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FC1-2/A16-3(1)

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO
Care of Fleet Post Office
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Serial 0527

5 October 1945.

From: Commander Battleship Squadron TWO. (Commander Task Unit 38.1.2)
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
(1) Commander Carrier Division THREE (Commander Task Group 38.1).
(2) Commander SECOND Carrier Task Force (Commander Task Force 38)
(3) Commander THIRD Fleet.
(4) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Operations for Period 15 August through 2 September 1945,
Report of.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Confidential Letter 1 CL-45.
(b) ComBatRon TWO Conf. Ltr. FC1-2/P11-1/A5-1, Ser. 0503
dated 24 September 1945.

Enclosure: (A) ComCruDiv 18 Conf. Ltr. FB3-18/A16-3(4), Ser. 054
dated 18 September 1945. - MISSING
(B) ALABAMA Conf. Ltr. BB60/A16-3, Ser. 0436 dated
5 September 1945. M-27 140266
(C) INDIANA Conf. Ltr. BB58/A16-3/A12, Ser. 0198 dated
9 September 1945. M-27 144320

1. During the period of this report Commander Battleship Squadron TWO (Commander Battleship Division EIGHT, Commander Task Units 38.1.2 and 38.1.3) supported Task Group 38.1 in patrolling assigned areas off the coast of Honshu, during the occupation by U.S. Forces of the YOKOSUKA-SAGAMI WAN area. Carrier planes participated in reconnaissance of, and dropping supplies to Prisoner of War camps.

2. Task Group 38.1 was composed as follows:

Task Unit 38.1.1 - Carriers - Rear Admiral T. L. SPRAGUE
BENNINGTON (CV20) (F) BELLEAU WOOD (CVL24)
LEXINGTON (CV16) SAN JACINTO (CVL30)
HANCOCK (CV19)

Task Unit 38.1.2 - Support Unit - Rear Admiral J. F. SHAFROTH

Task Unit 38.1.3 - Battleship Support Unit
Rear Admiral J. F. SHAFROTH

BatDivEIGHT - Rear Admiral J. F. SHAFROTH
ALABAMA (BB60) (F)
INDIANA (BB58)
MASSACHUSETTS (BB59)

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COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO

FC1-2/A16-3(1)

Serial 0527

5 October 1945.

Subject: Operations for Period 15 August through 2 September 1945,
Report of.

Task Unit 38.1.4 - Cruiser Support Unit - Rear Admiral HOLDEN

CruDivEIGHTEEN - Rear Admiral HOLDEN

TOPEKA (CL67) (F)

DULUTH (CL87)

ATLANTA (CL104)

DAYTON (CL105)

*CruDivTWENTY (Less PROVIDENCE, LITTLE ROCK) - Captain HUNT

*OKLAHOMA CITY (CL91) (F)

*AMSTERDAM (CL101)

*Replaced ATLANTA and DAYTON on 20 August 1945.

Task Unit 38.1.5 - Screen - Commodore SIMPSON

SAN JUAN (CL54) (F)

DesRonSIXTY-ONE - Captain HEDERMAN

DesDiv 121

DEHAVEN (DD727) (F)

MANSFIELD (DD728)

LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD729)

COLIETT (DD730)

MADDOX (DD731)

DesDiv 122

BLUE (DD744) (F)

BRUSH (DD745)

TAUSSIG (DD746)

SAMUEL N. MOORE (DD747)

HIGBEE (DD806)

DesRonTWENTY-FIVE (Less LITTLE and SIGSBEE)

Captain LUDEWIG

DesDiv 49

JOHN RODGERS (DD574) (F)

HARRISON (DD573)

McKEE (DD575)

MURRAY (DD576)

DesDiv 50

SCHROEDER (DD501) (F)

RINGGOLD (DD500)

DASHIEL (DD659)

3. Firing exercises were conducted during the period of this report as described in Reference (b).

4. Commander Battleship Division EIGHT (ComTaskUnit 38.1.2) organized a Naval Assault Battalion of selected bluejackets for the purpose of participating in the initial landings incident to the occupation of the Tokyo Bay area as a battalion of the THIRD Fleet Naval Landing Force. The organization of the Battalion was based on Commander Task Force 31 OpPlan 1-45, Commander Task Group 31.3 OpPlan 1-45 and despatches of Task Unit 31.3.3 (THIRD Fleet Naval Landing Force). The strength of the assault battalion was 400 officers and men, composed of three

10 01265

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO

FC1-2/A16-3(1)

Serial: 0527

5 October 1945.

Subject: Operations for Period 15 August through 2 September 1945,
Report of.

companies and a headquarters company under command of the Gunnery Officer, U.S.S. INDIANA. One assault company was formed, equipped and trained on board each ship of BatDiv EIGHT. (ALABAMA, MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA). The headquarters company was selected from men of the three ships. Prior to embarkation daily training of the companies was carried out under the leadership of the company commanders and personnel most familiar with amphibious assault. On 21 August 1945 the assault battalion of Battleship Division EIGHT, designated the First Battalion, was embarked in the REEVES (APD-52) and the GOSSELIN (APD-126) for further transfer to the MONITOR (LSV-5) which was to transport the Naval Landing Force of the THIRD Fleet into Tokyo Bay.

5. Chronological Account.

ITEM (Minus Nine) Time is used throughout this report.

16 August 1945

Task Force 38 fueling. At 1140 BENNINGTON (Flagship of Commander Task Group 38.1) lost steering control and Commander Task Unit 38.1.2 assumed tactical command of Task Group 38.1 until 1156. Conducted sleeve firing exercises.

17 August 1945

Task Group 38.1 cruising in Area McCAIN and conducting sleeve firing exercises, Commander Task Unit 38.1.2 O.C.E. (Ref. (a)).

18 August 1945

Task Force 38 cruising in Area McCAIN. Conducted AA firing at TDDs.

19, 20, and 21 August 1945

Task Force 38 retired to Area BEARY for fueling and replenishing. On 20 August ATLANTA and DAYTON left Task Group 38.1 on orders of Commander THIRD Fleet, being replaced by the AMSTERDAM and OKLAHOMA CITY, in Task Unit 38.1.4. On 21 August 1945, embarked Assault Battalion on REEVES (APD-52) and GOSSELIN (APD126).

22 August 1945

Task Force 38 returned to Area McCAIN to avoid hurricane. At 1400 Commander Task Group 38.1 secured RCM watches in Task Group 38.1.

23 August 1945

Task Force 38 proceeded to Point READY for fueling, replenishing, and trans-

10 01265

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO

FCI-2/A16-3(1)

Serial 0527

5 October 1945.

Subject: Operations for Period 15 August through 2 September 1945,
Report of.

fer of mail and personnel. INDIANA went alongside ALABAMA for transfer of mail and personnel.

24 August 1945

Task Force 38 operating in Area RADFORD.

25 August 1945

Commander Battleship Squadron TWO in Task Group 38.1 patrolling independently to north of Task Force 38.

26 and 27 August 1945

Commander Battleship Squadron TWO in Task Group 38.1 patrolling independently in Area FLAGSTAFF.

28 August 1945

Commander Battleship Squadron TWO in Task Group 38.1 fueling and replenishing in Area STARS. Conducted AA gunnery exercises astern of formation 5 FOX.

29 and 30 August 1945

Commander Battleship Squadron TWO in Task Group 38.1 patrolling in Area STARS. At 1130 on 30 August, Rear Admiral Shafroth deployed Battleship Division EIGHT, ALABAMA, INDIANA and MASSACHUSETTS, into column to pass BENNINGTON for photographing of Battleship Division EIGHT. At 1809 LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, COLLETT, MANSFIELD, McKEE, and MURRAY detached from Task Group 38.1 to proceed to Task Group 38.3; the MASSACHUSETTS to return to United States for overhaul.

31 August 1945

Task Group 38.1 proceeded to Area SHELL for fueling and replenishing.

1 September 1945

Task Group 38.1 continued fueling. At 1304 Commander Battleship Squadron TWO, accompanied by his Chief of Staff, shifted his Flag to the DEHAVEN, proceeding to the surrender ceremonies of the Japanese Empire being held on board, USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay. Commander Task Unit 38.1.2(Admin) as OCE conducted sleeve firing exercises.

10 01265

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON TWO

FC1-2/A16-3(1)

5 October 1945.

Serial 0527

Subject: Operations for Period 15 August through 2 September 1945,
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2 September 1945

Task Group 38.1 operating in Area STARS. At 0900, the formal articles of surrender of the Japanese Empire were signed aboard the U.S.S. MISSOURI. At 1750 Rear Admiral Shafroth, with his Chief of Staff, returned from surrender ceremonies and hoisted his flag in ALABAMA.

J. F. Shafroth

J. F. SHAFROTH.

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