

Contributed by Frank Gerhardt

S E C R E T

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. ALHENA

13492

From: 1 Ma y 1942 To 31 May 1942

Copy to:
Chief of Naval Operations ✓
(Office of Naval Records
and Library).

RECEIVED S-C FILES
Room 2055

JUN 15 1942

ROUTE TO: - 16-E-3

Op File No. (SC) A12-1/AK26

Doc. No. 53340

Copy No. 1 of 2

PRN 56

10354

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

1 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 8:13

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	11-35 S	11-46 S	12-07 S
Long	136-50 W	137-40 W	139-28 W

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 312 miles

Cs 260 Speed 13 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Zugzagging by day ; Evasive courses during night.

Set clocks to zone plus 8:34 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

2 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 8:34

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~VLM~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	12-52 S	13-01 S	13-21 S
Long	<u>141-51 W</u>	<u>142-45 W</u>	<u>144-40 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 306 miles

Cs 256 Speed 12.75 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with reasons

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Zigzagging by day, evasive courses at night.

Changed to zone plus 8:57 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

3 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 8:57

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT _____ 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER #5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	<u>13-51 S</u>	<u>14-01 S</u>	<u>14-23 S</u>
Long	<u>147-20 W</u>	<u>148-07 W</u>	<u>149-45 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 317 miles

Cs 259 Speed 13.1 Weather Excellent

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons _____

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.
Zigzagging by day evasive courses at night.

SOMMELSDYK and NEVILLE left formation in escort of SAMPSON at
1900 and headed south. Set clocks to zone plus 19:19 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

4 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 9:19

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE SE PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT _____ 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	15-00 S	15-10 S	15-00 S
Long	<u>151-45 W</u>	<u>152-30 W</u>	<u>154-03 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 260 miles

Cs 255 Speed 10.8 Weather Excellent

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

reasons RICHMOND (CL) MUGFORD (DD) AND STANSBURY (DD) joined
the formation at during forenoon, relieving CONCORD TRENTON AND
WARRINGTON. MANOERAN in company with CONCORD TRENTON and
WARRINGTON left the convoy and headed south.
Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Zigzagging by day, evasive courses during the night.

Convoy slowed to 10 knots, presumably to allow Neville and SOMMELSDYK

to catch up. Convoy due north of BORA BORA during forenoon.

Set clocks to zone plus 9:35 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

5

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

5 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 9:35

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	<u>15-13 S</u>	<u>15-15 S</u>	<u>15-19 S</u>
Long	<u>156-50 W</u>	<u>157-43 W</u>	<u>159-38 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 305 miles

Cs 269 Speed 12.7 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons NEVIDLE and SOMMELSDYK rejoined at 0001

Zigzagging by day, evasive courses during the night.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Set clocks to zone plus 1000 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

5 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plhs 9:35

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CNVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	<u>15-13 S</u>	<u>15-15 S</u>	<u>15-19 S</u>
Long	<u>156-50 W</u>	<u>157-43 W</u>	<u>159-38 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 305 miles

Cs 269 Speed 12.7 Weather Excellent

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons NEVIDLE and SOMMELSDYK rejoined at 0001

Zigzagging by day ,evasive courses during the night.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Set clocks to zone plus 1000 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

6 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 1000

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~VLM~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat	15-26 W	15-26 W	16-06 W
Long	162-28 W	163-22 W	165-15 W

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 324 miles

Cs 268 Speed 13.5 Weather Excellent

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons HONOLULU (CL) plus two DD joined formation at 0800

STRAW SECTION(McCawley Heywood Fuller Bellatrix Braštagi and
Fomalhaut) plus HONOLULU and two DD left formation headed west.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Set course for TONGATABU at 1400 after Straw Section had cleared the
formation. Zigzagging during high visibility periods both day and
night. Set clocks to zone plus 10;20 time at 1930

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

7 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 10;20

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force Convoy Baker Tare
UNIT _____ 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER #5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	<u>17-24 S</u>	<u>17-51 S</u>	<u>18-55 S</u>
Long	<u>167-51 W</u>	<u>168-44 W</u>	<u>170-43 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 243// 343 miles

Cs 245 Speed 14.3 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with reasons _____

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Zigzagging by day, evasive courses by night

Set clocks to zone plus 10;50 time at 1900

(f) Orders and decisions.. _____

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

8 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 10:50

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT _____ 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	20-12 S	20-40 S	Nukualofa Harbor
Long	173-18 W	174-14 W	

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 360 miles

Cs 242 Speed 15 Weather Excellent

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

In order to make good 15 knots convoy zigzagged at 16 while
~~reasons~~ BARNETT ran at maximum speed on base course. Elimination of BARNETT
BARNETT and MANOERN from convoy would have saved about six days on the
trip - the equivalent of over 100 ship-days at sea lost. Also the
fast section could have arrived and been well on its way to being
contacts, operations, information, etc. and enemy forces!
discharged by the time that the others arrived.

USS SOLACE and USS DOBBIN present in harbor when escort(RICHMOND,
CAPT. BROWN; MUGFORD and SELFRIDGE) and convoy(BARNETT, NEVILLE, ELLIOTT,
AMERICAN LEGION, ALMAACK, ALHENA, ALGORAB, BETELGUESE, and the Dutch ships
SOMMELSDYK and NOORDAM) arrived. Last of ships anchored after sunset,
having been piloted in through the LAHI (NORTH) CHANNEL by officers and
chiefs from the DOBBIN and SOLACE. Channel bouyed and wire dragged to
40 feet. Good anchorage, excellent harbor poor landing facilities.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

9 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 10:50

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E.PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION MANV - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above Ships present as before. At 0900 USS GRIDLEY AND RIGEL STOOD IN TO Harbor. At 1700 GRIDLEY and RIGEL stood out again.

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather EXCELLENT.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

~~22/24/42~~ Hoisted out all boats during forenoon. Investigated landing facilities. The one dock is cement on cement piling. It lies at edge of coral reef fringing the shore and is connected to the beach by a mole or jetty of coral rock some sixty feet wide. Face of dock is
~~/ Contacts / Operations / Information / 1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th / 5th / 6th / 7th / 8th / 9th / 10th / 11th / 12th / 13th / 14th / 15th / 16th / 17th / 18th / 19th / 20th / 21st / 22nd / 23rd / 24th / 25th / 26th / 27th / 28th / 29th / 30th / 31st / 32nd / 33rd / 34th / 35th / 36th / 37th / 38th / 39th / 40th / 41st / 42nd / 43rd / 44th / 45th / 46th / 47th / 48th / 49th / 50th / 51st / 52nd / 53rd / 54th / 55th / 56th / 57th / 58th / 59th / 60th / 61st / 62nd / 63rd / 64th / 65th / 66th / 67th / 68th / 69th / 70th / 71st / 72nd / 73rd / 74th / 75th / 76th / 77th / 78th / 79th / 80th / 81st / 82nd / 83rd / 84th / 85th / 86th / 87th / 88th / 89th / 90th / 91st / 92nd / 93rd / 94th / 95th / 96th / 97th / 98th / 99th / 100th / 101st / 102nd / 103rd / 104th / 105th / 106th / 107th / 108th / 109th / 110th / 111th / 112th / 113th / 114th / 115th / 116th / 117th / 118th / 119th / 120th / 121st / 122nd / 123rd / 124th / 125th / 126th / 127th / 128th / 129th / 130th / 131st / 132nd / 133rd / 134th / 135th / 136th / 137th / 138th / 139th / 140th / 141st / 142nd / 143rd / 144th / 145th / 146th / 147th / 148th / 149th / 150th / 151st / 152nd / 153rd / 154th / 155th / 156th / 157th / 158th / 159th / 160th / 161st / 162nd / 163rd / 164th / 165th / 166th / 167th / 168th / 169th / 170th / 171st / 172nd / 173rd / 174th / 175th / 176th / 177th / 178th / 179th / 180th / 181st / 182nd / 183rd / 184th / 185th / 186th / 187th / 188th / 189th / 190th / 191st / 192nd / 193rd / 194th / 195th / 196th / 197th / 198th / 199th / 200th / 201st / 202nd / 203rd / 204th / 205th / 206th / 207th / 208th / 209th / 210th / 211st / 212nd / 213th / 214th / 215th / 216th / 217th / 218th / 219th / 220th / 221st / 222nd / 223rd / 224th / 225th / 226th / 227th / 228th / 229th / 230th / 231st / 232nd / 233rd / 234th / 235th / 236th / 237th / 238th / 239th / 240th / 241st / 242nd / 243rd / 244th / 245th / 246th / 247th / 248th / 249th / 250th / 251st / 252nd / 253rd / 254th / 255th / 256th / 257th / 258th / 259th / 260th / 261st / 262nd / 263rd / 264th / 265th / 266th / 267th / 268th / 269th / 270th / 271st / 272nd / 273rd / 274th / 275th / 276th / 277th / 278th / 279th / 280th / 281st / 282nd / 283rd / 284th / 285th / 286th / 287th / 288th / 289th / 290th / 291st / 292nd / 293rd / 294th / 295th / 296th / 297th / 298th / 299th / 300th / 301st / 302nd / 303rd / 304th / 305th / 306th / 307th / 308th / 309th / 310th / 311st / 312nd / 313th / 314th / 315th / 316th / 317th / 318th / 319th / 320th / 321st / 322nd / 323rd / 324th / 325th / 326th / 327th / 328th / 329th / 330th / 331st / 332nd / 333rd / 334th / 335th / 336th / 337th / 338th / 339th / 340th / 341st / 342nd / 343rd / 344th / 345th / 346th / 347th / 348th / 349th / 350th / 351st / 352nd / 353rd / 354th / 355th / 356th / 357th / 358th / 359th / 360th / 361st / 362nd / 363rd / 364th / 365th / 366th / 367th / 368th / 369th / 370th / 371st / 372nd / 373rd / 374th / 375th / 376th / 377th / 378th / 379th / 380th / 381st / 382nd / 383rd / 384th / 385th / 386th / 387th / 388th / 389th / 390th / 391st / 392nd / 393rd / 394th / 395th / 396th / 397th / 398th / 399th / 400th / 401st / 402nd / 403rd / 404th / 405th / 406th / 407th / 408th / 409th / 410th / 411st / 412nd / 413th / 414th / 415th / 416th / 417th / 418th / 419th / 420th / 421st / 422nd / 423rd / 424th / 425th / 426th / 427th / 428th / 429th / 430th / 431st / 432nd / 433rd / 434th / 435th / 436th / 437th / 438th / 439th / 440th / 441st / 442nd / 443rd / 444th / 445th / 446th / 447th / 448th / 449th / 450th / 451st / 452nd / 453rd / 454th / 455th / 456th / 457th / 458th / 459th / 460th / 461st / 462nd / 463rd / 464th / 465th / 466th / 467th / 468th / 469th / 470th / 471st / 472nd / 473rd / 474th / 475th / 476th / 477th / 478th / 479th / 480th / 481st / 482nd / 483rd / 484th / 485th / 486th / 487th / 488th / 489th / 490th / 491st / 492nd / 493rd / 494th / 495th / 496th / 497th / 498th / 499th / 500th / 501st / 502nd / 503rd / 504th / 505th / 506th / 507th / 508th / 509th / 510th / 511st / 512nd / 513th / 514th / 515th / 516th / 517th / 518th / 519th / 520th / 521st / 522nd / 523rd / 524th / 525th / 526th / 527th / 528th / 529th / 530th / 531st / 532nd / 533rd / 534th / 535th / 536th / 537th / 538th / 539th / 540th / 541st / 542nd / 543rd / 544th / 545th / 546th / 547th / 548th / 549th / 550th / 551st / 552nd / 553rd / 554th / 555th / 556th / 557th / 558th / 559th / 560th / 561st / 562nd / 563rd / 564th / 565th / 566th / 567th / 568th / 569th / 570th / 571st / 572nd / 573rd / 574th / 575th / 576th / 577th / 578th / 579th / 580th / 581st / 582nd / 583rd / 584th / 585th / 586th / 587th / 588th / 589th / 590th / 591st / 592nd / 593rd / 594th / 595th / 596th / 597th / 598th / 599th / 600th / 601st / 602nd / 603rd / 604th / 605th / 606th / 607th / 608th / 609th / 610th / 611st / 612nd / 613th / 614th / 615th / 616th / 617th / 618th / 619th / 620th / 621st / 622nd / 623rd / 624th / 625th / 626th / 627th / 628th / 629th / 630th / 631st / 632nd / 633rd / 634th / 635th / 636th / 637th / 638th / 639th / 640th / 641st / 642nd / 643rd / 644th / 645th / 646th / 647th / 648th / 649th / 650th / 651st / 652nd / 653rd / 654th / 655th / 656th / 657th / 658th / 659th / 660th / 661st / 662nd / 663rd / 664th / 665th / 666th / 667th / 668th / 669th / 670th / 671st / 672nd / 673rd / 674th / 675th / 676th / 677th / 678th / 679th / 680th / 681st / 682nd / 683rd / 684th / 685th / 686th / 687th / 688th / 689th / 690th / 691st / 692nd / 693rd / 694th / 695th / 696th / 697th / 698th / 699th / 700th / 701st / 702nd / 703rd / 704th / 705th / 706th / 707th / 708th / 709th / 710th / 711st / 712nd / 713th / 714th / 715th / 716th / 717th / 718th / 719th / 720th / 721st / 722nd / 723rd / 724th / 725th / 726th / 727th / 728th / 729th / 730th / 731st / 732nd / 733rd / 734th / 735th / 736th / 737th / 738th / 739th / 740th / 741st / 742nd / 743rd / 744th / 745th / 746th / 747th / 748th / 749th / 750th / 751st / 752nd / 753rd / 754th / 755th / 756th / 757th / 758th / 759th / 760th / 761st / 762nd / 763rd / 764th / 765th / 766th / 767th / 768th / 769th / 770th / 771st / 772nd / 773rd / 774th / 775th / 776th / 777th / 778th / 779th / 780th / 781st / 782nd / 783rd / 784th / 785th / 786th / 787th / 788th / 789th / 790th / 791st / 792nd / 793rd / 794th / 795th / 796th / 797th / 798th / 799th / 800th / 801st / 802nd / 803rd / 804th / 805th / 806th / 807th / 808th / 809th / 810th / 811st / 812nd / 813th / 814th / 815th / 816th / 817th / 818th / 819th / 820th / 821st / 822nd / 823rd / 824th / 825th / 826th / 827th / 828th / 829th / 830th / 831st / 832nd / 833rd / 834th / 835th / 836th / 837th / 838th / 839th / 840th / 841st / 842nd / 843rd / 844th / 845th / 846th / 847th / 848th / 849th / 850th / 851st / 852nd / 853rd / 854th / 855th / 856th / 857th / 858th / 859th / 860th / 861st / 862nd / 863rd / 864th / 865th / 866th / 867th / 868th / 869th / 870th / 871st / 872nd / 873rd / 874th / 875th / 876th / 877th / 878th / 879th / 880th / 881st / 882nd / 883rd / 884th / 885th / 886th / 887th / 888th / 889th / 890th / 891st / 892nd / 893rd / 894th / 895th / 896th / 897th / 898th / 899th / 900th / 901st / 902nd / 903rd / 904th / 905th / 906th / 907th / 908th / 909th / 910th / 911st / 912nd / 913th / 914th / 915th / 916th / 917th / 918th / 919th / 920th / 921st / 922nd / 923rd / 924th / 925th / 926th / 927th / 928th / 929th / 930th / 931st / 932nd / 933rd / 934th / 935th / 936th / 937th / 938th / 939th / 940th / 941st / 942nd / 943rd / 944th / 945th / 946th / 947th / 948th / 949th / 950th / 951st / 952nd / 953rd / 954th / 955th / 956th / 957th / 958th / 959th / 960th / 961st / 962nd / 963rd / 964th / 965th / 966th / 967th / 968th / 969th / 970th / 971st / 972nd / 973rd / 974th / 975th / 976th / 977th / 978th / 979th / 980th / 981st / 982nd / 983rd / 984th / 985th / 986th / 987th / 988th / 989th / 990th / 991st / 992nd / 993rd / 994th / 995th / 996th / 997th / 998th / 999th / 1000th~~
200 feet long and parallel to the reef. Dock is about forty feet wide with a small storehouse on it. Minimum depth at low tide is at western end of dock - 20 feet, water deepens rapidly away from dock. A coral causeway or jetty has been constructed some half mile east of the dock from the shore to deep water at the edge of the reef. Ships boats can unload here. Another jetty is being constructed off the site of the Mine Depot some 3/4 of a mile further east. In the south eastern end of the harbor a channel, navigable from two hours before to two hours after high tide for tank lighters or smaller boats, leads to a sand beach
(f) beach which can be reached by road. One other sand beach near first causeway (called YELLOW CAUSEWAY) can be used for about an hour before and after high tide. Shifted berth to dock at 1200 and commenced unloading from #4 and #5 holds (Others cannot be worked because dock is too short) Ships boats unloading Dutch ships. Transports unloading men and equipment to YELLOW causeway via their boats. ALHENA picked as first to go alongside because of large number of trucks on board and consequent light draft. Unloading to continue 24 hours a day till all trucks are out.

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

10 - 11/6 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 10:50

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCES S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~/- ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above Changed to Zone minus 12.32 time at 1700.
Date changed to 11 May

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000
 NUKUALOFA HARBOR

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons _____

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued working after holds. Crew operating winches and slings, Army furnishing stevedores in holds and on dock. Work progressing rapidly. At noon shifted aft and started working forward holds. Considerable material and equipment must be worked out to get at trucks which are located throughout all holds with general cargo in and around them. Ship is not combat loaded. Ships boats (3 Higgins tank lighters, 1 Higgins ramp boat and 6 Higgins surf boats) are working Dutch ships. Transports continue unloading to YELLOW causeway using their own boats.

(f) Orders and decisions..

Must leave dock at 0600 tomorrow in order to let ELLIOTT alongside. ELLIOTT and NEVILLE must leave as soon as possible for WELLINGTON where they will join their division for training. This ship has been assigned to the Second division of the Amphibious Force, Pacific, to report when this operation is completed. Will be about 2/3 unloaded by volume and 1/2 half by displacement when we leave dock.

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

12 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons At 1330 USS RAMAPO stood in and anchored.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

At 0600 completed unloading trucks, left the dock and anchored in berth previously assigned. Discontinued unloading and sent all boats to unload Dutch ships. Crew went to PANGIAMOTU ISLAND for recreation ; one section in the morning and one section in the afternoon. USS ELLIOTT went alongside dock to unload.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

13 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCES S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above At 0900 USS MUGFORD STOOD OUT for patrol duty.
At 1400 MUGFORD stood in and USS SELFRIDGE stood out for patrol.

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR.

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons _____

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Unloading cargo via ships boats. Working from two hours before
~~high tide till two hours after high tide with boats landing at~~
BEACON DOG(South east end of harbor) During the remainder of the day
~~all boats landing cargo from Dutch ships at YELLOW CAUSEWAY. Dutch~~
ships have numerous sectional pontoons similar to the one tested by
~~this ship in August. These are being assembled as fast as they can be~~
taken ashore but it is a slow job. Assembly is complicated and parts
~~are not stowed so that they are easily accessible.~~

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

14 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BA KER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER #5-42

(c) Changes in above

At 0630 USS SELFRIDGE stood ~~in/and/anchored.~~ out.

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons _____

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued unloading at high tide. Ships boats working Dutch ships
at other times. 48 troops remained on board to act as stevedores.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

15 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E.PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER #5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons _____

USS ALMAACK went alongside dock to commence unloading.
~~after the ELLIOTT had anchored in the harbor again.~~

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Unloading via ships boats at high tide. Boats working Dutch ships
~~remainder of the day. During the forenoon the following ships of the~~
~~us Navy stood in and anchored: YORKTOWN PORTLAND CHESTER AYLWIN RUSSELL~~
~~MORRIS ANDERSON and HAMMAN. In the afternoon the USS ASTORIA and~~
~~SELFRIDGE stood in and anchored.~~

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

16 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

reasons At 0800 USS SELFRIDGE stood in and anchored. During the
fo renoon the following ships stood in and anchored; HMS KANEMBIA (aux.
cruiser) USS HUNTER LIGGETT JOHN D. FORD AND JOHN D. EDWARDS; The Dutch
ship MAERSUYCKR and the American SSPHILLIP LIVINGSTONE. At 1300 the
USS MUGFORD AND BAGLEY stood in and anchored.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued unloading at high tide - working the Dutch ships
during the rest of the day.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

17 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

reasons At 0845 the USS RAMAPO stood out. At 0930 the Dutch ship
TJISDANE (~~missing ship of convoy~~) stood in and anchored. The USS
ALMAACK left the dock to permit the PHILLIP LIVINGSTONE TO GO along-
side and ~~unload aeroplanes and equipment~~ . At 1650 the HMS KANIMBLA
stood out. contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

18 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
202
UNIT _____

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER #5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons During the forenoon the USS J.D.FORD, J.D.EDWARDS and the

~~KANAWAH~~ stood out. In the afternoon the MUGFORD AND MONTGOMERY stood in.
~~The KANAWAH stood in at noon and started fueling the cruisers.~~

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Started unloading the ship throughout the day using both the YELLOW
CAUSEWAY and the beach at BEACON DOG, the transports having completed
unloading.

(f) Orders and decisions..

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

19 May 1942

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S E PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT _____ 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER #5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Position	0800	1200	2000
	NUKUALOFA HARBOR		

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs Speed Weather

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
During the forenoon the USS MUGFORD BAGLEY RUSSELL and
reasons MORBISS stood out. At 1245 the USS RANIER McCRAWL and KASKASKIA
stood in. During the afternoon the USS YORKTOWN ASTORIA CHESTER
PORTLAND BARNETT ELLIOTT and KANAWAH stood out.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued unloading by boat.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

20 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

reasons At 0600 the USS SELFRIDGE DOBBIN nad KASKASKIA

stood out. The SS PHILLIP LIVINGSTON completed unloading and left
the dock THE USS ALMAACK went alonside to complete unloading.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued unloading via ships boats.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

21 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12.32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E. PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLAN = ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
	NUKUALOFA HARBOR		

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs Speed Weather

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
At 0815 USS KASKAIA JOHN D. FORD and JOHN D. EDWARDS
reasons stood out to sea. At 0845 the USS GRIDLEY and
TIPPECANOE stood in and anchored.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued unloading cargo via boats to beaches and causeway.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

22 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12;32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE S.E.PACIFIC Current Task Force CONVOY BAKER TARE
UNIT 202

(b) OPERATION PLANV - ORDER # 5-42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR TONGA ISLANDS

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons USS ALHENA and ALMAACK reported to CINCPAC and COMPHIBFOR

PAC for duty in DIV TWO of the PACIFIC AMPHIBIOUS FORCE in
accordance with instructions from OPNAV.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

USS ALMAACK and ALHENA compleyed unloading. ALMAACK left the dock
at 1700 and anchored in the harbor. ALHENA hoisting boats, securing
booms and hatches etc.in preparation for getting underway.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

23 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12;32

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE PACIFIC FLEET Current Task Force AMPHIBFOR

UNIT DIV TWO

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~? ORDER CINCPAC DESPATCH 222250 of May '42

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion 0800 1200 2000

NUKUALOFA HARBOR, TONGATABU, TONGA ISLANDS.

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with reasons

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Continued pre parations for sea.

(f) Orders and decisions..

CINCPAC DESPATCH 222250 (May) directed ALHENA, and ALMAACK to

proceed to SAN DIEGO via a specified route and speed and upon arrival

to report to COMAMPHIBFORPAC for duty in TRANSDIV TWO. Despatch recei

ved at about 1500 local time. Departure set for 0700 24th to
collect passengers and mail.

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

24 - 23 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time minus 12:32 plus 11

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE PACIFIC FLEET Current Task Force AMPHIBFOR
UNIT TRANSDIV TWO

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER CINCPAC DESPATCH 222250 (May)

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
	LEAVING NUKALOFA	SOUTHWARD OF	20-53 S
	<u>HARBOR</u>	<u>EVU ISLAND</u>	<u>173-04 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon _____ miles

Cs _____ Speed _____ Weather _____.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons Steaming astern of ALMAACK at 15 knots. under escort of
USS BAGLEY

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Cleared NUKUALOFA HARBOR via LAHI CHANNEL (underway at 0700) and
stood to the southward around TONGATABU ISLAND . Escort turned back
at 1000. Increased speed to 16 knots and commenced zigzagging on
prescribed base course. At 1100 set clocks to zone plus 11 time
and changed date to 23 May. Ceased ZZ at 2110

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42
24 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 11

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE PACIFIC FLEET Current Task Force AMPHIBFOR
UNIT TRANSDIV TWO

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER CINCPAC DESPATCH 222250 (May)

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
LAT	<u>19-57 S</u>	<u>19-40 S</u>	<u>18-53 S</u>
LONG	<u>169-50 W</u>	<u>168-50 W</u>	<u>167-11 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 370 miles

Cs 072 Speed 15.4 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with reasons _____

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Zigzagging by day and during bright moonlight.

This ship has four fifty calibre machine guns and eight 30 calibres.

ALMAACK has one 5", four # 3" and some fifties.

We also carry a full assortment of rifles and pistols.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

25 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 10-25

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE PACIFIC FLEET Current Task Force AMPHIBFOR
UNIT TRANS DIV TWO

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER CINCPAC DESPATCH 222250 (May)

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
LAT	17-07 S	16-33 W	15-27 S
Long	164-35 W	163-44 W	162-12 W

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 347 miles

Cs 058 Speed 14.4 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with reasons _____

Set clocks to zone plus 10 time at 1700

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Z igzagging by day and during bright moonlight.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

26 May 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 10

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE PACIFIC FLEET Current Task Force AMPHIBFOR
UNIT TRANS DIV TWO

(b) OPERATION ~~PLAN~~ - ORDER CICPAC DESPATCH 222250 (May)

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	<u>13-43 S</u>	<u>13-07 S</u>	<u>11-58 S</u>
Long	<u>159-47 W</u>	<u>158-58 W</u>	<u>157-23 W</u>

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 345 miles

Cs 053 Speed 144 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with reasons
Set clocks to zone plus 09-40 time at 1700

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Zigzagging by day and during bright moonlight.

(f) Orders and decisions..

S E C R E T

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

~~27 May~~ 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 09-40

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE PACIFIC FLEET Current Task Force AMPHIBFOR

UNIT TRANSDIV TWO

(b) OPERATION ~~PRAM~~ - ORDER CINCPAC DESPATCH 222250 (May)

(c) Changes in above

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
LAT	9-33 S	08-41 S	06-57 S
LONG	155-22 W	154-39 W	153-21 W

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 370 miles

Cs 044 Speed 15.4 Weather Excellent.

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with

reasons Ceased zigzagging having cleared the bottleneck
passageway north of the MARQUESAS. Increased speed to 17 knots to make
good 15 along track. Ships are light and head winds north of the
equator will hold us up. Also nearly all current will be against us.

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces.

Took station 15 degrees on the starboard quarter of ALMAACK
to clear her screw current. Manning the four 50 calibre guns
from an hour before sunrise till sunrise then securing two of them.
AA and S/M lookouts posted continuously.

(f) Orders and decisions..

Changed to zone plus 09-20 time at 1700

SECRET

Ref: Lantfleet Letter
7L-42

U.S.S. ALHENA

DATE	28 May 1942	29 May 1942	30 May 1942	31 May 1942
ZONE TIME	plus 09-20	plus 09-00	plus 08-40	plus 08-25
CHANGED AT 1700 TO	plus 09-00	plus 08-40	plus 08-25	plus 08-10
0800 LATITUDE	04-22 S	00-33 N	05-29 N	10-32 N
LONGITUDE	151-25 W	147-27 W	143-41 W	140-01 W
1200 LATITUDE	03-31 S	01-28 N	06-22 N	11-17 N
LONGITUDE	150-42 W	146-46 W	143-00 W	139-22 W
2000 LATITUDE	01-58 S	03-07 N	08-00 N	12-38 N
LONGITUDE	149-27 W	145-44 W	141-44 W	138-01 W
NOON TO NOON				
COURSE	038	038	037	037
RUN	389	381	372	367
SPEED	16.4	16	15.5	15.5
WEATHER	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

COMMENTS

After crossing the equator picked up the NE trades blowing quite freshly. Ships being light, are making leeway and losing speed. Trimmed down by the bow to keep from pounding. Had to increase speed one turn to hold position, as a result. We are making turns for 17 knots (5 turns equals one knot, roughly).

	Draft Forward	Draft Aft
Leaving NUKUALOFA	7' 10"	21' 06"
After trimming	8' 11"	20' 02"

As a result of our drag we are making turns for from four to seven tenths of a knot less than the ALMAACK.

Turned over all spare G.S.K., canteen and small stores, with surplus food, to ships in harbor before leaving. Kept sufficient for six weeks cruise on board.

At

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

WAR DIARY

U.S.S.ALHENA

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER

TO: CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
(OFFICE OF NAVAL RECORDS
AND LIBRARY)

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

Ref; Lantfleet Ltr.7L-42

USS ALHENA

DATE	1 June 1942	2 June 1942	3 June 1942	4 June 1942
ZONE TIME	plus 08-10	plus 07-50	plus 07-30	plus 07-15
CHANGED AT 1700 TO	plus 07-50	plus 07-30	plus 07-15	plus 07-00
0800 LATITUDE	14-48 N	19-05 N	23-39 N	27-50 N
LONGITUDE	135-57 W	131-10 W	126-42 W	122-21 W
1200 LATITUDE	15-30 N	19-53 N	24-15 N	28-16 N
LONGITUDE	135-05 W	130-24 W	125-55 W	121-37 W
2 000 LATITUDE	16-55 N	21-20 N	25-36 N	29-10 N
LONGITUDE	133-37 W	128-52 W	124-33 W	120-37 W
NOON TO NOON				
COURSE	045	046	043	043
RUN	358	377	360	335
SPEED	15.0	15.7	15.0	14.0
WEATHER	Excellent.	Excellent, with passing showers		

COMMENTS Received notice from Com 11 that a destroyer escort would meet us 165 miles south west of San Diego at 0600 on 5 June. On 3 June slowed to 16 knots and started zigzagging during daylight. On 4 June, being some 60 miles ahead of schedule, slowed to 12 knots and continued zigzag. At 1000 4 June sighted a strange vessel bearing 330 over the horizon. Looked like a destroyer. Manned all four .50 calibre guns and the Lyle (line-throwing) cannon. Vessel identified as fishing boat "NORMANDIE", 600 tons, of San Diego. At 1200 sighted a lone flying boat bearing south. Went to general quarters. Plane identified as friendly Catalina on patrol. ~~which~~ Circled us two or three times and made off to the northward.

Enroute TONGATABU to SAN DIEGO in company with USS ALMAACK. Ships unescorted and light with no ballast.

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

Ref: Lantfleet Letter 7L-42

5 June 1942

U.S.S. ALHENA

Zone Time plus 7

(a) MAJOR TASK FORCE Amphibfor Pac Current Task Force _____
UNIT _____

(b) OPERATION PLAN - ORDER Cincpac 222250/May

(c) Changes in above _____

(d) Postion	0800	1200	2000
Lat	30-49N	31 -50 N	
Long	118-53 W	118- 15 W	

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 270 miles

Cs 38 Speed 11.3 Weather Overcast

(e) Changes in disposition, formation and composition with
reasons At 0545 increased speed from 11 to 16 knots . Escort
not being sighted laid course for San Diego and continued at this speed.
At 0745 sighted friendly patrol plane

Contacts, operations, information of own and enemy forces
At 1630 hove too off San Diego whistle bouy and took pilot aboard.
He had orders to put ship alongside "B" Street dock. All boats docking
are placed bow to stream in order to facilitate clearing the harbor
in case of a raid. Ship secured at 1800. Made arrangements for fuel
and provisions . Reported by phone to Captain Braisted's (Div. Comdr.)
office (Marine Base). No repairs required, ship ready for sea upon
receipt of fuel and stores. Placed on 48 hours notice and told to
proceed with boiler cleaning on that basis. Made arrangements for

(f) Orders and decisions..
necessary calls in the morning and gave estimate of five days to load
if cargo could be supplied in order of stowage required. Granted over-
night liberty and set AA gun watches in connection with harbor de-
fense plans. Ready to get underway with one boiler on two hours notice.

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

U S S ALHENA

6 June 1942.

Moored port side to "B" Street pier, San Diego, Calif. Taking on fuel and stores. Called on Commander Amphibious Force Pacific Fleet, and reported for duty. Com mander Transports Amphibious Force (also Com Trans Div Two) was present and took my report at the same time. Vessel is to be partially loaded and may participate in scheduled exercises off La Jolla next week. To continue boiler cleaning on a 48 hour ready status.

7 June.

Moored as before. Cleaning one boiler; other machinery ready to get underway on two hours notice. Loading stores. Planning the loading of Marine cargo.

8 June.

Moored as before. Loading stores. Marine equipment started coming aboard slowly during the afternoon. Ship will participate in the landing exercises only to the extent of furnishing tank lighters. Work is to be started on mounting a broadside gun aft. No definite availability set but work to progress on a basis of "do what you can now."

9 June.

Moored as before. Loading stores and Marine equipment. Finished one boiler and started the other. Approved plans for after gun platform. Workmen and material came aboard in the afternoon. No 5" gun available, but a 4" can be stolen from the Santa Barbara armory. (Platform being built for a five however) It now seems that some 20mm guns are available and a request has gone into the Bureau for allocation of eight to this vessel.

10 June.

Moored as before. Loading of Marine equipment proceeding slowly. work progressing on after gun platform. Plans approved for 20mm layout. Apparently we are to be here longer than was at first anticipated as they now talk of mounting the three inch guns.

11 June.

Moored as before. Loading of Marine equipment nearly at a standstill. A truck comes down every hour or so. Tank lighters will go out this evening to participate in the landing exercises tomorrow and Saturday. Nothing definite on the 3" yet, though plans have been drawn up in anticipation. Work progressing on 4" platform and bridge 20mm layout.

12 June. Ship will go to Destroyer Base Monday where work will start on the forward platform of the 3" .4" and 20mm work being done by civilian workmen under contract. No more work is being laid out than can be completed in next 72 hours as far as the 20mm guns is concerned.

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

U S S S A L H E N A

12 June(cont.)

I do not wish to be sent to sea without any AA protection. The 4" gun will require at least two more weeks to complete in it's entirety though gun may be mounted in less time than that.

13 June

Moored as before. Boiler cleaning completed. Marine equipment still dribbling in. Tank lighters returned from landing operations. Turned in all but two landing boats to the Destroyer Base and received 15 new ramp boats with appropriate spares. Sent crews out to practise landings on North Beach, North Island. Ruined two propellers.

14 June.

Moored as before. Work progressing on 4" and 20 mm installations.

15 June.

Shifted berth to the Destroyer Base. Called on Commanding Officer. Base workmen started on forward 3" gun platforms. Guns not yet assigned. Have approved plans for after 3" platforms and 20mm layout. Work still being done on the basis of "nail down what you can in the next 72 hours". Starboard 20mm bridge guns far enough along to warrant removing port .50 calibre guns and work has started on enlarging those shields to take the 20mm guns. Boat crews training outside.

16 June.

Moored at the Destroyer Base. Work now progressing forward aft and amidships. Ammunition ordered for the 4" and 3" guns. 20mm ammunition on board. Work also started on a temporary 4" magazine aft. Boat crews training outside.

17 June.

Mopred as before. Ship has been placed on 24 hours notice again. Work being rushed on securing the 4" gun in place. No splinter shields have yet arrived. Starboard 2-mm shields tacked in place and guns secured. .50 calibre guns are being retained for location on boat deck if necessary. 4" ammunition received. No definite sailing orders yet but presumed to be noon tomorrow. Last minute Marine equipment coming with a rush. Ship is about one half loaded by weight, about two thirds by volume.

18 June.

Moored as before. Sailing orders cancelled. Marines unloading some of their gear. Troops ordered to leave the ship but orders cancelled. Work going ahead on all gun platforms and the 3" and 20mm platform aft started. This is an extension of the 4" platform but the work is under contract to another firm to expedite construction. Confusion is rampant.

19 June.

Re-loading the Marine equipment which was taken off yesterday.

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

U S S ALHENA

20 June.

Moored at the Destroyer Base, San Diego. Partially loaded with Marine equipment on a convoy basis. Work in progress as follows;
 Forward; Platform for two 3" guns on forecastle - work by Base crew.
 Bridge ; Enlargement of .50 calibre shields to take 20mm guns and installation of guns - contract work by Standard Iron Works of San Diego.

Aft ; Installation of 4" platform on fantail - work by Standard Iron Works of San Diego.
 Installation of 3" and 20mm platform (extension forward of 4" platform) - work by National Iron Works of San Diego.
 Converting Navigators storeroom to a 4" magazine - work by the Standard Iron Works.

Work is still proceeding on a catch as can basis as ship is now on 72 hours notice. The 3" guns have now been allocated by the Bureau.

21 June.

Moored as before . Work progressing slowly.

22 June.

Moored as before. Work going ahead satisfactorily. Boat crews training outside. Fewer propellers being broken.

23 June.

Moored as before. Crews training outside. Work progressing.

24 June.

Moored as before. Crews training outside. Work progressing.
 Rumors of more Marine heavy equipment to come on board. Lower hold #3 will have to be broken out and restowed if this is true.

25 June.

Moored as before. Crews training outside. Work progressing.
 Cannot get confirmation or denial of more equipment. Have ordered an extra months provisions and 300 drums of gas as I hate to see so much cargo space going to waste. Can use this anywhere we go.

26 June.

Moored as before. Three inch guns and shields mounted forward. All 20mm guns mounted amidships(4). Prefabricated platforms for 3" and 20mm being welded down aft. 4" gun secured and shield tacked in place. 3" ammunition not yet received. Has been shipped from Mare Island but is lost enroute. Conference of skippers to discuss tactics if ships should be ordered out over week end. All boats placed on 48 hours notice again. Division Commander(Comtransports)will not go . Captain Kiland (Crescent City)to be Convoy Commodore.

C O N F I D E N T I A L
U S S ALHENA

27 June.

Moored as before. 3" job forward finished. Welding continues on 4" ,3" and 20mm platform aft. 20mm bridge job nearly done. 3" ammunition still lost between here and Mare Island. Securing .50 cal. guns on four corners of boat deck as additional protection in case 3" do not pan out. Splinter shields for after 3" and 20mm guns not yet received. # 4" magazine completed and 4" platform should be done tomorrow.

28 June.

Moored as before. Welders working on strengthening #3 hatch boards to carry tanks while they are waiting for splinter shields aft. Received word about 2000 that ship would sail the 30th.

29 June .

Moored as before. Heavy Marine equipment pouring in. Breaking out lower 3# hold and restowing it to take the amphibious tanks. Late this afternoon received word that ship is to fill up with gasoline, before sailing. Welding still going on but mostly on fantail while loading of gas will be forward. Obtained permission to stay alongside till 0600 1 JULY to finish as much work as possible .

30 July.

Moored as before. Splinter shields received. Securing straight sections and rolling curved sections. Hatch boards finished. 20mm secured aft. 3" aft landed and temporarily secured. Have secured the last two of the allowed 20mm guns and am locating them on the forecastle wings, port and starboard. Worked till midnight loading six heavy trucks, eleven amphibious tanks and 1500 drums of gasoline. Could have taken more if time permitted but had to knock off and start hoisting boats. Hatches secured and twenty landing boats hoisted on deck at 0530 Wednesday morning. Straight sections of splinter shield secured aft. Curved sections not received in time. 3" ammunition still lost. Have requested that it be sent on when it arrives. Have no operation nor sortie orders. Operating under verbal orders to join CRESCENT CITY, PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT JACKSON and PRESIDENT HAYES as convoy, under escort of TASK FORCE EIGHTEEN bound for the South West Pacific. Only known rendezvous Lat 00 - 00 Long 155-00 W. Conference of Convoy captains this morning to discuss final tactical plans, signals, conditions of readiness etc. Operations officers of ComTask For 18 gave us rough sketches of proposed formations to be used. Mr. Higgins (of Higgins Industries - surf boats) sat in on conference for a short while and verbally outlined some quite extensive alterations proposed to make the boats safe for use on coral beaches. Trying to get 6500 board feet of 1x12 oak before sailing!

[Handwritten signature]

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

Reference;
Pacific Fleet Letter 11L-42

U S S ALHENA

1 July 1942.

Moored at the Destroyer Base, San Diego, Cal. securing hatches and boats for sea, and working on the installation of the ships guns. At 0600 the workmen left the ship and tugs worked the ship into the stream. At 0645 dropped the pilot and stood out to sea in accordance with verbal orders from Commander Transports Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet to join the convoy consisting of USS CRESCENT CITY, USS PRESIDENT ADAMS, USS PRESIDENT JACKSON and USS PRESIDENT HAYES. This convoy, Captain Kiland USN, Convoy Commander, is under verbal orders to sail for the South West Pacific under escort of Task Force Eighteen composed (for this operation) of the USS WASP, USS SAN JUAN, USS QUINCEY, USS STARETT, USS FARENHOLT, USS WILSON, USS BUCHANON, USSAARON WARD and, USS STACK and USS LANG.

Convoy formed off the sea bouy at 1000 and under escort of the STARETT, WILSON, FARENHOLT AND BUCHANON stood to sea for a rendezvous with the remaining vessels of Task Force Eighteen at 1800. Zigzagging was commenced after clearing the swept channel and continued after the heavy ships of the Force had taken their station in cruising formation.

No operation order received - no destination given. All ships of Convoy furnished with a sketch of the cruising formations to be used and copies of Com Task For Sixteen's Cruising, Operating and Communication Instructions which are being used by Task For Eighteen.

Spent the afternoon in cleaning ship, stationing and training gun crews on the new guns (all guns new) and in carrying out emergency drills.

Weather cold and overcast with occasional fog. Sea smooth. Speed 15.

Noon position Lat 32-26 N Long 117-53 W.

Ship is convoy loaded, principally with gasoline in drums, vehicles, amphibious tanks and landing boats:- 2 Tare, 15 Tare Roger, 3 William Love and 11 Zed Affirm.

Splinter shields on the after 3" guns were not completed nor did any of the 3" ammunition arrive from Mare Island prior to sailing. Ships force is completing the securing of the 3" inch guns aft and all ready boxes. A welding machine would come in handy.

Draft forward 20', aft 21'3". (Draft to Plimsoll mark is 27'.) Ship seven months out of dock and fouled from three weeks in San Diego during the growing season of the local sea worms.

Zone Plus 7 time in use. 2000 position;

Lat 31-48 N

Long 119-48 W

45589

7/1/42 - 7/25/42

Reference;
Pacflt Letter 11L-42

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	2 JULY 1942	3 JULY 1942	4 JULY 1942	5 JULY 1942
ZONE TIME	plus 07	plus 07	plus 07	plus 07-30
CHANGED AT 2230 TO			plus 07-30	plus 08

0800				
LATITUDE	29-41 N	26-06 N	22-17 N	17-48 N
LONGITUDE	122-15 W	126-36 W	131-17 W	134-19 W

1200				
LATITUDE	29-04 N	25-26 N	21-35 N	17-28 N
LONGITUDE	122-55 W	127-10 W	131-42 W	135-00 W

2000				
LATITUDE	27-50 N	24-13 N	20-36 N	16-14 N
LONGITUDE	124-06 W	128-46 W	133-22 W	136-25 W

NOON TO NOON

COURSE	230	227	226	214
RUN	313	330	340	322
SPEED	12.9	13.6	14.1	13.3

WEATHER Cool, overcast

COMMENTS Zigzagging by day and during moonlight periods. Holding general quarters from one hour before sunrise until sunrise. Manning all light anti-aircraft guns continuously. On 2 July sighted Navy Oiler bearing 117, 5 miles distant heading on opposite course. Investigated by one destroyer. Escort picked up sound contact on hydrophones. Went to general quarters and turned away. Secured shortly thereafter and resumed zigzag. On 3 July test fired 20 mm guns.

Reference;
Pacflt Letter 11L-42

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	6 JULY 1942	7 JULY 1942	8 JULY 1942	9 JULY 1942
ZONE TIME	plus 08	plus 08	plus 08-30	plus 09
CHANGED AT 2230 TO		plus 08-30	plus 09	plus 09-30
0800 LATITUDE	14-14 N	10-48 N	07-16 N	03-33 N
LONGITUDE	138-51 W	143-13 W	147-34 W	151-17 W
1200 LATITUDE	13-57 N	10-26 N	06-44 N	03-04 N
LONGITUDE	139-23 W	144-02 W	148-07 W	151-56 W
2000 LATITUDE	12-43 N		05-30 N	02-10 N
LONGITUDE	140-52 W		149-16 W	153-15 W
NOON TO NOON				
COURSE	231	233	227	226
RUN	333	345	329	318
SPEED	13.9	14.4	13.3	13.2
WEATHER	Cool, overcast			

COMMENTS Ziggagging by day and during moonlight periods. On July 6 proof-fired 4" gun and mount. Numerous rain squalls throughout the day, clearing toward evening. July 9 test fired all machine guns.

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

Reference;
Pacflt Letter 11L-42

U S S Alhena

DATE	10 JULY 1942	11 JULY 1942	12 JULY 1942	13 JULY 1942
ZONE TIME	plus 09-30	plus 09-30	plus 09-30	plus 10
CHANGED AT 2230 TO			plus 10	
0800 LATITUDE	00-24 N	01-55 S	05-00 S	09-29 S
LONGITUDE	155-11 W	156-28 W	158-36 W	162-02 W
1200 LATITUDE	00-14 S	02-13 S	05-41 S	09-54 S
LONGITUDE	155-14 W	156-13 W	159-10 W	162-22 W
2000 LATITUDE	01-04 S	02-41 S	07-08 S	11-13 S
LONGITUDE	155-07 W	156-42 W	160-18 W	163-33 W
NOON TO NOON				
COURSE	225	207	220	217
RUN	278	134	271	208
SPEED	11.6	5.58	11.3	8.66
WEATHER	Cool, overcast			

COMMENTS Ziggagging by day and during moonlight periods. 10 July held rendezvous with U.S.S. Tippecanoe. Task group maneuvered by turn signals on order of O.T.C. during this day and July 11, while the CV, CA, and CL fueled. July 13. Long easy swell set in from southward. Wind picked up at sunset. Barometer normal. During forenoon San Juan signalled man overboard. No report of recovery.

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	14 JULY 1942	15 JULY 1942	16 JULY 1942	18 JULY 1942
ZONE TIME	plus 10-30	plus 10-30	plus 11-00	minus 12-30
CHANGED AT 2230 TO		plus 11-00	plus 11-30	
0800 LATITUDE	13-36 S	17-04 S	19-23 S	21-25 S
LONGITUDE	165-02 W	169-09 W	171-56 W	174-21W
1200 LATITUDE	14-19 S	17-32 S	19-34 S	21-30 S
LONGITUDE	165-30 W	169-23 W	171-42 W	175-07 W
2000 LATITUDE	15-43 S	18-13 S	19-55 S	
LONGITUDE	166-33 W	169-41 W	171-38 W	
NOON TO NOON				
COURSE	215	229	228	239
RUN	320	295	175	227
SPEED	13.3	12.3	7.29	9.46

WEATHER Cool, overcast, with considerable rain and wind from the Southeast on the 18th.

COMMENTS Ziggagging by day and during moonlight periods.
14 July. Wind fresh from Southeast, slight chop over confused swells. 15 July destroyers fueled from the CL, CA and CV.
16 July held rendezvous with U.S.S. Kanawha and maneuvered on various courses given by signal from O.T.C. while CV, CL, and CA fueled. Tongatabu announced as first port of call. At 2359, 16 July set clocks to minus 12-30 zone time and changed date to 17 July. 18 July. At 1110 sighted east tangent of Eva Island bearing 024 distance 10 miles. 1630 passed entrance buoy to Nukualofa Harbor. 1723 anchored in berth #28 Nukualofa Anchorage.

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

U S S ALHENA

JULY 19 Anchored as before in berth #28 Nukualofa Harbor. 0400 Wind velocity increased to 30-40 knots. Two yoke boats secured astern came adrift and ran aground on reef. Ship started to drag. Dropped second anchor under foot, veered riding chain and made preparations for getting underway. Wind velocity 50 knots with gusts of 60. Streaming to the anchors as necessary to keep off of reef. Underway at daylight for safer anchorage. Salvaged one boat with but minor damage. Second boat sank in 14 fathoms of water after being towed coral reef.

JULY 20 Anchored as before. Continuing ship's work and gun drills while awaiting further orders. U.S.S. Kanawha came alongside to fuel ship. Took only enough for 30 days at 16 knots because of scarcity.

JULY 21 Anchored as before. Shifted anchorage to berth #12. Continuing ship's work and gun drills.

JULY 22 Anchored as before. Continuing ship's work and gun drills.

JULY 23 Anchored as before. Continuing ship's work and gun drills.

JULY 24 Anchored as before. Obtained 3" ammunition from RANIER. Continuing ship's work and gun drills.

JULY 25 Anchored as before. Ship's of Task Force 16 under Comtaskfor 16 in U.S.S. ENTERPRISE stood in for fuel and stores. 1359 Underway from anchorage in Nukualofa, Tongatabu and standing out to sea on signal from Comtaskfor 16. 1500 Convoy formed off Lahi Passage under the escort of the U.S.S. ENTERPRISE, PORTLAND, ATLANTA, GWIN, MAURY, BALCH, MONSSEN, GRAYSON, ELLET, BENHAM, NORTH CAROLINA, HOGAN, SOUTHARD, HOPKINS and ZANE. Zigzagging was commenced after clearing the passage with the convoy, and continued after the heavy ships had taken their station in cruising formation, with the crew in condition III. No operation orders received. This force enroute for rendezvous with Task Force 62 to conduct landing rehearsals prior to attack on Tulagi. Convoy cruising formation same as that enroute from San Diego.

6

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	26 JULY 1942	27 JULY 1942	28 JULY 1942
ZONE TIME	minus 12	minus 12	minus 12
0800			
LATITUDE	22-39 S	20-00 S	17-08 S
LONGITUDE	178-31 W	179-48 W	179-44 E
1200			
LATITUDE	23-03 S	19-34 S	17-09 S
LONGITUDE	179-27 W	179-56 W	179-25 E
2000			
LATITUDE	22-13 S	18-34 S	17-09 S
LONGITUDE	179-56 W	179-43 E	179-26 E
NOON TO NOON			
COURSE	245	342	260
RUN	269	218	167
SPEED	11.2	9.08	6.9
WEATHER	Warm, overcast		

COMMENTS Ceased zigzagging at 0800 after zigzagging all night. Head sea and wind cut speed during night. 90 miles to 1400 rendezvous. Sighted Task Force 62 at 1300. Division reported to Comtransports for duty. This division less Jackson, designated as Division Dog, (Task group 62.1.4) 1400 Sighted Task Forces 11 and 18 consisting of the following ships; U.S.S. SARATOGA, LOUISVILLE, SALT LAKE CITY, BLUE, WASP, QUINCY, SAN JUAN, WILSON, BUCHANAN, FARENHOLT, STACK, LAND, STARRETT, AARON WARD, ASTORIA, TRANSDIV 12, H.M.A.S. HOBART, CANBERRA, and AUSTRALIA.

JULY 27 Zigzagging by day and during moonlight periods and holding dawn general quarters. 1113 Sighted Matuka Is land bearing 332, distance 30 miles. 1315 Proof fired 3" 50 cal. guns.

JULY 28 Zigzagging during day and moonlight periods. 0630 Set condition II watch. Making various speeds and courses in approach disposition to Transport Area off Koro Island, Fiji Group in preparation for landing exercises. 0921 Set condition IV (condition II modified to permit cargo handling). Started hoisting out all boats and sent them to U.S.S. MCCAWLEY to be used for landing troops on Red Beach, Koro Island. Lying to off Koro Island making various speeds and courses to maintain position. 1530 Commenced hoisting boats. 1807 Hoisted last boat aboard and stood by to take station as last ship in starboard column. Underway, making various speeds and courses in cruising formation in area surrounding Koro Island simulating approach condition.

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	29 JULY 1942	30 JULY 1942	31 JULY 1942
ZONE TIME	minus 12	minus 12	minus 12
0800 LATITUDE	17-10 S		17-10 S
LONGITUDE	179-28 E		179-26 E
1200 LATITUDE	17-10 S	17-09 S	17-10 S
LONGITUDE	179-27 E	179-27 E	179-24 E
2000 LATITUDE	17-17 S	17-10 S	17-21 S
LONGITUDE	179-35 E	179-26 E	179-39 E

NOON TO NOON

COURSE Lying to in Transport Area off Koro Island

RUN

SPEED

WEATHER Warm, overcast

COMMENTS JULY 29 Cruising as before. 0838 Lying to in Transport Area, hoisting out boats for practice landings on Koro Island. Under condition of readiness IV. 1420 All boats aboard, secured from condition IV and set condition III. 1715 Underway to take station in disposition in accordance with signal from O.T.C. Cruising in area surrounding Koro Island. JULY 30 Cruising as before in approach disposition. 0736 Set condition IV: 0820 Lying to, commenced hoisting out boats. 1700 Hoisted all boats aboard. Lying to, in Transport Area off Koro Island. Set condition III watch. JULY 31 Lying to as before. 0830 conducted debarkation exercises in ship's boats for embarked troops. During forenoon transferred 100 drums of gasoline each to the U.S.S. Libra, Alchiba, and Bellatrix. 1700 Underway to take convoy formation in preparation for departure. 1745 Assumed position in convoy as fourth and last ship in fourth section. Enroute to Tulagi-Guadalcanal area operating under Comtask- for 62 Secret Operation order A3-42 Serial 0010 of July 1942.

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

U S S ALHENA

1 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 12

- (a) U.S.SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE TASK GROUP 62.1 TRANSPORT GROUP XRAY
DIVISION DOG (TASK GROUP 62.1.4).
- (b) OPERATION ORDER COMTASKFOR 62 SECRET OPERATION ORDER A3-42 SERIAL
0010 OF JULY 1942.
- (c) NO CHANGES IN ABOVE ORDER.

(d) POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
	18-42 S	19-02 S	19-42 S
	179-41 E	179-15 E	177-56 E

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 166 miles.

Cs 230 Speed 06.9 knots Weather clear, warm.

- (e) Zigzagging by day and during moonlight periods, in cruising formation.
Contacted Task Force 62, which joined the formation during the late
afternoon.
- (f) COMMENTS Test fired all 20 mm and 50 cal. guns.

2 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 12

No changes in above order.

(d) POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
	19-10 S	18-57 S	19-05 S
	174-53 E	174-06 E	172-19 E

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 234 miles

Cs 285 Speed 11.9 knots Weather clear, warm.

- (e) Zigzagging by day and during moonlight periods.
- (f) COMMENTS Set clocks to Zone minus 11.

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

U S S ALHENA

3 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

No changes in previous orders.

(d) POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
	18-20 S	18-12 S	18-11 S
	169-59 E	169-11 E	167-28 E

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 287 miles.

Cs 279 Speed 11.5 knots Weather clear, warm.

(e) Zigzagging by day and during moonlight periods. 1025 U.S.S. Zeilin joined formation. 1520 U.S.S. Betelguese joined formation.

(f) COMMENTS 1255 Sighted Efate Island bearing 310, distance 35 miles. 1723 Destroyer came alongside to deliver U.S. Mail. Army bombers flew over formation to familiarize lookouts with them.

4 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

No changes in previous orders.

(d) POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
	17-25 S	17-18 S	17-03 S
	164-48 E	164- 11 E	162-32 E

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 290 miles.

Cs 281 Speed 11.7 knots Weather clear, warm

(e) Zigzagging by day and during moonlight periods.

(f) COMMENTS 0958 U.S.S. Blue came alongside to fuel. 1303 Blue completed fueling, having received 758 barrels. 1320 U.S.S. Helm came along port side to fuel. 1333 U.S.S. Ramsey came along starboard quarter to deliver guard mail. 1515 Completed fueling Helm; delivered 569 barrels.

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

U S S ALHENA

5 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

No changes in previous orders

(d) POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
	16-47 S	16-36 S	15-08 S
	159-40 E	159-03 E	159-01 E

Course and speed; made good, noon to noon 298 miles.

Cs 278 Speed 11.7 knots Weather clear, warm.

- (e) During the afternoon took approach dispositions and resumed cruising disposition for practice.

6 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

No changes in previous orders.

(d) POSITIONS	0800	1200	2000
	12-49 S	11-54 S	10-29 S
	159-01 E	158-56 E	159-02 E

Cs 358 Speed 11.5 Weather overcast, warm

Course and speed made good, noon to noon 282 miles.

- (e) Zigzagging by day. 1602 Commenced maneuvering into position to for m approach disposition 1629 In position in approach disposition, this ship eighth and last ship in port column, on course 000. 2350 Changed course of disposition to 040.

- (f) COMMENTS Test fired all machine guns.

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

U S S Alhena

7 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

No changes in previous orders.

(d) Positions Approaching Transport Area, Guadalcanal Island until 0645. Lying to thereafter.

(e&f) Steaming in approach disposition, condition III. 0331 Sighted Visale Point on western end of Guadalcanal Island bearing 088, distance 13 1/2 miles. 0355 Sighted Cape Esperance bearing 108, distance 10.8 miles. 0530 Set condition I. 0615 Escorting cruisers and destroyers commenced shelling Japanese positions on Guadalcanal Island, meeting only light opposition from machine gun fire. Our air and screen forces destroyed 18 enemy seaplanes and one schooner. No enemy ships in harbor. 0645 Stopped in assigned position in Transport area off Tenaru River, Guadalcanal, lying to about five miles off shore, and lowered boats into the water, sending them to the McCawley in groups of three when lowered. 0740 Completed lowering boats into the water.

0900 Cruisers and destroyers commenced laying barrage on beach for protection of first wave of landing boats. 0918 Second wave of boats standing in for beach. 1011 Third wave of boats standing in. 1029 Fourth wave standing in. 1125 This ship's boats returning after completing mission. 1130 Moved in to 3500 yards from the beach and anchored in 30 fathoms of water. Commenced hoisting boats aboard.

1325 Sounded general quarters on report that enemy planes were in vicinity. This force attacked by about twenty five enemy type Ninety seven and ten type Ninety nine dive bombers. 1326 Opened fire on large bombers flying at 15,000 feet, using all 3" AA and 20mm guns. 1330 Ceased firing. Set condition II. The bombers approached from the sun, coming in on our port quarter. Some five or six bombs dropped landing about 3000 yards off our port beam (ship heading 100°) Bombers sheered out to port after dropping and disappeared to the eastward. No damage to ship. Apparently none to force. No damage to enemy seen. Landing operations were resumed by others. ALHENA not working any cargo as we are scheduled to depart for Ndeni Island with Transdiv Two to take over Island and set up occupation force according to Comtaskfor 62 Occupation Force Operation Order A4-42. 1500 Opened fire on dive bombers attacking cruisers and destroyers of this force. Enemy dive bomber made hit on U.S.S. Mugford with considerable damage. Two heavy bombers, two dive bombers shot down, two heavy bombers damaged. This ship expended 23 rounds 3" AA and 283 rounds 20mm ammunition during the two raids. 1855 Secured from condition I and set condition III. No casualties or damage.

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

U S S ALHENA

8 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

No changes in previous orders

(d) Anchored as before.

(e & f) 0545 Went to general quarters. 0630 Secured from general quarters and set condition IV. 0700 Set condition II. 1047 Up anchor on signal to repel enemy air attack and sounded general quarters. Squadron maneuvering on signal from Comtaskfor 62. 1200 Enemy bombers attacked this force. Opened fire, using all guns. 1230 Attack ended. Only 12 or 14 two engined heavy bombers were sighted in vicinity of this ship although it is believed that attacking force was fully three times that number. No bombs nor torpedoes were dropped near ALHENA. No strafing. Attack developed from far side of formation. U.S.S. Elliott received hit on deck-house abaft the stack and was left burning badly. U.S.S. Jarvis hit by torpedo. Eight heavy bombers seen to be destroyed. The majority of these were downed after they attacked this force and were escaping by flying about twenty feet above the water. Ammunition expended during attack; 1380 rounds 20mm, 1450 rounds 50 cal., 74 rounds 3". 1310 Secured from general quarters and set condition II. 1401 Went to general quarters on signal to repel enemy attack. Still maneuvering in formation between Florida and Guadalcanal Islands. 1635 Secured from general quarters and set condition II. No casualties or damage. Returned to Transport Area and lay to.

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

U S S ALHENA

9 AUGUST 1942

ZONE TIME minus 11

(c) Received Comtaskfor Secret Despatch 081418 ordering Taskfor 62 to depart Guadalcanal at 0630, 9 August. These departure orders later cancelled by Comtaskfor 62,081923 Secret Despatch.

(d) Laying to as before. 2000 Lat. 9-32 S Long. 160-57 E

(e & f) 0155 Enemy dropped parachute flares over the transport area. Went to general quarters and got under way to clear the transport area. Enemy surface forces attacked our screen with heavy gunfire in the vicinity of Savo Island. 0324 Gunfire having cleared, secured from general quarters, set condition II, and returned to transport area.

0600 Went to dawn general quarters. 0645 Secured from general quarters and set condition III. Elliott burning fiercely throughout night. 0810 Hoisted all boats aboard. 0848 Went to general quarters on signal to repel enemy attack. Squadron maneuvering between Florida and Guadalcanal Islands. Sighted U.S.S. Astoria lying to Southeast of Savo Island, apparently on fire forward.

1113 Stopped and lay to in Transport Area. 1115 Set condition III. 1400 Received signal from Comtransgroup Xray to prepare to get underway. 1515 Underway from Transport Area, Guadalcanal Island, and standing out to sea. Making various speeds and courses to conform with Lenge channel. 1525 Lunga Point bearing 265, Tagoma Point bearing 105. Took cruising formation in Squadron Xray, consisting of U.S.S. Barnett, Libra, Fuller, American Legion, Fomalhaut, Bellatrix, Betelgeuse and Crescent City. Captain Reifsnider in U.S.S. Hunter Liggett, O.T.C. Escort consists of U.S.S. Chicago, four destroyers, five high speed mine sweeps. Destination Noumea. Operating under Comtaskfor 62, Secret Despatch 090215. Comtaskfor 62 Operation Order, Occupation Force Operation Plan A4-42 has apparently been abandoned because part of the Second Marines were needed on Tulagi as reinforcements.

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	10 AUGUST	11 AUGUST	12 AUGUST
ZONE TIME	minus 11	minus 11	minus 11
0800			
LATITUDE	10-17 S	14-06 S	
LONGITUDE	163-04 E	165-12 E	
1200			
LATITUDE	10-54 S	14-44 S	
LONGITUDE	163-23 E	165-35 E	
2000			
LATITUDE	12-07 S	16-16 S	
LONGITUDE	164-07 E	165-51 E	
NOON TO NOON			
COURSE	152	150	
RUN	177	265	
SPEED	7.37	11.04	
WEATHER	Warm, clear.		

COMMENTS 10 August. Steaming in convoy formation in company with Squadron Xray enroute to Espiritu Santo under orders of ComTaskFor 62, Secret Despatch 090215. 1217 freindly unidentified ship sighted bearing 305 distant 25 miles. 11 August. Steaming as before. 0548 sighted transport group Yoke, bearing 087, distance 16 miles. 0903 Maneuvering to join Transport Group Yoke. 1115 Formed cruising disposition. 1220 Commenced zigzagging. At 1800 Transdiv 2 consisting of U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY, PRESIDENT HAYES, PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT JACKSON with an escort of 4 APD's left the convoy in compliance with CTD 2 despatch 100610, and proceeded to Segond Channel, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides. 12 August. Steaming as before in convoy formation in company with TransDiv 2 and escorting APD's. 0545 sighted Malo Island, bearing 053 degrees, distance 33 miles. 0752 set degaussing coils. Made various speeds and courses to conform with the channel and at 1022 picked up pilot. 1224 entered Segond Channel. 1409 anchored off Luganville, Espiritu Santo. 1640 U.S.S. LITTLE came alongside to fuel, took 42,056 gallons and lay alongside all night.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

WEATHER Warm, clear. TIME ZONE Minus 11

COMMENTS 13 August. At 0545 set Condition Ia preparatory to discharging cargo via ship's boats. 0612 LITTLE cleared the side and we shifted anchorage to avoid ship's boats crossing sea-plane landing area. Four ramp boats assisting in discharging SS DEL BRAZIL and PRESIDENT POLK. After anchoring in new berth, USS CALHOUN came alongside to fuel, taking 53,458 gallons. At 1400 again shifted anchorage to a berth opposite our assigned unloading beach. Commenced discharging cargo.

14 August. Continuing unloading this ship and sending boats to SS DEL BRAZIL and POLK.

15 August. Discharging cargo intermittently and sending boats to DEL BRAZIL and POLK. Considerable uncertainty as to orders, cargo desired, etc.

16 August. Discharging cargo from all holds and sending boats to DEL BRAZIL and POLK.

17 August. Discharging cargo into boats from all holds. 0520 Completed unloading no. 5 hold and commenced loading dry stores and ammunition for transfer to Tulagi. CTF 62 Secret Despatch 161901 covers our destination and cargo. We are to be ready by the 20th and must unload in 24 hours. Disembarked the last of our marines to duty ashore.

18 August. Continuing loading dry stores and ammunition, and sending boats to DEL BRAZIL and POLK.

19 August. Continuing loading dry stores and ammunition. U.S.S. MANLEY came alongside to fuel, taking 61,598 gallons. Colonel Arthur and staff with detachment of second marines came aboard for further transportation to Tulagi.

20 August. 0610 cleared the side. 0625 underway from Luganville, Espiritu Santo, with USS HELM as escort, to Rendezvous with U.S.S. FOMALHAUT according to CTF 62 Secret despatch 180330. 1530 joined formation with FOMALHAUT, HENLEY and BLUE and proceeded to Tulagi.

2000

LATITUDE 13-10S
LONGITUDE 165-31E

COURSE 319 SPEED 15.2 RUN 122 miles

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

DATE 21 AUGUST

ZONE TIME minus 11

0800

LATITUDE 10-53 S
LONGITUDE 163-38 E

1200

LATITUDE 10-13 S
LONGITUDE 163-06 E

COURSE 323

RUN 221

SPEED 13.8

WEATHER Warm, clear.

COMMENTS 21 August. Despatch from ComGen Tulagi sent to ComTaskFor 62 recommended that POMAHAUT not attempt to land stores because of tactical situation Guadalcanal, despite the fact that there was only one days food left ashore. C.T.F. 62 directed ALHENA to proceed with escort of BLUE, HENLY, and HELM; turned back to a prescribed rendezvous. POMAHAUT left formation at 2015 and at 2335 BLUE and HENLY ordered by C.T.F. 62 Secret Despatch 210332 to proceed ahead at high speed and assist in operations off Guadalcanal. ALHENA continued with HELM as escort. Received despatch stating that Japanese had landed at Tenaru River and were engaging Marines on Guadalcanal.

22 August. Moonset was at 0214. Located LENGU CHANNEL by hitting 100 fathom curve off eastern end GUADALCANAL and following shoreline. Anchored in Tulagi Harbor at 0650 and commenced discharging cargo immediately. HELM patrolling off entrance. BLUE hit in stern by torpedo from motor torpedo-boat off Langa Point but not sunk. At 2200 completed discharging 1100 tons of cargo. Anchored surfboats on reefs off Tulagi entrance and at 2300 cleared harbor by moonlight, picked up HELM, and left area at high speed. Received message stating Marines had cleaned up landing force of 800 Japanese. HENLEY towing BLUE toward Tulagi.

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

U S S ALHENA

DATE	23 AUGUST	24 AUGUST
ZONE TIME	minus 11	minus 11
0800 LATITUDE	10-01 S	12-45 S
LONGITUDE	161-47 E	163-50 E
1200 LATITUDE	10-01 S	13-12 S
LONGITUDE	162-41 E	164-28 E
2000 LATITUDE	10-52 S	14-09 S
LONGITUDE	163-20 E	165-41 E
RUN	223 (from Channel until 2000)	254 (2000-2000)
SPEED	11.7	10.5
WEATHER	Warm, clear.	

COMMENTS Cleared Lengo Channel at 0130 under escort of HELM and set course down Indispensable Channel. At 0230 sighted and passed FOMALHAUT under escort of STRINGHAM and MANLEY heading in for Lengo Channel. Hope to maintain 15 knot average to arrive Espiritu Santo before dark the 24th, but wind and sea picked up off San Cristobal Island and forced us to slow. Adjusted speed for arrival after daylight the 25th. Ship very light and pounding forward. Planes from our carriers sighted both morning and afternoon. Intercepted message from C.T.F. 62 granting permission for ComDesDiv 7 to scuttle BLUE after she broke adrift.

24 August. Evacuated several sick, wounded and stranded as well as 20 prisoners from Tulagi. Spent day cleaning up ship. Down to 100,000 gallons of fuel oil (3400 miles at 15 knots) and about 3 weeks dry provisions. Running short on stores and canteen stock. Marines on Tulagi raided cigarettes, showers and food. At 1550, 1 SPD-3 from WASP passed close aboard flying low to investigate ship. Engine cut out and plane hit the water off the starboard bow. Both pilot and radioman were rescued. Plane sank before boat could reach it.

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

U S S ALHENA

WEATHER Warm, clear.

ZONE TIME minus 11

25 August. Anchored in Segund Channel at 0730. Prisoners, wounded and passengers transferred ashore. Started cleaning waterline.

26 August. Continued cleaning the ship. Cub One using our boats to unload other ships in the channel.

27 August. Continuing ship's work. Underway during the late afternoon to moor alongside U.S.S.SABINE to take on fuel. 2054 Completed fueling, having received 443,204 gallons.

28 August. Underway from alongside U.S.S.SABINE to assigned anchorage in Segund Channel. 0655 sent all available boats and working party to U.S.S.ALDEBARON to assist in provisioning ship. 1244 secured from provisioning ship, having taken aboard enough food for six to eight weeks for own crew. Due to loss of anchor, U.S.S.HELM moored alongside during late afternoon.

29 August. Continuing ship's work. U.S.S.HELM underway from alongside after borrowing our kedge anchor. Received CTF 62 Secret Despa tch 290815 stating ALHENA would probably go to Roses to load Marine aviation gear, ammunition and dry provisions for Cactus.

30 August. Holiday routine. Cub One continuing working ship's boats.

31 August. Continuing ship's work. Received permission from CTF 62 to clean boilers.. Boiler hours were 1300 and 1600.

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

U S S ALHENA

WEATHER Warm, generally clear.

ZONE TIME minus 11

1 September. Continuing ship's work and cleaning boilers. Commenced painting ship's sides.

2 September. Continuing ship's work.

3 September. Continuing ship's work. During the early morning received ComTaskForce 62 Secret Despatch 020800 forming Task Unit 62.1.8 consisting of ALHENA, BETELGUESE, ZEILIN, HENLEY and HELM, and directing Alhena to proceed in company as far as Roses. On arrival off entrance Fila Harbor proceed independently into harbor to receive Cactus cargo from KITTYHAWK. Remainder Task Unit proceed White Poppy. Received CTF 62 Secret Despatch directing ALHENA leave lighters and all boats, except two, with one coxwain or engineer each boat for temporary use Cub One.

4 September. 0600 underway from Second Channel, Espiritu Santo, in accordance with CTF 62 Secret Despatch 020800. Destination Roses. 0645 formed with ZEILIN AND BETELGUESE; HENLEY and HELM as escorts. Zigzagging in formation. 1634 ALHENA left formation and proceeded independently into Fila Harbor. Remainder of convoy continued enroute White Poppy. We picked up pilot for the mine fields. 1751 dropped anchor and maneuvered ship into position to moor alongside U.S.S. KITTYHAWK. 1842 secured lines to KITTYHAWK.

5 September. Unloading cargo, stores and ammunition from KITTYHAWK, using our booms to work her and also receiving barge loads to assist in the unloading. Received 3000 rounds of tracer and 3000 rounds of 20 mm ammunition from Base Roses. Set clocks ahead to zone time minus 12.

POSITIONS for 4 September.

0800		1200	
LATITUDE	15-50 S	LATITUDE	16-43 S
LONGITUDE	167-28 E	LONGITUDE	168-00 E

0800-1200 RUN 91 miles SPEED 15.1 knots

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

U.S.S. A L H E N A

WEATHER Warm, generally clear. ZONE TIME minus 11

- 6 September. Continuing loading from USS KITTY HAWK. In accordance with CTF 62 Dispatch 030455 two naval officers and five men came aboard for further transportation to Button.
- 7 September. Continuing working cargo, and commenced painting the ship.
8. September. Continuing working cargo.
- 9 September. Continuing working cargo. Received native working party from the shore to assist in loading ship.
- 10 September. Continuing working cargo. Received detachment of Marines for further transportation to Cactus.
- 11 September. Completed loading from USS KITTY HAWK and now awaiting further orders. 1745 USS KITTY HAWK cleared side of ship and stood out to sea.
- 12 September. Spent day painting ship.
- 13 September. Holiday Routine.
- 14 September. Continuing ship's work. Received Secret Dispatch 131405 from CTF 62 ordering us to depart Roses and proceed independently to Button, arriving there at daylight. 1636 Underway from Fila Harbor enroute Button. After clearing the swept channel test-fired all AA guns. 1900 Received Secret Dispatch from ComAirSoPac ordering us to return to Roses and await further instructions. At about the same time intercepted a dispatch from ComAirSoPac ordering all but three ships to evacuate Button because of the impending tactical situation. Commenced making various courses on return to Roses, planning to arrive there at daybreak.
- 15 September. 0637 Sighted Devil Point bearing 071 distance 8.5 miles. 0638 Sighted 13 ships enroute from Button. 0730 picked up pilot before entering minefield. 0851 Passed submarine net. 0909 Anchored in Fila Harbor, Efate, New Hebrides. Five of the 13 ships we sighted earlier put in to Fila Harbor, the remainder continuing to the southward.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA

WEATHER Warm, generally clear. ZONE TIME minus 11.

16 September. Continuing painting ship. Commenced loading Marston mats from SS OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES for transfer to Cactus. Received ComSoPac's dispatch 160212 ordering USS ALHENA, SS BRASTAGI (Du), SS WESTERN SUN and USS GAMBLE as escort to depart Roses during the late afternoon and enter Button after daylight on the Seventeenth. 1630 Made all tests and preparations for getting underway. 2045 Underway from Efate, Fila Harbor with pilot on board for minefields. 2306 Formed into convoy with the SS BRASTAGI (Du), SS WESTERN SUN, SS MORMACSEA.

17 September. Enroute to Button. 1200 Entering Channel; SS MORMACSEA dropped out of formation earlier in day and was covered by USS GAMBLE. 1257 Anchored in Segund Channel and immediately started unloading bombs and torpedoes. A marine working party came aboard to assist in loading equipment and gear for Cactus.

18 September. Continuing working cargo. SS WESTERN SUN moored alongside to unload oil drums and aviation gasoline. A unit of Cub One came aboard for further transfer to Cactus.

19 September. Working all holds with Marine and CubOne gear and unloading SS WESTERN SUN. 0735 SS WESTERN SUN left side of ship. Completed loading this day and now awaiting further orders.

20 September. Holiday Routine.

21 September. Continuing ship's work and holding gunnery drills.

22 September. Continuing ship's work. During the evening the SS OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES moored alongside to discharge Marston mats.

23 September. SS OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES completed discharge and left side of ship.

24 September. 0600 Underway from Segund Channel on CTF 62 orders directing USS ALHENA and USS MONSSEN form task unit six two point four point one and depart Button after daylight, proceeding to Cactus. Held abandon ship drill and test fired 3" AA battery.

POSITIONS for 24 September.

2000
LATITUDE 13-34 S
LONGITUDE 165-14 E

RUN from 1200 110-6 miles SPEED 13.9 knots
COURSE 304

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

WEATHER Warm, generally clear. ZONE TIME minus 11.

25 September

0800

LATITUDE 12-02 S
LONGITUDE 162-40 E

1200

11-20 S
161-51 E

2000

10-05 S
161-05 E

NOON TO NOON

RUN 353 miles COURSE 304 SPEED 14.7 knots

Enroute Cactus. Holding firing practice with AA guns. 2155 Destroyer escort dropped depth charges on a submarine believed to be in our vicinity in Indispensable Strait. The USS MONSSEN observed an oil slick rise to the surface.

26 September. Sighted USS BETELGEUSE and escort at 0038 in Indispensable Strait. We continued up the strait to Lengo Channel, anchoring off Cactus at 0610. Commenced discharging our cargo into boats furnished by N.O.B. Cactus. Passengers left the ship. Making daily unloading progress reports to CTF 62. USS MONSSEN patrolling. 1753 Underway from Cactus in accordance with ComAirSoPac's retirement plan, steaming eastward through Lengo Channel during darkness and returning to Cactus at daylight.

27 September. Anchored at 0610 and continuing unloading. 1340 Underway on signal from shore of impending air raid. Making various zigzag courses with escort. 1400 Eighteen type 97 Mitsibushi enemy bombers appeared from 330 degrees and headed for shore installations at Cactus. Opened fire but the planes were out of range of our guns. 1532 Returned undamaged to Cactus after all clear was given and resumed unloading. 1812 Underway from Cactus for the night.

28 September. Anchored at 0603 and commenced unloading cargo. Received 8 prisoners of war for transportation to Button. 1315 Received air raid warning from the shore and immediately got underway on zigzag courses. 1353 Spotted 25 type 97 bombers and 18 zero fighters coming in from 210 degrees. The planes released their load of bombs over Cactus, but most of the load fell short and landed in the water. USS ALHENA opened fire on the planes. 1356 Ceased firing. The planes disappeared on course 290 degrees. 1500 Returned to the shore and continued unloading. Received 36 sick and wounded for transfer to Button. 1809 Underway for the night.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

WEATHER Warm, generally clear. ZONE TIME minus 11.

29 September

2000

LATITUDE 10-10 S
LONGITUDE 160-57 E

NOON TO 2000

RUN 107 miles COURSE Various SPEED 13.3 knots

0330 USS MONSSEN dropped one depth charge in area in Indispensable Strait and asserted she saw 2 torpedoes pass off her bow and stern. 0604 Anchored and completing unloading. Loading empty gasoline drums on board. 0959 Underway on air raid warning and steering various courses with our escort. All clear given and again anchored at 1100. 1150 Unloading completed. Underway from Cactus enroute Button, taking route south and west of San Cristobal Island. 1344 Went to general quarters on notice of air raid on Cactus. No planes were seen. 1415 Secured from general quarters. Abandon ship drills were held during the afternoon. 1800 Received message from Comar-AirWing stating negative search in Indispensable Strait. 2454 Torpedoed by an unseen vessel. Torpedo hit frame #168 on the starboard side aft, exploded in #5 hold and blew out the plating on the port side of the hold. Steering engine out of commission due to flooding. Main engines stopped because of sprung shaft. Fire broke out in the GSK storerooms and after port crew's compartment. The lower 'tween deck bulkhead between #4 and #5 holds was broken away. Shoring and pumping was begun immediately in #4 hold. The after collision bulkhead was ruptured, flooding the after four inch magazine and lucky bag. The main deck over the explosion was forced up about two feet. The force of the explosion blew fragments of steel bulkhead into the port side living compartment, attributing to many casualties. The USS MONSSEN conducted a fruitless search for the enemy vessel.

30 September. 0000 Underway with no way, drifting to Southwest. 0030 Fire in port compartment and GSK brought under control. 0035 Wounded passengers put into lifeboat and taken to USS MONSSEN. 0200 Attempted to go astern with main engines to check the drift but the engines heated.

Reference
PacFlt Letter 11L-42

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

U.S.S. A L H E N A

WEATHER Warm, generally clear. ZONE TIME minus 11.

30 September (Continued)

0315 Mustered crew. 1 missing, 4 killed, and 20 wounded. 0350 Emergency steering gear rigged and tested; rudder found to be stiff. 0620 Sighted Rennell Island bearing 060 distance 20 miles. 0706 Underway to head into sea to stop drift and pounding. 1300 At Latitude 11-09 S Longitude 161-08 E buried four men at sea. At 1330 Engine raced indicating propellor and engine were disconnected. 1340 Secured #1 boiler after testing the main engine and finding it to be of no use. Drifting rapidly. Continuing sending wounded to USS MONSSEN. 1742 Port sea anchor over the stern. Drift checked to about $\frac{1}{2}$ knot. Continued shoring #4 bulkhead for remainder of the day.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

OCTOBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Warm, generally clear.

DATE	1 OCTOBER	2 OCTOBER	3 OCTOBER
0800			
LATITUDE	11-08 S	11-31 S	11-58 S
LONGITUDE	160-26 E	161-19 E	162-33 E
1200			
LATITUDE	11-04 S		12-02 S
LONGITUDE	160-29 E		162-43 E
2000			
LATITUDE	11-16 S		12-20 S
LONGITUDE	160-51 E		163-22 E
NOON TO NOON			
Course	Drifting to southwest	119	112
RUN	Drifted	32	68
SPEED		2.5	2.8

OCTOBER 1 Hove to using sea anchor, drifting slowing to southwest. U.S.S. MONSSEN standing by. Awaiting assistance from USS NAVAJO. When air coverage arrived, the wind having gone down and sea being flat, passed an 8" manila to USS MONSSEN to see if she could tow us. Could not recover the sea anchor and was forced to cut it adrift. 1520 Sighted USS MEREDITH which was assigned as an additional escort. 1755 Sighted USS GRAYSON and USS GWIN on submarine search. 1845 Received notice that USS NAVAJO would not arrive until following evening. Towing by destroyer having proved feasible, passed 1½" wire to the USS MONSSEN. Emergency steering being used.

OCTOBER 2 Cleaning up ship. 0957 Escorting scout bomber crashed into sea about 2500 yards off starboard beam, USS MEREDITH went to the rescue. During the early afternoon force 5 squall blowing from the south; with hard right rudder ship lies on the course; speed reduced to 1½" knots. 1645 USS NAVAJO and USS PC-476 sighted on starboard bow. Let go wire to USS MONSSEN and at 2000 secured line to tug.

OCTOBER 3 In tow by USS NAVAJO averaging about 4.5 knots. Continued shoring and cleaning up ship.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA OCTOBER 1942 ZONE TIME MINUS 11

<u>Date</u>	4 OCTOBER	5 OCTOBER	6 OCTOBER
0800			
LATITUDE	12-45 W	14-09 S	15-46 S
LONGITUDE	164-19 E	165-22 E	166-30 E
1200			
LATITUDE	12-56 S	14-27 S	15-53 S
LONGITUDE	164-34 E	165-37 E	166-47 E
2000			
LATITUDE	13-17 S	14-58 S	15-48 S
LONGITUDE	164-56 E	166-00 E	167-07 E
NOON TO NOON			
COURSE	126	145.5	Various
RUN	108	125	
SPEED	4.5	5.2	
WEATHER	Clear, moderate.		

COMMENTS:

OCTOBER 4 Shoring and cleaning up the ship continued.

OCTOBER 5 Shoring and cleaning up ship continued.

OCTOBER 6 Sighted point of land on southwest portion of Espiritu Santo, bearing 085 degrees, distance 20 miles. 1602 Sighted two destroyers bearing 310 degrees distance 10 miles. 2150 Passed Malekula Island on starboard beam, Malo Island on port beam.

OCTOBER 7. Proceeding into Segond Channel. 0610 Passed U.S.S. FULLER and escort proceeding down channel. 1140 Anchored in Segond Channel, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, in berth "A5". U.S.S. NAVAJO moored along port side and sent divers down to inspect damage to our stern. 1800 Transferred 44 wounded to the Base Hospital at Button.

OCTOBER 8. Divers continued work in #5 hold, making temporary breakwater to prevent pounding on #4 bulkhead. Japanese Prisoners transferred to Base Button. 1354 U.S.S. NAVAJO to go alongside tanker for fueling. 1830 U.S.S. NAVAJO came alongside and moored.

Underway

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

OCTOBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Clear, moderate.

OCTOBER 9 0900 Planned to shift anchorage but tug unable to keep bow into wind. Remained in present position.

OCTOBER 10 0955 Went to General Quarters on SOPA warning of enemy aircraft in vicinity. 1027 Secured from General Quarters and set condition III. 1800 Sent ten hand working party to obtain provisions from U.S.S. MINNEAPOLIS.

OCTOBER 11 Holiday Routine.

OCTOBER 12. Continued cleaning up ship. 0800 U.S.S. BREESE moored alongside U.S.S. NAVAJO. Removed after guns and stowed them in #2 hold, to take weight from the stern. Intermittantly fueling U.S.S. BREESE.

OCTOBER 13 Continuing ships work. Instruction party from U.S.S. FULLER came aboard to inspect damage and study methods of shoring.

OCTOBER 14 U.S.S. NAVAJO stood off to go alongside U.S.S. BOISE; U.S.S. BREESE breasted alongside. Provisioning ship from U.S.S. CASTOR.

OCTOBER 15 0128 Heard shell fire from southeast coast of Espiritu Santo, reported to be submarine shelling airfield. Continuing provisioning ship from U.S.S. CASTOR; giving fuel to U.S.S. BREESE. 1651 U.S.S. NAVAJO moored alongside starboard quarter. During late afternoon received message for all ships to get underway and stand out of harbor. Did not comply, since we would have blocked channel for passage of other ships. 1724 U.S.S. BREESE making trial run. 1750 U.S.S. BREESE returned alongside, continuing fueling. 1947 Went to General Quarters on enemy air attack alarm. 2019 Secured from General Quarters. 2029 U.S.S. BREESE underway. 2109 U.S.S. BREESE again moored along port side. 2156 Sounded General Quarters on Air Raid warning. 2322 Secured from General Quarters and set condition III.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA	OCTOBER 1942				ZONE TIME MINUS 11
DATE	16 OCTOBER	17 OCTOBER	18 OCTOBER	19 OCTOBER	
0800					
LATITUDE		17-42 S	20-01 S	22-28 S	
LONGITUDE		168-04 E	168-28 E	168-03 E	
1200					
LATITUDE	15-44 S	18-06 S	20-30 S	22-55 S	
LONGITUDE	167-22 E	168-05 E	168-33 E	167-46 E	
2000					
LATITUDE	16-26 S	18-55 S	21-21 S	23-13 S	
LONGITUDE	167-55 E	168-01 E	168-47 E	167-05 E	
NOON TO NOON					
COURSE	138	180.5	166	212	
RUN		101	147	163	
SPEED	various	4.1	6	6.8	
WEATHER	Clear, moderate.				

COMMENTS:

OCTOBER 16 0550 U.S.S. BREESE underway from port side, U.S.S. NAVAJO cast off and standing by to take tow line. U.S.S. TRACY patrolling harbor entrance. 0755 Under tow and standing out of Second Channel enroute to Acacia. PC-476 acting as escort. Some merchant ships and warships cleared the harbor.

OCTOBER 17 Held dawn general quarters. Averaging about 6 knots. 0445 Sighted Island of Efate bearing 155 degrees distance 15 miles. 1130 Magazine temperatures reported 90 and 91 degrees respectively. Wet down decks and overhead. Test fired all remaining A.A. guns during late afternoon.

OCTOBER 18. Continuing ships work.

OCTOBER 19. 1040 Passed Isle of Pines on starboard beam, distant 12 miles. During early afternoon U.S.S. PC-477 sighted, coming out to relieve U.S.S. PC-476. 1600 U.S.S. PC-476 ordered to come alongside to pick up mail prior to departure into White Poppy. 1715 Received Secret dispatch from ComSoPac to proceed into White Poppy and await further orders.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

OCTOBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Clear, generally warm.

OCTOBER 20 Making various courses to conform with Bulari Passage. 1221 Anchored in Dumbea Bay, berth "A45", off Isle DeFreycinet, New Caledonia. 1305 U.S.S. NAVAJO secured alongside port quarter.

OCTOBER 21 Continuing ships work, awaiting further orders from CTF 62. During the morning transferred 105 rounds of 4"/50 caliber ammunition and 168 rounds of 3"/50 caliber ammunition to Base White Poppy in accordance with visual instructions from CTF 62. 0824 U.S.S. NAVAJO underway from alongside.

OCTOBER 22 Continuing ships work. Sending liberty party ashore.

OCTOBER 23 0850 S.S. J.C. DONNELL alongside to receive fuel from us. 1440 Made unsuccessful attempt to provision ship from U.S.S. BETELGEUSE. 2245 Completed fueling S.S. J.C. DONNELL; transferred 168,000 gallons.

OCTOBER 24 Continued with ships work. S.S. J.C. DONNELL underway from alongside.

OCTOBER 25 1150 Set condition of readiness II on orders from SOPA. 1900 Secured from condition of readiness II and set condition III.

OCTOBER 26 0445 Set condition II in accordance with previous instruction from SOPA. Continuing with ships work. 1900 Secured from condition II and set condition III.

OCTOBER 27 Continued on condition III on orders from SOPA. Continuing with ships work.

OCTOBER 28 Continued ships work. 1300 Holiday routine.

OCTOBER 29 Holiday Routine.

OCTOBER 30 0830 Comtaskfor 64 put into harbor and anchored. 1315 Task Forces 17 and 18 stood in and anchored.

OCTOBER 31 0930 Personnel inspection held by the Captain.

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

AMPHIBIOUS FORCE PACIFIC FLEET

TRANSPORT DIVISION TWO (2)

U.S.S. ALHENA

To: Chief of Naval Operation.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 1. Operating under Commander South Pacific orders contained in his secret dispatch #190242 of October 19, 1942. Temporarily assigned to Amphibious Force South Pacific.

Anchored in Dumbea Bay off Isle of Freycinet, New Caledonia, in 8 fathoms of water with 50 fathoms of chain out to the starboard anchor and port anchor underfoot to 18 fathoms on the following true bearings: Beacon "G" 098 degrees, Beacon "F" 053 degrees, and Beacon "P" 163 degrees.

The ship is awaiting instructions to proceed to Sydney. Number 5 hold has four feet of water in it and is open to the sea through holes in the starboard and port sides about twenty feet in diameter. The bulkhead to #4 hold is adequately shored; sections of steel hatch covers have been rigged in #5 to form surge baffles.

The steering motors have been repaired and all steering systems are operating. The shaft alley is wide open to the sea; the main shaft is out of alignment, with a coupling carried away, and unable to turn the screw. Repairs can be made only after dry docking.

Commander South Pacific on U.S.S. ARGONNE, anchored in inner harbor.

0800 Continued with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore from 1300 to 1700.

NOVEMBER 2. Anchored as before.

0815 U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY, (Commander Transports Division Two) stood in and anchored. The Commanding Officer called on the Division Commander and discussed orders and the condition of the ship. Continued with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore from 1300 to 1700.

NOVEMBER 3. Anchored as before. Continued with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore.

NOVEMBER 4. Anchored as before. 0656 Sounded general quarters on signal from SOPA, (probable enemy carrier reported by patrol plane about 80 miles east of Noumea). 0912 Secured from general quarters; set condition of readiness II, on orders from SOPA, (reported carrier not confirmed). 1130 Secured from condition II and set condition III. With ship's head 270 degrees, the bearings of anchorage now are: Beacon "F" 051 degrees, Beacon "G" 095 degrees, Beacon "P" 169 degrees; ship having been shifted by towing her with two small boats; 70 fathoms of chain out to the starboard anchor. Continued with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 5. Anchored as before. 0930 Held semi-monthly pay day. Continued with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore. 1600 Transferred 6 men to U.S.S. VIREO in accordance with ComSerRonSoPac's letter ref. #92-42 of November 5, 1942.

NOVEMBER 6. Anchored as before. Continued with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore.

NOVEMBER 7. Anchored as before. Continuing with ship's work. Sending one section liberty party ashore. 1945 Lt(j.g.) Manuel C. BLANCO Jr., A-V(N) USNR, reported aboard for transportation and further transfer to U.S.S. CHESTER in accordance with BuPers. Letter #311-17OW-85939 of September 12, 1942.

DATE NOVEMBER 8

0800

LATITUDE Inside Bulari Passage, Noumea, New Caledonia

LONGITUDE

1200

LATITUDE 22-41 S LONGITUDE 166-25 E

2000

LATITUDE 23-19 S LONGITUDE 166-23 E

NOON TO NOON

COURSE Various

REMARKS:

NOVEMBER 8. Anchored as before. 0450 Received wire cable from the tug, U.S.S. SONOMA, and shackled it to the port anchor chain lead through the bull nose. 0533 Underway in tow of U.S.S. SONOMA on various courses to make departure from Noumea, New Caledonia to Sydney in accordance with ComSoPac's Secret Dispatch #070552; the essence of which is that: "Escorted by PC-479 and towed by "Sonoma", the Alhena will depart White Poppy about 19 hours zed seven November and proceed to Sydney through these points; 27-00 and 166-25; 30-10 and 160-00, 32-20 and 155-00. Estimated speed of advance 4 knots; Eta twenty November. Upon arrival Sonoma is granted ten days availability for upkeep; PC-479 shall report arrival and await orders; Alhena shall report to SOPA for previously requested repairs".

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 8. Continued:
1114 Held abandon ship drill. 1125 Secured from Abandon ship drill. 1339 Two ships sighted astern, distance 18 miles; identified as friendly. 1424 Two ships broad on port bow, distance 15 miles, dropped below horizon unidentified. 1552 Sounded general quarters for target practice. 1625 Held target practice with all machine guns. 1640 Secured from general quarters, set condition of readiness III modified. Ship's head averaged 170 degrees true, course made good through the water 175 degrees; speed by chip log 4.2 to 4.9 knots, depending upon wind and sea.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 9</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 10</u>
0800		
LATITUDE	24-15 S	26-20 S
LONGITUDE	166-32 E	166-08 E
1200		
LATITUDE	24-47 S	26-37 S
LONGITUDE	166-30 E	166-16 E
2000		
LATITUDE	25-30 S	27-13 S
LONGITUDE	166-22 E	166-16-E
NOON TO NOON		
COURSE	178	186
RUN	127 miles	111 miles
SPEED	5.1	4.8

REMARKS:

NOVEMBER 9. Enroute from Noumea to Sydney, in tow of U.S.S. SONOMA on base course 180 degrees, averaging 4 knots, using 50 fathoms of the port anchor chain and about 150 fathoms of wire for towing, escorted by U.S.S. PC-479. Sea calm, wind light.
0415 Went to dawn general quarters until 0515.
1000 Intercepted a message from ComSoPac that a ship had been torpedoed approximately 100 miles northeast of our position.
1045 Intercepted a message from ComSoPac that a submarine had been located by DF bearings 25 miles northeast of our position.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 9. Continued:
Continued with ship's work. 1300 to 1600 instruction periods for first section in small arms, signals and first aid. 1550 Test fired "Unit" .50 cal. machine gun. 1930 (1½ hours after sunset) changed course 40 degrees right to 220 degrees true and 221 p.g.c. This day the ship's head averaged 175 degrees true; course 176 true; speed 4.7 knots.

NOVEMBER 10. In tow as before on base course 220 degrees. 0200 Changed base course to 180 degrees.
0430 Went to dawn general quarters until 0530, then set condition III modified. 1300 Commenced instruction periods in first aid, small arms and signals for 2nd section of all divisions. 1930 (1½ hours after sunset) changed base course to 270 degrees. Today the course through the water averaged 3 degrees left of the base course, speed about 5.0 knots. Stopped copying Fox schedules from NPM and shifted to Bells.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 11</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 12</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 13</u>
0800			
LATITUDE	27-35 S	28-31 S	29-28 S
LONGITUDE	165-18 E	163-24 E	161-19 E
1200			
LATITUDE	27-53 S	28-44 S	29-38 S
LONGITUDE	165-02 E	163-06 E	160-59 E
2000			
LATITUDE	28-17 E	29-02 E	29-58 E
LONGITUDE	164-22 S	162-22 S	160-20 S
NOON TO NOON			
COURSE	221	244	244
RUN	101 miles	112 miles	124 miles
SPEED	4.2	4.5	5.1

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

NOVEMBER 11. In tow of U.S.S. SONOMA, as before, bound out of Noumea for Sydney; averaging 5 knots, on base course 270 degrees.
0001 Changed base course to 240 degrees. 0415 Went to dawn general quarters. 0505 Secured from general quarters and set condition III. 1300 Holiday routine. 1955 Sounded general quarters after blinker signal from PC-479 "Sighted strange ship bearing 255 degrees". 1956 Made emergency turn to port to 180 degrees. 2007 Changed course to 240, resuming base course; (the sighting of the strange ship could not be verified by PC-479). 2035 Secured from general quarters and set condition II. 2055 Secured from condition II and set condition III. 2100 (1½ hours after sunset) changed course to 270 degrees.

Today the course through the water averaged 3 degrees left of the base course, speed about 5.1 knots.

NOVEMBER 12. In tow of U.S.S. SONOMA, as before, on base course 240 degrees, steering 270 degrees, at about 5 knots speed.
0300 Changed base course to 245 degrees. 0415 Went to dawn general quarters until 0508, then set condition III. 1300 to 1600 Instruction for 3rd section.
The course through the water today averaged 242 degrees true; the speed 5.3 knots.

NOVEMBER 13. In tow of U.S.S. SONOMA, as before, on base course 242 degrees, speed approx. 5 knots, U.S.S. PC-479 escort. 0100 Wind velocity increased to about 10 knots. 0415 Held dawn general quarters and secured at 0520, and set condition of readiness III. Averaged course through the water today 241; speed 4.7 knots.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 14</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 15</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 16</u>
0800			
LATITUDE	30-32 S	31-30 S	32-09 S
LONGITUDE	159-28 E	157-15 E	155-54 E
1200			
LATITUDE	30-41 S	31-42 S	32-27 S
LONGITUDE	159-04 E	157-00 E	155-43 E
2000			
LATITUDE	31-00 S	32-02 S	32-33 S
LONGITUDE	158-30 E	156-13 E	155-25 E
NOON TO NOON			
COURSE	237	241	235
RUN	117	122	78
SPEED	5	5	3.1

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

U.S.S. ALHENA.

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER

Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 14. In tow of U.S.S. SONOMA, as before, on base course 242 degrees, averaging 5 knots. 0415 Went to dawn general quarters, secured at 0515. 0930 Captain held personnel inspection. 1100 Secured from inspection, of both personnel and material. 1300 Holiday Routine.

Today the ship's head and course through the water averaged 241 degrees; speed through the water averaged 5.1 knots.

NOVEMBER 15. In tow of U.S.S. SONOMA, as before, on base course 242 degrees, average speed 4.7 knots. 0430 Held dawn general quarters and secured at 0530 and set condition III. 0800 Holiday Routine.

2030 Intermittant showers with occasional lightning. 2102 Wind shifted abruptly from NNW to SW and increased to Force "7" with driving rain. 2150 Wind shifted to South. 2210 Security watch reported lower half of surge bulkhead in #5 hold was coming adrift. 2230 Rain ceased; wind increasing in velocity to force "8". 2230 Hove too with U.S.S. SONOMA endeavoring to maintain ship's head in the wind. 2300 Wind falling to force "7".

From commencing until 2200, the course through the water averaged 242 degrees; speed between 3.5 and 5.1 knots. After 2200, while hove to, the ship fore reached about 1 mile.

NOVEMBER 16. Hove to as before in tow of U.S.S. SONOMA. Southerly wind of about force "7"; course averaging 220 degrees to keep seas' pounding of exposed after bulkhead in #4 hold to a minimum. PC-479 circling as anti-submarine patrol. 0030 Lower portion surge bulkhead carried away and endangered after bulkhead of #4 hold. 0430 Wind and sea moderating; tug resumed course 242 degrees and got way on; ship's head averaged 230 degrees p.g.c. astern of tug. 0445 Went to dawn general quarters and secured at 0545. 0800 The section of surge bulkhead causing damage was secured and hoisted out of the hold and placed on deck.

Speed through the water averaged 2.6 knots after 0500.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Warm, generally clear.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 17</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 18</u>
-------------	--------------------	--------------------

0800		
LATITUDE	32-54	34-04
LONGITUDE	154-19	151-55

1200		
LATITUDE	32-55	34-05
LONGITUDE	153-51	151-31

2000		
LATITUDE	33-08	At Sydney
LONGITUDE	152-46	" "

NOON TO NOON

COURSE	254	Various
--------	-----	---------

RUN	99	
-----	----	--

SPEED	4	
-------	---	--

REMARKS:

NOVEMBER 17. In tow as before on course 242 degrees, averaging 3 knots. 0445 Went to dawn general quarters and secured at 0545 and set condition III. 0720 Changed course to 250 degrees true. 1545 Sighted smoke on the horizon bearing 305 degrees. 2018 Sighted beam of light bearing 287 degrees p.g.c.

2117 Sighted darkened ship bearing 230 degrees p.g.c., distant 4 miles. 2123 Went to general quarters. 2130 Ship identified as SS VANDENBOSCH (Du). 2156 Secured from general quarters and set condition III modified. 2202 Changed course to 220 degrees true. 2220 Changed course to 185 degrees true to compensate for a current discovered to be setting 200 degrees at 2 knots.

From 0000 to 0800, ships head and course averaged 242 degrees true; speed 4.6 knots. After 0800 ships head averaged 249 degrees, course 251 degrees true; speed 5.1 knots through the water.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 18. In tow as before, on course 185 degrees true making approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ knots. 0400 Changed base course to 240 degrees. 0445 Went to dawn general quarters and secured at 0530. 0600 Changed base course to 290 degrees true. 0915 Sighted land bearing 299 degrees. 1052 Entered swept channel and changed course to 306 degrees true. 1104 Hove in towing anchor chain to 10 fathoms and continued in the swept channel against a southerly current of $1\frac{1}{2}$ knots. 1600 Off South Head, Port Jackson, Australia, Captain H. Horton Goss, (Port Jackson Pilot) came aboard from pilot vessel, (HMAS "Captain Cook"). 1642 Let go starboard anchor to await arrival of additional harbor tugs, to assist the ship through the west gate anti-submarine net. 1650 Tugs "Lindfield" and "Heroine" arrived. Weighed anchor to stand into harbor; tug "Sonoma" cast off the towline and made fast alongside to starboard; tug "Lindfield" alongside to port. Tug "Heroine" was assigned to tow from ahead since the method of securing her towline well forward affords her greater maneuverability. 1805 Passed through West gate. 1848 Passed under Sydney Harbor bridge and commenced maneuvering into dock. 1915 Moored starboard side to Walsh Bay, Pier 5, berth 4, doubled up with six manila lines and two wire cables.

NOVEMBER 19. Moored starboard side to berth 4, Walsh Bay, Sydney Australia, with 6 manila lines and 2 wire cables. 0940 Replaced one manila line with one wire cable. 1422 Manuel F. BLANCO, (Lt.) J.G., USNR left ship, having completed transportation, to report for duty on U.S.S. CHESTER in accordance with previous instructions. Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800. Installed telephone service from shore. Put #1 boat in the water as a running boat.

NOVEMBER 20. Moored as before. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800.

NOVEMBER 21. Moored as before. 1100 Commander Service Force South West Pacific came aboard. 1120 Commander Service Force South West Pacific left the ship. 1300 Holiday routine. Liberty party (2 sections) sent ashore until 0800.

NOVEMBER 22. Moored as before. 1300 Sending liberty party ashore in two sections until 0800.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA

NOVEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Warm, generally clear.

NOVEMBER 23. Moored as before. 0900 Transferred two 3"/50 cal. and one 4"/50 cal. guns to the U.S.S. DOBBIN by truck for repairs necessitated by damage resulting from ship's torpedoing. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800.

NOVEMBER 24. Moored as before. 0900 Commenced flooding chain locker; draft forward 11' 5" aft 19' 10". 1120 Secured from flooding chain locker; draft forward 12' aft 19' 3". 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800. Commenced receiving fresh water from the dock.

NOVEMBER 25. Moored as before. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800. 2205 Commenced welding on main deck aft for cofferdam in #5 hold; posted additional fire watch. 2340 Stopped welding for night and secured additional fire watch.

NOVEMBER 26. Moored as before. Continued with ship's work. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800. At 1100 held emergency drills. Commenced sending daily five-man shore patrol for duty ashore from 1300 to midnight.

NOVEMBER 27. Moored as before. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800.

NOVEMBER 28. Moored as before. 0930 Captain held personnel and upper decks inspection. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800. 1300 Holiday Routine.

NOVEMBER 29. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine. Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800.

NOVEMBER 30. Moored as before. Continued with ship's work. 1055 U.S.S. PORTLAND, in tow of U.S.S. NAVAJO, escorted by U.S.S. MEADE stood in. 1130 U.S.S. PORTLAND moored alongside berth 5, Walsh Bay. 1300 Sending 2 section liberty party ashore until 0800.

C. B. Hunt
C. B. HUNT,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

[Signature]

F-2

Rep. No. 404
S.S. No. Page 200

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

W A R

D I A R Y

U.S.S. A L H E M A AK26

T R A N S P O R T D I V I S I O N T W O (2) A M P H I B I O U S F O R C E

P A C I F I C

F L E E T

From: December 1, 1942 to: December 31, 1942.

NOV 28 10 03

RECEIVED
U.S. FLEET
NAVY DEPT
WASHINGTON

45590

Reference
Cominch & CNO Ltr.
Serial 3899

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

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

DECEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Warm, generally clear.

DECEMBER 1. Operating under instructions from Commander Service Force, South West Pacific Force, headquarters in the Grace Building, Sydney, Australia.

Ship is moored starboard side to Berth 4, Walsh Bay, Sydney, Australia with 5 manila lines doubled and 2 wire cables. Boiler #1 in use for auxiliary purposes; receiving telephone service and fresh water from the dock. Boats #1 and 20 in the water for use.

Awaiting instructions to proceed to dry dock for repairs, and for decision as to the extent and nature of the repairs to effected here. As the result of torpedoing on 29 September, No. 5 hold is open to the sea through holes in the starboard and port sides about twenty feet in diameter; the shaft alley is wide open to the sea; the main shaft is out of alignment, with a coupling carried away, and unable to turn the screw.

Sending two section liberty party ashore every day, holding classes for all hands three afternoons per week in first aid, small arms and elementary signalling.

Sending five man shore patrol party daily at 1230. Making daily guardmail trips to USS DOBBIN moored in Woolloomooloo Bay. 1300 USS PORTLAND cast off from Berth 5, standing up to dry dock at Cockatoo Island.

DECEMBER 2. Moored as before. 1030 Exercised crew at fire quarters, collision quarters and abandon ship stations. 1108 Secured from general drills.

DECEMBER 3. Moored as before. 1235 Cofferdam completed and #5 hold pumped dry behind the cofferdam. The bottom of #5 hold is now about one foot below the waterline. 1400 Commenced work in #5 hold, checking peak tanks and oil tanks. 1630 Received on board one 4"/50 and 3"/50 cal. gun from U.S.S. DOBBIN, after completion of repairs, caused by damage of torpedoing on Sept. 29, 1942.

DECEMBER 4. Moored as before.

DECEMBER 5. Moored as before. 0930 Captain's inspection of lower and topside. 1300 Holiday Routine.

DECEMBER 6. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine.

Reference
Cominch & CNO Ltr.
Serial 3899

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

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

DECEMBER 1942

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Warm, generally clear.

DECEMBER 7. Moored as before. 1000 C & R department commenced diving in No. 5 hold inspecting damage and cleaning debris. 1115 The Governor General of Australia; Admiral Muirhead Gould; (SANOP); Naval Secretary of the Naval Board; and Lt-Comdr. Reardon USN, inspected the damage in #5 hold from U.S. Navy Motor Boat.

DECEMBER 8. Moored as before. Continued with ship's work.

DECEMBER 9. Moored as before. 0800 Exercised crew at general quarters. 0823 Secured from general quarters. 0825 Held fire drill and secured at 0829. 0832 Manned boat stations and secured at 0839.

DECEMBER 10. Moored as before. Continuing with ship's work.

DECEMBER 11. Moored as before. Continuing with ship's work.

December 12. Moored as before. 0930 Held informal inspection of personnel and material. 1300 Holiday routine.

DECEMBER 13. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine.

DECEMBER 14. Moored as before. 0800 Dressed ship with White Ensign of Great Britain at Mainmasthead in honor of the birthday of His Majesty the King, in accordance with Article 291, Paragraph 3, U.S. Navy Regulations. Continuing with ship's work. Effective this day only 3 man shore patrol is sent ashore in accordance with instructions from SOPA.

DECEMBER 15. Moored as before.

DECEMBER 16. Moored as before. 1100 Mustered crew at quarters. 1115 Captain Charles Boardman HUNT, U.S. Navy, published his orders relieving him of Command of U.S.S. ALHENA, AK26 in accordance with Bureau of Personnel Dispatch #142228 of October 1942. Commander Howard W. BRADBURY, U.S. Navy, published his orders giving him Command of the United States Ship ALHENA in accordance with Bureau of Personnel Dispatch #142228 of October 1942.

DECEMBER 17. Moored as before. Continuing with ship's work.

DECEMBER 18. Moored as Before.

Reference
Cominch & CNO Ltr.
Serial 3899.

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

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26 DECEMBER 1942 ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Warm, generally clear.

DECEMBER 19. Moored as before. 0930 Captain's inspection of personnel and material. 1300 Holiday routine.

DECEMBER 20. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine.

DECEMBER 21. Moored as before. 1314 Exercised crew at general drills - fire drill; collision drill; boat stations; general quarters. 1345 Secured from general drills.

DECEMBER 22. Moored as before.

DECEMBER 23. Moored as before. 0800 Commenced today to send two signalmen daily to the Garden Island Signal Station for six hours duty and instruction. 1230 Seventy children with five adult chaperones came aboard ship for a christmas party held on invitation of the Commanding Officer to a group of Sydney's orphaned children. 1520 Children left the ship under charge of their orphanage chaperones.

DECEMBER 24. Moored as before. 1439 USS NEW ORLEANS, USS LANDSDOWNE, USS SHAW stood in and anchored.

DECEMBER 25. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine. 0805 USS CHESTER underway and standing out.

DECEMBER 26. Moored as before. 1300 Holiday Routine.

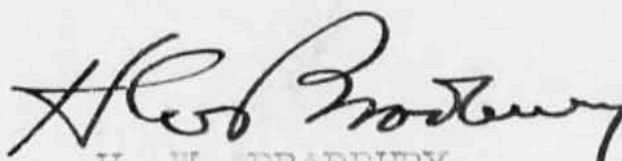
DECEMBER 27. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine.

DECEMBER 28. Moored as before. Continued with Ship's work. 1325 Captain COWDREY, Captain HASTINGS and Captain PADDOCK came aboard to review, with the Commanding Officer, the status of all desired and approved repairs and alterations.

DECEMBER 29. Moored as before. Continuing with ship's work.

DECEMBER 30. Moored as before.

DECEMBER 31. Moored as before.


H. W. BRADBURY,
Commander U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

JANUARY 1943

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Clear, generally warm.

JANUARY 1. Operating under instructions from Commander Service Force, South West Pacific Force, headquarters in the Grace Building, Sydney, Australia.

Ship is moored starboard side to Berth 4, Walsh Bay, Sydney, Australia with 2 manila lines and 6 wire cables. Boiler #1 in use for auxiliary purposes; receiving telephone service and fresh water from the dock. Boats #1 and 20 in the water for use.

Waiting to proceed to drydock on January 9th for repairs. As the result of torpedoing on 29 September, #5 hold is open to the sea through holes in the starboard and port sides about twenty feet in diameter; the shaft alley is wide open to the sea; the main shaft is out of alignment, with a coupling carried away, and unable to turn the screw.

Sending two section liberty party ashore every day. Holding classes for all hands one afternoon per week in first aid, small arms and elementary signalling. Sending 3 signalman to Garden Island for duty daily. Sending 3 man shore patrol party ashore daily. Making two daily guardmail trips to USS DOBBIN moored in Woolloomooloo Bay.

0800 Holiday Routine.

JANUARY 2. Moored as before. 1300 Holiday Routine.

JANUARY 3. Moored as before. 0800 Holiday Routine.

JANUARY 4. Moored as before. Continued with ship's work. 0915 Captain HASTINGS, Lt-Comdr. ROGERS, Lt(jg) WARD, Warrant Electrician THOMPSON and Nine civilians came aboard to survey and make pre-docking arrangements.

JANUARY 5. Moored as before. 0928 Held semi-monthly pay day. 1230 Civilian workmen from Mort's Dock came aboard. 1415 Oil lighter from Royal Australian Military Authorities, tied up to port side. 1445 Commenced taking on fuel, draft forward 13' aft 17'. 1625 Secured from taking on fuel oil, received 1000 barrels, draft forward 13'3" aft 17'3". 1705 Workmen from Mort's Dock left ship.

JANUARY 6. Moored as before. 0810 The following civilian workmen from Mort's dock came aboard to work: 4 electricians and 4 helpers. 0910 Captain HASTINGS and party came aboard. 1045 Capt. HASTINGS and party left ship. 1600 Civilians from Mort's Dock left the ship. Steering gear motors and pumps removed to Mort's Dock Machine Shop for overhaul.

2

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

JANUARY 1943

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Clear, generally warm.

JANUARY 7. Moored as before. 1350 When entering the slip to fetch #3 berth, SS LINCOLN STEFFENS struck her starboard bow on our port quarter, one 7 inch manila line parted; no other damage. 1650 Woolwich Dock workmen left the ship.

JANUARY 8. Moored as before. 1130 Five men from Mort's drydock came aboard. 1700 Five men from Mort's drydock left the ship.

JANUARY 9. Moored as before. 0825 Three civilian workers came aboard from Mort's drydock. 1228 Pilot BREW, A., came aboard. 1236 Secured diving operations on stern. 1240 Tug "Leveret" came alongside and took line from bow. 1305 Tug "Lindfield" came alongside port side. 1306 Underway for drydock in tow of three tugs. 1353 Passed bow lines to dock and commenced entering Mort's Drydock. 1356 Bow entered dock; wind from astern, force 2. 1420 Moored in Mort's drydock with 6 manila lines and 6 wire cables. 1500 Liberty commenced for 2 sections until 0800. Receiving fresh water and salt water from the dock daily.

JANUARY 10. Moored in drydock as before. 0800 Holiday Routine. 0810 Gates to drydock closed. 0813 Commenced pumping out dock. 0902 Commenced flooding #1 hold, draft forward 13'6" aft 17'. 1044 Secured flooding #1 hold, 3'11" of water, draft forward 14'3" aft 16'9". 1125 Keel grounded; took in 2 manila lines and 6 wire cables; dock workmen proceeding with shoring between ship and dock walls. 1420 Completed draining drydock.

JANUARY 11. Drydocked as before. 0800 Yard workmen commenced scraping and brushing the bottom. Paint found to be in good condition. Condition of hull as follows:

Port side aft:	Hydroids enlarged	
	rudder	40 %
	Propeller	100 %
	Hull plating	90 %
Turn of Bilge & bottom:		
	Tunicates & hydroids	100 %
Bilge keel:	Tunicates - upperside	10 %
	" - underside	100 %
Turn of Bilge midships:		
	Hydroids - upperside	15 %
	" bottom	100 %
Experimental plate forward port side:		
	Hydroids & Tunicates - bottom	100 %
	" " Turn of bilge & side	50 %

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26 JANUARY 1943 ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Clear, generally warm.

JANUARY 11.

(Continued).

Starboard side forward bow:

Hydroids

100 %

Tunicates

10 %

The rest of the hull on the starboard side same as port. The experimental plates on the starboard side same condition as the port side.

The keel found to be bent and distorted from frames 162 to 183 inclusive. The starboard plating has been sheared or torn down into keel plate; keel plate between frames 150 & 175 bent up about 6" and laterally to port, at frame 170 about 10".

JANUARY 12.

Drydocked as before. Commenced building temporary office for blueprint & officers meeting place in officer passengers quarters. Continuing with ship's work. 0800 Yard workmen commenced shoring up stern before cutting away metal bulkheads and hull abaft #5.

JANUARY 13.

Drydocked as before. Continuing with ship's work. 0800 Yard workmen continuing with shoring up stern. Two torch cutters commenced cutting away damaged portion of hull on port and starboard sides. Radio electricians from USS DOBBIN installing motor generators and other necessary radio equipment in new radio room. Work progressing slowly due to lack of workmen. Ship's crew installing addition two .50 caliber guns on the boat deck, port and starboard sides.

JANUARY 14.

Drydocked as before. Removed drain plugs from number 5 and 6 oil tanks and from shaft alley drain; steaming out these tanks to remove all oil previous to burning. 1330 SHUEY, Dale Owen, Ensign D-V(G) USNR, reported aboard for duty in accordance with BuPers. letter serial 369-WMB-162445 dated Oct. 2, 1942. EDMUNSON, George Coleman Jr., Ensign D-V(G) USNR, reported aboard for duty in accordance with BuPers. letter serial 369-CKJ-162390 dated Sept. 30, 1942. 1455 Number 4 port oil tank opened. Yard workmen cutting away damaged section. Workmen work from 0800 to about 2000 daily. Radio-electricians from USS DOBBIN continue with installation of radio equipment and generators in new radio room.

JANUARY 15.

Drydocked as before. 1450 Secured shaft alley door. Workmen continue cutting away damaged hull. Commenced work on degaussing coils, by removing damaged coils and covering. Radio electricians continue with installation of radio equipment, assisted by ship's crew. Work progressing slowly. Workmen worked from 0800 to 2000 this day. Completed building temporary office in Officer Passengers' quarters.

4

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26 JANUARY 1943 ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Clear, generally warm.

JANUARY 16. Drydocked as before. Workmen aboard cutting away decks and bulkheads aft in damaged portion of hull; work progressing slowly. 1300 Holiday Routine.

JANUARY 17. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue cutting away deck and bulkheads. 0800 Holiday Routine. Keel found to be approximately 7 to 8 inches out of alignment, upon removal of screw and 3 lengths of shaft exact deficiency will be obtained.

JANUARY 18. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue cutting away damaged portion of hull. Upper deck aft, (former storeroom) cut away completely. Yard workmen commenced cleaning out damaged oil tanks. Radio Electricians continue work in new radio room. 1020 Lieutenant Commander Earl S. CALDWELL, U.S.N., reported aboard for duty as Executive Officer in accordance with BuPers orders 52697 of November 23, 1942.

JANUARY 19. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue cutting away damaged portion of hull. Working shaft alley, making preparations to remove shaft sections. Removing bent hull plating for fairing. All shaft bearings and stools were found broken or adrift. Yard electricians are installing radio equipment in new radio room. Work this day progressing.

JANUARY 20. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue cutting away damaged hull. Uncovered shaft alley. Removed 2 sections of the shaft and the screw. The workmen also removed the spare tail shaft. Removing bent hull plating on the port side. Yard workmen continue installation of radio equipment. Work progressing satisfactory. 1300 Holiday Routine.

JANUARY 21. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue working in shaft alley. Removed one more section of shaft. Cleared away pieces of steel and parts of shaft couplings lying adrift. Removing rivets from hull on port side to straighten buckled plating. Continue with installation of radio equipment. Work progressed slowly this day.

JANUARY 22. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue work in shaft alley. Removed last section of shaft. Cutting away damaged portion of hull, removing bent and buckled plating from port and starboard side. Continue with installation of radio equipment. 0800 Field day.

5

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

JANUARY 1943

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Clear, generally warm.

JANUARY 23. Drydocked as before. Cutting away continued. 1300 Holiday Routine for ship's crew. Workmen worked until 1300 only, cutters and burners worked during the rest of the day until about 2000.

JANUARY 24. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue work. Only a few men working today. 0800 Holiday Routine.

JANUARY 25. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue work in shaft alley and damaged portion, cutting away and clearing debris. No installation or repairing of damaged portion in progress. Removed both port and starboard anchor and chain out on drydock for annual overhaul and cleaning.

JANUARY 26. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue work in shaft alley and damaged portion of hull, several bent plates removed. Workmen clearing away the damaged fuel tanks. Ship's force checking all scupper outlets, drains and sea valves for damage and stoppages, only forward of 'midships house.

NOTE: The USS PORTLAND and USS NEW ORLEANS are at Cockatoo Island undergoing major repairs.

All required equipment is being brought from Mort's yard or Cockatoo Navy Yard.

Final analysis shows the stern tube 12" out of alignment - horizontally. Vertically unknown yet.

JANUARY 27. Drydocked as before. Yard workmen continue cutting away damage portion. Commenced straightening keel with hydraulic jacks. At end of day keel is still out of alignment 7" horizontally 3" vertically.

JANUARY 28. Drydocked as before. 1008 Commenced taking on oil, from barge moored on outer dock. 1626 Secured from taking on fuel oil from barge; received 300 tons. Yard workmen continue working on damaged portion of hull, removing bent plates, cutting away damaged shell, working on frames of hull and oil tanks, continuing to straighten out keel.

JANUARY 29. Drydocked as before. 0800 Held Field Day. Workmen continue cutting, removing rivets from plating and working damaged oil tanks. Continue straightening of keel. Commenced removing bolts from the rudder.

Ref: Cominch & CNO
serial 3899 of 10/19/42

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. ALHENA AK26

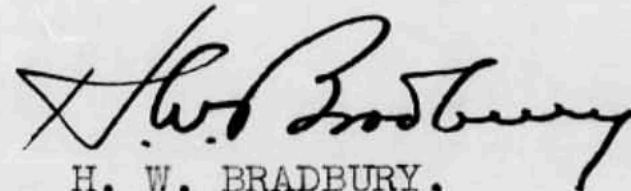
JANUARY 1943

ZONE TIME MINUS 11

WEATHER: Clear, generally warm.

JANUARY 30. Drydocked as before. 1300 Holiday Routine. Work progressing as before. Machinist Frank L. PEASE USN, reported aboard for duty in accordance with BuPers. orders Pers-314-JLK-41158 of October 29, 1942.

JANUARY 31. Drydocked as before. 0800 Holiday Routine. Completed work in straightening out of keel; keel is now in proper alignment. Installation of new wiring is in progress; working on degaussing system and installation of radio equipment. Few workmen this day working.



H. W. BRADBURY,
Commander U. S. Navy,
Commanding.