

Reg. No. 2-15
R. S. No. _____

AP103/A12-1(Conf)
Serial 01

U.S.S. PRESIDENT POLK

TFD/ja

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

WAR DIARY

1 December 1944: (Minus) 11 time zone.

In Naval Transportation Service; temporarily assigned to Service Squadron EIGHT, temporary administrative and operational control by Amphibious Forces, Pacific; assigned to temporary Transport Division FIVE, Amphibious Forces, Pacific. Commander Task Unit 77.9.2 (Commander C. J. BALLREICH, U.S.N.) in U.S.S. PRESIDENT POLK (AP 103) OTC, other units of Task Unit 77.9.2 are U.S.S. LIBRA (AKA 12) and U.S.S. HARMON (DE 679). Task of unit is to lift troops and equipment from Bougainville to participate in amphibious operations for invasion and capture of Luzon, Philippine Islands, in accordance with CANF SWPA operation order 17 - 44.

Anchored in berth number 13, Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville Island. 1630: Completed loading cargo, having loaded 298 tons. 1825: Completed loading fresh provisions.

2 - 3 December 1944:

Anchored as before, effecting routine upkeep of ship and training of crew.

4 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 0803: Loaded 6.19 tons of Navy cargo from Inter Island cargo vessel (H-8) for further delivery to ships mounting at other SoPac bases. 1233: Completed taking on 4,387 gallons of diesel oil from AOG 33.

5 - 12 December 1944:

Anchored as before, effecting routine upkeep of ship, training of personnel, and provisioning of ship.

13 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 0915: Underway for AA target practice. 1505: Completed target practice.

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14 - 15 December 1944:

Anchored as before.

16 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 1152: Shifted to berth number 27 and moored to IX 127 for fuel. 1503: Completed taking on 76,082 gallons of fuel and returned to berth.

17 - 18 December 1944:

Anchored as before, continuing upkeep of ship and training of personnel.

19 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 0833: Underway for drills in streaming paravanes and general drills. 1258: Completed practice and returned to anchorage.

1200: Position: Lat. 06°22'S. Long. 154°58'E.
Sea : Smooth. Wind: Gentle Breeze.

20 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 1545: Loaded 5,463 pounds of radio equipment and medical stores.

21 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 1842: Commenced loading troops. 2100: Secured loading troops for the day. 2215: Commenced loading troop mail. 2230: Completed loading 1,500 pounds of troop mail.

22 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 0903: Commenced embarking troops. 1432: Unloaded 5,172 pounds of radio equipment. 1450: Completed embarking troops, having embarked a total of 1,680 enlisted men, 133 officers, and 1 civilian representative of the American Red Cross.

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23 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 0820: Underway, Task Unit 77.9.2 took departure from Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville Island, enroute for Manus Island, pursuant to CTG 77.9 despatch 202050 of December. 1613: Sighted smoke close aboard, apparently volcanic, rising from the water at position 6°39'30"South, 153°53'30"East in 3,500 fathoms of water.

0800: Position: Lat. 06°15'S. Long. 155°05'E.
1200: Position: Lat. 06°34'S. Long. 154°33'E.
2000: Position: Lat. 06°47'S. Long. 153°13'E.
Sea : Smooth. Wind: Gentle Breeze.

24 December 1944:

Steaming as before.

0800: Position: Lat. 07°06'S. Long. 151°09'E.
1200: Position: Lat. 07°13'S. Long. 150°29'E.
2000: Position: Lat. 06°47'S. Long. 153°13'E.
Sea : Smooth. Wind: Gentle Breeze.

25 December 1944:

Steaming as before.

0800: Position: Lat. 05°57'S. Long. 147°45'E.
1200: Position: Lat. 05°25'S. Long. 147°25'E.
2000: Position: Lat. 04°07'S. Long. 147°23'E.
Sea : Smooth. Wind: Gentle Breeze.

26 December 1944:

Steaming as before. Arrived Manus Island and dissolved Task Unit 77.9.2. 1323: Moored to U.S.S. SILVER CLOUD (IX 143) in berth 344, Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island. 1400: Retarded clocks 60 minutes to zone minus 10 time. 1446: Completed taking on fuel, having received 48,747 gallons. 1643: Shifted berths, anchored in berth number 10, Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island.

0800: Position: Lat. 02°18'S. Long. 147°21'E.
Sea : Smooth. Wind: Gentle Breeze.

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27 December 1944:

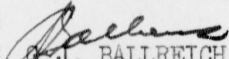
Anchored as before. 1245: Commenced receiving diesel oil from Diesel Barge Y - 44. 1347: Completed receiving diesel oil, having received 6,000 gallons.

28 December 1944:

Anchored as before. 0947: Shifted to berth number 270. 1158: Commenced loading ammunition. Completed loading ammunition. 1548: Shifted to berth W - 33.

29 - 31 December 1944:

Anchored as before.


C.J. BALLREICH,
Commander, USN,
Commanding.

Dist:

Original - Cominch.
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