

U. S. S. OKLAHOMA CITY (CL91)

CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, Calif.

Serial: 062
CONFIDENTIAL

21 MAY 1945

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: War Diary for the Month of April 1945.

Reference: (a) PacFlt Conf. Ltr. 1CL-45

1. The War Diary for this vessel, covering the period
1 - 30 April 1945, is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

1 - 9 April 1945: Moored starboard side to Pier 2, Navy Yard,
Philadelphia, Pa., for post shakedown availability in accordance
with COTClant's despatch 271833 of February 1945.

9 April 1945: 1255 Q Underway from Navy Yard Philadelphia, Pa.,
for anti-aircraft firing off Cape May, N.J., in accordance with
COTClant's dispatch 041532 of April 1945. 1817 Q Anchored in
lower Delaware Bay.

10 April 1945: 1057 Q Underway for point X-ray - Roger, Delaware
North Swept Channel for anti-aircraft firing practice. 1416 Q
Exercised at streaming paravanes. 1635 Q Commenced compensating
compasses. 1807 Q In anchoring in lower Delaware Bay, lost star-
board stockless bower anchor plus one hundred twenty-five fathoms
of chain. No casualties. Let go port anchor. 2020 Q Heavy fog
set in reducing visibility to between 200 to 4,000 yards.

0800: 38°47', 74°23' 1200: 38°48', 74°36' 2000: 38°51', 75°02'

11 April 1945: 1215 Q Underway to proceed up from lower Delaware
Bay to rendezvous with tug and barge bringing new anchor from Navy
Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. 1436 Q Anchored in Ship John Shoal anchor-
age area. 1545 Q Received new anchor and chain on board. 1607 Q
Underway for rendezvous with U.S.S. TOPEKA at point X-ray - Roger,
Swept Channel Delaware Bay. Time and place of rendezvous changed
due to extreme fog and slow speed of advance of this ship, in ac-
cordance with TOPEKA despatch 112328 of April 1945. 2100 Q Man-
euvered to take station 1,500 yards astern of TOPEKA forming task
group 21.4 in accordance with CinClant despatch 061618 of April
1945.

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12 April 1945: Steaming on base course 122°(T) at 25 knots.
1206 Q Changed base course to 171°(T). 1221 Q Sighted two empty
life rafts.

0800: 36°31', 70°03' 1200: 35°17', 68°46' 2000: 32°02', 68°09'

13 April 1945: 1634 Q Changed base course to 166°(T).

0800: 27°11', 67°18' 1200: 25°33', 67°04' 2000: 22°37', 66°16'

14 April 1945: 0204 Q Passed unidentified surface contact to port
at 7,000 yards. 0944 Q Held shore bombardment exercise of CULEBRA
ISLAND, V.I., in accordance with ComTEN despatch 122325 of April
1945. Ammunition expended:

36 rounds 6"/47
43 rounds 5"/38

1545 Q Set base course 290°(T), speed 25 knots enroute GUANTANAMO
BAY, CUBA.

0800: 18°30', 65°14' 1200: 18°30', 65°15' 2000: 19°04', 67°08'

15 April 1945: 1000 Q Held memorial services for the late president
of the United States of America Franklin Delano Roosevelt. 1230 Q
Set base course at 258°(T). 1425 Q Held anti-aircraft firing prac-
tice. Ammunition expended:

50 rounds 5"/38
42 rounds 40mm
180 rounds 20mm

1524 Q Steaming on various courses and at various speeds to enter
GUANTANAMO BAY. 1645 Q Anchored in berth 17, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

0800: 20°21.5', 72°33' 1200: 20°01', 73°59'

16 April 1945: 0656 Q Underway for training exercises in GUANTANAMO
BAY area. 0930 Q Held anti-aircraft sleeve firing. Ammunition
expended:

133 rounds 5"/38
764 rounds 40mm

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1338 Q Fired radar calibration exercise. Ammunition expended:

25 rounds 6"/47

1553 Q Held anti-aircraft sleeve firing. Ammunition expended:

25 rounds 5"/38
194 rounds 40mm
300 rounds 20mm

2223 Q Exercised at night battle practice. Ammunition expended:

60 rounds 6"/47
50 rounds 5"/38 A.A. common
40 rounds 5"/38 illuminating

0800: 19°44', 75°07' 1200: 19°32', 74°56' 2000: 19°31', 75°00'

17 April 1945: 0953 Q Held anti-aircraft firing exercise. Ammunition expended:

86 rounds 5"/38
446 rounds 40mm
1,786 rounds 20mm

1259 Q Ran the measured mile for engineering data. 1610 Q Held radar calibration checks and exercises. 2150 Q En route from GUANTANAMO BAY to PANAMA, C.Z., in company with TOPEKA, base course 180°(T), speed 23 knots.

0800: 19°05', 75°20' 1200: 19°36', 75°10' 2000: 19°20', 75°04'

18 April 1945: 0020 Q Changed base course 209°(T), speed 15 knots.
2121 Q Changed base course 206°(T), speed 19 knots.

0800: 15°28', 76°34' 1200: 16°37', 77°56' 2000: 12°36', 78°09'

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19 April 1945: 1615 Q Exercised at repelling air strike in accordance with Commander Panama Sea Frontier despatch 181715 of April 1945. 0700 Q Maneuvering on various courses and at various speeds to enter CRISTOBAL HARBOR. 0829 Q Anchored in berth 212 CRISTOBAL HARBOR, PANAMA, CANAL ZONE. 0846 Q Reported for duty to CincPac by despatch 191246 of April 1945. 0900 Q Set all clocks back one hour to zone time "R". 0831 R Underway to transit Panama Canal to BALBOA, C.Z. 1635 R Moored to pier 1, Naval Ammunition Depot, BALBOA, C.Z.

20 April 1945: Moored as before.

21 April 1945: 0800 R Underway for training exercises prior to leaving area for Pearl Harbor, T.H., in accordance with Commander Panama Sea Frontier dispatch 201345 of April 1945 which formed OKLAHOMA CITY and TOPEKA into task unit 12.9.1. Task unit routed via VIOLETS in accordance with Commander Panama Sea Frontier despatch 231520 of April 1945. 1535 R Held anti-aircraft sleeve firing. Ammunition expended:

28 rounds 5"/38

1700 R Set base course 233°(T), speed 20 knots.

1200: 08°37', 79°13' 2000: 07°04', 80°42'

22 - 30 April 1945: Dawn general quarters was held each morning. Acting OTC and guide changed daily, the guide assuming air radar guard and the other ship the surface guard. Surprise burst firing was held by each ship at least once during each daylight watch.

22 April 1945: 0000 R Changed base course to 262°(T). 0545 R Exercised at repelling simulated air attack. 0915 R Changed base course to 288°(T).

0800: 06°44', 84°28' 1200: 06°57', 85°42' 2000: 07°52', 88°05.5'

23 April 1945: 1800 R Set all clocks back one hour to zone time "S".

0800: 08°53', 91°38' 1200: 09°15', 92°58, 2000: 10°01', 95°27'

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24 April 1945:

0800: 11°08', 98°49' 1200: 11°23', 99°41' 2000: 11°57.5', 101°37.5'

25 April 1945: 1418 S Held main battery firing offset practice with TOPEKA. Ammunition expended:

71 rounds 6"/47

1549 S Changed course to 285°(T). 1800 S Set all clocks back one half hour to zone time "ST".

0800: 11°07', 98°45' 1200: 11°23', 99°41' 2000: 11°56', 101°48'

26 April 1945: 1800 ST Set all clocks back one half hour to zone time "T".

0800: 15°11', 113°11' 1200: 15°35', 114°20' 2000: 16°16', 116°41'

27 April 1945: 0637 T Changed course to 283°(T). 1100 T Exercised at coming alongside TOPEKA handling lines between the two ships. 1800 T Set all clocks back one half hour to zone time "TU". 2230 TU Changed course to 280°(T).

28 April 1945: 0600 TU Fired starshell duel with TOPEKA. Ammunition expended:

10 rounds 5"/38 illuminating projectiles

1800 TU Set all clocks back one half hour to zone time "U".

0800: 18°43.5', 128°06.5' 1200: 18°56', 129°23' 2000: 19°15', 131°57'

29 April 1945: 0743 U Changed base course to 276°(T). 1200 U Held radar calibration check with TOPEKA, reforming at 1700 U. 1800 U Set all clocks back to zone time "UV".

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30 April 1945: 0630 UV Changed base course to 276°(T). 1205 UV
Changed base course to 273°(T). 1629 UV Fired 5"/38 calibration
practice with TOPEKA. Ammunition expended:

24 rounds 5"/38 Mk 53-1

1800 UV Set all clocks back one half hour to zone "V".
0800: 20°43', 144°00' 1200: 20°50', 145°04.5' 2000: 20°55.5', 147°29'

C.B. HUNT

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