

APA49/A12-1
Serial 095

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

(15:ms)

7 October 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, Month of September 1944.

14 Sept. At sea in company with Task Group 32.3.

0800	04-12	North	135-46	East
1200	04-50	North	135-21	East
2000	05-56	North	134-28	East

15 Sept. At sea in company with Task Group 32.3. 0045 Observed star shells and gunfire in the direction of Anguar and Peleliu Islands, Palau. 0506 Arrived in transport area off Peleliu Island. 0514 Set condition One Able. 0530 United States Naval bombardment of Peleliu Island began. 0547 All boats lowered into the water, commenced debarking troops. 0649 All troops in first trip of boats debarked. 0710 Dispatched ninth wave (first ORMSBY wave) of boats to line of departure, succeeding waves following at five minute intervals. 0830 First assault wave landed on the beach at Peleliu Island and encountered heavy resistance. 0853 Proceeded to close beach to expedite unloading. 0925 Hove to on assigned station in transport unloading area, 6000 yards off the beach. 0933 Pontoon barge from LST 487 alongside, commenced loading vehicles into barge. 1005 Commenced receiving casualties aboard. 1007 Troops in second trip of boats debarked and away to line of departure. 1053 Pontoon barge loaded and away. 1115 Commenced discharging priority cargo. 1617 All priority cargo discharged and dispatched to the beach. 1751 Secured from condition One Able, set condition III. 1828 Departed transport area for night retirement. Steaming in night retirement area in company with Task Group 32.3 throughout the night, OTC Commander Transport Division EIGHT in U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY.

16 Sept. Steaming in night retirement area in company with Task Group 32.3. 0531 Arrived in transport area off Peleliu Island. 0540 Set condition One Able. 0611 Hove to on assigned station. 0700 Commenced discharging cargo as boats became available returning from the beach. 0847 Commenced receiving casualties on board. Lying to in transport unloading area throughout the day discharging cargo as boats became available. 1530 Made routine unloading report, 29 percent of cargo discharged. 1725 Secured from condition One Able, set condition III. 1810 Departed transport area for night retirement in company with designated units of Task Group 32.3, OTC Commander Transport

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Division SIX, U.S.S. FAYETTE. Steaming in night retirement
throughout the night.

17 Sept. Steaming in night retirement area in company with designated units of Task Group 32.3. 0651 Arrived in transport area off Peleliu Island, set condition One Able. 0725 Hove to on assigned station and resumed discharging cargo. 0912 Commenced receiving casualties on board. 1100 LCI 455 made fast alongside for fuel, water and provisions. 1245 Transferred 2900 gallons of Diesel oil, 8500 gallons of fresh water and 2.6 tons of provisions to LCI 455. 1255 LCI 455 away. 1300 Relieved U.S.S. TRYON as casualty evacuation ship, closed beach to 3000 yards. 1530 Reported 43 percent of total cargo discharged. 1732 Secured from condition One Able, set condition III. 1740 Departed transport area for night retirement. Steaming in night retirement area throughout the night in company with designated units of Task Group 32.3, OTC Commander Transport Division EIGHT in U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY.

18 Sept. Steaming in night retirement area in company with Task Group 32.3. 0240 The following named man: O'NEIL, Caspar Lee, 671-26-32, Slc, U.S.N.R., 73rd Naval Construction Battalion died of wounds received in action against the enemy on Peleliu Island. 0545 Arrived in transport area, set condition One Able. 0620 Hove to on assigned station, resumed discharging cargo. 0835 The body of O'NEIL, Caspar Lee, 671-26-32, Slc, U.S.N.R., 73rd Naval Construction Battalion was transferred to Graves Registration Service, Peleliu Island for burial. 1030 Commenced receiving casualties on board. 1033 The following named man: MAHAN, Lawrence D. jr., 536099, U.S.M.C. was received on board dead on arrival, having been killed in action against the enemy on Peleliu Island. 1059 Transferred forty-four (44) casualties to the U.S.S. SAMARITAN. Continued unloading cargo throughout the day. 1302 Burial services were held on board for MAHAN, Lawrence D. jr., 536099, U.S.M.C. and his remains buried at sea latitude 06-58 North, longitude 134-11 East. 1507 LCI 456 alongside for fuel, provisions and water. 1530 Reported 57 percent of total cargo discharged. 1645 Transferred to LCI 456 11,100 gallons of fresh water, 1292 gallons of Diesel oil and 2.1 tons of provisions. 1648 LCI 456 away. 1733 Secured from

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condition One Able, set condition III. 1806 Departed transport area for night retirement in company with designated units of Task Group 32.3, OTC Commander Transport Division EIGHT, U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY. 1934 Air flash Red, enemy aircraft in the vicinity, all hands at General Quarters. 2000 Air flash White, all clear, set condition III. Steaming in night retirement area throughout the night.

19 Sept. Steaming in night retirement area in company with designated units of Task Group 32.3. 0550 Arrived in transport area off Peleliu Island, set condition One Able. 0630 Hove to in assigned station, resumed discharging cargo. 0705 Held burial services for BRYANT, Fred Knox, 912213, Pvt., U.S.M.C., who dies of wounds received in action against the enemy on Peleliu Island; body buried at sea latitude 06-58 North, longitude 134-12 East. 1150 Finished discharging cargo at No. 4 hatch. Continued discharging cargo throughout the day. 1530 Reported 84 percent of cargo discharged. 1729 Finished discharging cargo at No. 5 hatch. 1730 Made preparations to remain in transport area throughout the night in order to complete unloading. 1742 Finished discharging cargo at No. 3 hatch. 1800 Finished discharging cargo at No. 1 hatch. 1855 Air flash Red, enemy aircraft in the vicinity, all hands at General Quarters, stopped discharging cargo, proceeding at one-third speed from transport area on course 270° true. 1908 LCI units layed smoke screen around transports. 1926 Air flash White, all clear, set condition III. 1955 Returned to transport area and continued discharging cargo. 2030 Finished discharging cargo at No. 2 hatch, all cargo discharged, vessel completed unloading phase. Hove to on assigned station in transport area throughout the night.

20 Sept. Lying to in transport area off Peleliu Island on assigned station. Various units of Task Group 32.3 in company. OTC Commander Task Group 32.3 in U.S.S. DU PAGE. 0700 Debarked ship's platoon, Marine working detail. 1015 Resumed receiving casualties on board. 1040 Transferred Boat Pool Officer and personnel together with four LCV(P)'s to U.S.S. DU PAGE. Lying to in transport area throughout the day. Accomplished various necessary details, such as transferring of

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specialized personnel groups and supplies, consisting of excess medical equipment. 1120 Relieved U.S.S. FAYETTE as casualty evacuation ship, closed beach to 3000 yards. 1518 Ceased receiving casualties on board for this operation. Total casualties received: Two hundred and thirty-four. 1600 made preparations for departing transport area for sea. Set condition III. 1730 Departed Peleliu Island, Palau, for sea in company with Task Unit 32.19.4, OTC Commander Transport Division SIX in U.S.S. FAYETTE. 1805 Held burial services for the following named United States Marines who died on board from wounds received in action against the enemy on Peleliu Island: WEBER, S. J., Cpl., 454532, U.S.M.C.R.; CRISAFULLI, P. F., Pfc., 807787, U.S.M.C.R.; PRETE, J. A., Pfc., 440073, U.S.M.C.R. Buried at sea latitude 06-57 North, longitude 134-57 East.

21 Sept. At sea in company with Task Unit 32.19.4.

0800 04-14 North 135-32 East
1200 03-33 North 136-02 East
2000 02-27 North 137-05 East

22 Sept. At sea in company with Task Unit 32.19.4.

0800 01-39 North 139-28 East
1200 01-38 North 140-08 East
2000 01-02 North 141-44 East

23 Sept. At sea in company with Task Unit 32.19.4. 1220
Crossed equator bound south, longitude 144-40 East.

0800 01-16 North 143-56 East
1200 00-01 North 144-35 East
2000 00-41 South 146-09 East

24 Sept. At sea in company with Task Unit 32.19.4. 0530
Arrived off entrance to Seeadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands.
0730 Anchored in Berth Charlie 27, Seeadler Harbor. Accomplished various administrative details throughout the day. 1530 Transferred Marine casualties to U.S. Naval Hospital No. 15, Manus Island. 1627 Hove up anchor and proceeded to go alongside U.S.S.