

AK171/A9
CONFIDENTIAL

Contributed by Frank Gerhardt

REG. NO 14384
F. S. NO
REG. SHEET NO 116

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

1 June 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary for Month of May.
Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) A1nav 176-43.

TUESDAY 1 MAY 1945:

Underway from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Galveston, Texas, in accordance with Commander, Operational Training Command, Atlantic Operations Order 279-45 of 19 April 1945. Shakedown operations conducted under Commander, Gulf Shakedown Unit, Auxiliary Vessels Shakedown Group, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET. Administrative command during shakedown period is Commander, Service Force, ATLANTIC FLEET.
0800 position - 29 - 03'N; 94 - 20'W.
1200 position - 29 - 19'N; 94 - 46'W.
1207 moored to Pier 41, Galveston, Texas. Deperming operations conducted.
2000 Location - pier 19, Galveston, Texas.

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 0910: Members of Gulf Shakedown Unit came aboard and held material inspection of all departments. 1200: Location unchanged. 1322: Moved to anchorage area #4, Galveston, Texas. 2000: Location unchanged.

THURSDAY 3 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 0827: Got underway to calibrate magnetic compasses and conduct shakedown exercises under guidance of officers from Gulf Shakedown Unit, in accordance with Commander, Gulf Shakedown Unit confidential letter, serial 0332 of 2 May 1945. 1200 position 29 - 19'N; 94 - 41'W.
1555: Anchored in anchorage area #4, Galveston, Texas. 2000: Location unchanged.

FRIDAY 4 MAY 1945:

130118

0800: Location unchanged. 0823: Got underway to conduct shakedown exercises. 1200: position 29 - 10'N; 94 - 50'W. 1633: Anchored in area #4, Galveston, Texas. 2000: Location unchanged.

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SATURDAY 5 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 0858: Got underway to conduct shakedown exercises. 1200: Position - 29 - 10'N; 94 - 37'W. 1605: Anchored in area #4, Galveston, Texas. 2000: Location unchanged.

SUNDAY 6 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 0827: Got underway to run measured mile. 1200: Position - 29 - 08'N; 95 - 03'W. 1550: Completed running measured mile. 1731: Anchored in area #4, Galveston, Texas. 2000: Location unchanged.

MONDAY 7 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 0822: Got underway to fire shakedown gunnery exercises in company with AKS-12. Expended fifteen (15) rounds of 3"/50 Cal. AA. 1200: Position 29 - 14'N; 94 - 45'W. Parted company with AKS-12. This command considers all shakedown exercises and drills to have been seriously hampered by the lack of a general announcing system on board. No such equipment is included in the allowance list. 1656: Standing in Galveston Channel, underway to Brown Shipyard, Houston, Texas, for post-shakedown availability in accordance with Commander, Gulf Shakedown Unit confidential orders, serial number 0356 of 6 May 1945. 2000: Position - 29 - 43'N; 94 - 17'W. 2130: Moored to Brown Shipyard dock, Houston, Texas.

TUESDAY 8 MAY 1945:

Location unchanged.

WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 1945:

Location unchanged.

THURSDAY 10 MAY 1945:

Location unchanged.

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FRIDAY 11 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 1200: Location unchanged. 1217: Underway to Galveston, Texas, in accordance with Commander, Gulf Shakedown Unit, Confidential orders, serial number 0356 of 6 May 1945. 1655: Moored to Pier 19, Galveston, Texas. 2000: Location unchanged.

SATURDAY 12 MAY 1945:

0800: Location unchanged. 1200: Location unchanged. 1623: Moored to anchorage area #4, Galveston, Texas. Reported by dispatch to Chief of Naval Operations (Director of Naval Transportation Service) ready for duty as of 2400 this date. 2000: Location unchanged.

SUNDAY 13 MAY 1945:

0800: and 1200: Location unchanged. 1307: Underway to Gulfport, Mississippi, pursuant to Port Director, Galveston, Texas, confidential sailing orders, serial 091 of 12 May 1945. 2000: Position - 29 - 35'N; 93 - 37'W.

MONDAY 14 MAY 1945:

Underway as before.

0800: Position - 28 - 52'N; 91 - 38'W.

1200: Position - 28 - 37'N; 90 - 52'W.

2000: Position - 28 - 50'N; 86 - 26'W.

TUESDAY 15 MAY 1945:

Underway as before. 0800: Position 30 - 11'N; 88 - 52'W. 1018: Moored to West Pier, Naval Supply Depot Annex, Gulfport, Mississippi. Reported to the Supply Officer in Command, Naval Supply Depot Annex, Gulfport and by dispatch to Port Director, New Orleans, and Commander, Service Force, ATLANTIC. 1200: Location unchanged. 1405: Commenced loading cargo. 2000: Location unchanged.

WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 1945 to SATURDAY 19 MAY 1945:

Location unchanged - Loading cargo.

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SUNDAY 20 MAY 1945:

0800: and 1200: Location unchanged. 1330:
Underway in accordance with Chief of Naval Operations dispatch
041415 of 5 May 1945 and Port Director, New Orleans operations
order No. 9-45, serial #01286 of 18 May 1945, enroute to Manus
Island via Panama Canal Zone. 2000: Position 29 - 32'N;
88 - 33'W.

MONDAY 21 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 27 40'N; 87 - 41'W.
1200 position - 27 03'N; 87 - 23'W.
2000 position - 26 00'N; 86 - 52'W.

TUESDAY 22 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 24 - 14'N; 85 - 58'W.
1200 position - 23 - 33'N; 85 - 44'W.
2000 position - 22 - 27'N; 85 - 25'W.

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position 21 - 05'N; 84 - 35.5'W.
1200 position 20 - 13'N; 83 - 56' W.
2000 position 19 - 04'N; 83 - 08'W.

THURSDAY 24 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 17 - 22'N; 81 - 44'W.
1200 position - 16 - 50'N; 81 - 17'W.
2000 position - 16 - 11'N; 80 - 55'W.

FRIDAY 25 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 14 - 01'N; 80 - 32'W.
1200 position - 13 - 19'N; 80 - 26'W.
2000 position - 11 - 57'N; 80 - 28'W.

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SATURDAY 26 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 10 - 25'N; 79 - 55'W.

1200 position - 09 - 38'N; 79 - 50'W.

1410: Entered Cristobal Harbor, Canal Zone.

Prepared for immediate passage through canal. 1535: Proceeding through canal. 2000: Position 09 - 07'N; 79 - 44'W.

SUNDAY 27 MAY 1945:

0029: Moored to pier 18, Balboa Harbor, Canal Zone. Canal transit was without incident. 0800: Reported to Port Director, Balboa for further orders. 0800 - 1200 and 2000 location unchanged.

MONDAY 28 MAY 1945:

0703: Underway for Leyte Gulf, Phillipine Islands, in accordance with Port Director, Balboa, Canal Zone, confidential dispatch 271940 of 27 May 1945, to report to Service Force, SEVENTH FLEET, for duty upon arrival. 0800 position - standing out of harbor entrance, Balboa, Canal Zone. 0818: - 1010: Swinging ship. 1010: Proceeding to Leyte Gulf. 1200 position 08 - 33'N; 79 - 29'W. 2000 position 07 - 17'N; 79 - 42'W. 2330: Destination changed to Manus Island by Port Director, Balboa, Canal Zone, confidential dispatch 282233 of May 1945 in accordance with Commander, SEVENTH FLEET directions. Upon arrival to report to Service Force, SEVENTH FLEET, for duty.

TUESDAY 29 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position 6 - 02'N; 81 - 19'W.

1200 position 5 - 53'N; 82 - 14'W.

2000 position 5 - 38'N; 83 - 22'W.

Expended two (2) rounds 3"/50 AA and 360 rounds 20MM AA. in practice.

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 5 - 20'N; 85 - 30'W.

1200 position - 5 - 20'N; 86 - 10'W.

2000 position - 5 - 13'N; 87 - 20'W.

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THURSDAY 31 MAY 1945:

Underway as before:

0800 position - 5 - 19'N; 89 - 20'W.
1200 position - 5 - 20'N; 90 - 00'W.
2000 position - 5 - 16'N; 91 - 24'W.

R. E. Johnston
R. E. JOHNSTON.

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1 July 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary for Month of June.
Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) Alnav 176-43.

1 JUNE 1945: Zone Time plus 6. Proceeding independently without escort from Balboa, Canal Zone, to Manus Island in accordance with Commander, SEVENTH FLEET, directions and Port Director, Balboa, Canal Zone, confidential dispatch 282233 of May 1945, with orders to report to Service Force, SEVENTH FLEET, for duty upon arrival. The entire month of June passed without incident.

Position: 0800: 5 - 16'N; 93 - 25'W.
1200: 5 - 16'N; 94 - 05'W.
2000: 5 - 42'N; 95 - 21'W.

2 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 5 - 28'N; 97 - 20'W.
1200: 5 37'N; 97 - 40.5'W.
2000: 5 - 19'N; 98 - 53'W.

3 JUNE 1945: Time Zone plus 7. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 5 - 01'N; 100 - 45'W.
1200: 5 - 09'N; 101 - 20'W.
2000: 5 - 11'N; 102 - 47'W.

4 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 5 - 06'N; 104 - 56'W.
1200: 5 - 06'N; 105 - 36'W.
2000: 5 06'N; 106 - 56'W.

5 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 54'N; 109 - 09'W.
1200: 4 - 54'N; 109 - 53'W.
2000: 4 - 57'N; 111 - 14'W.

6 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 56'N; 113 - 21'W.
1200: 5 - 02'N; 114 - 01'W.
2000: 4 - 59'N; 115 - 25'W.

7 JUNE 1945:

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7 JUNE 1945: Zone time plus 8. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 52'N; 117 - 40'W.
1200: 4 - 55'N; 118 - 22'W.
2000: 4 - 53'N; 119 - 47'W.

8 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 49'N; 121 - 55' W.
1200: 5 - 01'N; 122 - 32'W.
2000: 4 - 55'N; 123 - 49'W.

9 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 41' N; 125 - 55'W.
1200: 4 - 40'N; 126 - 09'W.
2000: 4 - 35'N; 127 - 31'W.

10 JUNE 1945: Zone time plus 9. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 26'N; 129 - 42'W.
1200: 4 - 10'N; 130 - 17'W.
2000: 4 - 08'N; 131 - 42'W.

11 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 08'N; 133 - 50'W.
1200: 4 - 04'N; 134 - 35'W.
2000: 4 - 06'N; 136 - 01'W.

12 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 4 - 07'N; 138 - 08'W.
1200: 4 01' N; 138 - 48'W.
2000: 3 - 58'N; 140 - 07'W.

13 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 3 - 54'N; 142 - 11'W.
1200: 3 - 56'N; 142 - 52'W.
2000: 3 - 50'N; 144 - 07'W.

14 June 1945: Zone time plus 10. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 3 - 31'N; 146 - 17'W.
1200: 3 - 27'N; 146 - 56'W.
2000: 3 - 19'N; 148 - 16'W.

15 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 3 - 15'N; 150 - 17'W.
1200: 3 - 07'N; 150 - 55'W.
2000: 3 - 05'N; 152 - 17'W.

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16 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 49'N; 154 - 15'W.
1200: 2 - 46'N; 154 - 47'W.
2000: 2 - 49'N; 155 - 59'W.

17 JUNE 1945: Zone time plus 11. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 34'N; 158 - 07'W.
1200: 2 - 34'N; 158 - 42'W.
2000: 2 - 33'N; 159 - 57'W.

18 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 30'N; 161 - 59'W.
1200: 2 - 24'N; 162 - 37'W.
2000: 2 - 29'N; 163 - 56'W.

19 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 29'N; 166 - 00'W.
1200: 2 - 27'N; 166 - 37'W.
2000: 2 - 27'N; 167 - 54'W.

20 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 23'N; 169 - 51'W.
1200: 2 - 27'N; 170 - 29'W.
2000: 2 - 28'N; 171 - 40'W.

21 JUNE 1945: Zone time plus 12. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 26'N; 173 - 41'W.
1200: 2 - 24'N; 174 - 17'W.
2000: 2 - 23'N; 175 - 35'W.

22 JUNE 1945: Underway as before. Crossed the 180th meridian
Position: and at 2400 changed the date to 24 June, zone
time minus 12.
Position: 0800: 2 - 17'N; 177 - 28'W.
1200: 2 - 16'N; 178 - 08'W.
2000: 2 - 17'N; 179 - 22'W.

24 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 12'N; 178 - 41'E.
1200: 2 - 19'N; 178 - 08'E.
2000: 2 - 09'N; 176 - 53'E.

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25 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 08'N; 174 - 58'E.
1200: 2 - 12'N; 174 - 22'E.
2000: 2 - 16'N; 173 - 08'E.

26 JUNE 1945: Zone time minus 11. Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 2 - 03'N; 171 - 06'E.
1200: 1 - 59'N; 170 - 29'E.
2000: 1 - 47'N; 169 - 14'E.

27 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 1 - 29'N; 167 - 21'E.
1200: 1 - 20'N; 166 - 42'E.
2000: 1 - 16'N; 165 - 24'E.

28 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 1 - 05'N; 163 - 30'E.
1200: 1 - 06'N; 162 - 52'E.
2000: 0 - 55'N; 161 - 40'E.

29 JUNE 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800: 0 - 35'N; 159 - 48'E.
1200: 0 - 31'N; 159 - 12'E.
2000: 0 - 24'N; 157 - 57'E.

30 JUNE 1945: Zone time minus 10. Underway as before.
Crossed the equator this date.
Position: 0800: 0 - 09'N; 155 - 52'E.
1200: 0 - 01'S; 155 - 25'E.
2000: 0 - 11'S; 154 - 19'E.

R.B. Johnston
R.B. JOHNSTON,

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1 August 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary for Month of July.
Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) Alnav 176-43.

1 JULY 1945: Zone time minus 10. Proceeding independently without escort from Balboa, Canal Zone to Manus Island in accordance with Commander, Seventh Fleet directive and Port Director, Balboa, confidential despatch 282233 of May 1945, with orders to report to Service Force, Seventh Fleet for duty upon arrival. Present duty performed under Director Naval Transportation Service.

Position:
0800 - 0° - 30'S; 152°-28'E.
1200 - 0° - 34'S; 152°-06'E.
2000 - 0° - 41'S; 151°-16'E.

2 JULY 1945: Underway as before.

Position
0800 - 0°58'S; 149° 27'E.
1200 - 1°09'S; 149° 00'E.
2000 - 1°20'S; 148° 06'E.

3 JULY 1945: Underway as before. 1044 Anchored in berth 339 Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island. Reported in person to Subordinate Command, Service, Seventh Fleet for duty. Given routing to Hollandia, New Guinea in accordance with Commander, Service Force, Seventh Fleet despatch 301259 of June 1945, for complete discharge of cargo at Hollandia. 1552: Underway from Manus Island to Hollandia, proceeding independently without escort.

Position:
0800 - 1°50'S; 147°04'E.
1200 - Anchored at Manus Island.
2000 - 1°40'S; 146°46'E.

4 JULY 1945: Underway as before.

Position:
0800 - 1°53'S; 144°50'E.
1200 - 2°01'S; 143°59'E.
2000 - 2°14'S; 142°35'E.

5 JULY 1945: Zone time minus 9. Underway as before. 0815: Arrived at Hollandia, New Guinea, and ordered to dock at Navy Pier #1. Reported in person to Commander, Naval Base, Hollandia; no instructions. Reported by despatch to Service Force Seventh Fleet for duty. 1545: Navy Seabees commenced unloading ship's cargo.

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Position: 0800 - 2 30'S; 140 54'E.
1200 - Hollandia.
2000 - Hollandia.

6 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

7 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

8 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

9 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

10 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

11 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

12 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Unloading cargo as before.

13 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. 1643: Completed discharge of cargo and moved to anchorage Nan 3, Humboldt Bay, pursuant to Commander, Service Force Seventh Fleet confidential despatch 070513 of July 1945, Reported to Commanding General, Army Forces, Western Pacific for operational control and orders.

14 JULY 1945: Anchored as before. Awaiting orders from Commanding General, Army Forces, Western Pacific.

15 JULY 1945: Anchored as before. Awaiting orders from Commanding General, Army Forces, Western Pacific.

16 JULY 1945: Anchored as before. 1123: Got underway for Milne Bay, New Guinea pursuant to secret sailing orders from United States Army Services of Supply, office of Base Port Commander, Hollandia, dated 16 July 1945. Proceeding independently without escort. Orders read to report to Port Commander, Milne Bay.

Position: 1200 - 2 32'S; 140 50'E.
2000 - 2 35'S; 142 12'E.

17 JULY 1945: Zone time minus 10. Underway as before.

Position: 0800 - 3 06'S; 143 59'E.
1200 - 3 00'S; 144 00'E.
2000 - 4 19'S; 145 29'E.

18 JULY 1945: Underway as before.

Position: 0800 - 5 35'S; 146 47'E.
1200 - 5 47'S; 147 12'E.
2000 - 6 20'S; 147 55'E.

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19 JULY 1945: Underway as before.
Position: 0800 - 8° 03'S; 148° 12'E.
1200 - 8° 37'S; 148° 32'E.
2000 - 9° 00'S; 149° 00'E.

20 JULY 1945: Underway as before. Arrived at Milne Bay and moored to dock #9 at 1113. Reported in person to Port Commander, and was informed we were to carry 284 troops and 9 officers with 176 tons of cargo to Oro Bay and Lae. Loading of cargo commenced immediately.

Position: 0800 - 10° 17'S; 150° 51'E.
1200 - Milne Bay.
2000 - Milne Bay.

21 JULY 1945: Completed loading cargo. Took aboard 273 Negro troops of the 903rd. Air Base Security Battalion, and 9 Caucasian officers, including their commanding officer, Major James L. Simon, U.S.A. Officers were quartered in wardroom country and the troops in the tween deck cargo spaces. A latrine was built on deck for the troops. They ate cold Army rations. Carrying troops on this vessel was the result of a misunderstanding by the Army, who thought we were an AKA.
1100: Got underway for Oro Bay, New Guinea pursuant to most secret vessel movement directive of the Port Commander, Milne Bay dated 20 July 1945. Proceeding independently without escort.

Position: 0800 - Milne Bay.
1200 - 10° 22'S; 150° 33'E.
2000 - 9° 40'S; 150° 21'E.

22 JULY 1945: Arrived at Oro Bay at 0945, and discharged half of the troops and cargo during the day and ensuing night.

Position: 0800 - 8° 54'S; 148° 43'E.
1200 - Oro Bay.
2000 - Oro Bay.

23 JULY 1945: At 1200 got underway for Lae, British New Guinea, pursuant to U.S. Army Superintendent of Water Transport Division, Oro Bay Secret sailing orders dated 23 July 1945. Proceeding independently without escort.

Position: 0800 - Oro Bay.
1200 - Oro Bay.
2000 - 7° 44'S; 148° 12'E.

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24 JULY 1945: At 0900 we arrived at Lae and anchored out until dock space was available at 1700. Upon docking the Army commenced discharging the remaining troops, officers, and cargo. Army stevedores under the Port Commander also commenced loading us with cargo, comprised mostly of drums of asphalt and vehicles destined for Manila.

Position: 0800 - Approaching Lae.
1200 - Lae.
2000 - Lae.

25 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Loading cargo as before.

26 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Loading cargo as before.

27 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Loading cargo as before.

28 JULY 1945: Location unchanged. Loading cargo as before.

29 JULY 1945: Completed loading and at 0730 got underway for Manila, P.I., via Hollandia, in accordance with most secret vessel movement directive of the Port Commander, Lae, dated 29 July 1945. Proceeding independently without escort.

Position: 0800 - Departing Lae.
1200 - 6° 46'S; 147° 35'E.
2000 - 5° 47'S; 147° 29'E.

30 JULY 1945: Underway as before.

Position: 0800 - 4° 02'S; 145° 21'E.
1200 - 3° 27'S; 144° 55'E.
2000 - 2° 43'S; 143° 20'E.

31 JULY 1945: Arrived at Hollandia at 0900 and reported to Port Director for routing to Manila, P.I. Routing received with orders to get underway at 0600, 1 August.

Position: 0800 - 2° 28'S; 141° 05'E.
1200 - Hollandia.
2000 - Hollandia.

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1 September 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary for Month of August.
Reference: (a) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) Alnav 176-43.

1 AUGUST 1945: Zone time minus 9. At 0630 we got underway from Hollandia, proceeding independently without escort to Manila, in accordance with vessel movement directive of the Port Commander, Lae, New Guinea; dated 29 July 1945. Cargo had been loaded at Lae, New Guinea and we had stopped in Hollandia for routing instructions to Manila. During the first fifteen days of this month we were attached to Service Squadron NINE of Service Force Seventh Fleet. During the last fifteen days of the month we were attached to Service Squadron EIGHT of Service Force, Pacific. During the entire month we were under the operational control of the Commanding General, Army Force, Western Pacific.

Position: 0800: - 2 - 22'S; 140 - 49'E.
1200: - 1 - 47'S; 140 - 29'E.
2000: - 0 - 57'S; 138 - 49'E.

2 AUGUST 1945: Underway to Manila.
Position: 0800: - 0 - 27'N; 136 - 33'E.
1200: - 0 - 54'N; 135 - 47'E.
2000: - 1 - 54'N; 134 - 44'E.

3 AUGUST 1945: Underway to Manila.
Position: 0800: - 3 - 16'N; 133 - 03'E.
1200: - 3 - 42'N; 132 - 33'E.
2000: - 4 - 27'N; 131 - 37'E.

4 AUGUST 1945: Underway to Manila.
Position: 0800: - 5 - 48'N; 130 - 17'E.
1200: - 6 - 23'N; 129 - 54'E.
2000: - 7 - 29'N; 129 - 01'E.

5 AUGUST 1945: Underway to Manila.
Position: 0800: - 9 - 06'N; 127 - 22'E.
1200: - 9 - 37'N; 126 - 50'E.
2000: - 10 - 40'N; 125 - 45'E.

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6 AUGUST 1945: Underway to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 9 - 18'N; 124 - 18'E.
1200 - 9 - 00'N; 123 - 38'E.
2000 - 9 - 22'N; 122 - 26'E.

7 AUGUST 1945: Underway to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 11 - 11'N; 121 - 25'E.
1200 - 11 - 48'N; 121 - 08'E.
2000 - 13 - 05'N; 120 - 08'E.

8 AUGUST 1945: Zone time minus 9. We arrived at Manila and about 1120 we anchored in anchorage #37. The Commanding Officer reported in person to Commander, Service Squadron NINE aboard the U.S.S. GOLD STAR. We were informed by the Port Commander that it would be several days before we commenced discharging cargo.

Position: 0800: - 14 - 24'N; 120 - 40'E.
1200: - Manila.
2000: - Manila.

9 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila.

10 AUGUST 1945: We were moved to Pier 13 Manila during the morning and the Army commenced unloading our cargo immediately.

11 AUGUST 1945: Unloading cargo at Pier 13, Manila.

12 AUGUST 1945: Unloading cargo at Pier 13, Manila.

13 AUGUST 1945: We completed discharging cargo during the morning and at 1700 we were moved out to anchorage #112 Manila. About 1900 we got underway, went alongside the U.S.S. WILDCAT (AW-2) for fresh water, returning to anchorage #112 at 2030. We are awaiting orders from AFWESPAC.

14 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila.

15 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila.

16 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila.

17 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila.

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18 AUGUST 1945: Moved to alongside S.S. LUTHER HURD in berth #21, Manila.

19 AUGUST 1945: Began loading 250 tons of coal from S.S. HURD and 100 tons of frozen beef from ducks alongside.
Location - Manila.

20 AUGUST 1945: Location unchanged. Loading cargo as before.

21 AUGUST 1945: Location unchanged. Loading cargo as before.

22 AUGUST 1945: At 0715 we got underway for Iloilo, Panay Island in accordance with routing directions, serial 00371123 of the Office of Port Director, Manila, dated 21 August 1945. Proceeding independently.

Position: 0800: - Manila.
1200: - 14 - 15'N; 120 - 26'E.
2000: - 13 - 27'N; 121 - 16'E.

23 August 1945: Underway to Iloilo. We arrived at buoy C1 Iloilo about 1730 and anchored awaiting arrival of pilot.

Position: 0800: - 11 - 28'N; 121 - 48'E.
1200: - 10 - 48'N; 121 - 40'E.
2000: - Iloilo.

24 AUGUST 1945: At 0800 a pilot moved us into Iloilo Strait and anchored us off Iloilo. The Army commenced unloading us immediately.

25 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Iloilo. Unloading cargo.

26 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Iloilo. Unloading cargo.

27 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Iloilo. Completed unloading and loaded 30 tons of cargo in #2 hold.

28 AUGUST 1945: At 0700 we got underway for Manila in accordance with routing instructions of the Port Director, Iloilo, serial R00693 of 27 August 1945.

Position: 0800: - 10 - 33'N; 122 - 25'E.
1200: - 10 - 31'N; 121 - 47'E.
2000: - 11 - 51'N; 121 - 09'E.

29 AUGUST 1945: We arrived at Manila at 1620 and anchored in berth #60, awaiting orders.

Position: 0800: - 13 - 40'N; 120 - 02'E.
1200: - 14 - 10'N; 120 - 22'E.
2000: - Manila.

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U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)

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30 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila. Commander Service Division 73 informed us that since 15 August 1945 we had been under the command of Service Squadron EIGHT of Service Force Pacific.

31 AUGUST 1945: Anchored at Manila.

R. B. Johnston
R. B. JOHNSTON.

cc: ComserronEIGHT.
Comservforpacflt.

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

1 October 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of September.
Reference: (a) Cominch serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) Alnav 176-43.

1 SEPTEMBER 1945 to
30 SEPTEMBER 1945:

We were at anchor in Manila during the entire month. The administrative chain of command is Service Division Seventy Three, Service Squadron Seven, Service Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. We are under the operational control of the Commanding General, Army Forces Western Pacific.

R.B. Johnston
R.B. JOHNSTON.

cc: ComServDivSeventyThree
ComSerronSeven
ComServForPacFlt

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)

% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

1 November 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of October.
Reference: (a) Cominch serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(b) Alnav 176-43.

1 October 1945:

Zone time minus 9. Anchored in Manila, P.I. waiting to load cargo. Our administrative chain of command is Commander Service Division Seventy Three; Commander Service Squadron Seven; Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet. We are assigned to the Commanding General, Army Forces Western Pacific for operational control.

2 October 1945: to 5 October 1945:

Anchored in Manila, P.I.

6 October 1945:

Moored to Pier 13, Manila, to load Army cargo.

7 October 1945:

Completed loading 200 tons of cargo and moved outside breakwater.

8 October 1945:

0800: Got underway for Finschaven, New Guinea in accordance with sailing orders from Headquarters Second Port, Army Forces, Western Pacific dated 6 October 1945. Proceeding independently.

Position: 1200 - 14-13 N; 120-25 E
2000 - 13-25 N; 120-16 E

9 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven.
Position: 0800 - 11-45 N; 121-03 E
1200 - 11-03 N; 121-22 E

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)

2000 - 10-13 N; 121-45 E.

10 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800 - 8-48 N; 123-02 E
1200 - 11-03 N; 121-22 E
2000 - 10-13 N; 121-45 E.

11 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800 - 10-22 N; 126-15 E.
1200 - 9-41 N; 126-38 E.
2000 - 8-33 N; 127-36 E.

12 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800: 6-52 N; 129-04 E
1200 - 6-25 N; 129-24 E.
2000 - 5-20 N; 130-18 E.

13 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800 - 3-38 N; 131-35 E
1200 - 3-18 N; 132-10 E.
2000 - 2-34 N; 133-33 E.

14 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800 - 1-27 N; 135-19 E
1200 - 1-17 N; 135-34 E
2000 - 0-28 N; 136-34 E

15 October 1945:

Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800 - 0-37 S; 137-45 E
1200 - 1-08 S; 138-18 E
2000 - 1-41 S; 139-28 E

16 October 1945:

Underway to Finchaven, New Guinea.
Position: 0800 - 2-12 S; 141-12 E
1200 - 2-28 S; 141-55 E
2000 - 2-45 S; 142-50 E

17 October 1945:

Zone time, minus 10/

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)

Position: Underway to Finschaven, New Guinea.
0800 - 3-27 S; 144-55 E
1200 - 4-00 S; 145-12 E
2000 - 5-06 S; 146-05 E

18 October 1945:

Arrived at Finschaven, New Guinea, and commenced unloading cargo at Pier #1.

19 October 1945:

Moored at Finschaven. Completed unloading cargo.

20 October 1945:

Moored at Finschaven.

21 October 1945:

Moored at Finschaven. Loaded 75 tons of general cargo for Manila.

22 October 1945:

Loaded 495 U.S. Army Troops and officers for Hollandia. Underway for Hollandia, New Guinea in accordance with sailing orders from the Port Commander, Base F, Army Forces Pacific, dated 23 October 1945. Proceeding independently.

23 October 1945:

Position: Underway to Hollandia.
0800 - 3-51 S; 145-18 E
1200 - 3-13 S; 144-54 E
2000 - 2-50 S; 143-40 E

24 October 1945:

Position: Zone time, minus 9. Underway to Hollandia.
0800 - 2-25 S; 141-11 E. 1200: Arrived at Hollandia moored to Army Dock # 2 and commenced discharging troops.

25 October 1945:

Location - Hollandia. Commenced loading general cargo for Manila.

26 October 1945 to 31 October 1945:

Loading cargo for Manila.

R.B. Johnston
R.B. JOHNSTON.

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

1 December 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : Commanding Officer, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary for month of November.
Reference: (a) Cominch serial 7152 of 29 October 1945.
(b) Alnav 176-43.

1 November 1945:

Zone time - minus 9. Loading wargo at Army Dock # 2 Hollandia, New Guinea. Our administrative command is Commander Service Division Seventy Three; Commander Service Squadron Seven; Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet. We are assigned to Commanding General, Army Forces, Western Pacific, for operational control.

2 November 1945:

Location - Hollandia. Loading cargo.

3 November 1945:

Location - Hollandia. At 0800 we got underway for Manila, P.I. in accordance with sailing orders from the superintendent of the Water Division, Port Commander, Base "G" Army Forces, Western Pacific dated 2 November 1945. Proceeding independently.

Position: 0800 - 2-15 S; 140-32 E
1200 - 1-23 S; 139-16 E

4 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.
Position: 0800 - -15 S; 137-40 E
1200 - 0-01 N; 137-04 E
2000 - 0-46 N; 135-58 E

5 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 1-52 N; 134-18 E
1200 - 10-55 N; 134-14 E
2000 - 2-39 N; 133-09 E

6 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)

Position: 0800 - 3-51 N; 131-33 E
1200 - 4-18 N; 131-55 E
2000 - 5-08 N; 131-09 E

7 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 6-20 N; 129-55 E
1200 - 7-05 N; 129-20 E
2000 - 8-02 N; 128-24 E

8 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 9-27 N; 127-04 E
1200 - 9-55 N; 126-36 E
2000v- 10-41 N; 125-37 E

9 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 9-19 N; 124-13 E
1200 - 9-02 N; 123-33 E
2000 - 9-32 N; 122-25 E

10 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila.
Position: 0800 - 11-18 N; 121-26 E
1200 - 11-56 N; 121-04 E
2000v- 13-04 N; 121-28 E

11 November 1945:

Underway from Hollandia to Manila. 1000:
Anchored in Manila Bay.

12 November 1945:

Anchored in Manila Bay.

13 November 1945:

Location - Manila. Moved to Pier # 13 and
commenced unloading cargo.

14 November 1945 to 20 November 1945:

Unloading cargo at Manila.

U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)

21 November 1945:

Location - Manila. Completed unloading cargo.
0945: Underway to Samar in accordance with sailing orders from
superintendent of Water Division, Port Command, APO - 75
Army Forces Western Pacific dated 19 November 1945.
Position: 1200 - 14-25 N; 120-41 E
2000 - 13-31 N; 120-04 E

22 November 1945:

Underway from Manila to Samar.
Position: 0800 - 11-43 N; 121-00 E
1200 - 11-05 N; 121-17 E
2000 - 9-55 N; 121-54 E

23 November 1945:

Underway from Manila to Samar.
Position: 0800 - 8-50 N; 123-13 E
1200 - 9-02 N; 123-46 E
2000 - 9-31 N; 124-46 E

24 November 1945:

Underway as before. 1100: Anchored in San
Pedro Bay, off Tacloban, Leyte.

25 November 1945:

Anchored in San Pedro Bay. 0845: Under-
way for Guiuan, Samar, in accordance with visual message
240755 of Port Director Tacloban. 1410: Anchored in
Guiuan Harbor, Samar.

26 November 1945:

Anchored at Guiuan. 0900: Underway for Balusao
Samar to take on fresh water. 1215: Anchored at Balusao.

27 November 1945:

Anchored at Balusao; took on fresh water during
the morning. 1450: Underway from Guiuan. 1800: Anchored
in Guiuan Harbor to await dock space to load cargo.

28 November 1945 to 30 November 1945:

Anchored at Guiuan, Samar.

R.B. Johnston
R.B. JOHNSTON.



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U. S. S. CLAIBORNE (AK-171)
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Handwritten signature/initials

RECEIVED
24 October 1945
Navy Department
Secy's Office - Records Div.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Ship's History.

Reference: (a) Alpac 202-45.

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following history of the USS CLAIBORNE (AK-171) is respectfully submitted.

2. The CLAIBORNE was commissioned 19 April 1945 at New Orleans, Louisiana. After a week of fitting out and provisioning in the New Orleans area she proceeded to Galveston, Texas for shakedown. The shakedown period lasted from 2 May 1945 to 7 May 1945. Following shakedown four days availability were assigned in Brown shipyard, Houston, Texas. Upon completion of this availability the CLAIBORNE was ordered to proceed to Gulfport, Miss. to load her first cargo.

3. Arriving at Gulfport 15 May 1945 the CLAIBORNE loaded a BEB cargo and 25,000 cases of beer destined for Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. Departing Gulfport on 20 May 1945 the CLAIBORNE headed for the Panama Canal. A safe passage through the Canal was made on 26 May 1945 and the following day was spent in Balboa, C.Z. From Balboa the CLAIBORNE went straight to Hollandia, arriving there 5 July 1945. The trip from Gulfport was slightly over ten thousand miles, with forty five (45) days at sea.

4. At Hollandia all cargo was discharged and the CLAIBORNE reported to Service Force Seventh Fleet for duty. She was immediately assigned to Army Forces, Western Pacific for operational control.

5. The first trip for the Army was to go to Milne Bay and move 275 troops and officers of the 903rd Air Base Security Battalion to Oro Bay and Lae. This occupied the period from 15 July to 24 July 1945. At Lae a full load of general cargo was loaded and on 29 July the CLAIBORNE departed for Manila, P.I. Arriving in Manila on 8 August 1945, the cargo was discharged. On 22 August the CLAIBORNE took a load of fresh meat to the 41st Division at Iloilo, on the island of Panay. Returning to Manila on 29 August the CLAIBORNE lay at anchor empty until 8 October 1945.

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San Francisco, California

6. On 8 October 1945 the CLAIBORNE left Manila for Finschaven, New Guinea with a load of potatoes, mail, and general cargo. Ten days later at Finschaven all cargo was discharged and 495 high-point Army personnel were loaded aboard for movement to Hollandia, whence they were to be returned to the United States for demobilization. At Hollandia 24 October the CLAIBORNE unloaded her passengers and commenced loading a general cargo for Manila.

R.B. Johnston
R.B. JOHNSTON.