

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

REG. NO 243
R. S. NO 902607
REG. SHEET NO 185

ACTION REPORT

16 AUGUST, - 2 SEPTEMBER, 1945



USS COWPENS CVL 25

138732

CVL25/A16-3

U.S.S. COWPENS (CVL25)

10/Gy

Serial: 0287

Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.
5 September 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) The Commander Task Force 31. (ComBatDiv 7).
(2) The Commander THIRD Fleet.
(3) The Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet
and Pacific Ocean Areas.

Subject: Report of Actions during the period 16 August to 2
September 1945.

Reference: (a) Articles 712 and 874(6), U.S. Navy Regulations (1920).
(b) CominCh ltr FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152, dated 29
October 1943.
(c) A1Nav 216-44.
(d) PacFlt Conf. Ltr 1CL-45.

Enclosure: (A) Action Report, Parts I to VIII, inclusive. p. 3

1. Enclosure (A) is submitted in compliance with references
(a) through (d).

2. All times appearing in the Enclosure are ZONE MINUS NINE
(-9) and all dates are EAST LONGITUDE, except as may be applicable to
despatches, which are in accordance with Communication Instructions.

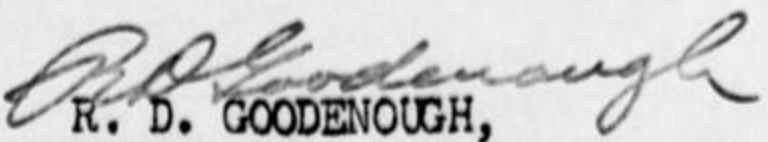
3. All VF aircraft referred to are F6F-5s and all VT are
TBM-3Es.

G. H. DeBAUN.

Copy to:

CominCh (Adv) CTF 38.4 (ComCarDiv 6)
CinCPOA (3) (Adv) CTF 35. (ComCruDiv 17)
CinCSWPA
ComAirPac

AUTHENTICATED:


R. D. GOODENOUGH,
Ship's Clerk, U.S.N.,
Ship's Secretary.

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

PART I BRIEF SUMMARY.

- A. During the period 16 August to 23 August the U.S.S. COMPENS (CVL25) operated with Task Group 38.4 in the area southeast of TOKYO BAY. The ship refueled, repovisioned, received replacement aircraft, and transferred and received personnel during the period. There was no action with the enemy and only routine uneventful patrols were flown. Exercises for the Air Group were conducted on the 22nd and 24th of August 1945 and gunnery exercises - firing upon towed sleeves - were conducted on the 17th and 24th of August 1945.
- B. At 1358 Item 23 August 1945 the U.S.S. COMPENS departed Task Group 38.4 and joined Task Group 35.1. On 27 August 1945 the Task Group entered SAGAMI WAN. On the 28 August 1945 passengers were transported by VT aircraft from the ship to ATSUGI Airfield. On the 29th and 30th a reconnaissance flight was launched to locate prisoner of war camps in the TOKYO BAY area. On the 30th a Streamlined Air Base Assembly Unit designated Task Group 31.6 consisting of personnel and equipment mainly from the U.S.S. COMPENS departed from the ship by VT aircraft. This unit landed and secured the YOKOSUKA Airfield. on TOKYO BAY. Seven of our VT and 8 VF remained at the field with the occupation unit. Again during this period there was no enemy action.
- C. On 30 August 1945 the U.S.S. COMPENS departed from Task Group 35.1 in SAGAMI WAN under orders of Commander THIRD Fleet and entered TOKYO BAY where she reported to Commander Task Force 31 for duty. Following this until 1200 Item, 2 September she remained at anchor off the YOKOSUKA Naval Air Station in TOKYO BAY acting as a supply base for the Streamlined Air Base Assembly Unit.

PART II PRELIMINARIES

- A. Missions, Doctrines, Plans and Assumptions.

Missions, doctrines, plans, and assumptions were in accordance with current operation orders and modifying addenda and dispatches.

- B. No enemy forces either surface or air were encountered during this period.

PART III CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF ACTION.

- A. Narrative.

1. The following outline of action covers the period 0000 Item, 16 August 1945 to 30 August 1945 when the U.S.S. COMPENS anchored in TOKYO BAY.

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2. All times are zone minus nine (9) (Item), East Longitude date. The designations VT & VF used within refer in all cases to F6F-5 and TBM-3E aircraft.

16 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Good flying conditions with scattered high and low cloudiness. Ceilings unlimited, visibility unrestricted.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 32°-14'-0 N
Longitude 142°-31'-0 E
0940-0958 -Received personnel from U.S.S. KNAPP (DD-653).
1040 -Formed snap-shot disposition for photographs.
1204 -Formed cruising disposition 6R.
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 32°-09'-7 N
Longitude 144°-44'-0 E

17 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Average conditions with widely scattered light showers throughout the day. Ceilings lowering at times in afternoon to 1500 feet. Visibility generally 15 miles and better.

0642-0646 -Received and delivered Guard Mail to U.S.S. CUSHING (DD-797).
0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 32°36'-0 N
Longitude 143°-59'-5 E
0955-1003 -Launched DCAP #3 - 12 VF catapult.
1030-1033 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. KNAPP (DD-653).for retransfer to U.S.S. IOWA.
1055 -Launched 1 VF - Replacement for DCAP #3.
1100 -Landed 1 VF from DCAP #3 - Fuel pump failure.
1112 -Formed snapshot disposition for photographs.
1258 -Formed cruising disposition 6G.
1354-1355 -Launched tow planes - 2 VT.
1443-1452 -Landed DCAP #3 - 12 VF.
1502 -Formed cruising disposition 6R.
1624-1632 -Received personnel from U.S.S. CUSHING (DD-797).
1635-1701 -Conducted Gunnery exercises - Firing upon towed sleeve.
1748-1750 -Landed tow planes - 2 VT.

18 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Below average flying conditions with showers during morning. Ceilings remaining 2,000 to 3,000 feet throughout the day.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 31°-47'-1 N
Longitude 143°-46'-0 E

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

0837-0946 -Received 16,000 gallons of aviation gasoline and 149,441
gallons of fuel oil from U.S.S. LACKAWANA (AO-40).
0849-0901 -Transferred personnel to U.S.S. LACKAWANA (AO-40).
1156 -Launched one flyable dud - 1 VF catapult to U.S.S. THETIS
BAY (CVE-90).
1211 -Landed 1 VF replacement aircraft from U.S.S. THETIS BAY (CVE90).
1958-1959 -Received personnel from U.S.S. BENHAM (DD-796).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 31°05'-5 N
Longitude 144°-34'-7 E

19 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Average conditions with partly cloudy sky throughout
the day. Ceilings unlimited, visibility unrestricted.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 31°-36'-9 N
Longitude 143°-33'-2 E
0947-1042 -Received U.S. Mail from U.S.S. STODDARD (DD-566).
1130-1218 -Delivered Marine Detachment for TOKYO BAY landings to the
U.S.S. OZARK (LSV-2).
1243-1301 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. CAPERTON (DD-650).
1419-1455 -Received Guard Mail, movies, and personnel from
U.S.S. WATTS (DD-567).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 30°-42'-0 N
Longitude 144°-04'-8 E

20 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Average flying conditions with widely scattered light
showers in afternoon. Ceilings 2,000 feet at times,
otherwise unlimited, visibility unrestricted.

0744-0749 -Launched Racap #2 - 12 VF catapult.
0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 31°35'-7 N
Longitude 143°-36'-2 E
0805-0807 -Received and delivered Guard Mail to U.S.S. TAYLOR (DD-468).
0852 -Landed 1 VF from Rapcap #2 - Oil leak.
1018-1028 -Received U.S. Mail and personnel from U.S.S. CAPERTON (DD-650).
1151-1205- -Landed Rapcap #2 - 11 VF.
1602-1608 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. STOCKHAM (DD-683).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 30°-42'-0 N
Longitude 144°-07'-4 E

21 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Below average conditions, remaining overcast throughout
the day. Scattered showers from heavy broken cumulus,
ceilings averaging 2,000 feet.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

0522-0822 -Received ammunition from U.S.S. MERRIMAC (AB-9) -
105/260# Frags, 750 tanks of 40mm and 40 tanks of 20mm.
0615-0705 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. CUSHING (DD-797).
0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 31°-35'-2 N
Longitude 143°-38'-5 E.
1032-1044 -Transferred personnel to U.S.S. INGERSOLL (DD-652).
1052-1103 -Delivered freight to U.S.S. STODDARD (DD-566).
1254-1552 -Received 30 tons of dry provisions from U.S.S. THURBAN (AKA-19).
1327 -Received from and delivered registered U.S. Mail to
U.S.S. WATTS (DD-567).
1620-1719 -Received 35,000 gallons of aviation gasoline and 79,746
gallons of fuel oil from U.S.S. CHIPOLA (AO-63).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 30°-33'-0 N
Longitude 141°-44'-0 E

22 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Continued below average conditions with scattered showers
throughout the day, sky remaining overcast throughout the
day, ceilings lowering to 1,800 feet at times in afternoon.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 30°-53'-5 N
Longitude 142°-13'-9 E.
1137-1147 -Launched exercise group #1 - 8 VF flyaway. 4 VF and 4 VT
catapult.
0857-0907 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. BENHAM (DD-796).
0921-0933 -Received Guard Mail from U.S.S. CALAHAN (DD-658).
1230-1239 -Launched exercise group #2 - 9 VF flyaway. 2 VF and 5 VT
catapult.
1352-1401 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. ENGLISH (DD-696).
1419-1424 -Received Guard Mail from U.S.S. WEEKS (DD-701).
1524-1607 -Landed exercise group #1 - 12 VF 4 VT.
1526-1605 -Landed exercise group #2 - 11 VF 5 VT.
1643-1653 -Received U.S. and registered mail from U.S.S. NORMAN SCOTT
(DD-690).
1722-1729 -Received personnel from U.S.S. ENGLISH (DD-696).

23 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 38.4 and 35.1 southeast of
TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Mostly average conditions with partly cloudy skies
throughout the day, ceilings unlimited after sunrise,
visibility generally unlimited.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 33°-21'-6 N
Longitude 143°-35'-5 E.
0809-0819 -Received package from U.S.S. INGERSOLL (DD-652).
0931-0943 -Delivered O.M. Mail to U.S.S. SPERRY (DD-697).

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

1047-1050 -O.M. Mail received from and delivered to U.S.S. INGERSOLL (DD-652).
1137-1141 -Delivered Guard Mail to U.S.S. SPERRY (DD-697).
1239-1244 -Delivered Guard Mail to U.S.S. BENNER (DD-807).
1358 -U.S.S. COMPENS departed Task Group 38.4.
1449 -U.S.S. COMPENS joined Task Group 35.1.
1459-1502 -Received Guard Mail from U.S.S. MANFIELD (DD-728).
1719-1723 -Delivered O.M. Mail to U.S.S. INGERSOLL (DD-652).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 32°-162'-0 N
Longitude 144°-56'-2 E

24 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 35.1 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Good flying conditions with widely scattered cloudiness, ceilings unlimited, visibility unrestricted.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 33°-30'-5 N
Longitude 144°-18'-0 E
0841 -Launched tow planes - 2 VT catapult.
0912-1030 -Conducted gunnery exercises - firing upon towed sleeve.
1103 -Landed tow planes 2 VT.
1253-1259 -Launched exercise group - 8 VT catapult.
1418-1440 -Received 150 drums DDT oil and sprayers from U.S.S. KALK
1613-1631 -Delivered Guard Mail to and received U.S. Mail and passenger from U.S.S. SMALLEY (DD-565).
1722-1727 -Landed exercise group - 8 VF.
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 33°-13'-7 N
Longitude 144°-45'-0 E

25 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 35.1 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Below average flying conditions. Overcast skies with ceilings averaging 1,500 feet, visibility 10 to 20 miles. Strong east southeasterly surface winds averaging 25 knots.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 33°-31'-3 N
Longitude 144°-21'-8 E
0942-0955 -Received Guard Mail and U.S. Mail from U.S.S. DUTCH (DD-670).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 33°-51'-8 N
Longitude 143°-07'-5 E

26 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 35.1 southeast of TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Below average flying conditions with overcast low cloudiness at 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Strong southeasterly surface winds averaging 30 knots.

0800 -Ship's position - Latitude 33°-42'-3 N
Longitude 142°-17'-8 E

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

1454-1500 -Received O.M. Mail from U.S.S. COTTEN (DD-669).
2000 -Ship's position - Latitude 30°-53'-0 N
Longitude 143°-08'-0 E.

27 August 1945: Entering SAGAMI WAN with Task Group 35.1.

Weather: Improving conditions with high then overcast cloudiness,
ceilings unlimited, visibility unrestricted.

0800 -Ship's position Latitude 34°-22'-2N Longitude 140°-06'-3 E.
0845 -Commenced entering SAGAMI WAN.
0938 -Routine General Quarters.
1053 -Set Condition I EASY.
1739-1749 -Landed 2 VT from U.S.S. YORKTOWN and 2 VT from U.S.S.
SHANGRI-LA with photographs for U.S.S. MISSOURI.
1900 -Anchored in SAGAMI WAN.
1915 -Set Condition THREE.

28 August 1945: Operating with Task Group 35.1 in SAGAMI WAN.

Weather: Continued high thin overcast cloudiness with fresh
southerly to south southwesterly surface winds averaging
20 knots.

0410 -Routine General Quarters.
0515 -Set Condition I EASY.
0835 -Underway.
0930-0933 -Launched planes to transport passengers to and from ATSUGI
Airfield, HONSHU - 4 VF 2 VT catapult.
0934-0935 -Launched 2 VF catapult for reconnaissance of TOKYO BAY area.
0941-1004 -Launched 2 VT for U.S.S. YORKTOWN and 2 VF for U.S.S.
SHANGRI-LA.
1105 -Launched 1 VF and 1 VT to ATSUGI Airfield to take tire to
planes at ATSUGI Airfield.
1132-1135 -Received personnel, freight, and mail from U.S.S.
HALSEY-POWELL (DD-686).
1217-1218 -Landed reconnaissance flight - 2 VF.
1409-1415 -Landed planes from ATSUGI Airfield - 5 VF 3 VT.
1626-1633 -Landed 2 VT from U.S.S. SHANGRI-LA with three war
correspondents for further transfer.
1732 -Anchored in SAGAMI WAN.
1915 -Set Condition THREE.

29 August 1945: Operating in SAGAMI WAN with Task Group 35.1.

Weather: Mostly average with overcast high cloud and scattered
low clouds at 2,000 feet. Continued fresh southerly
surface winds averaging 20 knots.

0410 -Routine General Quarters.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

0500 -Set Condition I EASY.
0837 -Underway.
0847-0848 -Launched 2 VT catapult for return to U.S.S. SHANGRI-LA.
0950 -Received passengers from U.S.S. GARRARD (APA-89).
1155-1203 -Delivered personnel to U.S.S. HALSEY-POWELL (DD-686).
1503-1520 -Launched 4 VF and 4 VT catapult to locate prisoner of war camp in TOKYO area.
1737-1745 -Received personnel from U.S.S. HALSEY-POWELL (DD-686).
1748-1755 -Landed 4 VF and 4 VT - from prisoner of war flight.
1849 -Anchored in SAGAMI WAN.
1915 -Set Condition THREE.

30 August 1945: Departing SAGAMI WAN and Entering TOKYO BAY.

Weather: Average flying conditions with partly cloudy to cloudy skys. Ceiling and visibility unrestricted.

0659 -Underway.
0757-0824 -Launched planes to transport Streamlined Air Base Assembly Unit to YOKOSUKA Airfield. 9 VT and 8 VF catapult.
0926-0938 -Launched 8 VF catapult to locate prisoner of war camp in TOKYO Area.
1118-1121 -Landed 5 VF from YOKOSUKA Airfield - flight.
1133-1200 -Delivered freight and charts to U.S.S. UHLMAN (DD-687).
1221-1224 -Launched planes to transport balance of Streamlined Air Base Assembly Unit to YOKOSUKA Airfield. 5 VT catapult.
1253-1254 -Launched 4 VF catapult to locate prisoner of war camp in TOKYO Area - these planes landed at YOKOSUKA Airfield the same day.
1304-1307 -Landed 7 VF from first prisoner of war flight - 1 VF crashed over side on landing. Pilot, Ensign R. P. ATCHISON, (AG), 414685 lost when hood would not open. Lieutenant Walter L. LUMPKIN, Landing Signal Officer, dove over side in an attempted rescue. Recovered by U.S.S. UHLMAN (DD-687).
1350-1355 -Landed 2 VT and 4 VF from second YOKOSUKA flight.
1404-1412 -Received Landing Signal Officer, Lieutenant LUMPKIN aboard from U.S.S. UHLMAN (DD-687).
1445 -Entered URAGA STRAITS.
1575 -Routine General Quarters.
1705 -Set Condition BAKER.
1709 -Anchored TOKYO BAY.
1915 -Set Condition THREE.

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PART IV. - ORDNANCE.

A. Performance of own Ordnance Material and Equipment.

1. Details of anti-aircraft practice firings are as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ROUNDS FIRED</u>	
			<u>40MM</u>	<u>20MM</u>
17 Aug'45	UNCLE	7	594	522
24 Aug'45	UNCLE	9	757	1218

There were no casualties.

B. Performance of Enemy Ordnance Material and Equipment.

1. No comment.

PART V. -DAMAGE.

A. Battle Damage to Own Units.

1. None

B. Battle Damage to Enemy Units.

1. None.

PART VI. -SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION.

A. Air Operations.

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1. Table of sorties and plane availability by days.

Daily Total of Sorties (Planes not reaching target are omitted).

DATE	:AVAILABILITY		AT TARGET		CAP	:SEARCH:		SHIPS	ASP	OTHER	
	VF	VT	STRIKES & SWEEPS	VT		VF	VT			VT	VF
8/16/45	25	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	25	8						12		2	1
18	25	9									1
19	25	9									
20	24	9						12			
21	24	9								9	23
22	24	9									
23	25	9									
24	25	9								2	8
25	26	9									
26	26	9									
27	26	9									
28	26	9								13	7
29	26	9								6	4
30	26	9								20	14
31	17	2									
1	17	2									
2	17	2									

2. Own losses and rescue operations.

(a) Aircraft - Pilots and aircrewmembers lost.

(a) Aircraft Losses and Aircrew Losses.							
DATE	TIME	:CIRCUMSTANCES,	:No.	:No.	Air	:No.	:No.
	: OF	:TYPE:PLACE AND CAUSE	:Pilots	:Crew	:Pilots	:Crew	
	LAUNCH:A/C	:OF PLANE LOSS.	: Lost	:Lost	:Saved	: Saved	
8/30/45	:0930	:F6F :Plane hit ramp on	: 1	: 0	: 0	: 0	
	:	:landing and crashed	:	:	:	:	
	:	:over the side. Des-	:	:	:	:	
	:	:troyer was on scene	:	:	:	:	
	:	:immediately but no	:	:	:	:	
	:	:sight of pilot. Loss	:	:	:	:	
	:	:occurred during a	:	:	:	:	
	:	:routine flight in	:	:	:	:	
	:	:SAGAMI WAN.	:	:	:	:	

3. Engineering.

- The Engineering Department operated on the split plant system. Full boiler power available.
- The Engineering Department operated very satisfactorily.
- From 0000, 16 August to 1200, 2 September. The ship steamed 3795.1 miles, using 9208 barrels of fuel oil.

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PART VII. - Personnel Performance and casualties.

- A. The following is a copy of casualty report submitted to Force Medical Officer, Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet:

"Robert Paul ATCHISON, Ensign, (A1), USNR, File number 414685, "Killed, not enemy action", diagnosis: DROWNING, #2521, Key letter "I", Specialty letter "R", on 30 August, 1945 at 1308 (-9 zone time). This pilot was killed during routine operations in Sagami Wan, south of Tokyo. He was flying plane F6F-5, Bureau number 79459, engine number 213332, and upon landing the plane hit the ramp, broke off the tail assembly and crashed into the water on the port side. The plane sank almost immediately and the pilot was not seen to get out. The Landing Signal Officer dove over the side to help the pilot but was unable to reach him. The spot where the plane went into the sea was marked with a smoke bomb plus a dye marker and a careful search was made by a destroyer, but with negative results. Reported to SecNav by COMPENS SpdLtr CVL25/P6/49, serial number 0284, dated 1 September 1945."

PART VIII. Lessons Learned, Conclusions, and Recommendations.

1. During the period covered by this report, no enemy opposition was encountered. All flight operations conducted were of a routine nature in preparation for, and in support of the occupation of the SAGAMI WAN - TOKYO BAY area.
2. The operations conducted developed no incidents deemed worthy of special comment.

