

APA49/A12-1
Serial 0113

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

(15:Fz)

7 December 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: War Diary, Month of November 1944.

ended: 5 rounds 5"/38 starshells, 10 rounds 5"/38 A.A. common,
192 rounds 1.1"/75 caliber, and 1,080 rounds of 20mm.

0800	02-25	North	132-58	East
1200	03-15	North	133-02	East
2000	05-02	North	133-04	East

12 Nov. At sea in company with Task Unit 79.15.2. 0900
Rendezvoused with Task Unit 79.15.6. Commander Task Unit 79.
15.6 Captain S. P. JENKINS, U.S.N., in U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY,
assumed tactical command. 1530 Exercised at emergency maneu-
vers to repel air attack. 1600 Ceased present exercises.

0800	07-11	North	132-56	East
1200	07-39	North	132-16	East
2000	08-26	North	130-50	East

13 Nov. At sea in company with Task Unit 79.15.6. 0954
Unidentified aircraft in the vicinity; all hands at general
quarters. 1103 All clear, set condition III. 1540 All hands
at general quarters; enemy aircraft approaching, standing by
to repel air attack. 1546 Maneuvering radically to avoid air
attack. 1700 Enemy aircraft sighted bearing 045° true, dis-
tant 15 miles, indentified as "JILL". 1701 Units of the screen
commenced firing at enemy aircraft. 1702 Enemy aircraft maneu-
vering to attack rear units of this disposition. 1704 Torpedo
released by enemy aircraft and fired at U.S.S. CATSKILL. Ene-
my aircraft shot down by A.A. fire from transports, observed
falling into the sea, latitude 10-12 North, longitude 126-54
East; torpedo missed U.S.S. CATSKILL at a reported distance
of 20 yards; all ships continued maneuvering as directed by
OTC. to avoid further attack. 1736 Friendly fighter aircraft
approaching bearing 264° true, distant 66 miles. 1805 Friend-
ly fighter planes overhead, identified as P-38 Lightnings.
1814 All clear, set condition III.

0800	09-26	North	128-27	East
1200	09-46	North	127-46	East
2000	10-27	North	126-26	East

14 Nov. At sea in company with Task Unit 79.15.6. 0030
Barapdaban Point, Homonhon Island abeam to starboard, distant

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6.8 miles; entered Leyte Gulf. 0527 Air flash red, enemy aircraft approaching; all hands at general quarters. 0600 Antiaircraft fire opened by various units of the screen. 0720 Mariquitdaquit Island abeam to starboard, distant 3 miles; entered San Pedro Bay and proceeded to assigned anchorage off Tanuan Beach. Observed three enemy aircraft bearing 345° true, distant about 4.5 miles. One enemy aircraft shot down by P-38 Lightning and fell into the bay. 0747 Lowered all boats and commenced debarking troops. 0810 Anchored 2,300 yards off Tanuan Beach, Leyte Island. Transport Division SIX anchored in assigned berths. H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA and H.M.A.S. KINIMBLA anchored in company. 0831 All troops in first trip of boats debarked and away to Tanuan Beach. 0836 Commenced discharging cargo, all hatches. 0845 Second trip of boats despatched to the beach; all troops debarked except ship's platoon cargo handling detail. 0850 LSM-138 made fast alongside. Commenced discharging vehicles into LSM 138. 1055 LSM 138 loaded and away to the beach. 1150 LSM 138 returned, resumed discharging vehicles into LSM. 1200 Reported 56 per cent of total cargo unloaded. 1447 All cargo unloaded; discharged 502 tons mechanized equipment, ammunition, and organizational gear. 1501 LSM away; all troops consisting of ship's platoon debarked. Made preparations for proceeding to sea. 1750 Hove up anchor, underway in company with Transport Division SIX, proceeding from San Pedro Bay. 1858 Joined Task unit 79.15.6, formed cruising disposition, and departed San Pedro Bay for sea. Officer in Tactical Command, Commander Task Unit 79.15.6 Captain S. P. JENKINS, in U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY. 2237 Desolation Point, Dinagat Island abeam to starboard, distant 5 miles, passed out of Leyte Gulf to sea.

15 Nov. At sea in company with Task Unit 79.15.6.

0800	09-35 North	127-26 East
1200	09-05 North	128-16 East
2000	08-31 North	129-23 East

16 Nov. At sea in company with Task Unit 79.15.6. 1621 H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA, H.M.A.S. MANOORA, H.M.A.S. KINIMBLA, and U.S.S. MONITOR escorted by U.S.S. BLACK and U.S.S. KIDD parted company with this Task Unit and proceeded on duty assigned.