  
17°-16.0' N  
132°-17.4' E

2000 Position  
18°-44.2' N  
129°-27.9' E

At Sea; in Task Force 38, in operations in support of landings on Luzon by Forces of the Southwest Pacific Area. Force is at present enroute Formosa Area from Ulithi. Ship is keeping minus nine (-9) zone time.

This ship is operating with Task Group 38.1, organized as follows:

Task Force 38

Task Group 38.1

Task Unit 38.1.1

Task Unit 38.1.2

BatDiv 8

Crudiv 10

Crudiv 6

Task Unit 38.1.3

DesRon 61

DesRon 53

ComThirdFleet

Steaming independently with two Escorting Destroyers, while repairs are made to Condenser. Shaft #3 is locked during repairs. Course, 300°(T); speed, 15 knots.

- Vice Admiral McCAIN, USN, (ComSecond Carrier Task Force Pacific) in HANCOCK.
- Rear Admiral A.W. RADFORD, USN, in YORKTOWN.
- Rear Admiral RADFORD. YORKTOWN (F) WASP CABOT COWPENS
- Vice Admiral W.A. LEE, Jr., USN, (CombatRon 2) in SOUTH DAKOTA
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, Jr., USN. MASSACHUSETTS (F) SOUTH DAKOTA (FF)
- Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, USN. BOSTON (F) BALTIMORE
- Rear Admiral C.F. JOY, USN. SAN FRANCISCO (F) SAN DIEGO
- Captain J.H. CARTER, USN.
- Captain J.H. CARTER, USN.
- Captain H.B. JARRETT, USN. (less HALSEY POWER)
- Admiral W.F. HALSEY, is in NEW JERSEY with Task Group 38.2.

*Recalled*

109708 **FILMED**

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Repairs to the Condenser were completed at 0214. Number 3 shaft was unlocked and use of it resumed. Steaming toward rendezvous point at 23 knots.

General Quarters for drill purposes from 1300 to 1415.

At 1430 rendezvoused with the Battle Line which had been exercising as Task Force 34. Maneuvered during the afternoon with Task Force 34, which was dissolved at 1748. This ship and SOUTH DAKOTA, joined Task Group 38.1, taking station in Disposition 5 "Roger".

2 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
19°-43.9' N	20°-10.9' N	20°-58.2' N
128°-03.0' E	128°-39.4' E	127°-07.4' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at dawn, and commenced operations at 0633 on course 045°(T), at 10 knots. At 0642 S.N. MOORE alongside to fuel, completing at 0830, having taken 58,150 gallons. Alongside TOMAHAWK at 0910 to fuel, completing at 1100, having received 146,608 gallons. UHLMANN alongside port quarter at 1149 to deliver Official Mail. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1449. Rotated formation axis to 070°(T); speed 16 knots, and at 1810 increased speed to 25 knots, on course 287°(T).

3 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
22°-01.7' N	22°-16.9' N	21°-27.5' N
123°-02.4' E	123°-05.6' E	124°-13.4' E

Despite squally weather and a low ceiling, Carriers began launching planes for a predawn fighter sweep of target areas on Formosa at 0544.

General Quarters for dawn Alert at 0632; secured at 0732. At 0638 rotated formation axis to 120°(T), SAN FRANCISCO was designated guide during the maneuver. All ships maneuvered on signal to conform to Carrier Flight Operations, and at 0910 the formation was modified upon Order of O.T.C., Battleships and Cruisers moving to Circle three; Carriers moving to Circle two.

Inasmuch as Pilots reported extremely bad weather over the target, and as the weather continued to be squally in the vicinity of the Task Force, all strikes were cancelled shortly after noon. Only routine patrols were launched, and Airborne strikes were recovered as soon as possible.

The Force returned slowly to the East during the afternoon and early evening, but will return to strike the same targets tomorrow.

Formed Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1805. Stood to Air Attack Stations for Dusk Alert at 1811; secured at 1918.

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4 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position22°-47.3' N  
123°-23.7' E1200 Position22°-45.1' N  
123°-43.1' E2000 Position22°-34.7' N  
125°-25.2' E

Continued Air Strikes against Formosa. Carriers launched Planes 30 minutes before sunrise. At 0630 General Quarters for dawn Alert; secured at 0732.

Maneuvered as required by Flight Operations during the day.

Strikes report weather over the target is extremely poor. Squally weather prevails in the vicinity of the Task Force, making flight operations difficult. At noon further strikes were cancelled and only routine patrols kept in the air.

Began retiring on southeasterly courses toward fueling area for scheduled fueling operations.

5 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position19°-24.4' N  
126°-24.0' E1200 Position19°-07.0' N  
126°-59.6' E2000 Position18°-27.8' N  
126°-44.2' E

Rendezvoused with fueling Group at approximately 20° N, 126° E at 0700.

MADDOX alongside to port at 0743 for fueling, completing at 0907.

Alongside CIMMARRON at 0930 to receive fuel, completing at 1145. SWENSON alongside at 1404 to deliver Official Mail.

At 1850 Changed course to 252°(T), increased speed to 21 knots for run to strike Position off Luzon.

6 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position17°-15.5' N  
124°-03.2' E1200 Position17°-35.6' N  
124°-13.2' E2000 Position18°-13.2' N  
125°-09.5' E

Steaming toward strike Position at 17°-30.0' N; 123°-30.0' E from where strikes will be launched against Airfields in Northern Luzon, in support of landings to be made by our forces on the Shores of Lingayen Gulf. Fleet disposition, 3 "William", axis 120°(T). Task Group 38.1 is cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 120°(T), course 252°(T), speed 21 knots.

Rotated Fleet Axis to 050°(T) at 0430. At 0517 Carriers began launching Night Fighters for a pre-dawn strike at Luzon Airfields. All hands stood to General Quarters stations at 0618 for dawn Alert; secured at 0718.

Cruising Disposition 5 "Victor Able" formed at 0807 for better Anti-aircraft defense, axis 090°(T). At 1349 formation axis rotated to 045°(T).

Strikes continued to be launched throughout the day, all ships maneuvering to make possible Flight Operations.

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All hands stood to Air Attack Stations at 1822 for dusk alert; secured at 1919. Condition III set for the night.

After recovery of last strike completed, the Force began steaming toward Formosa, which is tomorrow's target. However, as the Force proceeded northward, weather conditions which were already bad, grew worse, and weather forecasts indicated flying conditions would be undesirable in the Formosa area. Accordingly ComThird Fleet cancelled the proposed strikes against Formosa and ordered further strikes against today's target in Northern Luzon. Pursuant to these Orders, the Task Force reversed its course and steamed toward 16°-55' N; 123°-45' E, the strike position.

7 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
16°-53.6' N	16°-40.9' N	16°-34.1' N
123°-54.0' E	124°-17.9' E	124°-44.8' E

Launched Air Strikes against targets in Northern Luzon 30 minutes before sunrise, from 16°-40' N; 124°-08' E. Stood to Air Attack stations for dawn alert at 0617; secured at 0717.

Rotated formation axis into wind, to 070°(T) at 0744.

At 1123 BLUE alongside to starboard to fuel; operation completed at 1225. BENHAM alongside to fuel at 1228. Completed at 1335.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1823; secured at 1923.

Retired toward fueling area after recovery of strikes.

8 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
18°-55.6' N	19°-17.7' N	20°-13.1' N
125°-00.4' E	125°-46.8' E	125°-39.0' E

Rendezvoused with tankers of Task Group 30.8 at dawn at 19°N; 125°E. At 0823 Formed cruising disposition 5 "Roger", course and axis 070°(T); speed 10 knots. CIMMARON designated as formation guide at 0830. Commenced fueling exercise. BLUE alongside to fuel at 0845. At 0910 STOCKHAM alongside to transfer patient for medical care. Completed fueling BLUE at 0915, after transferring 16,305 gallons of fuel oil. Maneuvered independently on station while waiting to fuel from tanker.

At 1053 alongside SAUGATUCK (AO 75) to fuel. TAUSSIG along port quarter at 1158 to deliver U.S. and Official Mail.

An unidentified plane was detected by radar at 1205, bearing 020°(T), distance 25 miles. All hands stood to Air Attack stations at 1207, but as the plane was immediately identified as friendly, secured from Air Attack at 1209.

At 1218 WEDDERBURN came alongside to port to deliver official mail.

Fueling from tanker was completed at 1233; received 70,000 barrels of fuel oil.

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At 1419 cruising disposition 5 "Victor Baker" formed, and axis rotated to 090°(T).

COLLETTE alongside to deliver mail at 1505.

Speed increased to 21 knots at 1632. The Task Force is steaming on courses which will take it to a strike position off the Southeast coast of Formosa by dawn tomorrow.

All hands stood to Air Attack stations at 1814 for dusk alert; secured at 1912.

9 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position  
22°-06.6' N  
122°-44.4' E

1200 Position  
22°-58.7' N  
122°-45.1' E

2000 Position  
22°-07.2' N  
122°-34.1' E

Operating from strike position 22°N, 123°E, launched heavy Air Strikes against targets on the Island of Formosa shortly before dawn.

At 0329 WEDDERBURN reported sound contact and attacked. TWINING directed to assist. Contact evaluated as definitely Submarine. Ships ordered to continue attack until Submarine sunk or until dawn.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0632; secured at 0731.

At 0750 formed cruising disposition 5 "Victor Able".

Formation axis rotated to 030°(T) at 1103.

At 1341 the Task Group Commander reported an unidentified plane directly over the formation. All hands stood to Air Attack stations at 1344. Formed cruising disposition 5 "Victor Baker". At 1359 the enemy plane was shot down by the Combat Air Patrol. Secured from Air Attack at 1405.

At 1810 Air Attack for dusk alert; secured at 1930. During the afternoon the Task Force steamed on westerly courses, and at 2142 entered Bashi Channel, Luzon Strait, for passage into the South China Sea. Task Group 38.1 in formation 5 "Roger", was the first group to transit the passage, Group 38.2 and 38.3 following. Passage was completed at 2331. Speed was 23 knots.

Units of Task Group 30.8 with escorts, are following Task Force 38 into the South China Sea.

10 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position  
19°-54.8' N  
120°-23.1' E

1200 Position  
19°-38.6' N  
119°-41.4' E

2000 Position  
18°-34.8' N  
118°-03.2' E

A pre-dawn Air Search was launched by Task Groups 38.1 and 38.3; planes from 38.1 to cover sectors from 190°(T) to 300°(T) to a distance of 420 miles; planes from 38.2 to search sectors from 300°(T) to 050°(T) for the same distance. Task Group 38.2 is providing a fighter C.A.P. for Task Group 30.8 which is following Task Force 38 into the South China Sea.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0637; secured at 0737, setting Condition III.

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At 0640 Fleet cruising disposition 3 "William" was formed. Fleet axis is 040°(T); Task Group 38.2 is guide; Fleet is steaming on a Southwesterly course at a speed of 24 knots.

Formation axis rotated to 070°(T) at 1444.

Air Attack for dusk alert sounded at 1845; secured at 1947, setting condition II. At 1905 formed cruising disposition 5 "Victor Baker".

11 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

15°-16.3' N  
116°-01.9' E

1200 Position

14°-39.3' N  
115°-47.5' E

2000 Position

13°-45.6' N  
114°-10.4' E

Pursuant to dispatch instructions of ComThird Fleet, began fueling operations at 0815, after securing from dawn alert at 0744, and rendezvousing with Tanker Group at dawn. Fueling course was 210°(T), speed 10 knots. This ship fueled TWINING and STOCKHAM during morning.

At 1242 alongside CIMMARON to fuel. At 1424 ceased fueling exercises upon Order of Task Group Commander. Regained station in disposition.

Formation axis rotated to 040°(T) at 1616.

At 1724 began high speed run toward Kamranh Bay Area of Indo China Coast, where according to dispatch from ComThird Fleet, there is a strong possibility of locating heavy units of the Japanese Fleet.

During the late afternoon, BOSTON, and BALTIMORE, with escorts acting on Orders of Task Group Commander, left Task Group 38.1 and joined Task Group 38.2. FLINT joined Task Group 38.1. SAN DIEGO took station vacated by BALTIMORE. SAN FRANCISCO took station vacated by BOSTON. Task Group 38.2 left the Fleet formation and steamed ahead at high speed. Task Groups 38.1 and 38.3 have instructions to be as close as possible to 11°-50'N; 110°-05'E, the estimated 0700 position of Task Group 38.2, by that hour.

At 1800 the Captain addressed the crew over the Public Address system as follows:

"This is the Captain speaking.

"As you all know, we have now entered the South China Sea. This is a step of tremendous importance in advancing the war. It is of greater importance, for example, than the first raid on Truk and Saipan. The reason is this: The objective of sea power is to control lines of sea communication. In the case of a power like Japan, sea communications are vital to her existence. We have previously compressed her lines of sea communication to the Indies until they all passed through the South China Sea. Now we have cut these lines. They will remain cut. Our occupation of Luzon insures that. Japan no longer has any effective means of supplying herself from the rich resources of the Indies.

"In a sense we may consider that the Navy's objective in crossing the Pacific Ocean has been to arrive at this goal. The defeat of the Japanese fleet late in October was only an incident enroute, but a necessary one.

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"How we shall exercise control of the South China Sea will be demonstrated tomorrow. We have penetrated deep into this vital sea area without any evidence that we had been sighted as of 1600 this afternoon. Therefore, tomorrow morning we will be in a position to strike at the dense shipping which skirts the coast of Indo-China, carrying the riches of the Indies to Japan. In the next few days we shall destroy the seaborne trade of Japan from Saigon to Hongkong. From this time henceforth, any ship that can return from the Indies to Japan will be lucky indeed.

"By this move, we have not only cut the Empire in two strategically, we have also surprised the enemy tactically. We believe we have cut his fleet in two. Almost certainly our morning searches will disclose a large enemy task force which is known to be in the vicinity. It will be particularly gratifying to us that this task force will probably contain the battleships Ise and Hyuga, which escaped us on the morning of October 25th.

"I said that there was no evidence that we had been sighted until 1600 today. Since that time, three Jakes have been knocked down to the westward. How much they saw and reported, we do not know, but there is probability that our sleep tonight will be disturbed.

"But in compensation, we now have the satisfaction of seeing results of our past operations which before were not easily apparent. No one could miss the significance of the defeat of the Japanese fleet in October. On the other hand, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of our repeated strikes at Luzon and Formosa. Those strikes at times seemed an endlessly recurring and monotonous task, but they were the means by which Task Force 38 substantially destroyed the Japanese air power in those two important bases. It is this destruction that now permits General MacArthur to occupy Luzon and for Task Force 38 finally to sever Japan's last sea communications with her Southern Empire.

"The action tomorrow will involve both air and surface action. It goes without saying that, as always, we must be prepared to meet and destroy anything which the enemy may send against us".

12 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

110°-35.9' N

110°-22.3' E

1200 Position

120°-10.8' N

110°-29.5' E

2000 Position

120°-39.9' N

110°-36.4' E

At dawn launched heavy air strikes against Japanese shipping and shore installations at Kamranh Bay and Saigon from 11°-35'N; 110°-22'E. First reports revealed that heavy units of the Japanese Fleet were not to be found in these harbors. There was, however, a considerable amount of shipping which was attacked with good results. Prior to receipt of the report that no Japanese battleships were present, ComThird Fleet had ordered the formation of Task Group 34.5, a special Surface Striking Group, which moved in to 11°N-109.2'E. In the latter part of the morning this group returned to the vicinity of the other task groups, which has previously rendezvoused at approximately

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11°-50'N; 11°-05'E, and was dissolved at 1245. FLINT and escorting destroyers left Task Group 38.1 and returned to Task Group 38.3; BALTIMORE and BOSTON with escorts, rejoined Task Group 38.1, taking previously assigned stations.

Task Group 38.1 cruised in Disposition 5 "Victor Able" during the day, but at 2100 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Baker".

Air Attack at 1929 for dusk Alert; secured at 2030.

13 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

13°-50.8' N  
113°-59.8' E

1200 Position

14°-16.1' N  
114°-04.3' E

2000 Position

14°-58.5' N  
115°-02.6' E

Retiring from strikes on Indo-China Coast, fleet course 071°(T), speed 20 knots.

At 0319 Changed speed to 16 knots.

General Quarters for dawn Alert at 0652; secured at 0752.

At 0913 Commenced fueling exercises after rendezvousing with Tanker Group at dawn. Fueling course 045°(T); speed 10 knots. Only light units fueled from the tankers.

At 1910 Air Attack for dusk Alert; secured at 1945.

14 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

16°-43.0' N  
116°-09.8' E

1200 Position

17°-01.2' N  
116°-34.7' E

2000 Position

18°-12.0' N  
117°-38.2' E

Steaming on a northeasterly course in company with Task Group 38.1, and GUALALUPE and CIMMARON, units of Task Group 30.8 in cruising Disposition 5 "Roger"; axis 045°(T); speed 14 knots.

At 0650 stood to General Quarters stations for dawn Alert; secured at 0740.

Reduced speed to 10 knots at 0740, began fueling operation.

At 1020 TAUSSIG alongside to deliver Official Mail. At 1108 COLOHAN alongside to deliver Official Mail and to receive U.S. Mail. BENHAM alongside with Official Mail at 1532.

Fueling exercises were completed at 1612. SAN FRANCISCO was designated guide at 1657. Base course, 018°(T); speed 16 knots.

15 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

21°-06.6' N  
118°-39.4' E

1200 Position

21°-19.3' N  
119°-00.4' E

2000 Position

20°-31.4' N  
118°-32.5' E

General Quarters at 0648 for dawn Alert; secured at 0748.

Thirty minutes before sunrise Carriers began launching planes for strikes against the Hong-Kong, Amoy, Swatow area of the China Coast and against Formosa. Strikes continued throughout the day.

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At 0928 formed cruising disposition 5 "Victor Baker".

At 1710 Commander Task Group 38.2 reported 5 unidentified planes bearing 350°(T), 30 miles. Stood to Air Attack Stations, at 1712. At 1720 ComTask Group 38.2 reported one enemy plane, a "Zeke", had been shot down by the Combat Air Patrol. Secured from Air Attack at 1731.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1844; secured at 1927.

16 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
20°-09.4' N	19°-59.4' N	19°-40.0' N
115°-22.2' E	115°-24.0' E	115°-50.1' E

Continued Air Strikes against Hong Kong, Amoy, and Swatow areas of China Coast, from approximately 20° N, 115°-20' E.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0700; secured at 0800.

Maneuvered during day to conform to Carrier Flight Operations. Upon recovery of strikes, retired toward fueling rendezvous area on course 160°(T), speed 16 knots.

17 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
17°-13.0' N	16°-49.2' N	17°-33.8' N
116°-38.8' E	117°-11.1' E	117°-56.8' E

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0646; secured at 0746.

Rendezvoused with tanker group in early morning and commenced fueling exercise at 0904.

YARNELL alongside to fuel during morning. At 1335 SWENSON alongside to deliver U.S. Mail. Alongside NEOSHO to fuel, at 1340, but heavy swells prevented successful completion of operation. Both hoses parted and at 1748 ceased fueling, after receiving 46,200 gallons of fuel oil. Resumed station in formation 5 "Victor Able".

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1855; secured 1940.

The tankers remained within the formation, as the Force proceeded North, speed 8 knots.

Very heavy swells are being encountered as the Force moves toward Luzon Strait. Fueling operations are accomplished only with the greatest difficulty and several destroyers report damage from the seas.

18 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
18°-52.8' N	18°-15.2' N	16°-45.7' N
118°-09.0' E	117°-52.5' E	117°-35.6' E

Scheduled fueling operations were cancelled because of continued heavy swells in the area West of Luzon Strait.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0644; secured at 0744.

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 By: JAK/PLA/BAB 12/16

Early in the morning a message was received from ComThird Fleet indicating that there was no reasonable prospect of transiting the Strait for days and directing the Task Force to head in toward the Luzon Coast on a Southerly course for a lee for fueling. ComThird Fleet indicated that, following this the Force would probably exit into the Philippine Sea by way of Suriago Strait. Consequently shortly after 0900 course was changed to 180°(T), speed 10 knots.

Several destroyers fueled while the Force was on a southerly course. No general fueling operations were conducted, however.

19 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

14°-12.5' N  
 117°-29.5' E

1200 Position

14°-45.4' N  
 117°-57.9' E

2000 Position

16°-08.4' N  
 118°-26.8' E

Weather condition improved greatly, and fueling operations were conducted without difficulty.

General Quarters for dawn Alert at 0632; secured at 0732.

Alongside NEOSHO at 0830. Fueling course 060°(T); speed 10 knots.

At 1105 MANSFIELD alongside to deliver Official Mail and exchange movies

Left NEOSHO at 1155, taking station in cruising Disposition 5 "Victor Baker".

MADDOX alongside with Official Mail at 1538.

Formation axis rotated 045°(T) at 1650.

At 1711 BUCHANAN detached from Task Group 38.1 and reported to Task Group 30.8 for duty.

The tanker group left the formation at 2015, on course 180°(T); speed 10 knots.

ComThird Fleet has changed instructions to transit Suriago Strait, and the Task Force is steaming north to transit Luzon Strait tomorrow night.

20 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

18°-26.9' N  
 118°-59.0' E

1200 Position

19°-10.7' N  
 119°-30.1' E

2000 Position

20°-10.3' N  
 121°-19.5' E

Steaming toward Luzon Strait for passage into the Philippine Sea, on course 017°(T).

General Quarters for dawn Alert at 0640; secured at 0740.

At dawn long range searches and routine patrols were launched.

Course changed to 052°(T) at 0712, speed 15 knots.

At 0916 an unidentified aircraft was detected by radar, bearing 115°(T), distance 53 miles, closing the Task Group. All hands stood to Air Attack stations at 0938. At 0953 the Task Group Commander reported the Combat Air Patrol had shot down one "George", a Japanese fighter. Secured from Air Attack at 1000.

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Course changed to 040°(T) at 1125, and to 070°(T) at 1210. At 1404 rotated formation axis to 070°(T).

During the late afternoon numerous radar contacts with unidentified planes were obtained. None approached the Task Force, except one which was shot down 31 miles from Task Group 38.1, at 1742.

At 1835 manned Air Attack stations for dusk Alert. Unidentified Aircraft were reported by the Task Group Commander, to be in the vicinity at 1859. At 1914 Task Group 38.2 was observed firing, and at 1915 this ship opened fire with 5", 40MM, and 20MM Anti-Aircraft batteries against a plane approaching on the starboard bow. Results were undetermined. Secured from Air Attack at 2143.

At approximately 2000 began passage through BALINTANG CHANNEL, Luzon Strait, exiting from the South China Sea into the Philippine Sea, on easterly courses. Passed AHAU POINT, SABBANG ISLAND of the BATAN GROUP three and one half miles abeam to port at 2000.

At 2304, after transiting the Channel, the Task Force formed cruising disposition 3 "William", Fleet axis 060°(T); Fleet speed 15 knots; course 060°(T)

21 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
22°-17.5' N	22°-15.6' N	22°-43.7' N
122°-48.9' E	123°-07.0' E	124°-24.6' E

General Quarters at 0633 for dawn Alert; secured at 0733. Shortly before sunrise Carriers began launching planes from approximately 22°-15' N, 122°-40' E, for strikes against targets on the Island of Formosa. Strikes continued through the day, all ships maneuvering as directed by O.T.C., to conform to Carrier flight operations.

At 1205 SWENSON alongside to fuel. At 1215 the Task Force Commander directed that fueling operations be discontinued, as Task Group 38.3 was under Air Attack. SWENSON cleared port side at 1218. All hands stood to Air Attack stations at 1242. Unidentified Aircraft were reported to be within 25 miles of the Task Group. At 1250 The Task Force Commander reported that several enemy planes had been shot down by the Combat Air Patrol. A Carrier of Task Group 38.2 was observed afire on the horizon at 1330. Secured from Air Attack at 1330.

Air Attack stations at 1931 after an unidentified plane had been reported close to the formation. At 1932 an aircraft was shot down in flames off our port quarter by gunfire of other ships in the group. Secured from Air Attack at 2031.

22 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-34.1' N	24°-42.9' N	25°-14.1' N
128°-28.5' E	128°-35.2' E	129°-11.5' E

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 By: JKA/TORRA, DND 12/16

Thirty minutes before sunrise, all Task Groups began launching Air Strikes from approximately 24°-35' N, 128°-25' E, against targets on OKINAWA JIMA. General Quarters for dawn alert at 0611; secured at 0655.

During the day, heavy ships fueled destroyers, this ship fueling TWINING, YARNELL, DE HAVEN, and BRUSH.

After all strikes had been recovered, came to course 202°(T) for retirement to fueling area East of Northern Luzon. Formation axis rotated to 050°(T) at 1647. Fleet speed, 25 knots.

23 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
20°-35.4' N	19°-59.9' N	19°-36.3' N
127°-08.0' E	127°-29.5' E	128°-52.0' E

Rendezvoused with tanker group at 1000; commenced fueling exercise. Fueling course and axis 090°(T). This ship fueled BRUSH and TAUSSIG during morning.

At 1400 alongside MARIAS to fuel. BENHAM alongside at 1600 for transfer of mail. Completed fueling at 1739. Exercise completed by task group at 1942. Tanker group withdrew to South.

Upon completion of fueling, Task Group 38.6 was formed as directed by ComThird Fleet, and left the Task Force to proceed to Ulithi. The group is commanded by Vice Admiral McCAIN in HANCOCK and includes NEW JERSEY, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, LANGLEY, and DesRon 52 less HICKOX, LEWIS, HANCOCK, and HUNT. Rear Admiral SHERMAN (ComTaskGroup)(38.3) in ESSEX assumed temporary command of Task Force 38, which has been directed to proceed to Ulithi, arriving on forenoon of 26 January 1945.

24 JANUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
17°-53.9' N	17°-01.4' N	15°-41.8' N
131°-11.7' E	131°-54.3' E	133°-22.3' E

Pursuant to the Orders of Rear Admiral SHERMAN, temporarily ComTask Force 38, Task Force 34 was formed at 0700. Accordingly at that time BatDiv 8, under command of Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, in MASSACHUSETTS, with escorting destroyers (DesRon 61) cleared Task Group 38.1, and proceeded to take station in Task Force 34, cruising disposition 4 "Roger", WASHINGTON guide, course and axis 135°(T), speed 18 knots. Standard speed changed to 13 knots.

Task Force 34 is presently organized as follows:

Task Force 34

--Vice Admiral W.A. LEE, USN,  
 (ComBatRon 2 in SOUTH DAKOTA)

Task Group 34.1-Battle Line

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

Task Unit 34.1.1-BatDiv 9

- Rear Admiral HANSON, USN  
 WISCONSIN (F)

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Task Unit 34.1.2-BatDiv 6 - Rear Admiral COOLEY, USN.  
WASHINGTON (F)  
NORTH CAROLINA

Task Unit 34.1.3-BatDiv 8 - Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.  
MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
SOUTH DAKOTA (FF)

Task Group 34.2 - Right Flank- Rear Admiral JONES, USN.

Task Unit 34.2.2-CruDiv 17- Rear Admiral JONES, USN.  
PASADENA (F)  
ASTORIA  
WILKES BARRE

Task Unit 34.2.3-DesRon 61- Captain CARTER, USN.

Task Group 34.4-Left Flank - Rear Admiral WHITING, USN.

Task Unit 34.4.2-CruDiv 14- Rear Admiral WHITING, USN.  
VINCENNES (F)  
MIAMI  
BILOXI

Task Unit 34.4.3-DesDiv 99- Captain WILKINSON, USN.

Task Unit 34.4.4-DesDiv 100- Captain MILLER, USN.

Conducted Gunnery Exercise, 12 "Dog" in the morning. Ammunition expended: 20 MM - 220 rounds H.E.T., 406 rounds H.E.I.; 40MM - 290 rounds H.E.T.; 5"/38 - 36 rounds Mk. 8 base detonator fuzes.

At 1259 formed Battle Disposition 4 "Baker", and conducted Tactical exercises. At 1537 reformed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 5 "Able", course and axis 140°(T), speed 18 knots.

Proceeded toward Ulithi.

25 JANUARY 1945

0800 Position

13°-15.4' N  
135°-46.3' E

1200 Position

12°-34.6' N  
136°-39.5' E

2000 Position

11°-51.9' N  
133°-32.2' E

At 0816 rotated formation axis to 180°(T). Formed Battle Line, 0838 and conducted Tactical exercises for remainder of the morning.

General Quarters for drill purposes at 1050; secured at 1130.

At 1129 formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 5 "Able", course and axis 120°(T); speed 15 knots.

Conducted Gunnery exercises during afternoon, firing light and heavy Machine Gun and 5" batteries.

26 JANUARY 1945

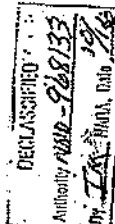
0800 Position

11°-25.3' N  
139°-39.3' E

At dawn divided Task Force 34, SOUTH DAKOTA and WISCONSIN forming on MASSACHUSETTS, for Main and Secondary Battery firing.

All hands stood to General Quarters stations for Main and Secondary Battery firing at 0745. At 0755 Catapulted one Plane

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for spotting during firing and for Anti-Submarine Patrol.

Main Battery Firing commenced at 0834; expended 27 rounds 16 inch ammunition. Exercise completed at 0909. Secured from General Quarters at 0912.

Proceeded to Ulithi. Standard speed changed to 15 knots at 1250.

At 1307 entered Mugai Channel, Ulithi Atoll. Anchored in Berth #5 at 1342.

Set Port War Watch and began following normal port routine.

Upon anchoring, Task Force 34 dissolved, this ship becoming a unit of Task Group 38.1. However, the Third Fleet Organization becomes inoperative and this Ship becomes a part of Task Group 58.1, in the Fifth Fleet, being currently formed and assembled under Admiral R.A. SPRUANCE, U.S.N.

At 1514 INDIANA, SALT LAKE CITY, CHESTER, and PENSACOLA stood into the harbor and anchored in assigned berths.

Engaged in fueling, rearming, and provisioning. Routine overhaul and repairs being made. Port War Watch is set; but Condition III is set in the Anti-Aircraft battery from an hour before sunrise and sunset until an hour after those times.

27 JANUARY 1945

Diving operations conducted to inspect and repair main Injection Valve grid. Catapulted one plane for anti-submarine patrol. Received 100 rounds of 5"/38 Cal. special projectiles from lighter.

28 JANUARY 1945

KANKAKEE alongside to port to deliver fuel. Continued diving operations to repair main Injection Valve grids. At 1650 TICONDEROGA, CALIFORNIA, and NEW MEXICO, with escorts, underway, standing out of the harbor.

29 JANUARY 1945

Diving operations and work on Main Injection Valve grid continued. Received provisions and dry stores from lighters and L.C.M.'s alongside to starboard.

30 JANUARY 1945

At 0654 underway to shift berths for Anti-Aircraft firing. 0729 Anchored in Berth #162. 0800 Condition III set in the Anti-Aircraft battery. Gunnery exercises conducted during morning and

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS


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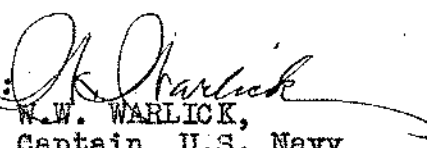
WAR DIARY

afternoon, 5", 40MM, and 20MM batteries firing at towed sleeves.  
Continues receiving dry provisions.

31 JANUARY 1945

Continued Gunnery exercises, firing 5", 40MM, and 20MM  
batteries at towed sleeves, morning and afternoon.

SUBMITTED:   
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED:   
W.W. WARLICK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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Authority: NND-9288133  
By: J.A. [unclear] Date: 1/16/00



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BY: I.K. [unclear] 10/1/88



File No.  
BB59/A12-1/A16-3

165  
Reg. No. F 186  
R. S. No. 9

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BY: J.K. [unclear] Date: 1/16

## U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

1 FEBRUARY 1945

Anchored in Berth #162, URUSHI ANCHORAGE, ULITHI ATOLL. This ship is a unit of Task Group 58.1, organized as follows:

Task Force 58

- Vice Admiral M.A. MITSCHER, USN,  
(ComFirstCarTaskForPac) in  
BUNKER HILL.

Task Group 58.1

- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN,  
(ComCarDiv 5) in HORNET.

Task Unit 58.1.1 - Carriers

- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN.

HORNET (FF)

WASP

BENNINGTON

BELLEAU WOOD

Task Unit 58.1.2 - Support Unit

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, Jr.,  
USN, (ComBatDiv 8) in  
MASSACHUSETTS.

BatDiv 8 - Less ALABAMA

MASSACHUSETTS (F)

INDIANA

CruDiv 14

VINCENNES (F)

MIAMI

SAN JUAN

- Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING, USN  
in VINCENNES.

Task Unit 58.1.3 - Group Screen

- Captain J.H. CARTER, USN.

DesRon 61

DesRon 25

Commander Fifth Fleet, Admiral R.A. SPRUANCE, in INDIANAPOLIS is present.

Normal port routine is being followed. The ship is in material condition "X-Ray" during the day and in condition "Yoke" and is darkened at night. Condition III in the anti-aircraft battery is set from an hour before to an hour after sunrise and sunset.

The ship is receiving stores and provisions, is rearming and refueling. Recreation as boats are available. Routine upkeep and repairs being made.

At present the ship is anchored in an anti-aircraft firing berth.

During morning and early afternoon conducted gunnery exercises, firing 5" and machine gun batteries at towed sleeves and drones.

Underway at 1547 to shift to regular berth, #5. Anchored in Berth #6 at 1615.

115313

**FILMED**

2 FEBRUARY 1945

Swinging ship at anchor with assistance of YT93 for magnetic compass compensation. 1315 The Captain inspected lower decks and holds.

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U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

LCM 85 Alongside at 1849 to deliver ammunition as follows: 450 5"/38 cal. A.A.C. projectiles; 12,528 rounds 40MM HETP; 400 5"/38 cal. flashless cartridges N.F.; 4500 rounds 20MM HEI; 1800 rounds 20MM HET.

3 FEBRUARY 1945

0900 The Commanding Officer inspected personnel and living spaces. Conducted routine training flight during afternoon. Received aboard stores and provisions.

4 FEBRUARY 1945

0800 Assumed duty as radar guard ship. Transferred empty ammunition containers to LCM 87. Hoisted aboard two planes from SOUTH DAKOTA for routine servicing. Received 1602 5"/38 cal. fuses and detonators; began refueling 5"/38 cal. ammunition.

5 FEBRUARY 1945

0750 Hoisted out one plane for anti-submarine patrol. Completed patrol at 1105.

6 FEBRUARY 1945

Received fresh stores from BALD EAGLE. 1015 Exercised at General Quarters for drill. Aircraft conducted routine anti-submarine patrol flights.

7 FEBRUARY 1945

1245 Following ships stood into harbor and anchored in assigned berths: SARATOGA, RANDOLPH, BUNKER HILL, BENNINGTON, BELLEAU WOOD, ALASKA, and escorts. During afternoon two planes conducted routine training flights.

8 FEBRUARY 1945

Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, ComBatDiv 8, assisted by members of his staff and an inspection party from INDIANA conducted military inspection of ship.

9 FEBRUARY 1945

0910 Hoisted out one plane for routine flight. 1320 Hoisted out second plane for training flight.

10 FEBRUARY 1945

2000 Position  
10°-37.4' N  
141°-22.1' E

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By JAX/THA Date 7/16

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Making preparations to get underway in company with Task Group 58.1 to participate in actions involving air strikes on Tokyo, Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima, and Okinawa Jima in support of landings on Iwo Jima by Central Pacific forces, all as outlined in ComFirstCarTaskForPac Operation Order No. 1-45.

Underway at 1024. Sortied in accordance with Sortie order of ComTask Group 58.1 dated 5 February 1945. Departed ULITHI at 1111, passing entrance buoys abeam.

ComTaskUnit 58.1.5 assumed tactical command of this unit to conduct anti-aircraft gunnery exercises at 1235.

Task Unit 58.1.5 is organized as follows:

- Task Unit 58.1.5 - Support Unit - Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH,  
USN, (ComBatDiv 8) in MASSACHUSETTS  
- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH.
- 58.1.51 - Battle Line  
MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA
- 58.1.52 - Battle Line Screen - Captain J.W. LUDEWIG, USN.  
DesDiv 49 - Less STEVENS and HARRISON
- Light Forces - Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING, USN,  
(ComCruDiv 14) in VINCENNES.
- 58.1.53 - Cru Div 14, Less HOUSTON
- 58.1.54 - DesDiv 50, Plus STEVENS and HARRISON

At 1235 formed disposition 5 "Victor Sugar" and conducted gunnery exercises.

During afternoon conducted main battery firing exercises. Launched two planes for spotting.

At 1805 while recovering planes by the "Charlie" method, plane #09596 overturned upon landing. Pilot and radioman were rescued by MURRAY, which sank the damaged plane by gunfire.

1825 Joined remainder of Task Group 58.1; formed Disposition 5 "Roger".

At 2100 conducted challenge and fighting light exercise.

11 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
12°-05.2' N	12°-32.3' N	12°-54.3' N
144°-22.6' E	145°-30.4' E	146°-42.7' E

Proceeding in company with Task Group 58.1 on course 070°(T) as outlined in Annex "B" to ComFirstCarTaskForPac OP order No. 1-45. Task Group 58.1 is operating independently approximately 25 miles to the left of the assigned Task Force track for the purpose of conducting gunnery and tactical exercises.

Prior to sunrise, radar tracking exercise 2 "B" conducted. At 0515 ComTask Unit 58.1.5 assumed tactical command of Task Group 58.1.5, which formed cruising Disposition 5 "Nan Sugar" and maneuvered to a

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position 6 miles ahead of the carriers. During forenoon and afternoon fired 5" and machine gun batteries and conducted tactical exercises as outlined by Annex King to Commander Task Group 58.1 operation Plan 1-45. Rejoined carriers at 1610, forming cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 070°(T), speed 15 knots.

At 1646 hoisted aboard one plane. Type, OS2U, number 5483, flown from Guam as replacement for plane previously expended.

The Task Force formed Disposition 5-X at 1730 in position 12-05 N; 145-50 E. Axis 070°(T), course 070°(T), speed 17 knots.

Course changed to 015°(T) at 2030.

## 12 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
15°-37.5' N	16°-23.6' N	17°-16.8' N
147°-12.2' E	147°-22.4' E	147°-50.3' E

Proceeding on base course 015°(T), speed 16 knots in Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 070°(T).

Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed at 0723. Conducted gunnery exercises, firing anti-aircraft battery. Formed Disposition 5 "Roger" at 0823.

BLUE alongside to fuel at 0847; operation completed at 0930. Additional gunnery exercises conducted.

TAUSSIG alongside to fuel at 1305. Commenced operation at 1309; completed operation at 1415.

Abandon ship drill conducted at 1440.

Fueled COLLETT from 1537 to 1616.

BLUE alongside at 1657 to transfer U.S. Mail.

## 13 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
20°-09.9' N	21°-02.8' N	22°-10.8' N
148°-46.5' E	148°-38.7' E	148°-57.3' E

Steaming toward rendezvous with fueling group at approximately 21-00 N; 149-00 E.

At 0620 formed Task Force 59. ComBatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of Task Unit 58.1.2 and maneuvered the Unit into position in Task Force 59. Joined Task Force 59 and took station in Disposition 5 "Roger" at 0707; course and axis 000°(T); speed 23 knots. Task Force 59 is at present organized as follows:

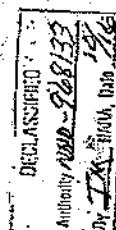
Task Force 59Task Group 59.1 - Battle Line

- Vice Admiral W.A. LEE, ComBatRon 2, in SOUTH DAKOTA.
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, in MASSACHUSETTS

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- Task Unit 59.1.1 - BatDiv 7 - Rear Admiral BADGER  
NEW JERSEY (F)  
WISCONSIN  
MISSOURI (RFFF)
- Task Unit 59.1.2 - BatDiv 6 - Rear Admiral COOLEY  
WASHINGTON (F)  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH DAKOTA (FF)
- Task Unit 59.1.3 - BatDiv 8 - Rear Admiral SHAFROTH  
MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA
- Task Group 59.2- Right Flank - Rear Admiral WHITING in  
VINCENNES
- Task Unit 59.2.2 - CruDiv 14 - Rear Admiral WHITING  
VINCENNES (F)  
MIAMI  
VICKSBURG (Not present)
- Task Unit 59.2.3 - DesDiv 49 - Captain LUDEWIG  
JOHN RODGERS (SF)  
STEVENS  
HARRISON  
MC KEE  
MURRAY
- Task Unit - DesDiv 50 - Captain PARISH  
RINGGOLD (F)  
SCHROEDER  
SIGSBEE  
DASHTELL
- Task Group 59.3 - Center - Rear Admiral JONES, in PASADENA
- Task Unit 59.3.2 - CruDiv 17 - Rear Admiral JONES  
PASADENA (F)  
SPRINGFIELD  
ASTORIA  
WILKES-BARRE
- Task Unit 59.3.3 - DesDiv 109 - Captain JARRELL  
PORTERFIELD (SF)  
CALLAGHAN  
CASSIN YOUNG  
IRWIN  
PRESTON
- Task Unit 59.3.4 - DesDiv 110 - Commander EDSALL  
LAWS (F)  
LONGSHAW  
MORRISON  
PRITCHETT
- Task Unit 59.3.5 - DesDiv 105 - Captain JARRETT  
CUSHING (SF)  
HALSEY POWELL



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 Date: 1/16

COLAHAN  
 UHLMANN  
 BENHAM

Task Unit 59.3.6 - DesDiv 106 - Commander HOGG

YARNALL (F)  
 TWINING  
 STOCKHAM  
 WEDDERBURN

Task Group 59.4 - Left Flank - Rear Admiral DEYO in  
 SANTA FE

Task Unit 59.4.2 - CruDiv 13 - Rear Admiral DEYO

SANTA FE (F)  
 BILOXI  
 BIRMINGHAM

Task Unit 59.4.3 - DesDiv 93 - Captain NUNN

MC CORD (SF)  
 TRATHEN  
 HAZELWOOD  
 HEIERMANN

Task Unit 59.4.4 - DesDiv 94 - Captain REYNOLDS

HAGGARD (F)  
 FRANKS  
 HAILEY

After conducting tactical maneuvers, dissolved Task Force 59, Task Unit 58.1.2 rejoining Task Group 58.1 in Disposition 5 "Roger" at 0942.

Rendezvoused with tanker group at 1047. Commenced fueling exercises at 1136. Zig Zagged independently on station while waiting to fuel. At 1530 alongside CHIPOLA to receive fuel. Completed fueling at 1803, having received 438,483 gallons of fuel oil.

Upon completion of fueling, proceeded on course 325°(T), at 14 knots.

14 FEBRUARY 1945

0800 Position

24°-20.7' N  
 147°-24.7' E

1200 Position

25°-11.9' N  
 149°-36.8' E

2000 Position

26°-21.2' N  
 147°-49.4' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.1 plus CHIPOLA, KANKAKEE, and ATASCOSA.

At 0822 received SIGSBEE alongside to transfer mail.

Alongside CHIPOLA at 0905 to fuel. Exercise completed at 0949, having received 41,900 gallons fuel oil.

Exercised at General Quarters for drill from 1015 to 1115.

Formation axis rotated to 330°(T) at 1311. At 1356 Changed course to 295°(T); at 1900 to 340°(T).

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By J.A. Brown, Date 1/16

At 2000 the Captain addressed the crew over the Public address System as follows:

"This is the Captain speaking.

"For the last six months we have been engaged in operations in support of the Philippines campaign. For us that campaign seems to be finished. It now falls to General MacArthur's forces, including the Seventh Fleet, to carry that campaign to its completion. The Seventh Fleet now does not include the battleships and many of the cruisers and other light forces which took part in the Philippines campaign. Those ships are properly a part of the Central Pacific Force, and have now returned to the operational command of Admiral Nimitz, and form a part of the Fifth Fleet.

"We are beginning the first operation of a new campaign, in Task Force 58 of the Fifth Fleet. This Fifth Fleet is under the command of Admiral Spruance. It is composed of a number of task forces which follow the organization to which we have been accustomed. That is, an amphibious force, under the old master, Vice Admiral Kelly Turner; the support force, composed of the old battleships plus cruisers and destroyers, under Rear Admiral B.J. Rogers; and Task Force 58, acting as covering force under the command of the veteran Vice Admiral Mitscher. As usual, there will be a landing. We are now enroute to our usual task of paving the way. Where the landing will be will become clear in a few days. More important to us is the part we are to play. It is clear to all that our next landing must be close to the Japanese homeland. It follows that the objective of Task Force 58 must be even closer. Until the present time, each of our objectives has appeared more important than the previous ones. In each one we expected to encounter stiff opposition. In most of these cases our expectations have not been fulfilled by the Japanese. However, on our present mission we propose to find out what he can do in what we presume to be his strongest positions. In short, the objective of Task Force 58 is the Tokyo area.

"In this area the enemy can be presumed to have strong air forces. Close by, we can presume he has what remains of his fleet, which approximates two of our task groups.

"On our side, Task Force 58 is stronger than it ever has been before. Our Task Force Admiral and Task Group Admirals are the most experienced in the whole Navy. Our Group Commander is Rear Admiral J.J. Clark. This Group has been chosen by Vice Admiral Mitscher for the position of honor on the Advanced Flank. We will be the closest to Tokyo.

"There is a good chance that we can achieve strategic surprise. That we can achieve tactical surprise is too much to expect. Whether we do or not we must expect strong air opposition, because this time we are adding insult to injury. This time the Jap will be fighting for his sacred homeland, for which he can be expected to fight with more than his usual fanatical zeal.



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 BY: JAK/HAL, DAB, 1/16

"The strike begins at dawn 16 February, day after tomorrow, and will last one to three days, depending upon the circumstances. During this time we must be more on the alert than ever before. We must overcome any tendencies we may have to a sense of safety as judged from past experience. The anti-aircraft gunners on watch must play an alert, "heads up", game, and be ready to shoot instantly and to hit. If the weather is bad, which we expect, the time for shooting will be too short to be effective otherwise. If Task Force 58 finds worthy air opposition at Tokyo, we can expect a hard fight, in which only our own skill and alertness can protect the carriers and ourselves from enemy attackers which get through our fighters.

"The whole Task Group is looking to our anti-aircraft gunners to down any Jap plane that comes within range of their guns. The gunners are looking to the radarmen, the lookouts, and CIC to assist them, but, finally, the men at the guns and the directors must rely upon themselves to have their guns on every Jap plane in sight before he can strike. If Task Force 58 can destroy a substantial part of the enemy's air forces and aircraft factories around Tokyo, the next campaign of the war can be pointed much more directly at Tokyo than would otherwise be possible. Such a project deserves and must have nothing less than the utmost effort of each of us. To this end, check your battle station and your equipment to see that all is in order. Leave nothing to be done at the last minute, and leave nothing to chance."

15 FEBRUARY 1945

0800 Position

29°-16.7' N  
 146°-38.0' E

1200 Position

29°-58.7' N  
 146°-16.6' E

2000 Position

32°-08.2' N  
 145°-09.3' E

Proceeding toward strike position off Tokyo on course 340°(T), speed 18 knots. 0553 General Quarters for dawn alert; secured at 0640.

Fueled destroyers during morning, this ship fueling SCHROEDER, MANSFIELD, and COLLETT. Speed was reduced to 17 knots during fueling operations. Speed increased to 20 knots at 1350.

At 1900 changed fleet axis to 030°(T). Course changed to 305°(T); continued toward strike position at 20 knots.

16 FEBRUARY 1945

0800 Position

34°-17.8' N  
 141°-24.5' E

1200 Position

34°-25.0' N  
 141°-25.0' E

2000 Position

34°-56.2' N  
 142°-21.2' E

At 0545 rotated formation axis to 020°(T). General Quarters for dawn alert at 0619. At 0648 carriers began launching fighters for pre-dawn sweeps over airfields in the vicinity of Tokyo and Yokohama.

8

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By: [Signature] Date: 12/16

The strike position was approximately 34-30 N; 141-30 E. Fighter sweeps were followed shortly by the first of a series of heavy air strikes, dive bomber and torpedo bombers against Japanese aircraft and air fields.

At 0710 an enemy picket boat was detected bearing 140°(T), 15000 yards from the formation. A destroyer despatched to the scene sank the enemy after a brief exchange of fire.

Inasmuch as tactical surprise seemed to have been achieved, and in the absence of any indications of enemy aircraft in the vicinity of the Task Force, secured from General Quarters at 0740. A doubled watch was maintained in the anti-aircraft battery, however.

Shortly after 1000 the Task Group Commander reported the presence of enemy aircraft in the vicinity. Manned Air Attack stations at 1037.

Several picket destroyers were observed firing on our port hand at a distance of about 25,000 yards. An unidentified plane was seen to crash in flames in the vicinity of one of the picket destroyers. No enemy aircraft approached this ship, and we did not open fire. At 1145, after all contact with unidentified planes had been lost, secured from Air Attack.

Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" had been formed at 1130; at 1255 the formation reformed Disposition 5 "Roger".

The Task Force slowly retired eastward during the afternoon. Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" was formed at 1653. At 1744 Air Attack for dusk alert. Disposition 5 "Victor Nan" formed at 1813. At 1850 Disposition 5 "Roger" formed. Secured from Air Attack at 1910.

Began retiring for the night on course 075°(T) at 20 knots.

At 2300 changed course to 190°(T).

At 2350 changed course to 210°(T), began returning to strike position.

17 FEBRUARY 1945

0800 Position  
34°-16.4' N  
141°-51.8' E

1200 Position  
34°-10.2' N  
142°-15.3' E

2000 Position  
33°-04.6' N  
141°-47.7' E

Returned to strike position at approximately 34-30 N; 141-30 E, and resumed air strikes against Tokyo area on Island of Honshu.

Thirty minutes before sunrise a heavy fighter sweep was launched against Japanese airfields. This sweep was followed by additional fighter sweeps and at dawn by dive and torpedo bomber attacks. Aircraft, airfields and facilities and aircraft engine plants were the primary objectives of the strikes. Unfavorable weather was encountered by our planes over the target area, but nevertheless, reports indicated that good results were obtained.

At 0618 General Quarters for dawn alert. As no enemy planes appeared in the vicinity of the Task Force, secured at 0720.

Formation axis was rotated to 060°(T) into the wind at 0645.

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By: JAX/HMA, DMS 12/16

All ships maneuvered to conform to movements of carriers.

At 0730 the watch in the anti-aircraft battery was doubled, and the battery alerted, after a picket destroyer had reported a "Zeke" heading for Task Group 58.3. No attack developed, and condition III was set in the anti-aircraft battery at 1028.

Formation axis rotated to 120°(T) at 1110, and to 000°(T) at 1546. Fleet axis rotated to 090°(T). Formation axis rotated to 300°(T) at 1610.

Began retiring South at 1731, changing course to 180°(T), speed 21 knots. Fleet axis 000°(T), course 180°(T), speed 21 knots.

Air attack for dusk alert at 1321; secured at 1918.

18 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
29°-32.4' N	28°-45.0' N	27-29.5' N
141°-17.8' E	140°-38.1' E	139°-50.9' E

Retiring from Tokyo area on course 180°(T) at 21 knots.

At 0430 several enemy picket boats were attacked by destroyers in other task groups.

At 0607 an enemy picket boat was detected between our task group and Task Group 58.3. CALLAGHAN took the enemy under fire and eventually sank the picket boat.

Speed was reduced to 17 knots at 0813, and at 0843 the formation axis was rotated to 345°(T).

Shortly after 0800 carriers began launching planes for air strikes on Chichi Jima. These strikes continued through the day.

Heavy ships fueled destroyers during the afternoon, this ship fueling SWENSON, MANSFIELD, and RINGGOLD.

Air Attack at 1841 for dusk alert; secured at 1920.

19 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-31.3' N	24°-04.8' N	24°-59.2' N
139°-40.5' E	139°-41.0' E	139°-16.2' E

At 0700 rendezvoused with tanker group at approximately 24N, 139° 40 E. Prior to fueling, gunnery exercises were conducted. VINCENNES and destroyers to right of axis formed astern of MASSACHUSETTS; MIAMI and destroyers to left of axis formed astern of INDIANA. 5" and Machine gun batteries fired at towed sleeves.

SIGSBEE alongside at 1120 to deliver official mail. At 1138 alongside KANKAKEE to fuel. Fueling completed at 1446; received 593,252 gallons fuel oil. At 1208 HARRISON alongside to deliver U.S. Mail.

After fueling continued gunnery exercises until 1756, at which time formed Disposition 5 "Roger". Course and axis 000°(T); speed 20 knots. Cruised in area West of Iwo Jima during night.

10

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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20 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-24.0' N	25°-36.1' N	26°-05.1' N
139°-56.7' E	140°-08.3' E	139°-45.0' E

Operating in area of Iwo Jima. At dawn carriers began launching strikes as direct air support to landings effected on Iwo Jima. Operations continued throughout the day.

21 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-16.0' N	25°-03.5' N	26°-05.1' N
139°-37.8' E	139°-46.8' E	140°-36.3' E

Continuing operations North and West of Iwo Jima, furnishing air support for landing operations.

At 0750 TAUSSIG alongside to fuel, completed operation at 0815.

Carriers launched planes for strikes against Japanese defense facilities and installations on Iwo Jima. All ships maneuvered to conform to carrier movements.

General Quarters for drill at 1015; secured at 1115.

In the late afternoon the Task Group Commander reported that an enemy air attack appeared to be forming up in the direction of Chichi Jima. The anti-aircraft battery was alerted at 1728; formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" at 1748, and sounded Air Attack at 1801. Group of unidentified aircraft were reported at various ranges and bearings. Disposition 5 "Victor Nan" formed at 1845. At 1911 units of Task Group 58.2 were observed firing 5" and machine gun batteries. Several enemy planes remained in close proximity to various of the Task Groups for several hours. As these planes closed to gunfire range, units of the groups opened fire. The Task Groups conducted emergency maneuvers during this period. No enemy planes came within range of our guns and this ship did not open fire. After all contact had been lost with enemy aircraft, secured from Air Attack at 2101.

Formed Disposition 5 "Roger" at 2108.

22 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-35.2' N	24°-23.3' N	23°-11.1' N
139°-59.6' E	139°-52.8' E	141°-22.2' E

Cruised in area South and West of Iwo Jima. Carriers launched routine patrols.

At 0834 formation axis rotated to 070°(T); at 0846 rotated axis to 140°(T), and at 1230 rotated axis to 000°(T)

BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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23 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-58.2' N	25°-29.2' N	26°-39.2' N
144°-37.7' E	144°-47.5' E	144°-52.2' E

At 0800 rendezvoused with units of the fueling group at 24-58N; 144-37E. Formed fueling disposition 5 "Fox". Fueling course is 340°(T), speed 10 knots. Prior to fueling ComTaskUnit 58.1.2 assumed tactical command of that unit, which conducted anti-aircraft gunnery exercises astern of the fueling group.

At 1232 alongside AUCILLA to fuel. MURRAY alongside at 1247 to deliver official mail. Completed fueling at 1422, having received 279,755 gallons of fuel oil.

Took station astern of BENNINGTON and continued gunnery exercises.

At 1639, after completion of fueling and gunnery exercises, formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog", axis 000°(T), course 340°(T), speed 15 knots. At 1802 formed Disposition 5 "Roger".

At 2300 course changed to 015°(T), speed 19 knots. The force is en route to launch air strikes against Tokyo.

24 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
29°-00.9' N	29°-27.4' N	30°-55.1' N
146°-26.0' E	146°-18.1' E	145°-06.5' E

Steaming Northward for strikes on Tokyo area.

Topped off destroyers during morning. This ship fueled TAUSSIG and COLLETT. MC KEE was also received alongside to deliver guard mail.

Exercised at General Quarters for drill from 1015 to 1115.

At 0659 changed course to 340°(T). Course changed to 320°(T) at 1443, and at 2346 changed speed to 18 knots for approach to strike position.

25 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
33°-24.7' N	34°-11.5' N	32°-52.8' N
142°-42.2' E	142°-30.3' E	142°-02.8' E

Approaching 34N; 141-20E, from where carriers will launch air strikes against Tokyo; course 305°(T), speed 22 knots.

At 0556 the Task Group Commander reported unidentified aircraft, bearing 011°(T), distance 21 miles. All hands stood to Air Attack stations at 0558. The unidentified planes failed to close the formation and at 0621 contact with them was lost.

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A pre-dawn fighter sweep was launched in squally weather against Japanese aircraft and air fields. This sweep was followed shortly by the first of a series of air strikes. In addition to aircraft and aircraft facilities, today's targets are aircraft engine plants in the vicinity of Tokyo.

At 0703 secured from Air Attack. A doubled watch was maintained in the anti-aircraft battery, however.

At 0815 the formation axis was rotated from 350°(T) to 060°(T).

Bad weather hampered air operations over the target area. Pilots reported a heavy snowstorm in the Tokyo vicinity which prohibited the accomplishment of certain phases of the attack. A result of the state of the weather, the last strike was launched shortly after noon.

At 1402 course was changed to 220°(T) for retirement from the Tokyo area.

Since the possibility of the weather clearing sufficiently to permit effective strikes against Tokyo tomorrow is remote, ComTask Force 58 directed that attacks launched against the Kobe area instead. Fleet axis was rotated to 000°(T), and the Task Groups are to pass in column between Sumisu and Tori Shima before proceeding to the strike position off Kobe.

26 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
30°-43.0' N	29°-43.2' N	27°-40.8' N
139°-26.3' E	138°-57.0' E	139°-03.9' E

At 0232 turned West for passage between Sumisu and Tori Shima. At 0348 changed course to 305°(T) for approach to strike position off Kobe. A heavy swell and adverse weather conditions were encountered, so that flight operations would be difficult. Hence, at 0518 on orders of the Task Force Commander course was changed to 210°(T), and the Task Force began steaming southward. At 0609 course changed to 205°(T); at 0637 course changed to 195°(T).

Routine patrols were launched by the carriers during the day as the force retired South.

27 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-37.9' N	22°-56.0' N	22°-29.2' N
140°-03.0' E	140°-40.9' E	139°-16.0' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at 1000 at approximately 23-15N; 140-35E. Formed Disposition 5 "Fox", fueling course and axis 245°(T), speed 10 knots.

Prior to fueling Task Unit 58.1.2, under command of ComTask Unit 58.1.2 conducted gunnery exercises astern of the fueling formation.

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 BY JAX-HQDA, INR, 1/16

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At 1244 alongside NESHANTIC to fuel. SIGSBEE alongside at 1415 to deliver official mail. Fueling completed at 1445; received 384,24 gallons fuel oil.

Continued gunnery exercises after fueling, taking station astern of BENNINGTON.

Upon completion of fueling and gunnery exercise, formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

At 1913 MC KEE alongside to deliver official and U.S. Mail.

Base course is 275°(T); speed 20 knots; destination, strike position off Okinawa Jima.

28 FEBRUARY 1945

0800 Position

22°-48.8' N  
135°-28.2' E

1200 Position

22°-49.1' N  
134°-26.2' E

2000 Position


22°-38.0' N  
132°-25.1' E

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled SWENSON, COLLETT, and DE HAVEN.

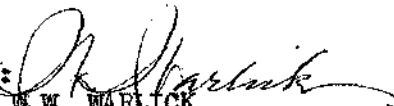
Base course is 275°(T). At 1259 changed course to 265°(T). Speed was increased to 21 knots at 1515.

At 1947 changed course to 300°(T); speed 23 knots, for approach to strike position. At 2146 increased speed to 24 knots.

SUBMITTED:

  
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED:

  
W.W. WARLICK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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By JKA/TMAA, Date 1/16

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Authority: NND - 980833  
By: IAC/ANDA, Date: 12/19/06





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DT-IC-10000, Ohio, 12/86

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WAR DIARY

1 MARCH 1945

*Received*

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-25.2' N	25°-24.4' N	25°-15.0' N
128°-30.1' E	128°-37.0' E	129°-26.0' E

Steaming in Task Force 58 as a unit of Task Group 58.1, which is organized as follows:

Task Force 58

- Vice Admiral M.A. MITSCHER, U.S.N. (ComFirstCarTaskForPac), in BUNKER HILL.
- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, U.S.N. (ComCarDiv 5), in HORNET.
- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, U.S.N.

Task Group 58.1

Task Unit 58.1.1 - Carriers  
HORNET (FF)  
WASP  
BENNINGTON  
BELLEAU WOOD

Task Unit 58.1.2 - Support Unit

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, U.S.N. (ComBatDiv 8), in MASSACHUSETTS
- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH.

BatDiv 8 - less ALABAMA  
MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA

- Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING, U.S.N., in VINCENNES.

CruDiv 14  
VINCENNES (F)  
MIAMI  
SAN JUAN

Task Unit 58.1.3 - Group Screen  
DesRon 61  
DesRon 25

- Capt. J.H. CARTER, U.S.N.

ComFifth Fleet, Admiral R.A. SPRUANCE, U.S.N., present in INDIANAPOLIS.

Task Force 58 is operating in accordance with ComFirstCarTaskForPac OP Order No. 1-45, and today is launching air strikes against OKINAWA JIMA from approximately 25-25N; 128-30E.

Task Group 58.1 is cruising in Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 060°(T), course 290°(T), speed 24 knots. Task Force 58 is in Disposition 5 "William", fleet axis 270°(T), fleet course 270°(T), fleet speed 25 knots. Task Group 58.3 is fleet guide.

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 By: JIA/MSIA, DMR 1/16

At 0030 changed course to 320°(T) and increased speed to 25 knots. Stood to General Quarters stations for dawn alert at 0649; secured at 0749.

Fighter sweeps and air strikes were launched against OKINAWA JIMA by the carriers beginning at dawn.

At 1351 catapulted two planes for rescue mission. Our planes proceeded to a point off the Southwestern OKINAWA JIMA but were unable to locate the pilot who was reported to be in the water. While returning to the ship Lt. G.A. ROBINSON, flying one of our rescue planes, intercepted a message indicating a BENNINGTON pilot was down off South-eastern OKINAWA JIMA. Lt. ROBINSON flew to this area and was successful in locating and rescuing Ensign W.F. HAHN, attached to VF 82 attached to BENNINGTON. Both of our planes returned to the ship at 1820.

At sunset began retiring from strike area on course 130°(T), speed 20 knots.

2 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

21°-45.1' N  
 131°-50.1' E

1200 Position

21°-10.9' N  
 132°-36.4' E

2000 Position

19°-50.4' N  
 134°-34.4' E

MC KEE alongside at 1016 to return pilot rescued in yesterday's operation to BENNINGTON.

Cruising Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed at 1312 for tactical and gunnery exercises, which were conducted until 1555, at which time formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

MANSFIELD alongside at 1751 to receive supplies. MURRAY alongside at 1829 with official mail.

3 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

16°-46.8' N  
 135°-37.3' E

1200 Position

16°-16.4' N  
 135°-57.8' E

2000 Position

14°-37.6' N  
 136°-57.5' E

At dawn rendezvoused with fueling group at approximately 16-50N; 135-30E. Formed special fueling disposition 5 "Fox", base course 150°(T) at 0802.

SIGSBEE alongside at 0848 to transfer patient for medical attention. MOORE alongside to transfer official mail at 0945.

At 1010 catapulted two planes for training flights; recovered planes at 1030. At 1110 catapulted two planes for training purposes; recovered planes at 1148. Exercised at General Quarters from 1015 to 1115.

ComTask Unit 58.1.2 assumed tactical command of this unit at 1202, and, separating from the carriers, proceeded to rendezvous with other heavies and form Task Force 59, as directed by ComFifth Fleet instructions. Task Force 59 is presently organized as follows:

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Authority: NND-988133  
By: JAX/BJA/DAB/146Task Force 59Task Group 59.1 - Battle LineBatDiv 7NEW JERSEY (F)  
WISCONSIN  
MISSOURI (RFFF)BatDiv 6WASHINGTON (F)  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH DAKOTABatDiv 8MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANATask Group 59.2 - Right FlankCruDiv 14VINCENNES (F)  
MIAMI  
VICKSBURG (not present)DesDiv 49DesDiv 50Task Group 59.3 - CenterCruDiv 17PASADENA (F)  
SPRINGFIELD  
ASTORIA  
WILKES-BARREDesDiv 109DesDiv 110DesDiv 105DesDiv 106Task Group 59.4 - Left FlankCruDiv 13SANTA FE (F)  
BILOXI  
BIRMINGHAM (not present)DesDiv 93DesDiv 94- Vice Admiral W.A. LEE,  
U.S.N, ComBatRon 2,  
in SOUTH DAKOTA.  
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH,  
in MASSACHUSETTS.  
- Rear Admiral BADGER, in  
NEW JERSEY.- Rear Admiral COOLEY,  
in WASHINGTON.

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH.

- Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING,  
in VINCENNES.  
- Rear Admiral WHITING.- Captain LUDEWIG.  
- Captain PARISH.  
- Rear Admiral JONES,  
in PASADENA.  
- Rear Admiral JONES.- Captain JARRELL.  
- Commander EDSALL.  
- Captain JARRETT.  
- Commander HOGG.  
- Rear Admiral DEYO,  
in SANTA FE.  
- Rear Admiral DEYO.- Captain NUNN.  
- Captain REYNOLDS.

Task Force 59 conducted tactical exercises in the afternoon. At 1953 General Quarters for simulated torpedo attacks by light forces. Secured at 2104.

**CONFIDENTIAL**WAR DIARY4 MARCH 1945

0800 Position  
 12°-10.1' N  
 138°-21.0' E

1200 Position  
 11°-14.6' N  
 139°-07.1' E

2000 Position  
 10°-53.0' N  
 140°-01.8' E

Conducted tactical and gunnery exercises at intervals throughout day, beginning with simulated torpedo attack on formation by light forces at 0300. All hands stood to General Quarters stations from 0300 to 0345, when personnel not necessary for tracking exercises were secured.

Battle Disposition 4 "B-1" was formed on a general bearing line of 070°(T). Fleet course and axis 140°(T). Additional tactical exercises followed.

At 1111 formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 6 "Baker".

During the afternoon additional tracking exercises were held as carrier aircraft dive bombed sleds streamed aft of the ships in formation.

At 1941 Disposition 4 "Nan" was formed. General Quarters was sounded for main and secondary battery firing exercise. Secured at 2051. Proceeded toward Ulithi.

5 MARCH 1945

0800 Position  
 11°-12.0' N  
 139°-55.7' E

Launched two planes at 0715 for spotting during main and secondary battery firing exercises. 0730 General Quarters for gunnery exercises. Fired main and secondary batteries at surface targets; exercises completed at 0834. Secured from General Quarters at 0835. Fired secondary battery at towed sleeves during remainder of morning.

Ulithi Atoll sighted at 1155. At 1326 passed entrance buoys abeam and entered Ulithi Atoll. Proceeded to anti-aircraft firing anchorage and at 1420 anchored in berth B-1.

1900 MALLICOMA alongside to port to deliver fuel. Completed fueling at 2152; received 610,792 gallons fuel oil

6 - 13 MARCH 1945

Anchored in Urushi Anchorage, Ulithi Atoll, West Carolines Group. Normal Port routine is being followed as permitted by fueling, provisioning and by anti-aircraft exercises. The Port War Watch is set, with the exception of the machine gun battery which is in Condition III. Condition III is set in the entire anti-aircraft battery from an hour before until an hour after sunrise and sunset. The ship is darkened from sunset to sunrise.

6 MARCH: MALLICOMA left from alongside at 0640. Gunnery exercises conducted during morning. One plane hoisted out for training flight during morning; both planes made similar flights during afternoon.

**CONFIDENTIAL**WAR DIARY

Gunnery exercises were continued in the afternoon.

7 MARCH: Transferred empty 5" ammunition cans to LCI alongside. Began provisioning ship from lighters. Hoisted out planes for anti-submarine patrol duty. At 0713 DYESS, J.Z., Slc, 630 44 58, USNR, was fatally injured when the gate in the socket of the gangway davit broke, causing the davit to fall on DYESS, who was working below it. Conducted gunnery exercises. Underway at 1555 to shift berths. 1628 Anchored in berth #6.

8 MARCH: MAYFIELD VICTORY alongside at 0735. 0850 All hands assembled aft for funeral services conducted for DYESS, J.Z., Slc, 630 44 58, USNR. 0945 Began receiving ammunition from MAYFIELD VICTORY. Took aboard 14,000 rounds 40MM HET and 7200 rounds 20MM HET from LCI alongside.

9 MARCH: MAYFIELD VICTORY cleared side at 0637. Both planes hoisted out for routine flights.

10 MARCH: Hoisted out one plane for training flight during morning.

11 MARCH: BUCYRUS VICTORY alongside at 1343 to deliver ammunition. Operation completed at 1658. 2000 Unidentified aircraft reported at 258° (T), distance 37 miles, dropping window. At 2012 an explosion on the stern of the RANDOLPH was observed; fires followed. 2013 Manned Air Attack stations. 2015 A second explosion observed off bow. RANDOLPH reported fire under control at 2025. 2102 Secured from Air Attack.

12 MARCH: Exercised at General Quarters for drill purposes from 1015 to 1115. At 1320 Condition "Red" was set by C.T.F. 58, as an unidentified plane was reported 13 miles away. All hands manned Air Attack stations. At 1368 the plane was identified as friendly; secured from Air Attack. At 2010 lights which appeared to be flares were observed Southeast of the Atoll. At 2135 two flares were observed apparently seven or eight thousand yards North of our berth. Condition "Blue" was set by SOPA. This ship set Condition IA, all hands manning Air Attack stations at 2147. SOPA relayed the information that the plane dropping flares was friendly; secured from Air Attack at 2230.

13 MARCH: At 0810 SOPA transmitted "Flash Red". Manned Air Attack stations. At 0835 secured from Air Attack upon receipt of information that unidentified plane was friendly. Hoisted out one plane for routine flight.

14 MARCH 1945

2000 Position

10°-39.7' N

138°-47.3' E

Underway from Ulithi Atoll at 1110, as a unit of Task Force 59, which is organized as follows:

5

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Authority: 48 CFR 928.133  
By: [Signature]Task Force 59Task Group 59.1 - Battle LineBatDiv 7NEW JERSEY (F)  
WISCONSIN  
MISSOURI (RFFF)

- Vice Admiral W.A. LEE, USN  
(ComBatRon 2), in SOUTH DAKOTA.
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN  
(ComBatDiv 8), in MASSACHUSETTS.
- Rear Admiral Badger, USN,  
in NEW JERSEY.

BatDiv 6WASHINGTON (F)  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH DAKOTA (FF)

- Rear Admiral COOLEY, USN,  
in WASHINGTON.

BatDiv 8MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

DesDiv 105, DesDiv 106

Task Group 59.2-Light Force Group 2CruDiv 14VINCENTNES (F)  
MIAMI  
VICKSBURG

- Rear Admiral WHITING, USN,  
in VINCENNES.
- Rear Admiral WHITING, USN.

DesDiv 49, DesDiv 50

Task Group 59.3-Light Force Group 3CruDiv 17PASADENA (F)  
SPRINGFIELD  
ASTORIA  
WILKES-BARRE

- Rear Admiral JONES, USN,  
in PASADENA.
- Rear Admiral JONES, USN.

DesDiv 95, DesDiv 96

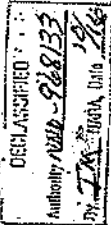
Task Group 59.4-Light Force Group 4CruDiv 16GUAM (F)  
ALASKA

- Rear Admiral LOW, USN,  
in GUAM.
- Rear Admiral LOW, USN.

CruDiv 10BALTIMORE (F)  
PITTSBURGH  
DesDiv 108

- Rear Admiral WILTSE, USN,  
in BALTIMORE.

Sortied in accordance with ComBatRon 2 Sortie Plan No. 4-45. This ship operating with Firing Unit Eight, consisting of BatDiv 8, BatDiv 6, DesDiv 6, DesDiv 105, and DesDiv 106. (See ComBatRon 2 Training order No. 9-45)-

**CONFIDENTIAL**WAR DIARY

Operated independently as Firing Unit Eight during night.

15 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
13°-23.5' N	14°-10.0' N	16°-39.2' N
138°-57.0' E	133°-51.6' E	138°-25.3' E

At 0630 CruDiv 16 and DesDiv 96 left the formation to proceed as directed by O.T.C. Rendezvoused with Firing Unit Seven at dawn. Formed Task Group 59.7. Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 8 "Charlie", course and axis 000°(T) at 0734. Formed Disposition 4 "Victor" 9 "Dog" at 0900. Engaged in emergency maneuvers during simulated attacks by planes of Task Force 58. At 1107 formed cruising Disposition 4 "Roger". At 1300 formed Disposition 4 "Victor" 10 "Dog". Conducted gunnery and radar tracking exercises during afternoon. Formed Disposition 4 "Wan" at 1525. Rendezvous was effected with Task Force 58 but inasmuch as it was impossible to take station in Task Group 58.1 before 1830, BatDiv 8 operated independently about 10 miles astern of Task Group 58.1 during the night.

16 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
20°-22.4' N	21°-04.4' N	23°-01.9' N
139°-36.9' E	137°-54.2' E	137°-05.2' E

At dawn rendezvoused with fueling group and with Task Force 58.1. Organization of Task Group 58.1 follows:

Task Force 58

- Vice Admiral M.A. MITSCHER, USN  
(ComFirstCarTaskForPac),  
in BUNKER HILL.

Task Group 58.1

- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN  
(ComCarDiv 5), in HORNET.  
- Rear Admiral CLARK, USN.

Task Unit 58.1.1 - Carrier

HORNET (FF)  
WASP (F)

- Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, USN  
(ComCarDiv 3).

BENNINGTON  
BELLEAU WOOD

Task Group 58.1.2 - Support

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN  
(ComBatDiv 8), MASSACHUSETTS.  
- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

BatDiv 8

MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA

CruDiv 14

- Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING, USN,  
in VINCENNES.

VINCENNES (F)  
MIAMI  
VICKSBURG

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SAN JUAN  
 Less HOUSTON  
 DesRon 61, DesRon 25

Alongside MARIAS to fuel at 0706. Completed fueling at 0843. Conducted gunnery exercises upon completion of fueling. HARRISON alongside at 1002 with mail.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1225.

17 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-26.7' N	26°-21.8' N	28°-15.0' N
135°-02.5' E	134°-32.5' E	134°-11.2' E

Steaming toward the Island of KYUSHU in accordance with ComFirst Carrier Task Force Op. Order No. 2-45 and additional orders transmitted by dispatch.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0505; secured at 0605.

Topped off destroyers during morning, this ship fueling DASHIELL, COLLETT, and MOORE.

Rotated formation axis to 050°(T) at 0941. At 0957 Changed course to 330°(T); speed 18 knots. Course Changed to 000°(T) 1439.

Carriers launched routine patrols during day, recovering all aircraft at dark.

At 2154 an unidentified aircraft was reported to be 28 miles from the formation. Manned Air Attack stations at 2157. As the plane did not close the formation, secured from Air Attack at 2225. At 2254, however, the Task Group Commander ordered the formation of Disposition 5 "Victor Nan" and directed the Task Group to set condition I. All hands manned Air Attack stations at 2255. At 2347 observed firing by ships astern in Task Group 58.3.

18 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
30°-30.0' N	31°-23.5' N	31°-20.8' N
133°-02.0' E	133°-08.8' E	133°-19.1' E

Steaming toward strike position off KYUSHU at approximately at 30N, 133E. Secured from Air Attack at 0006. Enemy planes continued to "snoop" the Task Force however, and at 0310 the Task Group Commander ordered the Group to set Condition I. All hands manned Air Attack stations. As enemy planes did not close the formation, secured at 0354.

Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 0357. At 0410 rotated formation axis to 030°(T). At 0441 rotated formation axis to 010°(T).

Enemy planes closed the Group at 0456 and dropped a well placed pattern of flares approximately 4500 yards from the formation. Air Attack sounded at 0502 and at 0505 began firing the secondary battery to port. Shortly the machine gun battery opened fire. An enemy plane.



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flew over the ship at an extremely low altitude at 0513. At 0520 INDIANA shot down an enemy plane apparently making a torpedo run on the BENNINGTON at 270°(T).

Single planes continued to attack ships in the formation. A second plane was taken under fire by many ships of the groups, burst into flames, and crashed into the water at 256°(T) approximately 5000 yards from this ship.

Formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" at 0542.

At 0604 a "Nell" crossed our stern heading toward the WASP. The plane was taken under fire by our machine gun battery and a fire was observed in the starboard engine. The plane continued to close the WASP which took it under heavy fire as it approached. The fire spread to the whole forward part of the plane, which executed a "wing over" and crashed into the water apparently within 50 yards of the WASP. At the time the "Nell" did a "wing over" near the WASP two objects, apparently bombs, were observed to fall from the plane into the water on the far side of WASP. It is thought that hits were obtained on this plane by our machine gun battery.

During these attacks the Task Group Commander maneuvered the Group by emergency signals.

As no more enemy planes appeared, secured from Air Attack at 0652. A doubled watch was maintained in the anti-aircraft.

At 0725 an enemy plane dove out of the clouds just ahead of this ship, apparently trying to bomb or dive into HORNET. Our machine gun batteries opened fire immediately, hitting the plane, which crashed into the water near the HORNET.

Carriers launched planes for strikes against Japanese air fields and installations at dawn. Strikes continued throughout the day.

At 1132 launched two planes for a rescue mission off the Southern tip of KYUSHU.

An enemy plane diving on one of our carriers was taken under fire by our machine gun battery, at 1311. The plane crashed in flames close to the starboard side of the HORNET. It is believed this plane was destroyed by our machine gun battery.

Air Attack sounded at 1334. No enemy plane approached close enough to fire upon. Secured at 1544.

At 1525 our planes returned having successfully completed the rescue mission. Lieut. R.J. NELSON, attached to the FRANKLIN, was rescued.

At 1730 Air Attack for dusk alert. Secured at 2003.

Air Attack sounded at 2226 after unidentified planes reported approaching the group. Opened fire at 2227 with secondary battery. One of the enemy planes was observed to burst into flames and crash into the water off our port quarter, range about 8000 yards. Secured from Air Attack at 2305.

19 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

32°-24.2' N  
134°-11.8' E

1200 Position

32°-36.2' N  
135°-04.6' E

2000 Position

31°-52.3' N  
135°-23.8' E

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Authority: NND-928133  
By: JAX/HWA, Dlp  
1976

Steaming off coast of Southern SHINKOKU preparatory to launching additional strikes against Japanese Airfields, shore installations and shipping in the Southern KYUSHU and SHIKOKU areas.

At 0003 several flares were observed on the port beam at approximately 10,000 yards distance. The Task Group slowed from 22 knots to 15 knots using emergency procedure. Firing was observed on the horizon at 0039. The Task Group changed course and speed frequently as directed by the Task Group Commander. "Snoopers" remained in the vicinity of the Task Force and at 0321 as enemy planes began closing the Task Group the Task Group Commander ordered the Group to set Condition I. All hands manned Air Attack stations. Various emergency course and speed signals were executed as the Task Group maneuvered to avoid the attack. At 0418 the ship began firing its secondary battery to port, and at 0422 the starboard battery opened fire. Additional flares were dropped by enemy planes but they were dropped too far from the Task Group to be effective. Shortly the enemy planes began opening range. No damage was reported.

At 0445 land was picked up by radar, at  $312^{\circ}(T)$ , distance 56 miles. At 0450 the formation axis was rotated to  $030^{\circ}(T)$ . The axis was rotated again at 0540, to  $060^{\circ}(T)$ . At 0628, shortly after sunrise, formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog".

As no further attacks developed, secured from Air Attack at 0635. A double watch was maintained in the anti-aircraft battery, however.

Carriers began launching fighter sweeps and air strikes at dawn.

At 0708 an enemy plane dove out of the clouds and dropped a bomb, which hit the WASP. A small fire was apparently started but was quickly brought under control. The enemy plane was shot down by fighters before it could escape. This ship took the enemy plane under fire but was not able to destroy it. At 0807 an unidentified plane was reported near formation and at 0833 a plane was sighted diving on the WASP. This ship took the plane under fire apparently scoring hits. Our fighters also fired on the enemy plane which burst into flames and plunged into the sea.

At 0932 this ship passed a mine close aboard to port. Other in the formation were advised of its location.

The Task Group maneuvered to conform to the carriers' flight operations. Anti-Aircraft batteries remained alerted as enemy planes were thought to be close to the Task Group on many occasions during the day.

At 1320 firing was observed astern as the Combat Air Patrol shot down a "Zeke". At 1328 opened fire with machine gun batteries at enemy plane which escaped into the clouds.

By 1557 the situation had quieted down somewhat and cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" was formed.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1750. Secured at 1920 as no enemy planes appeared.

The Task Group is slowly retiring Southward during the night. FRANKLIN has been badly damaged and is being towed by PITTSEBURGH at a speed of 6 knots. For this reason it is not possible to make a high speed retirement. All Task Groups are remaining in the general area of FRANKLIN as she withdraws.

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20 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
30°-51.3' N	30°-20.4' N	29°-24.0' N
135°-25.6' E	135°-43.8' E	134°-57.6' E

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0507; secured at 0607. Formation axis rotated to 080°(T) at 0641.

Carriers fueled destroyers during morning. Other units Zig Zagged independently on station.

Routine patrols were launched by carriers. Speed of the Task Group has been increased as FRANKLIN is now under her own power.

At 1645 Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed. Air Attack stations manned at 1708 as enemy planes were reported to be in the vicinity. No attack developed at this time; formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1820. At 1827 secured from Air Attack, maintaining a doubled watch in the anti-aircraft battery.

Enemy planes were reported approaching at 2108. All hands manned Air Attack stations at 2115. Picket destroyers were observed firing at 2133. Formed Disposition 5 "Victor Nan" at 2140. Maneuvered as directed by O.T.C. At 2300 commenced firing with anti-aircraft battery to port. Flares observed at 2337, range 15,000 yards. No ship reported sustaining any damage in this attack.

21 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
27°-21.1' N	26°-03.9' N	24°-33.2' N
134°-31.7' E	134°-28.2' E	134°-39.5' E

Continuing retirement from KYUSHU. All hands are at Air Attack stations. At 0046 secured from Air Attack as no further enemy attacks appeared to be developing. Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 0055.

At 0335 the glow of a fire beyond the horizon was observed. The Task Group Commander reported the fire was an enemy twin engine bomber which one of our night fighters had shot down. Continued to retire on 190°(T) at 22 knots.

TAUSSIG alongside to deliver official mail at 0630. ROGERS alongside at 0808 for same purpose.

During the morning the Task Group Commander warned that enemy search and attack planes were expected to be in our vicinity. A doubled watch was maintained in the anti-aircraft battery. At 1008 unidentified aircraft were detected approaching the formation, range 55 miles. Formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" at 1025. Air Attack stations manned at 1037. The enemy planes never closed the formation, so at 1140 secured from Air Attack and formed Disposition 5 "Roger".

Again at 1400 Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" was formed. The Task Group Commander directed that the group set Condition I. All hands manned Air Attack stations. A large group of enemy planes, consisting of approximately

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By: JKA  
Date: 1/16/04

25 twin engine bombers with a fighter cover was intercepted by our fighters as it approached the formation. In a brief but decisive action our planes knocked down 26 "Bettys" plus 2 probables and 11 enemy fighters plus 3 probables. No enemy plane got within 6 miles of the formation. At 1554 formed Disposition 5 "Roger". Secured from Air Attack.

At 2010 as the ship executed a turn signal a large wave broke over the stern knocking the KINGFISHER on our port catapult onto the deck and damaging the plane beyond our capacity to repair same.

Commander Task Force 58 effected a reorganization of the Force in view of the several ships damaged in repeated enemy air attacks. The cripples were transferred to Task Group 58.2 which is proceeding to ULITHI; leaving three task groups in the area. Task Group 58.1 lost the WASP to Task Group 58.2 but was increased by SAN JACINTO, CruDiv 10 (BALTIMORE, PITTSBURGH), and DesDiv 106. This change is effective at 1000 today but the ships involved will not make the change until directed. Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE (ComCarDiv 3) shifted flag from WASP to BENNINGTON.

22 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
22°-40.8' N	22°-39.8' N	22°-46.3' N
131°-41.8' E	132°-19.7' E	132°-33.8' E

Rendezvoused with tankers at daybreak; formed Special Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0630. Streamed paravanes during morning for drill purposes and to check gear. BRUSH alongside to receive personnel at 0913.

Alongside SAUGATUCK at 1029 to fuel; completed fueling at 1410 after receiving 656,631 gallons fuel oil.

Hoisted aboard plane #09676 transferred from DETROIT.

At 1512 LOVERING alongside to return pilot and radioman to DETROIT.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1631. SAN JACINTO, CruDiv 10, BALTIMORE (F), and PITTSBURGH under command of Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, USN, and DesDiv 106 joined the formation, taking assigned stations in the disposition

MADDOX alongside at 1741 with official mail.

23 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-39.6' N	25°-32.2' N	25°-47.2' N
128°-40.2' E	128°-40.7' E	128°-26.3' E

At dawn carriers began launching planes for strikes against OKINAWA and surrounding islands. General Quarters for dawn alert from 0527 to 0614.

Rotated formation axis to 120°(T) at 0620. At 0657 rotated formation axis to 090°(T). At 0711 rotated formation axis to 060°(T). Axis rotated to 030°(T) at 0804, and at 0817 rotated formation axis to 010°(T).

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 By: JAW/MAWA, OMA 1966

At 1233 an unidentified aircraft was detected bearing 020°(T), distance 28 miles, closing the formation slowly. At 1310 the Task Group Commander directed the Group to set Condition I. All hands manned Air Attack stations. The unidentified plane was identified as friendly; secured from Air Attack at 1327.

MADDOX alongside at 1443 to deliver official mail. At 1800 maneuvered to avoid a mine which was passed close aboard to port.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1840; secured at 1957.

24 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-48.5' N	25°-56.3' N	26°-08.0' N
127°-37.8' E	127°-42.9' E	128°-39.7' E

Approaching OKINAWA JIMA for bombardment of shore installations in accordance with Annex I to ComBatRon 2 Operation No. 10-45.

At 0455 ComBatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of Battleship Division Eight; units began maneuvering to form Task Group 59.7, the Bombardment Group, composed as follows:

<u>Task Group 59.7</u>	- Bombardment Group.
<u>Task Unit 59.7.1-Northern Group</u>	- Rear Admiral BADGER, USN, (ComBatDiv 7), in NEW JERSEY.
<u>BatDiv 7</u>	
NEW JERSEY (F)	
WISCONSIN,	
MISSOURI	
DesDiv 96	
<u>Task Unit 59.7.2-Eastern Group</u>	- Rear Admiral COOLEY, USN, (ComBatDiv 6), in WASHINGTON
<u>BatDiv 6</u>	
WASHINGTON (F)	
NORTH CAROLINA	
SOUTH DAKOTA (FF)	
DesDiv 105	
<u>Task Unit 59.7.3-Southern Group</u>	- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN (ComBatDiv Eight), in MASSACHUSETTS.
<u>BatDiv 8</u>	
MASSACHUSETTS (F)	
INDIANA	
DesDiv 50	

Formed Disposition 4 "Roger" at 0511; and at 0624 formed 4 "Victor" 10 "Baker".

At 0750 various Bombardment Groups proceeded to assigned sectors

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By: JAX/HMA, DAB, 1/16

to begin bombardment. Admiral R.A. SPRUANCE, USN, (ComFifthFleet) in INDIANAPOLIS is present, and accompanied Southern Bombardment Group.

At 0800 launched planes for spotting. Streamed paravanes.

The Southern Bombardment Group is to cover the Minesweep Group working close inshore and will follow these units into the swept area, in order to close range for more accurate fire.

Opened fire with main battery at 0943. At 1243 this ship left the firing line to recover its aircraft. During recovery, the main float on plane #5483 collapsed upon landing, causing the plane to nose over. Both pilot and radioman were rescued by SIGSBEE. The plane was destroyed by gunfire.

Launched remaining aircraft at 1328, for spotting. At 1337 rejoined firing line and at 1343 resumed bombardment. Ceased firing at 1415. Recovered one aircraft; recovered paravanes.

Reformed Task Group 59.7 at 1504. Formed Disposition 4 "Victor".

10 "Dog".

SIGSBEE alongside to return pilot and radioman at 1504.

At 1735 Battleship Divisions were instructed to join Task Groups of Task Force 58. BatDiv 8 and BatDiv 7 joined Task Groups 58.1 at 1920 in formation 5 "Roger Sugar".

Dusk alert from 1831 to 1937.

25 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

26°-19.0' N  
129°-29.2' E

1200 Position

26°-20.8' N  
129°-31.8' E

2000 Position

26°-27.7' N  
129°-21.2' E

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0521; secured at 0621. Launched dawn strikes against Jap targets on OKINAWA JIMA.

Fueled destroyers between flight operations; this ship fueled HAILLEY, and COLLETT.

At 1719 BatDiv 7 left the formation to rejoin Task Group 58.4. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1744. Air Attack for dusk alert from 1839 to 1923. Retiring toward fueling area.

26 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

23°-03.5' N  
127°-48.2' E

1200 Position

23°-23.7' N  
128°-11.0' E

2000 Position

24°-22.7' N  
129°-19.5' E

Rendezvoused with tankers at sunrise. Formed Special Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0717. Alongside PLATTE to fuel at 0757. SCHROEDER alongside to deliver official mail at 1019. Completed fueling at 1033; received 489,707 gallons.

Upon completion of fueling conducted gunnery exercises astern of the formation.

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DASHIELL alongside at 1404 to deliver official mail. MANSFIELD alongside at 1652 to deliver engineering gear.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

At 2323 all hands stood to Air Attack stations. Enemy planes were reported approaching the Task Force. Secured at 2400 as no plane closed the Group.

27 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

26°-26.8' N  
129°-54.8' E

1200 Position

26°-41.9' N  
129°-41.4' E

2000 Position

26°-50.4' N  
129°-30.6' E

Cruising off OKINAWA JIMA furnishing air support to preinvasion operations by launching strikes against AMAMI O SHIMA.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0520; at 0605 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog". Enemy planes were reported to be approaching the formation. At 0641 began firing secondary battery to starboard. At 0702 MURRAY shot down a torpedo plane after it had dropped a torpedo which MURRAY reported went completely through the forward part of the ship without detonating. Secured from Air Attack at 0742. Maintained a doubled watch in the anti-aircraft battery.

At 0854 formed Disposition 5 "Roger".

Carriers launched strikes shortly after sunrise. Reports received later indicated opposition at AMAMI O SHIMA was negligible.

In afternoon fueled COLLETT, TAUSSIG, and MANSFIELD.

28 MARCH 1945

0800 Position

26°-17.4' N  
129°-21.5' E

1200 Position

27°-09.7' N  
129°-45.0' E

2000 Position

28°-49.8' N  
131°-34.5' E

Task Group 58.1 operation independently East of OKINAWA while Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 fuel to the Southeast.

At 0521 rotated formation axis to 150°(T). At 0531 rotated formation axis to 180°(T).

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled DE HAVEN.

At approximately 1100 a message was received from the Task Group Commander indicating the Group was heading North to intercept the Japanese Fleet. Amplifying reports indicated that we expected to strike the enemy fleet as it sortied from BUNGO SUIDO and plans were made to detach the support units of Task Group 58.1 and allow them to proceed Northward to destroy any cripples remaining afloat after our air strikes had been completed.

At 1430 a search and attack group was launched. At 1500 a group of 40 fighters was launched to sweep airfields on Southern KYUSHU before proceeding to attack the Japanese Fleet.

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Authority: ADM - 968133  
BY: DA-THINA Date: 2/16

15

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By: IKA/MLB, Date: 12/14/06

Unfortunately the enemy fleet units were never located, and our planes were forced to release their bombs on targets of opportunity along the Southeast coast. Carriers recovered aircraft shortly after dark.

Task Group 58.1 is remaining in the area Southeast of KYUSHU and will be joined by Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 during the night. All groups will strike KYUSHU tomorrow.

29 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
29°-20.0' N	28°-44.9' N	27°-10.8' N
131°-29.1' E	132°-05.2' E	133°-18.3' E

Operating off Southern KYUSHU. During the night Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 joined this Group.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0508; secured at 0609.

Carriers launched strikes against KYUSHU Airfields and Installations at dawn. At noon began retiring South.

Rotated formation axis to 140°(T) at 1106.

BLUE alongside at 1437 to transfer official mail.

Task Group 58.1 retiring to fueling area.

30 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-08.9' N	25°-38.6' N	26°-35.0' N
133°-05.2' E	133°-27.3' E	132°-51.6' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at dawn. At 0555 formed Special Disposition 5 "Fox". Alongside SABINE to fuel at 0655. CROWLEY alongside at 0850 to transfer personnel. Completed fueling at 0913, after receiving 9,783 barrels fuel oil. TAUSSIG alongside at 1153 to deliver mail. MANSFIELD alongside to deliver radio gear at 1450.

Formed 5 "Roger" at 1530; axis 150°(T), course 315°(T), speed 15 knots. MADDOX alongside at 1609 for transfer of personnel.

Began returning to area East of OKINAWA JIMA.

31 MARCH 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-12.9' N	26°-14.3' N	26°-30.1' N
129°-32.1' E	129°-09.4' E	130°-12.9' E

Cruising Southeast of OKINAWA JIMA conducting air strikes and furnishing support to pre-invasion operations of Task Force 52 and other Fifth Fleet Units.



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General Quarters for dawn alert at 0513; secured at 0613.  
Launched strikes at dawn against installations at AMAMI O SHIMA.  
At 0620 rotated formation axis to 120°(T).  
Fueled destroyers between flight operations. This ship fueled  
JOHN RODGERS, MC KEE, DASHIELL, and TAUSSIG.  
At 1747 rotated formation axis to 090°(T).

SUBMITTED:

*P.S. Savidge, Jr.*  
P.S. SAVIDGE, JR.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED:

*W.W. Warlick*  
W.W. WARLICK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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Authority: 2018-968133  
BY: IIA/ANNA, DAB 12/16

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By: *IA* Date: *1/28*



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By: J.A. TROSA, Date: 1/16

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

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1 APRIL 1945

0800 Position  
26°-33.0' N  
129°-04.0' E

1200 Position  
26°-17.8' N  
129°-08.1' E

2000 Position  
26°-31.5' N  
129°-54.0' E

Operating in waters East of OKINAWA JIMA as a unit of Task Group 58.1 which is furnishing direct air support to landings being made today on OKINAWA JIMA by Central Pacific forces.

Task Group 58.1 is presently organized as follows:

Task Force 58

- Vice Admiral M.A. MITSCHER,  
USN (ComFirstCarTaskForPac)  
in BUNKER HILL.

Task Group 58.1

- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN  
(ComCarDiv 5), in HORNET.

Task Unit 58.1.1 - Carriers  
HORNET (FF)  
BENNINGTON (F)

- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN.

BELLEAU WOOD  
SAN JACINTO

- Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, USN  
(ComCarDiv 3).

Task Unit 58.1.2 - Support

BatDiv 8

MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN  
(ComBatDiv 8), in MASSACHUSETTS.  
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN.

CruDiv 10

BALTIMORE (F)  
PITTSBURGH

- Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, USN,  
in BALTIMORE.

CruDiv 14

VINCENNES (F)  
MIAMI  
VICKSBURG  
SAN JUAN

- Rear Admiral F.E.M. WHITING, USN,  
in VINCENNES

Task Unit 58.1.3 - Screen  
DesRon 61  
DesRon 25

Steaming in Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 090°(T), course 330°(T), speed 18 knots.

121157 **FILMED**

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DATE: 12/14/2010

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Dawn alert from 0516 to 0616. Carriers launched aircraft for strikes on OKINAWA JIMA at dawn. All ships of Task Group maneuvered as directed by O.T.C. to conform to movements of carriers during flight operations.

Fueled SIGSBEE, STOCKHAM, JOHN RODGERS, DASHIELL, and BRUSH.

2 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-17.1' N	26°-18.1' N	26°-03.6' N
129°-19.6' E	129°-39.8' E	129°-22.1' E

Operating East of OKINAWA JIMA, supporting landing operations in company with Task Group 58.4 while Task Group 58.3 fuels.

At 0414 the Task Group Commander ordered emergency speed of 23 knots. An enemy plane approached the formation and passed over the Group. This ship opened fire with the 5" battery. At 0442 night fighters splashed a "Betty" on the edge of the formation.

Air attack for dawn alert at 0512; secured at 0612.

Throughout the day carriers launched strikes in direct support of our ground forces.

SWENSON alongside at 1258 to transfer official mail. BRUSH alongside at 1321 to transfer personnel.

3 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-22.4' N	24°-12.6' N	24°-39.2' N
126°-49.5' E	126°-49.3' E	127°-27.6' E

Operating Southeast of SAKISHIMA GUNTO. Dawn alert from 0521 to 0621. At dawn carriers launched strikes against Japanese aircraft and facilities on SAKISHIMA GUNTO. All ships were maneuvered by O.T.C. to conform to movements of carriers during flight operations.

At 1211 rotated formation axis to 110°(T); rotated formation axis to 090°(T) at 1223.

The Task Group Commander directed the Group to set condition I at 1228. All hands manned air attack stations at 1230. No enemy aircraft closed the formation. Secured from Air Attack at 1311.

At 1727 doubled the watch in the anti-aircraft battery. At 1733 manned air attack stations. Firing observed on starboard quarter at 1915. No enemy plane came within gunfire range of the Task Group; secured from air attack at 2005.

The Task Group is retiring toward OKINAWA JIMA, which is tomorrow's target.

4 APRIL 1945

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WAR DIARY

0800 Position  
22°-59.0' N  
128°-46.3' E

1200 Position  
23°-19.8' N  
128°-59.3' E

2000 Position  
24°-25.3' N  
129°-34.1' E

Rendezvoused with tankers at dawn. At 0618 formed Special Disposition 5 "Fox". Alongside MANATEE at 0641 to fuel. Completed fueling at 0942; received 12,277 barrels fuel oil.

After fueling locked number two and four shafts to repair leak in condenser. Conducted gunnery exercises in company with ships not fueling.

Completed fueling exercises at 1752. Formed Disposition 5 "Roger". Steamed toward OKINAWA JIMA.

5 APRIL 1945

0800 Position  
26°-16.1' N  
129°-36.8' E

1200 Position  
26°-37.2' N  
129°-52.1' E

2000 Position  
26°-50.3' N  
129°-52.2' E

Steaming off OKINAWA JIMA preparatory to launching air strikes in support of ground operations. General quarters for dawn alert from 0509 to 0609.

Fueled destroyers between flight operations. This ship fueled COLLETT, MANSEFIELD, MADDOX, WEDDERBURN, and TWINING. At 1214 SWENSON alongside with official mail. BLUE alongside at 1727 for transfer of engineering gear.

Rotated formation axis to 020°(T) at 1746.

Carriers launched routine patrols and strikes against OKINAWA JIMA during day.

6 APRIL 1945

0800 Position  
26°-46.6' N  
129°-42.0' E

1200 Position  
26°-43.4' N  
129°-44.7' E

2000 Position  
27°-17.1' N  
130°-28.6' E

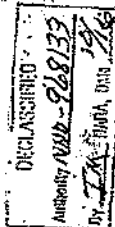
Operating off OKINAWA JIMA, furnishing air support to ground operations.

At 0508 sounded Air Attack for dawn alert; secured at 0608.

Carriers launched planes at dawn for Combat Air Patrol, fighter sweeps, and air strikes.

Fueled SWENSON at 1008.

Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed at 1047. At 1052 the Task Group Commander ordered the setting of Condition I. All hands manned Air Attack stations. The Combat Air Patrol shot down two "Zekes" approximately 30 miles from the formation. No enemy planes closed the Group; secured from Air Attack at 1133.



CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

At 1220 VINCENNES reported sighting a "Betty" visually and opened fire. Range was reported to be approximately 12,000 yards. The plane opened range, however, and apparently escaped. All hands manned Air Attack stations at 1232. At 1255 picket destroyers were observed firing at 230°(T), range approximately 20,000 yards.

The Task Group Commander maneuvered all ships by emergency signals.

At approximately 1300 an enemy plane made an unsuccessful attempt to dive into BENNINGTON, crashing into the water astern of the ship. At 1320 a "Zeke" was observed in a shallow dive about 2000 feet above the HORNET. This ship together with several others opened fire on the plane with machine guns. Hits were scored by our guns. The pilot of the "Zeke" apparently lost his enthusiasm for the dive at this point for he pulled up sharply and appeared to be trying to gain altitude. Fire from the ships continued and the plane shortly burst into flames. It fell in a slow spin and as it fell the entire emplanage broke off, causing the plane to plunge straight into the sea.

At the same time this "Zeke" was under fire to port, another enemy plane, also thought to be a "Zeke" was diving toward VINCENNES on our starboard hand. This plane was fired upon and hit by our starboard machine gun battery. It burst into flames and crashed into the water before reaching the cruiser.

At 1332 an enemy plane thought to be a "Val", dove out of a cloud toward SAN JACINTO. Our 20mm and 40mm machine gun battery hit the plane, knocking a wheel off and setting it afire. It crashed into the sea just forward of SAN JACINTO's bow.

No further attacks developed; secured from Air Attack at 1448.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1753; secured at 1934. Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 1937.

7 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

27°-18.5' N  
129°-30.9' E

1200 Position

27°-12.8' N  
130°-09.9' E

2000 Position

26°-51.6' N  
131°-07.2' E

Furnishing air support to OKINAWA JIMA operation.

Information received by dispatch indicated that units of the Japanese Fleet had sortied from BUNGO SUIDO. An early search located the YAMATO, two light cruisers and eight destroyers at 0800 off South-western KYUSHU, at approximately 31-20 N; 129-20 E.

At 1000 heavy strikes was launched by all Task Groups against this force. A total of 380 planes participated. Word was received at about 1600 that YAMATO had been sunk, and in addition two light cruisers and three destroyers were sunk. Two destroyers were left burning; three escaped serious damage.

Dawn alert from 0506 to 0606. Formation axis rotated to 050°(T) at 0612.

Fueled TAUSSIG and MANSFIELD during morning.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

At 1209 all hands manned Air Attack stations. Task Group Commander reported enemy planes overhead. Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed at 1220. The Combat Air Patrol shot down several enemy planes in the vicinity of the Task Group, but no enemy plane came within range of our guns at this time. Secured from Air Attack at 1310, but maintained a doubled watch in the anti-aircraft battery.

Formation axis rotated to 120°(T).

At 1439 manned Air Attack stations. An enemy plane was shot down ahead of the formation by the Combat Air Patrol. Secured at 1522. At 1541 an enemy plane dove out of the clouds and was immediately taken under fire by this and other ships. The plane burst into flames and crashed into the water before it could attack any of our ships.

At 1543 another enemy plane was shot down by ships' gunfire on the other side of the formation.

Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 1746. Air Attack for dusk alert at 1759.

At 1903 CruDiv 10 and DesRon 106 left the formation to join Task Group 58.2. Secured from Air Attack 1932.

8 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

24°-35.9' N  
133°-23.6' E

1200 Position

24°-52.8' N  
133°-58.8' E

2000 Position

25°-09.4' N  
132°-37.1' E

Commenced fueling operations at dawn. Formed Special Disposition 5 "Fox". Alongside WRANGLE to receive ammunition at 0630. Completed operation at 0859. Received following ammunition: 14 projectiles 16"/45 cal. H.C.; 14 charges 16"/45 cal. reduced; 400 projectiles 5"/38 cal. AAC; 40 projectiles 5"/38 cal. V.T., 1098T; 153 smokeless powder charges, 5"/38 cal.; 247 charges 5"/38 cal. flashless; 70 cans 40mm HET.

At 0922 alongside KASKASKIA to fuel. Completed fueling at 1152 after receiving 464,795 gallons fuel oil.

TAUSSIG alongside at 1245 to deliver official mail and personnel. At 1303 rotated axis to 280°(T). HARRISON alongside at 1310 to deliver personnel. TAUSSIG alongside with official mail at 1425.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1823. Axis 090°(T), course 280°(T), speed 17 knots.

9 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

25°-47.7' N  
130°-00.6' E

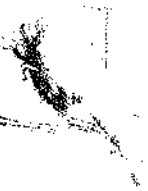
1200 Position

25°-44.5' N  
129°-39.0' E

2000 Position

25°-18.0' N  
129°-50.9' E

Returned to operating area East of OKINAWA JIMA. At 0148 joined Task Force 58 in formation 5 "William". Fleet axis 060°(T), course 220°(T), speed 18 knots.



BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARYDECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND-928133  
By ZA/Mark/1/16

Dawn alert from 0505 to 0602.

At dawn launched strike and photograph mission to cover AMAMI O'SHIMA.

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled MANSFIELD, SWENSON, and COLLETT. TAUSSIG alongside to transfer personnel at 1036. TWINING alongside at 1240 for transfer of electric gear.

All ships conformed to movements of carriers during flight operations during day.

10 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-40.5' N	26°-06.9' N	25°-19.6' N
129°-38.0' E	129°-33.2' E	130°-28.9' E

At dawn carriers launched fighter sweep to cover AMAMI O'SHIMA. General Quarters for dawn alert from 0505 to 0605. At 0522 rotated formation axis to 180°(T).

Fueled destroyers, this ship fueling DE HAVEN, MADDOX, and MANSFIELD.

The Task Group launched no large scale flight operations sending only two fighter sweeps to AMAMI O'SHIMA. The Group is operating off OKINAWA, standing by in strategic support of ground operations there.

At 1628 changed course to 140°(T) and began retiring toward fueling area.

11 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-29.7' N	23°-45.7' N	24°-41.2' N
132°-11.3' E	131°-34.3' E	130°-41.7' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at dawn. At 0615 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 300°(T). Alongside CHIKASKIA at 0645 to fuel. Completed fueling at 0851; received 7,575 barrels fuel oil.

At 0920 Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, ComBatDiv 8, assumed tactical command of Task Unit 58.1.2 for gunnery exercises which were conducted during the morning.

MOORE alongside at 0925 to deliver mail. Alongside WRANGLE at 1222 to receive ammunition. MOORE alongside at 1238 to transfer personnel. Completed ammunitioning at 1400. MOORE alongside at 1454 to transfer official mail.

At 1749 formed Disposition 5 "Roger", course 330°(T), axis 000°(T).

12 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-30.1' N	26°-25.3' N	26°-19.3' N
129°-47.0' E	129°-34.0' E	129°-52.5' E



CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

Rejoined Task Force 58 off OKINAWA JIMA. At 0535 Air Attack for dawn alert; secured at 1005. At 0820 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog."

At dawn carriers launched Combat Air Patrol to cover OKINAWA JIMA and the Task Group.

Formation axis rotated to 030°(T) at 1245. MASSACHUSETTS assumed formation guide at 1409. At 1510 the Task Group Commander reported unidentified planes approaching the formation. All hands manned Air Attack stations. Picket destroyers were observed firing at 1523. An enemy plane, believed to have been shot down by one of our Combat Air Patrol crashed about 10,000 yards ahead of the formation. The Task Group Commander maneuvered the formation by emergency turn and speed signals. A low flying enemy plane was observed at 1524 heading toward INDIANA. Ships of the formation took the plane under fire and it crashed astern of INDIANA. At 1533 a second enemy plane which was circling above INDIANA was shot down by ships' gunfire astern of that ship. This plane appeared to be a "Zeke". As no more enemy planes appeared, secured from Air Attack at 1615.

Rotated formation axis to 060°(T) at 1647.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1831. At 1942 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Nan". Several enemy planes approached the Task Group and at 2036 flares were observed, bearing 330°(T) at about 15,000 yards. Firing was observed in the direction of our Northern pickets. At 2042 5 flares were observed at 335°(T), distance 18,000 yards. Additional flares observed at 2059.

13 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-45.0' N	26°-51.8' N	26°-53.7' N
129°-48.4' E	129°-50.9' E	129°-59.8' E

Continuing operations off OKINAWA JIMA; Task Group 58.1 is in company with Task Group 58.3. General Quarters for dawn alert at 0500; secured at 0600.

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled MANSFIELD, DASHIELL, and SWENSON.

Carriers launched routine patrols and furnished air support to OKINAWA JIMA operation.

At 1318 catapulted plane #5595, piloted by Lt. G.A. ROBINSON, USNR, for rescue flight to accompany VINCENNES plane in recovery of downed pilot about 30 miles to Westward. Recovered aircraft at 1505. Mission was completed successfully.

The Task Force Commander indicated by radio that heavy air attacks were expected during the afternoon. No enemy planes approached the formation, however, and Air Attack was not sounded until dusk alert, at 1847. Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" was formed at this time. At 1950 secured from Air Attack, and at 1955 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Nan".

Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 2116.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

14 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-29.5' N	26°-20.1' N	27°-04.5' N
129°-55.3' E	129°-44.8' E	130°-15.2' E

Continuing operations off OKINAWA JIMA. At 0459 General Quarters for dawn alert; secured at 0550.

Fueled MOORE and DEHAVEN during morning.

Enemy aircraft were reported closing the formation and at 1319 Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" was formed. Air Attack at 1326. Several enemy planes broke through our fighters and attacked ships of the formation. One "Zeke" was shot down in flames on the port beam of INDIANA; another was shot down astern of BENNINGTON. At 1455 secured from Air Attack, maintaining a doubled watch in the anti-aircraft battery.

Disposition 5 "Victor Nan" at 1913.

Air Attack for dusk alert at 1828. Several enemy planes closed the formation and at 1954 this ship opened fire. Intermittent enemy attacks continued. At 2031 one enemy plane was shot down after dropping a number of flares and flying through the formation with red running lights burning.

Secured from Air Attack at 2120. Formed Disposition 5 "Roger" at 2138.

15 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-41.3' N	26°-52.7' N	27°-47.1' N
129°-51.7' E	130°-06.4' E	130°-47.7' E

Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operations. General Quarters for dawn alert at 0502. Secured at 0602. Routing air patrols launched by carriers at dawn. Limited strikes launched in support of troops on OKINAWA JIMA.

MIAMI rejoined formation, having completed duty in connection with SIGSBEE.

At 1330 carriers of Task Group 58.1 launched 61 fighters for a special sweep over airfields on Southern KYUSHU, approximately 250 miles to the North.

Formation axis rotated to 030°(T) at 1459 and to 000°(T) at 1552.

Unidentified planes were reported closing the formation at 2250; range is 49 miles. BENNINGTON launched night fighters to intercept. At 2225 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Nan". Air Attack at 2303 as enemy planes closed group. Destroyers of the Northern picket line opened fire at 2307. TAUSSIG reported shooting down an enemy plane, which observed burning on the water.

16 APRIL 1945

BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY0800 Position27°-19.0' N  
130°-11.2' E1200 Position27°-42.2' N  
130°-40.7' E2000 Position27°-30.0' N  
130°-59.5' E

Secured from Air Attack at 0020. A doubled watch was maintained in the anti-aircraft battery. At 0105 an enemy plane passed over the formation and was taken under fire by this ship.

At 0416 enemy planes were reported to be approaching the formation. Air Attack stations manned. The Task Group Commander maneuvered the Force by emergency signal. At 0429 flares were observed on the port bow some distance from the formation. Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed at 0517. Secured from Air Attack at 0551.

At 0744 Air Attack sounded as a large group of unidentified planes was reported approaching the Task Group. These planes were intercepted by our fighters and several "dog fights" were observed 12 to 15 miles from the formation. The picket line to the North was attacked by enemy planes, several of which were destroyed by the ship's gunfire. Secured from Air Attack at 1104.

At 1201 an enemy plane dove on SAN JACINTO but was immediately fired upon by this ship. The plane pulled out of its dive without dropping a bomb, and was shot down by ships on the far side of the formation as it attempted to escape. All hands manned Air Attack stations at 1203. A number of enemy planes were shot down by the Combat Air Patrol before they could close the formation. At approximately 1400 an enemy fighter, a "Zeke", dove on this ship but was destroyed by our fighters and fell into the water about 6000 yards from the ship.

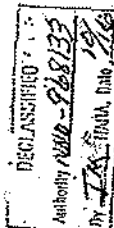
17 APRIL 1945

0800 Position24°-48.4' N  
132°-11.9' E1200 Position25°-17.4' N  
132°-07.4' E2000 Position25°-03.8' N  
131°-52.9' E

Met tanker group at dawn. 0512 ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command. 0546 Formed special fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 000°(T). 0615 Alongside KASKASKIA to receive fuel. MC KEE alongside to receive pilot at 0707. TWINING alongside at 0902 to deliver mail. 1026 MADDOX alongside to deliver mail and transfer personnel. 1114 Completed fueling operation. Received 926,252 gallons fuel at 60°F.

At 1327 recovered plane #5959, piloted by Lt. A.B. CENEDELLA, USNR, and transferred to this ship as replacement.

At 1415 rotated course and axis right to 180°(T). 1418 Alongside WRANGLE to receive ammunition. At 1503 DE HAVEN alongside to receive engineering equipment. 1657 CORBESIER alongside to deliver pick up mail. At 1719 transferred flexible shaft to DASHIELL alongside. 1754 CORBESIER alongside to deliver mail. Cleared the WRANGLE at 1755. Ammunition received: 3232 rounds 40mm HET, lot #UB992; 58 rounds 16" H.C. projectiles; 532 rounds 5"/38 V.T.; 400 cans of 5" flashless powder; 200 cans 5" smokeless powder. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course and axis 060°(T). ComCarDiv 3 has tactical command. 2000 On course 295°(T) to rejoin



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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

Task Force 58 operating off OKINAWA JIMA.

CruDiv 10 joined Task Group after fueling, taking assigned stations in disposition.

18 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-54.4' N	25°-54.8' N	25°-52.1' N
129°-37.6' E	130°-11.8' E	130°-14.7' E

Rejoined Task Force 58 operating off OKINAWA JIMA. Stood to General Quarters at 0500 for dawn alert; secured at 0557.

Carriers launched routine air patrols for support of OKINAWA JIMA operation.

0505 Rotated formation axis right to 090°(T).

Fueling destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the COLLETT, SWENSON, MANSFIELD. Completed by 0843.

Rotated formation axis right to 120°(T) at 0908. At 1620 rotated formation axis right to 150°(T).

All ships conformed to movements of carriers during flight operations during day.

19 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-53.3' N	26°-00.1' N	25°-29.9' N
128°-33.6' E	128°-23.4' E	128°-22.8' E

Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operation. General Quarters for dawn alert at 0501. At 0540 rotated fleet axis left to 030°(T). 0546 Rotated formation axis right to 180°(T). Secured from General Quarters at 0602.

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the STOCKHAM and WEDDERBURN. Completed the operation at 1033.

Carriers of the formation launched routine air patrols in support of ground troops on OKINAWA JIMA.

At 0853 rotated formation axis right to 210°(T). 1557 Rotated formation axis right to 270°(T). At 1908 rotated formation axis right to 300°(T). Steamed East during night.

20 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-44.8' N	25°-51.9' N	26°-28.4' N
128°-27.3' E	128°-39.8' E	128°-57.9' E

Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operation. At 0423 rotated formation axis to 330°(T), at 0438 to 000°(T). General Quarters for dawn alert at 0500; secured at 0601.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

Destroyer Division 22 cleared formation at 0509 proceeding to radar picket line stations. Carriers launched routine air patrols.

At 0619 rotated formation axis right to 030°(T). Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the COLLETT, DE HAVEN, and SWENSON. Completed exercise at 1023.

At 1226 rotated formation axis left to 000°(T).

At 1746 this ship fueled the TAUSSIG.

At 2007 the watch was doubled in the anti-aircraft battery because an unidentified plane was reported 43 miles from this formation. It did not close the formation and at 2100 Condition III was set in the anti-aircraft battery.

During the night several unidentified planes were reported, however, none closed this formation.

21 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

26°-51.1' N  
129-31.0' E

1200 Position

26°-36.6' N  
129°-34.2' E

2000 Position

25°-28.9' N  
131°-15.7' E

Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operation. General Quarters at 0455 for dawn alert; secured at 0555.

At 0532 Destroyer Division 22 cleared formation proceeding to radar picket line stations.

Carriers of this formation launched routine air patrols at 0640, in support of OKINAWA JIMA operation.

Rotated formation axis right to 030°(T) at 0755.

At 1100 the MADDOX came alongside our port quarter to deliver mail.

At 1200 this task group began retiring to our fueling rendezvous, on course 120°(T). At 1508 rotated formation axis right to 060°(T). At 1700 observed destroyers from this group bombarding MINAMI DAITO JIMA, bearing 045°(T) at a distance of 16,000 yards. Carriers from this group furnished co-ordinated air attack on MINAMI. At 1950 set II. At 2017 ComCarDiv 3 was given tactical command of Task Group 58.1.

22 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

23°-50.6' N  
132°-44.3' E

1200 Position

24°-23.5' N  
133°-00.1' E

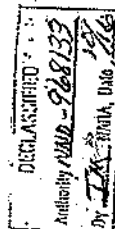
2000 Position

25°-07.8' N  
132°-42.0' E

At 0445 Rear Admiral CLARK (ComTask Group 58.1) assumed tactical command of this task group.

0527 Met fueling group, formed Special fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 025°(T). 0740 MIAMI designated O.T.C. of this Task Unit (58.1.2).

At 0823 alongside KASKASKIA to receive fuel. Launched plane #5959 at 0850, piloted by Lt. A.B. CENEDELLA, USNR. Cleared KASKASKIA at 1121. Received 590,184 gallons of fuel oil at 60°F.



BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND-928133  
DATE: 12/14/06

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

Hoisted aboard plane #5959, same pilot.  
 Commenced anti-aircraft practice firing at 1319.  
 MC KEE alongside 1325 to deliver mail.  
 Completed gunnery exercise at 1514. Ammunition expended: 1,659 rounds 40mm HET; 554 rounds of 40mm HEIP; 487 rounds 20mm HET; 1460 rounds 20mm HEI; 58 rounds AA common projectiles mk. 18-2; 58 powder charges SPDN.  
 BLUE alongside at 1545 to deliver mail and personnel.  
 At 1742 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" on course 000°(T), axis 060°(T). ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command of Task Group 58.1 at 1756.  
 STOCKHAM alongside at 1832 to pick up radar equipment. ComCarDiv 3 designated O.T.C. at 1850.  
 Proceeded on 275°(T) to rejoin Task Force 58.

23 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-16.2' N	26°-27.5' N	25°-39.1' N
129°-27.0' E	130°-01.6' E	130°-15.2' E

Rejoined Task Force 58 at 0130, off OKINAWA JIMA supporting operations.  
 Stood to General Quarters at 0451 for dawn alert; secured at 0552.  
 ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command at 0457. Rotated formation axis to 090°(T).  
 Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the SWENSON, MADDOX, and DE HAVEN.  
 Rotated formation axis right to 120°(T). MASSACHUSETTS designated formation guide at 1158. HORNET designated guide at 1917.  
 Carriers launched routine patrols throughout the day.

24 APRIL 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-39.3' N	26°-54.7' N	26°-21.1' N
129°-35.0' E	129°-36.5' E	129°-59.0' E

ComCarDiv 3 designated O.T.C. at 0120. Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operation.  
 General Quarters at 0453 for dawn alert. 0552 Secured from General Quarters.  
 Fueling destroyers during morning. This fueled the STOCKHAM, HARRISON, and MADDOX. Completed 0941.  
 Rotated formation axis to 090°(T) at 1511. Rotated it to 060°(T) at 1526.  
 Operations of Carrier aircraft were limited during day due to heavy overcast and generally bad flying weather.

BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

25 APRIL 1945

0800 Position  
26°-28.3' N  
129°-00.8' E

1200 Position  
26°-27.4' N  
129°-05.0' E

2000 Position  
26°-06.2' N  
130°-10.6' E

Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operations.

MADDOX reported sub contact at 0129. MADDOX and MANSFIELD made depth charge attack at 0133. Emergency "Zebra" was set below the second deck. Set "Yeke" at 0154.

General Quarters at 0449 for dawn alert; secured at 0550.

This ship fueled the STOCKHAM at 1724. Completed exercise at 1805.

ComCarDiv 3 designated O.T.C. at 1859.

At sunset, commenced retiring to fueling rendezvous on course 130°-(T).

Flight operations during the day were very limited due to bad weather conditions.

26 APRIL 1945

0800 Position  
24°-16.1' N  
132°-04.7' E

1200 Position  
23°-59.3' N  
131°-29.9' E

2000 Position  
24°-40.0' N  
130°-29.3' E

ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command at 0436. Rendezvoused with fueling group at 0532. Formed special fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 240°(T), speed 10 knots.

Alongside MILLICOMBE at 0803 to receive fuel oil. At 0924 MC KEE came alongside to deliver personnel. Cleared the side of MASSACHUSETTS at 1030.

Catapulted one plane (#5959) to port at 1038, piloted by Lt. G.A. ROBINSON, USNR. Recovered same plane at 1131.

ComCruDiv 14 designated O.T.C. and O.C.E. of gunnery exercises.

Rotated axis to 300°(T). Changed course to 300°(T) at 1306.

BLUE alongside at 1501 to transfer radio parts and personnel.

Commenced firing anti-aircraft practice at 1514. Completed exercise at 1730 after firing 947 rounds HEI 2mm; 1697 rounds of 40mm HEI; 24 rounds mk. 18 5"/38.

Ceased fueling and ammunitioning at 1730. CombatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of Task Group 58.1. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1746. Axis 300°(T), course 310°(T), speed 15 knots. ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command at 1830.

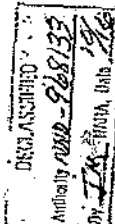
Commenced proceeding to join Task Force 58 off OKINAWA JIMA. At 1850 ComCarDiv 3 designated O.T.C. Course 270°(T).

27 APRIL 1945

0800 Position  
26°-20.0' N  
129°-19.7' E

1200 Position  
26°-25.4' N  
129°-37.5' E

2000 Position  
25°-48.9' N  
130°-09.7' E



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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

Supporting OKINAWA JIMA operations. ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command of this task group at 0443.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0448; secured at 0548.

Rotated formation axis right to 000°(T) at 0549. Rotated it to 030°(T) at 0605.

Heavy units fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the SHENSON and MANSFIELD. Completed exercise at 1008.

At 1849 commenced retiring on 160°(T) heading for ULITHI ATOLL.

Carriers of this formation launched routine air patrols throughout the day.

Shortly before midnight, NORTH CAROLINA, HALE, and HICKOX joined formation taking assigned stations.

28 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

23°-08.7' N  
131°-04.1' E

1200 Position

21°57.7' N  
131°-47.1' E

2000 Position

19°-59.0' N  
133°-19.2' E

Steaming toward ULITHI. At 0736 MC NAIR alongside with official mail.

At 0857 formed Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" for gunnery exercises.

Formed Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1101.

Conducted tactical exercises during morning and early afternoon.

Carriers launched routine patrols during day.

29 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

16°-52.3' N  
135°-33.8' E

1200 Position

15°-55.2' N  
136°-19.8' E

2000 Position

15°-54.9' N  
137°-15.0' E

En route ULITHI with Task Group 58.1.

At 0543 BLUE alongside with official mail.

Conducted gunnery exercises ahead of carrier groups during morning.

At 0950 TWINING alongside to deliver mail.

ComTask Unit 58.1.5 assumed tactical command of this unit and directed the unit to form Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" and clear the carrier group at 1207.

General drills conducted during afternoon and were followed by gunnery exercises. Tactical exercises as directed by O.T.C.

At 1609 formed Disposition 5 "Roger".

30 APRIL 1945

0800 Position

10°-53.2' N  
139°-11.2' E



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WAR DIARY

Conducted gunnery exercises during forenoon. Launched aircraft for spotting and anti-submarine patrol.

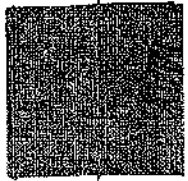
At 0955 ULITHI Atoll sighted, bearing 175°(T). Recovered aircraft at 1107 and proceeded to enter port. At 1246 entered MUGAI CHANNEL. Anchored in Berth #7 at 1328.

Set Port War Watch; began following normal port routine.

SUBMITTED: *P.S. Savidge*  
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED: *W.W. Warlick*  
W.W. WARLICK,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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By: JAK/MLM, DAB, 10/16



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U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

1 MAY 1945

*Recorded*

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By: JAX/PAHA/DBB  
Date: 1/16

Anchored in Berth #7, ULITHI ATOLL. This ship is unit of Task Force 58 and part of support unit of Task Group 58.1, organized as follows:

Fifth Fleet

Task Force 58

- Admiral R.A. SPRUANCE, USN, in NEW MEXICO.
- Vice Admiral M.A. METSCHER, USN, (ComFirstCarTaskForPac) in BUNKER HILL.
- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN, (ComCarDiv 5) in HOPIET.
- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN.

Task Group 58.1

Task Unit 58.1.1 - Carriers

- HORNET (FF)
- BENNINGTON (F)
- BELLEAU WOOD
- MONTEREY
- SAN JACINTO

- Rear Admiral T.L. SPENGLER, USN.

Task Unit 58.1.2 - Support Unit

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, Jr., USN.

Task Unit 58.1.21 - Battleships

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH.

BatDiv 8

- MASSACHUSETTS (F)
- INDIANA
- ALABAMA

Task Unit 58.1.22 - Cruisers

- Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, USN.

CruDiv 10 (less BOSTON, CANBERRA)

- BALTIMORE (F)
- PITTSBURGH
- QUINCY

CruDiv 14 (less HOUSTON)

- Captain W.C. VOSE, USN.

- VICKSBURG (F)
- VINCENNES
- SAN JUAN

Task Unit 58.1.3 - Group Screen

- Captain T.H. HEDESMAN, USN.

DesRon 61

DesRon 25

Zone minus ten (-10) time in effect.  
The Port War Watch is set except from an hour before to an hour after sunrise and sunset, at which times Condition III is set in the anti-aircraft battery. Material Condition "X-Ray" is set during daylight and Material Condition "Yoke" at night. Routine maintenance and overhaul is in process preparing the ship for sea. The ship is provisioning and rearming.

127523 . **FILMED**

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WAR DIARY

At 1000 transferred one "dud" aircraft, #5595, to FAILALOP ISLAND. CHICKASKIA alongside at 1110 to deliver fuel. Operation completed at 1332.

Exercised at General Quarters from 1300 to 1330 for drill.

2 MAY 1945: Continued provisioning ship. At 0658 BUTGERS VICTORY alongside to deliver ammunition. Ammunitioning completed at 0946.

At 1015 all hands assembled forward for change of command ceremonies. Captain JOHN R. REDMAN, USN, relieved Captain W.W. WARLICK, USN, of command of MASSACHUSETTS.

During morning diving operations were conducted for inspection of screws and rudders. Routine training flights were also conducted by MASSACHUSETTS aircraft.

3 MAY 1945: Continued diving operations. MASSACHUSETTS aircraft conducted training flights.

4 MAY 1945: Diving operation continued. Aircraft flew test hops.

5 MAY 1945: Aircraft conducted flights to check radio gear. Diving operations continued.

At 2025 all hands manned air attack station on orders of JOPA. An unidentified plane was soon discovered to be friendly so secured from air attack at 2053.

6 MAY 1945: Continued receiving stores and provisions.

7 MAY 1945: At 0654 underway to shift to anti-aircraft firing berth. Anchored in anti-aircraft firing berth A-1 at 0755. Aircraft conducted training flights. Gunnery exercises conducted throughout day.

8 MAY 1945: Continued gunnery exercises. L.C.I. #907 alongside to receive empty ammunition cases.

9 MAY 1945

1200 Position  
11°-01.3' N  
139°-20.3' E

2000 Position  
12°-30.9' N  
138°-09.0' E

Underway from Berth A-1, URUSHI ANCHORAGE, ULITHI ATOLL in company with Task Unit 58.1.5 at 0659, in accordance with Commander Task Group 58.1 sortie order dated 6 May 1945. Changed time from "King" (-10) time to "Item" (-9) time.

Task Unit 58.1.5 is organized as follows:

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- Task Unit 58.1.5 - Support Unit - Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, (ComBatDiv 8), in MASSACHUSETTS.
- Task Unit 58.1.51 - Battle Line - Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN.  
MASSACHUSETTS (F)  
INDIANA  
ALABAMA  
Battle Line Screen- Commander W.C. WINN, USN.  
DesDiv 50 (less SIGSEEE, RINGOID,  
Plus MABDOX).
- Task Unit 58.1.52-Light Forces Right - Captain W.C. VOSE, USN,  
in VICKSBURG.  
VICKSBURG (F)  
VINCENNES  
SAN JUAN  
Light Forces Right Screen- - Commander J.H. HOGG, USN.  
DesDiv 106 (less YARNALL).
- Task Unit 58.1.53- Light Forces Left - Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, USN,  
in BALTIMORE.  
BALTIMORE (F)  
PITTSBURGH  
QUINCY  
Light Forces Left Screen - Captain J.W. LUDEWIG, USN.  
DisDiv 49 (less MURRAY).

Conducted gunnery and radar exercises in accordance with Annex "Able" to ComBatDiv 8 Training Order #1-45.  
at 2117 formed Cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 10 "Sugar".

10 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
14°-44.6' N	15°-19.7' N	16°-47.5' N
136°-23.4' E	136°-09.3' E	134°-54.7' E

Operating with Task Unit 58.1.5 in Disposition 4 "Sugar" 10 "Sugar". At 0600 CruDiv 14 and CruDiv 10 left the formation and INDIANA and ALABAMA formed in column astern of MASSACHUSETTS, all for tactical exercises as directed by ComBatDiv 8.

Launched one plane at 0804 for gunnery exercises which were conducted during morning. Recovered aircraft at 1123.

At 1341 formed Disposition 4 "Roger Sugar". General Quarters for drill at 1345. Conducted tactical exercises during afternoon.

At 1532 completed exercises, formed Disposition 4 "Sugar" 10 "Sugar", course and axis 325°(T), speed 17 knots. Secured from General Quarters at 1536.

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WAR DIARY

11 MAY 1945

0800 Position  
19°-22.3' N  
133°-00.9' E

1200 Position  
20°-14.7' N  
132°-16.8' E

2000 Position  
21°-58.2' N  
131°-29.5' E

Fueled DASHIELL during morning. At 0833 MADDOX alongside to transfer official mail.

Exercised at General Drills pursuant to Annex "Able" to ComBatDiv 8 Training Order #1-45.

At 0903 formed Disposition 4 "Victor" 10 "Sugar", course and axis 325°(T), speed 14 knots; MASSACHUSETTS guide.

Conducted gunnery exercises, firing anti-aircraft battery at towed sleeve.

Tactical exercises conducted during afternoon. Planes of Task Group 58.1 engaged in simulated dive bombing, strafing and torpedo attacks on ships of Task Unit 58.1.5. During the attacks, fragments from bursting bombs penetrated the wings of both planes on our catapults, rendering them temporarily inoperative. At 1544 formed Disposition 4 "Roger" "Sugar", course and axis 325°(T), speed 16 knots, MASSACHUSETTS guide.

Rendezvoused with carriers of Task Group 58.1 at 1745 at 21-26.2 N; 131-40.3 E. Took station in Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course 330°(T), axis 060°(T), speed 12 knots; guide HORNET.

At 1812 speed increased to 18 knots.

12 MAY 1945

0800 Position  
24°-55.1' N  
130°-06.2' E

1200 Position  
25°-47.8' N  
130°-06.3' E

2000 Position  
27°-44.4' N  
131°-05.3' E

General Quarters for dawn alert from 0430 to 0530. Rendezvoused with tankers of Task Group 50.8 at 0500. Alongside CHIPOLA to fuel at 0618. Completed fueling at 0757, and resumed station in formation.

At 0852 the watch in the anti-aircraft battery was doubled. Exercised at General Drills during morning.

Fueling exercises completed at 1017. MC KEE alongside to transfer official mail and personnel, at 1025.

Began steaming toward KYUSHU on northeasterly courses at 20 knots at noon.

ALABAMA, MONTEREY, and HICKOX were detached from Task Group 58.1 and directed to join Task Group 58.3.

At 1545 formation axis rotated to 000°(T).

At 1900 the Captain spoke to the crew over the Public Address System as follows:

"As the ship is about to enter its fourth year of operations, I would like to change the topic of conversation from Lana Turner back to the war for a few minutes. Since the ship's last birthday the front lines in the Pacific have advanced twenty-five hundred miles and nearly the same distance northward. At present, as you know, the forces in the

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Philippines have about completed the mopping-up of the Jap forces there, and the Tenth Army on Okinawa has only the Southern end of the Island left to take. These bases will permit further operations which might well bring victory over Japan before the MASSACHUSETTS is four years old. I will tell you of these operations as we get to them.

"Task Force 58 is at present still engaged in close support of the Okinawa operation. During the last two months this Task Force has operated continuously and effectively in this regard. At the same time, Task Force 51, composed of the old battleships, the escort carriers, many cruisers and destroyers and hundreds of transports and landing craft, has been bombarding and landing troops and supplies. Task Force 57, composed of battleships, carriers, cruisers, and destroyers of the British Pacific Fleet, has been operating to the southwest of Okinawa against the Sakishima Group. The need for close tactical support of the Tenth Army by Task Force 58 has been decreasing for some time, as the troops become more firmly established and more and more shore based aircraft have been based on the captured fields. Our operations are apparently not now restricted to purely tactical support and we can go further afield in search for strategic targets.

"Task Groups 58.3 and 58.4 have been active while this group replenished in Ulithi. Today we joined with 58.3 and under Vice Admiral Mitscher are again ready for business. This morning we fueled in the area just east of Okinawa and are now headed for a strike position off Kyushu. Commencing tomorrow morning, Admiral Mitscher intends to give the air fields and facilities there a good working over, and may turn the aviators loose again on what is left of the Jap fleet in the Inland Sea. The Japs have not been accepting their destruction with very good grace recently as you all know. In addition to the Kamikaze attack, we now have to watch out for Baka bombs with their suicide pilots. These bombs, so far, have generally been launched from Bettys. Like everything else the Japs produce, the Baka bombs can be shot down. However, it should be known that they are painted a silver color, are hard to detect and travel about 400 miles per hour. We may expect them to send these as well as everything else they can operate out against us. Heads up work on our part and a performance by our aviators like they put on for us yesterday should, however, tell its own story."

13 MAY 1945

0800 Position  
 30°-02.2' N  
 133°-08.5' E

1200 Position  
 30°-47.8' N  
 132°-42.4' E

2000 Position  
 30°-43.1' N  
 132°-41.9' E

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

Approaching strike position 30-02 N; 132-50 E, off KYUSHU. At 0146 all hands stood to air attack stations as unidentified planes were reported closing the formation. All ships maneuvered by emergency signal as directed by C.T.C. Secured from air attack at 0405 as all enemy planes had departed from the area of the Task Group.

Anti-aircraft Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" formed at 0448.

At dawn carriers launched fighter sweeps and air strikes against air fields on KYUSHU. All ships maneuvered to conform to launching operations.

Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 0807. Formation axis rotated to 270°(T) at 1127.

Fueled destroyers during afternoon, this ship fueling MANSFIELD, HARRISON, and COLLETT.

At 2133 manned air attack stations. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Victor Man" at 2143. No enemy planes closed the formation; secured from air attack 2320.

14 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
30°-52.3' N	30°-28.8' N	29°-26.4' N
132°-46.2' E	133°-00.4' E	133°-08.4' E

Continued air strikes against targets on KYUSHU.

Air attack stations manned at 0132; as enemy planes closed the formation. Maneuvered by emergency signals from the Task Group Commander. No planes approached to within gun range and no ships of the group opened fire. Secured from air attack at 0226, maintaining doubled watch in anti-aircraft battery.

Enemy planes approached the group again about 0330. Air attack stations manned at 0333, and the Task Group Commander began maneuvering the ships by emergency signals. Flares were observed off the starboard bow at 0354, range about 10,000 yards. Several ships of the group fired at enemy planes and at 0423 an enemy plane was shot down at 068 (T), range 14,000 yards. At 0452 formed Cruising Disposition 5 "Victor Dog". At 0516 secured from air attack. Enemy snoopers continued to heckle the Task Force and again at 0625 all hands stood to air attack stations. Several enemy planes evaded our fighter patrol and attacked the Task Group. At 0705 one enemy plane was destroyed by ship's gunfire, exploding in mid air. At 0707 a "Zeke" was shot down off MASSACHUSETTS starboard beam, by gunfire of several ships, including MASSACHUSETTS.

At 0855 secured from air attack, maintaining a doubled watch in the anti-aircraft battery.

Formation axis rotated to 210°(T) at 0947. At 1001 rotated formation axis to 150°(T).

Carriers continued strikes against KYUSHU.

Fueled TAUSSIG in early afternoon.



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The Task Group Commander reported enemy planes in the vicinity at 1630 and all hands manned air attack stations. No enemy planes closed the group, however, and at 1704 secured from air attack.

Night Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor Man" formed at 1709. The Task Group began retiring toward fueling area.

15 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-21.7' N	22°-41.0' N	23°-58.9' N
130°-16.2' E	129°-45.1' E	130°-13.2' E

General quarters for dawn alert at 0434; secured at 0531.

At 0656 formed Disposition 5 "Roger"; axis 150°(T), course 210°(T).

Rendezvoused with tankers of Task Group 50.8 at 1100. Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox". 1120 Alongside ASHTABULA to fuel. TAUSSIG alongside to deliver official mail at 1347. Fueling operation completed at 1356. Took station in formation and began ZZ independently. At 1600 MASSACHUSETTS designated guide of ZZ line. Began ZZ in accordance with Plan #6.

COLLETT alongside at 1700 to transfer personnel.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1745; course 180°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 15 knots.

16 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-20.5' N	24°-08.4' N	25°-40.3' N
130°-11.2' E	130°-03.1' E	129°-59.9' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.1, operating in vicinity of fueling area. Rendezvoused with tanker group at 0512. ComBat-Div 8 is O.T.C.

Formed 5 "Fox" at 0632, course and axis 000°(T), speed 10 knots, guide SABINE. Alongside ASHTABULA to receive fuel at 0639. TAILULAH designated guide at 0658. Completed receiving fuel from tanker at 0718. 0725 Cleared side of tanker. Took station 6000 yards astern of tanker line.

Launched plane #09676 at 0757 and plane #5959 at 0800 for gunnery exercise. Recovered both aircraft at 0913. Launched plane #5959 at 0954 on rescue mission to accompany fighter strike to Minami Daito Shima; Lieutenant A.F. CENEDELLA, USNR, as pilot.

Conducted anti-aircraft firing practice throughout rest of morning.

Recovered plane at 1315. Mission successful, having picked up Lieutenant Commander HESSKEL of the BIRMINGHAM, who was shot down over Minami.

MC KEE alongside to deliver mail at 1445. 1539 Formed 5 "Roger", course and axis 000°(T).

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Commander Task Group 58.1 assumed O.T.C. at 1648.  
 Headed for operating area off east coast of OKINAWA.

17 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-51.0' N	25°-42.3' N	25°-43.9' N
129°-17.7' E	129°-14.9' E	129°-18.3' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.1, supporting OKINAWA operations.

General quarters for dawn alert at 0436. Secured at 0527.

Rotated formation axis left to 270°(T) at 0440. Fueled destroyers during morning. Commenced fueling operations at 0551. This ship fueled the COLLETT, HARRISON, and MC KEE. Completed operations at 0817. Rotated axis to 290°(T) at 1046.

At 1456 JOHN RODGERS alongside to deliver blueprints.

During the day all carriers of this group launched routine air patrols.

VICKSBURG and VINCENNES detached from Task Group 58.1 and ordered to report to Commander Task Force 51 at OKINAWA JIMA for temporary fire support duty.

18 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-42.8' N	26°-01.9' N	25°-19.6' N
129°-39.2' E	129°-43.1' E	129°-41.9' E

Supporting OKINAWA operations in company with Task Group 58.1.

General quarters for dawn alert at 0432. Secured at 0534.

Rotated axis right to 320°(T) at 0442.

Fueled destroyers during morning commencing fueling operations at 0546. This ship fueled the BLUE, JOHN RODGERS, and COLLETT. Completed fueling operations at 0824.

Rotated formation axis left to 270°(T) at 1400. At 1453 rotated axis to 210°(T). 1510 Rotated axis to 180°(T).

Carriers launched routine air patrols throughout the day.

19 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-04.0' N	25°-55.0' N	25°-31.8' N
129°-36.6' E	129°-25.2' E	129°-11.7' E

Supporting OKINAWA operations in company with Task Group 58.1.

Stood to air attack stations at 0433 for dawn alert. Secured at 0448. Set a doubled watch in the anti-aircraft battery. Set Air Defense Condition III at 0507.

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By: JIM - HANA, OAS  
Date: 12/16

Fueled destroyers during morning. Commenced fueling operations at 0554. This ship fueled the JOHN RODGERS, MADDOX, MC KEE, and STOCKHAM.

Sounded air attack at 0741 as an unidentified plane was reported at 35 miles. Altitude on unidentified plane increased to 55,000 feet and contact was determined as weather. Secured at 0801.

At 1021 HARRISON reported submarine contact dead ahead of this ship at a distance of 5000 yards. Emergency "Zebra" was set and the STOCKHAM was cleared from our port side. This ship took evasive maneuvers to avoid sub contact. Task group was maneuvered to avoid contact. Contact evaluated as doubtful. Set Material Condition "Yoke" at 1040.

At 1448 doubled the watch in the anti-aircraft battery. Set Air Defense Condition III, at 1955.

Air operations were limited due to bad weather throughout the day.

Retired during night to fueling rendezvous at 23-30 N and 130-15 E, on course 155°(T).

20 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
22°-46.6' N	22°-21.5' N	23°-45.8' N
130°-08.7' E	130°-08.6' E	130°-07.0' E

Rendezvoused with Task Group 50.8 at 0421.

Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0542. Course and axis 180°(T), speed of guide 10 knots.

Alongside PATUXENT at 0630 to receive fuel. Completed fueling at 0928.

BLUE alongside to port at 1030 to transfer mail and personnel.

Conducted gunnery exercises throughout the day. Ammunition expended: 1570 rounds of 40mm; 4667 rounds 20mm.

At 1745 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course 345°(T), axis 270°(T), speed 15 knots. MASSACHUSETTS designated guide. ComBatDiv 8 is O.T.G. of Task Group 58.1.

1903 On course 345°(T) heading for operating area off OKINAWA.

ATLANTA reported to ComTask Group 58.1 for duty, taking assigned station in disposition.

21 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-18.8' N	26°-20.9' N	25°-50.0' N
129°-25.4' E	129°-22.5' E	129°-19.0' E

Operating with Task Group 58.1 enroute from fueling rendezvous to support position southeast of OKINAWA.

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BY: [Signature] Date: 10/16

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Joined Task Group 58.3 at 0030.

At 0432 Commander Task Group 58.1 assumed O.T.C. Rotated formation axis to 240°(T).

General quarters for dawn alert at 0434. Secured at 0534, set condition of Readiness III with a double watch in the anti-aircraft battery. At 0445 DesDiv 122 left formation to proceed to picket line stations.

Launched two planes at 0621 to accompany fighter strike - pilots, Ensign W.E. CHALE, USNR, and Ensign F.E. DUNCAN.

This ship fueled destroyers during morning. Commenced fueling operations at 0657. Fueled the HARRISON, TWINING, and JOHN RODGERS. Completed at 1131.

Recovered both aircraft at 1019. No fighters of the strike were shot down, so no rescues were made.

At 1507 rotated axis to 220°(T).

At 2000 retired southwest for the night to return to support position tomorrow. During day carriers launched routine air patrols, plus the fighter sweeps on Amami O Shima.

22 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
26°-15.7' N	26°-47.4' N	26°-33.5' N
129°-24.6' E	129°-13.7' E	129°-17.9' E

Returning to support position southeast of OKINAWA.

Air attack for dawn alert at 0433. Secured at 0533. At 0505 MANSFIELD and MADDOX cleared formation to take stations as linking vessels.

Rotated axis to 270°(T) at 0808; to 320°(T) at 0819.

Fueled destroyers during morning. Commenced operations at 0858. This ship fueled the BLUE, COLLETT, SWENSON.

Commenced retiring to fueling rendezvous on course 180°(T). During the day flight operations were limited by bad weather.

23 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-19.8' N	24°-54.9' N	25°-32.5' N
130°-01.9' E	130°-03.4' E	129°-39.3' E

Retiring to fueling area with Task Group 58.1.

Met tanker group and formed fueling disposition 5 "Fox", axis and course 000°(T). Steaming at 10 knots.

Recovered plane delivered as replacement from DETROIT at 0720.

RAYMOND alongside to transfer mail at 0735. Catapulted one aircraft at 0800; the exchange plane going to DETROIT.

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By: [Signature]  
Date: 1/16

At 0937 alongside to receive fuel from TAPPANHANNOCK. MAN-FIELD alongside port quarter to deliver official mail. Cleared side of TAPPANHANNOCK, at 1117.

Commander Battleship Division EIGHT assumed tactical command of Task Group 58.1 at 1120. ComTask Group 58.1 assumed tactical command at 1300.

1233 Formed cruising disposition 5 "Roger", course and axis 000°(T), speed 12 knots; MASSACHUSETTS guide.

1410 An unidentified plane was reported 30 miles north of us and this ship stood to air attack. Our air patrols were unable to catch this aircraft, but it did not close the formation. Secured from air attack at 1450, set Air Defense Condition II.

At 2000 enroute from fueling area to support position southeast of OKINAWA.

Air patrols during day were limited by bad weather.

24 MAY 1945

0800 Position

26°-27.8' N  
129°-23.3' E

1200 Position

26°-40.1' N  
129°-39.9' E

2000 Position

26°-20.2' N  
129°-40.8' E

Supporting OKINAWA operations in company with Task Group 58.1.

Air attack for dawn alert at 0435; secured at 0525.

Rotated formation axis right to 030°(T) at 0447. Rotated fleet axis to 090 (T) at 0524. Rotated formation axis right to 060°(T). At 0627 left to 030°(T).

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the COLLETT, SWENSON, and HARRISON. Rotated axis to 340°(T) at 0902; to 300°(T) at 1043.

Formed Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor Dog" at 1324. Unidentified aircraft reported at 35 miles. Stood to air attack quarters at 1325. Unidentified aircraft did not close formation and Condition III with a double watch in the anti-aircraft battery was set at 1410.

Rotated formation axis left to 270°(T) at 1630; to 240°(T) at 1713.

Formed 5 "Roger" at 1937, axis 240 (T).

At 2319 unidentified aircraft closed to 42 miles and ship stood to air attack at 2321. Formed 5 "Victor Nan" at 2347.

Maneuvered by emergency turns on various courses.

At 2354 opened fire to starboard with 5" battery firing at enemy plane. Plane closed to 8000 yards and then retired.

At 2358 observed enemy aircraft burning, having been set afire by our night fighter. Enemy aircraft escaped however, and no further reports were received on it.

25 MAY 1945

0800 Position

26°-00.5' N  
129°-26.2' E

1200 Position

25°-24.0' N  
129°-20.3' E

2000 Position

24°-47.1' N  
128°-33.1' E

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By: JAW/BJM/DAW/1946

Supporting OKINAWA operations with Task Group 58.1.  
Secured from air attack at 0035. Set Condition of Readiness III.  
At 0431 rotated formation axis to 210°(T).  
Air attack for dawn alert at 0432; secured at 0523. Set Condition III, doubled watch.

Rotated formation axis to 180°(T) at 0436. At 0445 axis 150°(T).  
Formed 5 "Victor Dog" at 0520. Stood to air attack stations at 0739 as an unidentified plane was reported 28 miles north of the formation. Plane did not close formation, but was reported as a "Francis". The radar picket line reported shooting down one "Myrt", one "Zeke", and the Combat Air Patrol shot down a "Betty". Secured from air attack at 0939. Set Air Defense Condition II.

Formed 5 "Roger" at 1229. Fueled destroyers during afternoon. This ship fueled the JOHN RODGERS, MC KEE, HARRISON, and BRUSH. Fueling operations completed at 1807.

At 1513 rotated formation axis 210°(T).

Air operations were limited during the day due to very bad weather conditions. Visibility was exceptionally poor.

26 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-30.6' N	25°-39.0' N	25°-19.2' N
128°-28.5' E	129°-05.7' E	128°-24.7' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.1 in support of OKINAWA operations.

At 0433 sounded general quarters for dawn alert; secured at 0533.  
Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the HARRISON, DE HAVEN, and COLLETT. Completed operations at 0806.

At 1651 rotated formation axis right to 300°(T); to 240°(T) at 1834.

At 2000 commenced retiring to fueling rendezvous on course 170°(T).

Weather during the day was extremely bad, visibility very poor, and flight operations were limited accordingly.

27 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-09.5' N	22°-51.5' N	22°-40.5' N
129°-40.4' E	128°-56.2' E	127°-46.0' E

Steaming with Task Group 58.1 retiring from support position southeast of OKINAWA to fueling rendezvous.

Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0550. Course and axis 240°(T), speed 10 knots. Launched one plane at 0626 for radar tracking purposes. Pilot - Ensign W.C. CHALE. Recovered plane at 0823.

During the day, anti-aircraft firing drills were conducted.

Alongside MARIAS at 1029 to receive fuel. MANSFIELD alongside port quarter at 1030 to deliver mail and personnel. Left from alongside MARIAS at 1320.

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By IKA/THA, D10, 1/2/88

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At 1327 Commander Battleship Division EIGHT designated O.T.C. of 58.1.

At 1646 went alongside port side of SHASTA to receive ammunition replenishments. Completed at 1805.

At 1806 formed 5 "Roger", course and axis 240°(T), speed 12 knots. Commander Task Group 58.1 assumed tactical command of Task Group 58.1.

1947 On course 000°(T) enroute to support position south of OKINAWA.

28 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-53.2' N	24°-57.7' N	24°-57.7' N
127°-58.7' E	128°-28.9' E	128°-46.2' E

At midnight, Vice Admiral R.S. SPURANCE hauled down his flag, relinquishing his command to Admiral W.F. HALSEY, Commander Third Fleet. The Fifth Fleet is now designated as the Third Fleet and this Task Group is 38.1.

At 0350 an unidentified plane closed this formation to 28 miles and air attack was sounded. The plane did not close further and at 0420 we secured from air attack and Air Defense Condition II was set.

At 0551 rotated formation axis to 180°(T); at 0608 rotated axis to 120°(T).

Fueled destroyers during morning, commencing fueling operations at 0632. This ship fueled the TWINING, DASHIELL, SCHROEDER, and BRUSH.

At 0927, due to an unidentified plane closing formation, formation 5 "Victor Dog" was formed. Plane was identified as friendly and at 1151 formation 5 "Roger" was formed.

At 1748 air attack was sounded as an unidentified plane was closing the formation. Secured at 1751 when plane was identified as friendly C-47.

During the day carriers launched routine patrols and fighter cover for OKINAWA.

29 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-44.4' N	24°-36.8' N	24°-38.5' N
128°-07.0' E	127°-51.2' E	127°-33.8' E

Operating south of OKINAWA with Task Group 38.1 in support of ground operation on OKINAWA.

Sounded air attack for dawn alert at 0435; secured at 0535.

Rotated axis to 180°(T) at 0444. MASSACHUSETTS designated guide at 0535.

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled the MC KEE, DASHIELL, and SCHROEDER, beginning at 0613. Completed fueling operations at 0807.

At 1120 the ALABAMA joined Task Group 38.1, having been detached from 38.3.

Rotated axis at 1418 to 210°(T).

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HORNET designated guide at 1915.

Carriers launched routine and target Combat Air Patrols during the day.

30 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-55.5' N	24°-46.6' N	24°-44.2' N
127°-53.8' E	127°-34.9' E	127°-25.0' E

Operating with Task Group 38.1 off OKINAWA.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0438; secured at 0535.

Fueled destroyers during morning watch. Commenced fueling operations at 0554. This ship fueled the BRUSH, JOHN RODGERS, and HARRISON. Completed at 0800.

At 2000 commenced retiring to fueling rendezvous to meet Task Group 30.8 for replenishment of fuel and supplies.

Commander Task Unit 38.1.22 (ComCruDiv 10) in the BALTIMORE, designated O.T.C. at 2014.

During the day routine patrols and fighter cover for OKINAWA were launched by the carriers.

31 MAY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-56.8' N	24°-24.3' N	24°-37.3' N
128°-45.3' E	129°-10.7' E	128°-46.2' E

In company with Task Group 38.1 proceeding to fueling rendezvous.

At 0510 rendezvoused with logistic group. Formed Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 045°(T), speed 10 knots.

Alongside MASACOMA to port at 0608 to receive fuel. Completed receiving fuel from MASACOMA at 0900. Left from alongside.

Alongside ALDEBARAN at 1041 to receive fresh provisions. MOORE alongside port quarter at 1100 to deliver mail. Left from alongside ALDEBARAN at 1133.

Rotated axis to 280°(T) at 1201, base course is 280°(T).

CruDiv 10, CruDiv 14, SAN JUAN, and DULUTH formed astern of Bat-Div 8, in that order to conduct gunnery exercise. MASSACHUSETTS leading column.

Completed gunnery exercise at 1502.

Formed 5 "Roger", course and axis 180°(T), speed 10 knots. BALTIMORE guide, bearing 090°(T), distance 8900 yards.

Commander Task Group 38.1 assumed tactical command of Task Group 38.1 at 1644.



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Log. No.	8857
R. S. No.	

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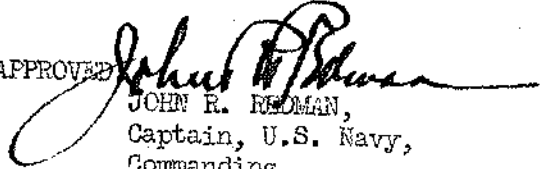
2230 On course 000°(T) proceeding to support position south-east of OKINAWA.

SUBMITTED:



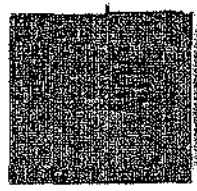
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED



JOHN R. FREEMAN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: 13526 - 988133  
By: JIA/BJA Date: 1/16/84



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Date: 12/14/2001

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WAR DIARY

*Received*

1 JUNE 1945

0800 Position  
25°-50.5' N  
129°-19.7' E

1200 Position  
25°-49.7' N  
128°-50.4' E

2000 Position  
26°-03.8' N  
129°-15.7' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 38.1 enroute to support position southeast of OKINAWA. Zone minus (-9) nine time being kept.

Fueled destroyers during morning watch. This ship fueled the TAUSSIG, BLUE, SCHROEDER and SWENSON, beginning at 0558; completed fueling operations at 0815.

At 2237 joined Task Group 38.4 and Commander Task Force 38 in the SHANGRI-LA. Formed fleet Disposition 5 "William", axis 030°(T), course 130°(T), speed 18 knots. Task Group 38.4 is guide in station #1.

During the day carriers launched routine patrols.  
Task Group 38.1 is presently organized as follows:

Third Fleet

Task Force 38

Task Group 38.1

Task Unit 38.1.1 - Carriers

- HORNET (FF)
- BENNINGTON (F)
- BELLEAU WOOD
- SAN JACINTO

Task Unit 38.1.2 - Support Unit

Task Unit 38.1.21 - Battleships

- MASSACHUSETTS (F)
- INDIANA

Task Unit 38.1.22 - Cruisers

CruDiv 10 (less BOSTON AND CANBERRA)

- BALTIMORE (F)
- PITTSBURGH
- QUINCY

CruDiv 18

- ATLANTA (F)
- DULUTH
- SAN JUAN

Task Unit 38.1.3 - Screen

- DesRon 61
- DesRon 25

- Admiral W.F. HALSEY, USN, in MISSOURI.
- Vice Admiral J.S. MC CAIN, USN, (ComSecondCarTaskForPac), in SHANGRI-LA.
- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN, (ComCarDiv 5), in HORNET.
- Rear Admiral J.J. CLARK, USN.
- Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, USN.
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, (ComBatDiv 8), in MASSACHUSETTS.
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN.
- Rear Admiral L.J. WILTSE, USN.
- Captain T.H. HEDERMAN, USN.

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 BY: JAX/TROTA, BAP  
 19/04

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2 JUNE 1945

0800 Position26°-10.1' N  
129°-52.5' E1200 Position25°-45.7' N  
129°-39.1' E2000 Position25°-08.0' N  
129°-34.2' E

In company with Task Group 38.1 operating southeast of OKINAWA in support of OKINAWA operations.

At 0426 stood to Air Attack for dawn alert; secured at 0521.

Fueled destroyers during morning watch. Commencing at 0555 this ship fueled the COLLETT, SWENSON, and HARRISON.

At 1642 rotated formation axis to 210°(T).

During the day carriers launched routine patrols.

3 JUNE 1945

0800 Position26°-11.2' N  
130°-24.0' E1200 Position25°-55.3' N  
129°-45.3' E2000 Position25°-21.6' N  
129°-53.4' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 38.1 southeast of OKINAWA in support of OKINAWA operations.

At 0427 stood to Air Attack for regular dawn alert; secured at 0527.

Rotated formation axis left to 150°(T) at 0600; to 120°(T) at 0609.

Fueled destroyers during morning watch. This ship fueled the S.N. MOORE and TAUSSIG and SWENSON; completed at 0819.

At 0935 the Watch was doubled in the anti-aircraft batteries as an unidentified aircraft was reported in the area.

Rotated formation axis to 090°(T) at 1620.

No further reports on unidentified aircraft and at 1640 single Watch was set; Condition of Readiness III.

During the day carriers launched strikes on Amami O Shima and on Kyushu, plus routine patrols.

2310 This Task Group began retiring south to fueling area.

4 JUNE 1945

0800 Position23°-21.5' N  
128°-49.3' E1200 Position23°-06.7' N  
129°-34.7' E2000 Position22°-39.0' N  
131°-28.0' E

In company with Task Group 38.1 retiring southward to fueling rendezvous. Commander Battleship Division EIGHT is Officer in Tactical Command.

At 0548 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 110°(T), speed 10 knots.

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 Date: 12/16/04

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At 0820 alongside port side of ESCAMBIA to receive fuel oil. BRUSH alongside our port quarter at 0840 to deliver mail.

At 0930 this group was directed to cease fueling operations and retire on 110°(T) at best possible speed in order to avoid a typhoon which was reported to be southwest of the force.

At 0953 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course 110°(T), axis 160°(T), speed 12 knots; MASSACHUSETTS designated guide.

At 1102 heavy units were directed to fuel destroyers who did not fuel from tankers. This ship fueled the SCHROEDER; completing operation at 1139.

1200 Retiring on 110°(T) at 14 knots. The logistic group (Task Group 30.8) is in company with us.

At about 1500 the SAN JUAN and BELLEAU WOOD were detached and sent over to fueling group to fuel. They returned to this formation at 1820.

At 2005 Task Group 38.4 joined us and Commander Task Force 38 assumed tactical command of Task Force 38. At 2009 Commander Task Group 38.1 assumed tactical command of Task Group 38.1.

During the day, from noon until dark, weather was intermittently bad with occasional squalls accompanied by high winds and heavy rain.

5 JUNE 1945

0800 Position  
 22°-47.5' N  
 132°-10.5' E

1200 Position  
 22°-37.2' N  
 132°-25.9' E

2000 Position  
 23°-08.7' N  
 132°-01.5' E

By 0100, 5 June 1945, the barometer had dropped to 29.42. The wind was force 7, causing a heavy swell. From 0100 until shortly before 0700 the force of the storm increased, as is indicated by the table below, showing the barometer and force of the wind from 0100 until 1200, 5 June 1945.

At about 0630 the wind increased to an estimated 100 knots. A number of ships reported having serious difficulty, PITTSBURGH, losing her bow and DULUTH having her bow buckled.

At approximately 0700 this ship passed through the "eye" of the typhoon. The barometer dropped to 28.30, the wind dropped to 26 knots and the visibility increased from a few hundred feet to about 10,000 yards. The ceiling rose from zero to an estimated 5,000 feet and the circular structure of the typhoon was clearly discernible. Seas in the typhoon's eye were mountainous, being much greater even than those encountered when the wind was estimated at 100 knots.

After the ship passed through the "eye" of the storm, the winds and seas began to subside and the barometer rose steadily.

MASSACHUSETTS suffered only minor damage from the storm, the principal casualty being the destruction of one of our Kingfishers, which was damaged beyond repair.

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As the ships of the Task Group had been scattered by the storm it was necessary to reform, and at 1203 ships in the vicinity of DULUTH formed on her as guide, taking stations designated. At 1302 formed 5 "Roger", course 250°(T), axis 270°(T), speed 6 knots. At 1525 HORNET and INDIANA rejoined the formation, and at 2114 LUXEMBOURG VICTORY joined, having been separated from her own group.

5 JUNE 1945:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>BAROMETER</u>	<u>FORCE OF WIND</u>
0100	29.42	7
0200	29.39	8
0300	29.29	9
0400	29.15	9
0500	28.96	10
0600	28.46	13
0700	28.30	5
0800	28.72	12
0900	29.18	11
1000	29.34	8
1100	29.42	7
1200	29.55	5

6 JUNE 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-27.3' N	24°-29.6' N	24°-30.4' N
129°-36.6' E	129°-27.7' E	129°-24.6' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 38.1 southeast of OKINAWA. We are in company with the fueling group and intend to fuel at dawn.

At 0554 Commander Battleship Division EIGHT was designated Officer in Tactical Command.

At 0625 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox"; course and axis 075°(T), speed 10 knots.

0800 HARRISON alongside starboard quarter to deliver mail. LUXEMBOURG VICTORY left formation.

Changed course and axis of Disposition at 0921 to 270°(T). At 0947 alongside port side of KANKAKEE to receive fuel oil; completed fueling at 1140.

At 1320 formed air defense formation 5 "Victor Dog", axis 270°(T). On course 180°(T) steaming at 14 knots. MASSACHUSETTS guide. At 1430 commenced "surprise burst" anti-aircraft practice.

At 1500 this ship spotted floating mine and steered out right to avoid it. Mine was reported to Officer in Tactical Command and destroyer SWENSON destroyed it. Ceased gunnery exercise at 1557.

At 1635 formed 5 "Roger"; course and axis 270°(T), speed 18 knots. At 1755 Commander Task Group 38.1 assumed tactical command of Task Group 38.1.

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At 2123 BON HOMME RICHARD, TOPEKA, OKLAHOMA CITY, and RINGGOLD joined this formation and took stations.

7 JUNE 1945

0800 Position

25°-04.5' N  
129°-53.0' E

1200 Position

25°-48.0' N  
129°-30.4' E

2000 Position

25°-43.5' N  
129°-29.4' E

Operating in waters southeast of OKINAWA, furnishing air support to ground operations.

General Quarters for dawn alert at 0430; secured at 0530. MASSACHUSETTS designated formation guide as carriers launched planes for fighter sweeps and strikes at dawn.

Formation axis rotated to 290°(T), into the wind, at 0556.

MC KEE alongside to fuel at 0714; operation completed at 0740. Transferred 16,800 gallons fuel oil.

Formation axis rotated to 310°(T) at 1030 and to 340°(T) at 1039 following a shift in the wind.

COLLETT alongside at 1514 to deliver official mail. SWENSON alongside to fuel at 1630; operation completed at 1702. Transferred 31,500 gallons fuel oil.

At 1727 jettisoned aircraft #09676 which had been damaged so badly during the recent typhoon that repair was impossible. Prior to being jettisoned the plane was stripped of all removable gear.

8 JUNE 1945

0800 Position

26°-49.7' N  
133°-26.1' E

1200 Position

26°-59.2' N  
133°-06.5' E

2000 Position

25°-56.4' N  
132°-32.0' E

Manned General Quarters stations for dawn alert at 0413; secured at 0513.

At dawn carriers launched Combat Air Patrols and a fighter sweep followed by a strike against air fields and aircraft in KYUSHU.

Formation axis rotated to 310°(T) at 0932.

During morning fueled DE HAVEN, and during afternoon fueled HARRISON.

At 1146 all hands manned Air Attack stations upon instructions of Task Group Commander; secured at 1154 as the unidentified aircraft was found to be friendly.

At 1434 set Air Defense Condition II.

BENNINGTON, screened by JOHN RODGERS and MC KEE, left the formation at 1806 to proceed to Leyte Gulf.

9 JUNE 1945

0800 Position

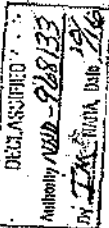
24°-09.9' N  
132°-13.5' E

1200 Position

24°-08.3' N  
132°-47.4' E

2000 Position

23°-59.5' N  
134°-06.8' E



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Rendezvoused with fueling group at dawn. At 0550 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox".

Along port side of MANATEE at 0843 to fuel. TWINING alongside to port at 1043 to transfer personnel and mail. TWINING cleared at 1055.

Completed fueling and left side of MANATEE at 1056. Took station in firing column for gunnery exercises.

At 1245 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course 095°(T), axis 070°(T), speed 10 knots.

RINGGOLD along port quarter at 1503 to deliver official mail.

During afternoon carriers of the task group launched fighter sweeps and air strikes against MINAMI DAITO JIMA and OKINO DAITO JIMA. At 1615 DE HAVEN alongside to deliver official; cleared side at 1637.

Formation axis rotated to 090°(T) at 1710.

At 1741 ComBatDiv 8 assumed tactical command of BatDiv 8. BatDiv 8, screened by DesDiv 121, left Task Group 38.1 and proceeded toward MINAMI DAITO JIMA.

DE HAVEN alongside to receive official mail at 1859.

10 JUNE 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-44.4' N	24°-39.9' N	23°-12.4' N
131°-14.9' E	131°-33.4' E	131°-12.3' E

Task Group 30.2 (BatDiv 8 and DesDiv 121) proceeding to MINAMI DAITO JIMA for bombardment.

General Quarters stations manned at 0500. Launched one plane for spotting at 0530. At 0620 opened fire with main battery at designated targets on MINAMI DAITO JIMA. At 0724 completed firing main battery. Commenced firing secondary battery at 0728. Ceased firing secondary battery at 0800. At 0829 recovered one aircraft by "Charlie" method.

At 1350 Task Unit 30.2 joined Task Group 38.1, taking assigned stations in cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course 350°(T); axis 090°(T), speed 18 knots.

11 JUNE 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
20°-19.4' N	19°-37.2' N	18°-12.7' N
129°-48.4' E	129°-36.2' E	129°-25.6' E

Formation axis rotated to 150°(T) at 0543. COLLETT alongside to starboard at 0633 for official mail.

At 0852 Commander Task Unit 38.1.2 assumed tactical command. Conducted gunnery exercise, firing 5" and machine gun batteries.

Exercised at Air Attack station for drill from 1325 to 1454. Conducted additional gunnery exercises.



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WAR DIARY

At 1806 Task Unit 38.1.2 rejoined Task Group 38.1, taking station in Disposition 5 "Roger".

12 JUNE 1945

0800 Position  
15°-50.3' N  
129°-44.0' E

1200 Position  
14°-59.9' N  
129°-30.6' E

2000 Position  
13°-07.6' N  
127°-55.2' E

At dawn Task Group 38.1.5 was detached from Task Group 38.1 and proceeded independently, conducting tactical exercises.

At 1110 the ship exercised at general drills. Gunnery exercises conducted from 1400 to 1534. At 1555 formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 9 "Sugar"; course and axis 225°(T), speed 17 knots.

SCHROEDER alongside at 1808 to transfer patient for medical attention.

13 JUNE 1945

0800 Position  
10°-41.5' N  
127°-01.0' E

1200 Position  
10°-43.1' N  
126°-09.3' E

At 0509 all hands manned General Quarters stations for main battery practice firing. BatDiv 8 formed on MASSACHUSETTS at 0510. Launched one aircraft at 0551 for spotting purposes.

At 0607 began gunnery exercises, firing main and secondary batteries at towed target. Completed gunnery exercises at 0656. Recovered one aircraft at 0743.

Formed 4 "Victor" 9 "Sugar" at 1106. The Task Unit entered Leyte Gulf and proceeded toward San Pedro Bay.

At 1638 anchored in Berth #102, San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.

Began following normal port routine, as permitted by fueling, provisioning and routine maintenance and repair work. Basically, the Port War Watch is set, with a doubled Watch being maintained in the anti-aircraft battery. The ship is in Material Condition "X-Ray", but during darkness Condition "Yoke" is set, below the second deck. Condition III is set in the anti-aircraft battery from an hour before to an hour after sunrise and sunset.

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By: JAC/STPA, Bab. 1/26

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

14 JUNE 1945: At 1134 SUAMICO alongside to port to deliver fuel. Completed fueling at 1340, after receiving 9,094 barrels of fuel oil. Commenced provisioning ship at 2315.

15 JUNE 1945: Received machine gun ammunition from LSM #1051. Began receiving GSK stores from LSM along starboard quarter. Continued provisioning.

16 JUNE 1945: BUCYRUS VICTORY (AK 234) alongside to port to deliver ammunition at 1016. At 1255 BCL #3065 received to starboard for transfer of ammunition.

17 JUNE 1945: At 0715 BUCYRUS VICTORY cleared port side. Conducted training flights during morning and afternoon. Continued to receive ammunition from ICT's.

BLUEFIELD VICTORY alongside to port with ammunition at 1800.

18 JUNE 1945: At 0750 BLUEFIELD VICTORY cleared port side, having completed delivery of 16" ammunition. Routine flights for training conducted during morning and afternoon.

19 JUNE 1945: Diving operations were conducted during morning and afternoon.

At 0905 Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, Jr., USN, Commander Battleship Division EIGHT, temporary Commander Battleship Squadron TWO, hauled down his flag in MASSACHUSETTS and left the ship to proceed to SOUTH DAKOTA, having previously assumed temporary duties as Commander Battleship Squadron TWO. Administrative Commander Battleship Division EIGHT is in INDIANA.

Routine flights were conducted during morning for training purposes.

20 JUNE 1945: Conducted flight operations during morning for training purposes.

21 JUNE 1945: Flight operations conducted during morning as exercise. Diving operations for purpose of installing a down hand chain were conducted during morning.

22 JUNE 1945: Hoisted out one plane at 0900 for test hop. Recovered at 1104. Received LCI #685 alongside to port at 1513; delivered 3,000 gallons fresh water.

23 JUNE 1945: Conducted flight exercises for training from 1354 to 1635.

24 JUNE 1945: At 0842 Commander Third Fleet ordered all ships present attached to the Third Fleet to set Condition I in the anti-aircraft batteries, as an unidentified plane was approaching. All hands manned Air Attack stations. Set Material Condition "Zebra". At 0855 the plane was identified as friendly; set the normal Watch and Material Condition of Readiness.

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 Authority: NND-928133  
 By: J.A. [unclear] 1966

BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

REG. NO 9069  
P. S. NO  
REG. SHEET NO 52

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND-980133  
By: JRS/THA, Date: 9/6

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

At 0900 hoisted out one aircraft for routine flight; plane recovered at 1135.

GEMSBOK alongside to port at 0920 to deliver fuel. Operation completed at 1127; MASSACHUSETTS receiving 10,214 gallons fuel oil. Additional flight operations conducted during afternoon.

25 JUNE 1945: Captain's Inspection held from 0910 to 1045, at which time all hands assembled forward for a meritorious mast at which time the Captain commended various members of the crew for outstanding performance of duty.

During afternoon aircraft conducted test hops.

26 JUNE 1945: Aircraft conducted routine flights during morning and afternoon.

27 JUNE 1945: Hoisted out one plane for training flight at 1300; recovered at 1558.

28 JUNE 1945: At 2140 exercised at Fire Drill; secured at 2215.

29 JUNE 1945: Aircraft conducted routine practice flights.


30 JUNE 1945: Underway at 0559 to shift to Berth #901 in anti-aircraft firing area, Leyte Gulf. Maneuvered on various courses and at various speeds to conform to course of Channel. At 0837 anchored in Berth #901.

Hoisted out one aircraft for training flight at 0844.


During morning and afternoon conducted gunnery exercises, firing 5" and machine gun batteries. Secured from exercises at 1600.

At 1553 underway to return to Berth #102, SAN PEDRO BAY, Leyte Gulf. At 1837 anchored in Berth #102.

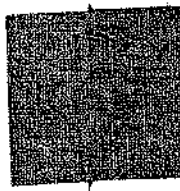
SUBMITTED:

  
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED:

  
JOHN R. REDMAN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: 48 CFR - 1.552(a)  
BY: JAK/PAVA, Date: 1/18/88



File No.  
BB59/ A12-1/A16-3

X  
U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

60/rm

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

1 JULY 1945

1200 Position

10°-45.0' N

126°-24.7' E

2000 Position

11°-47.1' N

127°-50.1' E

*Recorded*  
487

Underway from Berth #102, San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands at 0557 in accordance with Commander Task Group 38.1 Sortie Plan #2-45. Under overall command of Commander THIRD Fleet, Admiral W.F. HALSEY, USN. Zone minus nine (-9) time in use.

MASSACHUSETTS is sortieing as a unit of Support Unit ONE, under tactical command of Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, in SOUTH DAKOTA. Support Unit ONE consists of:

SOUTH DAKOTA  
MASSACHUSETTS  
INDIANA  
TOPEKA  
ATLANTA  
DAYTON  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
AMSTERDAM  
JOHN RODGERS  
HARRISON  
MC KEE  
RINGGOLD  
SCHROEDER  
DASHIELL  
COGSWELL  
CAPERTON  
INGERSOLL  
KNAPP.

At 0945 formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 9 "Sugar". Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Victor" 9 "Sugar" at 1230, for anti-aircraft exercises as directed in ComBatRon TWO Training Plan dated 25 June 1945. Gunnery exercises conducted from 1300 to 1600.

Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar" 9 "Sugar" at 1609.

At 1659 BatDiv 8 formed for night surface firing exercises. at 1840 manned General Quarters stations. Commenced firing main battery at 1953. Commenced firing secondary battery at 2032. Concluded gunnery exercises and secured from General Quarters at 2040.

139088 **FILMED**

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BY: J. J. F. / P. H. / D. H. / 1996

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

2 JULY 1945

0800 Position

13°-09.6' N  
130°-09.4' E

1200 Position

13°-31.0' N  
130°-32.3' E

2000 Position

13°-51.0' N  
131°-13.0' E

In company with Task Unit 38.1.2 conducting training exercises while enroute to rendezvous with Task Group 30.8. ComBatRon 2 in SOUTH DAKOTA is ComTask Unit 38.1.2.

At 0618 formed Task Force 34, Disposition 4 "Sugar", IOWA guide. Task Force 34 is organized as follows:

Task Force 34 - Heavy Surface Striking Force - Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH,

USN, (ComBatRon 2) in  
SOUTH DAKOTA.

Task Group 34.1 - Battle Line

- Rear Admiral BADGER, USN.

BatDiv 7

IOWA (F)  
WISCONSIN (F)

- Rear Admiral BADGER, USN.

MISSOURI (FFF)

- Rear Admiral DENFIELD,  
USN, (ComBatDiv 9).

BatDiv 6

NORTH CAROLINA (F)  
ALABAMA

- Rear Admiral COOLEY, USN.

BatDiv 8

SOUTH DAKOTA (FF)  
INDIANA  
MASSACHUSETTS

DesDiv 100

Task Group 34.2 - Light Forces

- Rear Admiral WILTSE, USN.

CraDiv 10

QUINCY (F)  
BOSTON  
CHICAGO  
ST. PAUL

DesDiv 107, 106

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Authority: 1002-928133  
By: IAC/HRM, DAB 12/16

BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

Launched plane #09398, Ensign F.E. DUNCAN, (A1), USNR, passenger HILL, H.E., ARM3c, USNR, at 0800. Launched plane #130356, Lieutenant A.B. CENEDELLA pilot, Ensign P.L. ROBERTS passenger at 0805. Formed approach disposition four at 0820.

Exercises at maneuvering during morning and forenoon. At 0843 General Quarters for drill; secured at 1014.

Recovered both planes at 1030.

At 1107 formed 4 "Sugar Bomb", axis 280°(T), speed of guide 12 knots.

During afternoon exercised at gunnery anti-aircraft practice. Formed 4 "Victor Bomb" at 1435. Completed gunnery exercises at 1503.

Formed 4 "Sugar Bomb" at 1508.

At 1854 on course 057°(T), at 18 knots.

3 JULY 1945

0800 Position

15°-02.2' N  
133°-17.2' E

1200 Position

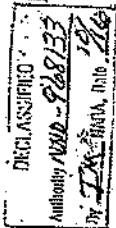
15°-22.2' N  
133°-14.4' E

2000 Position

16°-06.5' N  
133°-48.9' E

Continuing training exercises as unit of Bombardment Group "Able", Task Unit 34.8.1.

Fueled destroyers during morning. This ship fueled WALKER, ABBOTT, HEERMANN and HALE.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

Conducted tactical exercises from 0907 to 1118.

Gunnery exercises conducted during afternoon, all ships firing anti-aircraft battery at towed sleeves from formation 4 "Victor Bomb". Formed Disposition 4 "Sugar Bomb" at 1437.

At 1700 rendezvoused with Task Group 38.1 and took assigned station in Disposition 5 "Roger", course 050°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 18 knots, BENNINGTON guide.

Task Group 38.1 is composed as follows:

Task Force 38

- Vice Admiral J.S. McCAIN, USN, (ComSecondCarTask-ForPac) in SHANGRI-LA.
- Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, USN, in BENNINGTON.

Task Group 38.1 - Fast Carrier Group ONE

BENNINGTON (F)  
LEXINGTON  
HANCOCK  
BELLEAU WOOD  
SAN JACINTO

Task Unit 38.1.2 - Support Unit

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, (ComBatRon 2) in SOUTH DAKOTA.

Task Unit 38.1.3 - Battleships

SOUTH DAKOTA (F)  
INDIANA  
MASSACHUSETTS

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

Task Unit 38.1.4 - CruisersCruDiv 18

TOPEKA (F)  
DULUTH  
ATLANTA  
DAYTON

- Rear Admiral HOLDEN, USN, in TOPEKA.

CruDiv 20

OKLAHOMA CITY  
AMSTERDAM

Task Unit 38.1.5 - Screen

SAN JUAN (F)  
DesRon 61  
DesRon 25

- Commodore SIMPSON, USN, in SAN JUAN

4 JULY 1945

0800 Position

17°-31.3' N  
135°-38.1' E

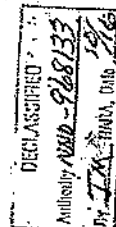
1200 Position

17°-31.1' N  
135°-36.9' E

2000 Position

18°-31.1' N  
137°-37.8' E



CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

Steaming toward fueling area at approximately 25-30 N, 149-40 E. Fueled destroyers after dawn, this ship fueling MADDOX and DE HAVEN. At 0741 BatDiv 8 formed and conducted gunnery and tactical exercises. BLUE along port quarter at 1120 to transfer official mail. Rejoined Task Force 38, taking assigned station in Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1535. At 1555 formed Disposition 5 "Victor" and conducted additional gunnery exercises. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1726.

S.N. MOORE alongside at 1755 to transfer T D D drone.

5 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
19°-55.6' N	20°-29.9' N	20°-57.9' N
139°-16.5' E	140°-09.0' E	140°-43.0' E

Steaming toward fueling rendezvous prior to launching air strikes. Fueled destroyers during morning, this ship fueling MC KEE, BRUSH and TAUSSIG.

Exercised at Air Attack for drill at 0900.

6 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
22°-17.9' N	22°-27.6' N	23°-09.4' N
142°-37.9' E	143°-15.6' E	144°-11.7' E

Fueled destroyers shortly after dawn, this ship fueling HARRISON and SCHROEDER. RINGGOLD alongside at 0720 to transfer official mail.

Carriers launched routine patrols during day.

Exercised at General Quarters for drill at 1015.

At 1524 Disposition 5 "Victor" was formed for anti-aircraft exercises from 1600 to 1700. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1712.

7 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
23°-54.1' N	24°-01.4' N	24°-29.4' N
146°-50.7' E	146°-23.1' E	147°-26.2' E

Proceeding northward toward fueling rendezvous.

Fueled destroyers during morning, MASSACHUSETTS fueling COLLETT and KNAPP.

Gunnery drills conducted in forenoon period.

At 1450 formed Disposition 5 "Victor" and commenced firing anti-aircraft battery at towed sleeves. Exercise completed at 1700. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

Carriers launched routine patrols during day.

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

8 JULY 1945

0800 Position

25°-29.2' N  
149°-11.7' E

1200 Position

25°-13.3' N  
148°-34.2' E

2000 Position

25°-53.7' N  
147°-52.8' E

Rendezvoused with tanker group at dawn and commenced fueling exercise. At 0518 formed 5 "Fox", course 240°(T), speed 10 knots, NIOSHO guide.

Engaged in anti-aircraft firing exercises from 0940 to 1031, firing at T D B drones. Alongside NESHANIC to refuel at 1137.

JOHN RODGERS alongside at 1310 to receive radio material. Emergency "Zebra" was set at 1310 as S.N. MOORE had possible sound contact which was later evaluated to be false.

At 1330 SCHROEDER alongside to deliver mail.

Cleared side of NESHANIC at 1551. At 1602 formed Disposition 5 "Roger".

9 JULY 1945

0800 Position

28°-45.6' N  
147°-00.8' E

1200 Position

29°-47.2' N  
146°-42.2' E

2000 Position

31°-41.0' N  
145°-03.6' E

Proceeding toward strike position. Fueled JOHN RODGERS, MC KEE, and HARRISON during early morning.

At 0809 MADDOX destroyed a mine about 3000 yards off our port bow. A number of floating mines were encountered during the morning and were sunk or detonated by destroyers.

At 1800 the Captain addressed the crew as follows:

"Sometime ago I directed that CinCPac's communique be reproduced in our daily press sheet. Although it may be not as recent as other press which is copied it is extremely accurate and is devoted to Pacific operations of which we are a part. That has given you the past operations.

"You have noted that the Okinawa operation has been considered as concluded. Although some mopping up may be going on, Okinawa no longer requires direct support of the fast carrier task force ie Task Force 38 of which we are a part. Further amphibious operations are undoubtedly being planned by High Command and will take place as soon as everything is ready.

"In the meantime continuous pressure must be exerted against the enemy. Okinawa has assumed the role of an offensive base and you will hear more and more of air operations from that location. The B-29s you read of daily in the press. Their numbers will increase and they will be joined by B-32s whose performance and bomb load is comparable to the B-29.

"Task Force 38 is stronger than ever this time. We have three groups each containing 5 carriers. We have a total of 8 fast battleships many new cruisers and a much more comfortable number of destroyers than last time.

"Tomorrow morning at dawn from waters east of Tokyo we will send many air strikes against that area. We hope it will be a surprise. There are a good part of the Jap airfields in the Tokyo area and they probably contain many of their aircraft. There may be a violent reaction to our visit.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

It is our job to take care of any that get by the aircraft patrols. Our own task group 38.1 has the honorary seat again on the western side nearest Tokyo.

"In a day or so if all goes well the battleships have an interesting assignment. BatDiv 8 and a heavy cruiser will go well up north and bombard shore installations on the island of Hokkaido. Carrier aircraft will cover us. This will take us into waters which may contain anchored mines and possibly close enough for enemy shore battery fire. We will use full charge 16".

"We will then replenish at sea and be prepared for further operations. This will keep us busy throughout the month of July.

"I know you would like some word about the probable time of our departure for the Navy Yard. There has been nothing official. I feel certain that in the normal course of events we will be the next fast battleship to go back. Many factors influence the actual date and decision to send us some of them being, the desire to keep as many as possible in the operating area, the work load in the Navy yard, and the desire to keep these ships in a good state repair.

"My best guess is that unless something happens to one of the other fast battleships, we will start our trip home some time in the first ten days of August. Lets have a nice trip back so don't let your feet lag on the way to your battle station and keep your eyes busy watching for those enemy planes in your own quadrant of the ship."

10 JULY 1945

0800 Position

33°-56.5' N  
142°-21.8' E

1200 Position

34°-05.0' N  
142°-38.8' E

2000 Position

34°-22.3' N  
143°-05.0' E

Manned air attack stations for dawn alert at 0325. At 0435 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy". DAYTON designated formation guide, at 0346, as carriers began launching heavy air strikes against the Tokyo area of HONSHU.

Fueled DASHIELL, INGERSOLL and RINGGOLD shortly after sunrise.

At 1225 CAPERTON reported sound contact. The task group was maneuvered away from the location by emergency signals.

At 1321 Air Defense Condition set, and at 1326 Disposition 5 "Victor" formed. No attacks developed, however, and at 1356 reformed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger". At 1410 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

BENNINGTON designated guide at 1604.

At 1929 set normal watch in the anti-aircraft battery.

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Authority NND-988133  
By IAW/MLA, DMG 1986

BB59/A12-1/A16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NAVOP-968133  
By: JKA/Field, Date: 12/16CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

11 JULY 1945

0800 Position35°-18.4' N  
147°-19.0' E1200 Position36°-03.4' N  
147°-45.7' E2000 Position38°-03.5' N  
149°-17.6' E

Proceeding toward fueling area. Fueled destroyers shortly after dawn. This ship fueled BRUSH, S.N. MOORE, JOHN RODGERS and MC KEE.

At 1144 formed Disposition 5 "Victor" for gunnery exercises. At 1200 began firing anti-aircraft battery at towed sleeves. Exercise completed at 1400. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1403.

Carriers launched routine patrols during day.

12 JULY 1945

0800 Position40°-11.3' N  
149°-37.1' E1200 Position40°-41.6' N  
149°-26.4' E2000 Position40°-50.6' N  
148°-06.8' E

At 0155 SOUTH DAKOTA, JOHN RODGERS and SAN JUAN reported sighting torpedo tracks. Emergency "Zebra" was set below the second deck and the task group maneuvered by emergency signals. No submarine contact was obtained by the screen.

Rendezvoused with tanker group at dawn. Formed Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0421, course and axis 330°(T), speed 10 knots.

Destroyers fueled shortly after sunrise. MASSACHUSETTS fueled SCHROEDER, JOHN RODGERS, DE HAVEN, TAUSSIG and HARRISON.

At 0433 DE HAVEN alongside to transfer personnel; BLUE alongside to deliver official mail at 0623.

Alongside KASKASKIA to fuel at 0826. S.N. MOORE alongside to transfer personnel at 0920. MERTZ alongside at 1037 to deliver personnel. Cleared side of KASKASKIA at 1153 and took station in firing line for anti-aircraft firing.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1210, course 180°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 10 knots. 1223 SCHROEDER alongside to transfer personnel.

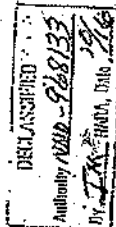
13 JULY 1945

0800 Position40°-38.4' N  
145°-00.3' E1200 Position40°-16.1' N  
146°-11.8' E2000 Position40°-46.2' N  
146°-30.5' E

Scheduled strikes against northern HONSHU and HOKKAIDO were not launched because of squally weather. Only routine air patrols were put into the air by the carriers.

At 0250 all hands manned Air Attack stations for dawn alert; secured at 0347.

Fueled destroyers during afternoon, this ship fueling BLUE and TAUSSIG.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

14 JULY 1945

0800 Position40°-23.3' N  
143°-25.7' E1200 Position39°-23.7' N  
142°-10.7' E2000 Position39°-45.7' N  
144°-40.6' E

Air Attack for dawn alert at 0306; secured at 0406. At dawn carriers launched fighter sweeps and strikes against Japanese air fields in Northern HONSHU and HOKKAIDO.

At 0604 Commander of Task Unit 34.8.1, Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, in SOUTH DAKOTA, assumed tactical command of Task Unit 34.8.1, which was detached from Task Group 38.1 to proceed with the bombardment of KAMAISHI on the Island of HONSHU.

Task Unit 34.8.1 is organized as follows:

Third Fleet

- Admiral W.F. HALSEY, USN,  
in MISSOURI.

Task Unit 34.8.1 - Bombardment Group Able

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

Task Unit 34.8.11 - Battleship Unit

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

BatDiv 8 (less ALABAMA, plus SOUTH  
DAKOTA).

SOUTH DAKOTA (F)

INDIANA

MASSACHUSETTS

Task Unit 34.8.12 - Cruiser Unit

- Rear Admiral WILTSE, USN.

CruDiv 10 (less BALTIMORE, BOSTON and  
CANBERRA, plus CHICAGO).

QUINCY (F)

CHICAGO

Task Unit 34.8.13 - Destroyer Screen

- Captain HEDERMAN, USN.

Van Unit

DesDiv 95 - Section One

Rear Unit

DesDiv 95 - Section Two

Flank Unit

DesDiv 96

Formation 4 "Sugar Bomb" formed at 0705. The task unit steamed toward the target on course 225°(T), speed 23 knots.

The Japanese mainland was sighted by our lookouts at 0842. At 1016 all hands manned General Quarters stations for bombardment. MASSACHUSETTS' primary target is JAPAN IRON and STEEL WORKS, one of the largest steel works in Japan.

Commenced firing main battery at 1213; ceased firing at 1409 after expending 300 rounds high capacity. There were no casualties.

Upon completion of bombardment, retired toward Task Force 38 and at 2120 rejoined Task Group 38.1.

BB59/AL2-1/AL6-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

15 JULY 1945

0800 Position40°-37.0' N  
144°-53.3' E1200 Position41°-00.9' N  
145°-13.7' E2000 Position40°-22.8' N  
145°-31.7' E

Launched heavy air strikes against enemy air facilities and industrial targets on northern HONSHU and HOKKAIDO and against enemy shipping in adjacent waters. Manned Air Attack stations for dawn alert sounded at 0258. Set Air Defense Condition I "Easy" at 0352.

At 0715 recovered two aircraft by "Charlie" method. Guide was shifted to SOUTH DAKOTA and tactical command shifted to ComTask Unit 38.1.2 during this maneuver.

At 1058 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Victor" upon instruction of the Task Group Commander, who reported unidentified aircraft nearby. All hands manned Air Attack stations at 1100. The planes in question were soon identified as friendly and at 1117 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 1635. At 1904 ATLANTA and DAYTON rejoined task group having completed bombardment of MURORAN with Task Unit 34.8.2.

Secured from Air Defense Condition I "Easy" at 1915.

16 JULY 1945

0800 Position38°-58.3' N  
147°-46.2' E1200 Position38°-25.8' N  
147°-13.0' E2000 Position37°-23.2' N  
145°-32.8' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at approximately 39N, 148E at dawn. Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0527. Fueling course 225°(T), speed 10 knots.

Alongside KASKASKIA to fuel at 0607. SCHROEDER alongside at 0616 to fuel. SCHROEDER completed fueling at 0753 and was followed alongside by DE HAVEN, which began to fuel at 0802.

At 0900 cleared side of KASKASKIA, upon completion of fueling. DE HAVEN cleared side of MASSACHUSETTS at 0914. COGSWELL alongside at 0923 to transfer patient for medical treatment.

Took assigned station in firing line and engaged in gunnery exercises. At 1053 took station in ZZ line.

JOHN RODGERS alongside at 1227 to transfer personnel. At 1524 formed 5 "Victor", course 225°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 10 knots, BENNINGTON guide. SOUTH DAKOTA designated guide at 1637. At 1830 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", course 250°(T), speed 16 knots. BENNINGTON designated formation guide at 1842.

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Authority: NND-928133  
Date: 12/14/2016

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

17 JULY 1945

0800 Position36°-38.2' N  
143°-11.0' E1200 Position36°-29.4' N  
143°-13.2' E2000 Position36°-39.0' N  
142°-56.6' E

Arrived at strike position, 38-40N, 143-15E at dawn. Carriers launched heavy air strikes blanketing Japanese air installations and striking industrial targets in the Tokyo area of HONSHU.

Air attack stations manned for dawn alert at 0320. At 0359 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

Destroyers were topped off during the morning. This ship fueled INGERSOLL and COGSWELL.

The weather during the morning was foggy and in general unfavorable for flight operations. Around noon the fog began to close in with the result that the afternoon strikes were cancelled.

At 1307 secured from Air Defense Condition I "Easy", setting a normal watch.

At 1542 DAYTON and ATLANTA left the formation to participate in a sweep of the area south of NOJIMA SAKI.

18 JULY 1945

0800 Position35°-15.2' N  
142°-37.6' E1200 Position35°-06.7' N  
142°-38.4' E2000 Position35°-04.0' N  
142°-49.1' E

Continued air strikes against enemy air installations and industrial targets in Tokyo plains area. At 0320 all hands manned Air Attack stations for dawn alert; at 0405 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy" and a modified Material Condition of "Zebra".

At dawn the first fighter sweeps and air strikes were launched. All ships were maneuvered by the group commander to conform to these operations.

At 0615 a floating mine was sighted about 500 yards off our port beam and was reported to the Task Group Commander.

ATLANTA and DAYTON rejoined the Task Group at 0720 upon completion of bombardment of HITACHI area of island of HONSHU.

Another floating mine was passed close aboard to starboard at 0900. Our machine gun battery opened fire on the mine as the ship passed it, but was unable to score a hit. A smoke float was thrown over the side and the location reported to the Task Group Commander.

At approximately 1130 the task group began retiring on a southwesterly course and at 1420 the retirement course was changed to 130°(T).

At 1630 CruDiv 18 and OKLAHOMA CITY left the task group and proceeded to conduct a sweep and bombardment of Japanese coast.

Secured from Air Defense I "Easy" at 1915.

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 BY: JAE/BJM, Date: 12/16

BB59/A12-1/M16-3

U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

19 JULY 1945

0800 Position34°-45.5' N  
145°-44.1' E1200 Position34°-04.4' N  
146°-35.9' E2000 Position32°-52.1' N  
149°-12.0' E

Retired toward fueling rendezvous. The weather remained generally unfavorable for flight operations, but routine patrols were launched by the carriers.

Fueled destroyers during morning, this ship fueling SCHROEDER, MADDOX and INGERSOLL.

Exercised at fire drills at 1307. At 1522 the lookouts reported a mine off our starboard bow about 1000 yards. The location was marked with a smoke float and the Task Group Commander was notified.

20 JULY 1945

0800 Position31°-31.2' N  
151°-30.5' E1200 Position31°-12.9' N  
150°-55.6' E2000 Position30°-51.0' N  
149°-45.7' E

Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0515. Alongside port side of MASCOMA at 0603 to receive fuel. BLUE along port quarter at 0639 to receive personnel for transfer to other ships. Cleared side of MASCOMA at 0843. Maneuvered to take assigned station in 5 "Fox". Commenced gunnery exercises.

A leak in one of the main condensers required the locking of #3 shaft of 0913. Repairs were undertaken immediately and were completed at 1440.

Upon completion of drone firing, took station assigned for sleeve firing.

COLLETTE delivered mail at 1202, followed by COGSWELL at 1337, also making mail deliveries.

The task and fueling groups remained in company during the night, formation 5 "Fox" on course 255°(T), speed 8 knots.

DULUTH and MURRAY joined Task Group 38.1 during afternoon, reporting for duty.

21 JULY 1945

0800 Position30°-27.3' N  
147°-50.5' E1200 Position30°-17.0' N  
147°-11.1' E2000 Position30°-05.6' N  
145°-59.0' E

Steamed in company with units of Task Unit 30.18.1 in Disposition 5 "Fox" during the night. Two AO's and two AE's are present.

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 By: J.A. NARA, PhD 12/16

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At dawn replenishment operations were resumed.

CAPERTON alongside to deliver mail at 0445. At 0508 JOHN RODGERS alongside to port to transfer personnel.

Along port side of WRANGLE at 1021 to receive ammunition; completed ammunitioning at 1828, leaving from alongside WRANGLE and taking assigned station in 5 "Fox".

ALDEBARAN joined group at 1915.

All ships remained in Disposition 5 "Fox" during the night on course 255°(T) at 7 knots.

22 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
29°-42.5' N	29°-36.2' N	29°-02.9' N
144°-22.7' E	143°-53.8' E	142°-43.0' E

At 0429 alongside ALDEBARAN to replenish. Completed replenishing at 0549. At 0710 alongside SHASTA to re-ammunition. CAPERTON alongside to port at 0744 to transfer mail and personnel. Cleared side of SHASTA at 1011, taking assigned station in 5 "Fox". CAPERTON alongside again at 1510 with official mail.

Formed 5 "Victor" at 1554, course 345°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 12 knots. At 1625 took station in Special Fog Landing Disposition; MASSACHUSETTS station 6072.

At 1806 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

23 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
28°-39.6' N	28°-53.2' N	30°-08.7' N
140°-06.9' E	140°-09.6' E	137°-49.8' E

Steaming toward southern HONSHU for strikes against Japanese fleet units located in the Inland Sea.

Fueled destroyers shortly after sunrise, this ship fueling RINGGOLD, and SCHROEDER. HIGSBEE alongside to port at 1011 to deliver official mail.

Exercised at general drills from 1015 to 1115.

Carriers launched routine patrols during the day.

24 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-36.8' N	31°-31.7' N	31°-37.4' N
135°-22.0' E	135°-16.1' E	135°-33.7' E

Steamed toward strike position off southern HONSHU. At 0412 Air Attack stations manned for dawn alert. Air Defense Condition I "Easy" set at 0437. Material Condition "Zebra", modified, was set. Carriers launched planes for strikes on the target areas at dawn. Air Defense Condition III set, at 0525, when no enemy opposition developed.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

Fueled destroyers, both sides. At 0603 MADDOX alongside to starboard to fuel, completing at 0712; at 0608 MANSFIELD alongside to port to fuel, also completing at 0712.

At 0913 upon receipt of information that enemy planes were thought to be in the vicinity, set Air Defense Condition I "Easy". At 0914 all hands manned Air Attack station when an unidentified aircraft was reported at 310°(T), range 20 miles. At 0927 the Combat Air Patrol reported shooting down one "Jill". Secured from Air Attack at 0931, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

Air Attack sounded at 0941 when an unidentified aircraft was reported over Task Group 38.3. Planes were reported to be diving on this formation and the Task Group Commander ordered a number of emergency maneuvers. The planes were identified as friendly, however, and at 1005 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy". At 1120 COGSWELL alongside to port to fuel, completing at 1158, and at 1122 INGERSOLL alongside to starboard to fuel, completing at 1200.

The Task Group Commander ordered the formation of Disposition 5 "Victor" at 1716, and directed that Air Defense Condition I be set. This ship complied. The Combat Air Patrol reported shooting down one "Dinah". At 1855 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy" and at 1935 set Air Defense Condition III.

Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 2008.

Today's strikes were directed primarily at Japanese fleet units anchored in the Inland Sea. Preliminary reports indicated extensive damage done to NAGATO and other units.

25 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-57.5' N	32°-15.7' N	31°-51.7' N
136°-21.6' E	136°-27.6' E	136°-53.7' E

Carriers launched heavy air strikes against KURE, KOBE areas of Inland Sea at dawn, strikes being directed primarily against fleet units located in these areas.

Air Attack for dawn alert at 0405; secured at 0445.

All hands manned air attack station at 0844 upon direction of the Task Group Commander; secured from air attack at 0927, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

Fueled destroyers in afternoon, MASSACHUSETTS fueling INGERSOLL. At 1501 enemy planes were reported to be in the vicinity and the Task Group Commander ordered Condition I set. All hands stood to Air Attack stations. Disposition 5 "Victor" formed at 1503. No enemy planes closed the task group, so secured at 1544, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy". At 1747 sounded Air Attack again upon orders of the Task Group Commander. The Combat Air Patrol reported sighting and pursuing two "Myrts". At 1820 a plane was sighted burning on the water, bearing 020°(T), distance about 8 miles. This plane was thought to be one of the "Myrts" contacted by our Combat Air Patrol. Task Group 38.4 was observed to be firing sporadically.

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

At 2012 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy". Secured and set normal watch at 2043.

26 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
28°-13.7' N	23°-08.8' N	28°-21.1' N
138°-06.9' E	138°-38.1' E	139°-24.5' E

Arrived at fueling rendezvous, 28N, 138E at dawn. At 0803 rendezvoused with fueling group and formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course 090°(T), speed 8 knots. Guide in AUCILLA (AO 56).

At 0836 went along port side of MERRIMACK to fuel. MANSFIELD alongside at 1050 to transfer official mail and personnel. MC KEE alongside at 1124 to transfer patient for medical treatment. Left port side of MERRIMACK at 1228 after receiving 555,408 gallons fuel oil at 60° F.

Took assigned station in 5 "Fox".

Engaged in gunnery exercises during the afternoon from 1425 to 1530.

COGSWELL alongside to transfer personnel at 1640.

At 1844 BENNINGTON designated guide.

27 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
28°-19.8' N	28°-20.6' N	29°-55.3' N
138°-04.4' E	138°-38.3' E	137°-09.2' E

Continued fueling and replenishment operations.

MADDOX alongside to port at 0631 to transfer official mail. INGERSOLL alongside at 0822 to transfer official mail.

At 1137 formed Disposition 5 "Victor", course 090°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 8 knots, BENNINGTON guide. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1229, course 315°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 19 knots, BENNINGTON guide.

Replenishment was discontinued at noon, and Task Force 38 began steaming toward strike position off Japanese coast.

28 JULY 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-48.2' N	31°-51.5' N	31°-35.8' N
135°-06.8' E	135°-01.0' E	135°-30.2' E

Launched heavy strikes against Japanese fleet units in the Inland Sea. Air Attack for dawn alert at 0413, set Air Defense Condition I "Easy" at 0450.

At 1620 formed Disposition 5 "Victor". At 1757 set Air Defense Condition I upon orders of Task Group Commander. No enemy attacks developed, so secured at 1913. At 1923 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger". All hands manned Air Attack stations at 1947 but secured at 1950 when plane previously unidentified was found to be friendly.

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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 BY: JAL/HDA, DAN 2/26

CONFIDENTIALWAR DIARY

29 JULY 1945

0800 Position30°-21.7' N  
138°-31.3' E1200 Position30°-50.0' N  
138°-14.9' E2000 Position33°-37.3' N  
137°-50.9' E

At dawn carriers began launching strikes against Japanese airfields and industrial targets in the Tokyo plain area of the Island of HONSHU.

During morning fueled destroyers COLLETTE, S.N. MOORE, and CAPERTON. At 0557 and 0601 launched planes, transferring them to cruisers preparatory to bombarding coast of HONSHU.

BLUE alongside at 0706 to pick up MASSACHUSETTS spotter and deliver him to BENNINGTON.

At 1003 Task Unit 34.8.1 (Bombardment Group "Able") was formed. This unit is organized as follows:

Third Fleet- Admiral W.F. HALSEY, USN,  
in MISSOURI.Task Force 34- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH,  
USN, (ComBatRon 2), in  
SOUTH DAKOTA.Task Unit 34.8.1-Bombardment Group "Able"

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

Task Unit 34.8.11 - Battleship Unit

- Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.

BatDiv 8 - less ALABAMA, plus SOUTH  
DAKOTA.

SOUTH DAKOTA (F)

INDIANA

MASSACHUSETTS

Task Unit 34.8.12 - Van Cruiser Unit

- Rear Admiral WILTSE, USN.

QUINCY (F)

BOSTON

SAINT PAUL

Task Unit 34.8.14 - Rear Cruiser Unit

- Captain HARTUNG, USN.

CHICAGO

Task Unit 34.8.14 - Destroyer Screen

- Captain HENDERSON, USN.

Task Unit 34.8.15 - Fighter Director Ship

- Commander WILLIAMS, USN.

SOUTHERLAND

Also present was Task Unit 37.1.8. HMS KING GEORGE V with escorts.

Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar Baker". at 1346 and proceeded toward target area, City of HAMAMATSU, HONSHU, Japan. MASSACHUSETTS primary target is Japanese Musical Instrument Company. At 2133 all hands manned General Quarters stations for bombardment. Deployed on course 272°(T) at 2203, speed 15 knots. Opened fire with main battery at 2319.

30 JULY 1945

0800 Position33°-34.4' N  
138°-18.9' E1200 Position33°-12.9' N  
138°-34.3' E2000 Position32°-44.4' N  
138°-18.7' E

REG. NO 9344  
R. S. NO  
REG. SHEET NO 80

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

Bombarding HAMAMATSU, on southern coast of HONSHU.

At 0028 ceased firing main battery, having expended 270 rounds 16" high capacity. No casualties to material or personnel were suffered.

Formed Disposition 4 "Sugar Baker" at 0037. At 0050 set Air Defense Condition I as unidentified plane was reported over formation. This plane was soon identified as a friendly night fighter.

At 0152 set Air Defense Condition II.

Task Unit 34.8.1 dissolved at 0434, its various units joining their respective task groups. Took assigned station in cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 0617. The task group is retiring toward a fueling rendezvous.

At 1811 set Air Defense Condition I. Formed Disposition 5 "Victor". No enemy planes closed the formation. Secured at 1910, and formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

A collision with LEXINGTON was narrowly averted at 2230 when she failed to complete a signalled course change from 095°(T) to 250°(T).

31 JULY 1945

0800 Position

30°-29.8' N  
137°-58.0' E

1200 Position

29°-07.5' N  
138°-02.5' E

2000 Position

28°-13.8' N  
138°-12.4' E

Retired toward fueling area. Rendezvoused with tanker group at about 1400. At 1416 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 115°(T), speed 8 knots.

Alongside NEOSHO to fuel at 1451. Fueled destroyers while alongside NEOSHO, this ship fueling HARRISON. MADDOX alongside to transfer mail and personnel at 1745. At 1815 MADDOX cleared port side. Completed receiving fuel and cleared side of NEOSHO at 1838. Took assigned station in Disposition 5 "Fox" for the night.

SUBMITTED

*P. S. Savidge*  
P.S. SAVIDGE, Jr.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

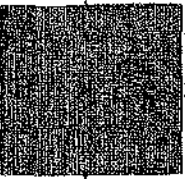
APPROVED

*John H. Redman*  
JOHN H. REDMAN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

1302 250 15

RECEIVED  
ADMIRALTY

DECLASSIFIED  
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BY: J.A. HODG, Date: 1/18



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Authority: NND-928133  
Date: 1/18/00

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BB59/ A12-1

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

1 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position  
27°-31.4' N  
137°-27.8' E

1200 Position  
27°-00.7' N  
137°-29.8' E

2000 Position  
25°-41.0' N  
137°-40.0' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 38.1, which is operating off the Japanese Coast, launching strikes against air facilities, communication lines and industrial targets.

Task Group 38.1 is presently composed as follows:

Third Fleet

- Admiral W.F. HALSEY, USN, in MISSOURI.
- Vice Admiral F.C. SHERMAN, USN, (ComSecondCarTaskForPac), in SHANGRI-LA.
- Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, USN, in BENNINGTON.

Task Force 38

Task Group 38.1

BENNINGTON(F)  
LEXINGTON  
HANCOCK  
BELLEAU WOOD  
SAN JACINTO

Task Unit 38.1.2 - Support Unit

- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, (ComBatRon 2) in SOUTH DAKOTA.
- Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN.

Task Unit 38.1.3 - Battleships

SOUTH DAKOTA  
INDIANA  
MASSACHUSETTS

Task Unit 38.1.4 - Cruisers

- Rear Admiral C.F. HOLDEN, USN, in TOPEKA.

CruDiv 18

TOPEKA (F)  
DULUTH  
ATLANTA  
DAYTON

CruDiv 20

OKLAHOMA CITY  
AMSTERDAM

Task Unit 38.1.5 - Screen

- Commodore R.W. SIMPSON, USN, in SAN JUAN.

SAN JUAN (F)  
DesRon 61  
DesRon 25

143395 **FILMED**

*Recorded 6/7/50*

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Date: 19/1/1988

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WAR DIARY

The task force is in company with units of Task Group 30.8 for replenishment exercises, and is cruising in fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 120°(T).

BEUSH alongside at 0956 to receive freight for transfer to INDIANA and SOUTH DAKOTA.

At 1247 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", BENNINGTON guide.



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 By J.A. HANA, DAG, 1/16

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

2 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
24°-32.5' N	24°-45.5' N	24°-35.2' N
138°-32.4' E	137°-59.7' E	138°-42.0' E

Cruising south of HONSHU. Conducted gunnery exercises from 0930 to 1130 from formation 5 "Victor". Additional gunnery exercises from 1245 to 1409.

At 1415 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

Fueled destroyers during afternoon, MASSACHUSETTS fueling L.K. SWENSON. BLUE alongside at 1551 for supplies.

Recovered two aircraft at 1812. These planes had been on cruisers during period immediately preceding and following HAMAMATSU bombardment.

3 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
25°-12.5' N	25°-08.7' N	25°-52.3' N
137°-26.7' E	137°-52.0' E	137°-30.8' E

In company with Task Force 38 as a unit in Task Group 38.1, proceeding to fueling rendezvous with logistic group.

At 0524 rendezvoused and formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 090°(T). ASMTABULA guide in station #1. Speed of guide 7 knots.

Alongside NEOSHO at 0550 to receive fuel oil. Completed receiving fuel at 0659. Took station in firing line, ATLANTA guide. Conducted T D D firing exercises; completed at 0800.

At 0805 took station 2000 yards astern of station #4. 0837 BRUSH alongside to starboard to receive supplies. MOORE alongside to port at 0849 to receive supplies. At 0958 DASHIELL alongside port quarter for transfer of supplies and personnel. MOORE cleared port side at 1001. BRUSH cleared starboard side at 1013. DASHIELL cleared port quarter at 1104.

At 1115 formed 5 "Roger", course 310°(T), speed 7 knots, axis north, guide BENNINGTON, bearing 288°(T), distance 4000 yards.

1331 MOORE alongside port quarter for transfer of personnel. 1346 MOORE cleared our port quarter.

At 1955 this ship slowed to 8 knots in order to lock #1 shaft as a spring bearing had been wiped. Resumed speed of formation at 2005 2005 On course 330°(T) at 16 knots.

4 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
28°-19.5' N	28°-28.2' N	28°-41.3' N
135°-55.9' E	136°-17.0' E	138°-28.7' E

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

Fueled destroyers during morning, MASSACHUSETTS fueling CAPERTON, MADDOX and L.E. SWENSON.

At 1146 formed air defense Disposition 5 "Victor" for gunnery exercises from 1200 to 1413. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1418.

Proceeding toward strike position.

5 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

30°-07.3' N  
141°-29.9' E

1200 Position

30°-46.6' N  
142°-45.8' E

2000 Position

32°-13.1' N  
143°-58.0' E

Strike scheduled against KYUSHU was cancelled by ComThird Fleet.

Fueled destroyers during morning, MASSACHUSETTS fueling DE HAVEN, MANSFIELD, KNAPP and S.N. MOORE.

Carriers launched routine patrols during day.

6 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

34°-15.6' N  
146°-29.7' E

1200 Position

34°-53.2' N  
146°-48.8' E

2000 Position

35°-59.5' N  
147°-28.2' E

Steaming toward 48N, 149E.

Commenced fueling destroyers at dawn. This ship fueled MANSFIELD, COLLETTE and RINGGOLD. BLUE alongside at 0632 to deliver gunnery material. DE HAVEN alongside at 0739 to transfer freight.

At 0817 formed air defense Disposition 5 "Victor" for gunnery exercises. OKLAHOMA CITY designated guide. Gunnery exercise completed at 1100. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1101. BENNINGTON designated guide at 1116.

Gunnery department personnel exercised at general quarters stations from 1330 to 1430.

MC KEE alongside to transfer freight at 1704.

Continued toward fueling area.

7 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

38°-05.5' N  
148°-01.6' E

1200 Position

38°-09.2' N  
147°-35.7' E

2000 Position

39°-25.4' N  
146°-37.1' E

Rendezvoused with tankers at dawn, and at 0423 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 270°(T), speed 8 knots, guide in PLATTE.

Alongside MARIAS at 0500 to fuel. While alongside MARIAS, fueled MADDOX and MANSFIELD to port.

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Authority: NND-928133  
BY: [Signature] DATA DIV. 12/16

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U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

In view of the impending departure of this ship for the mainland of the United States, various ships are placing personnel aboard for transportation, and are receiving equipment and supplies as the ship is being cannibalized. MURRAY, BLUE and MC KEE came alongside during the morning to transfer personnel.

At 0817 cleared side of MARIAS and took assigned station in disposition.

KNAPP alongside at 0837 to transfer official mail.

At 0900 launched two aircraft for gunnery exercises; took station in firing line.

HINGGOLD alongside at 1023 to exchange movies and receive a supply of books.

Gunnery exercises completed at 1033. Recovered one aircraft by "Charlie" method. Plane #01481 was transferred to INDIANA as replacement for one of her planes lost in a crash.

At 1059 launched one aircraft for radar exercises. Commenced additional gunnery exercises at 1133.

At 1240 recovered one aircraft by "Charlie" method. Completed gunnery exercises.

JOHN RODGERS alongside at 1345 to transfer personnel. HIGBEE along port quarter at 1458 to transfer MASSACHUSETTS' aviator from INDIANA.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1530, course 340°(T), axis 000°(T), speed 20 knots.

Proceeded toward strike position at 40-45N, 143-30E.

8 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
40°-02.4' N	39°-42.7' N	38°-34.8' N
144°-26.3' E	144°-50.7' E	146°-25.4' E

Manned Air Attack stations for dawn alert at 0306; secured at 0400, setting Air Defense condition I "Easy".

Carriers attempted to launch air strikes against targets on northern HONSHU and on HOKKAIDO, however, flying conditions were undesirable because of fog and rain.

At 0720 all hands manned Air Attack stations as an unidentified plane was reported approaching the formation. Secured at 0805 when the plane was identified as friendly.

At noon, as weather conditions continued to make flight operations impossible, all strikes were cancelled, and the task force began retreating southeastward.

Topped off destroyers during afternoon, MASSACHUSETTS fueling COGSWELL, COLLETTE and BRUSH. INGERSOLL alongside at 1618 to deliver gun sights.

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Authority: NND-288133  
By: J. J. P. 1966

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

9 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position  
38°-42.1' N  
143°-51.5' E

1200 Position  
39°-43.3' N  
142°-19.5' E

2000 Position  
38°-36.5' N  
144°-02.6' E

At 0331 air attack for dawn alert; secured at 0359, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

At 0342 BatDiv 8 formed column astern of SOUTH DAKOTA; maneuvered to form Task Unit 34.8.1, organized as follows:

Task Unit 34.8.1 - Bombardment Group Able - Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, (ComBatRon 2), in SOUTH DAKOTA.

Task Unit 34.8.11 - Battleship Unit - Rear Admiral SHAFROTH, USN.  
BatDiv 8 (less ALABAMA plus SOUTH DAKOTA)  
SOUTH DAKOTA (F)  
INDIANA  
MASSACHUSETTS

Task Unit 34.8.12 - Van Cruiser Unit - Rear Admiral WILTSE, USN.  
QUINCY (F)  
SAINT PAUL

Task Unit 34.8.13 - Rear Cruiser Unit - Captain HARTUNG, USN.  
CHICAGO  
BOSTON

Task Unit 34.8.14 - Destroyer Screen - Captain HENDERSON.

Van Unit - DesDiv 95 Section One.  
ERBEN (F)  
STEMMEL  
ABBOT

Rear Unit - DesDiv 95 Section Two  
plus BULLARD  
HALE  
WALKER  
BULLARD

Flank Unit - DesDiv 96 less BULLARD and KIDD,  
plus HEERMANN.  
BLACK (F)  
CHAUNCEY  
HEERMANN.

Task Unit 34.8.15 - Fighter Director Ship - Commander WILLIAMS, USN.  
SOUTHERLAND

At 0359 set Air Defense Condition I "Easy". Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar Baker" at 0426. Course 000°(T), axis 186°(T), speed 15 knots. SOUTH DAKOTA guide.

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WAR DIARY

At 0625 Task Unit 37.8.1, consisting of HMS GAMBIA, NEWFOUNDLAND, TERMAGANT, TENACIOUS and TERPSICHOE rendezvoused with Task Unit 34.8.1 which is proceeding toward KAMAISHI, HONSHU for bombardment.

Secured from Air Defense Condition I "Easy" at 0647.

The Island of HONSHU was sighted dead ahead at 1125, distance 20 miles.

At 1137 deployed for bombardment. All hands manned General Quarters stations at 1155. Launched one plane for spotting at 1225. At 1254 opened fire with main battery. Ceased firing at 1445 after expending 265 rounds high capacity. No casualties. Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar Baker" at 1455; began retiring on course 130°(T). Shifted to Air Attack stations at 1508. At 1535 recovered one plane to starboard by "Charlie" method.

At 1603 commenced firing with anti-aircraft battery at a "Judy" sighted to starboard. Officer in Tactical Command maneuvered the unit by emergency signal. No attack was made on the task unit.

At 1827 changed course to 090°(T) for retirement, and at 2103 changed course to 070°(T). Set normal watch at 2130.

10 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

38°-25.2' N

143°-50.6' E

1200 Position

38°-31.4' N

143°-57.4' E

2000 Position

38°-13.8' N

144°-50.0' E

Retiring from bombardment of KAMAISHI, HONSHU in company with Task Unit 34.8.1 on an easterly course.

Air attack for dawn alert at 0331; secured at 0410, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy". Formed cruising Disposition 4 "Sugar Bomb" at 0418. SOUTH DAKOTA guide. Task Unit 34.8.13 was released by ComTask Group 34.8.1 and proceeded to join Task Group 38.4. Remaining ships formed column astern of SOUTH DAKOTA and maneuvered to join Task Group 38.1. At 0640 took assigned station in 5 "Roger". BENNINGTON guide.

Carriers launched air strikes at dawn against targets on northern HONSHU and on HOKKAIDO.

Formed Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor" at 1643. All hands manned Air Attack stations at 1646 upon orders of Task Group Commander. An unidentified plane was soon found to be friendly so secured at 1728, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

At 1816 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

Shortly after noon the task force began retiring toward a fueling rendezvous at 38-30N, 148 E.

11 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

38°-36.7' N

148°-09.8' E

1200 Position

38°-04.4' N

148°-40.5' E

2000 Position

38°-14.5' N

149°-14.8' E

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Rendezvoused with tanker group at dawn. At 0602 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 140°(T), speed 8 knots.

At 0833 alongside CACAPON to fuel. BRUSH alongside at 0923 to transfer patient for medical attention and passengers. RINGGOLD alongside to port to transfer personnel. 1102 Left side of CACAPON.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1428, axis 000°(T), course 140°(T), speed 8 knots.

12 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position38°-38.7' N  
147°-32.0' E1200 Position37°-58.4' N  
148°-08.1' E2000 Position36°-52.3' N  
146°-03.5' E

Cruising in waters east of HONSHU returning to strike position at approximately 35-15N, 142-30E.

Reports indicate a strong possibility that the surrender of the Japanese is imminent.

Fueled destroyers during morning, this ship fueling BRUSH and TAUSSIG.

At 0653 ALABAMA joined the task group, going alongside SOUTH DAKOTA. Rear Admiral J.F. SHAFROTH, USN, ComBatRon TWO, hauled down his flag in SOUTH DAKOTA and shifted his flag to ALABAMA.

ALABAMA came alongside to port at 1102 to receive flag silverward and china.

13 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position35°-20.0' N  
142°-38.5' E1200 Position35°-25.8' N  
142°-33.3' E2000 Position34°-48.2' N  
142°-48.3' E

Steaming off Tokyo area of HONSHU.

Dawn alert from 0414 to 0447, at which time set Air Defense Condition I "Easy". Carriers launched strikes at dawn.

At 0624 set Air Defense Condition I. Formed Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor". No enemy attack developed; secured from air attack at 0653, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

At 1131 set Air Defense Condition I. Secured at 1213. At 1325 again set Air Defense Condition I. Combat Air Patrol destroyed one enemy plane about 10 miles from formation, bearing 020°(T). Secured from air attack at 1536, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy". At 1548 manned Air Attack stations. At 1642 Combat Air Patrol shot down one "Grace" about 20 miles east of the task group. Another Japanese plane shot down at 1656, about 30 miles south of the group by the Combat Air Patrol. Shifted from Air Defense Condition I to I "Easy" at 1954. At 2114 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

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By: J. J. [unclear] 19/06

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14 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

31°-50.9' N  
144°-08.3' E

1200 Position

32°-10.8' N  
144°-32.4' E

2000 Position

32°-46.6' N  
144°-55.2' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at dawn. At 0655 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox", course and axis 045°(T), speed 8 knots.

Alongside AUCILLA to receive fuel at 0718. While alongside AUCILLA, fueled HIGBEE to port. Because of uncertainty in MASSACHUSETTS' plans to return to the United States, transferred passengers to AUCILLA for transportation. Cleared side of AUCILLA at 0918.

At 0951 alongside RESCUE for transfer of personnel for medical attention.

BRUSH alongside starboard quarter for transfer of official mail at 1023.

Commenced gunnery exercises at 1056; completed exercise at 1202.

COLLETTE alongside to starboard at 1212 to transfer personnel.

At 1216 MANSFIELD alongside to port to deliver official mail.

At 1714 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 000°(T), course 045°(T), speed 8 knots. BENNINGTON guide.

The task force is returning to strike position off Tokyo.

15 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position

34°-10.0' N  
141°-55.2' E

1200 Position

33°-56.1' N  
142°-32.1' E

2000 Position

33°-01.1' N  
143°-52.8' E

Operating southeast of Tokyo.

Air attack for dawn alert at 0353; secured at 0454. At dawn all carriers launched planes for air strikes against selected targets in the Tokyo area. Shortly after the strikes were launched, word was received from ComThird Fleet that offensive operations against the Japanese had ceased. All strikes were recalled, but normal defensive patrols were maintained. Carriers degassed and debombed torpedo planes and dive bombers and spotted decks for the most expeditious use of fighters.

Air attack stations were manned at 0642 upon orders of the Task Group Commander. Formed Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor". The planes which had previously been reported as unidentified were found to be friendly, so secured at 0658, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

Unidentified planes were reported approaching the formation at 1123. All hands manned Air Attack stations. The Combat Air Patrol reported shooting down an enemy plane between the task force and Japan. Secured from air attack at 1231 as no attack developed, setting Air Defense Condition I "Easy".

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At 1315 all hands manned Air Attack stations as enemy planes were thought to be in the vicinity. Secured at 1332.

MURRAY alongside to port to transfer personnel.

At 1823 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger".

16 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
32°-33.0' N	32°-18.0' N	32°-19.4' N
142°-24.2' E	142°-52.4' E	144°-40.2' E

Operating in area southeast of Tokyo, standing by while details of Japanese surrender are being arranged.

Fueled destroyers during day, this ship fueling SCHROEDER and MURRAY.

At 0800 began gunnery exercise from Anti-Aircraft Disposition 5 "Victor", guide TOPEKA. Gunnery exercises completed at 1025. Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", BENNINGTON assuming guide at 1140.

The three Task Groups of Task Force 38 and the British Task Group closed distance and were maneuvered simultaneously by signal direct from ComTask Force 38 in order that pictures might be taken from aircraft from 1100 to 1200.

Formed anti-aircraft Disposition 5 "Victor" at 1249. Formed Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1538.

17 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
32°-44.5' N	32°-13.2' N	33°-05.5' N
143°-47.6' E	144°-07.9' E	144°-17.2' E

Cruising southeast of Tokyo. Fueled destroyers after dawn, this ship fueling BRUSH, SCHROEDER and DASHIELL.

At 0750 formed Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor" for gunnery exercises which began at 0800 and were completed at 0900.

Fleet Disposition 5 "X-Ray" was formed at 0855, all task groups converging in order that photographs might be made.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1032. At 1243 formed Fleet Disposition 5 "William".

Air Defense Disposition 5 "Victor" formed at 1253 for gunnery exercise.

MANSFIELD alongside at 1719 to deliver official and U.S. Mail.

Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1737.

18 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
32°-00.2' N	31°-38.7' N	31°-04.9' N
143°-48.0' E	144°-05.0' E	144°-18.2' E

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By: J.A. HADA, DAB, 12/19/00



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Rendezvoused with logistic group for replenishment period.  
 Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0520. At 0539 alongside  
 MANATEE to receive fuel. At 0558 received COLLETTE to port to fuel.  
 MADDOX alongside to port to deliver official mail. At 0830 left  
 side of MANATEE, took station in firing line for gunnery exercises  
 which were completed at 1030. Took station in 5 "Fox".  
 MURRAY alongside at 1135 to deliver official mail.  
 HARRISON alongside at 1519 for transfer of personnel.  
 Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1657. BENNINGTON guide.  
 At 1725 MANSFIELD alongside to port to receive gear of  
 MASSACHUSETTS' landing party.  
 At 1905 this ship changed course right to avoid a tanker, escort  
 carrier.

19 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-35.5' N	31°-05.8' N	30°-39.0' N
143°-25.2' E	143°-40.0' E	143°-54.9' E

Continued replenishment. Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox"  
 at 0502, course and axis 150°(T), speed 8 knots.  
 At 0528 alongside GIRARD to transfer MASSACHUSETTS' Marine  
 Detachment for temporary duty with the forces making initial land-  
 ings on Japan. A total of 4 officers and 91 men were transferred, the  
 transfer being completed at 0644.  
 MC KEE alongside to port to transfer U.S. Mail.  
 Alongside FIRE-DRAKE at 0817 to receive 16" ammunition.  
 BLUE alongside at 0922 to receive MASSACHUSETTS' party of 1  
 officer and 21 men detached to report to the Beachmaster, YOKUSUKO  
 Naval Base for temporary additional duty.  
 OKLAHOMA CITY alongside to port at 1049 to transfer personnel.  
 SAN JUAN alongside at 1232 to deliver equipment for the Blue-  
 jacket Landing Force.  
 Left side of FIRE DRAKE at 1405. Proceeded independently to  
 Task Group 38.4, where went alongside MAZAMA at 1505 to receive 16"  
 powder. Cleared side of MAZAMA at 1805; proceeded to rejoin Task  
 Group 38.1 taking station in cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" at 1907.

20 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-34.1' N	31°-02.9' N	30°-34.0' N
143°-29.4' E	143°-44.2' E	143°-51.5' E

Continuing operations in replenishment area.  
 Formed cruising Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0439, course and axis 150°(T),  
 speed 8 knots.

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By JAC/MSA/DHS/2/06

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MANSFIELD alongside at 0520 to transfer personnel. 0530 SWENSON alongside to transfer official mail.

MURRAY alongside to port to transfer official mail at 0605. TAUSSIG alongside to transfer personnel at 0815. 1103 S.N. MOORE alongside to port to deliver freight.

At 1159 GOSSELIN alongside to receive MASSACHUSETTS Bluejacket Landing Force, Company "B", consisting of four (4) officers and one-hundred and thirty-three (133) men. This force is to assist in the initial occupation of Japan, landing at YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE at a time to be designated.

1329 SCHROEDER alongside to port to deliver mail. Transfer of landing force completed at 1720, GOSSELIN cleared side.

Cruising Disposition 5 "Roger" formed at 1807, axis 000°(T), course 150°(T), BENNINGTON guide.

21 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-32.2' N	31°-04.5' N	m 30°-32.7' N
143°-26.9' E	142°-59.1' E	141°-31.1' E

Continuing replenishment in area southeast of Tokyo.

Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox" at 0440.

DE HAVEN alongside to starboard at 0754 to receive MASSACHUSETTS' ordnance and explosives detail of twelve (12) men, who will land with the initial forces occupying Japan. This detail will be assigned temporary duty in connection with the occupation of YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE.

HARRISON alongside at 1020 to deliver official mail.

Alongside ESCAMBIA at 1025 to fuel. Completed fueling at 1126.

BRUSH alongside at 1606 to transfer official mail.

At 1721 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 000°(T), course 235°(T), speed 10 knots.

During replenishment period DAYTON, DULUTH, TOPEKA and ATLANTA were detached from Task Group 38.1 and directed to report to other task groups by ComTask Force 38. TUSCON and ASTORIA joined the group taking stations assigned.

22 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
30°-59.0' N	31°-22.1' N	32°-22.7' N
142°-02.1' E	142°-20.8' E	142°-40.1' E

Continued replenishment. At 0446 formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fox". This ship did not replenish. At 0838 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", BENNINGTON guide; axis 000°(T), course 030°(T), speed 10 knots.

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S.N. MOORE along port quarter at 0907 to deliver mail and personnel. MADDOX alongside to port at 1014 to receive material.

The task group is operating in an area east of Tokyo; although no offensive operations are in progress, a normal Combat Air Patrol is maintained for defensive purposes.

23 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position  
33°-47.0' N  
143°-28.9' E

1200 Position  
33°-29.0' N  
143°-40.4' E

2000 Position  
33°-04.2' N  
144°-26.5' E

Continuing operations southeast of Tokyo.

BLUE alongside at 0734 to deliver radar gear and personnel.

0921 JOHN RODGERS alongside to transfer radar gear.

PRESIDIO has joined formation and was designated guide.

HIGBEE along port quarter to transfer U.S. Mail.

MURRAY alongside to port at 1645 to transfer personnel.

At 1800 the Captain spoke to the crew over the Public Address system as follows:

"Since the Japanese agreed to surrender on the 15th we have all witnessed a small part of the preparations for a very large operation - the occupation of Japan. General MacARTHUR is the Allied Supreme Commander for the Occupation and Surrender. Admiral NIMITZ is the United States' representative at the surrender and is, of course, in command of all naval forces involved. His flagship will probably be the SOUTH DAKOTA. The Third Fleet, under Admiral HALSEY, has been greatly augmented by the addition of ships of all types, including transports and amphibious vessels, and reorganized so that in addition to Task Force 38, it now contains various forces for landing occupation and support. Our own Marine and Bluejacket Companies are included. The job assigned to the rest of us is that of carrier support. Task Group 38.1 will cover the area of NORTH HONSHU and HOKKAIDO from a position up off KAMAISHI. The planes will maintain a Combat Air Patrol over the Jap fields to insure that any Japs who didn't get the word may be dealt with in the manner in which they have become accustomed. We will probably commence these flight operations on Saturday the 25th. On Sunday an advance airborne landing will take place at ATSUGI AIR-DROME near TOKYO and a force of battleships and other types will arrive in SAGAMI WAN, which is just outside TOKYO BAY itself, and some groups, such as minesweepers, will enter TOKYO BAY. On the 28th, airborne troops will land on ATSUGI AIRDROME and naval and marine landing forces will occupy YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE in TOKYO BAY. Further landings will take place the following two days and on 31 August the formal surrender will take place. Further landings including the large Army forces who will carry out the actual task of occupation will follow as they are available. The necessity of keeping the maximum possible force ready

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By: JAC/HRMA, Date: 11/16/06

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for action until the surrender is actually accomplished and our forces are in control ashore is obvious. After that the necessity of watching the Japs while they still have guns and planes remains, but it may be that, if all goes well, a few ships can be spared. We can only do the job we have and see what happens. We have no definite orders or information about overhaul, and I hesitate to risk another prediction. I will let you know when we do receive word."

24 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
35°-39.2' N	36°-34.5' N	37°-56.1' N
143°-55.8' E	144°-06.3' E	143°-32.2' E

Operating in area east of Tokyo.

Carriers launched large scale reconnaissance missions during the day for the purpose of locating Prisoner-of-War Camps in the area to the north of Tokyo and of dropping supplies to these camps whenever possible. A number of such camps were located; pilots reported the internees appeared to be greatly excited when our planes flew over.

0727 L.K. SWENSON alongside to starboard to deliver official mail. 1052 HIGBEE alongside to starboard to exchange movies. SCHROEDER along starboard quarter at 1138 to deliver U.S. Mail.

Fueled destroyers during afternoon, MASSACHUSETTS fueling MC KEE and JOHN RODGERS.

25 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
39°-24.8' N	38°-46.0' N	38°-41.0' N
143°-41.3' E	143°-31.2' E	143°-53.0' E

During morning carriers launched additional reconnaissance flights to locate Prisoner-of-War Camps and to drop supplies to camps located yesterday.

Fueled destroyers during forenoon period, MASSACHUSETTS fueling JOHN RODGERS, MC KEE and DASHIELL.

26 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
40°-34.3' N	40°-11.0' N	40°-28.0' N
143°-41.5' E	143°-46.0' E	143°-58.6' E

Operating off northern HONSHU.

Fueled destroyers at dawn, this ship fueling JOHN RODGERS and MC KEE.

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At 1005 passed a mine 500 yards off starboard beam. A smoke pot was dropped marking the spot; the Task Group Commander was notified. COLLETT alongside to starboard at 1136 to deliver U.S. Mail and freight.

27 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
38°-09.2' N 145°-15.9' E	37°-29.0' N 145°-30.2' E	36°-13.4' N 145°-20.4' E

Rendezvoused with fueling group at dawn. Formed fueling Disposition 5 "Fax" at 0429, course and axis 180°(T), speed 8 knots.

Alongside NATAHALA to fuel at 0630. At 0650 L.K. SWENSON alongside to deliver official mail. Completed fueling at 0855. Resumed assigned station in Disposition.

At 0929 S.N. MOORE along port quarter to carry Captain JOHN R. REDMAN, USN, Commanding Officer of MASSACHUSETTS, to ALABAMA for conference with ComBatRon TWG.

BRUSH alongside at 1212 to transfer personnel for transportation to the United States.

At 1257 ALABAMA came alongside to port to transfer personnel. Captain JOHN R. REDMAN returned aboard at this time also.

JOHN RODGERS alongside to starboard at 1438 to transfer personnel for transportation. ALABAMA cleared side at 1453.

INDIANA alongside to port at 1517 to transfer personnel; transfer completed at 1643.

SCHROEDER along starboard quarter to transfer passengers at 1610.

28 AUGUST 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
37°-51.2' N 145°-11.7' E	37°-06.6' N 144°-45.5' E	36°-49.3' N 144°-10.0' E

Continued cruising off northern HONSHU. Resumed replenishment operations at dawn. At 0507 changed speed to 8 knots, and rotated axis to right to 230°(T).

Along starboard side of VIRGO to receive stores and provisions at 0545; completed provisioning at 1056. Task assigned station in disposition.

BRUSH alongside to transfer patient for medical attention at 1208. COLLETTE alongside to port to deliver official mail at 1250.

At 1736 formed cruising Disposition 5 "Roger", axis 000°(T), course 230°(T), speed 9 knots, MASSACHUSETTS guide. At 1815 BIRMINGHAM assumed guide.

During the afternoon a despatch was received from ComThird Fleet indicating that this ship will leave for a period on the West Coast of the United States about September 3.

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By: J.A. HADA, DAB, 1/16

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29 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position  
35°-35.8' N  
142°-22.2' E

1200 Position  
35°-14.7' N  
141°-51.5' E

2000 Position  
35°-12.8' N  
141°-45.0' E

Operating east of Tokyo. Routine patrols were launched by carriers.

30 AUGUST 1945

0800 Position  
35°-30.3' N  
142°-19.7' E

1200 Position  
35°-52.4' N  
142°-44.1' E

2000 Position  
35°-58.7' N  
142°-42.4' E

Fueled COLLETTE and SCHROEDER at dawn. MC KEE alongside at 0655 to deliver passenger for transportation to United States.

At 1130 BatDiv 8 formed column astern of ALABAMA in order that photographs might be taken from BENNINGTON. Resumed station in 5 "Roger" at 1227. All hands manned Air Attack stations while pictures were being made.

SWENSON alongside to starboard at 1634 to transfer official mail.

At 1740 Commander of Task Group 38.1 directed MASSACHUSETTS and ASTORIA, when released, to proceed on duty assigned, designating the two ships Task Unit 38.1.15, Officer in Tactical Command is Captain JOHN R. REDMAN, USN, in MASSACHUSETTS. MANSFIELD and COLLETTE designated as Task Unit 38.1.16, Officer in Tactical Command in COLLETTE, and were instructed to screen Task Unit 38.1.15.

Previously, Commander Task Force 38 directed that MASSACHUSETTS report to Commander Task Group 38.3 to pick up passengers by dawn 1 September. Hence, Task Units 38.1.15 and 38.1.16 proceeded toward that group.

Pertinent portions of ComTask Group 38.1's message follow:

REFERENCE COMTHIRDFLT'S 272305 AND CTF 38'S 280840 X WHEN DIRECTED ABOUT 1830 ITEM AUGUST 30TH CAPTAIN REDMAN IN MASSACHUSETTS WITH ASTORIA FORM TU 38.1.15 X COMMANDER HERMS IN COLLETT WITH MANSFIELD FORM TU 38.1.16 X TU 38.1.15 WITH TU 38.1.16 AS ESCORT PROCEED VIA 34-29-15 N, 139-41 E TO AREA BETWEEN LONG 135 AND 139 E AND N OF LAT 31 N TO COAST TO RENDEZVOUS WITH TG 38.3 BY DAWN 1 SEPTEMBER FOR LOADING PERSONNEL X REPORT TO CTG 38.3 X TU 38.1.15 DISSOLVE UPON ARRIVAL X WHEN RELEASED TU 38.1.16 RETURN AND RENDEZVOUS WITH TG 38.1 IN SOUTHERN PART OF AREA NORTH OF LAT 38 N WEST OF LONG 146 E INCLUDING COAST OF N HONSHU AND HOKKAIDO ON 2 SEPTEMBER X

At 1806 ASTORIA directed to form 180°(T) on MASSACHUSETTS; course and axis 225°(T), speed 14 knots. Screening destroyers were directed to take screening stations. Proceeded toward Task Group 38.3.

At 1931 ComTask Unit 38.1.15 addressed the following despatch to Task Unit 38.1.15 and to Task Unit 38.1.16:

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BY: L.A. HALL, DAB, 12/16

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

REG. NO 9528  
R. 110  
REG. SHEET NO 165

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Authority OADR - 928133  
By: L... H... Date: 12/16

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MY ONE NIGHT SIGNAL X AT ~~0200~~ COLUMN RIGHT TO 250 TRUE ;  
and at 2103 the following:

USE RUDDER FOR TACTICAL DIAMETER OF ONE THOUSAND YARDS X

During the days immediately preceding detachment various ships transferred to this ship personnel who are to be transported to the United States. At the present time there are 6 officers and 370 enlisted men on board as passengers.

31 AUGUST 1945

0600 Position  
34°-33.3' N  
140°-08.7' E

1200 Position  
34°-18.0' N  
139°-29.7' E

2000 Position  
33°-20.1' N  
138°-16.8' E

At 0200 the Task Unit changed course and axis to 250°(T). At 1110 changed course and axis left to 225°(T). Shortly before noon the lookouts sighted land off the port bow. The island sighted was identified as MIYAKA SHIMA. The task unit followed a course which kept MIYAKA SHIMA to port and NII SHIMA, and smaller islands close by NII SHIMA to starboard.

In order that destroyers might be topped off, allowed to 12 knots at 1337. COLLETTE alongside to fuel at 1605; completed at 1632.

At 1640 a mine was sighted to starboard and was sunk by COLLETTE. MANSFIELD alongside to fuel at 1646; completed at 1710. Changed speed to 10 knots at 1957.

SUBMITTED: *P. S. Savidge*  
P.S. SAVIDGE, JR.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED: *John R. Redman*  
JOHN R. REDMAN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.

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U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

1 SEPTEMBER 1945

0800 Position  
32°-19.6' N  
137°-13.2' E

1200 Position  
32°-15.9' N  
138°-31.0' E

2000 Position  
32°-12.3' N  
140°-45.2' E

Acting independently under orders from Commander Task Group 38.1, Rear Admiral T.L. SPRAGUE, USN, on directives from ComTask Force 38, and Commander THIRD Fleet, Admiral W.F. HALSEY, USN, on way to form Task Group 30.3 for departure to west coast of the United States.

Task Unit 38.1.15 composed of MASSACHUSETTS (Captain JOHN R. REDMAN, USN, in MASSACHUSETTS, T.U.C.) and ASTORIA. Task Unit 38.1.16 composed of COLLETTE and MANSFIELD.

At noon, assumed calls and organization of Task Group 30.3 and informed ComThird Fleet and other Commanders in the area south and east of Tokyo, to clarify the status of MASSACHUSETTS and ships in company. This group was formally organized on 2 September.

At 1343 sighted Aoga Shima at 31000 yards bearing 075°(T), while on course 090°(T) at 10 knots.

2 SEPTEMBER 1945

0800 Position  
31°-54.3' N  
143°-02.7' E

1200 Position  
31°-45.7' N  
142°-35.3' E

2000 Position  
31°-23.5' N  
141°-55.1' E

Steaming in company with Task Group 30.3 composed of MASSACHUSETTS, ASTORIA, and STEMBEL enroute to join Task Group 30.8.1 for replenishment and to complete taking passengers aboard ships of the group for transfer to United States. All ships carried officers and men from other Third Fleet units who were eligible for discharge from the service.

Alongside KASKASKIA at 0705 to fuel.

MOAIE came alongside at 0923 to port to transfer personnel.

Received provisions from ALDEBAREN at 0946.

1142 STEMBEL came alongside to port to transfer mail and personnel.

Formed Task Group 30.3 as ships of group joined. Task Group 30.3 formed pursuant to the orders of Commander Third Fleet, the pertinent portions of which follow:

"ABOUT NOON 2 SEPT FORM TG 30.3 CAPT REDMAN IN MASS T.G.C., ESSEX, SAN JACINTO, ASTORIA, SAN DIEGO, STEMBEL, O'BANNON X DEPART FORENOON 3 SEPT EAST LONGITUDE DATE AND PROCEED VIA GREAT CIRCLE ROUTE TO PUGET SOUND X SPEED OF ADVANCE SIXTEEN KNOTS X ARRIVE DESTINATION 13 SEPT WESTERN DATE X REPORTS COMSERVPAC WITH ALL UNITS FOR NAVY YARD AVAILABILITY."

MURRAY alongside port quarter to transfer guard mail at 1543.

GIRARD alongside at 1606 to transfer personnel, chiefly MASSACHUSETTS' details which were landed at Yokosuka.

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SAN JACINTO alongside to port to receive personnel at 1632.  
SAN DIEGO joined Task Group 30.3 at 1717, and all ships were present.  
Issued various cruising instructions and replenishment orders in preparation for return to west coast of United States.  
Remained in vicinity of replenishment group during the night.

3 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
31°-11.1' N	31°-47.9' N	33°-04.1' N
142°-58.4' E	143°-34.4' E	145°-36.8' E

During night, settled the task group in Disposition 9-C, an open column at 1500 yards, in order

MASSACHUSETTS  
ESSEX  
SAN JACINTO  
ASTORIA

with SAN DIEGO and destroyers ahead. Axis 045°(T). Before dawn, sent SAN DIEGO and STEMBEL to fuel and maneuvered to remain in vicinity until they were ready to proceed. At 0800 set course of 045°(T), speed 16 knots and departed from area enroute Puget Sound via great circle.

O'BANNON alongside to port at 0505 for transfer of mail.

STEMBEL alongside to port at 0938 for transfer of mail.

Changed to minus ten (-10) zone time at 1000.

O'BANNON alongside to port at 1127 to transfer one passenger to MASSACHUSETTS.

Changed fleet course and axis to 048°(T) at 1433.

4 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
35°-20.3' N	36°-08.5' N	37°-34.8' N
148°-32.1' E	149°-44.5' E	151°-53.8' E

STEMBEL alongside to port to receive guard mail at 1313.

Changed course and axis to 051°(T) at 1422.

Changed to minus eleven (-11) zone time.

5 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
39°-34.7' N	40°-11.3' N	41°-31.1' N
154°-54.5' E	155°-59.0' E	158°-24.9' E

O'BANNON alongside to starboard to fuel at 0835.

Changed course and axis to 056°(T) at 1145; changed speed to 17 knots.

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6 SEPTEMBER 1945

0800 Position

43°-38.2' N  
162°-29.4' E

1200 Position

43°-50.9' N  
163°-11.0' E

2000 Position

44°-51.2' N  
166°-00.2' E

Changed fleet course and axis to 063°(T) at 0900.  
Changed clocks to minut 12 (-12) zone time.  
O'BANNON alongside to port at 1345 to transfer patient.  
In accordance with instructions from CinCPac, directed ships of group to light ship and turn on running lights at 2138.  
Changed speed to 16½ knots at 2248.

7 SEPTEMBER 1945 (East Long. Date)

0800 Position

46°-20.3' N  
170°-16.9' E

1200 Position

46°-51.7' N  
171°-41.1' E

2000 Position

47°-44.2' N  
174°-39.8' E

Secured gun watches at 0835, and advised other ships of group that the Task Group Commander considered that such watches were no longer considered necessary. Maintained an alert against floating mines. Placed peacetime man overboard procedure in effect in the task group. Changed fleet course and axis to 066°(T) at 1111.  
Changed fleet course and axis to 071°(T) at 1629.  
Changed speed to 15 knots at 2226.

7 SEPTEMBER 1945 (West Long. Date)

0800 Position

48°-40.2' N  
179°-02.6' E

1200 Position

49°-00.7' N  
179°-26.3' W

2000 Position

49°-34.5' N  
176°-02.4' W

At 0000 changed to plus twelve (12) zone time.  
Changed speed to 16 knots at 0854.  
Crossed 180 meridian at 1035.  
Changed fleet course and axis to 077°(T) at 1319.

8 SEPTEMBER 1945

0800 Position

50°-14.5' N  
171°-22.8' W

1200 Position

50°-31.9' N  
169°-22.8' W

2000 Position

50°-55.6' N  
166°-27.2' W

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Changed clocks to plus eleven (11) zone time at 0200.  
 Changed speed to 14 knots at 1535.  
 Changed speed to 12 knots at 1547.  
 STEMBEL alongside to starboard at 1549 to exchange movies.  
 O'BANNON alongside at 1740 to exchange movies.  
 Changed fleet course and axis to 080°(T) at 1750, speed to 15 knots.  
 Changed speed to 17 knots at 1803.

9 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
51°-38.5' N	51°-40.2' N	51°-48.1' N
161°-35.1' W	160°-01.4' W	156°-34.7' W

Changed clocks to plus ten (10) time zone at 0200.  
 Changed speed to 15 knots at 0853.  
 STEMBEL alongside to starboard to fuel at 0903.  
 Changed fleet course and axis to 091°(T), speed to 17 knots at 2252.

10 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
51°-39.3' N	51°-22.2' N	51°-11.0' N
151°-11.2' W	149°-57.8' W	146°-14.1' W

In view of a storm which threatened to pass fairly close to the northward, changed fleet course and axis to 110°(T) at 0636.  
 Changed clocks to plus nine (9) zone time at 1000.  
 Changed fleet course and axis to 095°(T), speed to 16 at 1205.

11 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
50°-53.0' N	50°-49.9' N	50°-36.5' N
140°-49.0' W	139°-33.5' W	136°-32.5' W

Changed clocks to plus eight (8) zone time at 1000.  
 Changed speed to 12 knots at 1243.  
 STEMBEL alongside to port at 1503 to transfer personnel.  
 At 1515 SAN DIEGO, SAN JACINTO, ASTORIA, and O'BANNON departed from Task Group 30.3 in accordance with the orders from Commander Task Group 30.3, the pertinent portions of which follow:  
 "ABOUT 11 SEPT IN VICINITY 50-40N 138W FORM TU 30.3.4 CAPTAIN MULLAN IN SAN DIEGO WITH SAN JACINTO, ASTORIA, AND O'BANNON X PROCEED TO SAN FRANCISCO BAY ARRIVING FORENOON 14 SEPT FOR NAVY YARD OVERHAULS AS SCHEDULED X"

Changed speed to 16 knots at 1554.  
 At 1558 formed column open order from van to rear - MASSACHUSETTS,

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WAR DIARY

ESSEX, STEMBEL.

Changed fleet course and axis to 100°(T) at 1744.  
Changed speed to 15 knots at 2143.

12 SEPTEMBER 1945

<u>0800 Position</u>	<u>1200 Position</u>	<u>2000 Position</u>
50°-00.0' N	49°-42.1' N	49°-04.1' N
131°-26.8' W	130°-00.0' W	127°-03.1' W

Changed course to 110°(T) at 0915.  
Changed speed to 10 knots at 1106.  
Changed speed to 16 knots at 1406.  
Changed fleet course and axis to 112°(T) at 2003.  
Changed speed to 15 knots at 2143.  
Changed fleet course and axis to 100°(T) at 2307 to avoid ships on starboard bow.  
Changed fleet course and axis to 114°(T) at 2324, approaching Puget Sound.

13 SEPTEMBER 1945

At 0200 Changed to plus seven (7) zone time.  
Approached Puget Sound at 15 knots with fleet course and axis 114°(T) in column open order with MASSACHUSETTS in van as guide.  
At 0018 started making course changes to enter the straits.  
At 0107 observed Tatoosh light and Strait Light Ship.  
Passed Swiftsure Bank lighted whistle buoy abeam to port at 0142.  
Passed Strait Light Ship abeam to port at 0300.  
Observed lights of Neah Bay off starboard bow. Fog commenced closing in and shortly reduced the visibility to about 500 yards. This situation existed until about 1100, and the formation was navigated and maneuvered in the straits largely by radar. Contact with Navy Yard personnel at Port Angeles was delayed until 1130 when they were received aboard from a patrol boat.  
Directed ESSEX and STEMBEL to proceed independently in Puget Sound, disbanding Task Group 30.3.  
Received second Coast Guard Patrol Boat alongside to starboard at 1255 to transfer Navy Yard Personnel.  
Started vibration test at 1437 in area south of Victoria, B.C., using speeds from 18 to 27 knots.  
Completed vibration test at 1736 and headed toward Eremerton.  
Anchored in berth "Charlie", Sinclair Inlet off Navy Yard, Puget Sound, at 1947.

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14 SEPTEMBER 1945

Unloaded ammunition.

15 SEPTEMBER 1945

Discharged passengers and first leave party of 23 officers and 862 men and left the ship for one month leave.

17 SEPTEMBER 1945

At 0955 shifted berth from anchorage "Charlie" to pier #6, PSNY. and moored port side to. Captain JOHN R. REDMAN, USN, assumed duties as Senior Officer Present Afloat.

19 SEPTEMBER 1945

Entered Dry Dock No. 4.

Ship is to receive an extensive overhaul to include work on boilers, various parts of engineering plant; propellers, navigation bridge, flag plot, staff accommodations, etc., and installations of new radars, fire control gear and other equipment, moving of C.I.C. to below armor, etc. Availability originally set at 60 days, but extended several times.

30 SEPTEMBER 1945

At 0200 changed to plus eight (8) zone time.

14 OCTOBER 1945

Second leave party, comprising about half of ship's company commenced 30 days leave

1 DECEMBER 1945

Overhaul continuing with completion date set for 26 December and Ready-for-Sea date for 3 January. During the period from 13 September to date, 950 enlisted personnel have been transferred for discharge. 1064 Men are now attached. Extensive training of personnel underway in preparation for operations or trip to Reserve Fleet Port as may be ordered.

8 DECEMBER 1945

Undocked from Dry Deck #4 and moored alongside pier #3, starboard side to.

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U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS

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WAR DIARY

17 DECEMBER 1945

Held dock trials.

18 DECEMBER 1945

Underway on one days notice to shift berth to anchorage "Baker", Sinclair Inlet. Overhaul interrupted by the arrival of a large number of ships assigned to "Magic Carpet" operation requiring high priority voyage repairs. A very small amount of work is to continue on the overhaul, but the Commandant of the Naval Base estimates that there will be at least a ten day delay. U.S.S. ESSEX, and SHANGRI-LA similarly had their overhauls interrupted. Unofficial estimates indicate that the shipyard has more ships under overhaul than at any other time in its history. Ship will load ammunition, clean up ship, train personnel, etc., while anchored out. There remains about five to ten days work in the Navy Yard outstanding.

31 DECEMBER 1945

Ship remains at anchor in Sinclair Inlet with status of overhaul completion still indefinite. Five to ten days shipyard work are still outstanding. Ship has made considerable progress on ammunition loading, personnel training and general readiness for limited operations. The personnel situation is acute, but the period of "frantic" demobilization appears to have passed and it is now possible to plan more orderly training and turn-over of duties of men to be discharged. There are now 873 enlisted personnel aboard, 1147 having been transferred for discharge since arrival in the United States on 13 September. There has been a very large turnover of officer personnel, but the ship remains well over allowance, chiefly because of the large number of Ensigns received. The ships future employment is now relatively clear. Bureau of Personnel allowance of 23 officers and 407 enlisted will be effective on actually joining Third (Reserve) Fleet. U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS is assigned as flagship of Commander Third Fleet and as part of Battleship Division Three (with INDIANA and ALABAMA). Permanent mooring will apparently be provided in San Pedro or San Francisco area, and ship will remain in complete material readiness.

SUBMITTED

*P. S. Savidge*

P. S. SAVIDGE, JR.,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Navigator.

APPROVED

*John E. Redman*

JOHN E. REDMAN,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.