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Reg. No.

323

R. S. No.

AK41/A12-1  
Serial: 205

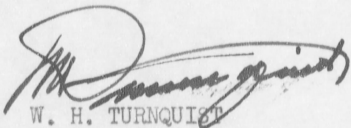
U. S. S. HERCULES (AK41)

1 November 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : Commander In Chief, United States Fleet.  
Subject: War Diary-  
Reference: (a) Cominch rstr ltr FFI/A12-33, Ser 3899 of 19  
October 1942.  
Enclosure: (A) War Diary.

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (A) is  
forwarded herewith, covering period from 1 October 1944 to 31 October  
1944 inclusive.

  
W. H. TURNQUIST

Copy to:  
CominchPac

95175

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**U. S. S. HERCULES(AK41)**

Zone -9

At Sea

1 October 1944

Enroute to Hollandia, New Guinea from Peleliu on course 150° true speed 6.9 knots. PC 1260 our escort. Sailing in accordance with orders received from Commander Task Force 32.2 by dispatch 260735 September 1944. At 0435 standing into Humbolt Bay, New Guinea Island. At 0807 anchored in 11 fathoms of water with thirty fathoms of chain on Port Anchor. At 1200 underway to shift berth, at 1311 anchored in Hollandia Bay, Berth 42.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

2 October 1944

Anchored

Anchored as before in Berth 42, Hollandia Bay. At 0800 commenced lifting low pressure turbine. Weather conditions ideal.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

3-4 October 1944

As before anchored undergoing repairs to Low Pressure Turbine no further operations.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

5 October 1944

As before; making preparations to get underway with flat tow to move to dock to take on cargo. At 1615 heaved up anchor. At 1654 underway with the assistance of tugs, Army 637 and a large Navy tug 110. At 1805 moored to dock No. 1 Hollandia Bay. At 2100 commenced loading operations.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D\*V(S), USNR

6 October 1944

As before moored to Dock No. 1 taking on cargo. At 1235 USS VILLALABES moored alongside to give us fuel. At 1525 commenced taking on fuel. At 2120 completed fueling.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

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U. S. S. HERCULES (AK41)

Zone -9

Moored

7 October 1944

Moored as before to dock No. 1 port side to Hollandia Bay, taking on cargo. At 0020 took on 3,780 gal of fresh water. At 0615 Navy Tug 110 alongside. Two small Army Tugs No. 136, 107 also alongside. At 0650 underway with Pilot S. Kramall at the conn to shift berth into Humbolt Bay. At 1700 completed work on Low Pressure Turbine. Ship ready for test run. Weather good. Moderate swells in bay area.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

8 October 1944

Anchored in Humbolt Bay as before in Berth 63. No unusual operations.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

9 October 1944

Anchored as before preparing to get underway for test run of repaired turbine. At 0945 underway on course 045° true. Made three six mile runs back and forth on the same course to complete test of turbine at 1223. Anchored in new berth to the south part of Humbolt Bay. At 1755, 280 Army passengers and 14 officers reported aboard for transportation. Motor launch was damaged while picking up passengers at Pie Beach "C".

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

10 October 1944

Anchored as before awaiting orders to get underway no further operations.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

11-12 October 1944

At Sea

Anchored as before in Humbolt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea. On the 12th held rehearsal of operation in accordance with CTF training Order No. 16-44. Upon completion of rehearsal at 1400 returned to anchorage.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR.

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U. S. S. HERCULES (AK41)

Zone -9

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13 October 1944

Anchored as before making preparations for next operation. Boats were being repaired and exchanged when possible. At 1440 underway in accordance with CTG 78.1 Attack Order No. 1-44 of October 1944. This ship assigned as part of Transport Division SIX, Captain H.D. Baker in Command, Captain Brittain being the next highest in command of Transport Unit 78.1.3. Cruising disposition C-2 OTC and guide in USS BLUE RIDGE. Course set at 320° true speed 9 knots.

Position 2000 - Latitude 2° 06' S., Longitude 14° 28' E.,

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

14-15 October 1944

Steaming in convoy enroute to Leyte Island area. No unusual operations. Regular morning and evening General Quarters. Course 320° true speed average 8 knots. On 15 October at 1038 formed cruising disposition C-1. Weather good with occasional squall. Sea favorable. On 15th held fire and abandon ship drills.

14 October 1944

Position 0800 - Latitude 00° 42½' S., Longitude 139° 19' E.  
" 1200 - " 00° 18' S., " 138° 45' E.  
" 2000 - " 00° 45' N., " 138° 11' E.

15 October 1944

Position 0800 - Latitude 2° 01' N., Longitude 136° 59' E.  
" 1200 - " 2° 29' N., " 136° 45' E.  
" 2000 - " 3° 14' N., " 136° 21' E.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

16 October 1944

At Sea

Steaming as before on course 320° true at 8 knots. At 0718 changed course to 310° true speed 7 knots. No unusual operations.

Position 0800 - Latitude 4° 34' N., Longitude 135° 21' E.  
" 1200 - " 4° 57' N., " 134° 53' E.  
" 2000 - " 5° 04' N., " 134° 08' E.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR



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U. S. S. HERCULES (AK41)

Zone -9

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17 October 1944

As before steaming on course 310° true speed 7 knots in disposition C-1. At 0711 changed course to 296° true. Weather and sea good.

Position 0800 - Latitude 6° 34' N., Longitude 133° 6' E.  
" 1200 - " 6° 49' N., " 132° 50' E.  
" 2000 - " 7° 13' N., " 131° 51' E.

*RCHorne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR.

18 October 1944

Steaming on course 296° true speed 7 knots. At 0601 Leedstown (APA56) reported man overboard. Life ring dropped from this ship, word passed immediately to LCI's astern. At 0632 changed course to 300° true.

Position 0800 - Latitude 7° 56' N., Longitude 130° 31' E.  
" 1200 - " 8° 16' N., " 130° 07' E.  
" 2000 - " 8° 48' N., " 129° 11' E.

*RCHorne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR.

19 October 1944

As before on base course 300° true speed 7 knots. At 1220 sighted friendly convoy bearing 316° true approximately 17 miles. At 1230 changed course to 266° true. At 1855 ladsfall reported by radar bearing 225° true distance 37 miles. At 2240 changed course to 300° true at 2316 changed course to 310° true speed 9 knots. Weather and sea ideal.

Position 0800 - Latitude 9° 32' N., Longitude 127° 50' E.  
" 1200 - " x 9° 44' N., " 127° 22' E.  
" 2000 - " 10° 10' N., " 126° 30' E.

*RCHorne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR.

20 October 1944

As before approaching San Pedro Bay, Philippine Islands of Leyte. Maneuvered towards transport area. At 0529 sounded General Alarm. At 0625 commenced firing at enemy planes which did not make a definite attack on this ship, but were within range. There were an estimated total of five planes in the area none of which were positively identified but appeared to be torpedo and dive bomber types. At 0630 ceased firing after expending 17 rounds of 3"/50 cal and 140 rounds of 20MM

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U. S. S. HERCULES(AK41)

20 October 1944 (Con't)

ammunition. At 0750 arrival at San Pedro Bay. At 0827 let go starboard anchor in transport area at 1059 changed anchorage to move in closer to unloading area. At 1220 commenced unloading operations. At 1425 anchored 8,000 yards off Red Beach. At 1612 General Quarters sounded. At 1641 secured from General Quarters. At 1736 fifty six army enlisted personnel reported aboard to discharge cargo. At 1804 changed anchorage to Berth E5. At 1812 sounded General Quarters. At 1856 received 1 Navy and 1 Army Officer casualties as well as 7 enlisted personnel casualties. At 2019 secured from General Quarters. Secured unloading operations at dark. Weather and sea ideal.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

21 October 1944.

Anchored as before in Berth E5, San Pedro Bay off Leyte Island, Philippine Islands. At 0522 sounded General Quarters. Smoke plan was carried out. At 0751 changed anchorage to D-2. Unloading stated at 0700. At 1430 transferred casualty to LST 466. At 1822 ordered by OTC to make smoke. At 1859 sounded General Quarters. Smoke was effective - no shots fired by guns. Weather and sea ideal. Secured unloading at dark.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

22 October 1944.

Anchored as before in Berth D-2 (Special anchorage chart) at 0530 sounded General Quarters. At 0700 commenced discharging cargo at 0801 secured from General Quarters. Ten rounds of 3"/50 cal ammunition was ineffectively expended at planes out of range. Smoke was used effectively. At 1509 completed unloading. All Army personnel except casualties left ship. At 1726 underway in accordance with orders received from CTG 78.6 dispatch 220735. At 1830 took departure for Hollandia, N.G. The OTC and guide on USS CRESCENT CITY.

Position - 2000 Latitude 10° 55' N., Longitude 125° 17' E.,

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Zone -9

U. S. S. HERCULES (AK41)

At Sea

23 October 1944

Steaming on course 119° true speed 14.5 knots, enroute to Hollandia, N.G. At 0548 commenced Z/Z Plan No. 6 USF10A. At 1239 USS CALLOWAY became guide ship. At 1350 Hospital Ship sighted at 110° true distance 18 miles. At 1659 changed course to 114° true. At 2240 ceased Z/Z and resumed base course.

Position 0800 -	Latitude 9° 31' N.,	Longitude 127° 22' E.
" 1200 -	" 9° 09' N.,	" 128° 07' E.
" 2000 -	" 8° 19' N.,	" 129° 33' E.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

24 October 1944

As before on base course 114° true speed 14 knots. Z/Z Plan USF10A used intermittently throughout the day. At 1407 changed course to 160° true. Ships in left column departed in accordance with dispatch from CTF 78. 220322. At 1420 changed cruising formation as per instructions from OTC. At 1430 set speed at 14 knots. At 1713 towing bridles fore and aft were rigged in accordance with orders received from OTC. At 1718 three APD's sighted on true bearing 286° distance 14 miles. At 1748 set General Quarters. 1830 Secured General Quarters. Weather and sea favorable.

Position 0800 -	Latitude 7° 6' N.,	Longitude 132° 1' E.
" 1200 -	" 7° 5' N.,	" 132° 50' E.
" 2000 -	" 6° 5' N.,	" 133° 43' E.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

25 October 1944 to 27 October 1944

As before steaming enroute to Hollandia in convoy with three APD's as screening escort. Course changed to 137° at 0300 on the 25th; changed to 132° true at 0800 same day. Speed changed from 14 knots to 12 knots at 1400 on the 26th. At 2012 changed course to 140° true at 1600 changed course to 127° true. At 0247 on the 27th changed course to 140° true. At 0730 on the 27th arrival off Humbolt Bay. At 0956 anchored in Humbolt Bay with 60 fathoms of chain to Port anchor. At 1615 commenced bring stores aboard. Weather and sea favorable. Moderate swells in Bay Area.

*R. C. Horne*  
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Lt., D-V(S), USNR

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U. S. S. HERCULES (AK41).

Zone -9

Anchored

28 October 1944

Anchored as before awaiting further orders. Began preparation for replenishing supplies and ammunition. Routine security measures in effect.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE,  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

29-30 October 1944

Anchored in Humbolt Bay, New Guinea as before. No further operations.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR

31 October 1944

Anchored as before. At 0515 underway to go alongside tanker for fuel. At 0625 moored starboard side to SS BISHOPDALE in Limbi Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea. At 0630 commenced fueling. At 1100 completed fueling. At 1115 underway to return to anchorage. At 1215 anchored as before. At 2000 commenced taking on stores. At 2245 secured taking on stores. Awaiting orders for next operation.

*R. C. Horne*  
R. C. HORNE  
Lt., D-V(S), USNR