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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

S-E-C-R-E-T

WAR DIARY

T. G. 78.1.
U. S. S. ROCKY MOUNT (AGC 3), Flagship.

9 February 1945 (Continued).

The W. D. PORTER (DD 579) was designated by Commander of the outer screen as escort for the WINOOSKI (AO 28) to SUBIC BAY. TU 78.11.19, WINOOSKI (AO 28), escorted by W. D. PORTER (DD 579), departed at 1600 for SUBIC BAY.

TU 78.11.20, consisting of 6 LCTs and 4 LCIs escorted by the DARBY (DE 218) and PC 470 also departed at 1600 for SUBIC BAY. 12 LCTs had been requested by Admiral STRUBLE (CTG 78.3), but the SIXTH Army would only release 6, each loaded with 2 LVTs.

TU 78.7.2 consisting of LSTs 617, 24, 34, 66, 171, 397, 459, 470, 570, 605, 622, 670 plus 19 XAKs and the STAG (AW 1) arrived LINGAYEN GULF, 12 hours ahead of schedule and proceeded to assigned anchorages. Convoy was screened by STEVENS (DD 479), DOUGLAS A. MUNRO (DE 422), DUFILHO (DE 423), L.L.B. KNOX (DE 580), J. DOUGLAS BLACKWOOD (DE 219) and HOLT (DE 706). O. T. C. of the convoy was Commander LST Flotilla 16 in LST 617.

SC 631, SC 1273, and SC 1375 reported to PIEFFER (DE 588) for duty as escorts in TU 78.11.18.

A slow tow convoy, TU 78.11.18, consisting of LSTs 710, 1219, 688, 1028, 219, 925 and LCI 365, towed respectively by Army LTs 635, 226, 217, 634, 230, and 133 plus TP 129 departed LINGAYEN for LEYTE at 1600. Screen was provided by PIEFFER (DE 588) as O. T. C. of convoy plus SC 631, 1273, 1375, and YMS 365.

CTU 77.10.3 was given permission to retain the DANIEL A. JOY (DE 585) at MINDORO for 24 additional hours to escort the POLLUX (AKS 4) to LINGAYEN.

CTG 77.2 (heavy covering Group) departed LINGAYEN GULF for LEYTE late in the evening. Ships leaving were COLORADO (BB 45), PENNSYLVANIA (BB 38), WEST VIRGINIA (BB 48) and MISSISSIPPI (BB 41), escorted by Commander Destroyer Squadron 6. The three heavy cruisers plus 5 destroyers remained at LINGAYEN designated as TU 77.3.5.

Smoke was made in the morning but not in the evening because of the unexpected arrival of the LST - Liberty ship reinforcement convoy 12 hours ahead of schedule.

10 February 1945.

TG 78.5 arrived LINGAYEN GULF at 0700 I. This convoy consisted of ships of TransDivs 21, 41, and 42 as follows: KANIMBLA (C-76), MANOORA (F) (C-77), and WESTRALIA (C-61), the DIPHDA (AKA 59), G. F. ELLIOTT (AP 105), LA PORTE (APA 151), LAURENS (APA 153), OLMSTED (APA 188), BARNSTABLE (APA 93), COMET