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DD470/A12  
(054)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.  
15 January 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Subject: War Diary - Submission of.  
Enclosure: (A) War Diary for December 1943.

1. The War Diary of this vessel for the month of December 1943, is herewith submitted.

*F. M. Adamson*  
F. M. ADAMSON.

*Recorded*

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U.S. FLEET  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF

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U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

Operational Data

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Wednesday, 1 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
39-57 N 166-54 W	39-20 N 166-31 W	38-23 N 165-16 W

Steaming in company with U.S.S. BUSH (COMDESDIV 48, OTC), U.S.S. AMMEN, escorting PC1078, PC1080, PC1079, PC487, SC999, SC538, SC539, and SC670 to Pearl Harbor, T.H., from Adak, Alaska. PC's and SC's arranged in two columns of four, BUSH ahead, AMMEN on starboard flank and this vessel on port flank. Movement being made in accordance COMNORPAC despatch 270029 of November. Formation behind schedule about one day because of heavy weather. Left Adak November 27, 1943.

Thursday, 2 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
36-12 N 164-33 W	35-23 N 164-09 W	33-52 N 164-03 W

Steaming as before. At 1800, formed scouting line and commenced run at higher speeds to Pearl, parting company with PC and SC boats. During morning tested machine guns. Ammunition expended: 40mm--25 rounds; 20mm--35 rounds. Set clocks ahead one-half hour to plus 9½ time.

Friday, 3 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
29-43 N 162-13 W	28-23 N 161-40 W	26-12 N 160-39 W

Steaming as before.

Saturday, 4 December 1943.

Steaming as before. At 0800 arrived off Oahu, T. H. Conducted structural test and shock test of installed equipment by dropping a 11-charge pattern consisting of 6 300-lb. and 5 600-lb. depth charges at speed of 14 knots with 50 foot depth setting. With exception of a broken pipe on expansion tank of steering gear, no damage was caused ship. Entered Pearl Harbor and began short period of Navy Yard availability.

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Sunday, 5 December 1943, -- Monday, 6 December 1943.

Moored Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

Tuesday, 7 December 1943.

Entered dry-dock.

Wednesday, 8 December 1943.

Dry-docked, Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

Thursday, 9 December and Friday, 10 December 1943.

Undocked. Making preparations for sea.

Saturday, 11 December 1943.

2000

18-28.5 N  
159-56 W

Underway enroute Pearl Harbor to Funafuti, in accordance with CINCPAC despatch 080347 and verbal orders of COMDESPAC, in company and on scouting line with U.S.S. BROWNSON (OTC). Test fired machine guns expending 135 rounds 20mm, and 56 rounds of 40mm. Conducted radar calibration drill. Set clocks back to plus 10 time.

Sunday 12 December 1943.

0800  
15-00 N  
162-27 W

1200  
13-48 N  
163-21 W

2000  
11-17 N  
165-21 W

Steaming as before. Conducted tracking drills. Set clocks back to plus 11 time.

Monday, 13 December 1943.

0800  
07-27 N  
168-06 W

1200  
06-18 N  
169-00 W

2000  
03-57 N  
170-41 W

Steaming as before. Conducted tracking drills. At 1640, Davy Jones came aboard and notified the commanding officer that His Majesty, Neptunus Rex would be aboard tomorrow.



U.S.S. BACHE (DDA70)

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Tuesday, 14 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
00-17 N 173-36 W	01-04 S 174-35 W	03-37 S 175-46 W

Steaming as before. At 0853 in longitude 173-48 W, ship crossed the line. Neptunus Rex was welcomed aboard and all pollywogs properly initiated into the ancient mysteries of the deep.

Wednesday, 15 December; Thursday, 16 December 1943. (Same day)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
06-59 S 179-16 W	08-05 S 179-55 E

Steaming as before. At 0841 crossed the 180th meridian. Changed date to 16 December and commenced keeping -13 time. Entered Funafuti, Ellice Islands, in late afternoon and fueled.

Friday, 17 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
Funafuti	08-30 S 179-00 E	09-45 S 176-23 E

At 1000 underway for Espiritu Santo Island, New Hebrides group, in company with U.S.S. BROWNSON (OTC). Conducting tracking exercises and a simulated radar torpedo firing run. Set clocks back one hour to -12 time zone.

Saturday, 18 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
11-17 S 173-03 E	11-52 S 171-40 E	13-35 S 170-01 E

Steaming as before. Set clocks back one hour to -11 time zone.

Sunday, 19 December 1943.

Steaming as before. At 0800 arrived Espiritu Santo. Fueled and departed for Milne Bay, New Guinea, in company with U.S.S. BROWNSON and U.S.S. MULLANY in late afternoon.

4

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

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CONFIDENTIAL

Monday, 20 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
14-25 S	13-57 S	13-02 S
161-04 E	159-25 E	156-01 E

Steaming as before.

Tuesday, 21 December 1943.

0800  
11-22 S  
151-12 E

Steaming as before. At 1100 entered China Straits and proceeded into Milne Bay. Ship assigned to Task Force 76. Fueled and anchored in Gili Gili Anchorage, Milne Bay.

Wednesday, 22 December 1943.

Anchored as before.

Thursday, 23 December 1943.

Anchored as before. Ship's assignment changed to Task Force 74, Rear Admiral CRUTCHLEY, RAN, in HMAS AUSTRALIA, O.T.C.

<u>Task Group 74.1</u>	HMAS AUSTRALIA	TU 74.1.1
	HMAS SHROPSHIRE	
<u>Task Group 74.2</u>	HMAS WARRALUNGA	TU 74.2.1
	HMAS ARUNTA	
	USS HELM	
	USS RALPH TALBOT	
<u>Task Group 74.2</u>	USS NASHVILLE	TU 74.2.1
	USS PHOENIX	
<u>Task Group 74.2</u>	USS BUSH	TU 74.2.2
	USS AMLEN	
	USS MULLANY	
	USS BACHE	



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Friday, 24 December 1943.

Anchored as before. At 1544 underway in accordance with CTF 76 OpPlan 3B-43, detailing the operations for the invasion of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, and CTF 74 OpPlan 8-43, detailing the operations of Task Force 74 during the operation. Mission of Task Force 74 is to cover the Amphibious Force (Task Force 76) in the approach to Cape Gloucester, conduct preliminary shore bombardment of landing areas, and act as surface cover in the night subsequent to the invasion. Formed one long column, passed through Raven Channel, and proceeded up the coast during the night.

Saturday, 25 December 1943 (Christmas Day).

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
08-57 S	08-04 S	06-00 S
149-01 E	148-10 E	147-42 E

Steaming as before. Formed anti-submarine screen after clearing shoal water at Cape Ward Hunt. During the afternoon passed several task units of Task Force 76. Stood up through Vitiaz Strait. At 2000 set condition One Easy. Near midnight passed between Tolokiwa Island and Umboi Island.

Sunday, 26 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-15 S	06-09 S	05-13 S
148-30 E	147-55 E	147-34 E

Steaming as before. At 0100 changed course to East and commenced approach to Cape Gloucester area. 0430 Sounded General Quarters in preparation for the attack. At 0445 Task Group 74.1 left the formation and proceeded to their firing area. At 0450 entered our firing area. Ships of Eastern Assault Force passed close aboard on their way to the transport area in Borgen Bay. At 0625 cruisers opened fire on assigned targets on western side of Borgen Bay. At 0713 noticed bombers attacking eastern invasion area. At 0718 opened fire on assigned target at range of 14,000 yards. At 0724 ceased firing, having expended 147 rounds of 5"/38 cal. A.A. common. Bursts appeared to be in the target area. At 0725 noticed our medium bombers attacking beach area. At 0740 commenced forming up for the retirement. At no time during the bombardment was any enemy opposition noticed and it was later learned that our troops landed without enemy resistance. At 0751 rejoined Task Group 74.1 and formed anti-aircraft formation. With exception of one submarine alert and two false enemy plane reports, retirement, which was made over the same route as we came, was without incident. Set condition One Easy. At 1441 our Task Unit, 74.2.2, U.S.S. BUSH OTO, parted company with remainder of Task Force just south of Cape Cretin and proceeded to the covering area north of Cape Gloucester. Passed to northward of Tolokiwa Island, arrived in covering area at 2205 and commenced patrol.

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Monday, 27 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
08-55 S 147-41 E	05-23 S 147-37 E	Cape Gloucester

Steaming as before. At 0300 left the covering area and commenced retirement via the route north of Tolokiwa Island and Vitiaz Strait. Due to the fact that several destroyers of escort group were damaged in a 140-plane air attack on the afternoon of December 26, off Cape Gloucester, this task unit was assigned to escort Task Unit 76.2.4 consisting of LST's and LCI's escorted by U.S.S. DRAYTON, to the Cape. Joined up at 0725, and formed anti-submarine screen on the unit, proceeding northwards. Took usual route between Tolokiwa and Umboi Islands and delivered the unit at Borgen Bay about 1630. Commenced patrol northeastward of Sakar Island awaiting sortie of Task Unit 76.2.4 in the morning. At 2110, picked up Task Unit 74.1.2 on radar proceeding to covering area.

Tuesday 28 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-20 S 148-30 E	05-27 S 147-55 E	06-40 S 148-05 E

Steaming as before. At 0333, made radar contact on Task Unit 74.1.2 returning from covering area. 0415 Noticed flashes of gunfire on Cape Gloucester. 0557 MULLANY reported making three depth charge attacks on sound contact. 0715 Ships of Task Unit 76.2.4 stood out of Borgen Bay and our unit formed anti-submarine screen on them. Retirement to Buna through Vitiaz Strait started. 1924 MULLANY reported being fired on from the New Guinea coast. Observed AA fire and searchlights from vicinity of Finschafen. Went to General Quarters to ward off possible air attack. 2008 MULLANY reported radar contact on aircraft apparently orbiting just to westward of formation. This contact was later proven to be friendly PT boats on barge sweep up New Guinea coast. 2107 Secured from General Quarters and set condition I Easy.

Wednesday, 29 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
07-45 S 148-07 E	08-15 S 148-15 E	

Steaming as before. Test fired machine guns in morning expending 149 rounds 20mm and 27 rounds of 40mm. 1016 Passed Cape Ward Hunt and entered shoal area to southward. 1324 Parted company with Task Unit 76.2.4 and entered Buna Roads where units of Task Forces 74 and 76 were at anchor. Fueled, provisioned, and then moored to HMAS YUNNAN to take on ammunition.



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Thursday, 30 December 1943.

Moored as before. At 1840, underway to anchorage to await night sortie. 2215 Underway in accordance with GTF 76 despatch 270857 of December with other vessels of Task Unit 74.2.2 to escort 10th Echelon, consisting of 5 LST's to Cape Gloucester. LST's proceeding in column led by BUSH through shoal area, other destroyers in anti-submarine screen closing as necessary to miss shoals.

Friday, 31 December 1943.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
07-27 S	06-47 S	05-54 S
147-43 E	148-02 E	147-39 E

Steaming as before. 1300 Test fired machine guns expending 121 rounds 20mm and 71 rounds 40mm. 1548 While in Vitiaz Strait made good sound contact. Attacked with an eleven charge pattern (5 600-lb. charges and 6 300-lb. charges). Negative results. Contact could not be regained even though the area was well searched. Rejoined formation and resumed station in screen. Near midnight entered strait between Tolokiwa and Umboi Islands.

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:

*F. H. Adanson*  
F. H. ADANSON,

Commander, USN, Commanding Officer.

*J. A. Sharpe*  
J. A. SHARPE,

Lieutenant, USN, Navigator.

cc: CINCPAC  
COMDESPAC