

No. 649
R. S. No. 1000

DD470/A12
(090)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

(ps)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.,
August 4, 1944.

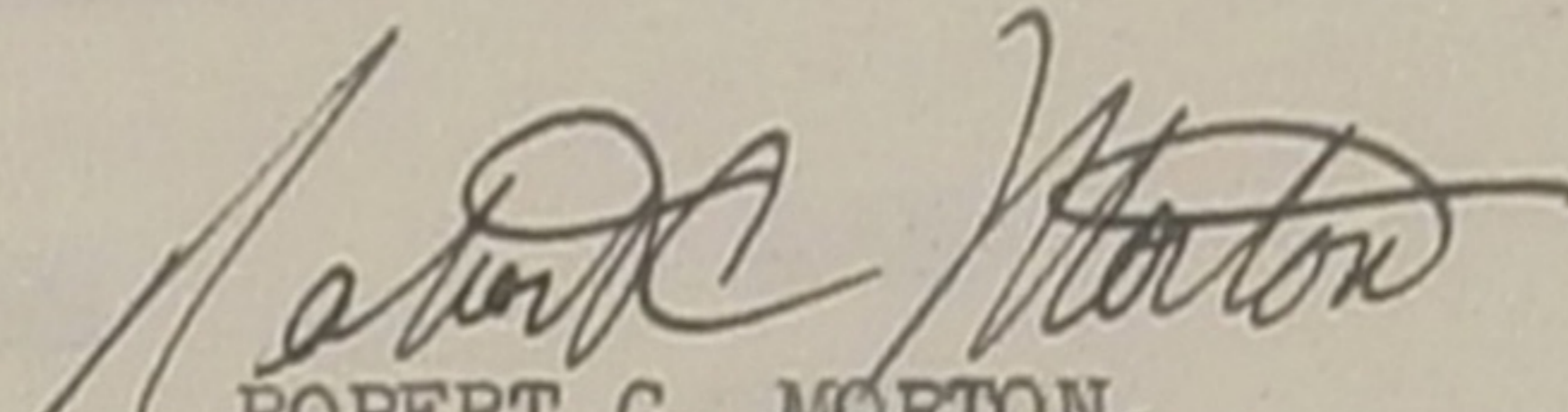
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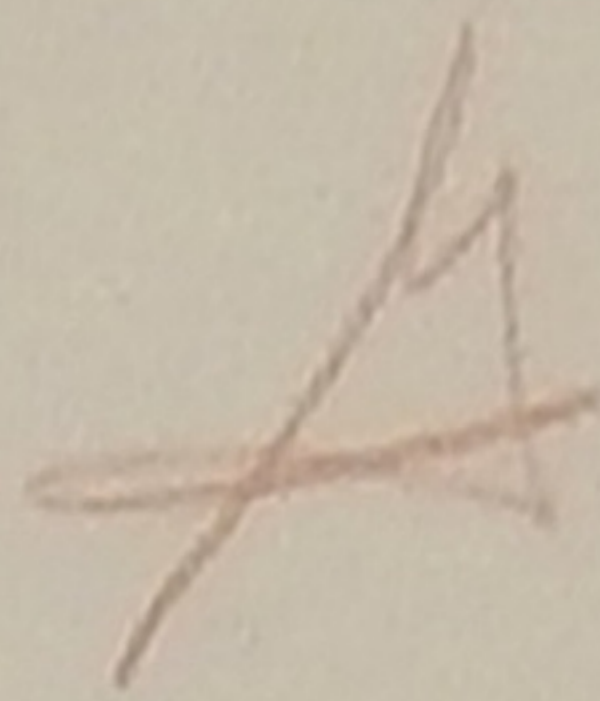
From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Subject: War Diary - Submission of.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary for July 1944.

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


ROBERT C. MORTON.



Reviewed. 9/11

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U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

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1 July 1944.

- (a) Attached to Task Force 75, Rear Admiral Berkey, Commander Cruiser Division 15, CTF 75.

U.S.S. PHOENIX (flag)
U.S.S. BOISE
U.S.S. HUTCHINS (CDS 24)
U.S.S. ABNER READ (CDD 48)
U.S.S. DALY
U.S.S. BEALE
U.S.S. TRATHEN
U.S.S. BACHE

Steaming in company with Task Force 74, H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA (flag).

- (b) Operating in accordance with Commander SEVENTH FLEET Operation Order No. 8-44.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-36 S 138-24 E	00-49 S 138-05 E	01-30 S 136-24 E

Time Zone -10

- (d) Enroute Noemfoor Island acting as a covering force for units of Task Force 77 whom we will contact this evening. 1800 Entered Geelvink Bay, New Guinea. 2110 Made contact with ships of Task Force 77. We are proceeding to a point in advance of the assault forces.

2 July 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-52 S 134-50 E	00-52 S 134-42 E	00-50 S 138-45 E

- (d) 0445 Proceeding ahead of assault ships, we are taking up stations for initial bombardment of Noemfoor Island. 0640 Cruisers commenced firing. Assault ships moving to unloading positions to the west of us. 0710 Commenced firing on assigned target areas on the island. Took under fire some persistent AA batteries that are bothering our spotting and scouting planes. 0736 Ceased firing; no casualties. Took station so as to screen cruisers while we await any calls for supporting fire. At 0800 the assault boats went in over the reef and landed without opposition. By noon Kamiri Airdrome has been overrun by our forces against slight opposition. At this time Task Forces 75 and 74 reform and rejoin and commence retirement to Humboldt Bay.

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2 July 1944 (Cont'd)

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

504 rounds 5"/38 AA Common

3 July 1944.

(c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.

(d) At 0800 arrived in Humboldt Bay. Fueled and anchored on two hours notice.

4 July 1944.

(c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.

(d) Went alongside U.S.S. PYRO and replaced ammunition. Anchored in assigned berth on one hours notice.

5 July 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 voice radio despatch of 4 July.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Humboldt Bay	02-22 S 141-10 E	02-20 S 143-16 E

(d) 0941 Underway in company with Task Forces 74 and 75 enroute Admiralty Islands. Held night contact exercises between the Task Forces.

6 July 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-55 S 145-55 E	01-51 S 146-55 E	Seeadler Harbor

(d) At 1430 entered Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands. Fueled from tanker and then proceeded to anchorage.

7-8 July 1944

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) At anchor for upkeep.

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9 July 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with Commander Destroyer Squadron 24 despatch 080016 of July.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Seeadler Harbor	01-56 S 147-18 E	Seeadler Harbor

(d) 1112 Underway to conduct anti-submarine exercises. 1227 Joined up with S-42 submerged and conducted simulated depth charge attacks. 1520 S-42 surfaced and we escorted her back to the Harbor where we anchored for the night.

10 July 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 despatch 070405 of July.

(c) In gunnery area to north of Seeadler Harbor in morning and in Seeadler Harbor in the afternoon.

(d) 0718 Underway in company with H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA and U.S.S. AMMEN. Conducted AA practices against sleeve towed by a B-26. Knocked down two sleeves. 1130 Returned to port and fueled. 1505 Anchored in assigned berth after holding Abandon Ship drill.

11 July 1944.

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) Anchored for upkeep.

12 July 1944.

(a) Reported to CTF 74 for duty to replace MULLANY undergoing tender upkeep.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 74 message 110950 of July.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Seeadler Harbor	01-49 S 146-54 E	02-15 S 142-01 E

(d) 0930 Underway for Aitape in company with Task Force SEVENTY-FOUR, H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA (flag, Commodore Collins, RAN, CTF 74), H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE, ARUNTA and WARRAMUNGA, and U.S.S. AMMEN and BACHE. Exercises at deployment and tracking drills enroute.

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13 July 1944.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
03-04 S 142-29 E	03-05 S 142-26 E	Aitape, New Guinea

(d) 0615 Arrived Aitape and commenced A/S patrol of harbor while remainder of force entered and anchored. Our mission is to support PT boats who have been increasingly harrassed by shore batteries while operating against barge traffic in the Aitape-Newak area and to give fire support to the 6th Army elements holding the Aitape perimeter. Our landing here and the pressure of Australian troops pushing westward from Hansa Bay have concentrated thousands of restless Japanese troops in the Newak-Aitape area. Front line is now at the Driniumoor River in the Newak direction. 1820 Anchored in Aitape roads. E.A.A.F. and PT boat observers came on board.

14 July 1944.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
03-18 S 143-01 E	Aitape Roads

(d) 0530 Underway in accordance with CTF 74 Operation Plan 6-44. At 0800 opened fire on supply dump at Matapau. 0839 Ceased firing. Plane spot was used with excellent results. Returned to Aitape and disembarked observers.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

225 rounds 5"/38 AA Common

15 July 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 74 Operation Plan 7-44.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
Aitape	03-09 S 142-41 E	03-10 S 142-42 E

(d) 1039 Underway to conduct bombardment east of Aitape but this was cancelled before ship arrived on station. Returned to Aitape and commenced A/S patrol off shore. 1900 Joined with H.M.A.S. ARUNTA and WARRAMINGA and proceeded to patrol area east of Aitape for barge hunt. AMMEN with two PT boats will patrol an area five miles west of us in search for barges. 2100 Arrived on station and commenced patrol close in to shore, longitude 143-00 E to 143-10 E, using radar, starshell, and searchlight.

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16 July 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
	03-21 S	Aitape Roads, N. G.
	143-25 E	

(d) Steaming as before. 0533 Completed night patrol. Parted company with ARUNTA and WARRAMUNGA and proceeded eastward to position north of Karassu Island for shore bombardment of fuel and ammunition dump at Boriken, New Guinea. 0645 Established communication with spotting plane. U.S.S. AMMEN is just to westward of us taking up station for bombardment of her target. AMMEN to west of us and mine fields to east of us, restrict our movements somewhat. 0703 Spotting plane dropped bombs on target. 0711 Commenced firing under very good conditions. 0744 Shifted fire to personnel visible on Karassu Island. Results not accurately observed as personnel dashed into the woods. 0747 Shifted fire to original target. 0751 Completed bombardment and joined up with AMMEN for return to Aitape. Plane says that area was well covered. 1102 Arrived Aitape and fueled from H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE, afterwards anchoring.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

287 rounds 5"/38 AA Common
 4 rounds 5"/38 White Phosphorus
 60 rounds 5"/38 Illuminating

17 July 1944.

(a) U.S.S. HUTCHINS and BEALE joined Task Force 74.
 (b) Operating in accordance CTF 74 despatch 170057 of July.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Aitape, N.G.	03-06 S	03-06 S
		142-31 E	142-30 E

(d) 1136 Underway in company with H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE to screen her while she bombards troop concentration at Niap, New Guinea. 1421 SHROPSHIRE opened fire, assisted by spotting plane. 1427 SHROPSHIRE ceased fire and course was reversed for return to Aitape. 1700 Arrived Aitape and took up A/S patrol northeast of Ali Island.

18 July 1944.

(c) Off Aitape, New Guinea.
 (d) Conducting A/S patrol. At 1600 entered Aitape Roads and anchored. At 1900 went alongside H.M.A.S. POYANG and replenished ammunition. At 2100 Anchored.

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19 July 1944.

(c) Aitape, New Guinea.

(d) At anchor.

20 July 1944.

(c) Aitape, New Guinea.

(d) At anchor. Shifted berth to be in position to conduct bombardment of advanced Japanese positions if called for.

21 July 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with Commander Destroyer Squadron 24 despatch 202233 of July.

(c) Aitape, New Guinea

2000

03-17 S
142-57 E

(d) 1800 Underway to conduct operations in company with motor torpedo boats against enemy barge and truck traffic along coast between Aitape and Cape Karawop. 2015 Joined with PT boats and commenced coastal sweep.

22 July 1944.

(a) H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA and WARRAMUNGA detached from Task Force for recreation trip. H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE now flagship of CTF 74.

(c)

0800

1200

03-15 S Aitape, New Guinea.
143-57 E

(d) Steaming as before. 0303 Opened fire on 3 inch gun position at Sowam, New Guinea. 0306 Ceased firing. No return fire encountered. 0336 Fired starshells over beach for PT boats. Nothing observed. 0634 PT boats returned to base. 0654 Commenced firing on stores areas near Sowam. 0721 Ceased firing. 0723 Commenced return to Aitape. 0945 Anchored in Aitape Roads. 2324 Underway in accordance with CTF 74 despatch 220840 to area just north of Driniumoor River, New Guinea, to furnish starshell illumination for the Army.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

89 rounds 5"/38 AA Common
10 rounds 5"/38 starshell

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23 July 1944.

- (c) Off Aitape, New Guinea.
- (d) Steaming as before patrolling area just off the mouth of the Driniumoor River. 0040 Fired one five-gun salvo of starshell. 0624 Left patrol area and took up anti-submarine patrol off Aitape, New Guinea.
- (f) Ammunition expenditure:
5 rounds 5"/38 starshell.

24 July 1944.

- (c) Off Aitape, New Guinea.
- (d) Steaming as before. 1241 Relieved of the anti-submarine patrol. 1349 Anchored in Aitape, New Guinea, prepared to give supporting fire to Army on call.

25 July 1944.

- (b) Operating in accordance with CTF 74 message 240126 of July.
- (c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
02-46 S	02-30 S	Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.
141-56 E	140-48 E	
- (d) Underway at 0520 in company with Task Force 74 enroute Hollandia, New Guinea. 0825 U.S.S. HUTCHINS and AMMEN left Task Force to hunt a submarine reported in the vicinity by an airplane. 1155 Arrived Humboldt Bay, fueled, replaced ammunition and then anchored. HUTCHINS and AMMEN stood in later having had no contact with the reported submarine.

26 July 1944.

- (c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.
- (d) At anchor.

27 July 1944.

- (c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.
- (d) At anchor.

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28 July 1944.

- (a) Formed Task Force 78 consisting of Task Force 75 and Task Force 74. Rear Admiral Berkeley in PHOENIX Commander Task Force 78.
- (b) Operating in accordance with Commander SEVENTH FLEET Operation Order No. 9-44.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
Humboldt Bay, N.G.	02-06 S 140-39 E	00-39 S 139-19 E

- (d) At 0930 got underway in company with Task Force 74 and stood out for rendezvous with Task Force 75. 1300 U.S.S. TRATHEN joined Task Force 74 and passed mail. 1600 Rendezvoused with Task Force 75 and formed Task Force 78 enroute covering area north of Cape Sansapor, Vogelkopf, New Guinea. Our mission is to act as a surface covering force for the attack force establishing itself in the Cape Sansapor area on July 30, 1944.

29 July 1944.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
00-05 N 136-42 E	00-06 N 135-46 E	00-14 N 134-11 E

- (d) Steaming as before enroute covering area. Conducting drills and exercises..

30 July 1944.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
00-01 N 131-37 E	00-02 S 132-45 E	00-08 N 134-39 E

- (d) Steaming as before. 0530 Arrived in covering area and commenced patrolling. Landing area is out of sight. 0830 It is learned that landing has met no opposition and that our services for bombardment are not required. Task Force commenced retirement to the east. 1344 Air alert. Unidentified aircraft passed astern of formation within 10 miles above cloud layer.

31 July 1944.

(c)

<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
01-27 S 136-25 E	Mios Woendi Anchorage, Schouten Islands

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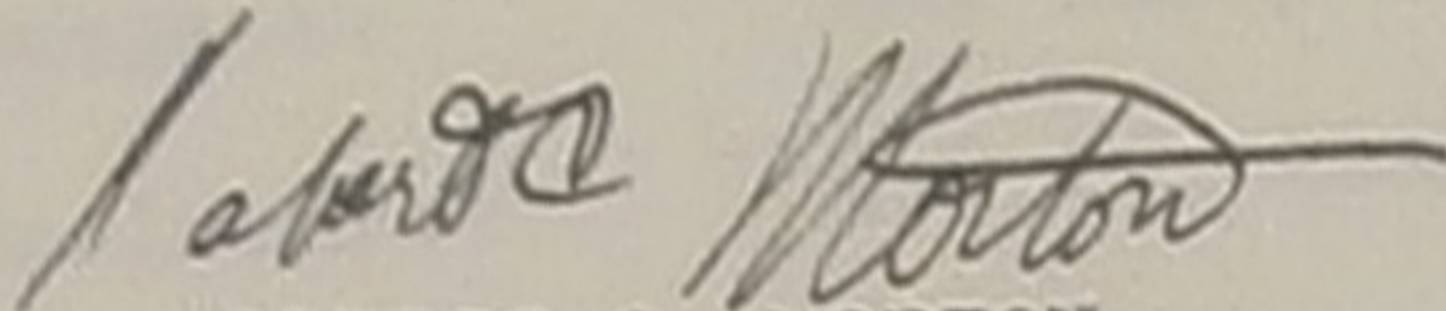
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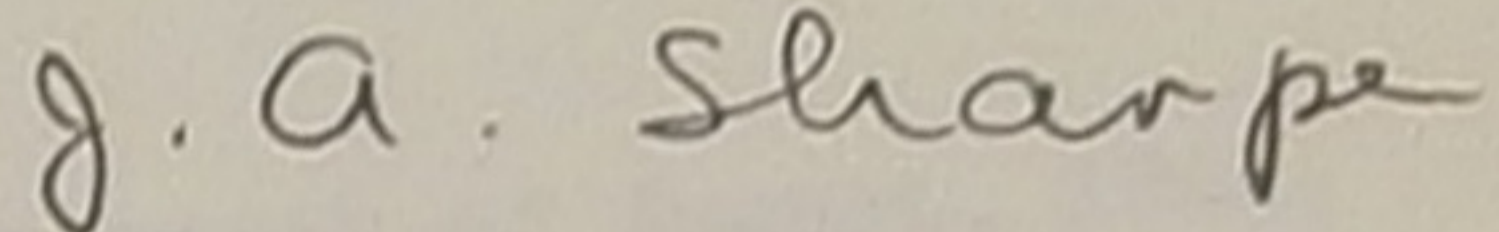
- (d) At 0612 passed through passage to south of Padaido Islands, and followed cruisers into Mios Woendi anchorage. Fueled and anchored, nesting with ABNER READ.

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:



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



J. A. SHARPE,
Lieut. Comdr., USN, Navigator.

cc: CINCPAC

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