

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

Tuesday, 1 February 1944.

Steaming in company with U.S.S. BEALE escorting Echelon B-18 enroute Cape Cretin to Suvest. 0345 Parted company with Echelon B-18 and anchored off Buna. Fueled and then anchored off Cape Endaiadere.

Wednesday, 2 February 1944.

Anchored as before.

Thursday, 3 February 1944.

Anchored as before.

Friday, 4 February 1944.

1200

08-57 S
149-09 E

Anchored as before. At 1000 got underway in company with DALY (CDS24, OTC), BEALE, MULLANY, and AMMEN, in accordance with orders CTF76 serial 00104 of 31 January 1944, for upkeep and recreation trip to Sydney. Arrived in Milne Bay in evening, fueled and embarked additional passengers.

Saturday, 5 February 1944.

2000

12-16 S
149-28 E

Anchored as before. 1318 Underway for Sydney, Australia, in column open order with U.S.S. DALY (CDS24, OTC), BEALE, MULLANY, and AMMEN. Passed through China Straits heading for Grafton Passage through Great Barrier Reef.

Sunday, 6 February 1944.

0800

16-20 S
146-32 E

1200

17-41 S
146-14 E

2000

19-56 S
148-47 E

Steaming as before. 0923 Entered Great Barrier Reef through Grafton Passage and turned south to follow outer route down east coast of Australia inside the reef.

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Monday, 7 February 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
23-17 S 153-00 E	25-02 S 153-20 E	28-16 S 153-25 E

Steaming as before. In early morning passed through Capricorn Channel leaving Great Barrier Reef.

Tuesday, 8 February 1944.

0800
33-15 S
152-31 E

Steaming as before. Entered Port Jackson, Sydney, Australia, at noon and moored to Woolloomooloo Dock. Commenced upkeep, liberty and recreation period.

Wednesday, 8 February — Friday 18, February 1944.

Moored as before. Calibrated degaussing gear. On Tuesday 14 February 1944, Lieut. Comdr. R. C. MORTON relieved Commander F. M. ADAMSON of command.

Saturday, 19 February 1944.

2000
31-58 S
153-05 E

Moored as before. 1205 Underway in accordance with CDS24 despatch 180025 of February enroute Milne Bay in company with U.S.S. DALY (CDS24 OTC), and AMMEN. Formed scouting line for trip north, taking route outside Great Barrier Reef.

Sunday, 20 February 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
28-06 S 155-31 E	26-32 S 156-01 E	23-21 S 156-46 E

Steaming as before.

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Monday, 21 February 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
18-55 S 155-12 E	17-30 S 154-28 E	14-46 S 152-43 E

Steaming as before.

Tuesday, 22 February 1944.

Steaming as before. Entered China Straits at 0750. At 1017 entered Milne Bay, New Guinea, fueled, and then anchored.

Wednesday, 23 February 1944.

Anchored as before. 0745 Underway in accordance with COMDESRON 24 despatch 220452 of February in company with U.S.S. BUSH (COMDESDIV 48 OTC), and AMMEN, enroute Buna area to discharge passengers. Proceeded through Raven Channel up the coast of New Guinea. 1734 Anchored in Buna Roads. Discharged passengers.

Thursday, 24 February 1944.

Anchored as before. 0535 Underway in accordance with CTF76 despatch 230800 of February, proceeding Milne Bay, in company with AMMEN. 1500 Arrived Milne Bay. Fueled and provisioned. Reported for duty in Task Force 74 consisting of HMAS SHROPSHIRE (CTG74), U.S.S. PHOENIX, NASHVILLE, BOISE, DALY, HUTCHINS, BEALE, HMAS WARRAMUNGA, and ARUNTA.

Friday, 25 February 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
10-37 S 150-38 E	11-10 S 150-35 E	11-24 S 151-08 E

Anchored as before. 0545 Underway in accordance with CTF74 practice program (AF537/52) in company with HMAS SHROPSHIRE (CTF74), U.S.S. BOISE, NASHVILLE, DALY, AMMEN, and HMAS WARRAMUNGA proceeding to operating area south of Louisiade Archipelago. 1000 Arrived in operating area, U.S.S. HUTCHINS and U.S.S. SCAMP joining group. Commenced exercises with submarine completing them at 2200. WARRAMUNGA and SCAMP left formation. Remainder of ships staying in operating area to conduct night contact exercise in early morning.

Saturday, 26 February 1944.

<u>0800</u>
10-42 S 150-36 E

Steaming as before. 0540 Conducted night contact and deployment exercise

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Saturday, 26 February 1944 (Cont'd)

between red and blue forces. 0633 Completed exercise, proceeding Milne Bay. 1030 Arrived Milne Bay, fueled, anchored, and provisioned.

Sunday, 27 February 1944.

2000

10-03 S
150-43 E

Anchored as before. 1619 Underway in accordance with CTF74 message 262326 of February in company with U.S.S. PHOENIX (CTG74.2), NASHVILLE, DALY (CTG74.2.2), HUTCHINS, and BEALE enroute Cape Sudest. Passed through Raven Channel and proceeded up Papua coast.

Monday, 28 February 1944.

1200

07-59 S
148-10 E

2000

05-24 S
147-26 E

Steaming as before. 0546 Anchored Cape Sudest. At first light underway and went alongside tanker and fueled. 0932 Underway in company with TG 74.2 enroute Admiralty Islands. Our task is to act as covering force for assault group occupying Los Negros Island in the Admiralty group, conducting shore bombardment just prior to landing of troops. We take route through Vitiaz Straits, between Long and Tolokiwa Islands and thence to Admiralties. 1439 Passed destroyers and APD's of assault force. 2112 Made radar contact on unidentified surface ship just north of Long Island. Target identified as friendly.

Tuesday, 29 February 1944.

0800

01-53 S
147-15 E

1200

02-04 S
147-32 E

2000

02-58 S
147-15 E

Steaming as before. 0556 TG 74.2 split up into two bombardment groups, Group Able (PHOENIX, DALY, HUTCHINS) and Group Baker (NASHVILLE, BEALE, BACHE). Proceeding with Group Baker to bombardment area north of Los Negros Island. Our target Ndrilo Island and targets of opportunity. 0718 On approach course, searching visually for targets in Seeadler Harbour and on islands sheltering harbour. No targets seen, harbour apparently clear. 0740 Commenced fire on western end of Ndrilo Island. Group Baker in column, U.S.S. BEALE, NASHVILLE, and BACHE, in that order. NASHVILLE firing on beaches on north side of Manus Island near Lorengan settlement. 0755 Ceased firing having expended 55 of 5"/38 AA common. 0755 Reversed course by turn movement to 098° T.

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Tuesday, 29 February 1944 (Cont'd).

0837 Commenced retirement from north area to join Group Able. Reports are that first wave is ashore with no opposition encountered as yet. 0900 Second wave encountering machine gun fire from north edge of Hyane Harbour. Destroyers of assault force blasting this north cape and B-25's strafing and bombing this area. 0920 Rejoined group Able taking station in A/S screen. 1126 Assault boats encountering machine gun fire from end of south spit of Hyane Harbour. Heavy rain has blotted out view of assault force but counter fire from assault force destroyers can be heard. Assault boats are gradually landing successive waves of troops and equipment. Our task group maneuvering back and forth between Los Negros and Pak Island in a north-south direction. At 1306 HUTCHINS made sound contact. Our group commenced emergency retirement to south. HUTCHINS and BEALE investigating contact. Negative result so our group commenced patrol again. At 1536 PHOENIX left formation to permit Admiral Kincaid (COMSOPACFOR) to confer with Commander Attack Force and to inspect situation ashore. At about 1700 Commanding General Landing Forces took charge of operation. Our group formed up in anti-aircraft screen and commenced retirement to south. Destroyers and APD's also commenced retirement, leaving two ships for support work.

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:

R. C. Morton
 R. C. MORTON,

J. A. Sharpe
 J. A. SHARPE,

Lieut. Comdr., USN, Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant, USN, Navigator.

cc: CINCPAC
COMDESPAC

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 U.S. FLEET
 COMMANDER IN CHIEF