

DDA70/AL2
(0123)

U.S.S. BACHE (DDA70)

Reg. No. *71111*

R. S. No.

(ms)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.,
1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

Attached to the Fifth Fleet, operating under CTF 51 (Vice-Admiral R. K. TURNER, USN, in ELDORADO (AGC 11), (Commander Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet), assigned to Task Unit 51.13.1, Rear Admiral J. L. HALL, Jr., USN, in TETON (AGC 14), (also Commander Southern Attack Force and Commander Amphibious Group 12) in accordance with ComPhibGroup 12 Sortie and Cruising Order #A1205-45 as derived from ComPhibsPac Op-Plan A1-45. Zone -9(I) time in use.

1 April - Making approach to Okinawa Jima preparatory to landing of amphibious forces on western Okinawa beaches, Hagushi area. Composition of disposition:

TransDiv 37, TransDiv 38, TransDiv 39, TransDiv 13, TETON (AGC 14), GEAR - ARS, DesDiv 47, BENNETT (DD473), HUDSON (DD475), SIMS (APD 350), O'NEILL (DE 188).

Enemy aircraft heckled disposition several times but none closed this vessel to within firing range. 0417(I) Main body of disposition approached disembarkation point. Detached from Task Unit 51.13.1, but continued screening the disposition to seaward. Reports continued to be received of enemy aircraft in the area. 0515(I) Reported to CTG 51.5 (ComDesRon 63), Capt. F. MOOSBRUGGER, USN, in BISCAYNE (AGC 18) for duty in Transport Screen. 0720(I) Upon orders of CTG 51.5 took up patrol on screening station bearing 295° T, 12 miles from Zampa Misaki. 1726(I) Left screening station upon orders from CTG 51.5 and proceeded to transport area for night retirement with transports of Task Unit 55.1.3 as outlined in CTF 51 dispatch 010430 of April. (Retirement south of Okinawa as prescribed in ComPhibsPac Op-Plan A1-45.) CTU 55.1.3 (ComTransDiv 39) in CUSTER (APA 40). Retirement operations delayed by harassing tactics of enemy aircraft and by smoke screen made to cover shipping near the landing beaches. Retirement group not completely formed until late in the night.

0800(I) Lat. 26-28 N; Long. 127-30 E
1200(I) Lat. 26-31 N; Long. 127-35 E
2000(I) Lat. 26-25 N; Long. 127-30 E

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1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

2 April - 0652(I) Upon return from night retirement south of Okinawa, detached from Task 55.1.3 and attached to Task Group 51.5. Took up patrol station covered on April 1st; bearing 327° T, 12 miles from Zampa Misaki, Okinawa. 1710(I) Left screening station and joined transport group for night retirement as carried out yesterday. Retirement began sufficiently early so that passage between Keise Shima and Mae Shima was conducted in good visibility and retirement was executed without incident.

0800(I) Lat. 26-32 N; Long. 127-34 E

1200(I) Lat. 26-37 N; Long. 127-26 E

2000(I) Lat. 25-59 N; Long. 127-24 E

3 April - 0630(I) Proceeded through heavy smoke fog (generated to cover transports from dawn air attack by enemy planes) to screening station bearing 327° T, 12 miles from Zampa Misaki. Several reports of enemy air activity at dawn were received but the only planes observed in vicinity of this vessel were friendly air cover. 1201(I) Enemy planes reported in vicinity. Prepared to repel possible air attack, but no enemy planes were observed. 1418(I) Left screening station and fueled from NESHANIC (A071). 1720(I) Cast-off fueling lines and cleared tanker as rapidly as possible to prepare for attack by enemy aircraft reported in the area. No attack developed. 1921(I) Due to cancellation of usual night retirement, took up patrol on screening station bearing 281° T, 11½ miles from Zampa Misaki upon orders from CTG 51.5.

0800(I) Lat. 26-29 N; Long. 127-32 E

1200(I) Lat. 26-37 N; Long. 127-37 E

2000(I) Lat. 26-30 N; Long. 127-30 E

4 April - 0436(I) Enemy aircraft harassing the transport area. Detected unidentified plane on air search radar approaching from 020° T. 0458(I) Took unidentified plane under fire but ceased firing when the plane turned away and a report was received that friendly fighter cover was in the air in our vicinity. Expended 13 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC ammunition. 0818(I) Entered transport area to obtain assistance from ELDORADO (AGC 11) for repair of ECM. 1255(I) ECM repairs completed. Proceeded to southern end of Okinawa and took up anti-small craft support station 4 miles southeast of Cham Zaki. Acting as sector commander for LCI's 422, 77, 78, 565; each patrolling shorter sectors inboard of our patrol.

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

0800(I) Lat. 26-29 N; Long. 127-31 E
1200(I) Lat. 26-22 N; Long. 127-42 E
2000(I) Lat. 26-04 N; Long. 127-50 E

5 April - 0730(I) Departed anti-small craft station and proceeded north to transport area, vicinity Hagushi, to rendezvous with Task Unit 51.29.4. Detached from Task Group 51.5 and assigned to Task Unit 51.29.4 as directed by CTF 51 dispatch 041300 of April. To operate with screen escorting TU 51.29.4 to Guam. CTU 51.29.4 (ComTransDiv 35) Capt. S. P. JENKINS in CLAY (APA 39).
Composition of disposition:

CLAY APA 39
SUMTER APA 52
MONROVIA APA 31
ADAIR APA 91
GAGE APA 168
NOBLE APA 218
LEON APA 48

RAWLINS APA 226
GEORGE CLYMER APA 27
MENIFEE APA 202
RENVILLE APA 227
ARTHUR MIDDLETON APA 25
GILLIAM APA 57
THOMAS JEFFERSON APA 30

MARATHON APA 200
CATSKILL LSV 1
MONITOR LSV 5
M. H. McINTYRE
CHARLES CAMIOLL

T. E. FRASER DM 24 (Screen Commander)
BACHE DD 470
STACK DD 406

ABERCROMBIE DE 343
WM. C. COLE DE 641

HERBERT APD 22
MUSTIN DD 413

0800(I) Lat. 26-01 N; Long. 127-37 E
1200(I) Lat. 26-05 N; Long. 127-29 E
2000(I) Lat. 24-52 N; Long. 128-47 E

6 April - 0841(I) Passed Task Group 58.4 proceeding north. 1635(I) OBERRENDER (DE344) destroyed a mine sighted to starboard of the disposition. Received dispatch orders from CTF 51 to the effect that BACHE and T. E. FRASER (DM24) were to be detached from the Task Unit when the disposition crossed the 135th meridian, east, and to proceed Guam at high speed. At Guam, BACHE to be made available for escort duty as ordered by ComFwdArea.

0800(I) Lat. 23-58 N; Long. 130-53 E
1200(I) Lat. 23-15 N; Long. 131-30 E
2000(I) Lat. 22-25 N; Long. 133-09 E

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

7 April - 0500(I) Moved out ahead of disposition and joined T. E. FRASER (DM 24), proceeding toward Guam at high speed, in compliance with CTF 51 dispatch 051505 of April. 1800(I) Set clocks ahead one hour to Zone -10(K) time.

0800(I) Lat. 21-02 N; Long. 136-25 E

1200(I) Lat. 20-10 N; Long. 137-53 E

2000(K) Lat. 18-35 N; Long. 140-18 E

8 April - 1108(K) Sighted Rota Island, Marianas, bearing 138° T, distant 56 miles. 1218(K) Sighted Guam bearing 180° T, distant 35 miles. 1356(K) Entered Apra Harbor, Guam, and moored alongside T. E. FRASER (DM 24) in berth #2. Reported for escort duty to CTU 94.7.1 in compliance with ComFwdArea dispatch 080511 of April.

9-11 April - At Apra Harbor, Guam. Fueled and provisioned ship. On 10 April, advised by CTU 94.7.1 that we would get under way for Okinawa Jima late afternoon 11 April, or at daybreak 12 April, as escort for tugs with tow. 11 April Received Op-Order 131-45 of 11 April from CTU 94.7.1. BACHE with STRINGHAM (APD 6) and CHASE (APD 54) plus four tugs and tows designated Task Unit 94.19.8; CTU 94.19.8 in BACHE. ComTrans-Div 102 (Com. J. N. HUGHES, USNR) embarked in STRINGHAM (APD 6) and assumed duties of CTU 94.19.8.

12 April- 0605(K) Under way. Stood out of Apra Harbor to sortie with Task Unit 94.19.8. STRINGHAM (APD 6), BACHE (DD 470), CHASE (APD 54); ATA 187, ATR 38, ATR 62, ATA 181. (each with tow) Entire morning spent patrolling off entrance to Apra Harbor waiting for tugs to form. 1254(K) Proceeded toward Okinawa at low speed.

0800(K) Lat. 13-29 N; Long. 144-40 E

1200(K) Lat. 13-26 N; Long. 144-24 E

2000(K) Lat. 13-30 N; Long. 143-40 E

13 April - Under way as before. Learned of the death of President ROOSEVELT.

0800(K) Lat. 15-14 N; Long. 140-40 E

1200(K) Lat. 15-23 N; Long. 140-27 E

2000(K) Lat. 15-57 N; Long. 139-38 E

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

14 April - 0800(K) Half-masted colors in honor of the late President
ROOSEVELT. 1800(K) Changed time to Zone -9(I) time.

0800(K) Lat. 15-14 N; Long. 140-40 E
1200(K) Lat. 15-23 N; Long. 140-27 E
2000(I) Lat. 15-57 N; Long. 139-38 E

15 April - 0942(I) Tested automatic weapons. Expended following
ammunition: 101 rounds 20 MM, 63 rounds 40 MM.

0800(I) Lat. 16-36 N; Long. 138-53 E
1200(I) Lat. 16-44 N; Long. 138-41 E
2000(I) Lat. 17-13 N; Long. 137-56 E

16 April - Under way as before.

0800(I) Lat. 17-50 N; Long. 137-00 E
1200(I) Lat. 17-58 N; Long. 136-41 E
2000(I) Lat. 18-20 N; Long. 135-58 E

17 April - Under way as before.

0800(I) Lat. 18-56 N; Long. 134-58 E
1200(I) Lat. 19-06 N; Long. 134-44 E
2000(I) Lat. 19-30 N; Long. 134-12 E

18 April - Under way as before.

0800(I) Lat. 20-05 N; Long. 133-05 E
1200(I) Lat. 20-33 N; Long. 132-37 E
2000(I) Lat. 20-57 N; Long. 132-07 E

19 April - 0850(I) Test-fired main battery and automatic weapons.
Expended following ammunition: 14 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC,
377 rounds 20 MM, 286 rounds 40 MM. 1815(I) Disposition
diverted to the north to avoid enemy submarine reported to
be operating southeast of Okinawa. Authority to divert
received in CTF 51 dispatch 190325 of April. 1926(I)
Established contact with search radars, and soon after with
fire control radar, on what proved to be phantom echoes,
cause unknown. Separate report of characteristics and
behavior of echoes made to BuShips and type commander.

0800(I) Lat. 21-52 N; Long. 131-25 E
1200(I) Lat. 22-13 N; Long. 131-15 E
2000(I) Lat. 22-17 N; Long. 130-58 E

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

20 April - Under way as before.

0800(I) Lat. 23-49 N; Long. 130-41 E
1200(I) Lat. 23-57 N; Long. 130-24 E
2000(I) Lat. 24-19 N; Long. 130-00 E

21 April - Under way as before.

0800(I) Lat. 25-08 N; Long. 129-25 E
1200(I) Lat. 25-22 N; Long. 129-21 E
2000(I) Lat. 25-34 N; Long. 129-03 E

22 April - 0206(I) Unidentified aircraft detected by radar, closing from NE. Thought to be a raid en route Okinawa. Raid turned south and disappeared from radar screen. 0208(I) Raised Okinawa by radar bearing 338° T, 40 miles. 0646(I) Off Chima Wan, Okinawa. Tugs ordered to Nagusuku Wan; continued to screen tugs as they proceeded to destination. 1113(I) Detached from Task Unit 94.19.8. Reported for duty to CTG 51.5 (ComDesRon 63) in BISCAYNE (AGC 18). Upon his orders, proceeded around southern end of Okinawa to Kerama Retto where fuel was received from WHIPPET (IX 129). 1625(I) As ordered by CTG 51.5 took up screening station B-18, bearing 311° T, 11 miles from Zampa Misaki; operating in accordance with ComPhibsPac Op-Plan A1-45. 1925(I) Enemy planes in the immediate vicinity. Drove one raid off by AA fire. Expended following ammunition: 5 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC, 1 round 5"/38 cal. AAC, V.T. fuzed.

0800(I) Lat. 26-22 N; Long. 128-06 E
1200(I) Lat. 26-01 N; Long. 127-43 E
2000(I) Lat. 26-33 N; Long. 127-37 E

23 April - 0750(I) Proceeded to Radar Picket Station #14 on orders from CTG 51.5. Day station bearing 326° T, 50 miles from Zampa Misaki. Night station bearing 326° T, 72 miles from Zampa Misaki. Relieved VAN VALKENBURG (DD 656), acting as support vessel to WICKES (DD 575), OTC. LSM(R) 195, LCS 37 and LCS 83 also in company primarily for rescue duty. This picket station has been subjected to heavy attacks by enemy suicide planes.

0800(I) Lat. 26-33 N; Long. 127-32 E
1200(I) Lat. 27-26 N; Long. 126-59 E
2000(I) Lat. 27-25 N; Long. 126-59 E

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

24 April - 0547(I) LCM(R) 195 departed formation for Kerama Retto.
1645(I) LSM(R) 196 joined formation. 2028(I) LCS 62 and
LCS 64 joined formation. Low cloud cover and bad visibility
precluded air activity.

0800(I) Lat. 27-12 N; Long. 127-11 E
1200(I) Lat. 27-07 N; Long. 127-17 E
2000(I) Lat. 27-24 N; Long. 127-03 E

25 April - 0750(I) LCS 37, LCS 83, left formation. CTF 51 advised that
heavy air attacks may be expected today. 2350(I) IRWIN
(DD 794) relieved WICKES (DD 578) as Radar Picket 14 and OTC.
Again bad weather conditions apparently kept the enemy at
home.

0800(I) Lat. 27-11 N; Long. 127-30 E
1200(I) Lat. 27-07 N; Long. 121-12 E
2000(I) Lat. 27-21 N; Long. 127-01 E

26 April - 0323(I) Drove off low-flying enemy aircraft with gun fire.
Expended following ammunition: 4 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC,
V.T. fuzed, 1 round 5"/38 cal. AAC, 47 rounds 40 MM. 0440(I)
Enemy aircraft again in the area but passed clear of us
heading north. This group of planes and the earlier group
appeared to be retiring to their home base after harassing
the shipping and shore installations at Okinawa.

0800(I) Lat. 27-07 N; Long. 127-12 E
1200(I) Lat. 27-01 N; Long. 127-13 E
2000(I) Lat. 27-19 N; Long. 127-06 E

27 April - Enemy planes were detected several times by radar but none
approached this station to within gun range.

0800(I) Lat. 27-05 N; Long. 127-20 E
1200(I) Lat. 27-06 N; Long. 127-11 E
2000(I) Lat. 27-16 N; Long. 127-14 E

28 April - 0036(I) Enemy planes detected to the south, heading north.
0109(I) A few enemy planes approached as if on attacking run.
Took them under fire but results were unobserved. Expended
following ammunition: 98 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC, 54 rounds
5"/38 cal. AAC, V. T. fuzed. 0600(I) R. H. SMITH (DM 23)
relieved IRWIN (DD 794) as Radar Picket #14. 0958(I) Assisted
R. H. SMITH (DM 23) conduct Plan Observant (FTP223A) following
sonar contact and depth charge attack by R. H. SMITH. Results
of search were negative. Contact assessed as non-sub.

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

28 April - (continued)

1530(I) Large groups of enemy planes were reported approaching the general area from the north at high altitude. The first raids were intercepted by CAP and many were reported knocked down. 1745(I) Several enemy planes had succeeded in closing Radar Picket Station #14 with CAP working them over. Two parachutes were observed descending from enemy planes after CAP had made interception. Two enemy planes seen to crash in flames. 1836(I) One Nick, altitude about 2500 ft., taken under fire by main battery and destroyed by full deflection shot. Estimate that a 5"/38 cal. Mk. 53, Md. 2 fuzed projectile destroyed plane. Intermittent radar contact continued on enemy planes. 2150(I) Fired on two enemy planes that closed area. One radar pip disappeared from the screen although no visual splash was observed. Expended following ammunition: 69 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC, V.T. fuzed, 34 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC. 2251(I) Phantom echoes, source undetermined, caused fire to be opened on what was at first thought to be an attack by low-flying planes because the original range of the radar target was seven miles. Expended following ammunition: 16 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC, V.T. fuzed, 11 rounds 5"/38 cal. AAC.

0800(I) Lat. 26-56 N; Long. 127-27 E

1200(I) Lat. 27-09 N; Long. 127-27 E

2000(I) Lat. 27-13 N; Long. 127-08 E

29 April - 0300(I) LCS 17 and LCS 70 joined the formation. 0629(I) LSM(R) 196 joined the formation. 1610(I) Relieved by HADLEY (DD 774). On orders from CTG 51.5, proceeded to Kerama Retto for fuel and provisions. 1818(I) Fueled from WHIPPET (IX 129) and anchored in berth K-34. 2123(I) Enemy aircraft in the area. Smoke boats put out a most effective smoke screen obscuring all objects that had been easily discernible in the bright moon light.

0800(I) Lat. 27-20 N; Long. 127-04 E

1200(I) Lat. 27-07 N; Long. 127-12 E

2000(I) ANCHORED - Kerama Retto

30 April - 0230(I) Enemy planes again active in the area and smoke vessels covered the anchorage with heavy smoke. After sunrise replenished ammunition and began provisioning ship. About noon proceeded to Hagushi area, Okinawa, and took on V. T. fuzed 5"/38 cal. AAC from IRWIN (DD 794). Logistics

DD470/A12
(0123)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

1 May 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary - April 1945.

30 April - (continued)

were completed by sunset. 2015(I) On orders from CTG 51.5 took up patrol south of Keise Shima in support station #155, bearing 211° T, 18.5 miles from Zampa Misaki. Assumed sector command of several LCS anti-small craft vessels patrolling off the southwestern shore of Okinawa which is still in enemy hands.

0800(I) ANCHORED - Kerama Retto
1200(I) Lat. 26-12 N; Long. 127-20 E
2000(I) Lat. 26-12 N; Long. 127-32 E

Alan R. McFarland
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