

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

Pub. No.	_____
R. S. No.	_____

CONFIDENTIALSaturday, January 1, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-18 S 148-30 E	05-19 S 148-26 E	05-20 S 147-59 E

Steaming in company with U.S.S. BUSH (COMDESDIV 48, OTC), U.S.S. MULLANY, and U.S.S. AMMEN escorting Echelon B-10 consisting of 5 LST's to Cape Gloucester, New Britain in accordance with CTF 76 dispatch 270857 of December, 1943. Convoy route is through Vitiaz Strait and between Tolokiwa and Rooke Islands. At 0700 arrived at destination. LST's proceeded to yellow beaches, ships of escort taking up patrol outside reefs. 1600 LST's stood out and formed up and return to Buna was started.

January 2, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-51 S 148-05 E	07-19 S 147-42 E	08-14 S 148-14 E

Steaming as before. Passed Echelon M-4 for Saidor, New Guinea, during morning. 1945 U.S.S. AMMEN went alongside LST 465, removed four serious casualties from Gloucester fighting and proceeded at high speed for Cape Sudest. 1946 Transport Division 12 consisting of nine APD's returning from Saidor landing overtook and passed us. Passed through shoal area south of Cape Ward Hunt, left LST's when clear of shoals, and anchored at Buna at 2314.

January 3, 1944.

Anchored as before. Fueled and provisioned. Air alert in afternoon. Ship was at short stay and ready to get underway during alert.

January 4, 1944.

Anchored as before.

January 5, 1944.

Anchored as before. 1229 Underway. Capt. W. F. PETERSON (CDD 48) came aboard for transportation to Cape Sudest. 1314 Anchored as Cape Sudest. 1528 Underway. 1604 Captain W. F. PETERSON left the ship. 1613 Anchored in Buna Roads. 2043 Underway in accordance with CTF 76 movement Order NG 6-44 in company with Escort Group Charlie, U.S.S. BUSH (COMDESDIV 48 OTC), U.S.S. MULLANY, and U.S.S. AMMEN as escort for Echelon B-12 consisting of 4 LST's enroute Cape Gloucester via Vitiaz Strait.

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January 6, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
07-20 S 147-39 E	06-52 S 148-00 E	05-57 S 147-42 E

Steaming as before. U.S.S. PORTUNUS and 4 MTB's joined echelon off Morobe Harbor to accompany us to vicinity of Dreger Harbor. 1201 Echelon B-11 passed to port on opposite course. 1203 U.S.S. PORTUNUS and 4 MTB's left formation. 2158 Made radar contact on Echelon M-5 returning from Saidor.

January 7, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-20 S 148-25 E	05-20 S 148-19 E	05-20 S 148-10 E

Steaming as before. 0635 LST's left formation and proceeded in to Yellow beaches at Cape Gloucester. Commenced patrolling outside reefs in anti-aircraft formation. 1738 LST's stood out and rejoined. Escort group formed A/S screen and return to Cape Sudest was started.

January 8, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-20 S 148-01 E	06-56 S 147-58 E	07-46 S 148-02 E

Steaming as before. 1445 While in Huon Gulf sank a large square metal pontoon with 40mm gun fire as it was considered a danger to navigation. 44 rounds of 40mm expended. At 2300 entered shoal area to southward of Cape Ward Hunt.

January 9, 1944.

Steaming as before. 0030 Passed Echelon B-13 on opposite course. 0200 LST's left formation proceeding independently to Cape Sudest. 0305 Anchored in Buna Roads. 0740 Moored to U.S.S. MULLANY alongside tanker to fuel. 1010 Underway proceeding to anchorage. 1102 Anchored off Cape Sudest.

January 10, 1944.

Anchored as before. Provisioned.

January 11, 1944.

Anchored as before. 1956 Underway in accordance with CTF 76 Escort Schedule of January 6, 1944, with Escort Group Charlie as escort for Echelon B-14 consisting of 6 LST's enroute Cape Gloucester, New Britain. 2320 Echelon B-13 passed to port on opposite course.

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<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
07-24 S 147-42 E	06-54 S 147-57 E	06-11 S 147-54 E

Steaming as before. Crossed Huon Gulf during morning. Moderately rough seas in Vitiaz Strait slowed formation.

January 13, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-20 S 148-30 E	05-15 S 148-30 E	05-15 S 148-27 E

Steaming as before. 0832 LST's left formation and stood in to yellow beaches at Cape Gloucester. Commenced patrolling outside reefs in anti-aircraft formation. 1110 MULLANY left formation to pick up officer passengers from the beach and to transport them to Cape Cretin. 1645 Went to General Quarters for air alert. 1717 All aircraft identified as friendly. Set Condition I Easy. 2000 All LST's outside reefs and formed up. LST 26 slightly damaged, apparently punctured bottom. Took station in A/S screen and return journey started. 2353 Made radar contact on U.S.S. MULLANY returning to rejoin.

January 14, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-10 S 147-56 E	06-46 S 148-06 E	07-38 S 148-02 E

Steaming as before. 0005 MULLANY rejoined. At 1030 all LST's except LST 26 left formation proceeding to Langemak Bay escorted by MULLANY; LST 26 continuing south with us. 1354 MULLANY, escorting S.S. ETAMIN, rejoined. ETAMIN took station astern of LST 26. 2153 While in Lat. 07-15 S, Long. 148-08 E sighted several red Very lights bearing 055° T distance 5 to 7 miles. 2307 Entered shoal area to north of Buna Roads.

January 15, 1944.

Steaming as before. 0300 LST 26 and ETAMIN released. 0312 Anchored in Buna Roads. 0800 Fueled and then anchored off Cape Endiadare. 2255 Underway in accordance with CTF 76 Escort Schedule dated 6 January 1944, in company with escort group "Charlie", Comdesdiv 48 in BUSH, OTC, escorting Echelon Baker 15 consisting of 4 LST's to Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

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<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
07-22 S 148-07 E	06-48 S 148-02 E	05-53 S 147-38 E

Steaming as before. 1300 Set condition I Easy.

January 17, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-24 S 148-01 E	06-39 S 148-18 E	06-33 S 148-00 E

Steaming as before. 0530 Made radar contact on unidentified ships off Borgen Bay, New Britain. Went to General Quarters. Formed column with BUSH and MULLANY and went ahead at high speed to investigate. AMMEN took charge of LST's, reversing their course. 0614 Illuminated contact with starshell, expending 19 rounds. Identified as friendly tanker escorted by PC boat. Reported that contact responded with proper recognition signal. 0700 Returned to formation and took up station in A/S screen. 0800 LST's proceeded in to beach at Borgen Bay. Escort group commenced patrol outside of reefs in A.A. formation. 1630 LST's stood out of bay. Formed A/S screen on them and commenced return. At 1800 MULLANY and AMMEN left formation to bombard Gali Pt. on north coast of New Guinea; at 2000 set condition III.

January 18, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-24 S 148-01 E	06-34 S 148-18 E	06-33 S 148-00 E

Steaming as before. 0600 MULLANY and AMMEN rejoined screen having completed bombardment. 1000 LST's left formation and proceeded in to anchorage at Cape Cretin. Commenced patrolling in A.A. formation to eastward of Huon Peninsula awaiting sortie of Special Echelon of LST's. 1800 Formed A/S screen on Special Echelon of 5 LST's proceeding to Saidor in accordance with CTF 76 dispatch 170340 of January. Set Condition I Easy. Made radar contacts on several friendly PT boats during the evening.

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January 19, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-36 S 146-33 E	05-26 S 146-31 E	05-36 S 146-44 E

Steaming as before. 0730 Arrived off Saidor. LST's proceeded to beach. Formed A/A formation and commenced patrolling off Saidor. 1800 LST's stood out to sea. Formed A/S screen and commenced return through Vitiaz Strait.

January 20, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-36 S 140-00 E	06-38 S 147-58 E	07-47 S 148-09 E

Steaming as before. 0826 Arrived off Cape Cretin. LST's stood in to harbor. Formed A/A cruising formation and commenced patrolling waiting for LST's. 1207 Passed echelon of 3 LST's proceeding northward escorted by HMAS ARUNTA, USS HELM and RALPH TALBOT.

January 21, 1944.

Steaming as before. 0239 Parted company with LST's and anchored off Buna. Fueled in morning. Anchored closer inshore during afternoon for boiler inspection by tender.

January 22, 1944.

Anchored as before. 2007 Underway in accordance with CTF 76 dispatch 220130 of January. Joined with HMAS KANIMBLA and PC1124 off Buna to escort her to Langemak Bay. Passed through Shoals before midnight meeting USS DALY and BEALE escorting 5 LST's on opposite course.

January 23, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
06-37 S 147-55 E	06-38 S 147-56 E	06-50 S 148-04 E

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January 23, 1944 (continued).

Steaming as before. 0745 Arrived off Langemak Bay. KANIMELA proceeded in. PC1124 commenced inshore patrol. BACHE commenced patrol 4 - 6 miles off shore. 0800 At morning muster, ROBINSON, Donald Philip, GM3c, 360-15-88, USN was absent. Ship was thoroughly searched. He was last seen on fantail about 0130. It is believed he accidentally fell overboard sometime between then and 0400 in approximate Lat. 07-295 and Long. 148-11 E. During the afternoon made search of track of ship during early morning with no results. Conducted memorial services for ROBINSON at 1916, half masting colors until sunset. Just after return to Lange-mak Bay area at 2100 lights on shore went out, searchlights came on and heavy A/A fire commenced. Enemy planes evidently conducting light bombing raid on installations in this area. 2115 Raid apparently over. 2335 KANIMELA stood out of bay. PC1124 and BACHE formed screen commencing return via Cape Ward Hunt.

January 24, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
07-39 S 148-08 E	06-45 S 148-05 E	05-51 S 147-45 E

Steaming as before. 0615 Parted company with HMAS KANIMELA and PC1124 at Cape Ward Hunt. Turned northward to join USS DALY and BEALE escorting echelon B17 in accordance with CTF 76 dispatch 220130 of January. 1030 Joined echelon B17 consisting of 4 LST's. Comdesron 24 in DALY O.T.C. Took station in A/S screen. 1045 Passed echelon B16 escorted by HMAS ARUNTA, USS HELM and RALPH TALBOT headed south. 1536 Geysers of water, as if from explosion observed near LST's. Catalina flying boat also observed near them. Went to General Quarters but no enemy planes were picked up. 2324 Made radar contact on unidentified target in straits between Tolokiwa Island and Rooke Island. Went to General Quarters proceeded out ahead of formation and illuminated contact by starshell, expending 16 rounds. Target proved to be friendly army ship. Rejoined formation.

January 25, 1944.

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
05-17 S 148-28 E	05-15 S 148-22 E	05-20 S 148-26 E

Steaming as before. 0620 LST's left formation and stood in to beaches in Borgen Bay. Cape Gloucester, N.B. Formed A/A cruising formation and commenced patrolling off the bay. 1935 LST's stood out to sea. Formed A/S screen on them and commenced return.

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147-59 E120007-02 S
147-56 E

Steaming as before. 0647 Sighted USS BOISE, PHOENIX, BUSH, AMMEN and MULLANY in Vitiaz Strait returning at high speed from bombardment of Madang and Alexishafen. Parted company with DALY and BEALE and escorted LST's 463 and 457 to Cape Cretin. At 1110 commenced return to Buna area at high speed steaming singly. 1300 Board of Investigation, Lieut. John A. SHARPE, senior member convened by order of Comdesron 24 to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Donald P. ROBINSON, GM3c, on January 23, 1944, from this vessel. 1600 Arrived at Buna Roads. Fueled and then anchored off Cape Endaiadere.

January 27, 1944.

Anchored as before.

January 28, 1944.

Anchored as before.

January 29, 1944.

Anchored as before.

January 30, 1944.

Anchored as before. At 2000 underway in accordance with CTF 76 dispatch 300018 of January. Joined echelon B-19 consisting of 4 LST's in company with USS BEALE (OTC) to escort them as far as Cape Cretin, New Guinea.

January 31, 1944.080007-07 S
147-51 E120006-36 S
148-01 E200007-30 S
148-05 E

Steaming as before. Exchanged echelons with BUSH, MULLANY and AMMEN off Cape Cretin at noon. Commenced escorting echelon B-18 to Buna. Passed HMAS WESTRALIA escorted by DALY and PC boat off Cape Ward Hunt.

APPROVED:

F. M. ADAMSON,
Commander, USN, Commanding Officer.

SUBMITTED:

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