

APA49/A12-1  
Serial 027

U. S. S. ORMSBY (APA49)  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

(14:mn)

31 March 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, Month of March 1944.  
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24 March: At anchor off Kukumbona Beach, Guadalcanal, berth #135 in company with Transport Division FOUR and various other units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. 0712 Commenced loading cargo all hatches. 1736 Ceased loading cargo.

25 March: At anchor off Kukumbona Beach, Guadalcanal, berth #135 in company with Transport Division FOUR and various other units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. 0735 Resumed loading cargo #1, 3, 5 hatches. 1120 Finished loading cargo. 1425 Commenced embarking troops aboard, First Battalion, 25th Infantry anti-tank and ordnance units, U. S. Army. 1510 Completed embarking troops aboard.

26 March: At anchor off Kukumbona Beach, Guadalcanal, berth #135 in company with Transport Division FOUR and various other units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. 1330 Exercised troops at debarkation drill, held emergency drills. 1416 Secured from drills.

27 March: At anchor off Kukumbona Beach, Guadalcanal, berth #135 in company with Transport Division FOUR and various other units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. 0020 Hove up anchor, formed cruising disposition, Transport Division FOUR, Task Unit 32.4.6, O.T.C. U.S.S. ZELIN, departed Guadalcanal in accordance with designated movement order for the purpose of transporting the 25 Infantry, U. S. Army to Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville for operations against the enemy. 0352 Executed emergency turn 9 to avoid enemy submarine attack. Screen attacking with depth charges. 0414 Resumed base course.

0800	09-11S	1200	08-55S	2000	08-05S
	158-23E		157-35E		156-07E

28 March: Enroute Guadalcanal to Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, in company with Transport Division FOUR and screen. 0930 Moored to mooring buoy #3, berth 3 off Cape Torokina, Bougainville, commenced debarking troops. 0947 Commenced discharging cargo all hatches. 1040 All troops except hatch details debarked. 1512 Finished discharging cargo. 1545 All army personnel debarked. 1721 Let go from mooring buoy #3, berth 3, proceeding to sea in company with Transport Division FOUR and screen.

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4 April 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, Month of March 1944.  
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1747 Formed cruising disposition, Transport Division FOUR, Task Unit 32.4.6, O.T.C. U.S.S. ZEILIN, departed Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, for Milne Bay, New Guinea, for future operations against the enemy.

29 March: Enroute Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville to Milne Bay, New Guinea in company with Transport Division FOUR and screen.

<u>0800</u>	08-21 S	<u>1200</u>	08-27 S	<u>2000</u>	09-16 S
	153-53 E		145-44 E		145-42 E

30 March: Enroute Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville to Milne Bay, New Guinea in company with Transport Division FOUR and screen. 0930 Held anti-aircraft target practice, ammunition expended: 2 star shells 5"/38 caliber, 160 rounds 1.1/75 caliber, 540 rounds 20mm.

<u>0800</u>	11-31 S	<u>1200</u>	11-50 S	<u>2000</u>	11-49 S
	154-42 E		154-12 E		152-48 E

31 March: Enroute Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville to Milne Bay, New Guinea in company with Transport Division FOUR and screen. 0828 Passed over sunken Barrier Reef, approaching West Channel entrance to China Strait. 1304 Passed through China Strait, entered Milne Bay. 1619 Anchored Milne Bay, New Guinea, berth How 6. Transport Division FOUR and screen anchored in assigned berths.

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