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Reg. No.	392
R.S. No.	

F-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

MONTH OF

MAY, 1942

5/13-31/42

1943 MAR 29 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Assigned to and Operating Under:-

Chief of Naval Operations,
Commander-in-Chief, U.S.Fleet,
Commander-in-Chief, U.S.Atlantic Fleet.

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CONFIDENTIAL

May 13, 1942: Brewer's Dry Dock Company, Staten Island, New York.
1200- In compliance with Commandant Third Naval District orders, file AK53 of May 12, 1942, Commander W.B.FLETCHER, Jr., U.S.N., placed U.S.S.LIBRA in full commission and assumed command.
LIBRA remained at Brewer's Dry Dock Co., for completion of work of conversion to a cargo ship, combat loaded.

May 14-25, 1942: At Brewer's Dry Dock Company for conversion.

May 26, 1942:
0600- Underway for Naval Supply Depot, Bayonne, N.J., for magnetic survey and deperming.
0730- Moored.
1600- Underway for anchorage in Gravesend Bay.
1700- Anchored Gravesend Bay.
1900- Commenced fueling from oil barge.

May 27, 1942:
0200- Completed fueling.
0800- Commenced loading service and target ammunition from lighters.
In compliance CpNav serial 044438 of May 12, and ComThree conf. serial 1683 of May 26, reported by despatch (272050 May) to Cominch and CinLant for duty.

May 28, 1942:
0530- Underway, enroute Hampton Roads in compliance CpNav serial 0155823 of May 8, 1942.
0620- Abeam Ambrose Light Ship. Set southerly courses, joining merchant convoy and escort headed southward. Air cover provided.
1800- Entered through Delaware Bay nets.
2130- Anchored off east end of Chesapeake Delaware Canal.

CONFIDENTIAL

May 29, 1942:

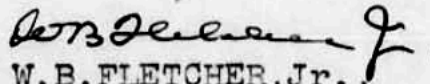
0715- Underway, transiting Chesapeake Delaware Canal.
1045- Entered Chesapeake Bay. Various courses stand-
ing to southward.
1800- Swung ship for magnetic compass compensation
and curve of deviations.
1900- Standing southward through lower bay.

May 30, 1942:

0600- Anchored berth 25, Hampton Roads.
1300- Underway standing up Elizabeth River and moored
at berth 2, Norfolk Navy Yard at 1400 for re-
stricted availability, authorized by OpNav 301520
of May. Urgent repairs and adjustment required
on Soloshell distilling plant and refrigerating
machinery. Adjustment of "M" coil of degaussing
cables and other less urgent items.

May 31, 1942:

Moored berth 2, Navy Yard, Norfolk.
Restricted availability.
Received ComAmphorLant 301825 of May to report
on June 5 to Naval Transportation Service for
duty.


W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

1

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

MONTH OF

JUNE - 1942

1945 MAR 29 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Assigned to :

U.S. Atlantic Fleet. (1-4 June)
Naval Transportation Service (5-30 June)

CONFIDENTIAL

June 1, 1942: Moored berth 2, Norfolk Navy Yard.
Restricted availability.

June 2, 1942: Moored berth 2, Norfolk Navy Yard.
Restricted availability.

June 3, 1942: Moored berth 2, Norfolk Navy Yard.
Restricted availability.
1900- Underway for Tangier Sound.
2330- Anchored off degaussing range, Tangier Sound.

June 4, 1942:
0600- Underway.
Swung ship for compass deviations.
Traversed magnetic range for calibration
degaussing coils.
Fired test shots on all 5" and 3" guns.
Calibrated radio direction finder.
1830- Anchored.

June 5, 1942:
0215- Underway, standing down bay for NOB, Norfolk.
0730- Moored at Army Base for loading cargo.
0800- Commenced loading.
0800- Reported to Port Director, Fifth Naval District
for duty in Naval Transportation Service.

June 6-9, 1942: Moored Army Base, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk.
Loading cargo.

June 10, 1942: Moored Army Base, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk.
0720- Underway in accordance Commandant Fifth Naval
District secret serial 4177 of June 5, 1942, en-
route Panama Canal Zone.
1004- Anchored off Thimble Shoals Channel Buoy awaiting
lifting of fog.
1400- Underway, standing to sea via swept channel.
1900- Point "XM" close aboard to port. Formed convoy
and escort - Task Force 39.
ALCYONE - Convoy Commander.
LIBRA
ALCHIBA
MIZAR
PLUNKETT- CTF 39 and escort commander, Capt. Warwick.
H. P. JONES
LANSDALE
MADISON
C. F. HUGHES . Courses and speeds as in movement
order.

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June 11, 1942: Underway as before.
1400 Position Lat. 34°-18' N.
Long. 73°-32' W.

June 12, 1942: Underway as before.
1400 Position Lat. 29°-39' N.
Long. 71°-01' W.

June 13, 1942: Underway as before.
1400 Position Lat. 24°-24' N.
Long. 68°-49' W.

June 14, 1942: Underway as before.
1400 Position Lat. 18°-55' N.
Long. 68°-04' W.
Transit of Mona Passage during late afternoon.

June 15, 1942: Underway as before.
1400 Position Lat. 15°-47' N.
Long. 72°-34' W.

June 16, 1942: Underway as before.
0400- ALCYONE broke down and left formation with
one escort DD. Slowed to 12 knots.
0930- ALCYONE rejoined.
Standard speed 15 knots.
1400 Position Lat. 12°-38' N.
Long. 77°-22' W.

June 17, 1942: Underway as before.
Isla Grande to port hand at sunrise. Various
courses approaching Colon.
0715- Entered swept channel.
0800- Entered Colon Harbor and
0815- Anchored.
0930- Underway, transiting Panama Canal.
1300- Moored starboard side to berth 7A, Balboa, C.Z.
Fueled and received fresh provisions.

June 18, 1942: Moored to berth 7A, Balboa, C.Z.
0830- Underway in accordance Commandant Fifteenth
Naval District movement order 10-42, enroute
Wellington, N.Z.
0930- Cleared mine fields, set course to southward,
following swept channel.

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June 18, 1942: (Cont'd)

1100- Convoy formed.
ALCYONE - Comdr. McGurl.
ALCHIBA
LIBRA
MIZAR

Escort:
TRENTON - Capt. Gregory, ComTaskGroup 85.1
WARRINGTON.
Course changes and speeds to conform with
routing instructions contained in movement
order.

June 19, 1942:	Underway as before. 1400 Position	Lat. 5°-38' N. Long. 83°-43' W.
June 20, 1942:	As before. 1400 Position	Lat. 4°-06' N. Long. 88°-43' W.
June 21, 1942:	As before.	Lat. 13°-11' S. Long. 93°-56' W.
June 22, 1942:	As before. Noon Position	Lat. 0°-41' N. Long. 99°-32' W.
June 23, 1942:	As before. Noon Position	Lat. 1°-25' S. Long. 104°-45' W.
June 24, 1942:	As before. Noon Position	Lat. 3°-36' S. Long. 110°-17' W.
June 25, 1942:	As before. Noon Position	Lat. 5°-35' S. Long. 116°-04' W.
	1200- Decreased standard speed to 14 knots.	
June 26, 1942:	As before. 1200 Position	Lat. 7°-26' S. Long. 121°-23' W.

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June 27, 1942:	As before. 1200 Position	Lat. $9^{\circ}-02'$ S. Long. $126^{\circ}-44'$ W.
June 28, 1942:	As before. 1200 Position	Lat. $10^{\circ}-29'$ S. Long. $131^{\circ}-58'$ W.
June 29, 1942:	As before. 1200 Position	Lat. $11^{\circ}-42'$ S. Long. $137^{\circ}-20'$ W.
1500-	Reduced standard speed to 13 knots.	
June 30, 1942:	As before. 1200 Position	Lat. $12^{\circ}-54'$ S. Long. $142^{\circ}-25'$ W.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

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CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

MONTH OF

JULY 1942.

1943 MAR 29 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Assigned to: Naval Transportation Service (1-14 July)
South Pacific Force,
Amphibious Force,
Transport Division 10. (15-31 July)

CONFIDENTIAL

July 1, 1942: Enroute Balboa, C.Z., to Wellington, N.Z., in accordance Commandant Fifteen Naval District serial movement order 10-42.
In company Task Group 83.1
TRENTON- Capt.Gregory, C.T.Gr.
WARRINGTON
ALCYONE - Comdr.McGurl- Convoy Comdr.
LIBRA
ALCHIBA
MIZAR

1200 Position - Lat. 14°-08' S.
Long. 147°-20' W.

July 2, 1942: As before.

0715- Sighted HMNZS ACHILLES and U.S.S.WALKE.
0750- TRENTON and WARRINGTON left formation.
0800- ACHILLES and WALKE took station as outer and inner A/S screen respectively.
Standard speed 15 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 15°-02' S.
Long. 152°-37' W.
Designation of Unit changed to Task Group 12.1.

July 3, 1942: As before.
1200 Position - Lat. 16°-44' S.
Long. 158°-09' W.

JULY 4, 1942: As before.
1200 Position - Lat. 20°-36' S.
Long. 162°-22' W.

July 5, 1942: As before.
1200 Position - Lat. 24°-56' S.
Long. 165°-56' W.

July 6, 1942: As before.
1200 Position - Lat. 29°-33' S.
Long. 169°-23' W.

July 7, 1942: As before.
1200 Position - Lat. 33°-48' S.
Long. 173°-17' W.

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July 7, 1942 (Cont'd.)

1630- ALCHIBA broke down and left formation with
WALKE as escort. Went to 2/3 speed.
2330- Reversed course.

July 8, 1942: As before on northeasterly course at 2/3 speed.
Task Group 12/1 less ALCHIBA and WALKE.

0615- Sighted ALCHIBA and WALKE.
0900- Various courses standing by.
1200 Position: Lat. 34°-20' S.
Long. 173°-59' W.

1500- Set course 216° Speed 14 knots.
1900- ALCHIBA rejoined formation.
Set standard speed 15.5. Course 226° True.

July 9, 1942: As before.
1200 Position - Lat. 37°-40' S.
Long. 178°-18' W.

2400- Set clocks to -12 Zone Time.

July 11, 1942: As before.
Sighted land abeam at sunrise on starboard hand.
Various courses throughout the day entering
Wellington, N.Z.

1200 Position - Lat. 41°-33' S.
Long. 176°-01' E.

1645- Pencarrow Head abeam to starboard.
1730- Anchored in outer anchorage.

July 12, 1942: Anchored as before, Wellington, N.Z.

0700- Underway, and at
0800- Moored port side to Aotea Quay.
1000- Commenced discharging cargo.
1100- Reported to U.S. Naval Attache for duty in
accordance ComFifteen movement order 10-42.

July 13, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z., discharging
cargo.

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- July 14, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
discharging cargo.
- July 15, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
discharging cargo.
Reported to Senior Officer Present Afloat -
Captain Riefsnider in HUNTER LIGGETT - for
duty in Transport Division Ten, Amphibious
Force, South Pacific Force, in compliance
with CinCPac despatch _____.
- July 16, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
discharging cargo.
- July 17, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
discharging cargo.
- July 18, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
discharging cargo.
Commenced loading Marine Expeditionary
equipment.
Rear Admiral Turner assumed command of
Amphibious Force, South Pacific Force.
- July 19, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
discharging and loading cargo.
- July 20, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
loading cargo.
- July 21, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.,
loading cargo and boats.
- July 22, 1942: Moored as before, Wellington, N.Z.
Loading cargo and completed at 0630.
- 0700- Underway and at
0730- Anchored in berth B-2.

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July 22, 1942 (Cont'd.)

0900- Underway standing to sea with Task Force 62 in compliance ComTaskFor 62 operation order O-1 and annexes thereto.
0948- Passed point "X".
1030- Formed cruising disposition 62C1.
1100- In station. Tactical evolutions during daylight.
Base course for night 040° True, speed 14.

July 23, 1942: As before in company Task Force 62, cruising formation 62C1.
Base course 000° - Speed 14 .
1200 Position - Lat. 38°-42' S.
Long. 179°-47' E.

July 24, 1942: As before in company Task Force 62 on northerly courses.
1200 Position - Lat. 33°-43' S.
Long. 179°-52' W.

July 25, 1942: As before in company Task Force 62 on northerly course, standard speed 13.5 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 29°-11' S.
Long. 179°-55' W.

July 26, 1942: As before in company Task Force 62 on northerly course.
0930- On signal from OTC revised cruising disposition 62C1. LIBRA becomes 4th ship in section 4, Transport Group, Squadron "X".
1030- Sighted two task forces which remained in sight during the day.
1200- TransDivs 2 and 12 plus 5 DMS joined Task Force 62 and took station in formation.
1200 Position - Lat. 23°-42' S.
Long. 179°-59' W.

July 27, 1942: As before in company Task Force 62 on northerly courses, at various speeds approaching Eastern Group of Fiji Islands.
1200 Position - Lat. 19°-33' S.
Long. 179°-56' W.

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July 27, 1942 (Cont'd).

1630- Formed approach disposition in accordance
CTF 62 rehearsal plan AR-3.

July 28, 1942: As before in company Task Force 62 in
approach disposition AR-3 and executing
approach plan AR-3.

0930- Executed rehearsal landing on north side
of Koro Island.

1700- Underway, forming approach disposition.
Various courses at speed 12 knots during
night executing approach plan.

July 29, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 62 off
Koro I., Fiji's, executing approach plan
AR-3.

0830- Executed rehearsal landing exercise off
north side Koro Island.

Re-embarked boats during afternoon.
1700- Underway, forming approach disposition.
Executing approach plan during night.

July 30, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 62 off
Koro I., Fiji's, executing CTF 62 approach
plan AR-3.

0815- Executed landing exercise.
Re-embarked boats during afternoon.
Laying to.

July 31, 1942: Laying to off north side of Koro I., Fiji,
in company Task Force 62.

0900- Support Group exercised at landing.
Hoisted in all boats during afternoon.

1630- Forming cruising disposition.

1730- Departure from Koro I., in accordance CTF 62
operation order A5-42.
Formed cruising disposition AC-3. LIBRA 4th
ship of section 1 (Div. "B") of transport group.
1730- Course 130° True. Speed 7.
1830- Course 170°.

W.B.FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

W A R D I A R Y

U. S. S. LIBRA (AK53)

MONTH OF

A U G U S T 1942.

Assigned to:

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
TRANSPORT DIVISION TEN.

NOV 20 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U. S. FLEET
RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

August 1, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 62 in compliance CTF 62 operation order A5-42 enroute Fiji Islands to Solomon Islands. LIBRA 4th ship in column in Section 1, (Div "B") of Transport Group. Cruising Formation AC-3.
Course 170° True. Speed 7 knots.
0400- Changed course to 205° True. Changed speed to 13 knots.
Courses of 230, 237, then 280 at 1830, rounding to southward of Fiji Islands.
1200 Position - Lat. 19°-02' S.
Long. 179°-13' E.

August 2, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Force 62. Cruising formation AC-3. Course 280° True. Speed 13 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 18°-58' S.
Long. 174°-03' E.
1800- Changed course to 240° True.
Changed to Zone -11 time.
2000- Changed course to 290° True. Changed speed to 11 knots.

August 3, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Force 62. Cruising formation AC-3.
Course 290° True. Speed 11 knots.
0700- Changed course to 280° True. Changed speed to 12 knots. Sighted and identified friendly surface ships.
1200 Position - Lat. 17°-14' S.
Long. 164°-07' E.

August 4, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Force 62 in cruising formation AC-3.
Course 290° True. Speed 12 knots.
0700- Took special formation for fueling destroyers.
0800- MONSSEN alongside.
1040- BUCHANAN alongside.
1400- Completed fueling, returned to position in cruising formation AC-3.
1200 Position - Lat. 17°-14' S.
Long. 164°-07' E.
2000- Changed course to 275° True. Changed speed to 13.5 knots.

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August 5, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Force 62 in cruising formation AC-3.
Course 275° True. Speed 13.5 knots.
0700- Course 280° True. Speed 12 knots.
0800- Exercised at stopping and backing transport group.
1200 Position - Lat. 16°-33' S.
Long. 159°-04' E.
1200- Changed course to 325° True.
1300- Changed course to 000° True.
During afternoon exercised at taking approach disposition AR-3 and in special AA formation.
1800- Changed speed to 11 knots.

August 6, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Force 62 in cruising formation AC-3.
Course 000°. Speed 11 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 11°-53' S.
Long. 158°-55' E.
1600- ComTaskFor 62 Operation Plan A3-42 placed in effect.
Took approach disposition AR-3.
Standard Speed 12 knots.
1800- ComTaskFor 62 approach plan AR-11 placed in effect.
2347- Changed course to 040° True.

August 7, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Force 62 in approach disposition AR-3 executing approach plan AR-11.
Course 040° True. Speed 12 knots.
0220- Sighted Guadalcanal I. on starboard bow.
0355- Changed course to 075° True.
0449- Changed course to 120° True.
Note:- For chronological record of events from 0430, August 7, to 1500 August 9, see LIBRA ltr. AK53/A9/(07) of August 12, 1942, and enclosures attached hereto.

August 9, 1942: At 1700 took position in cruising formation AC-3(modified) standing to east and south in company Task Group 62.1, through Lengo Channel and Indispensable Straights.
1708- Set course 100° True. Speed 11 knots.
1905- Changed course to 136° True.
2250- Changed course to 090° True.

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- August 10, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Group 62.1 in modified cruising formation AC-3. Course 090° True. Speed 11 knots.
- 0600- Changed course to 152° True.
- 0700- Increased interval to 1500 yards.
- 1100- Formed column open order during burial at sea services from other ships of formation.
- 1200 Position - Lat. 10°-56' S.
Long. 163°-21' E.
- Sighted friendly Task Group bearing 060° True and numerous friendly planes furnishing air coverage.
- 1600- Changed course to 147° True.
- August 11, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Group 62.1 in modified cruising formation AC-3. Course 147° True. Speed 11 knots.
- 0600- Sighted friendly Task Group on port beam. Numerous friendly planes providing air cover.
- 1000- Formed up with friendly Task Group (remaining ships of Task Force 62) in cruising formation AC-3.
- Course 153° True. Speed 13.5 knots.
- 1200 Position - Lat. 14°-48' S.
Long. 165°-49' E.
- August 12, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 62 in cruising formation AC-3. Course 153° True. Speed 13.5 knots.
- 0600- Sighted CIMARRON and escort on port bow. Converging and crossed to starboard.
- 1200 Position - Lat. 19°-36' S.
Long. 168°-08' E.
- 1200- Changed course to 160° True.
- 1600- Changed axis to 203° True.
- 2000- Changed course to 198° True.
- August 13, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 62 in cruising formation AC-3. Course 198° True. Axis 203° True. Speed 13.5 knots.
- 0500- Changed course by divisions to 153° True.
- 0700- Changed axis to 153° True.

CONFIDENTIAL

August 13, 1942 (Cont'd.)

0800- Various courses approaching Noumea, N.C.,
via North Poulari Passage.
1400- Passed through North Poulari Passage.
Various courses approaching anchorage.
1530- Anchored in Dunbea Bay off Great Roads.
1900- Commenced discharging remnant cargo to
ALCHIBA.

August 14, 1942: At anchor Dunbea Bay, New Caledonia.
Discharging cargo to ALCHIBA.
0630- Underway and at
0710- Moored port side to starboard side of
ALCHIBA.
0800- Continued discharging cargo to ALCHIBA.
1800- Discharging gasoline by boat to BETELGEUSE.

August 15, 1942: Moored as before alongside ALCHIBA in
Dunbea Bay, N.C., discharging cargo to
ALCHIBA and BETELGEUSE.
1700- Completed discharging cargo.
1730- Underway and at
1745- Anchored in Dunbea Bay.
1800- Hoisting boats.
Received Commander Transport Group,
Amphibious Force, SoPac., operation order
2-42.

August 16, 1942: At anchor Dunbea Bay, New Caledonia.
0650- Underway in company FULLER (OTC) and HEYWOOD.
SOUTHARD and ZANE as escort.
0930- Cleared Poulari Passage.
0945- Set course 160° True, Speed 14 knots, enroute
Wellington, N.Z.
1200 Position - Lat. 23°-07' S.
Long. 166°-38' E.
1750- Changed course to 120° True.
1850- Changed course to 160° True.

August 17, 1942: Underway in company FULLER (OTC) and HEYWOOD
with escort enroute Noumea to Wellington, N.Z.
(Task Unit 62.1.5)
Course 160° , Speed 14 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 28°-20' S.
Long. 168°-58' E.

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August 17, 1942:(Cont'd.)

1200- Changed speed to 13 knots.
1740- Changed course to 200° True.
1840- Changed course to 160° True.

August 18, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.1.5
enroute Wellington, N.Z.
Course 160° True, Speed 13 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 33°-00' S.
Long. 170°-40' E.

1200- Changed speed to 13.5 knots.
1740- Changed course to 200° True.
1840- Changed course to 160° True.
2000- Set clocks to -12 Zone Time.

August 19, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.1.5
enroute Wellington, N.Z.
Course 160° True. Speed 13.5 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 37°-42' S.
Long. 172°-41' E.

1200- Changed speed to 13 knots.
1300- Changed course to 165° True.
1800- Changed to column formation LIBRA 3rd ship.
2030- Changed course to 151° True.

August 20, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.1.5
enroute Wellington, N.Z.
Course 151° True. Speed 13 knots.
LIBRA 3rd ship in column.

0250- Changed course to 158° True.
0515- Changed course to 180° True.
Various courses through Cook Strait
entering Port Nicholson.
0800- Anchored and at
0900- Underway.
1000- Moored port side to Aotea Quay.

August 21, 1942: Moored as before, Aotea Quay, Wellington, N.Z.
1130- 8 officers, 165 men of 5th Defense Battalion,
USMC., on board.
1900- Commenced loading marine equipment (expedition-
ary).

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- August 22, 1942: Moored as before, Aotea Quay, Wellington, N.Z.
Loading cargo.
- August 23, 1942: Moored as before, Aotea Quay, Wellington, N.Z.
Loading cargo.
- August 24, 1942: Moored as before, Aotea Quay, Wellington, N.Z.
Loading cargo.
- August 25, 1942: Moored as before, Aotea Quay, Wellington, N.Z.
Loading cargo.
0630- Completed loading.
0715- Underway and at
0800- Anchored.
1200- Loading additional cargo by boat.
1700- Hoisting boats.
- August 26, 1942: At anchor, Port Nicholson N.Z.
0830- Underway in company Task Unit 62.1.5 in
accordance CTG 62.1 operation order 2-42
and CTU 62.1.5 movement order 1-42, standing
to sea, enroute Noumea, New Caledonia.
0845- Formed column, LIBRA 3rd ship.
1000- Various courses to eastward through Cook
Straight, speed 13 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 41°-07' S.
Long. 174°-30½' E.
2050- Cape Egmont abeam to starboard.
Set course 340° True.
- August 27, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Unit
62.1.5 enroute Noumea, New Caledonia.
Cruising formation "V".
Course 340° True. Speed 13 knots.
1000- Changed speed to 14 knots.
Changed course to 342° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 36°-30' S.
Long. 171°-53' E.
1600- Set clocks to -11½ Zone Time.

CONFIDENTIAL

- August 28, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Unit 62.1.5 enroute Noumea, New Caledonia, on course 342° True, speed 14 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 31°-36' S.
Long. 170°-09' E.
1800- Changed course to 020° True.
1900- Changed course to 334° True.
- August 29, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.1.5 enroute Noumea, New Caledonia.
Course 334° True, speed 14 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 26°-38' S.
Long. 167°-49' E.
1830- Changed course to 014° True.
1930- Changed course to 339° True.
Changed speed to 15 knots.
- August 30, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.1.5 enroute Noumea, New Caledonia.
Course 339° True. Speed 15 knots.
0330- Changed course to 014° True.
0630- Formed column, LIBRA 3rd ship.
0730- Various courses entering North Poulari Passage and to anchorage.
1030- Anchored berth 43, Dunbea Bay, N.C.
Commenced discharging miscellaneous cargo to shore.
- August 31, 1942: Anchored as before in berth 43, Dunbea Bay, New Caledonia.
Discharging cargo by boat to shore.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

710

U. S. S. LIBRA (AK 53)

CONFIDENTIAL
AK53/A9/(07)

August 12, 1942.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander TASK FORCE SIXTY-TWO.
Subject: Report of Landing Operations 7-9 August, 1942.
Reference: (a) COMTASKFOR 62 mailgram 100115 of August, 1942.
(b) U.S.N.R., Arts. 712 and 874.
Enclosure: (A) Report of Executive Officer, U.S.S. LIBRA.

1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), report of activities of LIBRA during the period 7 - 9 August is submitted in the following paragraphs. My despatch 110346 of August replied to information requested in items a firm to king inclusive of reference (a), - the data being "none" in each case.

2. Inasmuch as LIBRA undertook no independent operations, remaining throughout in company with Squadron Xray, data which are available to higher authority are not repeated herein except as necessary for clarity of the narrative. Since the primary mission of LIBRA in the operations was assumed to be the transportation and landing of cargo and some marine personnel, this phase will be stressed in that which follows.

3. Narrative.

(a) As of 0000, 7 August, LIBRA was in position as last ship in column in Division "B" of Transport Squadron X, in approach disposition AR-3. On board in addition to the ship's complement were 11 officers and 268 enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps. Total cargo on board at that time is estimated at 2200 tons, major items being ammunition, aviation and motor gasoline, provisions, vehicles (including 14 amphibious tractors), diesel oil, kerosene, and miscellaneous general cargo. The ship was loaded to about one third capacity.

(b) 7 August.

0430 General Quarters.
0449 Steadied on course 120° true approaching transport area "X", standard speed 12 knots.

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August 12, 1942.

Subject: Report of Landing Operations 7-9 August, 1942.

0530 Morning twilight.
0606 Manned debarkation stations.
0613 Planes launched from cruisers of fire support groups.
0614 Fire Support Groups opened fire on shore targets.
0630 Hoisted boats to rail.
0634 Sunrise.
0645 Stopped on execution of signal by OTC.
0648 Backed on execution of signal. Stopped, maintaining position in formation.
0651 Upon execution of signal to land the landing force, lowered boats into water.
0701 Received signal that Zero hour was set at 0910.
0710 All boats water borne and despatched in accordance with plan.
0711 Commenced opening hatches. Loaded two boats with equipment for special weapons battalion. Transferred vehicles and cargo stowed in hatch trunks to deck stowage, to gain access to amphibious tractors stowed in bottom of lower holds.
0950 On despatch from OTC started maneuvering inshore to 100 fathom curve, keeping line of bearing and position on flagship.
1125 In compliance with signal from OTC moved to anchorage 2000 yards off and parallel to beach "red".
1130 Disembarked one officer and 43 men, 4 20mm mounts and 4 1-ton trucks of special weapons company.
1215 Commenced disembarking officers and troops of 3rd Battalion Headquarters and Service Battery, and completed at 1315.
1315 On signal from OTC sent all boats except those 5 engaged as above to assist unloading HEYWOOD.
1325 Signal to prepare to repel air attack. Went to General Quarters.
1330 Commenced firing with AA battery at targets of opportunity.
1331 Ceased firing, as targets were either out of range or in such position that own ships would have been endangered. About 15 enemy planes observed and four observed to have been brought down.
1340 Secured from General Quarters, started unloading cargo.
1504 General Quarters to repel air attack. Did not open fire as no suitable targets in range. Eight planes sighted and three thought to have been brought down.
1515 Secured from General Quarters. Resumed working cargo.
1700 Unloading of ship slowed by non-return of boats from beach, and by breakdowns.
2200 Due to slowness of return of boats, began sending working parties from the ship with each boat to expedite unloading.

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August 12, 1942.

Subject: Report of Landing Operations 7-9 August, 1942.

(c) 8 August, 1942.

0313 Stopped discharging cargo pursuant to orders received from OTC.
0740 Resumed discharge of cargo.
1035 Received signal to prepare to repel air attack.
1040 General Quarters.
1100 Underway, various courses and speeds, taking position in cruising formation AC-3 on Base Course 000°, standard speed 13 knots.
1120 In position.
1140 Standard speed.
1145 Commenced radical course changes by simultaneous turns and emergency turn signals from OTC.
1150 Observed enemy aircraft formation to northward, -about 19 planes. Attack on Tulagi or ships in Tulagi area in progress.
1154 Observed some bombs from high level bombers fall in transport area but noted no hits.
1157 Air attack on transport formation from northeasterly direction. Commenced firing. Three planes in succession approached from starboard quarter presented targets and fire was directed upon them.
1159 Observed plane crash into starboard superstructure of GEORGE F. ELLIOTT and immediately burst into flames.
1203 One plane flying at low level approached close aboard starboard quarter but sheared off to port prior to crashing. It is probable that hits were obtained by 20mm guns on this plane.
1206 Ceased firing.
1230 Courses approaching anchorage off beach "red".
1345 Secured from General Quarters.
1400 (about) Signal to prepare to repel air attack. Various courses and speeds joining formation.
1430 Emergency simultaneous turns upon signal from OTC. General Quarters.
1635 Secured from General Quarters. Acting independently approaching anchorage off beach "red".
1701 Anchored.
1705 Resumed discharge of cargo. Few boats returned from beach.
1917 SOUTHARD moored to starboard side.
1930 Commenced discharging fuel to SOUTHARD.
2130 Completed fueling SOUTHARD.
2200 SOUTHARD cast off. HOVEY expected alongside but did not appear. Received word by officer messenger to concentrate on unloading of aviation gasoline.
2245 #14 Ramp boat reported on beach full of water.

August 12, 1942.

Subject: Report of Landing Operations 7-9 August, 1942.

(d) 9 August, 1942.

- 0150 Observed parachute flares dropped by aircraft over Lunga Point and also to the northeast.
- 0151 Sounded General Quarters.
- 0154 Heard gun fire - apparently 8-inch or larger to the northwest and observed what appeared to be reflections of gun flashes from that direction.
- 0201 Underway. Observed BARNETT standing to northward and took station astern of her. Other ships of Squadron "X" underway but prescribed formation not taken.
- 0210-0630 Various courses and speeds astern of BARNETT. During most of this period visibility was poor, reducing to 500 yards at times. Parachute flares were observed from time to time. Heavy gun fire noted at intervals.
- 0630- Various courses approaching anchorage off beach "red".
- 0710 Anchored. Resumed discharging cargo. Boats very slow returning from beach.
- 0845 Prepared to get underway to repel air attack on signal from OTC.
- 0850 Underway. Various courses and speeds forming cruising disposition AC-3. Course 350°tr., standard speed 12 knots.
- 0915 General Quarters.
- 0927 Commenced radical simultaneous turns in compliance with signals from OTC.
- 1100 Approaching beach "red".
- 1113 Secured from General Quarters. Made preparations for hoisting boats.
- 1325 Disembarked 3 officers and 74 enlisted marines (the remainder of those on board- except the acting transport quartermaster and his assistant).
- 1455 Completed hoisting boats, having picked up 2 WL, 3 TR, and 5 TR belonging to ALCHIBA.
- 1500 Various courses and speeds preparing to form sortie disposition.
- 1605 Set course 105°true, speed 14 knots. Entered swept channel through Lunga Passage.

4. Efficiency of Ship.

(a) Efficiency of Unloading.

I consider the efficiency of unloading the ship to have been approximately 60 percent. I attribute this low figure to the following factors:

August 12, 1942.

Subject: Report of Landing Operations 7-9 August, 1942.

(a) Poor initial stowage of cargo as a result of lack of time at Wellington, N.Z., to discharge and reload the ship in an orderly and proper fashion.

(b) Insufficient boats. 2 WL and 14 TR only were available. Toward the later phases not less than three of these were either beached or temporarily under repair.

(c) Delay in unloading boats after their arrival at Beach Red.

(d) Insufficient personnel. The ship's company plus a party of 70 marines provided not quite a watch and watch for discharging of cargo. When it became necessary to discharge own boats at Beach Red, unloading became an all hands job. Individual personal efficiency dropped as low as 50 percent.

(e) Delay in returning boats to ship upon arrival at anchorage.

(f) Time lag in securing from gun stations and assembling at unloading stations.

(b) Efficiency of Armament.

The anti-aircraft battery (4-3"/50 cal.) and the 8 20mm anti-aircraft machine guns functioned without defect. A total of 62 rounds of 3" and 1000 rounds of 20mm were fired.

5. Conduct of Crew.

(a) The conduct and performance of duty of the crew was in every respect satisfactory. No confusion or excessive excitement was observed while under air attack. During the periods when cargo was being discharged, the attitude on the part of all hands was one of grim determination to get the job done as well and as fast as possible.

During the early morning action of the 9th some evidence of "nerves" appeared, but shortly quieted down. At that time, the great majority of the officers and crew had been either at battle stations or discharging cargo for forty-eight hours continuously and were pretty well worn out.

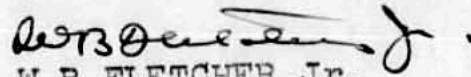
There were no individual incidents of personal performance of duty brought to my attention which deserves special mention.

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August 12, 1942.

Subject: Report of Landing Operations 7-9 August, 1942.

6. The report of the Executive Officer, Lieut. Comdr.
A.B. DICKIE, U.S.N., is transmitted herewith as enclosure (A).


W.B. FLETCHER, Jr.

Copy: Comdr. TransDiv 10 (ComTaskGroup 62.1)

U. S. S. LIBRA (AK 53)

August 12, 1942.

From: Executive Officer.
To: Commanding Officer.
Subject: Battle of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.
August 7-9, 1942.
Reference: (a) Article 948, U.S. Navy Regulations.

1. During the Battle of Guadalcanal, August 7-9, 1942, most incidents observed from station Battle Two were observed from the bridge, so will not be repeated. However, those incidents that, it is believed, might not have been fully observed from the bridge are given herewith.

2. During the first enemy bombing raid about 1330, August 7, at least three splashes occurred in the water directly astern at about 150-200 yards. Undoubtedly these splashes were caused by shells from our own force dropping from a great height. During this period a projectile in #3, 3" gun stuck; the case coming loose. The case was replaced and fired later. Guns #3 and #4 fired during this period. The 5" did not. No hits were observed.

3. During the second raid at about 1509, August 7, the #3 and #4, 3" guns fired. The 5" did not. No hits were observed.

4. During the bombing and raid at about 1157, August 8, three enemy heavy bombers, in formation close to the water, were observed approaching on the starboard quarter. During the first part of the approach one of our own force blanked the targets. The #3 and #4, 3" and 5" guns were ready to fire at first opportunity. At this time one of the enemy planes was hit, struck the water and caught fire at a distance of 1500-2000 yards from LIBRA. As the remaining two planes cleared, guns #3 and #4, 3" guns opened fire. One of these two enemy planes crashed into the GEORGE F. ELLIOTT and the other just cleared our bow. This last plane was fired upon by #4, 3" gun, when it came into view on LIBRA'S port bow. Some 20mm bullets from guns forward were observed to enter and pass closely to this plane. The 5" did not fire.

August 12, 1942.

Subject: Battle of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands,
August 7-9, 1942.

5. About 0150, August 9, observed four or five white flares at about 2000 feet elevation over Guadalcanal. About 0158, guns #3 and #4 fired a few rounds in general direction of new flares as they appeared.

6. The Battery Officer and men at guns #3 and #4, 3", 5", Surface Lookouts #5 and #6, Ammunition party aft., and Battle Two were alert and performed all their duties in a praise worthy manner.

A.B.DICKIE.

MAILGRAM
100115

SUBMIT BY VISUAL FOLLOWING NUMBERS REGARDING PRISONERS AND SURVIVORS ON BOARD BY ITEMS X AFIRM TOTAL PRISONERS BAKER INJURED CAST DEAD OWN SHIP DOG MISSING EASY INJURED FOX OFFICER SURVIVORS OTHER SHIPS GEORGE INJURED HYPO DEAD INT ENLISTED SURVIVORS OTHER SHIPS JIG INJURED KING DEAD PARA FOR INJURED INDICATE NUMBERS PROBABLY FATAL SERIOUS AND FAVORABLE X GIVE NAME AND RANK SENIOR OFFICER SURVIVOR EACH OTHER SHIP ON BOARD X PROVIDE SURVIVORS WITH CLOTHING AND USUAL COMFORTS X SUBMIT MUSTER LISTS BY SHIPS OF SURVIVORS TO COMSOPAC VIA ME COPY TO TASK UNIT AND TASK GROUP COMMANDERS AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF SHIPS ON BOARD ON ARRIVAL PORT X INDICATE CHARACTER OF WOUNDS X ATTENTION INVITED ARTS EIGHT SEVEN FOUR AND ELEVEN THIRTY EIGHT NAVY REGS AND ARTS EIGHT EIGHT EIGHT AND THIRTY FIVE TWENTY BUMED MANUAL X

From: COMTASKFOR 62

Date: 8/11/42.

Action To: TASKFOR 62 (LESS)
CHICAGO, CRESCENT CITY, ALHENA.

COPY OF LIBRA DESPATCH 110346 of AUGUST.

Z A223 110346 OK2 GR 3 BT

YOUR 100115 NONE.

From: LIBRA.
Action To:COMTASKFOR 62.

Date: 11 AUGUST.

① 714
Reg # 372
F-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

MONTH OF

S E P T E M B E R , 1942

Assigned to: U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
TRANSPORT DIVISION TEN.

105 MAR 29 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

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- September 5, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Group 62.1 enroute Tongatabu on course 083° True Speed 15 knots in formation of line of section guides.
- 0800- Changed course and axis to 073°.
1200 Position - Lat. 21°-11' S.
Long. 175°-55' W.
- 1330- Sighted Tongatabu dead ahead.
- 1430- Various courses and speeds entering Nukualofa Harbor in column formation.
- 1700- Anchored in berth 10.
Set clocks to Zone (-) 12^h- 19^m- 12^s.
- September 6, 1942: Anchored in berth 10, Nukualofa, Tongatabu.
- 1000- Exercised at boat drills.
(Training Exercises L-1, L-2).
- September 7, 1942: Anchored in berth 10, Nukualofa, Tongatabu.
- 1000- Exercised at boat drills
- September 8, 1942: Anchored in berth 10, Nukualofa, Tongatabu.
Exercised at various drills.
- September 9, 1942: Anchored in berth 10, Nukualofa, Tongatabu.
- 0710- Underway in company Task Force 64 in compliance CTF 62 despatch 070715/September and CTF 64 Sortie Order 1-42.
- 0813- Passed Point "X".
- 0840- Formed line of Division Guides.
Set course 270°, Speed 14 knots.
- 0919- Set clocks to (-)13 time.
1200 Position - Lat. 20°-50' S.
Long. 175°-50' W.
- 1200- Changed course and axis to 282° True.
- 2030- Changed course to 275° True.
- September 10, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 64 enroute Segund Channel, Espiritu Santo on course 275° True, speed 14 knots.
Formation in line of Division Guides.
- 0719- Changed course to 270° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 19°-50' S.
Long. 178°-26' E.
- 1935- Changed course and axis to 320° True.

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- September 11, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 64 enroute Segund Channel, Espiritu Santo on course 275° True, speed 14 knots.
- 0745- Changed course and axis to 285° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 17°-17½' S.
Long. 173°-20½' E.
 - 1830- Changed course to 240° True.
 - 2030- Changed course and axis to 295° True.
- September 12, 1942: Underway in company Task Force 64 enroute Segund Channel, Espiritu Santo, on course 295° True at standard speed 14 knots.
- 0649- Changed course to 270° True. Changed speed to 13 knots.
 - 0710- Changed course to 260° True.
 - 0715- Sighted land on both bows. Various courses approaching and transiting Selwyn Straight.
1200 Position - Lat. 15°-57' S.
Long. 167°-59' E.
 - 1500- Various courses approaching eastern entrance to Segund Channel and toward anchorage.
 - 1638- Anchored in berth C-2.
 - 1800- Set clocks to Zone -11 time.
 - 1821- Underway in compliance signal of SOPA to avoid possible air attack.
 - 2031- Joined transport formation as 3rd ship in column in section 2. Formation in line of section guides.
Course 140° True. Speed 14 knots.
Desdiv. 22 as screen.
- September 13, 1942: Underway as before in company Transport Group and destroyer screen on course 140° True, speed 14 knots.
- 0051- Changed course and axis to 180° TRUE.
 - 0400- Reversed course by series of emergency 45° turns to starboard.
 - 0500- Inverted order of ships to natural order.
 - 0805- Changed course and axis to 325° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 15°-49' S.
Long. 167°-27' E.
 - 1300- Various courses entering Segund Channel to anchorage C-2.
 - 1425- Anchored in berth C-2.
 - 2000- GRAYSON alongside for fuel.

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- September 14, 1942: Anchored as before in berth C-2, Segund Channel.
- 0250- MONSSEN alongside for fuel.
 - 1050- MONSSEN cleared side.
 - 1556- General Quarters. Air raid alert.
 - 1628- Underway in company all transports and merchant ships on orders from SOPA to avoid possible air raid. Enroute Vila.
 - 1727- Formed line of section guides. HEYWOOD, BETELGEUSE, LIBRA section leaders. Merchant ships in column astern. Course 140°, Speed 8 knots.
 - 1834- S/M contact reported. Right 45° by emergency turn.
 - 1851- Resumed Base Course.
 - 1904- Changed speed to 11 knots.
- September 15, 1942: Underway as before in company HEYWOOD, BETELGEUSE and several merchantmen enroute Vila, Efate.
- Course 140° True. Speed 11 knots.
 - 0019- Changed course to 180°.
 - 0650- Sighted friendly ships and aircraft ahead.
 - 0730- BETELGEUSE and six ships left formation for Vila. HEYWOOD, LIBRA, DEL BRAZIL, PRESIDENT POLK continued enroute Noumea, via east of New Caledonia.
 - 0751- Changed course to 176° True. Changed speed to 15 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 18°-51' S.
Long. 168°-04' E.
 - 1910- Changed course to 177° True.
- September 16, 1942: Underway as before, enroute Noumea, New Caledonia in company HEYWOOD, PRESIDENT POLK, DEL BRAZIL.
- Course 177°, speed 15 knots.
 - 0515- Changed course to 250° True.
 - 0900- Changed course to 295° True.
 - 1030- Changed course to 336° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 22°-48' S.
Long. 166°-26' E.
 - 1300- Various courses entering North Poulari Passage and thence to anchorage.
 - 1545- Anchored in berth 41, Dumbea Bay. New Caledonia.

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September 17-23, 1942: Anchored in berth 41, Dumbea Bay, New Caledonia.

September 24, 1942: Anchored in berth 41, Dumbea Bay, New Caledonia.
0600- Underway and at
0700- Moored to starboard side of PRESIDENT ADAMS. Transferring partial cargo to PRESIDENT ADAMS.

September 25, 1942: Moored to starboard side of PRESIDENT ADAMS in berth 7, Dumbea Bay. Transferring partial cargo to PRESIDENT ADAMS.

September 26, 1942: Moored to starboard side of PRESIDENT ADAMS in berth 7, Dumbea Bay.
0600- Underway and at
0630- Anchored in berth 41.
1000- Received CTF 62 operation plan A16-42.

September 27, 1942: Anchored in berth 41, Dumbea Bay, New Caledonia.
1145- Underway standing to sea, enroute Funafuti, Ellice I., in accordance CTF 62 operation plan A16-42 and CHESTER (OTC) despatch 261100/September.
1320- Cleared North Poulari Passage. Formed column astern CHESTER (OTC) and HEYWOOD, speed 12 knots, distance 700 yards. FARENHOLT, LARDNER, LAFFEY joined as screen.
1345- Changed course to 165° True. Changed speed to 14.5 knots.
1700- Changed course to 086° True.
1900- Changed course to 116° True.
2200- Changed course to 070° True.

September 28, 1942: Underway in company CHESTER(OTC), HEYWOOD, and screen.
Course 070° True, Speed 14.5 knots.
0000- Set clocks to 011½ Zone.
0430- Changed course to 056° True.
0700- Changed course to 062° True.
Changed speed to 15 knots.

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September 28, 1942: (Cont'd)

1200 Position - Lat. 22°-08' S.
Long. 170°-26' E.
1830- Changed course to 096° True.
2030- Changed course to 053° True.

September 29, 1942: Underway in company CHESTER (OTC), HEYWOOD,
and destroyer screen.

Course 053° True, speed 15 knots.
0700- Changed course to 072° True.
1125- Changed course to 036° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 19°-35' S.
Long. 175°-06' E.
1234- Changed course to 040° True.
Changed speed to 14 knots.
1630- Changed course to 010° True.
1800- Changed course to 016° True.

September 30, 1942: Underway in company CHESTER (OTC), HEYWOOD,
and destroyer screen.

Course 016° True. Speed 14 knots.
During night joined with Task Group 62.6,
less detached units.
0702- Changed course to 065° True.
0915- Changed speed to 14.5 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 15°-19' S.
Long. 177°-21' E.
1224- Emergency turn 45° starboard on signal of
hydrophone effect.
1230- Resumed course.
1241- Changed speed to 15 knots.
1400- Changed speed to 15.5 knots.
1530- Changed speed to 15 knots.
1900- Changed course to 090° True.
2100- Changed course to 060° True.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

Reg # 392
P 714
F-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

MONTH OF

O C T O B E R , 1942.

1943 MAR 29 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Assigned to: U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
TRANSPORT DIVISION TEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

- October 1, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 62.6 less detached units enroute Funafuti, Ellice I. on course 060° True, Speed 15 knots.
- 0518- Changed course to 040°.
 - 0617- Changed course and axis to 000° T.
 - 0715- Sighted friendly ships on starboard bow.
 - 0935- CRESCENT CITY and two DD (LAFFEY, BUCHANAN) joined formation.
Formed cruising disposition "S".
 - 1153- Changed course to 030°. Speed 12 knots.
 - 1155- Changed course to 000° T. Speed 14 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 12°-14' S.
Long. 179°-00' W.
 - 1800- Changed axis to 345°.
 - 1823- Changed course to 030° True.
 - 1900- Changed course to 345° True.
- October 2, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 62.6 enroute Funafuti, Ellice I.
Course and axis 345° T. Speed 14 knots.
Cruising formation "S".
- 0200- Changed course to 294°.
 - 0611- Changed course to 260°.
 - 0730- Changed course to 325°. Various courses and speeds approaching Funafuti and entering Lagoon via TeAve Matcika Passage, with transport group.
 - 1149- Anchored off Fanuafale.
Commenced discharging cargo via ship's boats.
- October 3, 1942: Anchored off Fanuafale, Funafuti, Ellice Is. , in company CRESCENT CITY, HEYWOOD and 2 DD. Discharging cargo to shore via ship's boats. Remaining units of T.G. 62.6 screening operations off shore.
- 1500- Completed discharging cargo.
 - 1608- Underway. Various courses standing to sea via TeAve Mateika Passage and at
 - 1653- cleared the barrier reef.
 - 1655- Set course 145°. Speed 15 knots.
 - 1719- Course 165°. Speed 15 knots.
Took station in cruising formation "S" in company Task Group 62.6.
 - 2300- Changed course and axis to 200°.

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- October 4, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 62.6 enroute Noumea, New Caledonia. Course 200° True. Speed 15 knots. Cruising formation "S".
- 0700- Took special formation for fueling destroyers from cruisers. Formation speed 12 knots.
- 1100- Formed cruising disposition "S" on course 185° at speed 15 knots.
- 1200 Position - Lat. 12°-44' S.
Long. 178°-37' E.
- 2030- Changed course and axis to 230° True.
- 2300- Changed speed to 13 knots.
- October 5, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 62.6 enroute Noumea, New Caledonia, on course 230° True, Speed 13 knots in cruising formation "S".
- 0530- Changed speed to 15 knots.
- 1020- Escort less two destroyers left formation, heading to the westward.
- 1200 Position - Lat. 17°-02' S.
Long. 175°-31' E.
- 1410- Changed course to 225° True.
- October 6, 1942: Underway in company CRESCENT CITY, HEYWOOD and two DDs enroute Noumea, N.C., on course 225° True, speed 15 knots.
- 0900- Changed course to 220° True.
- 1200 Position - Lat. 21°-02' S.
Long. 171°-12' E.
- October 7, 1942: Underway as before on course 220° True, Speed 15 knots.
- 0000- Changed course to 260° True.
- 0700- Changed course to 326° True.
- 1030- Changed course to 350° True.
- 1140- Changed course to 015° True.
- 1155- Changed course to 050° True.
- 1215- Entered North Poulari Passage, various courses and speeds and at
- 1330- moored to port side of J.C.DONNELL for fuel.
- 1730- Underway and at
- 1745- Anchored in berth 44, Dumbea Bay.

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- October 8-10, 1942: Anchored in berth 44, Dumbea Bay, N.C.
0800- Commenced transfer of remnant cargo to HEYWOOD via boat.
- October 11, 1942: Anchored in berth 44, Dumbea Bay, N.C.
1100- Discharging cargo to HEYWOOD and ashore.
In compliance with CTF 62 mailgram 090210
October shifted berth to alongside SS MANOERAN to load cargo.
- October 12-13, 1942: Moored to port side SS MANOERAN in Great Roads, Noumea, N.C., receiving cargo (slowly)
Also loading bombs from LASSEN and COPALAE.
- October 14, 1942: Moored as before to SS MANOERAN in Great Roads, Noumea, N.C.
0600- Underway.
0730- Moored to starboard side SS ALCOA PENNANT at Grand Quay, Port Noumea.
0800- Loading cargo.
- October 15-18, 1942: Moored alongside SS ALCOA PENNANT at Grand Quay, Port Noumea loading cargo.
On 18th, at 0600 stood off to allow ALCOA PENNANT to stand out and at 1415 moored to Grand Quay.
- October 19, 1942: Moored to Grand Quay, Port Noumea, N.C.
Loading.
1200- Completed loading.
1300- Underway and at
1445- Moored port side to SS ELI WHITNEY for cargo in Great Roads, Noumea.
- October 20, 1942: Moored port side to SS ELI WHITNEY in Great Roads, Noumea.
0530- Underway in accordance CTF 62 despatch 190847/October enroute Segund Channel, via Fila, Efate I., in company Task Unit 62.5.6 (HOPKINS, OTC).

CONFIDENTIAL

October 20, 1942 (Cont'd.)

0800- Passed through North Poulari Passage.
0833- Course 170° True. Speed 15 knots.
1030- Changed course to 125°.
1140- Changed course to 110°.
1200 Position - Lat. 23°-08' S.
Long. 167°-01' E.
1215- Changed course to 071°.
1500- Changed course to 053°.
2200- Changed course to 000° True.
During darkness TREVER, ZANE and 4MTB
left formation.

October 21, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.5.6,
less detached units, enroute Fila on course
000° True, speed 15 knots.
0300- Changed course to 345° True.
1200- Changed course to 007° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 18°-45' S.
Long. 168°-10' E.
1540- Various courses and speeds entering Meli
Bay, Efate, and
1653- Anchored in berth "A", Fila Harbor, Efate, N.H.

October 22, 1942: Anchored as before in berth "A", Fila Harbor,
Efate.
0245- Loading deck cargo.
0545- Underway standing to sea, enroute Segund
Channel.
0625- Set course 240°. Speed 15 knots, in company
HOPKINS, CTU 62.5.6, as escort.
0730- Changed course to 358° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 16°-35' S.
Long. 167°-55' E.
1235- Changed course to 323° True.
1620- Various courses and speeds entering Segund
Channel.
T.U. 62.5.6 dissolved.
1726- Anchored in Segund Channel 600 yards east
of berth A-1.

CONFIDENTIAL

- October 23,1942: Anchored to eastward of berth A-1, Segund Channel.
0300- Observed flares and heard gun-fire to eastward.
0308- Observed shell splash in channel, 2 miles to eastward.
0315- Own planes taking off.
1045- Underway and at
1130- Anchored in berth B-1.
Commenced loading miscellaneous cargo.
- October 24,1942: Anchored in berth B-1, Segund Channel.
Loading miscellaneous cargo.
- October 25,1942: Anchored in berth B-1, Segund Channel.
Loading cargo.
1300- Received ComSoPac 242351 establishing a general alert.
1600- Flag hoist from NEVILLE(Senior Transport Present) to prepare to get underway.
1615- CTF 62 despatch 250200/October creates special Task Group to depart Segund Channel for Fila - NEVILLE,OTC.
1715- Underway standing to sea.
1800- Formed line of section guides on course 142°, Speed 15 knots.
2250- Changed course to 177° True.
Changed speed to 13 knots.
- October 26,1942: Underway enroute Fila, Efate, in company NEVILLE, HEYWOOD, FORMALHAUT on course 177°, speed 13 knots.
0530- Various courses entering Meli Bay and Fila Harbor and
0800- Anchored.
- October 27,1942: Anchored in Fila Harbor, Efate, N.H.
- October 28,1942: Anchored in Fila Harbor, Efate, N.H.
In compliance CTF 62 260600/October transferred 10 officers, 200 men of First Marine Air Wing to FULLER.

CONFIDENTIAL

October 29, 1942: Anchored in Fila Harbor, Efate. Received CTF 62 despatch 280312 forming T.U. 62.4.5- BELLATRIX, LIBRA with MANLEY, McKEAN for passage Segund Channel.

1700- Underway standing to sea in company Task Unit 62.4.5.

1800- Set course 248°, Speed 15 knots.

1843- Course 000° - Speed 15 knots.

2220- Slowed to 2/3 - BELLATRIX broken down. Passed CHESTER to port, headed south slow speed.

October 30, 1942: Underway enroute Segund Channel in company Task Unit 62.4.5 on course 000°, speed 15 knots, steaming at 2/3 speed.

0100- Changed course to 323° True.

0700- Various courses entering Segund Channel and at

0810- Anchored in berth A-4.
Loaded remnant cargo.

October 31, 1942: Anchored in berth A-4, Segund Channel, loading cargo.

1800- Completed loading.

W.B. Fletcher, Jr.
W.B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

Reg # 392

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7-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

M O N T H O F

N O V E M B E R , 1942.

NOV 20 11 43

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Assigned to: U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
TRANSPORT DIVISION TEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

- November 1, 1942: At anchor in berth A-4, Segund Channel, Espiritu Santo Island.
Awaiting orders and assignment to Task Organization.
- 0630- Underway to fuel from SS FLAGSHIP SINCO and at
- 1330- Returned to anchorage berth A-4.
- Nov. 2 - 7, 1942: At anchor Segund Channel, berth A-4.
Awaiting orders.
- November 8, 1942: At anchor berth A-4, Segund Channel.
- 1400- Received CTF 62 despatch 070430/November, assigning LIBRA to Task Group 62.4-CTG 62.4 in ATLANTA.
Received CTF 62 operation plan A23-42 and Task Force 67 despatch 070917 and 070952/Nov.
- November 9, 1942: At anchor berth A-4, Segund Channel.
- 0930- Underway on signal from CTG 62.4 standing to sea enroute Guadalcanal, Solomons.
Standard speed 15 knots.
Formed column astern ATLANTA (OTC), ZEILIN, with BETELGEUSE in column astern.
4 DD in A/S screen.
- 1104- Set course 350°. Speed 15.5 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 15°-19' S.
Long. 167°-20' E.
- 1330- Changed course to 316° True.
- November 10, 1942: Underway as before enroute Guadalcanal in company Task Group 62.4 (ATLANTA, OTC.) on course 316° True, speed 15.5 knots.
- 1011- Sound contact by screen.
Emergency maneuvers.
- 1046- Resumed course and speed.
1200 Position - Lat. 11°-07' S.
Long. 163°-12' E.
- 1207- Changed course to 311° True.
- 1412- Sighted San Cristobal I., bearing 253° True.
- 1500- Changed speed to 14 knots.
- 1707- Changed speed to 13 knots.
- 1810- Changed speed to 12 knots.
- 1830- Changed course to 296° True.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 11, 1942: Underway as before in company Task Group 62.4 enroute Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Course 296° True. Speed 12 knots.

0334- Sighted Nuga I. light bearing 289°.

0345- Changed course to 259° True entering Sealark Channel on various courses and approaching anchorage off Lunga Point.

0545- Anchored one mile north of Tenaru River, commenced discharging cargo from all holds.

0917- Received air attack warning over radio net.

0919- Underway, formed column on course 000° True, astern ATLANTA, ZEILIN, BETELGEUSE with destroyer screen.

0925- Radical simultaneous course changes on flag signal from CTU 62.4.

0935- Observed formation of 9 dive bombers approaching over Guadalcanal.

0941- Commenced firing on two low level dive bombers approaching on port quarter.

0943- Near miss, 100 lb bomb, 100 feet off port quarter.

0943½- Near miss, 100 lb bomb, 20 feet to port of No.2 hold.
Radio antennae and fore truck shot down by strafing attack.
Some distortion and slight leakage frames 40-46 port side above turn of the bilge.

0945- Ceased firing. One dive bomber shot down and crashed off port bow.

1000- ZEILIN apparently in trouble.

1015- All clear. Returned and at

1029- Anchored. Resumed discharge of cargo.

1106- Air raid warning . 27 bombers with fighter escort approaching from southward over Guadalcanal.
Underway. Joined formation as before on course 000°. Speed 15 knots.

1125- Observed enemy bombers formation over Henderson Airfield, very high. Bombs dropped on airfield.

1127- Fired 3"/50 cal. ranging shots - all short. No approach on ships by bombers.

1135- Ceased firing. Maneuvering to return to anchorage.

1206- Anchored. Resumed discharge of cargo.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 11, 1942 (cont'd.)

- 1800- Underway in company Task Group, standing to eastward through Sealark Channel.
- 2000- Changed course to 090° True.
- 2045- ATLANTA and destroyer screen left formation to join Task Force 67. BETELGEUSE (OTC) and LIBRA on north and south courses maneuvering in Indispensable Strait. No escort.

Note: See LIBRA letter AK53/A9-8/(020) of November 17, 1942 and enclosures attached, concerning details of actions of this date.
SEE MICROSERIAL 44804 (P.16)

- November 12, 1942: Underway in Indispensable Strait on alternate north and south courses in company BETELGEUSE. Speed 15 knots.
- 0303- Course 250° True, speed 12 knots approaching Lungo Channel, and passage thereof.
 - 0614- Anchored to east of Lunga Point. Discharging cargo. Four transports of Task Force 67 anchored off Kukum. Support and escort TF 67 disposed to northward.
 - 0812- HOVEY alongside for fuel.
 - 1000- CTF 67 despatch 112237/November assigns BETELGEUSE and LIBRA to Transport Divisions, Task Force 67. (Task Group 67.1).
 - 1019- HOVEY clear of side.
 - 1100- Observed bombardment of enemy shore positions to westward by units of screen and support group.
 - 1323- Radio warning of approach of enemy torpedo plane squadron.
 - 1327- Underway on various courses to join Transport Division 2, as third ship in column. Course 340° speed 14 knots. Various radical course changes on flag hoist signal from CTF 67 in McCAWLEY.
 - 1411- Sighted large formation of enemy torpedo planes close to water approaching from northeast.
 - 1412- Commenced firing.
 - 1425- Ceased firing. About 8 enemy planes shot down by ships - burning on water. None escaped.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 12, 1942 (cont'd)

- 1425- Various courses returning to anchorage.
- 1521- Anchored. Discharging cargo.
- 1700- Received CTF 67 despatch 120529/November to get underway and stand out about 1800- LIBRA 3rd ship in TransDiv 2.
- 1830- Underway.
- 1900- In position in formation in column, with screen ahead. Speed 14 knots. Various courses standing to eastward through Lengo Channel.
- 2027- Course 105° True.
- 2138- Course 135° True.
- 2340- Course 160° True.

Note: See LIBRA letter AK53/A9-8/(020) of November 17, 1942 and enclosures attached hereto for detailed report of action this date.

November 13, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 67.1 and destroyer escort enroute Segund Channel on course 160° True, speed 14 knots. LIBRA 3rd ship in Division 2, in column formation.

- 0151- Changed course to 151° True.
- 0335- Changed course to 125° True.
- 0517- Changed course to 145° True.
- 0520- Formed line of division guides.
1200 Position - Lat. 12°-02' S.
Long. 162°-23' E.
- 1700- Changed course and axis to 110° True.

November 14, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 67.1 plus destroyer escort enroute Segund Channel on course 110° True, speed 14 knots. LIBRA 3rd ship in Division Two in formation line of division guides.

- 0100- Changed course and axis to 120° True.
- 0800- Changed course to 110°. Changed speed to 13 knots.
- 1030- Changed course to 050° True.
- 1122- Changed course to 090° True.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 14, 1942: (cont'd.)

1200 Position - Lat. 14°-21' S.
Long. 166°-42' E.
1303- Changed course to 120° True.
1600- Changed course to 090° True.
2145- Formed column of divisions.
2214- Changed course to 170° True.
2220- Changed course to 260° True.
2230- Formed line of division guides.
2400- Changed course to 210° True.

November 15, 1942: Underway in company Task Group 67.1 and destroyer escort enroute Segund Channel on course 210° True, speed 13 knots. Formation in line of division guides, LIBRA 3rd ship in Transdiv 2.
0530- Various courses and speeds forming column and entering Segund Channel, and at
0705- Anchored in berth B-7.
1400- Loading cargo by boat from CRESCENT CITY.

November 16, 1942: Anchored as before in berth B-7, Segund Channel. Loading cargo by boat from CRESCENT CITY.
0530- Underway and at
0700- Moored to port side TAPPAHANNOCK.
0800- Fueling and loading gasoline drums. Loading by boat from ZEILIN.
1100- Received CTF 62 despatch 160420 forming Task Unit 62.4.2.

November 17, 1942: Moored to port side TAPPAHANNOCK in Segund Channel, loading gasoline and loading cargo by boat from ZEILIN.
0810- Underway and at
0830- Anchored in berth B-7.
1600- Underway enroute Guadalcanal in accordance CTF 62 despatch 160420/November .
1700- Took PAB-4 in tow alongside to port. Various courses standing to sea.
1824- Streamed PAB-4 astern. Towline fouled.
2000- PAB-4 clear. Set various courses to join Task Unit 62.4.2 (BETELGEUSE -OTC).

CONFIDENTIAL

November 17, 1942 (cont'd.)

2127- In Position. Course 000° True, speed 12 knots. Zig-Zag. Increasing speed on order from unit commander to 15 knots.

November 18, 1942: Underway enroute Guadalcanal in company Task Unit 62.4.2 on course 000° True.

Speed 15 knots. PAB-4 in tow astern.
0042- Pelican hook on fantail parted dropping tow. Maneuvered to pick up tow.
0143- PAB-4 alongside.
0538- New tow line rove. Underway course 315°, speed 13 knots.
0852- Bridle on PAB-4 parted. Maneuvered to pick up tow.
0932- PAB-4 alongside. Remade bridle.
1200 Position - Lat. 14°-37' S.
Long. 167°-00' E.
1245- Proceeding. Course 315°, Speed 10 knots.
1315- Hydrophone effect. Changed course to 150° True.
1346- Changed course to 315° True.
Changed speed to 10.8 knots.

During both periods while laying to recovering PAB-4, BETELGEUSE and destroyer screen maneuvered in vicinity, sometimes close aboard, but frequently 2 to 5 miles distant.

November 19, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.4.2 enroute Guadalcanal on course 315° True. Speed 10.8 knots. PAB-4 in tow astern. BETELGEUSE and screen patrolling station, sometimes close but more frequently at distance of 2 to 5 miles.

0140- MUSTIN dropped depth charge and at
0215- reported sound contact.
0900- Changed course to 000° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 12°-04' S.
Long. 168°-30' E.
1250- Sound contact reported.
Changed course to 125° True.
1320- Returned to course 000° True.
1400- Changed course to 270° True.
1700- Changed course to 000° True.
2100- Changed course to 270° True.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 20, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.4.2 en-route Guadalcanal on course 270° True, Speed 10.8 knots, with PAB-4 in tow.

0100- Changed course to 000° True.

0500- Changed course to 270° True.

1200 Position - Lat. 10°-24' S.
Long. 162°-22' E.

1300- Changed course to 335° True.

1715- TREVER, ZANE joined Task Unit.

1730- Changed course to 270° True.

2000- Changed course to 310° True.

2355- Changed course to 270° True.

November 21, 1942: Underway in company Task Unit 62.4.2 en-route Lunga Point, Guadalcanal on course 270° True, at speed 10.8 knots, towing PAB-4.

0405- Entered Lengo Channel.

0500- Various courses approaching Lunga Point and at

0622- Anchored to eastward of Lunga Point.

0630- Commenced discharging cargo by boat to shore. Delivered PAB-4 to BOBOLINK.

1510- Air raid warning by radio.

1519- Underway on signal from CTU 62.4.2. Various courses to northward.

1643- Returned to anchorage. Continued discharge of cargo. BETELGEUSE aground.

1715- Underway with escort and at

1912- Anchored in Tulagi Harbor.

November 22, 1942: Anchored in Tulagi Harbor. Fueled TREVER and ZANE.

0404- Underway and at

0553- Anchored to eastward of Lunga Point. Discharging cargo. Boats (having worked all night unloading BETELGEUSE) very slow.

1658- Underway on northerly course and at

1902- Anchored Tulagi Harbor.

November 23, 1942: Anchored Tulagi Harbor. 0355- Underway on southerly courses.

0547- Anchored east of Lunga Point. Discharging cargo.

1215- Air raid warning.

1230- All clear.

1710- Underway to northward and at

1846- Anchored in Tulagi Harbor.

CONFIDENTIAL

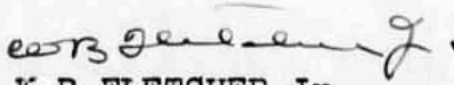
November 24, 1942: Anchored Tulagi Harbor.
0400- Underway to southward
0537- Anchored east of Lunga Point.
Discharging cargo.
1700- Underway to northward and at
1835- Anchored Tulagi Harbor.
1854- Commenced fueling ZANE
2147- Fueled MUSTIN.

November 25, 1942: At anchor Tulagi Harbor.
0055- McCALLA alongside for fuel.
0425- Received PAB-6 alongside.
0435- Underway to southward.
0650- Anchored to east of Lunga Point.
0800- Received CTF 62 despatch 240447, directing
MacFARLAND to join LIBRA for passage to
Segund Channel.
Received CTU 62.4.2 despatch 232155/Nov.
to form Task Unit 62.4.5 LIBRA, McCALLA,
TREVER.
1820- BETELGEUSE left area.
1857- Underway for Tulagi.
2130- Anchored Tulagi.

November 26, 1942: At anchor Tulagi Harbor.
0325- Air raid warning.
0422- Underway to southward.
0645- Anchored to east of Lunga Point.
BARNETT Present. ALCHIBA headed for
Tulagi.
Discharging cargo.
1000- Cargo unloaded.
1700- Task Unit 62.4.5 (LIBRA, TREVER, McCALLA,
McFARLAND) underway for Segund Channel
with PAB-6 in tow astern.
Various courses through Lengo Channel at
2/3 speed (8 knots) awaiting McFARLAND
to join. TREVER despatched to assist
McFARLAND.
2100- TREVER, McFARLAND in sight astern, and at
2230- Joined formation.
2240- Ahead standard speed 12 knots.
2300- Changed course to 128° True.
ComSeronSoPac 260427/November assigns
upkeep alongside VESTAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 30, 1942: At anchor in berth D-8, Segund Channel,
Espiritu Santo I.
0600- Underway and at
0620- Moored port side to JOAQUIN MILLER in
berth A-6.
0800- Commenced loading gasoline drums and
loading 90mm ammunition and small arms
by boat from shore station.


W.B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

W A R D I A R Y

U.S.S. LIBRA, AK53.

MONTH OF

D E C E M B E R, 1942.

NOV 29 11 44

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

Assigned to:

U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE,
AMPHIBIOUS FORCE,
TRANSPORT DIVISION TEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

- December 1, 1942: Moored port side to SS JOAQUIN MILLER in berth A-6, Segund Channel, Espiritu Santo I., in compliance CTF 62 despatch 280755/November loading cargo.
- December 2, 1942: Moored port side to SS JOAQUIN MILLER in berth A-6. Loading cargo.
1530- Underway and at
1615- Moored port side to LAKAWANNA for fuel. Continued loading.
- December 3, 1942: Moored port side to LAKAWANNA in Segund Channel.
0600- Underway and at
0620- Anchored in berth B-5. Continued loading.
- December 4-5, 1942: Anchored in berth B-5, Segund Channel. Loading cargo, slowly.
- December 6, 1942: Anchored in berth B-5, Segund Channel. Loading cargo.
0200- Received CTF 62 despatch 050155/December, to prepare depart for Guadalcanal afternoon of December 6th.
0215- My 051555 reports completion of loading afternoon eighth.
1000- CTU 62.7.3, 060303 designates PERKINS as escort destroyer.
1600- CTF 62 060055/December to form Task Unit 62.4.5 (LIBRA (OTC) McKEAN, PERKINS). Tow PAB-6 and depart for Guadalcanal afternoon December 6.
1700- CTF 62 despatch 060325/December modifies his 060055 and delays departure, until 8 December arrival early 11 December.
1700- PERKINS, McKEAN reported for duty. Continued loading by boat from ashore.
- December 7, 1942: At anchor in berth B-5, Segund Channel. Loading cargo by boat from the shore.
0500- Set Condition II in compliance SOPA, 060435.

CONFIDENTIAL

December 8, 1942: At anchor in berth B-5, Segund Channel.
Loading cargo from the shore.
0500- Set Condition II.
1600- Completed loading.
Underway. PAB-6 in tow along port side.
Formed Task Unit 62.4.5. Various courses
standing to sea, in compliance CTF despatch
060055 as modified by his 060325, both of
December.
1740- Streamed PAB-6 astern.
1800- Standard speed 12 knots to make 10 good.
1822- Course 060° True.
1900- Course 000° True.
2400- Course 305° True.

December 9, 1942: Task Unit 62.4.5 underway enroute
Guadalcanal on course 305° True. Speed
12 knots to make 10 knots good. PAB-6
in tow astern.
1200 Position - Lat. 13°-31' S.
Long. 165°-32' E.
1900- Changed course to 270° True.
2100- Changed course to 305° True.

December 10, 1942: Task Unit 62.4.5 underway enroute
Guadalcanal on course 305° True, speed
12 knots to make 10.5 good. PAB-6 in
tow astern.
0825- Changed course to 313° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 11°-16' S.
Long. 161°-56' E.
1800- Changed course to 350° True.
2000- Changed course to 002° True.
2231- Changed course to 316° True.

December 11, 1942: Task Unit 62.4.5 underway enroute
Guadalcanal on course 316° True, speed
12 knots to make 10.5 good with PAB-6
in tow astern.
0220- Changed course to 270° True.
0300- Entering Lengo Channel on various courses
to westerly at various speeds during inter-
mittent blinding rain.
Approaching anchorage off Lunga Point.
0619- Anchored to east of Lunga Point.
MERCURY and SS JOHN TEAL anchored. LIBRA
is SOPA.

CONFIDENTIAL

December 11, 1942 (Cont'd.)

- 0630- Delivered PAB-6 to BOBOLINK.
Discharging cargo.
- 1244- Radio air raid warning, underway, forming up with MERCURY and JOHN TEAL on northerly course, surrounded by destroyer screen.
- 1320- All clear, returned to anchorage and at
- 1344- Anchored east of Lunga Point.
- 1620- A/S patrol (SC476) made sound contact and dropped depth charge pattern.
Underway on various courses to northwest to stand clear.
- 1700- Various courses approaching TULAGI HARBOR.
Radio warning from ComSoPac to expect air raid on Guadalcanal and Tulagi between 2000 and 0100.
- 1820- Requested by ComAdNavBase Solomons to keep all DD's of screen in condition of readiness by reason of enemy activities.
- 1842- Anchored Tulagi.
- 1907- DEHAVEN alongside for fuel.

December 12, 1942: Anchored in Tulagi Harbor.

- 0115- Enemy surface craft reported N.W. of Guadalcanal (Lunga Point).
- 0400- DEHAVEN and SCUFFLEY ordered to search for enemy destroyers and to complete destruction of two reported on fire off Cape Esperance.
- 0400- Delayed departure from Tulagi upon advise from shore station that enemy destroyers were still off entrance.
- 0600- No further advise. Underway with MERCURY and SS JOHN TEAL for Guadalcanal and at
- 0755- Anchored east of Lunga Point.
Discharging cargo.
- 0705- McCALLA, HOVEY, SS JOHN TEAL departed area to eastward through Lengo Channel.
- 0755- Task Unit 62.4.4 (AMERICAN LEGION and SS ROGER WILLIAMS) at anchor off Lunga.
- 1050- ComSoPac warns by radio that air raid is to be repeated.
- 1100- SAUFFLEY returned to Tulagi.
DEHAVEN reports result of night search negative.
- 1700- Underway to northward in company ships of Task Units 62.4.4, 62.4.5 and 62.4.3.

CONFIDENTIAL

December 12, 1942 (cont'd.)

- 1725- Task Unit 62.7.1 (MINNEAPOLIS and escort) standing out.
- 1850- Task Unit 62.7.2 (NEW ORLEANS and escort) standing out.
- 1900- Anchored in Tulagi Harbor.
- 2230- Observed searchlights and AA fire to southward.

December 13, 1942: Anchored in Tulagi Harbor in company units of Task Units 62.4.4(SOPA), 62.4.5, and 62.4.3 and destroyer escorts.

- 0425- Underway to southward
- 0624- Anchored to east of Lunga Point. Task Unit 62.4.7 (HUNTER LIGGETT -CTU - DEL BRAZIL and screen) at anchor. Discharging cargo to shore.
- 1302- Air raid warning. Underway forming on northerly courses, speed 15 knots. Maneuvers on signal from CTU 62.4.7.
- 1402- All clear and returned, anchoring to eastward of Lunga Point. Resumed discharge of cargo.
- 1645- Underway in company MERCURY, SS DEL BRAZIL, SS ROGER WILLIAMS and escort for Tulagi.
- 1845- Anchored in Tulagi.
- 2100- Air raid warning. No "all clear" signal.

December 14, 1942: At anchor Tulagi Harbor.

- 0424- Underway with SS ROGER WILLIAMS and MERCURY. DEL BRAZIL remains at anchor with anchor engine trouble.
- 0710- Anchored east of LUNGA Pt. Discharging cargo.
- 1658- Underway for Tulagi in compliance CTU 62.4.7 despatch 140205/December.
- 1829- Anchored Tulagi. Received warning of expected submarine activity off Tassofarongo.
- 1847- McKEAN alongside for fuel.

December 15, 1942: At anchor Tulagi.

- 0415- Underway for Lunga Point.
- 0559- Anchored east of Lunga Point. Discharging cargo.

CONFIDENTIAL

December 15, 1942 (cont'd.)

- 1735- Underway for Tulagi with escort.
- 1905- Anchored Tulagi.
Received CTF 62 despatch 150226/December
to tow PAB-4 to Segund Channel.
Air raid alerts throughout the night.

December 16, 1942: At anchor Tulagi Harbor.

- 0400- Underway with escort for Lunga Point.
- 0540- Anchored east of Lunga Point.
Discharging cargo.
- 1150- Destroyer A/S screen report sound contact
140° from Lunga Point.
- 1240- A/S patrol (plane) dropped smoke bombs
and depth bombs 2000 yards to east of
anchorage.
- 1245- Underway and formed column with BETELGEUSE
and SS ROGER WILLIAMS.
Various courses and speeds.
- 1430- Reports of search "negative".
- 1445- Anchored off Lunga Point. Resumed discharge
of cargo.
- 1700- Underway for Tulagi with escort.
- 1835- Anchored Tulagi.
- 1905- BUCHANAN moored alongside for fuel.
Received CTF 62 despatch 152325/December
cancelling his 150225 (towing PAB-4)
- 2240- Air raid warning.
- 2340- All clear.

December 17, 1942: Anchored Tulagi Harbor.

- 0400- Underway for Lunga Point.
- 0535- Anchored off Lunga Point. Discharging cargo.
- 0600- Task Unit 62.4.9 anchored off Tenaru River.
- 1330- Completed discharging.
- 1337- Underway enroute Noumea, N.C. with PERKINS,
McKEAN as escort in compliance CTF 62 des-
patch 060055 as modified his 060335 both of
December. Various courses to eastward
through Lengo Channel, standard speed 15
knots.
- 1505- Cleared swept channel.
- 1550- Changed course to 135° True.
- 1825- Changed course to 171° True.

CONFIDENTIAL

- December 18, 1942: Task Unit 62.4.5 (LIBRA, PERKINS, McKEAN) underway enroute Noumea, N.C., on course 171° True, speed 15 knots.
1200 Position - Lat. 13°-46' S.
Long. 161°-32' E.
1600- Detached PERKINS with orders to proceed Segund Channel in compliance CTF 62 despatch 152325/December.
1800- Changed speed to 14 knots.
- December 19, 1942: Task Unit 62.4.5 underway enroute Noumea, N.C. on course 171° True. Speed 14 knots.
0530- Changed speed to 15 knots.
0800- Changed course to 146° True.
1200 Position - Lat. 19°-18' S.
Long. 162°-38' E.
2400- Changed course to 116° True.
- December 20, 1942: Task Unit 62.4.5 underway enroute Noumea, N.C., on course 116° True, speed 15 knots.
1100- Changed course to 090°, approaching North Boulari Passage and at
1123- Entered passage thence on various courses and speeds approaching Dumbea Bay and at
1300- Moored port side to NECHES for fuel.
Task Unit 62.4.5 dissolved.
1730- Underway and at
1815- Anchored in berth A-7 Great Roads.
- December 21, 1942: At anchor berth A-7, Great Roads, Noumea, N.C.
- December 22, 1942: At anchor berth A-7, Great Roads, Noumea, N.C.
1612- Underway and at
1632- Anchored in berth A-10, Great Roads.
Received CTF 62 despatch 220514/December regarding loading.
- December 23, 1942: Anchored in berth A-10, Great Roads, Noumea, N.C.
- December 24, 1942: Anchored in berth A-10, Great Roads, Noumea, N.C.
0545- Underway in accordance Port Director, Noumea despatch 230240 and at
0720- Moored starboard side to Grand Quay, Port Noumea.

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December 24, 1942 (cont'd.)

- 0930- Commenced loading cargo.
- 1445- SS JOHN P. HOLLAND moored to port side.
CTF 62 mailgrams 232120 and 240452
concerning loading.

December 25-27, 1942: Moored starboard side to Grand Quay,
Port Noumea, N.C.
Loading cargo slowly.

December 28, 1942: Moored starboard side to Grand Quay,
Port Noumea.

- 0630- Underway and at
- 0730- Anchored in Port Noumea.
- 1900- Commenced receiving cargo by lighter and
barge.


December 29, 1942: Anchored in Port Noumea, N.C. Loading
cargo by lighter and barge.

- 1030- Received CTF 62 despatch 281110/December
forming Task Unit 62.6 comprised of
HUNTER LIGGETT (CTU) F. FUNSTON, PRESIDENT
JACKSON, PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT HAYES,
CRESCENT CITY, LIBRA and maybe BELLATRIX.

December 30, 1942: Anchored in Port Noumea, N.C. Loading cargo.
Received CTF 62 operation order A26-42
(serial 00530).

December 31, 1942: Anchored in Port Noumea, N.C.
Loading cargo.

- 1630- Underway in compliance CTG 62.1 despatch
292215 and at
- 1715- Anchored in Dumbea Bay, berth 7 A.


W.B. FLETCHER, Jr.,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description - 11 Date 1/1/43

En Route From At:- Noumea, New Caledonia

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: Task Force 62, SoPacFor.
- (b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: Task Group 62.6
- (c) Designation of Unit: Transport Unit #2 - 62.6.2

Composition of Unit:
HUNTER LIGGETT
LIBRA
USAT FREDRICK FINSTON

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: CTG 62.6 Oporder 9-42 based on CTF 62 Oporder
A28-42
- (b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Proceed in company with Task Group 62.6 on 1 Jan, 1943, from
Noumea to Soloman Island Area, discharge cargo and troops,
and retire as directed

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-
0500 Lat. 22-25 S 1200 Lat. 21-56 S 2000 Lat. 20-40 S
Long. 166-11 E Long. 165.09 E Long. 163-41 E
- (b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.
- (c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

46000

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course Various Standard Speed 15.5Position in Formation: Section 2., 3rd. Ship

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>0500</u>	<u>Underway, Various Courses</u>
<u>0704</u>	<u>Base Course and Axis 300 True</u>
<u>0705</u>	<u>Standard Speed To 15.5 Knots</u>
<u>1630</u>	<u>Base Course and Axis 320 True</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>0512</u>	<u>Took station in Sortie disposition.</u> <u>Formed Cruising Disposition #1.</u>
<u>0700</u>	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

None

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

0920 Friendly Plane - 135° T

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: 1/1/43

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	_____	_____
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	<u>N</u> _____	<u>N</u> _____
(c) 20 mm AAMG	<u>O</u> <u>N</u> _____	<u>O</u> <u>N</u> _____
(d) .30 Cal.	<u>E</u> _____	<u>E</u> _____
(e) Depth Charges	_____	_____

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

NONE

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not (are) included.

W.B. Deane, Jr.

Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -11 Date 1/2/43En Route From Noumea, New Caledonia To Tulagi1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: Task Force 62, SoPacFor.(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: Task Group 62.6(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Unit #2 62.6.2

Composition of Unit:
 HUNTER LIGGETT
 LIBRA
 USAT FREDRICK FUNSTON

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the

immediate superior: CTG 62.6 Oorder 9-42 based on CTF 62 Oorder
A-26-42

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

Proceed in company with Task Group 62.6 on 1 Jan. 1943, from
 Noumea to Solomon Island Area, Discharge cargo and Troops, and
 retire as directed

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-

0800 Lat. 18° - 14S 1200 Lat. 17° - 17S 2000 Lat. 15° - 17S
 Long. 162° - 16E Long. 162° - 18E Long. 162° - 36E

(b) Course Various and distance 345 made
 good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
 affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 320°T, 319°Gyro, 302°PSTGC Standard Speed 15.5Position in Formation: Section 2, 3rd. Ship

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>0100</u>	<u>Base Course and Axis To 335° T</u>
<u>0645</u>	<u>" " " " To 008° T</u>
<u>1429</u>	<u>" " " " To 006° T</u>
<u>1800</u>	<u>Speed To 15 Knots</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

None

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: 1/2/43

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	_____	_____
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	N _____	N _____
(c) 20 mm AAMG	O _____ N _____	O _____ N _____
(d) .30 Cal.	E _____	E _____
(e) Depth Charges	_____	_____

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not (are) included.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description - 11 Date 1-3-43

En Route From Noumea, New Caledonia To TULAGI

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: Task Force 62, SoPacFor.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: Task Group 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Unit #2, 62.6.2

Composition of Unit:

HUNTER LIGGETT
LIBRA
USAT FREDRICK FUNSTON

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
CTG 62.6 OpORDER 9-42 Based on
immediate superior: CTF 62 OpORDER A-26-42.

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Proceed in company with Task Group 62.6 on 1 Jan., 1943, from
Noumea to Solomon Island Area, Discharge cargo and troops, and
retire as directed.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-

0800 Lat. 12-21 1200 Lat. 11°30'S 2000 Lat. 10°07½S

Long. 162-56 Long. 162°59'E Long. 162°-09E

(b) Course VARIOUS and distance 350 made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 006°T, 005½° Gyro, 352° PSTGC Standard Speed 15 knots.

Position in Formation: SECTION 2, 3rd SHIP.

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0623</u>	<u>Speed</u>	To <u>15.5 Knots</u>
<u>1500</u>	<u>Course and Axis</u>	To <u>315° True</u>
<u>1635</u>	<u>Speed</u>	To <u>15.0 Knots</u>
<u>1915</u>	<u>Course and Axis</u>	To <u>285° True</u>
<u>2340</u>	<u>Course and Axis</u>	<u>315° True</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>1750</u>	Formation to approach disposition 1., LIBRA becoming 3rd Ship 1st Section.

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

NONE

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

0610 Sound contact with S/M by DD of screen- Negative.

1204 Sound contact with S/M by DD of screen- Negative.

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

1100 Task Force 67 sighted on starboard beam.
Remained on parallel courses within visual range
during daylight.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: 1-3-43

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	<u>■</u>	<u>■</u>
(c) 20 mm AAMG	<u>■</u>	<u>■</u>
(d) .30 Cal.	<u>■</u>	<u>■</u>
(e) Depth Charges	<u>■</u>	<u>■</u>

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

NONE

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

NONE

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not ~~XXX~~ included.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description - 11 Date 1-4-43

En Route From Noumea, New Caledonia To Tulagi

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: Task Force 62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: Task Group 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Unit 62.6.2

Composition of Unit: Hunter Liggett
Libra
USAT Frederick Funston

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: CTG 62.6 OpOrder 9-42

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Proceed WHITE POPPY to Solomons Area, discharge troops
and cargo and retire.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At: - 0653 Anchored Tulagi, S.I.

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course Various and distance 220 made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

None

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 315° True Standard Speed 15 KnotsPosition in Formation: 3rd. Ship in column, Section I

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0220</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>270° Tr.</u>
<u>0530</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>025° Tr.</u>
<u>0630</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>Various</u>
<u>0630</u>	<u>Speed</u>	To <u>Various</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>0100</u>	Formation to Approach Disposition No. 2 (LIBRA is 7th. ship in Transport column)

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

0700 HOVEY and MANLEY joined Task Group 62.6

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

By radio--Submarine by RDF bearing 336 from Lunga Point.

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(J)

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 5, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor To TULAGI, Solomon Islands

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: TF62, SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TG 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: TG 62.6.2

Composition of Unit: HUNTER LIGGETT
F. FUNSTON
LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: CTG 62.6 Oplan 9-42 based on CTF Oporder 126-42

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

Discharge troops and cargo in Solomon Island Area,
return as directed.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- Anchored, TULAGI

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: January 5, 1943

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course _____ Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

TIME CHANGED

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

Formed Task Unit 62.6.19 LIBRA (CTU 62.4.19)

Frederick Funston, Grayson, Russell, Hughes, Meadt

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

1500 - Task Unit 62.6 departed Cactus.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

NONE

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DAILY WAR DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: January 5, 1945.

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	-----	_____
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	_____	_____
(c) 20 mm AAMG	_____	_____
(d) .30 Cal.	_____	_____
(e) Depth Charges	_____	_____

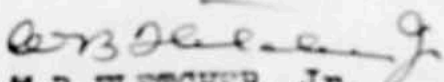
6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

CTG 62.6 Despatch 050141 directed formation of Task Unit 62.6.19

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

Fueled HOVEY and HMNZS TUI

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not (ccsc) included.


W.B. FLETCHER, Jr.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 6, 1943

En Route From At Anchor To TULAGI, S. I.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T. G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: TU 62.6.19

Composition of Unit:

LIBRA	GRAYSON
F. FUNSTON	RUSSELL
	HUGHES
	MEADE

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: GTG 62.6 OpOrder 9-42 based on CTF 62 OpOrd.
A26-42
- (b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Discharge cargo at Solomon Island bases.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At: Anchor TULAGI

0800 Lat. ---- 1200 Lat. ---- 2000 Lat. ----

Long. ----- Long. ----- Long. -----

(b) Course ----- and distance ----- made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course ----- Standard Speed -----Position in Formation: -----

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0424</u>	<u>Underway</u>	<u>To Various Course and Speeds.</u>
<u>0614</u>	<u>Anchored</u>	<u>at XX Lunga Point.</u>
<u>1711</u>	<u>Underway</u>	<u>to Various courses and Speed</u>
<u>1850</u>	<u>Anchored</u>	<u>at X TULAGI, S. I.</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>-----</u>	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: January 6, 1943.

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	----- _____	_____
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	_____	_____
(c) 20 mm AAMG	_____	_____
(d) .30 Cal.	_____	_____
(e) Depth Charges	_____	_____

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not (~~xxx~~) included.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 7, 1943.

En Route From AT ANCHOR To TULAGI, S. I.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62 SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T.G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: T.U. 62.6.19

Composition of Unit: **LIBRA**
F. FUNSTON
GRAYSON
RUSSELL
MEADE
HUGHES

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: GTG 62.6 OpOrder 9-42 Based on CTF OpOrd A26-42.

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Discharge cargo and troops at SOLOMON ISLAND BASES and return as directed.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- Anchor at TULAGI, S. I.

0800 Lat. ---- 1200 Lat. ---- 2000 Lat. ----

Long. ----- Long. ----- Long. -----

(b) Course ----- and distance ----- made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course ----- Standard Speed -----Position in Formation: -----

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0410</u>	<u>Underway</u>	To Various Course and speeds.
<u>0556</u>	<u>Anchored</u>	To Point between KOLI and LUNGA
<u>1730</u>	<u>Underway</u>	To Various Course and speeds.
<u>1845</u>	<u>Anchored</u>	To TULAGI, S.I.

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

1545 Condition "RED" - GENERAL QUARTERS - Anchor aweigh, AHEAD 1/3.
 1554 Condition "GREEN" - Let/gb anchor, secured from GENERAL QUARTERS. Resumed unloading ship.

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 8, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor To TULAGI, S. I.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62.6 SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T.G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: T.U. 62.6.19

Composition of Unit: LIBRA
F. FUNSTON
GRAYSON
RUSSELL
MEADE
HUGHES

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: GTG 62.6 OpOrder 9-42 Based on CTF OpOrd
A26-42

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Discharge cargo and troops at Solomon Island Bases and return
as directed.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At: Anchor at TULAGI, S. I.

0500 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course ----- Standard Speed -----Position in Formation: -----

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0437</u>	<u>Underway</u>	To <u>Various Course and Speed.</u>
<u>0618</u>	<u>Anchored</u>	To <u>Near LUNGA POINT.</u>
<u>1729</u>	<u>Underway</u>	To <u>Various Course and Speed.</u>
<u>1908</u>	<u>Anchored</u>	To <u>TULAGI</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>-----</u>	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

1007 MEADE reported s/m contact to LIBRA's Port.
1015 Contact reported doubtful.

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

1100 Task Unit 62.4.2 into anchorage at LUNGA POINT.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 9, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor To TULAGI, B.S.I.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62.6 SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T.G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: 62.6.19

Composition of Unit: LIBRA
HUGHES
F. FUNSTON
GRAYSON
RUSSELL

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: CTF62 OpOrd. A26-42

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Discharge cargo at CACTUS-RINGBOLT. Return to NOUMEA.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At: Anchored TULAGI, B.S.I.

0800 Lat. ANCHORED 1200 Lat. ANCHORED 2000 Lat. 9° 42' 48"

Long. ANCHORED Long. ANCHORED Long. 160° 55' E

(b) Course VARIOUS and distance 52 miles made good ##### from underway at 1629 to 2000.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 085°T, 082 PSTC, 066PSC Standard Speed 15 kts.

Position in Formation: Guide.

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0554</u>	<u>UNDERWAY</u>	Various course To and speed.
<u>0744</u>	<u>ANCHORED</u>	To KOLI POINT
<u>1629</u>	<u>UNDERWAY</u>	Various course To and speed.
<u>1730</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	108°T, 107.5°pgc, 104pste
<u>1840</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	134°T, 133.5°pgc, 130pste
<u>2100</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	171°T, 170.5°pgc, 165pstog

(c) Changes in Formation:-

TIME CHANGED.

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

At 0800 in compliance CTG 62.42 (SOPA) despatch 081245, GRAYSON, RUSSELL, FREDERICK FUNSTON detached Task Unit 62.6.19 to form Task Unit 62.6.15

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

NONE

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 10, 1943.

En Route From TULAGI, B.S.I. To NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62.6 SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T.G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: 62.6.19

Composition of Unit: LIBRA
HUGHES

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: CTF62 OpOrd. A26-42.

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Discharge troops and cargo at CACTUS- RINGBOLT, return to NOUMEA.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-

0800 Lat. 12-23 S 1200 Lat. 13-17 S 2000 Lat. 15° 01 S

Long. 61-33 E Long. 161-42 E Long. 162 05E

(b) Course Various and distance 219 made good since previous ~~xxxx~~ 2000 to 1200 January 10, 1943.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 171^o, 170.5^o PGC, 165^o PSTGC Standard Speed 15 knots.Position in Formation: Guide.

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>NONE</u>		To _____
<u>NONE</u>		To _____
<u>NONE</u>		To _____
<u>NONE</u>		To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>NONE</u>	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

NONE

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

0510 Plane (identity unknown, RADAR) 8 mi. HUGHES
 0545 Plane sighted (Friendly) bearing 090^oT LIBRA

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 11, 1943.

En Route From TULAGI, B.S.I. To NOUMEA, New Caledonia

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62.6 SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T.G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: 62.6.19

Composition of Unit: LIBRA
HUGHES

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: GTF 62 OpOrd. A26-42.

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

Discharge troops and cargo at CACTUS- RINGBOLT, return to NOUMEA.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:--

0800 Lat. 17°-47.5'S 1200 Lat. 18°41.5'S 2000 Lat. 20°-11'S

Long. 162°36.5'E Long. 162°-34'E Long. 163°-24'E

(b) Course Various and distance 333 made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 171°T, 170.5°PGC, 165°PSTGC Standard Speed 15 KnotsPosition in Formation: Guide

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0700</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>180°T, 179.5°G</u> <u>175°PSTGC</u>
<u>1400</u>	()	To <u>147°T, 146.5°G</u> <u>140PSTGC</u>
		To _____
		To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
NONE	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

NONE

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

NONE

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

NONE

()

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

NONE

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description #II Date JANUARY 12, 1943.

En Route From Tulagi, B.S.I. To Noumea, New Caledonia

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: T.F. 62.6 SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: T.G. 62.6

(c) Designation of Unit: 62.6.19

Composition of Unit: LIBRA
HUGHES

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: CT7 62 OpOrd A26-42.

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

Discharge troops and cargo at CACTUS- RINGSBOLT, return to NOUMEA.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- _____

0800 Lat. 21°59'S 1200 Lat. 22°28'S 2000 Lat. _____

Long. 166°-17'E Long. 166°-17E Long. _____

(b) Course VARIOUS and distance 327 made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 140°T, 146.5°G, 140°PSTGC Standard Speed 15 KnotsPosition in Formation: Guide

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0200</u>	Course	To <u>122°T, 121.5°G,</u> <u>114°PSTGC</u>
<u>1213</u>	Course	To <u>90°PSTGC</u>
<u>1225</u>	Course	To Various
<u>1415</u>	Moored Port Side	To <u>SS-J. C. DONNELL</u> <u>NOUMEA, N.C.</u>
<u>1758</u>	Underway	To
<u>1817</u>	Anchored, Berth A-8,	<u>NOUMEA.</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
NONE	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

1225 Task Unit 62.6.19 dissolved.

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

0847 - Aircraft (friendly) -- LIBRA

0930 - Aircraft (friendly) -- LIBRA

0947 - SWB (Enemy) -- HUGHES, Depth Charges dropped.

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY.

U. S. S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: January 18, 1943

Target

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u> <u>BURST PRACTICE</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	_____	_____
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	<u>PRACTICE--9 Rounds.</u>	_____
(c) 20 mm AAMG	_____	_____
(d) .30 Cal.	_____	_____
(c) Depth Charges	_____	_____

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:
2100. Comdr. Task Force 62 despatch 120308 of January to depart
NOUMEA 0100 ZEBRA January 13 for Wellington for upkeep period of
about 3 weeks.

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in
action reports:-

Received 4300 barrels fuel oil.

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and
874(6), USN Regs. are not (are) included.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, JR.

Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -11 Date January 13, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor To NOUMEA, New Caledonia

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac.
(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: Transdiv Amphibfor, SoPac.
(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight
Composition of Unit: LIBRA.

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: Task Force 62 dispatch 120308 of January.
(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
To depart NOUMEA 0100 ZEBRA January 13, for WELLINGTON for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At:-
0800 Lat. at anchor 1200 Lat. at anchor 2000 Lat. 23°-32'S
Long. at anchor Long. at anchor Long. 166°-45.5'S
(b) Course Various and distance 89 made good since ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ underway from anchorage.
(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course at anchor Standard Speed -----Position in Formation: -----

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>1326</u>	<u>Underway</u>	Various course To and speed.
<u>1505</u>	<u>Course & Speed.</u>	230°T, 224°PGC To 219°PSTGC-16.5Knot
<u>1525</u>	<u>Course & Speed.</u>	160°T, 159.5G, To 152°PSTGC.
<u>2000</u>	<u>Course & Speed.</u>	190°T, 189.5G, To 183°PSTGC.
<u>2100</u>	<u>Course & Speed.</u>	160°T, 159.5°, 152 PSTGC.

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description - 11 Date 14 Jan. 1943.

En Route From NOUMEA To WELLINGTON, New Zealand.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SOPAC.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVS AMPHIBFOR SOPAC.

(c) Designation of Unit: TRANSPORT DIVISION EIGHT

Composition of Unit:

LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: TASK FORCE 62 Despatch, 120308 of January.

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
To depart NOUMEA 0100 ZEBRA January 13, for Wellington for upkeep period of about three(3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-

0800 Lat. 26°-14'S 1200 Lat. 27°-05'S 2000 Lat. 28°-46'S
Long. 167°-41'E Long. 168°-01 E Long. 168°-44 E.

(b) Course Various and distance 315 miles made good since ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Anchorage.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 160°T, 159.5°G., PSTGC Standard Speed 15.5Position in Formation: SINGLY.

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0800</u>	<u>SPEED</u>	To <u>14.5 Knots.</u>
<u>2000</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	To <u>130°T, 129.5°G., 115°</u> <u>PSTGC.</u>
<u>2100</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	To <u>160°T, 159.5°, 149°</u> <u>PSTGC.</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	To <u> </u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

1658 Sighted Vessel - Identified as P-382, USS SOUTHERN CROSS.

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

----- ()

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: 14 Jan. 1943.

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	<u> N </u>	<u> </u>
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	<u> O </u>	<u> </u>
(c) 20 mm AAMG	<u> N </u>	<u> </u>
(d) .30 Cal.	<u> </u>	<u> E </u>
(e) Depth Charges	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not (are) included.

W.B. Fletcher, Jr.
W.B. FLETCHER, JR.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding. 42

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 15, 1943.

En Route From Noumea, New Caledonia To Wellington, N. Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac
(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVS AMPHIBFOR, SOPAC
(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight
Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: Task force 62 despatch 120308 of January.
(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
To depart Noumea 0100 zebra January 13, for Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-
0600 Lat. 31°-01'S 1200 Lat. 31°56'S 2000 Lat. 33°-44'S
Long. 170°-07 E Long. 170°29'E Long. 171°-26'E
(b) Course Various and distance 322 made good since previous noon.
(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 160°, 159.5°G, 149 PSTGC Standard Speed 14.5Position in Formation: SINGLY

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0800</u>	<u>S/S</u>	To <u>15 Knots</u>
<u>2003</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	To <u>165°T, 14.5G</u> <u>152° PSTGC</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	To <u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	To <u> </u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>-----</u>	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(1)

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

0730 - Sighted vessel bearing 120°T-15 miles--unidentified.
 1000 - Sighted plane -250° relative.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 16, 1943

En Route From NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA To WELLINGTON, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIV AMPHIBFOR SOPAC

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62 Despatch 120308 of January

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
To depart Noumea 0100 Zebra January 13, for Wellington for
upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:-

0800 Lat 36°-32'S 1200 Lat 37°-27'S 2000 Lat 39°-14'

Long. 172°-23'E Long 172°-50'E Long 173°-35.5'E

(b) Course Various and distance 340 made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 165°, 164.5°G, 152°PSTGC Standard Speed 15 KnotsPosition in Formation: Singly

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>1800</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>180°T, 179.5°G,</u> <u>To 166° PSTGC</u>
<u>2030</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>155.5°T, 155°G,</u> <u>To 132° PSTGC</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>To _____</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>To _____</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
<u>----</u>	

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

()

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -II Date January 17, 1943.

En Route From Noumea, New Caledonia To Wellington, N. Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAMPHIBFOR SOPAC

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: Libra

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, Dispatch 120308 of January

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about (3) three weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At:- _____

0800 Lat. 41°-26'S 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. 174°-41'E Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course Various and distance 873 made
good since previous noon, to anchorage.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course 155.5°T, 155G, 132PSTGC Standard Speed 15 knotsPosition in Formation: Singly

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>0430</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>180.5°T, 180G, 167° PSTGC</u>
<u>0430</u>	<u>Speed</u>	To <u>12 Knots</u>
<u>0500</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>200.5°T, 200°G, 190° PSTGC</u>
<u>0521</u>	<u>Course</u>	To <u>190.5°T, 190°G, 178 PSTGC</u>
<u>Various Changes to anchorage</u>	<u>In course & Speed</u>	To <u>at 0937- Wellington Harbor</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:- (1)

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

----U.S.S. FULLER, U.S.S. FORMALHAUT berthed at Wellington

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 18, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor, Wellington, NZ74

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAMPHIBFOR SOPAC

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, despatch 120308 of January.

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At: ANCHOR

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 19, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor To Wellington; N Z

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac
- (b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAMPHIBFOR, SoPAC.
- (c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: Task Force 62, despatch 120308 of January.

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At anchor

0600 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

- (b) Course _____ and distance _____ made good since previous noon.

- (c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission: _____

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 20, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor To Wellington, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAMPHIBFOR, SOPAC

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, despatch 120308

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three(3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At Anchor

0600 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At Anchor Standard Speed ---

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>AT ANCHOR</u>	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(F)

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-
U.S.S. FORMAHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At Anchor Standard Speed ---

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>AT ANCHOR</u>	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(F)

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-
U.S.S. FORMHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 21, 1945.

En Route From At Anchor To WELLINGTON, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVISIONALPHIBFOR, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: TASK FORCE 62, Despatch 120308

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At:- at Anchor

0500 Lat. 1200 Lat. 2000 Lat.

Long. Long. Long.

(b) Course and distance made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At Anchor Standard Speed Position in Formation: -----

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
<u>None</u>	()	To <u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	To <u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	To <u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	To <u> </u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FOMAHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington, N.Z.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY LOG DIARY.

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Date: January 21, 1943

5. Service Ammunition expended:-

	<u>IN ACTION</u>	<u>LOSS OR DESTRUCTION</u>
(a) 5"/51 Cal.	_____	_____
(b) 3"/50 Cal.	_____	_____
(c) 20 mm AAMG	_____	_____
(d) .30 Cal.	_____	_____
(c) Depth Charges	_____	_____

6. Summary of Important Orders received and decisions reached:

Received information copy of ComNavAct, Wellington, despatch 200415 of January recommending date of completion of availability as of February 9th.

7. Remarks on materials and operational features not included in action reports:-

8. Action Reports and reports required by Articles 712(2)(3) and 874(6), USN Regs. are not (see) included.

W. B. Fletcher, Jr.
W. B. FLETCHER, Jr.
Commander, U.S.N.,
Commanding.

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 22, 1943

En Route From At Anchor At Wellington, N. Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: GTF 62, SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVAMPHIBFOR, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, Despatch 120308

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At anchor.

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At Anchor Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	To
_____	() _____	_____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FOMAHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington.

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(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 23, 1943.

En Route From At anchor 7/ Wellington, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac
(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAUPHIBFOR, SoPac.
(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight
Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, Despatch 120308
(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three(3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At:- At Anchor
0600 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____
Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____
(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.
(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date Jan. 24, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor ~~To~~ WELLINGTON, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CFF 62, SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TransDiv Amphib For. SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division EIGHT.

Composition of Unit:

LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: Task Force 62, despatch 120308

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about (3) three weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At Anchor.

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At Anchor. Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
_____	_____

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

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DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date Jan. 25, 1943.

En Route From At Anchor ~~To~~ Wellington, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TransDivsAmphibFor, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division EIGHT.

Composition of Unit:

LIBRA.

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: Task Force 62, Despatch 120308.

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At ANCHOR.

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course AT ANCHOR Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
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(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:- ()

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 26, 1943.

En Route From At anchor To Wellington, N. Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac.

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANS DIVS AMPHIB FOR, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, Despatch 120308

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington For up keep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At anchor

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At anchor Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	To
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____
_____	_____	To _____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
_____	_____

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FORMAHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington, N.Z.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 27, 1943.

En Route From At anchor To Wellington, N. Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAMPHIBFOR, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA.

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, Despatch 120308

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- At Anchor.

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At Anchor Standard Speed ----

Position in Formation: ----

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>(CHANGED</u>	
<u>At Anchor</u>	<u>_____</u>	To <u>_____</u>
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	To <u>_____</u>
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	To <u>_____</u>
<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	To <u>_____</u>

(c) Changes in Formation:-

TIME CHANGED

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FORMHAUT and U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 28, 1943

En Route From At anchor To Wellington, N. Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TransDivs Amphib For, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division eight

Composition of Unit: Libra

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, despatch 120308

(b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At: - _____

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course At anchor Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	To
<u>None</u>	_____	_____
<u>None</u>	_____	_____
<u>None</u>	_____	_____
<u>None</u>	_____	_____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington.

U.S.S. FOMALHAUT stood out at 0810 - stood in and moored at 1730, tested equipment.

1530 - U.S.S. TREVOR stood in, moored at Aotea Quay.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 29, 1943

En Route From At anchor To Wellington, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TRANSDIVSAMPHIBFOR, SoPac

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the immediate superior: Task Force 62, Despatch 120308

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
To wellington for upkeep of about three (3) Weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LGT) At:- at anchor.

0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course at anchor Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	To
<u>NONE</u>	_____	_____
<u>NONE</u>	_____	_____
<u>NONE</u>	_____	_____
<u>NONE</u>	_____	_____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
_____	_____

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FULLER berthed at Wellington.

U.S.S. FOMAHAUT stood out at 0815.

U.S.S. TREVOR moved astern-moored 0915.

(g) U.S.S. ZANE stood in--moored at Aotea Quay--1510.

Important information of own or enemy forces:-

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 30, 1943

En Route From at anchor T6/ Wellington, N.Z.

1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac

(b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: Trans. Divs. AmphibFor, SoPac.

(c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight

Composition of Unit: LIBRA

2. (a) The operation plan or order (despatch) of the
immediate superior: Task Force 62, despatch 120308

((b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:

To Wellington for upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At: at anchor.

0600 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____

Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made
good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have
affected the mission:

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S.S. No. page 344

CONFIDENTIAL

DAILY WAR DIARY

U.S.S. LIBRA (AK53)

Time Zone Description -12 Date January 31, 1943

En Route From at anchor 1/2 Wellington, N.Z.

- 1. (a) Designation of Major Task Force or Fleet: CTF 62, SoPac.
- (b) Designation of Next Higher Echelon: TransDiv. AmphibFor, SoPac.
- (c) Designation of Unit: Transport Division Eight.

Composition of Unit: LIBRA.

- 2. (a) The operation plan or order (Despatch) of the immediate superior: TASK FORCE 62, Despatch 120308
- (b) Brief of the directive(s) contained therein:
To Wellington for Upkeep period of about three (3) weeks.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED
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- 3. (a) Ship's Position (LCT) At:- at Anchor.
0800 Lat. _____ 1200 Lat. _____ 2000 Lat. _____
Long. _____ Long. _____ Long. _____

(b) Course _____ and distance _____ made good since previous noon.

(c) Notes on meteorological conditions (if any) which may have affected the mission:

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4. Brief of Day's Operations:-

(a) Base Course _____ Standard Speed _____

Position in Formation: _____

(b) Changes in course and Speed:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>	To
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(c) Changes in Formation:-

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHANGED</u>
-------------	----------------

(d) Changes in composition of Unit:-

(e) Summary of Contacts:-

(1)

(f) Brief of operations of other Units:-

U.S.S. FULLER underway for trials.
 U.S.S. TREVOR berthed at Wellington.
 U.S.S. ZANE berthed at Wellington.

(g) Important information of own or enemy forces:-

