

DD470/A12
(0104)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

No. 3.	705
R. S. No.	

(ps)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.
21 November 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary of this Vessel for Month of October - Submission of.
Enclosure: (A) War Diary of this Vessel for Month of October 1944.

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

Robert C. Morton
ROBERT C. MORTON.

Received

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FILMED

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

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October 1, 1944

(a) Attached to Task Force 75, Rear Admiral Berkey, ComCruDiv 15, ComTaskForce 75.

U.S.S. PHOENIX
U.S.S. NASHVILLE
U.S.S. FOISE
U.S.S. HUTCHINS (COMDESRON 24)
U.S.S. ABNER READ (COMDESDIV 48)
U.S.S. DALY
U.S.S. BEALE
U.S.S. HUSH
U.S.S. KILLEN
U.S.S. BACHE

(b) Operating in accordance with COMDESRON 24 verbal orders of 29 September 1944.

(c) 0800 1200 2000

Moored - Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands - -9 Z. T.

(d) Moored as before in nest with U.S.S. WHITNEY (destroyer tender) undergoing repair and upkeep period.

October 2-6, 1944

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) Moored as before. 1000 Captain K. M. McManes (Comdesron 24) came on board and presented Commander Robert C. Morton with BRONZE STAR MEDAL authorized by Admiral William F. Halsey, Commander South Pacific Forces for service in the South Pacific.

October 7, 1944.

(b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 dispatch 050736 of 5 September 1944.

(c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.

(d) Moored as before. 0627 Underway to conduct torpedo firing exercises, target ship the U.S.S. AMMEN. 1426 with the AMMEN bearing 175° T distant 4650 yards, fired exercise torpedo. Torpedo missed slightly astern of target. After recovering torpedo, took station as target vessel for AMMEN. 1538 AMMEN fired torpedo. Missed about 100 feet astern. Exercises completed, returned to harbor and moored alongside HMAS WARRAMUNGA.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 8, 1944.

- (c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.
- (d) Moored as before. 0729 Underway for Dry Dock (ARD-20) to repair underwater sound dome. 1321 Entered Dry Dock.

October 9, 1944.

- (c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.
- (d) In Dry Dock (ARD-20) undergoing repairs to underwater sound dome. 0753 Left Dry Dock, went alongside tanker, fueled, then anchored.

October 10, 1944.

- (c) Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.
- (d) Anchored as before.

October 11, 1944.

- (b) Operating in accordance with CTF 75 confidential mailgram 100714 of 10 October 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Anchored	Anchored	01-47 S 146-21 E

- (d) Anchored as before. 1644 Underway in company with TF 74-75 enroute Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

October 12, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-26 S 142-11 E	Hollandia	Anchored Hollandia

- (d) Steaming as before. 1200 Arrived Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, anchored. 1844 Underway, fueled, then anchored.

October 13, 1944

- (a) Designation of TF 74 and 75 changed to TG 77.3 (less U.S.S. NASHVILLE, U.S.S. BUSH, U.S.S. ABNER READ, U.S.S. AMMEN, U.S.S. MULLANY) for forthcoming operation.
- (b) Operating in accordance with CTF 78 Op-Plan 101-44.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 13, 1944 (Cont'd)

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	Anchored	Anchored	02-02 S 140-29 E

(d) Anchored as before. 1507 Underway in company with TF 78 (Transports and Amphibious craft) and TG 77.3. SOPA in U.S.S. BLUE RIDGE. Enroute LEYTE ISLAND, Philippine Islands.

(e) Mission of TF 78 is to seize and occupy beachheads and airfield on Leyte Island to the NE near SAN JUANICO STRAITS. TF 78 will make up the Northern Attack Force. The mission of TG 77.3 will be one of fire support. Our mission will be to act as A/S screen enroute Leyte Island, provide initial bombardment, and stand by for call fire from the shore fire control party.

October 14, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	00-41.5 S 139-24 E	00-13 S 139-07 E	00-47 N 138-13 E

(d) Steaming as before.

October 15, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	02-04 N 137-13 E	02-24 N 136-52 E	03-28 N 136-16 E

(d) Steaming as before. 0835 U.S.S. PHOENIX reported radar contact 057° T, distance 50,000 yards, identified as TG 78.2. 1142 Task Group 78.2 joined formation, cruising disposition C-1.

October 16, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	04-38 N 135-20 E	05-03 N 134-53 E	05-45 N 134-08 E

(d) Steaming as before.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 17, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	06-36 N 133-02 E	06-53 N 132-38 E	07-16 N 131-46 E

(d) Steaming as before. 0621 Went alongside U.S.S. BOISE and fueled, then returned to screening station (8040). 1138 Picked up Japanese life raft Lat. 06-50 N, Long. 132-40 E.

October 18, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	08-06 N 130-34 E	08-20 N 130-06 E	08-32 N 129-11 E

(d) Steaming as before.

October 19, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	09-36 N 127-51 E	09-49 N 127-22 E	10-14 N 126-27 E

(d) Steaming as before. 2200 Reformed screen in preparation for entering Leyte Gulf, this ship in station 5030, speed of formation 9 knots.

October 20, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	11-08 N 125-10.5 E	11-13.5 N 125-02 E	Anchored San Pedro Bay

(d) Steaming as before. 0023 Entered Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands, passing south of HOMOHOH ISLAND. 0625 Formation opened fire on Jap torpedo bomber passing overhead, but he escaped. At 0700 entered San Pedro Bay and on orders from CTG 77.3 proceeded to fire support area "A" in preparation for bombardment of targets in the vicinity of WHITE BEACH. At 0928 commenced firing on designated targets on SAN RICARDO BEACH (bearing 275° T, 3900 yards) Leyte Island. 0946 Ceased firing on target area and proceeded to call fire area to await further instructions. 1019 Opened fire on DIO ISLAND with 5"/38 and 40mm machine guns. 1025 Ceased firing on DIO and took a position approximately 1500 yards off SAN RICARDO BEACH, standing by for call fire. At 1512 anchored near DIO ISLAND, using short scope of chain.

U.S.S. BACHE (DDA70)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 20, 1944 (Cont'd)

(F) Ammunition expended:

5"/38 AA Common	222 rounds
40mm	169 rounds

October 21, 1944.

(c) San Pedro Bay, Leyte Island, Philippine Islands.

(d) Anchored. 1905 Stood by to repel air attack. 1911 Underway, maneuvering to clear anchorage area, proceeding in company with the DALY and HUTCHINS to join TG 77.3. 2110 Joined up with TG 77.3, no planes attacking this formation. Continued to patrol the area south of SAN PEDRO BAY.

October 22, 1944.

(c) Leyte Gulf, Philippines.

(d) Steaming as before. At 0500, on orders from CTG 77.3 proceeded to fire support area "D". 0627 Proceeded to former fire support area "A", and anchored. 1649 Underway, joined TG 77.3, and patrolled area south of San Pedro Bay during the night.

October 23, 1944.

(c) Leyte Gulf, Philippines.

(d) Steaming as before. 0706 Left formation, proceeded to fire support area "A", and anchored in the vicinity of DIO Island, standing by for call fire, if requested. 1020 Underway, proceeded to vicinity of SAN JUANICO STRAIT to render call fire. Call fire not needed, so went alongside tanker, fueled, then proceeded to fire support area "D" (RED BEACH). On orders from CTG 77.3 then proceeded to area "A" and anchored. 1813 Sounded General Quarters and stood by to repel air attack. 1814 Opened fire with 40mm machine guns on Japanese Medium Bomber on the starboard quarter. 1815 Ceased firing, no hits observed on enemy plane. At 2002 underway to provide starshell illumination for own forces near HILL 522. At 2315 commenced firing starshells intermittently in accordance with fire support instructions.

October 24, 1944.

(c) Leyte Gulf, Philippines.

(d) Anchored as before. 0612 Having completed starshell mission, got underway, then anchored nearby. 0823 Sounded General Quarters and stood by to repel air attack. 0825 Opened fire on Japanese Medium Bomber. Underway maneuvering to clear area. 0830 Ceased firing, two bomb splashes observed off the

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 24, 1944 (Cont'd)

port quarter distant about 100 yards and 200 yards respectively. 1707 Unidentified aircraft reported in the vicinity, went to General Quarters to repel air attack, commenced maneuvering to join up with TG 77.3. 1813 Joined TG 77.3. At 1936 on orders from CTG 77.3 destroyers formed 0200 Relative to Fleet Axis 180° T 4000 yards. Intelligence reports indicate that the Jap fleet will attempt an attack on shipping in Leyte Gulf in the very near future. 2330 On orders from COMDESRON 24 destroyers of this Task Group formed on a line of bearing 000° T from guide, U.S.S. HUTCHINS.

October 25, 1944.

- (b) Operating in accordance with verbal orders Commander Task Group 77.3.
- (c) SURIGAO STRAIT at Southern entrance to Leyte Gulf, Philippines.
- (d) Patrolling entrance to Leyte Gulf. Destroyers in column deployed in line of bearing 230° T from guide, U.S.S. PHOENIX with HUTCHINS (destroyer leader) bearing 180° T from this vessel. Battleships of Task Units 77.2.1 and 77.2.2 deployed in a battle line East and West across SURIGAI STRAIT north of a line between HIBUSON and CABUGAN GRANDE islands. Cruisers of Task Units 77.2.1 and 77.2.2 formed in the van on the left flank, with destroyers of these Task Units to the southward on the eastern side of SURIGAO STRAIT. At 0205 friendly MTB's reported unidentified surface vessels proceeding northward through SURIGAO STRAIT. 0209 These vessels identified as Japanese warships, and were immediately taken under attack by our PT boats. At intermittent periods starshells and searchlights illuminated the Strait to the south of this vessel. Evidently the Japs were attempting to locate and destroy the pesky PT's which were biting at their heels. It was largely due to this preliminary PT attack that our larger forces were able to surprise the enemy. At 0251 all hands to battle stations, proceeding southward to engage the enemy in column astern of HUTCHINS and DALY. On orders from Commander Destroyer Squadron 24, Captain K. M. McMANES, USN, the HMAS ARUNTA, BEALE, and KILLEN formed one section; the HUTCHINS, DALY, and BACHE another. Destroyers of Task Units 77.2.1 and 77.2.2 made the first two torpedo attacks, followed by the ARUNTA, BEALE, and KILLEN, then the HUTCHINS, DALY, and BACHE. 0312 Destroyers of Task Units 77.2.1 and 77.2.2 attacked enemy with torpedoes and gun fire from the East. Number of enemy targets estimated at between 12 and 15 ships, ranging from battleships to destroyers. 0335 Changed course to 350° T and fired torpedoes at nearest enemy target bearing 109° T, distant 10,300 yards (target thought to be a MOGAMI class cruiser). At 0342 changed course to 155° T and opened fire at target (possibly dead in water at this time) bearing 086° T, 11800 yards. Wind from NE, force 3, visibility poor, due to darkness, the moon having set at 0000 (ITEM). From the third salvo through the 15th, when fire was shifted to another target bearing about 020° T, Distant 9000 yards, hits were observed in every salvo. At about 0954 took target No. 2 under fire (believed to have been a MOGAMI class cruiser because of a single large inverted "Y" type stack, long bow, and square turrets).

U.S.S. BACHE (DDM70)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 25, 1944 (Cont'd)

The first two salvos were short but beginning with the third salvo all salvos thereafter contained hits. 134 rounds of 5"/38 AA Common and 5"/38 armor piercing projectiles were fired at this target at a mean range of about 6000 yards. Estimated hits - at least 50%. Fires were started and a large explosion resulted at the very outset, possibly the fourth salvo. Very little return fire was experienced. It is believed that one of this ship's initial salvos hit a handling room or ready ammunition in the vicinity of the cruiser's after turret. Responsible observers state that flames leaped to well over a hundred feet in the air. Shortly after the explosion the enemy attempted to signal this vessel by blinker lights (mirror type) located high in the superstructure, but fire was shifted to the superstructure using the lights as a point of aim. At 0402 on orders from COMDESRON 24 ceased firing and commenced retirement to the Northwest, at which time the heavy Allied units took over, firing salvo after salvo into an already retreating enemy. At 0625 all Allied ships with the exception of the battleships proceeded southward to observe results of the battle and finish off the five (5) burning ships left behind. At 0744, the cruisers and destroyers of Task Units 77.2.1 and 77.2.2 having finished off the cripples, we changed course to Northward proceeding toward Leyte Gulf, where ammunition and fuel were replenished.

- (f) Ammunition expended: 110 rounds 5"/38 AA common
99 rounds 5"/38 Common.

October 26, 1944.

- (b) Operating in accordance with verbal orders from CTU 77.2.1.
(c) Leyte Gulf, Philippines.
(d) Patrolling Leyte Gulf as before in company with Task Group 77.3, guide and OTC in U.S.S. PHOENIX. 1622 Having fueled alongside tanker, got underway, proceeded to southern entrance to Leyte Gulf to act as radar picket ship for the night.

October 27, 1944.

- (c) Southern entrance, Leyte Gulf, Philippines.
(d) Steaming as before. At 0816 had doubtful sound contact on submarine, but lost contact and resumed radar picket patrol. At 1233 went to battle stations to repel air attack but enemy fighter planes soon departed area before coming within gun range. At 1746 were relieved of radar picket duties, and at 1958 joined Task Group 77.2. OTC in U.S.S. MISSISSIPPI. Commenced patrolling eastern entrance to Leyte Gulf.

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

October 28, 1944.

- (c) Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands.
- (d) Steaming as before. 0617 Sighted Japanese dive bomber approaching formation from the West and opened fire on said bomber, but no hits were observed. At 0624 dive bomber commenced suicide dive on formation, crashing close aboard the U.S.S. DENVER. 2328 Repelled air attack.
- (f) Ammunition expended: 14 rounds 5"/38 AA Common.

October 29, 1944.

- (b) Operating in accordance with CTF dispatch of October, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	10-58 N	10-58 N	10-34 N
	125-07 E	125-07 E	125-52 E

- (d) Steaming as before. At 0847 the U.S.S. RICHARD P. LEARY came alongside and received 3 torpedoes Mk 15, 900 rounds 5"/38 AA Common and 800 rounds 40mm ammunition. At 1205 underway from alongside LEARY, went alongside U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA, fueled, then joined formation made up of various units of the fleet, departing Leyte Gulf, enroute ULITHI Islands, thence to Pearl Harbor. OTC in U.S.S. WASATCH (bound for Hollandia).

October 30, 1944.

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	09-15 N	08-48 N	08-04 N
	127-50 E	128-40 E	130-31 E

- (d) Steaming as before. At 0924 a group of CVE's and escorts joined this formation. At 1500 passed Task Unit 78.22.1 also on an easterly heading.

October 31, 1944

(c)	<u>0800</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>2000</u>
	07-02 N	06-40 N	07-25 N
	133-07 E	134-02 E	135-53 E

- (d) Steaming as before. At 1133 in accordance with visual signal CRUDIV 4 and the U.S.S. TENNESSEE, plus the WELLES, MULLANY, THORN, BEALE, HALFORD, and BACHE left the formation and proceeded toward ULITHI Islands. OTC in U.S.S. LOUISVILLE.

APPROVED: *Robert C. Morton*
 ROBERT C. MORTON,
 Commander, U.S. Navy,
 Commanding.

SUBMITTED: *Jefferson M. Golden*
 JEFFERSON M. GOLDEN,
 Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.,
 Navigator.