

F48

Reg. No. 1676  
S.S. No. 02018

AD 360

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. PHELPS

From: The Commanding Officer. To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet. ✓

Copy: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

624  
**FILMED**

*Continued*

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

1 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS enroute to PEARL HARBOR with T.F. 52 (Rear-Admiral Richmond K. TURNER in U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA). T.F. 52 consisting of CORAL SEA, CORREGIDOR, NASSAU, BARNES, IDAHO, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW MEXICO, PHELPS, MACDONOUGH, MURRY, GRIDLEY, MORRIS, MUSTIN. Course and axis 053°, speed 16.5 knots.
1734	0534	Crossed 180th Meridian from East Longitude to West Longitude in Latitude 04° 54.7'N.
2000	0800	Posit. Lat. 05° 19.2'N., Long. 179° 27'W.  Weather: Overcast with intermittent rain, barometer 29.88, temperature 83°, wind 4-6 knots from E, heavy swells.
2400	1200	Posit. Lat. 05° 59'N., Long. 178° 33'W.
0800	2000	Posit. Lat. 07° 20'N., Long. 176° 47'W.

2 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS, with T.F. 52 enroute to PEARL HARBOR, course and axis 053°, speed 16.5 knots.
2000	0800	Posit. Lat. 09° 26.5'N., Long. 174° 13'W.  Weather: Slight overcast, barometer 29.88, temperature 82°, wind 11-16 knots from ENE, heavy swells.
2340	1140	Changed course and axis to 054°.
2400	1200	Posit. Lat. 10° 09'N., Long. 173° 02.5'W.
0030	1230	MACDONOUGH left screen to act as target for radar calibration and BL and PL radar tests.
0300	1500	Set clocks ahead one hour to Zone plus 11 time.
0430	1730	MACDONOUGH rejoined screen.
0700	2000	Posit. Lat. 10° 51'N., Long. 172° 04'W.

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3 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with T.F. 52 enroute to PEARL HARBOR, course 054°, speed 16.5 knots.
1834	0734	Changed fleet course to 055° and speed to 17 knots.
1900	0800	Posit. Lat. 13° 02'N., Long. 169° 32.5'W.
		Weather: Slight overcast, barometer 29.96, temperature 81°, wind 11-16 knots from ENE, heavy swells.
2300	1200	Posit. Lat. 13° 36'N., Long. 168° 38'W.
2359	1259	PHELPS left screen to carry out scheduled BK, BL, and TBS tests.
0330	1630	PHELPS rejoined screen.
0700	2000	Posit. Lat. 14° 53'N., Long. 166° 55'W.

4 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with T.F. 52 enroute to PEARL HARBOR, course 055°, speed 17 knots.
1845	0745	MORRIS dropped out of screen because of an engineering casualty.
1900	0800	Posit. Lat. 16° 53'N., Long. 164° 07.7'W.
		Weather: Slight overcast, barometer 30.02, temperature 82°, wind 11-16 knots from ENE, heavy swells.
2300	1200	Posit. Lat. 17° 25'N., Long. 163° 25'W.
2330	1230	Destroyers formed in two columns for anti-aircraft firing exercises.
0045	1345	MORRIS rejoined screen.
0100	1400	Completed exercises.
		GRIDLEY left screen as target for radar tracking exercise.
0430	1730	GRIDLEY rejoined screen.
0700	2000	Posit. Lat. 18° 49.5'N., Long. 161° 24'W.

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5 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LMT</u>	
		PHELPS with T.F. 52 enroute to PEARL HARBOR, course 055°, speed 17 knots.
1300	0200	Set clocks ahead one hour to zone plus 10 time.
1730	0730	Commenced zigzag Plan #6; changed speed to 15 knots.
1800	0800	Posit. Lat. 20° 36'N., Long. 158° 45'W.
		Weather: Visibility unlimited, barometer 30.00, temperature 79°, wind 11-16 knots from ENE, heavy swells.
1830	0830	Set clocks ahead one half hour to zone plus 9½ time.
2000	1030	Ceased zigzagging.
		SEDERSTROM and HAGGARD joined screen.
2030	1100	OVERTON joined screen.
2049	1119	Changed course to 065°.
2100	1130	Commenced zigzag Plan #6.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. 21° 01'N., Long. 157° 59'W.
2153	1223	Ceased zigzagging and changed course to 000°.
2220	1250	PHELPS and MACDONOUGH screened battleships entering PEARL HARBOR.
2245	1315	Screen formed sound interference lanes while the battleships and CVE's entered harbor.
0124	1554	Passed through anti-submarine net into PEARL HARBOR.
0222	1652	PHELPS moored port side to dock in berth H-2, PEARL HARBOR.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

6 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS moored to dock in Berth H-1, PEARL HARBOR.
1733	0803	PHELPS underway from alongside dock proceeding to Berth X-6.
1800	0830	PHELPS moored alongside CRAVEN in Berth X-6, port side to.

7 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS moored alongside CRAVEN in Berth X-6, PEARL HARBOR.
0120	1350	HULL moored alongside PHELPS in Berth X-6, starboard side to.

8 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL moored alongside CRAVEN in Berth X-6, PEARL HARBOR.
1750	0820	HULL underway from alongside, proceeding to Berth K-1.

9 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL moored alongside moored alongside CRAVEN in Berth X-6, PEARL HARBOR.
1830	0900	Captain R.E. LIBBY, U.S. Navy, relieved as ComDesRon ONE and of additional duty as ComDesDiv ONE by Captain Ephraim R. McLEAN, Jr., U.S. Navy.
1831	0901	Captain E.R. McLEAN, Jr., U.S. Navy assumed command as ComDesRon ONE and additional duty as ComDesDiv ONE

10 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		Moored as before.

11 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		Moored as before.

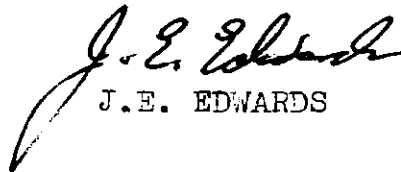
12 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		Moored as before.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

13 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		Moored as before.
1633	0703	Underway from Berth X-6, PEARL HARBOR, proceeding to sea for training exercises with S-41 and MACDONOUGH.
1730	0800	Posit. Lat. $21^{\circ} 16'N.$ , Long. $157^{\circ} 01'W.$
1909	0939	Commenced scheduled exercises, making sound runs on S-41 and conducting fighter director exercises.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. $21^{\circ} 13.8'N.$ , Long. $158^{\circ} 27'W.$
0037	1507	Completed scheduled training exercises; proceeding to PEARL HARBOR.
0308	1738	Passed through anti-submarine net into PEARL HARBOR.
0343	1813	PHELPS moored starboard side to MACDONOUGH in Berth X-6, PEARL HARBOR.

  
J. E. EDWARDS

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

14 December 1943

GCT      LWT      Moored as before.

15 December 1943

GCT      LWT      Moored as before.

2300    1330      PHELPS underway from Berth X-6

2332    1402      PHELPS passed through anti-submarine net going out of harbor in accordance with CINCPAC's 150345 December.

0153    1623      Formed A/S screen 55 around TENNESSEE, MARYLAND and COLORADO. Course 090°, speed 18 knots enroute to SAN FRANCISCO. Ships in screen, left to right, AYLWIN, FARRAGUT, PHELPS, HULL and MACDONOUGH.

0217    1647      Changed base course to 060°T.

0230    1700      Changed base course to 080°T.

0253    1723      Changed base course to 005°T.

0302    1732      Commenced zigzagging, using Plan #6.

0900    1930      Ceased zigzagging and resumed base course.

0930    2000      Posit. Lat. 22° 03.5' N., Long. 157° 29.3' W.

Changed base course to 040°.

1135    2205      Changed speed to 16.5 knots.

16 December 1943

GCT      LWT      PHELPS with HULL, MACDONOUGH, AYLWIN and FARRAGUT operating with TENNESSEE, MARYLAND and COLORADO as T.G. 12.14 enroute to SAN FRANCISCO.

1045    0115      Changed speed to 18 knots.

1053    0123      Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6.

1730    0800      Posit. Lat. 24° 48.5' N., Long. 155° 13.5' W.

Weather: Visibility unlimited, barometer 30.12, temperature 75°, wind 7-10 knots from E, sea calm

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16 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
1935	1005	Tested automatic weapons.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. $25^{\circ} 34.5$ N., Long. $154^{\circ} 12.5$ W.
2330	1400	Commenced flag hoist drill.
0030	1500	Ceased flag hoist drill.
0430	1900	Ceased zigzagging resumed base course. Changed fleet speed to 17 knots.
0530	2000	Posit. Lat. $27^{\circ} 09'$ N., Long. $152^{\circ} 52.5'$ W.
0800	2230	Commenced zigzagging using plan #6.

17 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL, AYLWIN, FARRAGUT, and MACDONOUGH operating with TENNESSEE, MARYLAND, and COLORADO as T.G. 12.14 enroute SAN FRANCISCO.
1630	0700	FARRAGUT left formation to act as target ship for radar tracking exercises.
1656	0726	PHELPS took station #2 in screen #54.
1730	0800	Posit. Lat. $29^{\circ} 25'$ N., Long $150^{\circ} 15'$ W. Weather: Intermittent rain, barometer 30.22, temperature $67^{\circ}$ , wind 7-10 knots from E, sea slight swells.
1803	0833	Changed fleet course to $059^{\circ}$ T.
1845	0915	Commenced tracking exercises.
2035	1105	Ceased exercises.
2100	1130	FARRAGUT joined formation. Screen reformed screen #55, PHELPS in station #1.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. $29^{\circ} 56'$ N., Long. $159^{\circ} 17'$ W.
2230	1300	Changed base course to $060^{\circ}$ T. Changed speed to 16.5 knots.

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17 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
0400	1830	Ceased zigzagging and resumed base course, speed 16 knots.
0530	2000	Posit. Lat. $30^{\circ} 59'$ N., Long. $147^{\circ} 12'$ W.
0830	2300	Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6, speed 16.5 knots.

18 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL, AYLWIN, MACDONOUGH and FARRAGUT operating with TENNESSEE, COLORADO and MARYLAND as T.G. 12.14 enroute SAN FRANCISCO.
1730	0800	Posit. Lat. $32^{\circ} 28'$ N., Long. $144^{\circ} 00'$ W.  Weather: Intermittent rain, barometer 30.17, temperature $65^{\circ}$ , wind 1-4 knots from NE, light swells.  HULL left formation to act as target ship for radar tracking exercises. Screen formed screen #54, PHELPS in #1 station.
1800	0830	Changed fleet course to $059^{\circ}$ T.
1825	0855	Exercises cancelled. HULL rejoined formation and screen formed screen #55.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. $33^{\circ} 06.5'$ N., Long. $143^{\circ} 01'$ W.
2330	1400	Held flag hoist drill for Task Group 12.14, PHELPS leading.
0330	1800	Ceased zigzagging and resumed base course of $059^{\circ}$ , speed 17 knots.
0530	2000	Posit. Lat. $34^{\circ} 05'$ N., Long. $140^{\circ} 49'$ W.
0900	2330	Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6.

19 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL, AYLWIN, MACDONOUGH and FARRAGUT operating with TENNESSEE, COLORADO and MARYLAND as T.G. 12.14 enroute SAN FRANCISCO.
1120	0150	Ceased zigzagging. Resumed base course.

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19 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
1130	0200	Changed base course to 068°T.
1140	0210	Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6.
1200	0230	Set clocks ahead $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to zone plus 9 time.
1700	0800	Posit. Lat. 35° 26' N., Long. 137° 28' W.
		Weather: Overcast, barometer 30.18, temperature 54°, wind 7-10 knots from N., heavy swells.
		HULL left formation to act as target ship for radar tracking drill.
1726	0826	Changed fleet course to 067° T.
1800	0900	Held radar tracking exercise.
2055	1155	HULL rejoined formation.
2100	1200	Posit. Lat. 35° 52' N., Long. 136° 15' W.
2138	1238	Changed fleet course to 066°.
2300	1400	Held flag hoist drill.
0300	1800	Ceased zigzagging and resumed base course.
0500	2000	Posit. Lat. 36° 39' N., Long. 133° 53' W.

20 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL, AYLWIN, MACDONOUGH and FARRAGUT operating with TENNESSEE, COLORADO and MARYLAND as T.G. 12.14 enroute SAN FRANCISCO.
0920	0020	Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6.
1100	0200	Set clocks ahead $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to zone plus 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ time.
1630	0800	Posit. Lat. 37° 55' N., Long. 130° 23' W.
		Weather: Overcast, barometer 30.18, temperature 58°, wind-7 to 10 knots from N, moderate swells.

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20 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
1725	0855	Changed fleet course to 093 <sup>o</sup> T.
1835	1005	Tested automatic weapons.
2030	1200	Posit. Lat. 37 <sup>o</sup> 57' N., Long. 129 <sup>o</sup> 04' W.
2050	1220	Changed base course to 095 <sup>o</sup> .
0230	1800	Ceased zigzagging, resumed base course.
0430	2000	Posit. Lat. 37 <sup>o</sup> 49' N., Long. 126 <sup>o</sup> 31' W.
0545	2115	PHELPS dropped out of formation due to slight casualty in engineroom.
0738	2308	PHELPS regained position in screen after repairing casualty.

21 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with HULL, AYLWIN, MADCONOUGH and FARRAGUT operating with TENNESSEE, COLORADO and MARYLAND as T.G. 12.14 enroute SAN FRANCISCO.
1030	0200	Set clocks ahead $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to zone plus 8 time.
1530	0730	Passed Golden Gate Bridge entering SAN FRANCISCO. Set clocks ahead 1 hour to zone plus 7 time.
1804	1104	PHELPS moored port side to Pier 5 at NSD, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA; HULL outboard.

22 December 1943 (

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		Moored as before.
2150	1450	PHELPS underway from NSD, to Berth 12, Bethlehem Steel.
2245	1545	PHELPS moored at Berth 12, Bethlehem Steel, SAN FRANCISCO.

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23 December 1943

GCT    LWT    Moored as before.

24 December 1943

Moored as before.

25 December 1943

Moored as before.

26 December 1943

Moored as before.

27 December 1943

Moored as before.

28 December 1943

GCT    LWT    Moored as before.

2200    1500    PHELPS underway from Berth 6, Bethlehem Steel.

2330    1630    PHELPS anchored in Five Able in SAN FRANCISCO Bay.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

29 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS anchored in Berth A-5, San Francisco, California.
1432	0732	PHELPS underway from Berth A-5, speed 15 knots.
1440	0740	PHELPS passed through anti-submarine nets followed by DesRon ONE less MADDONOUGH in compliance with Secret Letter of C.T.U. 53.5.1. T.U. 12.14 became T.U. 53.5.1, O.T.C. in TENNESSEE with MARYLAND, COLORADO and DesRon ONE plus BILOXI. Enroute SAN PEDRO and SAN DIEGO in compliance with ComGroup 3 FifthPhibFor's 271655 of December.
1621	0921	PHELPS had engineering casualty after forming screening lane.
1635	0935	PHELPS regained full power.
1636	0936	TENNESSEE, MARYLAND, COLORADO, BILOXI and MACDONOUGH standing out of harbor.
1702	1002	Formed screen #57, ships from left to right, AYLWIN, MON-AGHAN, FARRAGUT, PHELPS, DEWEY, HULL and DALE. Base course 250°, speed 16.5 knots.
1742	1042	Formed screen #58 with MACDONOUGH taking station #8.
1815	1115	Changed base course to 194° T.
1830	1130	Changed speed to 18 knots.
1835	1135	Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6.
1900	1200	Posit. Lat. 37° 24' N., Long. 123° 01' W.
2030	1330	Changed base course to 159° T.
2100	1400	Held flag hoist drill, FARRAGUT leading.
2200	1500	Tested automatic weapons.
2225	1525	PHELPS had engineering casualty and dropped out of formation.
0030	1730	PHELPS repaired casualty, proceeding to station #7 in formation.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

29 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
0040	1740	Changed base course to 146° T.
0300	2000	Posit. Lat. 35° 26' N., Long. 122° 19' W.
0415	2115	PHELPS in station #7, course 146°, speed 16.5 knots.

30 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS with DesRon ONE in company with TENNESSEE, MARYLAND, COLORADO and BILOXI as T.U. 53.5.1 enroute SAN PEDRO - SAN DIEGO.
1100	0400	Changed base course to 100° T.
1115	0415	Changed base course to 085° T.
1200	0500	Changed base course to 093° T.
1415	0715	Commenced zigzagging using Plan #6.
1500	0800	Posit. Lat. 33° 38' N., Long. 119° 17' W. Weather: Overcast, barometer 30.19, temperature 57°, wind 7-10 knots from ESE, sea calm.
1600	0900	Manned sky battery for scheduled exercises.
1635	0935	Exercises cancelled.
1710	1110	Changed base course to 100° T.
1725	1025	Ceased zigzagging.
1735	1035	T.U. 53.5.1 steaming through SAN PEDRO channel.
1805	1105	Changed speed to 15 knots.
1815	1115	Heavy ships left formation to enter SAN PEDRO Harbor. DesRon ONE formed squadron formation "HOW ONE." PHELPS guide of Division ONE in natural order of ships, base course 140°, speed 20 knots.
1900	1200	Posit. Lat. 33° 25' N., Long 118° 12' W.

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30 December 1943 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
2226	1526	Changed base course to 060° T. Entering swept channel SAN DIEGO.
2233	1533	Changed speed to 15 knots.
2247	1547	DesRon ONE entered main channel SAN DIEGO.
2256	1556	Entered SAN DIEGO Harbor through anti-submarine net.
0004	1704	PHELPS moored alongside ANDERSON at Pier #3, Repair Base. Remainder of DesRon ONE moored to assigned buoys #22 and #23 in stream.

31 December 1943

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LWT</u>	
		PHELPS moored alongside ANDERSON at Pier #3, Repair Base, SAN DIEGO.

  
D.L. MARTINEAU.