Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY

SECRET

U.S.S. NASHVILLE

SECRET

Date:

Enroute to/At

Saturday April 18, 1942.

Task Force or Unit:

Task Force 16

Western Pacifio

Oporder or Opplan in effect:

:0800 Lat.

Cinclac Opplan 20-42.

:2000

35-55N

153-40E

Distance steamed since:0800258

Pasition: 1200 Lat.

Long.::.

36-13N :2000 Lat.

154-11E Long.

:1200

36-08N

157-43E Speed Course

158

Made good 1200 to 1200:

10.5

Fuel expended

Logistics Received

Transferred

38,482

ENCLOSURES:

NARRATIVE AND REMARKS:

At dawn the NASHVILLE was steaming in company with aircraft carriers ENTERPRISE and HORNET and cruisers NORTHAMPTON, SALT LAKE CITY, and VINCENNES enroute to a point at which the bombers on the HORNET were to be launched. At 0632 the course was 220 T. and speed was 23 knots. At 0741 an enemy ship was sighted bearing 350 relative at a distance of about 10,000 yards. The following is a chronological record of the engagement:

0744 General Quarters sounded.

0742 Enemy ship bore 201 T. at a range of 9,000 yards.

0752 Received order from Admiral Halsey to attack vessel and sink same.

0753 Opened fire with main battery, firing salvo fire at a range of 9,000 yards.

0754 Shifted to rapid fire.

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Saturday April 18, 1942.

- 0755 Checked fire. Target could not be seen.
- 0756 Resumed firing. Bombing planes made attack on enemy vessel. The returned the fire of the planes with machine guns and a light cannon.
- 0757 Enemy headed toward the NASHVILLE
- 0801 Bombing planes made another attack on enemy ship. This fire re-
- 0804 Opened fire. This fire was returned but enemy shells fell short.
- 0809 Bombing planes made another attack. Changed course to the left in order to close the enemy.
- 0814 Increased speed to 25 knots.
- 0819 Commenced firing salvo fire.
- 0821 Steadied on course 095 T. Enemy vessel on fire.
- 0823 Enemy ship sunk.
- O827 Commenced maneuvering to pick up survivors. Attempts to rescue one man sighted proved unsuccessful.
- 0846 Went to 25 knots to rejoin formation.
- 0847 Set material condition Baker.
- 0857 Set the watch in condition of readiness II.
- 1102 Sighted Task Force bearing 235 T.
- 1153 Resumed station in formation.

During this engagement 938 rounds of 6" ammunition were expended due to the difficulty in hitting the small target with the heavy swells that were running and the long range at which fire was opened. This range was used in order to silence the enemy's radio as soon as possible. The ship sunk was a Japanese patrol boat and was

No. 2 of 2 copies.

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equipped with radio and anti-aircraft machine guns.

During the encounter with the craft the Army bombers carried on the HORNET were launched to make their attack on Tokyo. When the NASHVILLE rejoined the formation the ships had reversed course and were steaming on course 092T. at 25 knots.

During the afternoon the following action took place:

- 1409 Went to General Quarters, OTC having ordered this ship to sink two Japanese sampans reported by aircraft.
- 1411 Sighted ship bearing 350, range 10,700 yards.
- 1415 Dive bombers made attack on enemy.
- 1417 Planes made second attack on enemy; their fire was returned by the enemy.
- 1422 Opened fire with main battery firing salvo fire at range of 4,500 yards.
- 1424 Checked fire.
- 1425 Resumed fire.
- 1427 Checked fire.
- 1429 Opened fire with 5" battery.
- 1435 Checked fire.
- 1439 Opened fire with main battery.
- 1440 Ceased fire as vessel was sinking. Prepared to pick up survivors.
- 1446 Enemy vessel sank. Five survivors were seen. These men were all picked up by this ship. All but one were uninjured and suffered only from shock and immersion.
- 1500 Picked up last survivor and began maneuvering to rescue pilot and passenger of ENTERPRISE plane which crashed in water astern of ship.

No. 2 of 2 copies of 2

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- 1517 Rescued two fliers.
- 1518 Commenced maneuvering to rejoin formation.

The second ship sunk was a patrol craft similar to the first. 65 rounds of 5" ammunition and 102 rounds of main battery ammunition were used in this engagement.