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CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

PATROL WING SEVEN

From: December 7, 1941 To: February 28, 1942.

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Original to Chief of Naval Operations
(Office of Naval Records and Library).

INDEXED

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File No.

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
PATROL WING SEVEN**CONFIDENTIAL**WAR DIARY

From: 7 December 1941 To: 28 February 1942

At the outbreak of War this command was a part of the Support Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and was operating under Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Operating Plan 7C-41 of 29 September 1941 and Commander Support Force, Atlantic Fleet Operating Plan 14-41. Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet was Admiral E. J. KING and Commander Support Force was Rear Admiral A. L. BRISTOL.

This Command was designated Task Group 4.3 with Captain H. M. MULLINNIX as commander. It consisted of Patrol Squadrons 71, 72, 73, 74, ALBEMARLE, POCOMOKE, GEO. E. BADGER, and BELKNAP. At the outbreak of War the POCOMOKE was Wing Flagship and was at Argentia, Newfoundland tending planes; the GEO. E. BADGER was enroute Iceland to Boston via Argentia; the BELKNAP was at Reykjavik, Iceland, tending planes; the ALBEMARLE was at Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia loading equipment. Detachments of Patrol Squadron 71 and 72 were at Argentia and Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island, detachments of Patrol Squadron 73 were at Iceland, Argentia, and Quonset Point, and units of Patrol Squadron 74 were at Iceland, Argentia and Norfolk, Virginia. The Wing Commander was on temporary duty at Fleet Air Detachment, Norfolk, Virginia.

9 December

Patrol Squadron 71 and 72 were ordered to assemble at Quonset Point and proceed to the West Coast as soon as possible and report to Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet for duty. These squadrons were later ordered to report to Commander Patrol Wing Eight for administration. They proceeded in detachments, the first group departing Norfolk, Virginia on December 14, 1941.

The Administration of Patrol Wing Seven was shifted to Fleet Air Detachment, Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, leaving Argentia via the U.S.S. GRIFFIN, to Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island and proceeding in the U.S.S. ALBEMARLE from Quonset Point to Norfolk, Virginia.

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22 December

Commander Patrol Squadron 82 reported to Commander Patrol Wing Seven for duty, and on 24 December 1941 one division of Patrol Squadron 82 departed Norfolk, Virginia for Argentia arriving on 30 December 1941.

28 December

The U.S.S. ALBEMARLE departed Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia for Iceland via Quonset Point and Argentia to transport one division of Patrol Squadron 73 with five PBV-5A airplanes, Lieutenant D. W. SHAFFER in Command, to the Fleet Air Base, Iceland. Commander Patrol Wing Seven made the trip in the ALBEMARLE. The ship arrived at Iceland 9 January 1942 and departed 19 January 1942, returning two PBV-5 airplanes. During a hurricane at Iceland on 15 January two PBM-1 and three PBV-5 airplanes were lost at anchor in Skerjafjordur, but without loss of life. U.S.S. ALBEMARLE arrived back at Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia on 29 January 1942.

Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet Operation Plan 8-41 of 20 December 1941 went in effect upon receipt. Commander Support Force then put his Operation Plan 1-42 dated 11 January 1942 in effect upon receipt.

1 January 1942

Vice Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll assumed duties of Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet as relief of Admiral E. J. King who became Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet on 30 December 1941.

2 January

Remaining seaplanes of Patrol Squadrons 73 and 74 departed Argentia for United States bases.

5 January

U.S.S. GEO. E. BADGER departed Navy Yard Boston for Argentia arriving on the 7th and relieving the U.S.S. POCOMOKE on the 8th. The U.S.S. POCOMOKE then proceeded to Norfolk for Navy Yard overhaul.

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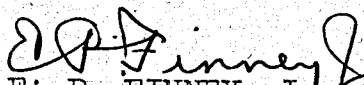
4 February

Commander Patrol Wing Seven hoisted his pennant at Fleet Air Detachment, Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia and remained there until 23 February 1942 when the Wing Commander and administration moved back aboard the U.S.S. ALBEMARIE.

25 February

The U.S.S. ALBEMARIE departed Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia for Newport, Rhode Island arriving 26 February, to furnish services to planes of Patrol Squadron 73 at Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, R.I. Services continued through remainder of month.

Submitted:



E. P. FINNEY, JR.
Lieutenant, U. S. Navy
Wing Secretary.

Approved:



L. K. RICE,
Lieut-Comdr., USN
Acting.