

DD470/A12  
(058)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

45  
(ps)  
017133  
F-48

CONFIDENTIAL

c/o Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.,  
April 6, 1944.

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

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

*R. C. Morton*  
R. C. MORTON.

*Recorded*

69524 **FILMED**



U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

Wednesday, 1 March 1944.

(a) Attached to Task Force 74, H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE flag. Operating with Task Group 74.2, U.S.S. PHOENIX (ComCruDiv 15, OTC), U.S.S. NASHVILLE, DALY (CDS24), BEALE and HUTCHINS.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF74 message 262326 of February.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	06-49 S 148-04 E	07-56 S 148-14 E	Anchored Buna

Time Zone - Love (-11)

(d) Underway enroute Admiralty Islands to Buna. 0429 Passed 2nd Echelon enroute to Admiralty Islands. 0645 PHOENIX, DALY and HUTCHINS proceeded to Cape Gretin, remainder of group continuing to Buna at 15 knots. 0948 PHOENIX, DALY and HUTCHINS rejoined. 1436 Anchored in Buna Roads and fueled.

Thursday, 2 March 1944.

(a) Operating with Task Force 74, H.M.A.S. SHROPSHIRE O.T.C.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF74 dispatch 020915 of March.

(c) At anchor Buna.

(d) Underway at 2207 enroute Buna Roads to patrol area north of the Admiralty Islands.

(e) Task Force orders are to patrol area between Admiralty Islands and the equator between Long. 145-00 E and 147-30 E and to intercept and destroy any enemy forces attempting to get through to the Admiralty Islands.

Friday, 3 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	05-53 S 147-49 E	04-55 S 147-19 E	02-17 S 147-55 E

(d) Task Force passed to the northward of the Admiralty Islands at 2100 and entered patrol area. At this time enemy planes attacked destroyers patrolling near Manus Island about 20 miles away missing the AMMEN with four or five bombs by about 100 yards.



U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

Saturday, 4 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-14 S 147-28 E	00-57 S 146-28 E	00-29 S 147-42 E

(d) Patrolling in northern covering area. In accordance with Commander SEVENTH FLEET dispatch 032313 of March the Task Force closed the Admiralty Islands. All three cruisers plus the DALY and the HUTCHINS bombarded the eastern end of Hauwei Island in an attempt to knock out a battery of 3 inch guns covering the entrance to Seeadler Harbor. Later reports indicate this bombardment was not successful. The next day the NICHOLSON attempted to draw fire from these guns to see if they were still active. A 3 inch shell hit in number 2 handling room killing three men showed they were. At completion of bombardment the Task Force withdrew to the covering area.

Sunday, 5 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-30 S 146-56 E	01-13 S 147-17 E	00-58 S 146-00 E

It has been raining constantly for the last three days with some very heavy squalls.

(d) Patrolling in northern covering area.

Monday, 6 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-02 S 146-35 E	01-30 S 147-24 E	01-11 S 146-21 E

(d) Patrolling as before. Fueled from U.S.S. PHOENIX.

Tuesday, 7 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-16 S 147-18 E	01-28 S 147-24 E	02-18 S 147-50 E

(d) Patrolling as before. In accordance with orders from Commander SEVENTH FLEET closed the Admiralty Islands to bombard islands sheltering Seeadler harbor.



U.S.S. EACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

Tuesday, 7 March 1944 (Cont'd)

Our target is a double purpose gun located on the eastern end of Koruniat Island. About ten miles from the islands we separated from the cruisers and proceeded at 30 knots to our firing area on course 140° T. Turned left to 110° T at 1637 and slowed to 20 knots running down a line that would put the target about 3500 yards abeam. 1645 Commenced firing on target area with 5 inch battery using direct fire, sweeping eastern end of island. 1650 Commenced firing with 40mm guns, firing for about 1 minute. Range was too great for accuracy against this kind of target with 40mm guns. 1650 Ceased firing with 5 inch battery. At 1700 reversed course opening fire again with main battery. At 1706 Ceased firing and turned to north to form anti-submarine screen on cruisers who had completed their firing. After forming up the Task Force commenced return to Buna as directed by Commander SEVENTH FLEET.

- (e) Ammunition expenditure:  
 276 rounds 5"/38 AA Common  
 117 rounds 40mm

Wednesday, 8 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	05-53 S	07-16 S	Anchored
	147-37 E	148-10 E	Buna

- (d) Steaming as before. At 1645 arrived in Buna.

Thursday, 9 March 1944.

- (c) Anchored at Buna Roads.

Friday, 10 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Anchored	08-52 S	08-46 S
	Buna	158-53 E	148-39 E

- (d) At 0743 got underway in accordance with Commanding Officer PHOENIX dispatch 090150 of March in company with BEALE and PHOENIX to exercise southeast of Buna for familiarization of new Commanding Officer of PHOENIX. At 1031 exercised at fueling ship at sea with U.S.S. PHOENIX. 1150 Carried out simulated torpedo attack with BEALE on PHOENIX. 1315 Commenced tracking drill with all guns on PHOENIX planes. 1520 Anchored in Buna Roads. 1820 Underway in accordance with orders from CTF74 in company with Task Force 74 enroute Milne Bay via coastal route.



CONFIDENTIAL

## War Diary

Saturday, 11 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
	10-28 S 150-48 E	Anchored Milne Bay

(d) At 1106 anchored Milne Bay with Task Force 74. Saw U.S.S. ABERN HEAD of our squadron for first time since she lost her stern at Kiska.

Sunday, 12 March 1944.

(c) Anchored in Milne Bay.

Monday, 13 March 1944.

(c) Anchored in Milne Bay.

Tuesday, 14 March 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF74 practice program (AF537/53).

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	10-34 S 150-43 E	11-25 S 150-24 E	11-54 S 151-06 E

(d) 0632 Underway in company with U.S.S. MULLANY. Passed through China Straits and engaged in anti-aircraft gunnery practice with main battery on sleeve towed by plane. At 1250 joined up with HUTCHINS, DALY, AMMEN and BEALE and then conducted simulated squadron torpedo attack on cruisers SHROPSHIRE, NASHVILLE and PHOENIX. At 1600 Red force consisting of SHROPSHIRE, HUTCHINS, BEALE, DALY and BACHE conducted simulated night contact and attack on Blue force consisting of NASHVILLE, PHOENIX, MULLANY and AMMEN. At conclusion cruisers formed scouting line patrolling to the southeast searching for U.S.S. BOISE coming up from the south. Destroyers formed line of section guides with sections in column about 20 miles behind cruisers.

Wednesday, 15 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	11-09 S 150-31 E	10-20 S 150-24 E	Anchored Milne Bay

(d) At 0015 made contact with U.S.S. BOISE. Squadron carried out simulated torpedo attack after which cruisers formed column with destroyers in A/S screen and set course for China Straits. At 1400 anchored in Milne Bay after fueling from NASHVILLE. Reported for duty with Task Force 72.



U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

Thursday, 16 March 1944.

(a) Operating with submarines of TF72.

(b) Task Force 72 Memorandum Training Operation Order No. M23-44 of 15 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Anchored Milne Bay	10-02 S 151-26 E

(d) At 1239 underway. Joined U.S. Submarines FLOUNDER and DACE to escort them to Langemak Bay. Submarines conducted gunnery exercises in gunnery area Milne Bay after which the task unit proceeded through reefs and northward via bombing restricted route east of Kiriwina Island.

Friday, 17 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	08-17 S 151-07 E	07-54 S 150-29 E	07-23 S 149-47 E

(d) Enroute Langemak Bay steering evasive courses to exercise submarines in end around approaches.

Saturday, 18 March 1944.

(a) Reported to Task Force 74.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	06-35 S 147-53 E	08-07 S 148-13 E	Oro Bay

(d) At 0700 arrived Langemak Bay. Parted company with submarines and proceeded independently to Oro Bay, New Guinea for upkeep period alongside U.S.S. DOBBIN. 1513 Moored to U.S.S. DOBBIN.

19-20 March 1944.

(c) Oro Bay, New Guinea.

(d) Undergoing upkeep period alongside U.S.S. DOBBIN.



U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

Tuesday, 21 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	08-56 S 148-58 E	09-50 S 150-25 E	Milne Bay

(d) At 0640 underway enroute Milne Bay, New Guinea in accordance with previous instructions. 1600 Arrived Milne Bay, fueled, and then anchored inside nets.

22-28 March 1944.

(c) On 26 March set clocks back one hour to -10 time zone.

(d) Anchored Milne Bay for upkeep period.

Wednesday, 29 March 1944.

(a) Attached to Task Force 75, ComCruDiv 15, CTF75.

PHOENIX (Flag)  
NASHVILLE  
BOISE  
HUTCHINS (ComDesRon-24)  
DALY  
BUSH  
BEALE  
ABNER READ  
BACHE

(b) Exercising in accordance with CTF75 exercise schedule for week 26 March to 1 April.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	10-28 S 150-42 E	11-12 S 150-56 E	11-24 S 151-12 E

(d) At 0544 underway in company with U.S.S. BEALE and submarine BLUEGILL. Passed through China Straits and carried out anti-submarine exercises south of Louisiade Archipelago.

Thursday, 30 March 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	11-08 S 150-59 E	11-00 S 150-41 E	Milne Bay

(d) At 0600 joined with U.S.S. PHOENIX, NASHVILLE, BOISE, HUTCHINS and BEALE. Exercised with submarine. At 1045 tested 5" gun projectiles. Submarine and HUTCHINS parted company from rest of formation.



U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary

Thursday, 30 March 1944 (Cont'd)

At 1330 passed through China Straits and entered Milne Bay. Fired machine guns at towed sleeve and then proceeded to anchorage. Moored to tanker at 1824, remaining overnight.

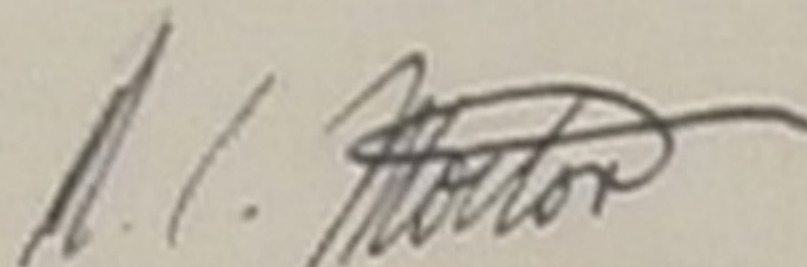
Friday, 31 March 1944.

(c) Milne Bay.

(d) Cleared tanker at 0730 and anchored inside nets Milne Bay.

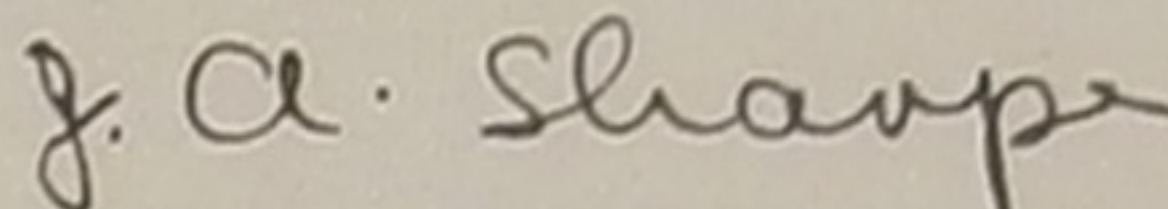
APPROVED:

EXAMINED:



R. C. MORTON,

Lieut. Comdr., USN, Commanding Officer.



J. A. SHARPE,

Lieutenant, USN, Navigator.

cc: CINCPAC  
COMDESPAC