

557
23 JUN 1944

DD470/A12
(073)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.,
June 3, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Subject: War Diary - Submission of.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary for ^{May} April 1944.

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

Robert C. Morton
ROBERT C. MORTON.

Recorded

83095

FILMED

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

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May 4, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-02 S 141-23 E	02-07 S 141-27 E	02-09 S 142-17 E

(d) Operating as before. 1835 Commenced return to Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

May 5, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-55 S 145-27 E	01-45 S 146-34 E	Moored Seeadler Harbor

(d) 1000 Our Task Force separated from Task Group 78.1; proceeding to Manus Island. 1400 Arrived off Seeadler Harbor and patrolled entrance until cruisers and carriers had entered. At 1710 Moored to H.M.A.S. YUNNAN for ammunition.

May 6, 1944.

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) Fueled and then anchored.

May 7, 1944.

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) At anchor.

May 8, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 exercise schedule 8-10 May.

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands and gunnery area just north of harbor.

(d) At 1215 Underway in company with U.S.S. BOISE and U.S.S. ABNER READ. Engaged in gunnery exercises to northward of harbor and then returned to anchorage.

May 9, 1944.

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) At anchor.

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May 10, 1944.

(a) Attached to Task Group 75.5:

U.S.S. ABNER READ (COMDESDIV 48, OTC)
 U.S.S. BEALE
 U.S.S. BACHE

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 dispatch 091237 of May.

(c) Seeadler Harbor 2000
 01-50 S
 146-18 E

(d) After topping off Task Group, left Seeadler Harbor enroute Aitape, New Guinea, at 1600. Our mission is to locate and destroy coastal guns in vicinity of Wewak.

May 11, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-46 S 142-59 E	Aitape, N.G.	02-58 S 142-39 E

(d) 1030 Anchored in Aitape Roads. Embarked four PT-boat captains. Held conference with PT squadron commander in regards to location of coastal guns in Wewak area. 1815 Left Aitape enroute Wewak

May 12, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	03-35 S 143-48 E	03-23 S 143-20 E	02-31 S 143-22 E

(d) At 0700, arrived in bombardment area. 0714 commenced bombardment on targets in Nightingale Bay. 0816 opened fire on target on Cape Moem Peninsula. 0855 Opened fire on target on Muschu Island east. 0914 opened fire on target on Kairiru Island east. 1010 opened fire on target on Cape Ulekup, Kairiru Island. 1039 fired 40mm at Unei Island. 1046 opened fire on target at Karasan Island east. 1107 opened fire on target on Cape Musokalang, Muschu Island. 1112 opened fire on seaplane base area on Kairiru Island south. Fired on barge just west of the base. 1201 opened fire on gun positions in Dagua Drome area. Beach guns, estimated to be 37mm, opened fire. Return fire light and inaccurate in range. 1223 opened fire on gun positions in But Drome area. Return fire continued. It was estimated that hits were scored on one gun position. The following evening PT-boats were hit by return fire from beach

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May 12, 1944 (Cont'd)

defenses in vicinity of But and Dagua dromes. At 1456 arrived in Aitape. Disembarked passengers and commenced return to Admiralty Islands.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

501 rounds 5"/38 Cal. AA Common
82 rounds 40mm.

May 13, 1944.

(a) Attached to Task Force 75.

(b) U.S.S. TRATHEN (DD530) joined Task Force 75 and DESDIV 48.

(c) Seeadler Harbor.

(d) At 0800, arrived Seeadler Harbor. Fueled, provisioned, and replaced ammunition.

May 14, 1944.

(c) Seeadler Harbor.

(d) At anchor.

May 15, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Seeadler Harbor	01-38 S 146-48 E	01-53 S 144-10 E

(d) At 0900 underway singly enroute Seeadler Harbor to Hollandia on special officer-messenger mission to Commander Attack Force at Hollandia.

May 16, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-26 S 141-14 E	Hollandia	02-06 S 140-05 E

(d) 1000 arrived Hollandia reporting to Commander Attack Force in U.S.S. REID. 1350 Having topped off with fuel departed Hollandia to rejoin Task Force 75 and Task Force 74. At 1600 rejoined Task Forces steaming in a

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May 16, 1944 (Cont'd)

single formation. Our mission is to furnish surface cover for the Attack Force enroute to the attack area (Wakde Island and Sarmi) and during the period after the assault, to provide initial shore bombardment and call fire as needed.

May 17, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-50 S 138-51 E	01-53 S 138-56 E	Anchored Hollandia

(d) At 0431 Task Force 75 separated from Task Force 74 and approached assault area. 0606 Cruisers commenced initial shore bombardment. 0655 Opened fire on assigned targets near Maffin drome. Visibility excellent and sea calm. 0715 Ceased firing. Rejoined cruisers to screen them. First wave is on the beach with no opposition. After cruisers recovered spotting planes we continued to screen them while maneuvering off shore awaiting requests for call fire. At 1145 Task Force 75 was released and commenced retirement to Hollandia conducting tests of I.F.F. enroute. 1820 Anchored in Humboldt Bay. 2015 Underway, conducting anti-submarine patrol off Bay in accordance with verbal orders of CTF 75.

(f) Ammunition expended:

125 rounds 5"/38 Cal. Common.

May 18, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-33 S 140-53 E	02-32 S 140-51 E	02-30 S 140-50 E

(d) Conducting anti-submarine patrol off Humboldt Bay. 0600 Light raid on Hollandia area was made by Jap planes. Planes not seen by this vessel. 1300 Stood in to bay and fueled from tanker, afterwards anchoring in south-east part of bay. Large explosion, resulting in a fire was noted on the beach south of Challenger Cove while ship was proceeding to anchorage. Fire spread and explosions continued so that, at 2000, the Task Force, less TRATHEN and ABNER READ on anti-submarine patrol, proceeded to sea to avoid being lighted up by the fire.

May 19, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Hollandia	02-34 S 140-50 E	02-34 S 140-50 E

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May 19, 1944 (Cont'd)

(d) 0715 Anchored in Humboldt Bay. 1131 Underway in accordance with orders of CBS 24 conducting anti-submarine patrol off the bay.

May 20, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-33 S 140-51 E	02-33 S 140-45 E	Humboldt Bay

(d) Steaming as before. 1201 Left patrol station and fueled from tanker afterwards anchoring in Humboldt Bay. 1830 Task Force 75 less BACHE stood out to relieve Task Force 74 in covering area northwest of Wakde Island. This vessel was granted at anchor availability by CTF 75 for essential boiler repairs.

May 21, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-35 S 140-45 E	02-30 S 142-30 E	03-20 S 145-22 E

(d) 0757 Underway in accordance with Commander SEVENTH FLEET dispatch 201217 of May, steaming singly enroute Morobe Harbor for tender availability.

May 22, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
	07-20 S 147-51 E	Morobe Harbor, New Guinea.

(d) At 1000 arrived Morobe Harbor, New Guinea, and moored to U.S.S. DOBBIN for availability to accomplish boiler repairs.

May 23--24, 1944

(c) Morobe Harbor.

(d) Undergoing repairs and upkeep.

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May 25, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	07-16 S 147-52 E	05-19 S 147-18 E	02-50 S 144-39 E

(d) 0615 Underway from Morobe Harbor enroute Hollandia, New Guinea.

May 26, 1944

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 77 Operation Plan 5-43.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Hollandia	01-59 S 139-45 E	01-06 S 137-10 E

(d) At 0615 entered Humboldt Bay, New Guinea, fueled and provisioned. 0930 Departed Humboldt Bay to join Task Force 77 at sea. 1600 Joined attack force consisting of Task Forces 74, 75, and 77. Mission of this vessel is to assist in screening attack force from air and surface attack enroute and while at Biak Island, the attack area, and to provide gunnery support for the troops against shore targets.

May 27, 1944

(a) U.S.S. NASHVILLE and ABNER READ reported to CTF 74 for duty.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	01-15 S 136-05 E	01-20 S 136-10 E	01-19 S 136-48 E

(d) Made approach to gunnery support area south of Biak Island, steaming through the group of islands southeast of Biak Island. 0530 Arrived in gunnery support area taking station south of cruisers. Task Force 77 getting into position for the assault about eight miles to the east. 0630 Shore bombardment commenced by designated ships. 0716 Moved into position in column with cruisers to take place of HUTCHINS who has closed beach for close in bombardment. 0719 HUTCHINS is hit by projectile from shore battery. 0751 Moved in closer to beach to bombard shore battery that hit HUTCHINS. 0805 Opened fire on suspected position of shore battery. 0815 Ceased firing. 0817 Shore battery opened fire on us, firing about three projectiles (about 4") causing negligible damage and one slight personnel casualty.

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May 27, 1944 (Cont'd)

0819 Opened fire on shore battery, now well located. 0821 As no return fire was experienced, ceased firing and proceeded to screen cruisers while they carry out bombardment of coast. Landings apparently are progressing favorably and on schedule. 1000 Observed friendly aircraft bombing coastal area. 1327 Opened fire on shore battery again but fire was not returned. Also fired at machine gun positions and a truck to westward of the shore battery. 1620 Task Force 75 formed up in anti-aircraft cruising disposition on report that enemy planes were approaching the area. 1644 Twelve enemy bombers (Helens) covered by four enemy fighters attacked beach-head and ships in vicinity of beach-head about seven miles to eastward. 1645 Observed two enemy bombers hitting the water in flames. Attack was not successful. Four bombers were shot down by AA fire from ships and four fighters were shot down by our own fighters. One bomber on fire crashed on SC boat in landing area. 1700 U.S.S. NASHVILLE and ABNER READ left formation to join Task Force 74. 1730 Commenced retirement to covering area to north and east of Biak Island. 2100 Arrived in covering area and commenced patrol.

(f) Ammunition expenditure:

253 rounds AA Common.

May 28, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-47 S	00-22 S	00-12 S
	138-31 E	137-57 E	136-53 E

(d) Steaming as before in covering area.

May 29, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-36 S	01-07 S	00-08 S
	137-38 E	138-13 E	137-12 E

(d) Steaming as before in covering area.

May 30, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-25 S	00-07 S	00-15 S
	138-06 E	138-07 E	137-03 E

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May 30, 1944 (Cont'd)

(d) Steaming as before in covering area. Experienced first rough weather in six months. Winds of about 30 knots and seas of about 10 feet.

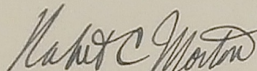
May 31, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>
	01-20 S	02-13 S
	139-01 E	140-25 E

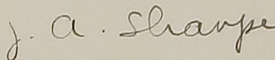
(d) Steaming as before. At 0700 relieved by Task Force 74 in covering area. Proceeding to Humboldt Bay arriving at 1400. Took aboard ammunition and anchored.

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:



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



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

cc: CINCPCAC