

APA49/A12-1
0103

U. S. S. ORMSBY (APA-49)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California.

(15:Fz)

5 November 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, Month of October 1944.

bearing 260° True, distant 30 miles.

0800	09-32	North	127-47	East
1200	09-44	North	127-16	East
2000	10-11	North	126-51	East

20 Oct. At sea in company with Task Force 78. 0104 Pagbaban Point, Homonhon Island, temporarily lighted beacon abeam to starboard, distant 11.8 miles. 0135 Desolation Point, Dinagat Island, temporarily lighted beacon abeam to port, distant 2.5 miles, passed through extreme southern portion of Suriagao Straits due to enemy mine field reported to the northward; entered Leyte Gulf. 0205 Task Group 78.3 parted company with this disposition and proceeded on assigned mission. 0515 Observed gunfire and star shells ahead in the direction of San Pedro Bay. 0525 All hands at general quarters. 0615 Enemy aircraft sighted bearing 175° True, distant 6,000 yards, position angle 25°; heavy antiaircraft fire opened by units of the screen. 0630 Contact lost with enemy aircraft, antiaircraft fire ceased. 0639 Sighted floating mine two points on starboard bow, distant approximately 2,000 yards. 0649 Passed floating mine to starboard, distant 500 yards; P.C. 1129 circled mine and attempted to destroy same by automatic weapon gunfire. 0719 Set condition One Able. 0739 Mariquitdaquit Island light house abeam to starboard, distant 1.5 miles; entered San Pedro Bay and approaching assigned anchorage. 0801 Lowered all boats. 0815 Anchored in 13 fathoms of water, 14,000 yards off Palo beach, Leyte Island. 0831 All boats in the water, commenced debarking troops. 0855 All troops boated and away to rendezvous area. 0905 LCM's from this vessel in fifth wave dispatched to line of departure. 0925 Seventh wave dispatched to line of departure (first wave from this vessel); eighth, ninth and tenth waves dispatched at five minute intervals. 0940 All waves dispatched, made preparations to discharge cargo, "H" hour, 1000 first wave of boats landed on the beach, reported fairly heavy resistance. 1100 Hove up anchor and proceeded to close beach to 6,000 yards to expedite unloading. 1107 Commenced discharging cargo, first boats returned from the beach. 1213 Anchored 6,300 yards off Palo beach in 9 fathoms of water. Continued discharging cargo. 1517 All cargo discharged. Discharged 325 tons, mechanized equipment, rations and ammunition. 1537 Commenced hoisting boats.

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1603 All hands at general quarters, condition red, enemy aircraft approaching. 1644 Condition white, all clear, secured from general quarters. 1721 All boats hoisted aboard, making preparations to proceed to sea. Secured from condition One Able, set condition III. 1750 Hove up anchor and proceeded from San Pedro Bay towards Leyte Gulf in company with Transport Division SIX. 1825 All hands at general quarters, enemy aircraft approaching. LCI units layed smoke screen around transport area. 1843 Various units opened fire with intense anti-aircraft barrage. 1909 Set condition III, all clear. 1935 Marquitdaquit Island abeam to port, distant 2.3 miles, entered Leyte Gulf. 2145 Dense smoke haze settled in Leyte Gulf, visibility 500 yards. 2150 Transport Division TWENTY-FOUR joined formation and proceeded in company towards Surigao Straits. 2330 Dense smoke haze continued, visibility 200 yards. Keeping station and obtaining position fixes by S.G. radar.

21 Oct. Steaming in Leyte Gulf and proceeding to seaward in company with Transport Division SIX and TWENTY-FOUR. 0228 Passed out of Leyte Gulf, Desolation Point, Dinagat Island abeam to starboard, distant 1.5 miles. 0335 Rendezvoused with units of Task Group 78.3, Transport Divisions TWENTY, THIRTY-TWO and FOUR. U.S.S. HUGHES, ComTaskGroup 78.3 assumed tactical command. At sea throughout the remainder of the day steaming in company with Task Group 78.3.

0800	10-05 North	126-48 East
1200	09-33 North	127-21 East
2000	08-48 North	128-48 East

22 Oct. At sea in company with Task Group 78.3. 1752 Task Unit 78.2 parted company with this task group and proceeded on duty assigned, accompanied by DD's U.S.S. RINGOLD AND U.S.S. SCHROEDER.

0800	08-48 North	128-48 East
1200	07-37 North	131-35 East
2000	06-48 North	132-54 East

23 Oct. At sea in company with Task Group 78.3.

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