

DESTROYERS, PACIFIC FLEET
DESTROYER SQUADRON TWENTY-TWO

FC4-22/A16-3

15 September 1945.

From: Lieutenant E.R. ZUMWALT, U.S. Navy, File No. 165660.
To : Commander Task Group SEVENTY-THREE POINT TWO, (Commander
Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO).
Subject: Narrative of Prize Crew of H.I.J.M.S. ATAKA covering
trip to SHANGHAI, CHINA and return.

1. At 0700, 13 September 1945 underway in accordance with
Commander Task Group 73.2's orders to proceed to SHANGHAI, with Japanese
controlling all functions of the ship, prize crew guarding against sabotage,
checking and recording navigational data. The U.S.S. YMS 49 was in station
200 yards astern. At 0849 passed entrance buoy abeam to port and entered
YANGTZE RIVER.

2. All navigational information, record of courses and speeds
made good, buoys sighted, incorrect locations of buoys, and location of
wrecks, are included in the Navigational Log which is submitted as a
separate enclosure.

3. At 0940 passed the Chinese steam launch standing down the
river, flying the American ensign, which contained Commander Smith and his
YANGTZE RIVER Pilots. Communications could not be established with this
launch.

4. Shortly after entering the HWANGPOO RIVER at 1348, two high
speed Japanese patrol craft were sighted making a run on this Task Unit.
After warning by signal was unheeded, two pistol shots were fired at the
leading craft, the first one forward of the bow and the second one into the
bow to emphasize the order. The leading craft lay to and the second craft
veered off.

5. The Chinese people lining the banks and thronging the river
in Junks, demonstrated by applause, handclapping and tooting of whistles,
their happiness at the return of the American Navy to SHANGHAI. The Japanese
on board the ATAKA grew insolent and restless over this demonstration, making
it necessary to put guns in the ribs of certain officers and to line up all
of the ship's complement net on watch at their quarters under guard. This
move quieted the crew, pleased the Chinese throngs, and caused considerable
loss of face on the part of the Japanese when this ship later tied up at a
Japanese controlled deck.

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6. Since no voice or visual communications could be established with anyone but the Japanese, and in as much as there were no docks cleared except for the one at the Japanese Naval Headquarters, it was decided to tie the vessels of this Task Unit up there. The second reason for this decision was that fuel and water for the ATAKA were obtainable there. Upon tying up, the Commanding Officer of the H.I.J.M.S. ATAKA prize crew, with three armed enlisted men, entered Japanese Imperial Naval Headquarters and ordered that a car be furnished for transportation to American Naval Headquarters. The Japanese complied.

7. The two Commanding Officers of this Task Unit, under armed guard, proceeded in the Japanese automobile to the Headquarters of Commander U.S. Naval Group, CHINA. After conference with the latter's Flag Secretary, this group proceeded to Park Hotel in downtown SHANGHAI for a conference with the Chief of Staff, who took them to the private residence of Rear Admiral Miles to report.

8. Rear Admiral Miles' orders were to keep this Task Unit under heavy guard of fifty men supplied by the land based Naval forces, throughout the night, to continue the policy of denying the captured crew all contact with their Headquarters. At midnight, Rear Admiral Miles came on board for an inspection of the security of the ship. At 0200 14 September 1945, Japanese auxiliaries came alongside to supply fifty tons of fuel and twenty tons of fresh water. These vessels were thoroughly searched and several small arms and daggers were removed.

9. At 0800 14 September 1945, ships of this Task Unit got underway and shifted to the NYK deck which was to have been occupied that morning by American Forces. Upon arrival there it was discovered that the U.S. Navy was not in control and the Japanese troops were still on the deck. Japanese on the deck were disarmed and placed under guard. A search was made of all buildings adjacent to the deck. All Chinese were herded from the area. During this evolution it became necessary to requisition the services of a Japanese car which had brought a Japanese Naval Officer to the deck. His chauffeur drew a pistol and had to be forcibly disarmed.

10. At about 1000 the SHANGHAI based U.S. Naval Personnel arrived and a cordon of guards was thrown around the entire dock area. Rear Admiral Miles came to the dock to inspect the ship and the Japanese crew which was lined up on the deck under guard. Upon completing his inspection, he informed the Japanese Commanding Officer that the American Navy was officially assuming command of his ship, and that all men were to be removed. The entire crew was interrogated; names checked against muster list, and forced to remove personal belongings from the vessel. They were incarcerated on the second deck of the warehouse on NYK deck. During this inspection a Press Relations Unit and several newspaper correspondents took pictures and interrogated the prize crew.

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A Chinese General; Vice Admiral Blandy with his Staff also inspected the ships and deck.

11. At noon Chinese and Sikh guards relieved the American guard detail at the dock. Upon the completion of the inspection of the vessels of this Task Unit, Admiral Miles assembled the American crews to impart the following information: that the situation in SHANGHAI was tense with 175,000 armed Japanese and only a few thousand Chinese troops and a few hundred American troops to oppose them; that the presence of the United States Navy in SHANGHAI was an important event to the Chinese people; that 50% of the crews were to be allowed liberty at one time; that they would comport themselves in such a manner as to impress the Chinese people by their conduct. This liberty was immediately granted from which all hands except one enlisted rating on the YMS returned in good order and on time. During the afternoon the prize crew of the ATAKA was called upon to furnish three enlisted men and an officer to take part in a raid on a Japanese controlled building in the business district, for the purpose of removing the Japanese occupants. This was carried out with no undue stress after the typical Japanese attempt to procrastinate and negotiate were dealt with in language they understand. The multitudes of Chinese in the streets crowded for blocks around the area requiring two truck loads of Chinese soldiers to clear paths for transportation. Several similar raids upon other buildings were observed during the day.

12. During the afternoon an attempt was made to procure the anchors requested for the bamboo poles by sending out an officer and four enlisted men on a working party. This attempt was unsuccessful. During the evening this Task Unit received verbal orders from Rear Admiral Miles to get underway at 0700 in the morning, proceed to the Destroyer Anchorage, pick up a Flag officer and return to SHANGHAI the following day. At 0700 15 September got underway in accordance with verbal orders previously described, proceeded to Destroyer Anchorage at mouth of YANGTZE RIVER, recording the same data as described previously which is submitted by separate enclosure. At 1300 arrived Destroyer Anchorage and reported to Commander Task Group 73.2, mission completed.

13. The following observations are submitted. The military situation in SHANGHAI is tense; there are 300 to 400 American military personnel, several thousand Chinese troops and 175,000 armed Japanese present in the area. The American military attitude is governed by the fact that sovereign CHINA's wishes must be respected. The Japanese military attitude is that they have never been defeated and that they have full privileges of negotiations,

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diplomatic representation and carrying of arms. The Chinese military attitude is that of waiting until sufficient numbers of troops are available to enforce the Surrender Agreement. The American Naval Forces have taken over several buildings for administrative commands and the dock previously described. A signal tower is being erected. Within a short time a smooth functioning organization will be set up to handle American Naval traffic in the SHANGHAI area. Food seems to be plentiful but poorly distributed. Several bodies were observed on the streets, apparent victims of malnutrition. The Army Air Corps has possession of the Park Hotel and the good hotels are apparently being taken over by the other military organizations.

14. The following recommendations are submitted:

- (a) That several hundred or a thousand Naval Personnel be collected from the various ships at sea in this vicinity for transporting to SHANGHAI to be used in garrison, guard, police, and raiding capacity to relieve the extremely overworked few now there.
- (b) That the Japanese naval set up be investigated to determine the practicability of requiring them to supply U.S. Naval vessels with fuel oil, coal and other services, until our own organization is perfected.
- (c) That the H.I.J.M.S. ATAKA be used to protect the river front and present a show of force to the everbearing Japanese with resultant loss of face attendant with sight of an American ensign flying over a Japanese ensign on a former Japanese vessel and a Japanese crew working for American masters.

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