

34 AUG 1944

WAR DIARY

Task Organization.

T.G. 53.2

25 July 1944.

At 0900 pursuant to orders of Commander Group Two, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Lieutenant Neal Raymond TERPENING (129538) USN, assumed command of this vessel relieving Lieutenant Louis Burdett FRANK, (111487) USN. Operating in Agat Bay, Guam Island, as a unit of Task Group 53.2, Rear Admiral Reifsnider in USS GEORGE CLYMER (APA 27). At 1110 pulled an LCM from reef at transfer line, Agat Bay. 1130 - 1600 lying to off reef to assist LSTs if necessary. 1700 ran tow wire to LST 986 to tow it from reef, but received orders from CTG 53.4 to proceed immediately to assistance of LST 479, so cast off line from LST 986. LST 479 was towed clear of reef by LST 227, so assistance not needed. 1800 received orders from ComDesDiv 50 in USS RINGOLD (DD 500) to screen 1000 yards south of transport area on an East - West line. Proceeded to station and screened throughout night.

26 July 1944.

In Agat Bay, Guam Island, on inner anti-submarine screen as directed by ComDesDiv 50. 0600 proceeded to transfer area off reef to stand by. 1326 anchored off White Beach to salvage an LCVP. 1520 weighed anchor, started heaving in on tow wire to pull LCVP up to stern of ship. 1605 hoisted power unit from LCM and placed it into DUKW. 1720 went alongside USS FUNSTON (APA 89) port side to for delivery of LCVP. 1834 LCVP hoisted clear of ship by FUNSTON. 1848 proceeding to take station on inner anti-submarine screen of transport area, Agat Bay. Screened throughout the night.

27 July 1944.

In Agat Bay, Guam Island, on inner anti-submarine screen. 0600 proceeded to transfer area off reef to stand by. 1020 LCT 995 came alongside with wire fouled in screws. Made LCT 995 fast along starboard side, sent divers over the side to clear screws. 1125 screws cleared, LCT 995 cast off. 1845 took screening station on inner anti-submarine screen, Agat Bay.

28 July 1944.

In Agat Bay, Guam Island, on inner anti-submarine screen. 0600 proceeded to transfer area off reef to stand by LSTs. 1900 received orders from CTG 53.2 to proceed to reef off Agat Beach to assist LST 731, which had broached on the reef. 1905 anchored off reef near Agat Beach to run tow wire to LST 731. 1915 YMS 281 attempted to run line in to LST 731, but line parted. 1945 commenced running line by LCVP. 2040 port wing wire (1-1/8") taken aboard LST 731. 2047 commenced taking strain on tow wire. 2125 wing wire parted, engines turning over for 12 1/2 knots at the time. 2335 put main tow wire (2") to LST 731, waiting for high tide to take a pull.

81375

14 AUG 1944

WAR DIARY

Task Organization.

T.G. 53.2

29 July 1944.

Anchored in Agat Bay, Guam Island, with main tow wire to LST 731, waiting for high tide to attempt to pull LST 731 off reef. 0120 commenced pulling on LST 731. 0150 reduced power to shift position of ship slightly. 0223 main tow wire fouled on coral, cast it off to clear coral. 0528 main tow wire again secured to stern of LST 731, commenced pulling. 1010 having been unable to move LST 731, cast off tow wire to run it to the bow of the LST. 1240 tow wire made fast to bow of LST 731, commenced pulling. 1338 wire bridle of LST 731 parted. 1510 wire made fast again, commenced pulling again. 1600 ceased pulling on LST 731, keeping enough headway to maintain strain on wire, awaiting orders from CTG 53.2. 1900 received orders that Commander Genereaux, Task Force 53 Salvage Officer, and USS GRAPPLE (ARS 7) would be sent to direct and assist in salvage of LST 731. 2145 Commander Genereaux came aboard to direct operations, USS GRAPPLE anchored ahead of this ship. 2205 GRAPPLE commenced attempting to run her main tow wire to LIPAN'S bow. One messenger was cut by a small craft and tow wire was fouled in coral before wire was brought aboard.

30 July 1944.

Anchored in Agat Bay, Guam Island, with main tow wire to LST 731, taking main tow wire from USS GRAPPLE (ARS 7), which anchored ahead of this ship. 0045 wire from GRAPPLE brought aboard and made fast to bow bits. 0200 LST 731 directed to pump out ballast. 0203 both ships commenced pulling on LST 731, and at 0206 main tow wire of USS LIPAN parted. GRAPPLE's tow wire was then released from bow of LIPAN. 0250 Commander Genereaux returned to USS GRAPPLE. 1230 Commander Genereaux came aboard, proceeding to Apra Harbor, Guam Island, to conduct diving operations to determine condition of mooring buoys in Apra Harbor. 1430 moored to buoy T-1 in Apra Harbor, Guam Island.

31 July 1944.

Moored to buoy T-1 in Apra Harbor, Guam Island. Divers inspected mooring buoys in the following berths: 1, C-2, T-2 and T-3. All moorings were found to be in good condition. A sunken ship of approximately 500 tons was still made fast to buoy T-2 by anchor chain, giving buoy a heavy list. There is about 70 feet of water over the mast of the sunken ship, so it was decided to cut the anchor chain at the buoy to clear it for use.

N. R. Terpening
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Lieutenant, USN
Commanding Officer.