

Msg. No.	833
R.S. No.	

DD470/A12
(0122)

U.S.S. BACHE (DD470)

(ps)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Assigned to the FIFTH Fleet, attached to Task Force 51, operating with Task Group 51.2 (Capt. F. MOOSBRUGGER, USN (COMDESRON 63) in BISCAYNE (AVP11)). Operating in accordance with Comphibspac Op-Plan A25-44. Zone time - 10 (K) in use.

1 March - Patrolling in transport screen west of Iwo Jima. 0250K Prepared to repel enemy air attack. 0325K Observed BENNETT (DD473) destroy an enemy plane, bearing 350° T, distant 3½ miles. 0431K Enemy air attack dispersed. 0728K Relieved of patrolling duties by HENRY A. WILEY (DM29) and fueled from PAMANSET (AO85). 1145K Detached from TG 51.2 and attached to TF 52 (V. Adm. R.K. TURNER - Comphibspac) for fire support mission in east-northeast sector of Iwo Jima. Refer to U.S.S. BACHE (DD470) action report - Iwo Jima Operation, DD470/A12 Serial 0118 of 13 March 1945. 1900K Assigned to TU 51.18.2 for night illumination firing.

0800K Lat. 24-47 N; Long. 141-12 E
1200K Lat. 24-46 N; Long. 141-24 E
2000K Lat. 24-42 N; Long. 141-20 E

2 March - Providing fire support for forces on Iwo Jima in accordance with Comphibspac Op-Plan A25-44. Attached to TU 51.18.2. Refer U.S.S. BACHE (DD470) action report - Iwo Jima Operation, DD470/A12 Serial 0118 of 13 March 1945. 1600K Completed fire support mission. In accordance with CTF 51 secret dispatch 020305 of March, assigned to TU 51.1.1 (Capt. W. S. POPHAM, USN, in PRESIDENT JACKSON (APA-18) for escort duty during night retirement, as prescribed in Comphibspac Op-Plan A25-44, east of Iwo Jima.

0800K Lat. 24-47 N; Long. 141-27 E
1200K Lat. 24-36 N; Long. 141-22 E
2000K Lat. 24-48 N; Long. 141-16 E

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- 3 March - Operating with TU 51.1.1 during night retirement east of Iwo Jima. 0645K Detached from TU 51.1.1 and reported to CTF 52 for fire support mission. 1029K Took up firing position 2 miles east of northern end of Iwo Jima and delivered harrassing fire on enemy positions in NE sector of the island. See U.S.S. BACHE (DDA70) action report - Iwo Jima Operation DDA70/A12, Serial 0118 of 13 March 1945. 1755K Assigned to TU 51.18.2 for night illumination firing.
- 0800K Lat. 24-47 N; Long. 141-27 E
1200K Lat. 24-46 N; Long. 141-22 E
2000K Lat. 24-48 N; Long. 141-16 E
- 4 March - Providing illumination fire and harrassing fire for forces on Iwo Jima. 1300K Relieved of fire support duties by SHANNON (DM25). Attached to TG 51.2. CTG 51.2 (Capt. A. D. CHANDLER, USN, - Comdesron 58 in VAN VALKENBURGH (DD656)). Relieved YMS-193 in screening station, C-28, 5½ miles southeast of Iwo Jima. 1548K Proceeded to screening station C-10, 11 miles southeast of Iwo Jima, also Radar Picket station #5, and relieved BUSH (DD529).
- 0800K Lat. 24-47 N; Long. 141-13 E
1200K Lat. 24-49 N; Long. 141-23 E
2000K Lat. 24-35 N; Long. 141-20 E
- 5 March - 0745K Relieved by HENRY A. WILEY (DM29) and fueled from SAUGATUCK (AO75). 1136K Proceeded to Radar Picket Station #3, 15½ miles northeast of Iwo Jima and relieved BRYANT (DD665).
- 0800K Lat. 24-35 N; Long. 141-18 E
1200K Lat. 24-45 N; Long. 141-25 E
2000K Lat. 24-54 N; Long. 141-31 E
- 6 March - 1732K Relieved of Radar Picket duties by BENNION (DD662). In accordance with CTF 51 secret dispatch 060200 of March 1945, assigned to TU 51.29.10 (Commodore D. W. LOOMIS, ComTransRon 11, in FREMONT (APA44)). 1830K Sortied with TU 51.29.10 south of Iwo Jima and proceeded toward Guam.

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6 March (Cont'd)

FREMONT (APA44)
KNOX (APA46)
HARRY LEE (APA10)
COLUMBIA VICTORY
PRESIDENT JACKSON (APA18)
LIBRA (AKA12)

WARRICK (AKA89)
LEEDSTOWN (APA56)
FAYETTE (APA1)
BOLIVAR (APA34)
ALMASCK (AKA10)

BUSH (DD529)
HUDSON (DD475)
BACHE (DD470)
SANDS (APD13)

RATHBURNE (APD25)
GOLDSBOROUGH (APD32)
CLEMSON (APD31)

0800K Lat. 24-55 N; Long. 141-29 E
1200K Lat. 24-54 N; Long. 141-30 E
2000K Lat. 24-25 N; Long. 141-10 E

7 March - Underway as before.

0800K Lat. 21-51 N; Long. 141-57 E
1200K Lat. 21-04 N; Long. 142-09 E
2000K Lat. 19-23 N; Long. 142-36 E

8 March - 0734K Disabled B-29 crashed astern of formation. HUDSON (DD475) and FREMONT (APA44) proceeded to crash and rescued personnel and destroyed plane. 2230K Task Unit 51.29.10 diverted to Saipan to facilitate unloading of Iwo Jima casualties.

0800K Lat. 17-20 N; Long. 143-24 E
1200K Lat. 16-59 N; Long. 143-30 E
2000K Lat. 15-50 N; Long. 143-50 E

9 March - 0430K Made radar contact on Saipan Island, bearing 095° T, distant 42 miles. 0815K Off Saipan Harbor, patrolled to seaward during entry of heavy ships. 1125K Entered Saipan Harbor and anchored in berth L-36.

0800K Lat. 15-09 N; Long. 145-37 E
1200K At Saipan
2000K At Saipan

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10 March - 0625K Fueled from NIOBARA (X72). Replenished ammunition and provisions during morning and afternoon. 1716K Underway from Saipan, proceeding toward Guam, in company with TU 51.29.10.

0800K At Saipan
1200K At Saipan
2000K Lat. 15-05 N; Long. 145-20 E

11 March - 0325K Sighted lights on Guam bearing 155° T, distant 30 miles. 0630K Off Guam. Main body of convoy lying to off entrance to Apra Harbor; BACHE patrolling starboard flank. 1822K In accordance with Port Director Guam dispatch 110220 of March, detached from TU 51.29.10. Proceeded in company with HUDSON (DD475) to Ulithi. Upon arrival Ulithi to report to Port Director for further routing to Leyte, P. I.

0800K Lat. 13-29 N; Long. 144-31 E
1200K Lat. 13-31 N; Long. 144-33 E
2000K Lat. 13-06 N; Long. 144-22E

12 March - 0840K Calibrated MK XII radar by double echo method followed by off-set gunnery exercise with HUDSON (DD475) using 140 mil off-set at 7,000 yards range. Test-fired 40mm battery. Expended following ammo: 10 rounds 5"/38 Cal. AAC, 15 rounds 5"/38 Cal. Com. dye-loaded; 70 rounds 40mm. 1425K Sighted Ulithi Islands bearing 195° T, distant 20 miles. 1548K Entered Ulithi anchorage via Mugai Channel. Reported for duty to Port Director. 1937K Moored alongside RALPH TALBOT (DD390) in berth 321, southern anchorage. CASCADE (AD16) furnished technical experts to make repairs to Torpedo, Communication and Radar equipment.

0800K Lat. 11-25 N; Long. 141-18 E
1200K Lat. 10-43 N; Long. 140-18 E
2000K At Ulithi

13 March - Assigned as escort from Ulithi to Leyte, P.I., for PITT (APA223) per Port Director Guam routing orders A4-3/9 of 12 March 1945, with BRADFORD (DD545) and HUDSON (DD475) and proceeded toward Leyte, P.I. 1800K Changed time to zone - 9½ (KI) time.

0800K At Ulithi
1200K Lat. 10-21 N; Long. 139-10 E
2000KI Lat. 10-34 N; Long. 136-39 E

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14 March - 1552KI Overtook convoy consisting of LST 241, LST 929, LST 716,
escorted by PC 578. 1800KI Changed time to zone - 9 (I) time.

0800KI Lat. 10-35 N; Long. 132-50 E

1200KI Lat. 10-36 N; Long. 131-38 E

2000I Lat. 10-41 N; Long. 129-28 E

15 March - 0656I Sighted Saluan Island, P.I., bearing 290° T, distant 8
miles. 0852I Entered Leyte Gulf via eastern entrance.
1215I Detached from escort for PITT (APA223). 1450I Fueled
from GAZELLE (IX-116) and then anchored in berth 827, Leyte,
P.I. (Tarraguna area). Received Comphibsgroup 12 Attack Order
A1202-45 for rehearsal landing to be conducted in Leyte Gulf.

0800I Lat. 10-30 N; Long. 125-46 E

1200I At Leyte

2000I At Leyte

16 March - Rehearsal as scheduled for this date cancelled. Changed anchor-
age, temporarily to San Pedro Bay. 1533I Reported for duty to
Comphibgroup 12 in TETON (AGC 11). Assigned to TG 55.6 (Captain
E. W. YOUNG, USN, Comdesron 24 in DALY (DD519). CTF 55 (Commander
Southern Attack Force, Comphibsgp 12 and CTU 55.12.1) R. Admiral
J. L. HALL, Jr., USN, in TETON (AGC 11). Received Comphibspac
Op-Plan #A1-45.

0800I At Leyte

1200I At Leyte

2000I At Leyte

17 March - 0550I As prescribed in Comphibspac Training Order A1202-45,
simulated pre-landing shore bombardment on targets in the
Tarragima-Bucog area, Leyte, exercising CIC, main battery,
main battery plot and communication personnel as part of re-
hearsal landing by amphibious forces. Attempts to establish
communications with shore fire control party unsuccessful so
that simulated call fire was not rendered. 0940I Stood clear
of the landing beach area for LST's and then proceeded to the
eastern entrance of Leyte Gulf and relieved HYMAN (DD732) and
took up patrol on station #3, about seventeen miles east of
Desolation Pt., Dinagat Island. Operating in TG 55.6.
Patrolling in accordance with Screening Plan - Commander
Philippine Sea Frontier Op-Plan.

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0800I At Leyte
1200I Lat. 10-38 N; Long. 125-21 E
2000I Lat. 10-31 N; Long. 125-25 E

18 March - Under way as before. 1000I Expended following ammo during test firing:

38 rounds 40mm.

0800I Lat. 10-29 N; Long. 125-57 E
1200I Lat. 10-40 N; Long. 125-55 E
2000I Lat. 10-37 N; Long. 126-00 E

19 March - CTG 55.6 (Comdesron 24) shifted from DALY (DD519) to ANTHONY (DD515).

0800I Lat. 10-34 N; Long. 125-58 E
1200I Lat. 10-32 N; Long. 125-57 E
2000I Lat. 10-29 N; Long. 125-55 E

20 March - Under way as before.

0800I Lat. 10-31 N; Long. 125-56 E
1200I Lat. 10-29 N; Long. 125-58 E
2000I Lat. 10-30 N; Long. 125-57 E

21 March - 1144I Relieved on patrol by EDMONDS (DE406). Proceeded to San Pedro Bay to complete logistics prior to departure for impending operation.

0800I Lat. 10-29 N; Long. 125-57 E
1200I Lat. 10-36 N; Long. 125-49 E
2000I At San Pedro Bay, Leyte

22-26 March - At San Pedro Bay, Leyte, for at anchor availability from tender MARKAB (AD21) and logistics.

27 March - 0815I Under way in company with TU 51.13.16. CTU 51.13.16 (Comdesron 24) in ANTHONY (DD515). Made anti-submarine sweep in vicinity of rendezvous point of TU 51.13.1. 1215I Sortied with TG 51.13 and proceeded out to Leyte Gulf en route Okinawa Jima. Operating in accordance with Comphibgrp 12 Sortie and Cruising Order No. A1205-45 as derived from Comphibspac Op-Plan A1-45. Composition of disposition:

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TRANSDIV 37
TRANSDIV 38
TRANSDIV 39
TRANSDIV 13
TETON AGC-14
GEAR-ARS
DESDIV 47
BENNETT (DD473)
HUDSON (DD475)
SIMS (APD-350)
O'NEILL (DE188)

1300I Conducted AA gunnery exercises. Expended following ammunition:

101 rounds 5"/38 Cal. AAC; 537 rounds 40mm; 632 rounds 20mm.

0800I At Leyte, P. I.

1200I Lat. 10-50 N; Long. 125-20 E

2000I Lat. 10-56 N; Long. 126-34 E

28 March - Under way as before. Conducted training exercises in accordance with Comphibsgroup 12 Order A1203-45.

0800I Lat. 13-13 N; Long. 127-54 E

1200I Lat. 13-57 N; Long. 128-15 E

2000I Lat. 14-41 N; Long. 128-19 E

29 March - Under way as before. Conducted training exercises in accordance with Comphibsgroup 12 Order A1203-45.

0800I Lat. 16-15 N; Long. 130-03 E

1200I Lat. 16-57 N; Long. 130-20 E

2000I Lat. 18-06 N; Long. 131-24 E

30 March - Conducted training exercises in accordance with Comphibsgroup 12 Order A1203-45. 1537I BEALE (DD471) sighted a mine off her port bow and left screen to attempt to destroy the mine by gun fire. BEALE (DD471) rejoined screen at 2050I.

0800I Lat. 20-22 N; Long. 131-47 E

1200I Lat. 20-50 N; Long. 131-25 E

2000I Lat. 22-01 N; Long. 130-31 E

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31 March - 0239I BENNETT (DD473) radar picket on starboard bow of disposition made an attack on submarine contact. O'NEILL (DE188) detached from screen to assist. 0339I Results of attack on submarine contact and following search negative. BENNETT and O'NEILL rejoined screen.

0800I Lat. 23-36 N; Long. 129-04 E
1200I Lat. 23-50 N; Long. 128-57 E
2000I Lat. 25-07 N; Long. 127-28 E

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