

C-C-R-Y

U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL (DE 366)

DE366(WGT)/A4/A16-3.  
Serial: 0012-45.

c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, California,  
8 August 1945.

C-C-R-E-T

From: Commanding Officer.  
To: Commander Western Carolines Sub Area.  
Subject: Report of Rescue Operations U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL  
(DE 366) - 3 to 6 August 1945.

Reference: (a) ComWesCarSubArea Secret despatch 030315 of August 1945.  
(b) ComWesCarSubArea Secret despatch 030810 of August 1945.  
(c) U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL Secret despatch 030449 of August 1945.  
(d) ComWesCarSubArea Secret despatch 030720 of August 1945.  
(e) ComWesCarSubArea Secret despatch 050446 of August 1945.  
(f) ComWesCarSubArea Secret despatch 050550 of August 1945.  
(g) U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL Secret despatch 050931 of August 1945.  
(h) ComWesCarSubArea Secret despatch 051605 of August 1945.  
(i) U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL Secret despatch 060317 of August 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Track Chart of Operations, U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL (DE 366),  
(B) Seven envelopes containing all identification of bodies disposed  
of by U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL (DE 366) on 4 August 1945.

1. In compliance with reference (d), report of subject operations is forwarded with track chart as Enclosure (A) and identifying features of seven bodies as Enclosure (B).

2. At 1538 King, 3 August 1945, U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL (DE 366) departed Peleliu in compliance with reference (a). A log of events follows:

(a) 1615 King, 3 August 1945 - investigated possible sub contact at 07-46 N., 134-05E Results negative.

(b) 0608 King, 4 August 1945 - Arrived at scene of operation and proceeded to Station four per orders of OTC, U.S.S. MADISON (DD 425) and as set forth in reference (b). Arrived on station #4 at 0744 King and commenced search for survivors in conjunction with plane assigned to our sector. U.S.S. ALVIN (DD 355) joined on Station #4 soon afterwards and search continued.

(c) At 1007 King, 4 August plane sighted wreckage and soon afterward both ALVIN and ALVIN C. COCKRELL commenced discovering floating bodies in the general area 11-31 N., 132-49 E. The remainder of the day was spent by both vessels in identifying and sinking as many bodies as possible. All bodies

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DEB66(WGT)/A4/A16-3  
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c/o Fleet Post Office,  
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A-E-C-R-E-T

Subject: Report of Rescue Operations, U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL  
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Encountered were shark-bitten and in an advanced state of decomposition. Enclosure (b) gives all identifiable material and resume of circumstances surrounding the discovery of each of seven bodies recovered by this vessel. Reference (c) reported to OTC and CTG 94.5 location of bodies encountered and results of days search in sector #4.

(d) At 0635 King, 5 August - On station on scouting line established by reference (d). This line continued with negative results throughout the day with planes being given search sectors by OTC in U.S.S. MADISON (DD 425). At 1500 King, 5 August U.S.S. MADISON and U.S.S. RALPH TALBOT departed for Ulithi for fuel as authorized by references (d) and (f). OTC then became C.O. this vessel. Throughout the remainder of the day the scouting line was continued with negative results. Plane searches were made to a distance of 100 miles from the scouting line and except for 3 buoys which were sunk by U.S.S. AYLWIN and three life floats picked up by U.S.S. REGISTER (APD 92) the results were negative.

(e) Since U.S.S. MADISON had departed reference (g) was initiated as reply to reference (e) and action recommended was approved by reference (h).

(f) At 0600 King, 6 August ships present were deployed as specified in reference (i) and U.S.S. ALVIN C. COCKRELL proceeded to Peleliu for fuel.

/s/ M. M. Sanford

M. M. SANFORD.

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