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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

REG. NO 428
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REG. SHEET NO 20

USS KRETCHMER (DE 329)

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~~New York, N.Y.~~
San Francisco, Calif.

File No.

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W A R D I A R Y

Task Group 77.1

1 September 1945. (-0 Zone Time).

Underway in abedience to ComCarDiv 27 Operation Order No. 2-45 of 29 August 1945, in company with U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-106), U.S.S. BRISTER (DE-327), U.S.S. SANTEE (CVE-29), U.S.S. GARY (DE-326), and U.S.S. FINCH (DE-328), forming Task Group 77.1, enroute to Okinawa, North China Sea, Yellow Sea, and Korea, in connection with occupation of Korea. CTG 77.1 in U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND. Base course 005° True, speed 13.5 knots. 0900 Rendezvoused with U.S.S. CHEPACHET (AO-78). 1504 Changed base course to 090° True, taking action to avoid typhoon located approximately 300 miles to the south. 1822 Changed course to 080° True, speed 8 knots. Very high seas running all day; wind estimated at force 7 thruout the day; barometer dropped steadily until 1800, then commenced rising slowly.

Positions:	0800	23° 00' N 127° 32' E
	1200	23° 19' N 127° 31' E
	2000	23° 52' N 127° 49' E

2 September 1945.

Underway as before. Steaming general easterly courses thruout the day, varying as necessary for ease in riding out the sea. Barometer rising slowly, wind and sea gradually moderating.

Positions:	0800	24° 22' N 128° 09' E
	1200	25° 03' N 129° 09' E
	2000	24° 40' N 130° 15' E

3 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0730 U.S.S. CHEPACHET (AO-78) detached to fuel mine-sweeping group and then proceeding to Okinawa. Orders for Task Group 77.1 altered by Commander Seventh Fleet secret dispatch of 1 September 1945 to proceed to Kiirun, Formosa, at best speed and evacuate prisoners of war. 1130 Came to course 277° True, speed 13.5 knots, setting course for Formosa, typhoon having passed and seas moderating rapidly. 1420 Fueled from U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-106) in heavy swell. 1627 Completed fueling; received 8,117 gallons.

Positions:	0800	23° 51' N 130° 34' E
	1200	22° 56' N 130° 34' E
	2000	23° 12' N 128° 52' E

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4 September 1945.

Underway as before. 1550 Base speed 15 knots. 1803 Base speed 16 knots. 1946 Altered course to 300° True. 2350 Altered Base course to 355° True.

Positions:	0800	23° 29' N 126° 35' E
	1200	23° 35' N 125° 23' E
	2000	25° 01' N 124° 45' E

5 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0257 U.S.S. GARY (DE 326) and U.S.S. KRETCHMER (DE 329) detached from Task Group 77.1 proceeding into Kiirun Harbor, Formosa in accordance with Verbal Orders from Commander Task Group 77.1 on base course 286° True, speed 15 knots. 0310 Changed speed to 10 knots. 0321 Altered course to 090° True in order not to arrive off Kiirun before daylight. 0425 Base course 290° True, speed 15 knots making approach to Kiirun in column open order, U.S.S. GARY leading, echo ranging 30° on either bow. 0615 Sounded General Quarters, set condition Able throughout the ship. Steering various courses at various speeds following maneuvers of column leader. 0741 Commenced firing on floating mine, expending 620 rounds of 20 MM and 200 rounds of 40 MM ammunition. 0840 Lying to off Kiirun Harbor waiting for a pilot. 1112 Passed through breakwater at entrance to Kiirun. 1146 Moored port side to Meiji Cho Dock, Kiirun, Formosa. Immediately placed armed boat party in boat patrolling in vicinity of ship and ten man dock patrol to keep back strangers and investigate near-by warehouse. No signs of hostility anywhere, a spirit of cooperation was present and Japanese flags were at half mast. 1700 Received 155 allied prisoners of war aboard, mostly British, a few Americans. 1757 Underway proceeding on various courses at various speeds out of Kiirun harbor to rendezvous with Task Group 77.1. 2012 Rendezvoused with Task Group 77.1 and commenced transfer of prisoners of war to U.S.S. SANTEE by motor whaleboat. 2155 Completed transfers of prisoners of war. 2333 Task Group 77.1 underway.

Positions:	0800	25° 09' N 121° 45' E
	1200	25° 06' N 121° 45' E
	2000	25° 09' N 122° 07' E

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6 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0545 U.S.S. GARY, U.S.S. BRISTER, and U.S.S. FINCH detached to proceed into Kiirun Harbor to evacuate prisoners of war. 1002 Detached from Task Group 77.1 proceeding into Kiirun Harbor. 1147 Moored to Meiji Cho Dock, Kiirun, Formosa. 1435 Took on 206 allied prisoners of war. 1500 Two British cruisers and one British destroyer entered Kiirun Harbor. 1545 Underway proceeding on various courses at various speeds in company with U.S.S. GARY, U.S.S. BRISTER, and U.S.S. FINCH to rendezvous with Task Group 77.1. 1740 Rendezvoused with Task Group 77.1 and commenced transfer of prisoners of war to U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND. 2202 Completed transfer of 155 prisoners of war, retaining 51 on board for trip to Manila. 2325 Task Group 77.1 underway enroute to Manila, Philippine Islands, course 090° True, speed 10 knots.

Positions:	0800	25° 09' N
		122° 07' E
	1200	25° 09' N
		121° 45' E
	2000	25° 04' N
		122° 08' E

7 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0015 Changed course to 125° True, speed 17.5 knots. 0115 Changed course to 195° True. 1925 Burning navigational lights, wartime blackout lifted.

Positions:	0800	23° 06' N
		121° 58' E
	1200	22° 23' N
		121° 27' E
	2000	21° 05' N
		121° 13' E

8 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0630 Mayraira Point, Luzon, Philippine Islands abeam to port, distant 29 miles. Coast of Luzon in sight during most of the day. 1527 Base course altered to 205° True. 1713 Cape Bolinas light abeam to port distant 3½ miles. 1730 course 185° True. 2030 Course 170° True.

Positions:	0800	18° 25' N
		120° 13' E
	1200	17° 24' N
		120° 01' E
	2000	16° 01' N
		119° 41' E

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9 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0420 Formed into column, U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND guide, proceeding on various courses at various speeds into Manila Bay. 0547 Corregidor Island abeam to Port distant 3½ miles. 0840 Passed through breakwater into Manila Harbor. 0925 Moored to U.S.S. BRISTER at Pier One, Manila. 1100 The fifty-one prisoners of war were transferred to Army trucks on the pier. 1131 Underway proceeding to Berth 107, Manila Bay. 1235 Anchored in Berth 107, Manila Bay, Philippine Islands.

Positions:	0800	Manila Bay
	1200	Manila Bay
	2000	Manila Bay

10 September 1945.

Anchored as before. 1043 Underway to fuel. 1118 Moored to IX 123 taking on fuel. 1225 Ceased fueling. 1327 Alongside AW 2 to take on water. 1410 Completed taking on water. 1452 Anchored in Berth 107.

11 September 1945.

Anchored as before. 1145 Alongside SS FRANK R STOCKTON to take on provisions. 1340 Anchored in Berth 107.

12 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

13 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

14 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

15 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

16 September 1945.

Anchored as before. 1300 Underway to swing ship for magnetic compass compensation. 1600 Anchored in Berth 107.

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W A R D I A R Y

ComCarDiv 27

17 September 1945. (-9 Zone Time)

Anchored as before. 0647 Underway in obedience to Commander Carrier Division 27 Operation Order No. 4-45 in company with U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE 106), U.S.S. GARY (DE 326), U.S.S. BRISTER (DE 327), and U.S.S. FINCH (DE 328) proceeding out of Manila Bay enroute to Okinawa. ComCarDiv 27 in U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND. 0905 Took departure on El Fraile Island bearing 170° True, distance 3000 yards, course 243° True, speed 15 knots. 1310 Base course changed to 350° True. 2135 Base course changed to 015° True.

Positions:	0800	14° 31' N
		120° 35' E
	1200	14° 30' N
		120° 00' E
	2000	16° 25' N
		119° 37' E

18 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0610 Commenced flight operations. 0621 Ceased flight operations. 1243 Commenced flight operations. 1255 Ceased flight operations. 1725 Altered course to 050° True, speed 14 knots.

Positions:	0800	18° 57' N
		120° 20' E
	1200	19° 40' N
		120° 58' E
	2000	20° 35' N
		122° 40' E

19 September 1945.

Underway as before. 1900 All clocks set back one hour to minus 8 zone time.

Positions:	0800	22° 05' N
		124° 35' E
	1200	22° 38' N
		125° 25' E
	2000	24° 02' N
		126° 57' E

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20 September 1945. (-8 Zone Time).

Underway as before. 0008 Changed base course to 353° True.
0610 Took channel formation making approach to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa.
0940 Anchored in Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa, Berth 222.

Positions: 0800 26° 15' N
 127° 30' E

21 September 1945. (-9 Zond Time).

Anchored as before. 1500 Underway to fuel. 1630 Completed fueling. 1725 Anchored in Berth 223, Hagushi Anchorage.

22 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

23 September 1945.

Anchored as before. 0910 Underway to provision. 0950 Moored port side to U.S.S. SILICA taking on fresh and frozen provisions. 1307 Anchored in Berth 224.

24 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

25 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

26 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

27 September 1945.

Anchored as before. 0637 Underway in accordance with ComCarDiv 27 Operation Plan No. 5-45 of 25 September 1945 in company with U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND (CVE 106), U.S.S. GILBERT ISLAND (CVE 107), U.S.S. SALERNO BAY (CVE 110), U.S.S. GARY (DE 326), U.S.S. BRISTER (DE 327), and U.S.S. FORMOE (DE 509). 0845 Base course 000° True, speed 12 knots. 0845 Commenced flight operations. 0945 Ceased flight operations. 1124 Commenced flight operations. 1154 Ceased flight operations. 1326 Commenced flight operations. 1356 Ceased flight operations. 1536 Commenced flight operations. 1632 Ceased flight operations. Proceeding back to Hagushi Anchorage. 1822 Anchored in Berth 224, Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa.

Positions: 0800 26° 22' N
 127° 50' E
 1200 26° 18' N
 127° 25' E
 2000 26° 18' N
 127° 41' E

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28 September 1945.

Anchored as before. 0626 Underway in accordance with ComCarDiv 27 Operation Plan No. 5-45 to conduct training exercises. Flight operations throughout the day. 1704 U.S.S. KULA GULF (CVE 108) and U.S.S. FINCH (DE 328) joined formation. 2145 U.S.S. CANEY (AO 95) joined formation. Underway throughout night.

Positions:	0800	26° 23' N 127° 28' E
	1200	26° 32' N 127° 06' E
	2000	27° 10' N 127° 40' E

29 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0541 U.S.S. KRETCHMER (DE 329) left screen to operate with U.S.S. SALERNO BAY throughout the day. Flight operations during the morning. 1130 Ordered to rejoin CarDiv 27 and fuel due to approach of typhoon. 1335 Proceeding alongside U.S.S. CANEY, base course 300° True, speed 10 knots. 1356 Commenced fueling. 1430 Completed fueling. 1450 U.S.S. FINCH came alongside to pass mail. Two mines were passed during the afternoon and exploded by gunfire from ships in the formation. 1846 Sunset, all ships stopped, lying to in formation throughout the night as mine precaution.

Positions:	0800	27° 07' N 127° 20' E
	1200	27° 47' N 127° 10' E
	2000	28° 28' N 125° 28' E

30 September 1945.

Underway as before. 0642 Base course 270° True, speed 10 knots. 0701 Changed base course to 315° True. Maneuvering to avoid typhoon located about 600 miles to the south southeast. 0850 Base speed 15 knots. 1035 Altered course to 019° True. 1300 Altered base course to 145° True. 2000 Reversed course to 325° True, speed 8 knots. Barometer steady throughout the day, sky partly cloudy, moderate swell, light southeast winds freshening in afternoon.

Positions:	0800	28° 37' N 125° 27' E
	1200	29° 09' N 124° 51' E
	2000	28° 25' N 125° 50' E

T. Bulfinch
T. BULFINCH, Lieut., USNR.,
Commanding Officer.