

Reg. No. 687
R. B. No. 4 AUG 1944

DD470/A12
(082)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.,
July 9, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

Robert C. Morton
ROBERT C. MORTON.

Revised

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War Diary

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1 June 1944

- (a) Attached to Task Force 75, Rear Admiral BERKEY, Commander Cruiser Division 15 in PHOENIX, OTC.

U.S.S. PHOENIX
U.S.S. BOISE
U.S.S. HUTCHINS (COMDESRON 24)
U.S.S. DALY
U.S.S. BEALE
U.S.S. BACHE
U.S.S. TRATHEN

- (b) Operating under CTF 77 Operation Order 5-44 and CTF 75 amplifying instructions thereto.
- (c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea, Zone Time -10.
- (d) Fueled and anchored awaiting orders.

2 June 1944

- (a) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.
- (b) At anchor. 2300 Task Force 74 stood in and anchored.

3 June 1944

- (a) Task Force 75 operating under orders of CTF 74, Rear Admiral CRUTCHLEY, R.N. in H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA.
- (b) Operating in accordance with orders of CTF 74 voice radio dispatch 030019 of June.
- (c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.
- (d) 2340 Underway for covering area north and east of Biak Island in company with Task Force 74 (H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA (OTC), U.S.S. NASHVILLE, MULLANY, AMMEN, ABNER READ, H.M.A.S. WARRAMUNGA, and ARUNTA) and Task Force 75. Our mission is to intercept and destroy equal or inferior forces attempting to attack or reinforce Biak Island and to retire before superior forces tracking them and reporting on them. A large convoy consisting of about 30 ships with several heavy enemy naval units and destroyers

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3 June 1944 (Cont'd)

running interference have been reported by submarine and air search moving from Davao Gulf in the direction of Biak. It is possible they are intended only for supply and reinforcement of Halmahera, etc., and that the large naval vessels, instead of being a striking force, is merely a covering force. However, one never knows, and there remains the possibility that they are headed for Biak.

4 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-28 S 139-16 E	01-08 S 138-21 E	00-46 S 136-27 E

(d) Steaming in covering area. 1741 Four to seven enemy dive bombers and fighters attacked formation. About four 500-lb bombs were dropped in the formation causing light hull damage and several casualties on both PHOENIX and NASHVILLE. One man in the PHOENIX subsequently died. Planes made one run and then left with no apparent damage. One plane attempting to come back at the formation at low altitude changed his mind when this ship opened up on him with 5" fire. We missed on a fast deflection shot with 20's and 40's at one bomber passing down our port side at about 350 to 400 knots. 2130 Passed between Biak and Owi Islands to conduct a sweep southwest of Biak. Nothing was contacted so at 2330 commenced return to covering area via same route.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

38 - 5"/38 AA Common
20 - 40mm
142 - 20mm

5 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-39 S 137-25 E	00-38 S 138-09 E	00-51 S 136-38 E

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5 June 1944 (Cont'd)

- (d) 0112 While passing between Biak and islands south of Biak, the head of the formation, which was in a long column, was attacked by a few torpedo planes. No damage to either side, although it was an ideal set up for the planes. Moon was full and the formation movements was restricted because of the narrow channel between the islands. At 0156, just after clearing the islands, MULLANY made a sound contact and dropped depth charges. No submarine attack developed and MULLANY made no report of damaging the suspected submarine. There are many unidentified planes in the vicinity of Biak and the covering area so we must spend a considerable amount of time at the alert.

6 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-42 S 137-28 E	00-51 S 138-28 E	Humboldt Bay

- (d) At 1000 DESDIV 42, FLETCHER, RADFORD, JENKINS, and LA VALLETTE, joined the formation. 1043 Commenced return to Humboldt Bay, arriving at 1900. Fueled and anchored.

7 June 1944

- (b) Operating in accordance with CTF 74 Op Plan 5-44.
- (c) Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.
- (d) 2314 Underway for covering area in company with Task Force 74, Task Force 75 less NASHVILLE (who is to stay behind to repair battle damage), and with DESDIV 42 enroute covering area north of Biak.

8 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-32 S 139-20 E	01-06 S 138-34 E	00-20 S 136-46 E

- (d) Steaming in covering area. Many unidentified planes being reported. At 2150 arrived in area north of Korim Bay, Biak Island, and commenced a sweep to the west to attempt to contact Japanese ships reported headed

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8 June 1944 (Cont'd)

for Biak. 2322 BOISE reported surface contact and deployment was started. 2326 Contact is reported as separating into two groups and reversing course to west. Commenced pursuit, all ships working up to maximum speed. Nearest ship, FLETCHER, is within 10 miles of fleeing enemy. A barge, being used for evacuation or reinforcement, has been left behind by the Japanese. 2340 COMDESDIV 42 estimates enemy force to consist of 4 destroyers making 33 knots on a northwesterly course, heading for Mapia Island. 2350 Our radar picked up enemy at 27,000 yards. Our force slowly closing, about 50 to 60 yards a minute.

9 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-08 S 137-17 E	00-38 S 138-47 E	00-17 S 137-14 E

(d) Steaming as before at 34 knots in column with DESDIV 47 on northwesterly courses in pursuit of enemy destroyers. 0030 DESDIV 42 exchanging shots with enemy. FLETCHER is about 8000 yards due west of us and is nearest enemy. 0053 CTF 74 ordered DESDIV 47 and 42 to continue pursuit, to break off and retire at 0230 if enemy cannot be brought to action. Remainder of Task Force is to retire now with ARUNTA and WARRAMUNGA going back to Biak to destroy any barges left by destroyers we are pursuing. Visibility now is fairly good with occasional rain squalls. Our speed plus true wind speed is causing a 45 to 50 knot wind across the deck with waves occasionally breaking across the deck. Enemy has split into two groups, one bearing about 350° T from us and the other about 330° T at about 20,000 yards. 0207 HUTCHINS opened fire on easterly group, followed in turn by DALY, BEALE, and BACHE, as range is slowly closed to maximum gun range. At 0227 ceased firing. At 0230, considering further pursuit useless, and increasingly dangerous to us because of probable enemy air reaction and because of orders from CTF 74 to be at rendezvous by 1000, COMDESRON 24 and COMDESDIV 42 break off the pursuit and commence retirement to rendezvous. Damage to enemy, if any, is unknown, although a large orange explosion was noted in the westerly group while DESDIV 42 was shooting. It is estimated that there were five enemy destroyers. They had reached a point within 25 miles of Mapia Island when the pursuit was broken off. During retirement there were several reports and radar indications of planes coming from the northwest but there was no attack made on the formations. At 0900 rejoined the task forces near the rendezvous. The Australian destroyers report sinking one barge which probably had personnel in it.

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9 June 1944 (Cont'd)

At 1921 commenced retirement to Hollandia, but at 2110 reversed course towards Korim Bay, Biak, on report of enemy ships being sighted by our planes.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

25 - 5"/38 Common
38 - 5"/38 AA Common

10 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-18 S 138-49 E	02-08 S 140-09 E	Humboldt Bay

(d) Made sweep along north coast of Biak in search of enemy ships. By 0117 nothing had been contacted so the retirement to Hollandia was commenced, arriving there at 1330. There is no fuel for us. Replaced ammunition and anchored.

11 June 1944

(b) Commander Task Force 75 voice radio dispatch 1539 KING of 11 June.

(c)	Humboldt Bay, New Guinea.	<u>2000</u>
		02-19 S 141-40 E

(d) 1157 H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA, U.S.S. HUTCHINS, BEALE, FLETCHER, JENKINS, and RADFORD stood out for the Admiralty Islands. Remainder of ships loading provisions. 1626 Underway in company with U.S.S. PHOENIX, NASHVILLE, DESDIV 48, DALY, H.M.A.S. WARRAMUNGA, and ARUNTA. LA VALLETTE staying behind to accomplish repairs. Proceeding to Admiralty Islands.

12 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-43 S 145-18 E	01-43 S 146-21 E	Seeadler Harbor

(d) 1600 Entered Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands, and fueled.

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13--16 June 1944

- (c) Anchored, Seeadler Harbor.
- (d) Ship has at anchor availability on four hours notice.

17 June 1944

- (a) Formed Task Unit 75.5.1, U.S.S. ABNER READ (CDD48, OTC), U.S.S. AMMEN, and U.S.S. BACHE. Task Unit 75.5.2, H.M.S. ARIADNE, fast minelayer, to operate with us.
- (b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 Operation Plan 1-44 in conjunction with plans of Commanding Officer, H.M.S. ARIADNE.

(c) 2000

01-51 S
147-10 E

- (d) At 1830 underway in company with Task Unit 75.5.1 enroute Aitape, New Guinea. Our mission is to bombard known gun positions in the vicinity of Wewak on the nights 18-19 and 19-20 June and cover H.M.S. ARIADNE on the night of 19-20 June, while she lays mines in the approaches to Wewak. Also we are to take soundings of these waters.

18 June 1944

(c) 0800 1200 2000
02-28 S 02-52 S 03-05 S
143-44 E 142-52 E 142-58 E

- (d) 1422 anchored in Aitape. Final conference between CDD 48, Commander Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 7, and commanding officers was held. Observers, PT boat captains were embarked and at 1710 we left Aitape for the first target to the west of Wewak. At 2130 commenced shore bombardment, opening fire on 40mm gun at Cape Djereun. 2222 Fired at 40mm gun at Dagua. 2238 Fired at 5" gun at But. 2253 Return fire from But reported but no splashes or bursts were observed. 2303 Fired at guns on shore south of Unei Island

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19 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-56 S 144-08 E	02-15 S 144-29 E	02-41 S 144-30 E

(d) Steaming as before. 0009 Fired 40mm guns at 3" gun on Yuo Island. Proceeded to northward, rounding Kairiru Island. 0246 Fired at 5" gun on Newak Point. 0324 Fired at 3" and 40mm guns on eastern tip of Kairuru Island. 0444 Fired on 3" gun in Nightingale Bay. 0513 Fired at searchlight position on Cape Moem. 0515 Commenced retirement. 0523 Formed up in line of bearing proceeding to rendezvous with H.M.S. ARIADNE. 1100 Passed track chart of soundings to U.S.S. ABNER READ. 1330 Joined with ARIADNE. CDD 48 went aboard ARIADNE for conference and to give Ariadne soundings taken last night. 1554 CDD 48 returned to ABNER READ and course was set for initial point north of Kairiru Island. 2145 Formed special approach disposition. 2254 In position close in and south of western tip of Kairiru Island. Commenced making stack smoke to screen ARIADNE while she lays mines. 2317 First plant made. Proceeding at high speed around and north of Kairiru Island to make second plant.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

476 - 5"/38 AA common
105 - 40mm

20 June 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-27 S 144-56 E	01-52 S 146-03 E	Seeadler Harbor

(d) Steaming as before. 0104 ARIADNE commenced laying mines in eastern approaches to Wewak, south of Muschu Island. 0137 ARIADNE completed mine laying. She has left formation to return to Admiralty Islands. 0139 Commenced shore bombardment firing at 3" gun on eastern tip of Muschu Island. Standing out. At 0158 reversed course and stood in to take under fire some suspected machine gun positions on eastern tip of Kairiru Island. 0222 Opened fire on machine guns. 0236 Stood out of Wewak area heading for rendezvous with PT boats. 0242 Made contact with PT boats. One came alongside and PT boat captains aboard here were transferred. 0320 Commenced return to Admiralty Islands. 1546 Entered Seeadler Harbor and went alongside for fuel. Dissolved Task Unit 75.5.1.

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20 June 1944 (Cont'd)

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

149 - 5"/38 AA Common.

21 June 1944

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) Went alongside DOBBIN for availability for upkeep and repairs and replacement of ammunition.

22-28 June 1944

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) Alongside DOBBIN for upkeep and repair.

29 June 1944

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

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands

2000

01-26 S

146-37 E

(d) Fueled and sortied from Seeadler Harbor, in company with Task Force 75, less NASHVILLE and Task Force 74 less SHROPSHIRE. Fired AA practice to northward of islands and then proceeded to the west. Our mission is to provide surface cover for the forces assaulting Noemfoor Island, New Guinea; assist in AA coverage of the forces on D-day, and provide initial and supporting bombardments on D-day.

30 June 1944

(c)

0800

1200

2000

00-47 S
143-42 E

00-42 S
142-47.5 E

00-36 S
140-56 E

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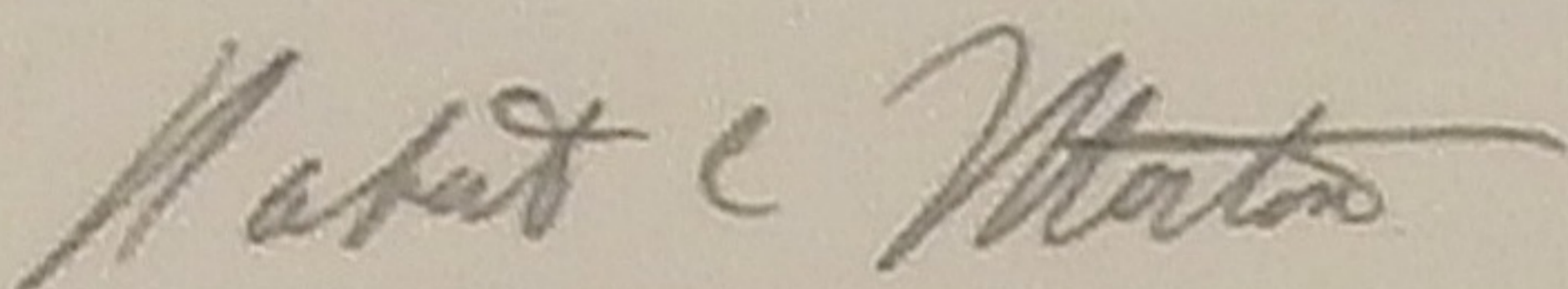
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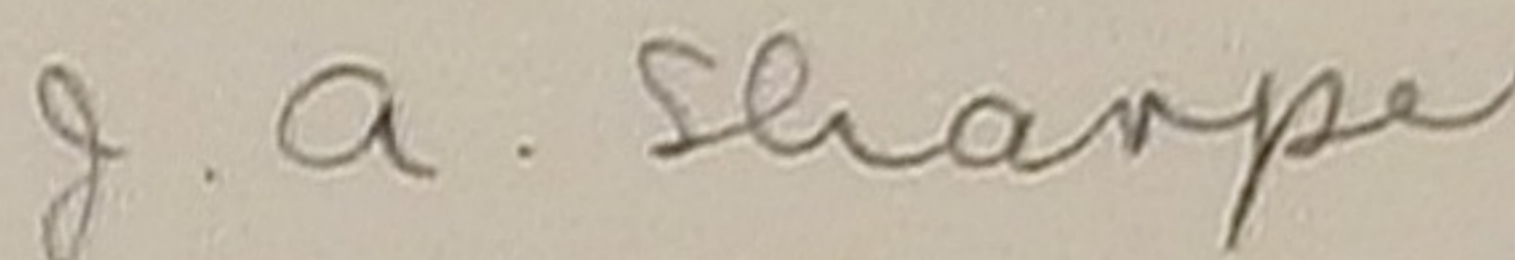
(d) Steaming as before enroute Noemfoor Island. Fired automatic weapons at towed sleeve.

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:



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



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

cc: CINCPAC