

UNITED STATES SHIP STACK (DD406)

Friday  
(Day)

6,  
(Date)

August, 19 43  
(Month)

Zone description Minus 11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Port Purvis	9-10.0 S	8-37.5 S
Long.		160-10.5 E	157-09.5 E

**OPERATIONAL REMARKS**

(WAR DIARY)

00-04 Anchored in 20 fathoms of water with 60 fathoms of chain to the port anchor in Berth #7, Port Purvis Anchorage, Florida Islands. Following ships present: USS DUNLAP (ComDesDiv 12 SOPA) and other ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

*R.C. Bitlan*  
R.C. BITLAN, Ensign, U.S.N.R.

04-08 Anchored as before.

*M.G. Graza*  
M.G. GRAZDA, Ensign, U.S.N.R.

08-12 Anchored as before. At 1128 underway in accordance with orders of CTF-31 for a sweep in Vella Gulf in company with CTG - 31.2 (USS DUNLAP), USS MAURY, USS CRAVEN (Div A-1) and USS LANG (CDD-15), USS STERETT, USS STACK (Div A-2). At 1200 set course 250° T & pgc and speed 32 knots, proceeding to rendezvous with USS STERETT.

*G.A. Speer*  
G.A. SPEER, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.R.

12-16 Steaming as before. At 1248 alongside USS STERETT to deliver CTG 31.2 orders. At 1345 in AA formation with TG 31.2 on course 269° T & pgc, speed 25 knots. At 1505 changed course to 286° T & pgc, 269° psc.

*G.A. Speer*  
G.A. SPEER, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.R.

16-20 Steaming as before. At 1818 darkened ship. At 1908 changed course to 307° T&pgc and 292° psc.

*M. Ellison Jr.*  
M.M. ELLISON, Jr., Lieut. U.S.N.R.

20-24 Steaming as before. At 2014 changed speed to 238 knots. At 2015 went to general quarters. At 2125 changed course to 000° T & pgc, 350° psc. At 2147 changed speed to 15 knots. At 2205 changed course to 050° T & pgc, 049° psc, entering Gizo Strait. At 2230 passed through Gizo Strait, changed course to 124° T & pgc, 125° psc, making sweep in division formation along North Shore Gizo Island, no contacts. At 2301 changed course to 000° T & pgc, 350° psc, making sweep along West Shore Kolombangara Island, No contacts. At 2324 changed course to 030° T & pgc; changed speed to 25 knots; making sweep up East Side Vella Gulf. At 2345 Radar contact on four enemy rounding Bangara Point. Vella Lavella Island. Div A-1 moving in for torpedo attack, Div A-2 taking station for torpedo and gunfire attack. At 2346 Div A-1 fired torpedoes. At 2348 Div A-2 opened fire, this vessel firing 4 torpedoes (one hit) and engaging with 5-inch battery. Targets observed to be all hit by torpedoes with gunfire effective immediately. Some weak return gunfire. At 2351 one target believed cruiser exploded and sank; one large target completely on fire; ceased fire; maneuvering radically.

*G.A. Speer*  
G.A. SPEER, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.R.

Approved:

*R.A. Newton*  
R.A. NEWTON,

Lieut-Comdr., USN Commanding Officer.

Examined:

*P.K. Sherman*  
P.K. SHERMAN,

Lieut-Comdr., USN,

Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

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UNITED STATES SHIP STACK (DD406)

Saturday 7, August, 19 43  
(Day) (Date) (Month)

Zone description Minus 11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	8-54.0 S	Tulagi	9-08.0 S
Long.	159-28.5 E	Harbor	158-48.5 E

**OPERATIONAL REMARKS**

**(WAR DIARY)**

00-04 Engaged with enemy force in company with own TG31.2 in Vella Gulf off Bangam Point, Vella LaVella Island. At 2403 resumed fire. Two small (DD) targets observed to sink; large ship target burning to water-line. At 2427 fired two torpedoes at burning target, (no hits). At 2445 ceased firing; 121 rounds 5"/38 Cal. expended, no casualties. Maneuvering in target area. Observed many survivors in water. At 0115 Div A-1 retiring to Purvis; this division searching area for survivors. Contacts made but survivors refused to be rescued. At 0230 Div A-2 retiring to Purvis on various courses and at various speeds, standard speed 30 knots. At 0340 secured from general quarters and set condition of readiness II-M.

*G.A. Speer*  
G.A. SPEER, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.R.

04-08 Steaming as before, on course 100° T & pgc at 31 knots. At 0450 changed course to 121° T & pgc, 123° psc. At 0540 general quarters for dawn alert. At 0725 secured from general quarters and set condition of readiness II-M.

*G.A. Speer*  
G.A. SPEER, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.R.

08-12 Steaming as before, on course 120° T & pgc, 120° psc at 30 knots. At 0932 made all preparations for entering port, proceeding on various courses and at various speeds. At 0935 made inspection of magazines and smokeless powder samples; conditions normal. At 1016 moored outboard of USS LANG alongside Fuel Barge in Tulagi Harbor, Florida Islands.

*R.C. Bitzan*  
R.C. BITZAN, Ensign, U.S.N.R.

12-16 Moored as before. At 1216 completed fueling, having received 53,360 gallons fuel oil. At 1242 underway. At 1249 anchored in Berth #4, Tulagi Harbor, Florida Island. At 1315 completed taking on ammunition, having received 200 rounds 5"/38 Cal. projectiles and 200 rounds Flashless powder. At 1400 received 4 Mk. XV Mod. 1 torpedoes, less warheads from Base Ammunition Depot.

*G.A. Speer*  
G.A. SPEER, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.R.

16-20 Anchored as before. At 1605 anchor aweigh. At 1609 all engines ahead 2/3 standing out of Tulagi Harbor. At 1617 changed speed to 20 knots (194 rpm). At 1622 changed speed to 30 knots (316 rpm); changed base course to 266° T & pgc, 249° psc. At 1649 changed base course to 265° T & pgc, 248° psc. At 1655 boiler #2 out in on main steam line. At 1656 changed speed to 32 knots (338 rpm); changed base course to 263° T & pgc, 246° psc. At 1707 changed speed to 35 knots (372 rpm); changed course to 270° T & pgc, 253° psc. At 1742 lost suction on #3 boiler, changed speed to 20 knots (194 rpm). At 1752 changed speed to 28 knots (292 rpm); engines making maximum speed, increasing as possible. At 1813 speed 33 knots (346 rpm). At 1820 sighted USS LANG and convoy bearing 269° T. At 1822 darkened ship. At 1825 maneuvering on various courses and at various speeds taking station ahead of LST convoy; relieving USS LANG on station. At 1840 passed Russell Islands abeam to starboard, distance 4½ miles. At 1840 changed speed to 12 knots (110 rpm); commenced patrolling on base course 283° T & pgc, 268° psc.

*J.M. Ellison Jr.*  
J.M. ELLISON, Jr., Lieut. U.S.N.R.

20-24 Steaming as before. At 2030 passed Buraku Island abeam to starboard, distance 7 miles. At 2350 SG Radar picked up contact bearing 018° T, distance 18,000 yards, zigzagging on course 030° T.

Approved: *A.A. Newton*  
A.A. NEWTON,  
Lieut-Comdr., USN, Commanding Officer.

Examined: *H.E. Shear*  
H.E. SHEAR, Lt.(jg), U.S.N.  
*P.R. Sherman*  
P.R. SHERMAN,  
Lieut-Comdr., U.S.N., Navigator.

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