

(ps)

F48

Log No.	505
U.S. No.	024571

DD470/A12
(065)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.,
May 2, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

#

F-48

From: The Commanding Officer.
 To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
 Subject: War Diary - Submission of.
 Enclosure: (A) War Diary for April 1944.

1. The War Diary of this vessel for the month of April, 1944, is herewith submitted.

Robert C. Morton
 ROBERT C. MORTON.

Recorded

73338

FILMED

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

April 1, 1944.

(a) Attached to Task Force 75:

COMCRUDIV 15 CTF 75
PHOENIX (flag)
NASHVILLE
BOISE
HUTCHINS (CDS24)
DALY
BUSH (CDD48)
HEALE
ABNER READ
BACHE

(c) At anchor Milne Bay, New Guinea. Time Zone -10.

April 2, 1944.

(c) At anchor, Milne Bay.

April 3, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BOISE, memorandum instructions of 3 April 1944.

(c) In Milne Bay area.

(d) Simulated shore bombardments on islands in Milne Bay. Fired machine gun practices. Exercised at division maneuvers in company with BUSH and ABNER READ. Returned to anchorage at 1700.

April 4-5, 1944.

(c) Anchored Milne Bay.

April 6, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with COMDESRON 24 despatch 060216 of 6 April 1944.

(c) Milne Bay area.

(d) At 1545 got underway and picked up 24 rounds 5" Mark 32 projectiles at Gamadodo. Proceeded to gunnery area and test-fired these projectiles. 1927 Returned to anchorage. COMDESDIV 48 came aboard for tomorrow's exercises.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

April 7, 1944.

(a) U.S.S. BUSH disabled one set of main engines. Detached from Task Force to proceed to Cairns for repairs. COMDESDIV 48, now aboard this vessel, will shift pennant to U.S.S. ABNER READ.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF75 training plan for 6-8 April 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	10-26 S	11-17 S	11-10 S
	150-36 E	150-29 E	150-29 E

(d) 0700 Underway in company with HUTCHINS, DALY, and BEALE. Carried out tests and exercises south of China Straits. Joined Task Force 75 cruisers at 1900 and conducted night encounter exercise between Task Force 75 and Task Force 74.

April 8, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with ComTaskForce 75 OpPlan 1-44.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	10-30 S	Milne Bay	09-56 S
	150-43 E		150-33 E

(d) At 0700 entered China Straits and proceeded to Milne Bay. Fueled and then proceeded to Gamadodo and took on ammunition. At 1630 left Milne Bay in company with HUTCHINS and DALY forming Task Group 75.5, COMDESRON 24 CTG 75.5. Proceeded through Raven Channel and up the coast enroute Cape Cretin.

April 9, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	07-12 S	Cape Cretin	06-01 S
	148-04 E		147-51 E

(d) At 1000 arrived at Cape Cretin. Fueled and held final conference. At 1643 departed Cape Cretin enroute Hansa Bay via passage between Long and Tolo-kiwa Islands.

April 10, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	04-12 S	04-28 S	06-00 S
	145-34 E	145-27 E	147-53 E

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

April 10, 1944, (Cont'd).

(d) At 0900 commenced approach to Hansa Bay rounding Manam Island to port. At 0932 commenced firing on targets assigned, proceeding into Hansa Bay. At 1003 opened fire on Laing Island closing it to 1500 yards before reversing course to north. At 1010 opened fire on barges on beach, splashes indicating salvos landing in and around barges. At 1012 Liberators commenced bombing the area. One was shot down in flames at 1026 by Jap A/A fire. At 1028 cleared Hansa Bay and commenced high speed run to eastward down coast of New Guinea. At 1155 slowed and opened fire on barges on beach inside Ulingen harbor, possibly destroying four of them. Shifted fire to huts when barges could no longer be seen. HUTCHINS set one hut afire. At 1320 rounded Cape Croiselles and at 1342 opened fire on Alexishafen. At 1348 ceased firing and continued south opening fire on Madang at 1407. At 1423 ceased fire and headed for home. At 1549 stopped off Saidor for a few minutes to transfer passengers on HUTCHINS to a PT boat. At 2036 clear of Huon Peninsula. Changed course to 175° for Cape Ward Hunt.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

	<u>AA Common</u>	<u>White Phosphorus</u>
Hansa Bay	320	9
Ulingen Harbor	40	0
Alexishafen	31	0
Madang	<u>58</u>	<u>2</u>
	449	11

(g) Although this vessel had no success at starting fires with white phosphorus projectiles they were found to be very useful for spotting.

April 11, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	08-42 S	09-08 S	Milne Bay
	148-33 E	149-23 E	

(d) Arrived Milne Bay at 1800.

April 12-14, 1944.

(c) At anchor Milne Bay.

April 15, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 dispatch 120147 of April in compliance with Seventh Fleet Operation Plan 3-44.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

April 15, 1944 (Cont'd).

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	10-05 S	09-16 S	Buna Area
	150-48 E	149-35 E	

(d) Underway at 0400 enroute Buna area in company with Task Force 75. At 1635 anchored off Cape Sudest.

April 16, 1944.

(a) Task Group 75.3 U.S.S. NASHVILLE (OTC), ABNER READ, and BACHE.

(c) Buna area, at anchor.

April 17, 1944.

(c) Buna area.

(d) Took on ammunition from U.S.S. PYRO and then proceeded to area south-east of anchorage and test-fired twenty-four rounds of Mark 32 projectiles. At 1220 returned to anchorage.

April 18, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTG 75.3 dispatch 180435 of April.

(c) Buna area.

(d) At 2337 underway for Cape Cretin in company with Task Group 75.3.

April 19, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	07-04 S	06-19 S	05-18 S
	148-02 E	147-57 E	148-31 E

(d) At 1030 arrived Cape Cretin. NASHVILLE embarked General MacArthur and members of his staff. This vessel embarked Lieut. G. W. HAWKINS, D-V(S), U.S.N.R., on staff of Commander Seventh Fleet to view coming operations. 1100 Left Cape Cretin. 1600 Arrived Borgen Bay, New Britain, patrolling off entrance while NASHVILLE is at anchor inside bay. At 2030 NASHVILLE stood out. Task Group proceeded to rendezvous with Attack Force northwest of Admiralty Islands.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

April 20, 1944.

(a) Operating with Task Force 77.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 77 OpPlan 3-44.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-59 S 147-28 E	01-22 S 145-56 E	01-59 S 144-28 E

(d) At 0900 rounded the Admiralty Islands. At 1600 joined with Task Force 77 enroute Hollandia, New Guinea.

(e) Mission of Task Force 77 is to seize and occupy airdromes at and near Aitape and Hollandia by a three-pronged invasion of Aitape, Humboldt Bay, and Tanahmerah Bay. Our mission is to form screen with other destroyers enroute to attack areas, execute initial shore bombardment at Humboldt Bay, provide call fire, and act as screen for U.S.S. NASHVILLE should she leave Humboldt Bay area.

April 21, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-13 S 143-07 E	01-26 S 142-35 E	01-53 S 141-30 E

(d) Enroute Humboldt Bay. 1735 Task Group 77.3, Eastern Attack Group, left the formation for Aitape. 2000 Task Group 77.2, Central Attack Group, to which we are attached, left formation for Humboldt Bay, leaving Task Group 77.1, Western Attack Group to continue on to Tanahmerah Bay.

April 22, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-33 S 140-45 E	02-28 S 140-46 E	02-17 S 140-51 E

(d) At 0405 went to General Quarters in preparation for assault on Humboldt Bay area. At 0500 arrived in area, awaiting turn to bombard while ships of Task Group deploy for attack. Sighted several fires on the beach. 0554 Cruisers launched spotting planes. 0600 Cruisers opened fire on assigned targets. 0615 Commenced moving into firing position. Landing boats are now moving in toward the beach. At 0630 Opened fire on assigned targets in Challenger Cove. 0645 Ceased firing. 0704 Our troops reported to be on beach;

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

April 22, 1944 (Cont'd)

no opposition as yet. Maneuvering off Cape Soedja waiting for call fire and keeping clear of cruisers executing call fire. 0906 On orders from CTF 75 proceeded to investigate beach between Cape Soedja and Cape Tanahmerah for evidence of the enemy. No evidence of enemy activity was found and at 1115 the ship arrived back at Humboldt Bay. 1125 Formed A/S screen in company with ABNER READ on NASHVILLE, reforming Task Group 75.3. 1314 Arrived Tanahmerah Bay. Patrolling in northwest sector of bay while General MacArthur and staff visit the Attack Commander. 1429 Two bombs dropped close to MULLANY. Evidently friendly aircraft jettisoning bombs. 1645 Task Group left the area enroute Aitape area.

(f) Expended 210 rounds AA common ammunition.

April 23, 1944.

(a) Operating with Task Group 75.3.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	03-06 S	03-01 S	03-50 S
	142-27 E	143-05 E	145-54 E

(d) At 0630 arrived off Aitape. Ships of Task Force 77.3 bombarded Seleo and Tumleo Islands and aircraft bombed and strafed them at this time. NASHVILLE assisted in the bombardment. Landing forces were put ashore on these islands about 0700 and occupied them. Slight resistance was encountered on Tumleo Island. At 0715 General MacArthur and staff went ashore to view situation ashore returning at 1000. Commenced return to Cape Cretin at 1030.

April 24, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	06-36 S	At anchor	05-26 S
	147-51 E	Finschafen	147-27 E

(d) 0700 Arrived Cape Cretin area. Disembarked passengers from all ships and fueled in Langemak Bay. Anchored at Finschafen at 1200 awaiting NASHVILLE to complete fueling. 1530 Underway for Seeadler Harbor.

April 25, 1944.

(a) Rejoined Task Force 75.

(c) Seeadler Harbor.

(d) At 0800 entered Seeadler Harbor, fueled, and anchored.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

April 26, 1944.

(a) Operating with Task Force 75, and Task Group 78.1 (Cardiv 22 and Desron 2).

(b) Operating in accordance with CTG 78.1 Mailgram 250224 of April 25, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-42 S 147-02 E	01-45 S 145-56 E	01-55 S 143-38 E

(d) At 0612 cleared Seeadler Harbor. At 0730 formed cruising disposition and commenced voyage to area north of Hollandia. Our mission is to act as a covering force for troops that landed 22 April, and to provide air support for them.

April 27, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-40 S 140-31 E	01-58 S 140-43 E	02-07 S 141-41 E

(d) Arrived in covering area in early morning. Carriers conducted flight operations keeping A/S patrols, combat air patrols, and supporting missions in the air.

April 28, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-00 S 141-14 E	02-01 S 141-03 E	01-45 S 141-26 E

(d) Operating in area north of Hollandia as before.

April 29, 1944.

(b) COMTASKFORCE 75 OpPlan 2-44.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-56 S 141-16 E	01-55 S 140-43 E	01-09 S 140-10 E

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

April 29, 1944 (Cont'd)

(d) Operating in area north of Hollandia as before. Fueled from U.S.S. CHENANGO. At 1730 Task Force 75 left Task Group 78.1 and proceeded to Sawar, New Guinea, and Wakde Island to carry out bombardment of air strips and adjacent ground at these places.

April 30, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-00 S	01-37 S	01-27 S
	141-01 E	140-40 E	140-56 E

(d) At 0000 formed column astern of ABNER READ with PHOENIX, NASHVILLE, BOISE, HUTCHINS, DALY, and BEALE astern of us. 0020 Turned to bombardment course. 0027½ ABNER READ commenced firing on Sawar air strip area. 0029 Commenced firing on assigned target area at western end of air strip. 0047 Ceased firing. Reversed course and headed for Wakde Island. 0116 Changed to bombardment course, still in column formation. One heavy fire noted burning in Sawar drome area as result of firing. 0127½ Commenced firing on eastern end of Wakde air strip. 0143 Ceased firing. 0148 Commenced forming screen on cruisers. Two fires noted burning on Wakde Island as a result of bombardment. 0158 Set course to rejoin Task Group 78.1. 0700 Rejoined Task Group 78.1 and commenced operating in area north of Hollandia as a covering force, carriers keeping fighter cover, anti-submarine patrols, and supporting missions in the air.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

371 rounds AA Common; 6 rounds White Phosphorus.

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:

Robert C. Morton

ROBERT C. MORTON,
Lieut. Comdr., USN, Commanding Officer.

J. A. Sharpe

J. A. SHARPE,
Lieutenant, USN, Navigator.

cc: CINCPAC