From: Commander Carrier Division TWENTY-SEVEN.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Subject: War Diary for the month of September 1945, Forwarding of.

Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. 1tr. 1 CL-45 of 1 January 1945.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary for the month of September 1945.

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith.

Edward J. O’Keill
By Direction.

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET
CARRIER DIVISION-27

WAR DIARY
SEPTEMBER 1945.

CARRIER DIVISION-27
USS BLOCK ISLAND, Flagship.

Commander Carrier Division-27 Rear Admiral DIXWELL KETCHAM, USN.
Next higher echelon - Commander Escort Carrier Force, Pacific Fleet. Time Zone - as indicated.

Composition of Carrier Division-27:

USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106
USS GILBERT ISLAND, CVE-107
USS KULA GULF, CVE-108
USS CAFE GLOUCESTER, CVE-109
USS VELLA GULF, CVE-111
USS SIPONEY, CVE-112

1 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Yellow Sea, Kaiko area, Korea. OTC and guide in USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106. The ships in this Task Group are on condition ONE EASY due to imminence of typhoon. Effected rendezvous at 0900 I with the USS CHEPACHET, A0-78 and its escort the USS WALTON, DE-361, 50 miles north of 26-50N - 127-52E. The CHEPACHET joined our formation and the WALTON was told to proceed on duty assigned and it set course for Okinawa. At 1835 I the BLOCK ISLAND moved out of formation to operate on an emergency appendectomy. At 1845 I effected rendezvous with T.G. 71.2, minesweeping group.

Positions: 0800I 22-56N 127-32E
1200I 23-29N 127-30E
2000I 23-37N 127-43E

2 September 1945.

Steaming on various courses and speeds to escape typhoon center. No flight operations conducted. At 0703 I the center of the typhoon was reported 300 miles west of us and moving in a northwesterly direction.
2 September 1945, Cont’d.

Positions:  
0800I  24-55N  128-37E  
1200I  25-06N  129-10E  
2000I  24-47N  130-16E

3 September 1945.

Steaming on various courses and speeds to escape typhoon center. No flight operations conducted. At 0700I the USS CHEPACHET, AO-78, departed this formation enroute to Okinawa. Orders to proceed to Yellow Sea were cancelled and the Task Group was ordered to set course for Kiriun, Formosa. Planes from this Task Group are to drop food and medical supplies to Allied POW and civilian internees and to evacuate as many as possible to a forward area. Lt. Comdr. Victor W. Ganju, (MC) USNR, attached to the USS SANTEE, CVE-29, was swept overboard while on the forecastle of the SANTEE and was picked up dead by the USS FINCH, DE-326. Burial at sea was conducted by the FINCH. During the day the USS GARY, DE-326 and USS KETCHMER, DE-329 were fueled. The USS BRISTER, DE-327, when partially fueled, carried away the fuel line due to rough seas making further fueling impossible.

Positions:  
0800I  23-32N  130-47E  
1200I  22-56N  130-36E  
2000I  23-06N  129-13E

4 September 1945.

Steaming enroute to Formosa. Weather calming down and seas comparatively smooth. No flight operations conducted but the planes are being loaded with food and supplies to be flown to the POW camps. 1530 I Colonel A. D. Cooley, USMC, with a detachment of Marines and Navy medical personnel disembarked this vessel and boarded the USS GARY, DE-326 to be taken to Kiriun Harbor, Formosa, thence to aid in evacuation of the POW. T.G. 71.2 departed this formation enroute to Okinawa. The USS KETCHMER, DE-329, was designated to accompany the GARY.

Positions:  
0800I  23-28N  126-37E  
1200I  23-34N  125-30E  
2000I  22-38N  123-32E
5 September 1945.

Steaming off the northeast coast of Formosa, flights consisted of 8 VF on TCAF, 3 VT on photo, 8 VF on reconnaissance, 1 WT on passenger flight and 9 VT on special supply flights over Matsuyama Airfield, Formosa. Colonel A. D. COOLEY, USMC, with his Marine detachment and Navy medical personnel proceeded to Kirun Harbor, Formosa on the GARY and upon docking entered the city of Kirun. There he commandeered a railway train running from Kirun to Taihoku where the prisoner of war camps were located. In the meantime Major Peter FOLGER, USNR, was flown in a TBM-3, piloted by Captain Dick JOHNSON, USMC, to the Matsuyama Airfield, Taihoku. Major Folger was met by the Jap commander of the airfield and was driven to the prison camps to determine what was needed by the POW. Meanwhile Captain Johnson stayed with his plane on the airfield and was asked numerous questions as to the Task Group’s strength and number of planes. These questions remained unanswered. These suspicious actions caused Captain Johnson to request additional air support for cover of the airfield and in reply to his request, a total of 74 sorties were flown over Taihoku and Matsuyama Airfield in a show of strength. Later in the afternoon Major Folger was flown back aboard this vessel and reported that there were 1088 ambulatory patients, 150 bed patients and 79 non-movable patients, a total of 1278. It was then decided by CTO 771 that all the patients except the immovable be put aboard the vessels in this Task Group. The two DEs, GARY and KRETCHMER, received 312 liberated POW aboard and transported them to the carriers waiting offshore and transferred them to the BLOCK ISLAND and SANTEE. Here the prisoners were given fresh clothes, baths, cots and food and were made comfortable for the night. Colonel Cooley stayed in Taihoku making preparations to remove the remaining POW from the island.

Positions: 0800I 24-53N 122-31E
1200I 25-00N 122-43E
2000I 25-07N 122-13E

6 September 1945.

At daybreak this Task Group rendezvoused with the British T.C. 111.3 under the command of Rear Admiral SVERKES. At 0700I the DEs GARY, KRETCHMER, KRISTER and FINCH left for Kirun Harbor to pick up the remaining liberated men (except for the non-movable patients) and to distribute them among the ships in the Task Group. The same procedure was followed regarding their care. A total of 1152 liberated men were received on board in the past two days.
6 September 1945, Cont'd.

Colonel Cooley and his detachment returned on board, less the doctors and corpsmen who were left on the island to care for the non-movable patients. At 2330 I the transfer of the patients was completed and the Task Group left for Manila P. I.

Positions: 0800I  25-12N
           122-28E
           1200I  25-06N
           122-05E
           2000I  25-00N
           122-07E

7 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Manila, P. I.

Positions: 0800I  23-55N
           121-59E
           1200I  22-33N
           121-30E
           2000I  21-04N
           120-58E

8 September 1945.

Enroute to Manila, P. I. Launched 2 VT on passenger flights to Manila.

Positions: 0800I  18-26N
           120-11E
           1200I  17-33N
           119-59E
           2000I  15-43N
           119-38E

9 September 1945.

At 0824 dropped anchor in Manila Bay, P. I. Passengers departed the ship.

10-13 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

14 September 1945.

Pursuant to orders Com7thFleet, Task Group 77.1 was dissolved upon reporting to GTF-74 for duty this date. ComCortDiv-57 also reported to GTF-74 for duty. The USS SIBONEY, CVE-112,
14 September 1945, Cont'd.

at Leyte, reported to CCD-27 for duty. The USS KULA GULF, CVE-108, at Leyte, reported to Com7thFleet for duty.

15 September 1945.

Anchored as before.

16 September 1945.

Pursuant to orders Commanding Officer, Third Marine Air Wing, Captain J. J. O'Brien, USMC, was detached to Commanding Officer, Receiving Station, Cavite, P. I. for future transfer to Third Marine Air Wing, Navy No. 61, 7th Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

17 September 1945.

At 0630, in accordance with CCD-27 Operations Order 4-45 and conforming with CTF-74 dispatch dated 14 September 1945, the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, sortied from Manila Bay, P. I. as Task Unit CCD-27 of Task Force 74, enroute to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa, escorted by CorDiv-57 less KEENER and O'REILLY.

First Lieutenant H. P. HARMER, USMCR, attached to VMF-511, is presumed lost. He was ferrying an FG-1D, Bureau Number 92069, from CNAB, Samar to Sangley Point, Luzon. He departed Samar at 0618 I for Sangley Point and was last seen over Nichols Field, Luzon.

Positions: 1200I 14-33N
          120-03E
          2000I 16-09N
          119-36E

18 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa. Flights for the day were 8 VF and 8 VT on Anti-Mine Patrol.

Positions: 0800I 18-51N
          120-24E
          1200I 19-37N
          120-56E
          2000I 20-32N
          123-37E

19 September 1945.

Steaming as before enroute to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa. Flights
19 September 1945, Cont'd.

for the day were 6 VT on Anti-Mine Patrol and 1 VT on radio check flight. In accordance with Com7thFleet orders dated 17 September 1945, the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107, reported for duty in CCF-27.

Positions: 06001 22-09N 124-39E
12001 22-44N 125-23E
20001 23-56N 127-00E

20 September 1945.

At 0630I dropped anchor in Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa.

Position: 26-13N 127-33E

21 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with Com7thFleet orders dated 21 September 1945, the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110 reported to CTF-74 for duty with CCF-27. Pursuant to orders CCF-27 Commander T. W. Mc Knight, (A-1) USNR, was detached to Base Hospital No. 10, Navy No. 128 % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California for duty.

22 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with MarCorps Dispatch 131821, dated 21 September 1945, Major Peter Felger, USMC, was detached to Commanding General, Second Marine Air Wing, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

23 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with Com7thFleet orders dated 15 September 1945, the USS KULA GULF, CVE-108, reported for duty in CCF-27.

24 September 1945.

Anchored as before. Pursuant to orders CincFae, dated 24 September 1945, the USS SIBONEY, CVE-112, was ordered to report to Com5thFleet for duty as relief for the USS MAXIM ISLAND, CVE-93, and relief flagship for ComEsCarFor.
25 September 1945.

Anchored as before. The USS KULA GULF, CVE-106, departed Layte Gulf enroute to Okinawa, escorted by the USS FRIPPER, DE-588.

26 September 1945.

Anchored as before. In accordance with orders CincPac dated 24 September 1945, the USS SIBONEY, CVE-112, reported to Com5thFleet for duty. Pursuant to orders CCD-27, Lt. (j.g.) Francis A. Keating (C) USNR, was detached on temporary additional duty.

27 September 1945.

At 0647, in accordance with CCD-27 Operation Order 5-45, the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, in company with the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110 and escorted by the USS GARY, DE-326, the USS BRISTLER, DE-327, the USS KRECHMER, DE-329 and the USS FORMOE, DE-509, sortied from Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa as CCD-27 Task Unit enroute to operations area to conduct flight operations. OTC and guide in USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106. ComCortDiv-57 is in the USS GARY, DE-326. Flights for the day were 24 VF and 16 VT on training flights from the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, 23 VF and 13 VT on training flights from the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and 34 VF and 14 VT on training flights from the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110. Returned to Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa and dropped anchor at 1818.

Position: 12001 26-59N
              127-25E

28 September 1945.

At 0650, in accordance with CCD-27 Operation Order 5-45, the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, in company with the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110 and escorted by the USS GARY, DE-326, the USS BRISTLER, DE-327, the USS KRECHMER, DE-329 and the USS FORMOE, DE-509, sortied from Hagushi Anchorage, Okinawa as CCD-27 Task Unit enroute to operations area to conduct flight operations and to rendezvous with the USS CANEKY, AO-95. Flights for the day were 30 VF and 19 VT on training flights from the USS BLOCK ISLAND, CVE-106, 30 VF and 19 VT on training flights from the USS GILBERT ISLANDS, CVE-107 and 27 VF and 23 VT on training flights from the USS SALERNO BAY, CVE-110. At 1625 rendezvoused with the USS KULA GULF, CVE-106 and the USS FINCH, DE-326. At 2210 rendezvoused with the USS CANEKY, AO-95.

Positions: 08001 26-30N
            128-48E
        12001 27-19N
            127-15E
        20001 26-58N
            127-38E
29 September 1945.

Steering on a northwesterly course to avoid typhoon. During the day the USS CANEY, AO-95, refueled all ships in the unit less FINCH. At 1635 a horned type spherical floating mine was destroyed by gunfire by the USS FINCH, DE-328, in position 28-18N - 126-06E. At 1845 a similar mine was sunk by gunfire by the USS KULA GULF, CVE-106, in position 28-33N - 125-43E. Due to numerous mines in the vicinity it was decided by CCD-27 to lie to until dawn.

Positions: 0800I 27-36N
           127-13E
           1200I 27-56N
           126-43E
           2000I 28-36N
           125-46E

30 September 1945.

From 0000 to 1616 lying to in position 28-36N - 125-46E. At 0617 underway on a northwesterly course. At 0620 rendezvoused with the USS SIBONEY, CVE-112. At 1300 changed course heading toward Okinawa. In accordance with CTF-74, T. U. CCD-27 was designated T. G. 74-3.

Positions: 0800I 28-43N
           125-21E
           1200I 29-19N
           124-58E
           2000I 28-37N
           125-41E

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