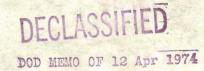
DECLASSIFIED



COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION 24 (COMMANDER TASK GROUP 16.12)

SERIAL 07

15 MARCH 1946

MAGIC CARPET OPERATIONS

REPORT OF OPERATIONS OF TASK GROUP 16.12 WHOSE MISSION WAS THAT OF RETURNING SERVICE PERSONNEL FROM THE PACIFIC AREAS TO THE UNITED STATES.

From the Post-1946 Reports, Box 224, Archives Branch, Naval History and Heritage Command

CCD24/A4-1 LSP: Hs

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AIR FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION TWENTY-FOUR

Serial 15 MAR 1946 Garrier Division TWENTY-FOUR, (Commander Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE). Chief of Naval Operations. To : (1) Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Via : (2) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Subject: Carrier Division 24; report of operations and dissolution of. (a) CinCPac despatch 051311 of September 1945. References: (b) CinCPOA despatch 050339 of March 1946. (c) CNO despatch 062050 of March 1946. (d) Graphic representation of personnel lift. (e) Graphic representation of total personnel lift by services. (f) Weekly photographs of operational plotting board. (g) GinCPac Confidential despatch 092032 of March 1946. (A) Copy of reference (a). Enclosures: (B) Copy of reference (b). (C) Copy of reference (c). (D) Copy of reference (d). DECLASSIFIED - OPNAV INST 5500.30 (E) Copy of reference (e). KienDATE 3-16-600 (F) Copy of reference (f).

1. Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR, which operated under the command of Rear Admiral Henry S. KENDALL, U. S. Navy, was dissolved on 15 March 1946 in accordance with references (b), (c), and (g). Operational control of the remaining 23 ships carrying the designation, Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, was placed directly under the organization of Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

(G) Copy of reference (g).

2. Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR, with the designation Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, was assigned to Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, and given the mission of returning service personnel from the Pacific areas to the United States. On 4 September 1945, through his issuance of reference (a), the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, made known his intention of utilizing certain aircraft carriers to operate under the command of Commander Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR as troop transports for effecting the homeward movement of personnel. On the same date, Rear Admiral KENDALL was ordered to proceed from Guam to Pearl Harbor by air transport for the purpose of setting up headquarters at Pearl Harbor and forming the Task Group. With five officers and four enlisted members of his staff, Rear Admiral KENDALL arrived at Pearl Harbor on 8 September 1945. After a conference with Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Com-

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mander Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR was designated Commander Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE. The Task Group was formed and operations were begun on 10 September 1945. The progressive increase in the number of vessels assigned required an increase in the nucleus of staff personnel to a maximum of sixteen officers and forty-four enlisted men.

3. There were initially assigned to Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, one large aircraft carrier and eighteen escort aircraft carriers. By addition of more aircraft carriers as well as ships of other types, the Task Group reached a peak strength of 369 ships on 15 December 1945, as noted below. As the backlog of personnel awaiting transportation was dissipated, the size of the Task Group was reduced starting with the release to their postwar assignments of the battleships and cruisers on 28 December 1945. A gradual reduction in strength continued from that time until the final dissolution of Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR was effected.

SHIPS ASSIGNED TO TASK GROUP 16.12

Type	Number
АН АРН АК АКА АР АРА	10 3 8 28 7 222
AV BB CA CL CV CVL CVL CVE	4 6 9 7 7 4 46
LSV . TOTAL	369

4. Commander Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE is responsible to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, for the weekly presentation of data covering the return of all personnel from the Pacific area regardless of the category or the method by which returned.

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5. In order that they might more efficiently perform their missions as troop transports, ships of all types were temporarily modified to increase their passenger capacities and to promote the welfare of the passengers. These modifications included installation of additional bunks, increasing sanitary facilities, enlarging galley facilities, carrying greater stocks of athletic equipment and games, and expanding canteen and small stores services. Frequent unsolicited statements from passengers testify to the ingenuity and interest of the commanding officers of the ships and their subordinates in providing for passenger comfort. Especially noteworthy were the many letters of appreciation which were received from Army passengers of all ranks and ratings.

Proportionate assignment of space to the various branches of the armed services was made as directed by the Joint Military Transportation Committee through the Chief of Naval Operations. Allocation of spaces among the various areas was made on the following approximate percentage basis: thirty percent to the Philippines, thirty percent to the Marianas, thirty percent to the Okinawa-Japanese Empire area, and ten percent to the other areas including Hawaii, the Marshalls-Gilberts, the Southern Pacific, Korea, and China. On 14 November 1945, a system was placed in effect under which ships of the Task Group were placed in one of three categories, i.e., "Army Block", "Navy Block", and "Unassigned". Ships assigned to blocks operated between specified ports of call and gave first priority to members of the service to which they were allocated. Local agreements by Army and Navy commanders in the forward areas resulted in frequent inter-change of space between the services to their mutual advantage. Ships which were "Unassigned" were utilized to answer unexpected requirements and to augment block-assigned shipping. On 18 January 1946, the block system was discontinued and all shipping of the Task Group subsequently engaged primarily in the return of Naval, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel.

7. Upon the dissolution of Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR and the reassignment of Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, the number of personnel returned to the United States and that portion which were returned by ships of the Task Group were as follows:

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Category	Total Returned	Number Returned by TG 16.12
Army Navy	1,469,202 1,448,868	501,616 679,819
(including C.G.) Marines Civilian	165,410 39,914	117,686 8,738
GRAND TOTAL	3,123,394	1,307,859

The above figures are graphically portrayed by reference (e).

- 8. A monthly tabulation of the number of personnel returned to the United States follows:

	Navy	Army	Marine	Civiliar	Total
Sep. 1945 Oct. 1945 Nov. 1945 Dec. 1945 Jan. 1946 Feb. 1946 Mar. 1946	164,072 261,217 271,003 242,312 277,835 173,590 58,839	80,738 149,762 243,918 416,154 304,518 200,578 73,534	8,628 26,867 50,359 32,965 16,438 22,641 7,512	6,418 8,869 8,789 4,055 2,770 4,944 4,069	259,856 446,715 574,069 695,486 601,561 401,753 143,954
GRAND TOTAL	1 248,868	1.469.202	165,410	39,914	3,123,394

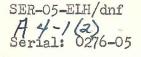
Reference (e) gives a graphical picture of the above numbers.

9. Reference (d) gives in graphical form the predicted rate of return of personnel, the number actually returned, and the number returned by facilities of the various organizations. Reference (f) contains weekly photographs of the operations plotting board upon which the approximate position of each ship of the Task Group was represented daily.

MSrandard

H. S. KENDALL

Copy to: ComAirPac COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE, UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET





MAR 29 1946

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on ComCarDiv-24 A4-1 Ltr Serial 07 dated 14 March 1946.

From:The Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.To:The Chief of Naval Operations.Via:The Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Carrier Division 24; report of operations and dissolution of.

1. Forwarded.

2. The Commander Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet, desires to express his appreciation and congratulations to Commander Carrier Division TWENTY=FOUR (Commander Task Group 16.12) and all the ships of this Task Group for a job well-done.

02133

Cincpac File A4-1(2)

Serial:

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

CONFIDENTIAL

0729

2nd Endorsement on 7 APR 1946 ComCarDiv-24 A4-1 Ltr Serial 07 dated 15 March 1946.

Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. From: Chief of Naval Operations. To:

Carrier Division 24; report of operations and Subject: 02133 dissolution of.

1. Forwarded.

The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet considers 2. that the efficient operations of vessels in Task Group 16.12 which resulted in such a great number of personnel being returned to the United States during this short period most highly merits a well done to Rear Admiral H. S. Kendall and to the Commanding Officers of all vessels formerly under this command.

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

7 APR 1946

Serial:0729

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

2nd Endorsement on ComCarDiv-24 A4-1 Ltr Serial 07 dated 15 March 1946.

From: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. To: Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Carrier Division 24; report of operations and dissolution of.

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