

Contributed by Frank Gerhardt

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

From: 1 APRIL 1942.

To: 30 APRIL 1942.

42239

1-8 APRIL 1942

Operating under CNO. Naval Transportation service.
At Naval Base Annex (Army Base) Norfolk, Va., loading
cargo and embarking passengers. Marines and Naval
Construction Battalion for project "Straw".

9 APRIL

Completed loading.

0938 Shifted berth to anchorage in Hampton Roads.

10 APRIL

0503 Underway as unit of Convoy and Escort - Task Force
38 (Admiral Sharp in Texas) enroute Norfolk, Va., to Cristobal,
C.Z.

11-17 APRIL

Underway as before making good S.E., S and S.W. courses,
speed 12 knots. Fog and rough sea. "Bleacher" section of
convoy joined up on 11 April. On 15 April, passed thru Mona
Passage.

18 APRIL

1156 Arrived Cristobal and proceeded to transit canal.
2319 Arrived Balboa and docked. Topped off in fuel and
provisions.

19 APRIL

1039 Underway, enroute Balboa, C.Z., to Tutuila, Samoa,
in convoy with escort (TRENTON, CONCORD and destroyers)
Destination - "Bleacher" and "Straw".

20-28 APRIL

No change.

29 APRIL

Old destroyers turned back to Panama. 2 DD's (WARRINGTON
and SAMPSON) joined escort.

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

From: 1 MAY 1942.

To: 31 MAY 1942.

4 MAY

0700 1 CL and 2 DD's relieved escort.

6 MAY

1310 HONOLULU and 3 DD's joined escort.

1410 Convoy split, leaving in this group: HEYWOOD, FULLER, MCCAWLEY (SOPA), BRASTAGI, FOMALHAUT, BELLATRIX. Escort - HONOLULU and 3 DD's.

1945 Changed base course to 284 true, speed 14.

8 MAY

0816 Arrived Pago Pago, Samoa. Transferred passengers and commenced discharging cargo.

9-31 MAY

Unloading and loading cargo for various sub activities of "Straw". Operations hampered by frequent rains.

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

From: 1 JUNE 1942

To: 30 JUNE 1942

3 JUNE

1654 Underway for Wallis, Island (French) with escort O'BRIEN.

6 JUNE

0809 Arrived Wallis Island. Suffered engine casualty - broken coupling to electric reduction gear. With aid of Naval Construction Battalion unit, satisfactorily repaired during stay at Wallis Island).

7-19 JUNE

Unloading cargo. Operations hampered by rain squalls.

20 JUNE

1729 Underway for Pago Pago without escort - still operating under despatch instructions from ComTransDivsPacFor.

21 JUNE

0833 Arrived Pago Pago. Discharging cargo. Completed duty with "Straw" project. Reported to ComTransDiv 8 for duty with Amphibious Force, South Pacific.

22 JUNE

1328 Underway for Wellington, N.Z. via Tonga, Islands (British) steaming singly in accordance with CincPac despatch 100010 of June.

24 JUNE

1308 Anchored Tongatabu for WHITNEY force to inspect main engine repairs.

25 JUNE

0758 Underway for Wellington, N.Z. Steaming singly.

30 JUNE

1553 Anchored Wellington. Reported to ComTransDiv-8 and Com Transports for duty.

S E C R E T

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

From: 1 JULY 1942.

To: 31 JULY 1942.

42835

1

1 JULY

Fueled and provisioned ship.

2-17 JULY

Standing by in Wellington with other U.S. and British units for training.

18-21 JULY

Loading for operations. Receiving Marine stores and passengers (Engineer support group - 148 men, 10 officers).

22 JULY

0830 Underway in formation in accordance with ComTransDivs SoPacFor Movement Order 1-42 of 21 July 1942 for Fiji Islands for rehearsal landings.

OpPlan - Rehearsal AR-42 dated 22 July 1942 from ComAmphibFor SoPac.

Task Force 62, Rear Admiral Turner in McCawley. This vessel in unit 62.1.3 (HUNTER LIGGETT, ALCHIBA, FOMALHAUT, BETELGEUSE) and group 62.1 (Captain Reifsnider in HUNTER LIGGETT). This group known as TransGroup X-ray which is further divided into Transdivs Afirm, Baker, Cast, Dog and Easy. FOMALHAUT in div Cast. Noon posit. 41-39S, 175-06E. Made good c-145, sp. 11.

23 JULY

1430 BAGLEY and HELM joined escort.

Noon posit. 38-43S, 179-50 E. Made good C-41, Sp. 13.

24 JULY

Ship laboring in heavy seas and high wind. Unable to maintain position in convoy. Speed reduced to 12 kts.

Noon posit. 33-38S, 179-55E. Made good C-001, Sp. 12.5.

25 JULY

Heavy seas and wind continued. Moderating in afternoon.

Noon posit. 29-18S, 179-46W, made good C-004, Sp. 10.5

26 JULY

1420 Additions to convoy joined formations. Portion of attack and support force for this task force (1 BB, 4CA'S, 3 CV's, 17 DD's) (Task Force 61) passed our formation and proceeded

independently. Noon posit. 23-54S, 179-49E, made good C-357, Sp. 13.5.

27 JULY

Noon posit. 19-33S, 179-56W, made good C-001, sp. 11.

28 JULY

Making approach on Koro Island, Fiji Islands.
0934 Arrived in Transport Area. Hoisted out eight landing boats - 21 minutes. Exercised boats in landing operations with troops of BARNETT.

29-30 JULY

Rehearsing approach and exercising boats with troops from BARNETT.

31 JULY

Standing by at Koro Island until 1700 when underway in formation with convoy and escort for assault on Japanese-held Guadalcanal and Tulagi-Gavutu Island in accordance with ComAmphibForSoPac Op.Order A5-42 dated 30 July 1942.

ComAmphibForSoPac. Opplan A3-42 dated 30 July 1942. This vessel in unit 62.1.3 (HUNTER LIGGETT, ALCHIBA, FOMALHAUT, BETELGEUSE) of Transdiv Cast of Trans Group Xray (62.1) Captain Reifsnider in HUNTER LIGGETT; Task Force 62, Rear Admiral Turner in McCAWLEY.

60552

SECRET

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

From: 1 AUGUST 1942.

To: 31 AUGUST 1942.

RECEIVED SC FILES

From 465

OCT 16 1942

ROUTE TO- 16-E-3

Op File No (SC) A12-1/AK22

Doc. No. 63827

Copy No. 1

PRN 45

43163

1

1 AUGUST

0800 18-42S 179-40E.
1200 19-05S 179-13E Made good C-183 Sp-7.
2000 19-37S 177-40E.

2 AUGUST

Received, from destroyer, ComTaskGp 62.1 (Captain Reifsnider in HUNTER LIGGETT) Opplan 1-42 dated 1 Aug. 1942.

0800 19-07S 174-55E.
1200 19-00S 174-08E Made good C-271 Sp-12.
2000 19-06S 172-19E.

3 AUGUST

0800 18-18S 169-56E.
1200 18-12S 169-11E Made good C-280 Sp-12.
2000 18-04S 167-37E.

4 AUGUST

Destroyers refueling from AP's and AK's (not the FOMALHAUT).

0800 17-19S 164-47E.
1200 17-14S 164-06E Made good C-281 Sp-12.
2000 17-02S 162-36E.

5 AUGUST

0800 16-59S 159-51E.
1200 16-32S 159-02E Made good C-278 Sp-12.
2000 15-16S 159-30E.

6 AUGUST

0800 13-01S 159-04E.
1200 12-11 S 159-04E Made good C-000 Sp-12.
2000 10-25S 159-00E.

7 AUGUST

0558 Arrived in Transport Area off Guadalcanal Island. Hoisted out boats and commenced landing force operations against Japanese-held bases after heavy bombardment by support groups. Boats first used by BARNETT for her troops. On return to ship, commenced discharging cargo.
1320 Force attacked by enemy planes. Heavily bombed transport area. See attached action report and special report.

Ship suffered no damage.

1457 Second attack by enemy planes. See attached action report and special report. Ship suffered no damage. Anchored and continued discharging.

8 AUGUST

Discharging cargo on twenty-four hour basis but very slow procedure due to shortage of transportation - using landing boats for small stuff and ship's two tank lighters. Cargo mostly large gear requiring lighters. Requested from other ships but none arrived.

1045 General Quarters. 40 Bombers reported enroute this area for attack. Got underway in formation for open water in Bay. 1201 Large enemy bombers (about 12, probably Mitsubishi 96) came in at very low altitude (50-100 feet) from true bearing about 030. No bombing or torpedoes observed. Planes wound in and around convoy - strafing at close quarters. Repelled with all batteries. All planes apparently destroyed. One member of #3 - 3" crew (WATKINS, H.F., BM2c) received gun shot wound in left arm (After action was over, found on gun platform a 20MM tracer slug of United States origination with U.S. markings.) See attached action report and special report. Ship suffered no damage.

Returned to area off beach and resumed unloading, lying to.

9 AUGUST

0140 Enemy plane dropped flares along beach.

0158 Went to General Quarters and stood by to leave area. Smooth sea and very dark night. No further action in vicinity other than rifle fire on beach but reports of prolonged and heavy gunfire were heard and flashes seen toward Savo and Florida Islands.

0645 Secured from General Quarters and endeavored to unload. However, unable to have boats unloaded at beach due to working parties there being engaged in repelling enemy snipers.

0845 Enemy aircraft reported approaching. Went to General Quarters and stood out from area in formation. Maneuvering in open bay against possible air and submarine attack.

1113 No action developed during morning. Returned to loading area preparatory to resuming discharging.

Received CTF62 desp. 081418 and CTG62.1 desp. 090105 directing retirement. On signal from CTF62, hoisted in all boats and prepared to sortie.

1520 Departed area in screened formation thru Lengo Channel (swept) enroute to Noumea, New Caledonia. Transports in four sections - 1. BARNETT, LIBRA 2. FULLER, LEGION, BELLATRIX 3. LIGGETT, FOMALHAUT, BETELGEUSE 4. CRESCENT CITY, HAYES, ADAMS, ALHENA. Escort of cruisers and destroyers. OTC Capt. REIFSNIDER in HUNTER LIGGETT. 2000 9-33S 160-58E.

10 AUGUST

0800 10-15S 162-51E.
1200 10-54S 163-29E. Made good C-151, Sp-11.
2000 12-13S.164-05E.

11 AUGUST

0555 Sighted other units of our convoy on parallel course.
0950 Two parts of convoy formed up with escort of cruisers and destroyers.

0800 14-04S 165-11E.
1200 14-46S 165-44E. Made good C-151, Sp-11.
2000 16-23S 166-25E.

12 AUGUST

Received ComSoPac 110900, entrance plan for Noumea.
0800 18-51S 167-41E.
1200 19-34S 168-02E. Made good C-156 Sp-13.5.
2000 21-06S 168-41E.

13 AUGUST

0800 23-13S 167-14E.
1200 22-49S 166-35E.
1621 Anchored at Noumea, New Caledonia.

14 AUGUST

Anchored standing by on 12 hour notice.
Received ComTransDivs Ltr. 0018 of 14 Aug. 1942,
directing berthing at dock and shifting cargo.

15 AUGUST

Underway and moored to Nickel Pier, Noumea.
Commenced discharging and shifting cargo preparatory
to reloading for Guadalcanal.

16 AUGUST

1700 Completed shifting cargo. Underway and went alongside
BETELGEUSE. Receiving cargo from BETELGEUSE and by boats
from ZEILIN.

17 AUGUST

Received C.T.F. 62 OpOrder A7-42 of 17 Aug.
Task Organization - Guadalcanal and Tulagi detachment
(62.1.7 - Commander Flanagan in FOMALHAUT) consisting of
Escort (Comdesdiv 7, Comdr. Smith in Blue, Henley and Helm)
and convoy (FOMALHAUT, ALHENA).

Received C.T.F. 62 desp. 170820 directing execution of Op
Order A7-42 at 0800 20th. Continued loading.
1700 Underway from alongside BETELGEUSE to anchorage.

18 AUGUST

Sent FOMALHAUT (CTU 62.1.7) desp. 172000 to Desdiv 7, Sortie
Order.
0800 Underway from Noumea in accordance with C.T.F. 62 OpOrder
A7-42 in company with Escort, enroute Guadalcanal via Espiritu
Santo.
1200 22-49S. 166-35E. Made good C-173, Sp.-12.
2000 22-49S. 168-12E.

19 AUGUST

Received C.T.F. 62 desp. 180330 modifying OpOrder A7-42.
Directed to rendezvous at sea with ALHENA and proceed direct
to Guadalcanal.
0800 19-59S. 168-14E.
1200 19-08S. 167-57E. Made good C-021, Sp. 10.
2000 17-31S. 167-09E.

20 AUGUST

0800 15-25S. 166-12E.
1200 14-31S. 166-02E. Made good C-339, sp. 12.5.
1445 ALHENA joined convoy and fell in astern of FOMALHAUT.
2000 13-19S. 165-34E.

21 AUGUST

Received reports of enemy action in Guadalcanal area and
Commanding General's 210413 recommending FOMALHAUT be de-
layed in arriving.
Received C.T.F. 62 desp. 210702 directing this vessel turn
back and proceed to Lat. 11S, Long. 164E. Other ships (ALHENA
and Escort) to proceed to Tulagi.
Sent FOMALHAUT (CTU 62.1.7) desp. 210903 directing Desdiv-7
and ALHENA to proceed.
0800 10-52S. 163-37E.
1200 10-12S, 163-07E. Made good C-326, sp. 13.
2000 9-56S, 161-36E.
2012 Changed course to 095 and proceeded singly in accordance
with CTF 62 210702.

22 AUGUST

Received C.T.F. 62 desp. 211210 modifying his 210702. FOMALHAUT directed rendezvous 103, 163E at 1500 L.C.T. today then proceed to Guadalcanal and unload.

0800 11-01S, 163-47E.

0900 Changed course to 315 for rendezvous.

1200 10-27S, 163-29E. Made good C-125, Dist. 27 mi.

1510 MANLEY and STRINGHAM joined this vessel as escort.

23 AUGUST

0220 Passed ALHENA and HELM on opposite course distance about 3 miles. No signals exchanged.

0657 Anchored off Kukum - unloading area and commenced discharging cargo to lighters from beach.

Received C.T.F. 62 desp. 212300 directing this vessel to tow BLUE (damaged by torpedo in Lunga Roads last night) on departure from this area.

Received information of approach of enemy surface force and C.T.F. 62 desp. 220418 directing departure with BLUE in tow not later than 1900 today.

1545 STRINGHAM came alongside to port to take fuel oil.

Continued discharging to starboard.

1640 Commenced receiving wounded and sick from Guadalcanal and preparing for 300 prisoners to be removed.

1832 Torpedo passed about 20 yards astern, running at high speed with wide wake, and ran up on Kukum beach. Ship's position: 2800 yards bearing 260 true from Lunga Point.

Ship's head 055. Torpedo track approximately due south which would place source in open water of Lunga Roads - probably a submarine, judging from accuracy of aim although no sound contact was reported. Weather - misty with occasional rain; visibility about 7000 yards.

1833 STRINGHAM cleared from side, carrying away hose and mooring lines, and proceeded to suspected submarine position, and dropped depth charges.

1834 This vessel went ahead slow while heaving in anchor and clearing boats from ship's side.

Due to the emergency, all operations with cargo and wounded ceased. Following effected: 75% scheduled cargo discharged; 34 marines and 31 Army transferred; 11 sick and wounded received; 41 return passengers received; unable to take prisoners. Underway and, with STRINGHAM, commenced search for BLUE (damaged), HENLEY and MANLEY - latter two attempting to take BLUE in tow.

1951 Sighted HENLEY with BLUE in tow and prepared to take over tow. Due imminent arrival of enemy surface craft and time required to transfer tow, Comdesdiv 7 in HENLEY requested permission to sink BLUE, having already received authority from

CTF 62. This was granted and at 2058 FOMALHAUT proceeded toward Lengo Channel screened by MANLEY enroute Espiritu Santo in accordance with previous orders. HENLEY and STRINGHAM remained to transfer crew and sink BLUE.

24 AUGUST

Received CTF 62 desp. 231225 directing us to pick up grounded patrol plane anchored south of Rennell Island.

0245 Changed course to 215 and proceeded to carry out this directive.

0800 10-48S, 160-26E.

1200 11-30S, 159-51E. Made good C-184, sp. - 14.

1322 Contacted HENLEY and STRINGHAM and at 1409 located patrol plane at anchor - Lat. 11-45S, 160-17E.

1555 Hoisted plane on #2 hatch; received crew of 4 officers and 6 men in good health.

1610 MANLEY transferred to us 4 badly wounded marines previously evacuated from Guadalcanal battle area.

1632 Departed for Espiritu Santo screened by HENLEY, MANLEY and STRINGHAM.

2000 12-05S, 160-51E.

25 AUGUST

0800 13-14S, 163-17E.

1153 Changed course radically and went ahead emergency full to avoid submarine, sound contact with which was reported by HENLEY who fired two depth charges.

1200 13-34S, 164E, made good C-121, Sp. - 13.

1205 Resumed base course 120. No further evidence of submarines in locality.

2000 14-24S, 165-40E.

26 AUGUST

0828 Anchored in Pekoa Channel, Espiritu Santo. Transferred recovered plane and personnel to base.

27 AUGUST

0636 Went alongside SABINE, fueled ship and returned to anchorage at 1140. Standing by to receive cargo.

28 AUGUST

Receiving cargo and personnel for Guadalcanal and Tulagi.

30 AUGUST

Received CTF 62 desp. 291135 - Operation order forming Task Unit 62.2.2 (Commander Flanagan in FOMALHAUT) FOMALHAUT, MANLEY, STRINGHAM and MCKEAN. Unit to rendezvous at 0800, 31 August, proceed to arrive Guadalcanal 0630, 2 September, discharge cargo there and Tulagi 2 and 3 September departing the third for Espiritu Santo.
Received CTF 62 desp. 292200 modifying his 291135. Each movement delayed 24 hours.

31 AUGUST

Loaded, standing by for departure.

U.S.S. POMALHAUT

5 PM, San Francisco, Calif.,
August 12, 1942.

SECRET.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Task Force Sixty-Two.
(2) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Action Report.
Reference: (a) Art. 712, U.S.N.R. 1920.
(b) CincPac Conf. ltr. 16CL-42 of 19 March, 1942.
Enclosure: (A) Special Action Report (3).

1. In accordance with reference (a), it is reported that this vessel was in action against enemy forces (Japanese) on 7 and 8 August, 1942, in Lengo Roads between the islands of Guadalcanal and Florida in the Solomon Islands.

2. The following chronology shows the events:

7 August

1320 While unloading cargo, this force was attacked by high level bombers which heavily bombed transport area. Ship's batteries replied. See enclosed special action report for details. Ship suffered no damage.

1457 Second attack - dive bombers. Ship's batteries replied. See enclosed special action report for details. Ship suffered no damage. Anchored in unloading area and resumed discharging cargo. This procedure continued thru night 7-8 August. Unloading hampered by lack of tank lighter transportation.

8 August

1045 General quarters. 40 Bombers reported enroute this area for attack. Got underway in formation for open water in Bay.

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

SECRET.

Subject: Action Report.

8 August cont'd

1201 Large enemy bombers (about 12, probably Mitsubishi 96) came in at very low altitude (50-100 feet) from true bearing about 030. No bombing or torpedoes observed. Planes wound in and around convoy - strafing at close quarters. Repelled with all batteries. All planes apparently destroyed. One member of #3 - 3" crew (Watkins, H.F., BM2c) received gun shot wound in left arm (After action was over, found on gun platform a 20MM tracer slug of United States origination with U.S. markings.) See enclosed special action report for details. Ship suffered no damage. Returned to area off beach and resumed unloading, lying to.

3. The Executive Officer reports that the ship's company, officers and men, fought their guns and the ship in a manner upholding the highest traditions of fighting men and the Navy; that there was no panic but instead, a prompt manning of stations and individual desire to reply to the enemy's fire; that all hands conducted themselves admirably in the face of bombing and strafing.

JOHN D. ALVIS

Copy to:
War Diary (2)

Distribution of enclosures:
Cominch (1) direct.
CincPac (1) direct.
ComTaskFor-62 (1) herewith.
War Diary (2).
Original herewith.

CONFIDENTIAL

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

LOCATION OF SHIP Anchored
Lango Roads off Entrance U.S.S. FORMALHAUT

DATE August 7, 1942
of Tenaru River, Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Island Group

NOTES Lat. $9^{\circ} 24' S$ Long. $160^{\circ} 06' E$

- (a) Repel Attack First - Then collect data for this report!
(b) Do not "Gun Deck" this report - If data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for which no data is available.
(c) These sheets are to be filled out immediately after action is completed with data available from ship's log, memory, and consultation with ship's officers. Information is essential in order that the effectiveness of our equipment can be determined. Where data is of doubtful accuracy fill in with general terms. The obtaining of this information must not be allowed in any way to adversely affect the handling of equipment during action.

1. Surprise Attack (yes or no) Yes
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Binoculars
(If by Radar state type of set) _____
3. Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less than 5 miles) 3 Miles
4. Number of planes 18
5. Type of plane (Fighter, scout, dive-bomber) Twin Engine
Type of attack Bombing High Level Bomber
6. Speed & Altitude (high and fast, intermediate and fast, low and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow)
High and fast
7. Guns firing #2 & 4, 3".50 - #6 & 8 20 MM, #1 & 2 & 4 50 Cal.
Method of control Local method spotting Local
8. Ammunition expended 3".50, 6 Rds.; 20 MM, 120 Rds.; 50 Cal., 200 Rds.
9. Percent service allowance expended .008
10. Approximate time tracking to first shot 10 Sec.
11. Approximate time of first hits None
12. Approximate time first shot to last shot 4 Mins.
13. Approximate position angle open fire 50°
14. Approximate position cease fire 65°
15. Approximate bearing first shot 240°
16. Approximate bearing last shot 270°
17. Approximate range first shot 7000 Yds. Slant Range
18. Approximate range last shot 5000 Yds. Slant Range

(OVER)

CONFIDENTIAL

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

LOCATION OF SHIP Anchored in Lengo Roads U.S.S. FGMALHAUT

off entrance of Tenaru River DATE August 7, 1942

NOTES

- (a) Repel Attack First - Then collect data for this report!
- (b) Do not "Gun Deck" this report - If data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for which no data is available.
- (c) These sheets are to be filled out immediately after action is completed with data available from ship's log, memory, and consultation with ship's officers. Information is essential in order that the effectiveness of our equipment can be determined. Where data is of doubtful accuracy fill in with general terms. The obtaining of this information must not be allowed in any way to adversely affect the handling of equipment during action.

1. Surprise Attack (yes or no) No
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Binoculars
(If by Radar state type of set) _____
3. Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less than 5 miles) 4 Miles
4. Number of planes Nine
5. Type of plane (Fighter, scout, dive-bomber) Dive Bomber
Type of attack Dive Bombing
6. Speed & Altitude (high and fast, intermediate and fast, low and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow)

7. Guns firing #2, 3, 4, 3", 50 Cal.
Method of control Local method spotting Local
8. Ammunition expended 19 Rds. 3", 50 Cal.
9. Percent service allowance expended .015
10. Approximate time tracking to first shot None
11. Approximate time of first hits None
12. Approximate time first shot to last shot 3 Mins.
13. Approximate position angle open fire 40°
14. Approximate position cease fire 40°
15. Approximate bearing first shot 185°
16. Approximate bearing last shot 185°
17. Approximate range first shot 8000 Yds.
18. Approximate range last shot 6000 Yds.

(OVER)

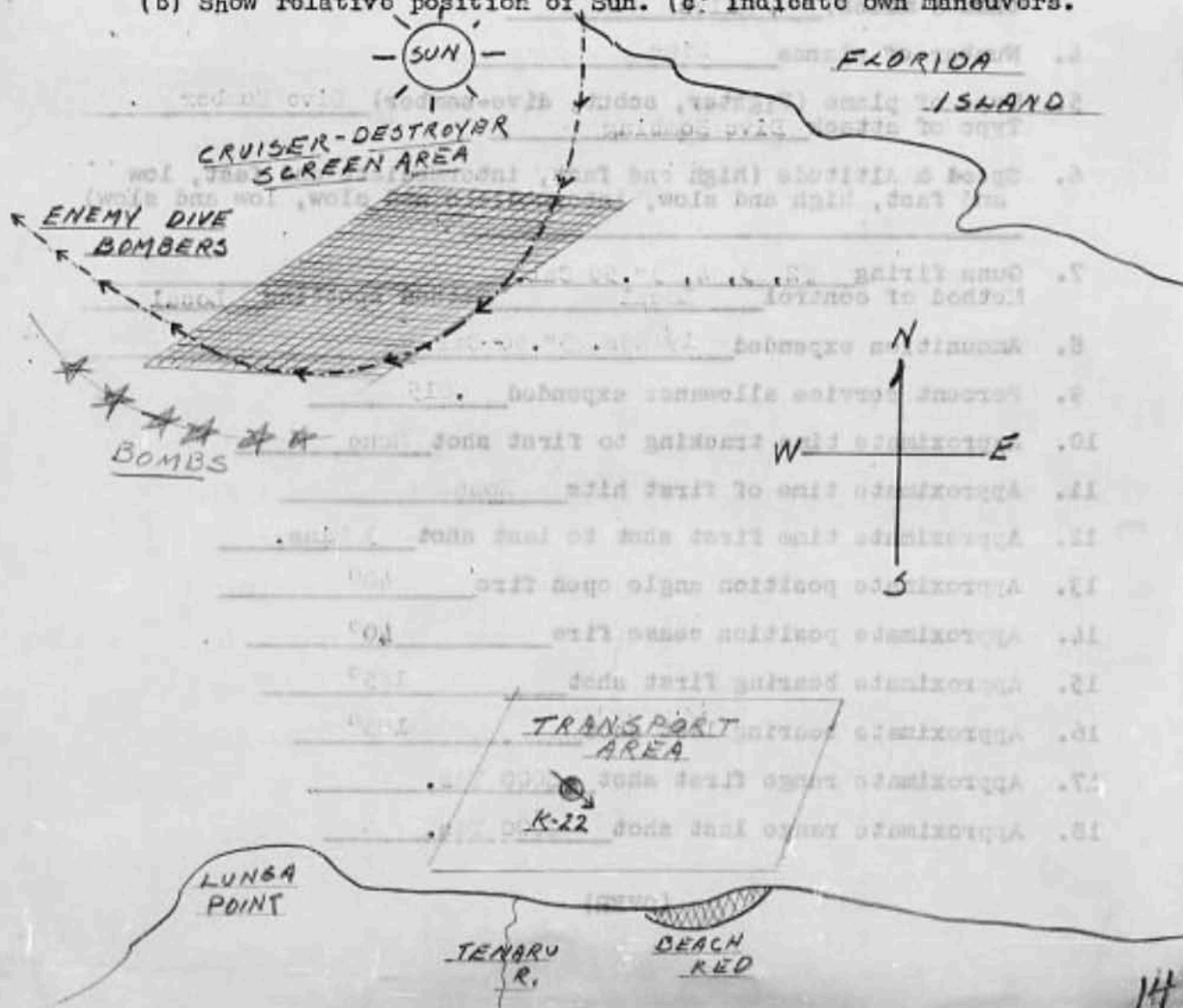
REPORT NUMBER: 100-100000-1000

- 19. Approximate altitude of bomb release _____ ?
Type bomb _____ ?
- 20. Approximate range torpedo release _____ ? Size of
torpedo _____ ?
- 21. Hits on ship None Was ship strafed No
Size of gun _____
- 22. Number near bomb misses None Casualties from near
misses None
- 23. Planes shot down - Sure None Possible None Damaged None
By what size gun _____
- 24. Details of damage to target by gunfire if available None

- 25. Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad, poor) Good
- 26. Pattern sizes (large, small excessive) Large

SKETCH

- (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
- (b) Show relative position of Sun. (c) Indicate own maneuvers.



CONFIDENTIAL

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

LOCATION OF SHIP Steaming in formation 9 Miles U.S.S. FCMALHAUT

from Lango Point, bearing 192° T

DATE August 8, 1942

NOTES

- (a) Repel Attack First - Then collect data for this report!
- (b) Do not "Gun Deck" this report - If data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for which no data is available.
- (c) These sheets are to be filled out immediately after action is completed with data available from ship's log, memory, and consultation with ship's officers. Information is essential in order that the effectiveness of our equipment can be determined. Where data is of doubtful accuracy fill in with general terms. The obtaining of this information must not be allowed in any way to adversely affect the handling of equipment during action.

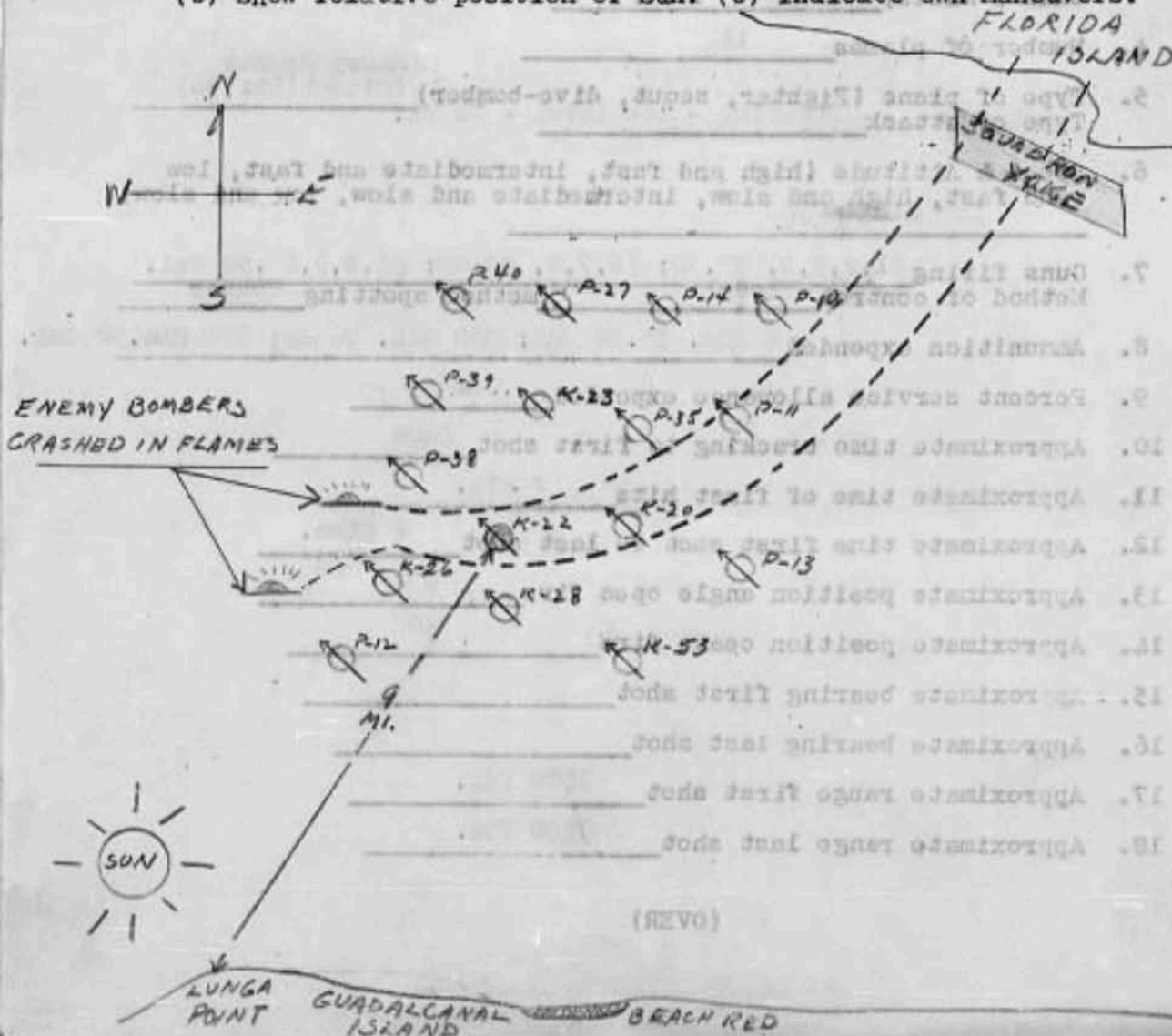
1. Surprise Attack (yes or no) No
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Binoculars
(If by Radar state type of set) _____
3. Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less than 5 miles) 3 Miles
4. Number of planes 14
5. Type of plane (Fighter, scout, dive-bomber) Heavy Bomber (Mitsubishi 96)
Type of attack Strafing - low level - 70 ft.
6. Speed & Altitude (high and fast, intermediate and fast, low and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow)
Low & fast
7. Guns firing #1,2,3,4, 3".50; #6,7,8, 20 MM; #1,2,3,4 .50 Cal.
Method of control Local method spotting Tracer
8. Ammunition expended 8 Rds. 3".50 Cal; 280 Rds. 20 MM; 600 Rds.50 Cal.
9. Percent service allowance expended .022
10. Approximate time tracking to first shot None
11. Approximate time of first hits 2 Min.
12. Approximate time first shot to last shot 4 Mins.
13. Approximate position angle open fire 0°
14. Approximate position cease fire 0°
15. Approximate bearing first shot _____
16. Approximate bearing last shot _____
17. Approximate range first shot 2000 Yds.
18. Approximate range last shot 3000 Yds.

(OVER)

19. Approximate altitude of bomb release --
Type bomb --
20. Approximate range torpedo release -- Size of
torpedo --
21. Hits on ship 3 Was ship strafed Yes
Size of gun .50 Cal.
22. Number near bomb misses -- Casualties from near
misses --
23. Planes shot down - Sure One Possible One Damaged --
By what size gun 20 mm and .50 Cal. M.G.
24. Details of damage to target by gunfire if available Two planes
 from aft came close aboard one port one stbd. Plane on stbd. side
 sustained hits from .50 Cal M.G. and B.A.R., Plane on port side
 sustained hits from 20 mm and .50 Cal. M.G.
25. Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad, poor) Good
Both planes seen to crash in flames about 1000 yds. from ship
26. Pattern sizes (large, small excessive) --

SKETCH

- (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
(b) Show relative position of Sun. (c) Indicate own maneuvers.



(OVER)

SECRET

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

From: 1 September 1942.

To: 30 September 1942.

43918

1 SEPTEMBER

- 0625 Underway for Espiritu Santo for rendezvous at entrance with escort.
0910 Escort of APD's (McKEAN, MANLEY, STRINGHAM) joined this vessel forming Task Unit 62.2.2 (Comdr. Flanagan in FOMALHAUT). Proceeded towards Guadalcanal.
1200 14-41S, 167-23E. Made good C-017, Sp. - 11.
2000 13-49S, 165-43E.

2 SEPTEMBER

- 0800 12-27S, 163-04E.
1200 11-57S, 162-16E. Made good C-298, Sp. - 14.
2000 10-57S, 161-06E.
Overcast and rainy throughout day. Positions by dead reckoning only.

3 SEPTEMBER

- Slightly delayed in arrival due to poor visibility during past twenty-four hours. While approaching unloading area at Kukum, Commanding General advised us of impending air raid and directed delay in unloading until further word. Remained underway in Lunga Roads. No attack developed.
- 1040 Anchored off Kukum and commenced discharging cargo.
1645 Discontinued work on cargo and got underway for Tulagi.
1831 Anchored in Tulagi Harbor and prepared to discharge cargo. Authorities at Tulagi not ready to handle - delayed until 2150 when 1 YP and 2 tank lighters were made available.
1845 LITTLE and GREGORY came alongside to port for fueling. Completed LITTLE at 0153 and GREGORY at 0540, 4 Sept. Received 10 sick and wounded from Tulagi.

4 SEPTEMBER

- 0555 Discontinued discharging and got underway for Guadalcanal.
0742 Anchored off Kukum and commenced discharging cargo.
1210 Received report of impending air raid. Got underway and maneuvered in open water of Lunga Roads. No attack developed.
1416 Returned to anchorage and resumed unloading. Sent FOMALHAUT desp. 040530 requesting decision on whether to complete unloading at Guadalcanal or proceed to Tulagi for night.
1801 Underway for Tulagi.
Received CTF-62 desp. 040940 directing us to proceed to Tulagi and unload.

4 SEPTEMBER CONT'D

- 1936 Anchored in Tulagi. Unable to discharge cargo because station could furnish no boats or working parties.
2032 STRINGHAM came alongside to port for fueling and cleared at 2340.

5 SEPTEMBER

- 0100 Observed gunfire in direction of Guadalcanal. Assumed to be enemy destroyer night raiders as reported by Commanding General on previous occasions. No action in this vicinity.
0602 Underway for Guadalcanal.
0745 Anchored off Kukum but advised that shore activity was unable to unload until later as all boats were busy searching for survivors from LITTLE and GREGORY, sunk in last night's action. Got underway and maneuvered in open water.
0852 Returned and anchored off Kukum. Resumed discharging cargo.
0930 McKEAN came alongside to port for fueling.
1006 Received warning of approach of enemy aircraft. McKEAN underway from alongside. Got underway for open water. No action developed.
1139 Returned to anchorage and resumed unloading.
1217 Received warning of imminent enemy air attack. Got underway and cleared area.
1238 Observed bomb explosions on Guadalcanal and adjacent water.
1242 Observed six large enemy bombers, altitude about 20,000 feet, on port quarter on northerly course; in sight only for few seconds between clouds.
Opened fire with 3" A.A. guns; expended 8 rounds. No results. Planes disappeared in clouds. No attack made on shipping.
1515 Returned to anchorage and resumed unloading.
1545 McKEAN came alongside to port for fueling and cleared at 1810.
1825 MANLEY came alongside to port for fueling and cleared at 1928.
2001 Having completed discharging all cargo, transfer and receipt of personnel and loading boats on board for transportation, got underway from Guadalcanal enroute to Espiritu Santo with escort (McKEAN, MANLEY and STRINGHAM).

6 SEPTEMBER

- 0615 STRINGHAM left formation and proceeded as directed to pick up SARATOGA flyers reported to have landed from their float; STRINGHAM to rejoin this unit.

6 SEPTEMBER CONT'D

0800 11-08S, 161-11E.
1200 11-25S, 161-39E. Made good C-142, Sp. - 12.
1550 MANLEY left formation and proceeded back for Guadalcanal
in accordance with previous directive from CTF-62,
McKEAN remaining with this vessel.
1728 Although STRINGHAM has not yet rejoined this unit as
anticipated, we are beyond point of release for McKEAN.
McKEAN directed to leave formation and proceed to
Guadalcanal, as previously directed by CTF-62, which
she did.
2000 12-06S, 162-54E.
Heavy seas and rainy.

7 SEPTEMBER

0800 13-16S, 164-35E.
1200 13-35S, 165-07E. Made good C-121, Sp. - 10.5.
2000 14-05S, 166-24E.
Heavy seas and overcast.

8 SEPTEMBER

0800 15-56S, 167-30E.
1044 Anchored in Pekoa Channel, Espiritu Santo.

9 SEPTEMBER

Anchored, awaiting orders.

10 SEPTEMBER

Received CTF-62 desp. 100713 directing this vessel to
get underway independently at 0800, 11 September for
Noumea.

11 SEPTEMBER

Received CTF-62 desp. 102129 cancelling sailing orders.
Shifted berths and remained at anchor awaiting further
orders.
Received ComSoPac 102107 authorizing restricted avail-
ability from WHITNEY for work on main engines on arrival
Noumea.

12 SEPTEMBER

Received CTF-62 desp. 112341 informing us that we would proceed later in company with SABINE and LANG. Remained at anchor on two hours sailing notice. Received signal from SOPA (CTF-64) placing all ships on 30 minute sailing notice due to probability of enemy attack.

13 SEPTEMBER

Received CTF-64 Sortie Order 2-42 dated 12 September directing departure of all ships in harbor at dawn today. To be effective on signal. This preparation is due to warning of possible enemy attack in this area. Sortie not executed.

Received CTF-64 Movement Order 1-42 dated 13 September directing SABINE and FOMALHAUT with LANG as escort (Comdr. Maples in SABINE, unit commander) to depart Espiritu Santo for Noumea at 1400 today.

1415 Underway for Noumea.
1945 McKEAN and MANLEY joined formation.
2000 16-28S, 167-59E.

14 SEPTEMBER

0800 19-13S, 168-14E.
1200 20-05S, 168-27E. Made good C-165, Sp. - 13.5.
2000 21-48S, 168-34E.

15 SEPTEMBER

0800 22-58S, 166-38E.
1245 Anchored in Great Roads, Noumea. Commenced tender (WHITNEY) availability. WHITNEY Repair Officer conferred on main engine repairs. Received WHITNEY desp. 150610 to ComSoPac estimating 6 October as completion date for manufacture of main engine bushings.

16 SEPTEMBER

Carrying out repair work.

17 SEPTEMBER

Received verbal orders from ComSoPac to load cargo for Guadalcanal - Tulagi area. No further instructions as to details received.

18 SEPTEMBER

Fueled from Nicholano Maria (merchant tanker).
Standing by for loading.

19 SEPTEMBER

Received ComSoPac 181907 directing us to go alongside
dock for loading.
0745 Got underway and moored to Grand Quay, Noumea. Commenced
loading.

20-22 SEPTEMBER

Loading for Guadalcanal.

23 SEPTEMBER

Shifted berth to anchorage. Awaiting orders, completely
loaded.

24 SEPTEMBER

Standing by.

25 SEPTEMBER

Received ComSoPac 241312 designating Task Unit 66.1.3
(FOMALHAUT and BREESE) to depart Noumea at 1300 today
for Espiritu Santo. S.S. GULFBIRD is to proceed in
company. On arrival there, this unit to be dissolved.
1300 Underway.
2000 23-03S, 166-41E.

26 SEPTEMBER

0800 23-01S, 168-20E.
1200 22-25S, 168-37E. Made good C-015, Sp. - 9.5.
2000 21-28S, 169-03E.

27 SEPTEMBER

0800 19-47S, 168-14E.
1200 19-10S, 168-09E. Made good C-354, Sp. - 10.5.
2000 17-52S, 167-48E.

28 SEPTEMBER

0800 16-17S, 167-49E.
1200 15-49S, 167-27E. Made good C-346, Sp. - 8.7.

28 SEPTEMBER CONT'D

Sent FOMALHAUT desp. 280152 releasing BREESE
from unit.
1245 Anchored in Espiritu Santo.

29 SEPTEMBER

Loading pontoon barge and landing mats for Guadalcanal.

30 SEPTEMBER

Received CTF-62 desp. 290900 forming Task Unit 62.4.3
(FOMALHAUT and NICHOLAS; Comdr. FLANAGAN in FOMALHAUT)
to depart 0600 this date for Guadalcanal.
0557 Underway.
Received CTF-62 desp. 292325 directing change in routing
to west and north to avoid reported submarines.
0800 15-28S, 167-24E.
1200 14-38S, 167-24E. Made good C - 0, Sp. - 9.
2000 13-39S, 165-46E.

H.C. Flanagan
H.C. FLANAGAN,
Commander, USN.,
COMMANDING.

S E C R E T

W A R--D I A R Y

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

FROM: 1 OCTOBER 1942.

TO: 31 OCTOBER 1942

44086

SERIAL #008

1 OCTOBER

Enroute Espiritu Santo to Guadalcanal in Task Unit 62.4.3 (FOMALHAUT and NICHOLAS).

0800 12-42S, 162-41E.
0810 Exchanged calls with Task Group 64.6 (GWIN and GRAYSON) which is to search ahead of this unit.
1200 12-20S, 162-06E. Made good C-294, sp - 14.
2000 11-10S, 160-30E.

2 OCTOBER

0819 Anchored off Kukum and commenced discharging cargo.
1235 Received report of approaching enemy aircraft. Got underway for open water. Aerial combat developed between fighters. No attack made on this vessel. Expended following ammunition - 7 rounds 3"; 100 rds 20MM; 150 rds .50 cal.
1412 Returned to unloading area and resumed discharging cargo.
1813 Underway to clear area for darkness. Proceeded thru Lengo Channel.
2355 Reversed course for return to Kukum.

3 OCTOBER

0548 Anchored off Kukum and resumed discharging cargo.
1213 Received report of approaching enemy aircraft. Got underway for open water. No attack developed.
1420 Returned to unloading area and resumed discharging.
1834 Underway to clear area for darkness. Proceeded thru Lengo Channel.

4 OCTOBER

0030 Reversed course for return to Kukum.
0613 Anchored off Kukum and resumed discharging cargo.
2015 Completed discharging cargo and transferring personnel. Got underway for Noumea in accordance with CTF-62 desp. 021210 in company with NICHOLAS, GWIN and GRAYSON.

5 OCTOBER

GWIN and GRAYSON separated from this unit and proceeded in southeasterly direction.

0800 11-07S, 160-32E.
1200 11-50S, 160-45E. Made good C-171, sp. - 14.
2000 13-36S, 161-16E.

6 OCTOBER

0800 16-07S, 162-03E.
1200 16-50S, 162-11E. Made good C-164, sp. - 13.
2000 18-18S, 162-16E.

7 OCTOBER

0800 20-34S, 163-11E.
1200 21-06S, 163-51E. Made good C-158, sp. - 10.6.
2000 22-18S, 164-59E.

8 OCTOBER

0817 Arrived Noumea.

9 - 19 OCTOBER

Overhauling main engines and loading.

20 OCTOBER

Completed loading.

Sent FOMALHAUT 192343 requesting authority to get underway, fuel from tanker and conduct post repair trial. Approved by CTF-62 192351.

1039 Underway and went alongside Esso Richmond. Fueled ship.
1421 Got underway and conducted post repair trial in outer harbor.
1622 Anchored. Awaiting further orders.

21 OCTOBER

Received CTF-62 210310 forming Task Unit 62.9.1 (Captain Knowles in HEYWOOD, FOMALHAUT, McKEAN, MANLEY) and directing departure from Noumea at 0600, 22 Oct. for Espiritu Santo. Unit to be dissolved on arrival.

22 OCTOBER

0601 Underway and formed column astern of HEYWOOD.
0800 22-33S, 166-24E.
1200 23-07S, 166-51E. Made good - C 154, sp. - 10.
2000 23-39S, 168-06E.

23 OCTOBER

0800 23-09S, 170-11E.
1200 22-27S, 170-13E. Made good C - 078, sp. - 14.
1738 NEVILLE and MANLEY joined the formation. ComTransDiv-8 (Captain Ashe) in NEVILLE assumed command of task unit.

24 OCTOBER

0800 19-00S, 170-22E.
1200 18-12S, 170-18E. Made good C - 357, sp. - 10.6.
2000 16-48S, 170-02E.

25 OCTOBER

0800 15-54S, 167-53E.
1211 Arrived Espiritu Santo.

Received CTF-62 250200 directing departure immediately for Efate in company with NEVILLE (CTD-8) in command of unit, HEYWOOD, LIBRA, GWIN, McKEAN and MANLEY.

1706 Underway.
2000 15-58S, 167-33E.

26 OCTOBER

0753 Arrived Efate.

27 - 29 OCTOBER

Standing by on one hour's sailing notice.

30 OCTOBER

Received CTF-62 300450 forming Task Unit 62.6.2 Captain Ashe in NEVILLE, HEYWOOD, FOMALHAUT; to depart Efate 31 Oct. in company with Task Unit 62.6.1 for Aola Bay, Guadalcanal.

31 OCTOBER

0744 Underway in column. Order of ships: left flank section - NEVILLE (CTU-62.6.2) HEYWOOD, FOMALHAUT; right flank section - HUNTER LIGGETT" (CTU-62.6.1) BARNETT, PRESIDENT HAYES; GWIN and STERRETT screening.
1200 17-38S, 168-42E. Made good C - 077, sp. - 14.
1552 Task group 64.4 joined formation. CTG-64.4 Rear Admiral Callaghan in San Francisco, HELENA, LAFFEY, BUCHANNON, WAIKE, McCALLA. These units now form Task Force 65 - Rear Admiral Callaghan in San Francisco - to be joined by other units later.
1800 McKEAN and MANLEY joined up.
2000 16-48S, 168-51E.

H.C. Flanagan
H.C. FLANAGAN,
Commander, USN.,
COMMANDING.

S E C R E T

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT

FROM: 1 NOVEMBER 1942. TO: 30 NOVEMBER 1942.

44756

1 NOVEMBER

In Task Force 65 enroute to Aola Bay.

0800 14-34S, 167-26E.
1200 14-07S, 166-38E. Made good C-331, Sp. - 14.
2000 12-53S, 165-15E.

2 NOVEMBER

Rain squalls; low visibility.

0800 10-51S, 163-29E.
1200 10-27S, 163-21E.

Received CTG 65.5 (Capt. Ashe in NEVILLE) 011850 which is his Op Order 2-42 describing arrival and operations. This vessel to unload at Aola Bay after beachhead has been established.

Received Annexes A, B and C to CTF 65 OpPlan "C-1" outlining approach, landing and retirement for groups of task force.

1625 Task Groups 65.1, 65.2 and 65.3 (Kokum detachment) left formation in accordance with Op Plan.
1900 Lost contact with other ships of this unit due low visibility while heading southeasterly.
2000 Reversed course to proceed to Guadalcanal.

3 NOVEMBER

0200 Reversed course to retire from area in accordance with CTF 62 021232 which delays landing operations until 4 November.

Received ComSoPac 021319 directing CTF 65 to carry out original landing mission on 4 November.

Proceeding singly toward rendezvous assigned Task Force - Lat. 10-30S, Long. 162-50E. (CTF 65 021540)

1500 Joined other units of force.
2000 10-02S, 162-00E.

4 NOVEMBER

0608 Arrived in Aola Bay and commenced discharging cargo.
1147 Received information of approach of enemy planes. Got underway on signal and maneuvered to open water. No attack developed.
1336 Returned to area and resumed discharging
Continued throughout night.

5 NOVEMBER

1035 Received warning of approaching enemy aircraft. Got underway for open water. No attack developed.
1232 Returned to area and resumed unloading.

6 NOVEMBER

0036 Completed unloading and transferring personnel. Got underway in company with other units of Task Force 65 for Espiritu Santo.
0800 9-54S, 161-50E.
1200 10-14S, 162-36E. Made good C-106, Sp. - 11.
2000 11-42S, 163-10E.

7 NOVEMBER

Heavy seas, high winds, squally.

Received CTF 62 062330 directing loading from SOMMELSDYK and MANOERAN at Espiritu Santo

0800 13-46S, 163-35E.
1200 13-50S, 164-23E. Made good C-163, Sp. - 9.4.
2000 14-07S, 166-07E.

8 NOVEMBER

0854 Arrived at Espiritu Santo. Task Force 65 dissolved.

9 NOVEMBER

Standing by for loading.

10-16 NOVEMBER

Loading for Aola Bay.

17-26 NOVEMBER

Loaded, standing by for orders.

27 NOVEMBER

Received ComTaskFor 62 desp. 260458 forming Task Unit 62.4.6. Captain Ashe in NEVILLE, HEYWOOD, HAYES, FOMALHAUT, LANSDOWNE, GRAYSON, SHAW, NICHOLAS and directing departure this date for Guadalcanal.

Received CTU 62.4.6 Op Order 3-42 directing departure at 0700 this date.

27 NOVEMBER CONT'D

0700 Underway in company with Task Unit 62.4.6. Formed
cruising disposition consisting of two columns (right -
NEVILLE, HAYES; left - HEYWOOD, FOMALHAUT) with
destroyers screening.
1200 14-51S, 167-19E. Made good C-018, Sp. - 13.
2000 13-36S, 166-00E.

28 NOVEMBER

0800 11-53S, 163-55E.
1200 11-16S, 163-16E. Made good C - 312, Sp. - 13.
2000 9-52S, 162-50E.

29 NOVEMBER


0545 Arrived at unloading area off Togama Point, Guadalcanal
and commenced discharging cargo.

Received CTF 62 OpPlan A24-42 dated 27 November con-
taining same instructions as his 260458.

1745 Underway and proceeded to Tulagi for the night.

30 NOVEMBER

0400 Underway for Togama.
0530 Arrived in unloading area and commenced discharging.
1730 Underway and proceeded to Tulagi for the night.
2325 Observed gunfire in direction of Guadalcanal. No
action developed in this vicinity.


H. C. FLANAGAN,
Commander, USN.,
COMMANDING.

F-33
1
F2

Page 2
Log No. 323
R.L. No. ... 326

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
ADDITIONAL SHEET
(WAR DIARY)

U. S. S. FOMALHAUT

Date December 19 42

CONFIDENTIAL
DECEMBER 1

Operating as a unit of Amphibious Force, South Pacific and
62; at present, in Task Unit 62.4.9 (Commander Flanagan in FOMALHAUT)
LANSLOWNE, SHAW formed by CTF-62 OpPlan A24-42 dated November 27.
Task Unit unloading in Guadalcanal area by day, retiring at night.
This vessel anchored in Tulagi Harbor for the night.

0400 Underway for Togama.
0530 Arrived in unloading area and commenced discharging cargo.
1800 Underway and proceeded to Tulagi for the night.

DECEMBER 2

0415 Underway for Togama.
0545 Arrived in unloading area and commenced discharging. Continued
thru the night.

DECEMBER 3

Operated between Togama and Lunga.

1400 Completed discharging cargo and got underway for Aola Bay.
1625 Anchored at Aola Bay and commenced receiving cargo for Tulagi.

DECEMBER 4

Loading for Tulagi.

DECEMBER 5

1042 Completed loading and got underway for Togama. Arrived at 1235.
Disembarked Army and Acorn One personnel.
1345 Underway for Tulagi and arrived at 1522.

Commenced discharging cargo.

DECEMBER 6-7

Unloading at Tulagi.

DECEMBER 8

0054 Completed discharging. Received personnel and cargo for transfer
to Espiritu Santo.

0700 Underway for Espiritu Santo in company with LANSLOWNE and SHAW.
1200 9-44S, 160-59E.
2000 10-58S, 161-49E.

DECEMBER 9

0800 12-40S, 164-16E.
1200 13-11S, 165-01E.

Received CTF-62 desp. 080630 directing FOMALHAUT to load material
from M.S. MANOERAN at Espiritu Santo.

Expended the following ammunition for training: 4 rounds 5" 51; 38
rounds 3" 50; 200 rounds 20MM; 200 rounds .50 cal.

2000 14-19S, 166-03E.

Approved:

Examined:

U. S. N. Navigator

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
ADDITIONAL SHEET

U. S. S. FOMALHAUT

(WAR DIARY)

Date December 1942

DECEMBER 10

0733 Arrived in Espiritu Santo.

Commenced loading for Guadalcanal from U.S. MANOERAN.

DECEMBER 11-17

Loading.

DECEMBER 18

Completed loading; standing by for orders.

DECEMBER 19

Received CTF-62 desp. 190355 forming Task Unit 62.4.2 - Commander Flanagan in FOMALHAUT, KOPARA, NAVAJO, MUSTIN and PERKINS and directing departure on December 20 for Guadalcanal.

DECEMBER 20

1300 Got underway with other vessels of Task Unit 62.4.2 for Guadalcanal; formed column, order of ships: FOMALHAUT, KOPARA, NAVAJO; destroyers screening.

2000 14-50S, 167-18E.

DECEMBER 21

0800 13-48S, 165-27E.

1200 13-31S, 164-57E.

2000 12-56S, 163-45E.

DECEMBER 22

0800 11-55S, 161-54E.

1200 11-20S, 161-36E.

2000 10-05S, 160-57E.

DECEMBER 23

0506 Arrived off Togama Point and commenced discharging cargo; directed PERKINS, KOPARA and NAVAJO proceed Lunga Point; KOPARA to discharge cargo in that area and NAVAJO to report to Comdr. Naval Activities, Solomon Islands for duty.

DECEMBER 24-25

Continuous discharging of cargo.

Received CTF-62 250200 directing departure upon completion of unloading, for Noumea in company with MUSTIN.

DECEMBER 26

0130 Having completed unloading and transfer of personnel, Task Unit 62.4.2 (FOMALHAUT and MUSTIN) got underway for Noumea in accordance with CTF-62 250200.

0800 10-22S, 161-06E.

1200 11-13S, 161-19E.

2000 12-50S, 161-28E.

Approved:

Examined:

U. S. N., Navigator.

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
ADDITIONAL SHEET
(WAR DIARY)

U. S. S. FOMALHAUT

Date December 1942

DECEMBER 27

0200 MUSTIN was detached in accordance with CTF-62 desp. 250200 and directed to proceed to Button, the FOMALHAUT continued on to Noumea without escort.

0800 15-38S, 161-50E.
1200 16-30S, 161-58E.

Expended the following ammunition for training: 2 rounds 5" 51; 8 rounds 3" 50; 360 rounds 20MM; 207 rounds .50 cal.

2000 18-07S, 162-13E.

DECEMBER 28

0800 20-21S, 163-07E.
1200 21-00S, 163-40E.

Expended the following ammunition for training: 4 rounds 5" 51; 16 rounds 3" 50; 837 rounds 20MM; 210 rounds .50 cal.

2000 22-17S, 164-58E.

DECEMBER 29

0645 Arrived in Noumea, N.C.

Received CTF-62 desp. 290155 directing departure for Wellington on December 30.

Transferred and received passengers.

DECEMBER 30

0945 Underway for Wellington, unescorted.
1200 22-40S, 166-25E.
2000 24-23S, 167-01E.

DECEMBER 31

0800 26-59S, 168-09E.
1200 27-41S, 168-34E.

Expended the following ammunition for training: 2 rounds 5" 51; 8 rounds 3" 50; 245 rounds 20MM; 100 rounds .50 cal.

2000 29-19S, 169-15E.

SPREADSHEET

REFERENCE

H. C. Flanagan
H. C. FLANAGAN, Cdr, U. S. N. COMMANDING.

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
ADDITIONAL SHEET

F 2 page 320

U. S. S. FOMALHAUT

(WAR DIARY)

Date JANUARY 19 43.

JANUARY 1

Operating as a unit of Amphibious Force, South Pacific and Task Force 62, enroute Noumea to Wellington without escort.

0800 31-58S, 170-24E.
1200 32-48S, 170-46E.
2000 34-31S, 171-33E.

JANUARY 2

0800 37-02S, 172-52E.

Expended the following ammunition for training: 4 rds 5"; 16 rds 3"; 400 rds 20MM; 400 rds .50 cal.

1200 37-33S, 173-07E.
2000 38-40S, 173-19E.

JANUARY 3

0800 41-06S, 174-30E.
1040 Arrived in Wellington, N.Z., and commenced restricted availability for overhaul and docking in accordance with ComBeronSoPac 272217 of December.

JANUARY 4 - 22

Undergoing overhaul.

JANUARY 23

Commenced loading cargo for Noumea pursuant to CTF-62 desp. 202105.

JANUARY 24-26

Loading and continuing overhaul.

JANUARY 27

Completed loading cargo. Continued yard work on uncompleted items.

JANUARY 28

0806 Got underway for post repair trial, calibration of RDF, compass adjustment, degaussing calibration and paravane streaming. Received CTF-62 desp. 272146 directing departure for Noumea when ready.
1700 Moored and continued yard work.

JANUARY 29

0817 Yard work completed. Got underway for Noumea, N.Z., in accordance with CTF-62 desp. 272146 without escort.
1200 40-53S, 174-31E.
2000 39-12S, 173-35E.

JANUARY 30

0800 36-25S, 172-25E.
1200 35-21S, 171-54E.
2000 33-30S, 170-53E.

JANUARY 31

0800 30-39S, 169-39E.
1200 29-47S, 169-13E.
2000 27-52S, 168-16E.

Approved:

REMARKS

H. C. Flanagan
H. C. FLANAGAN
Commander, U. S. N., *NAVY*