Deck Log for U.S.S. PGM 7, first ship of Howard La Favre in the war zone during WW II

Notes for log: times are 24 hour military format (0000 = midnight, 0800 = 8:00 am, 1200 = noon, 1800 = 6:00 pm, etc.). Text in brackets [] are notes added by Jeff La Favre. This is an abbreviated version of the log, in which most of the course directions by compass readings were not included. The officers were required to make an entry into the log for every 4 hour period, starting the day at midnight with period 0000-0400. An entry was required even if nothing new happened during the period. Thus there are statements like “moored as before” and “steaming as before” and I have not included most of these.

**January 1, 1944**

0000-0400

Moored with four manila lines at Harbor Boat Building Company dock Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif.

**January 2**

1600-2000

Moored as before.

1830 Underway on various courses and speeds for pier 60, Naval Section Base, San Pedro, Calif.

1915 Secured port side to U.S.S. PGM-3 at Naval Section Base, Pier 60, San Pedro, Calif.

**January 5**

1200-1600

Moored as before

1330 underway in Los Angeles Harbor on various courses and speeds while calibrating the Radio Direction Finder.

1450 secured from Calibrating R.D.F. Underway for pier 60.

1510 Moored portside to U.S.S. PGM-3, pier 60, Naval Section Base, San Pedro, Calif.

**January 7**

0800-1200

Underway for firing practice at Catalina Island range.

0950 Catalina Island on port beam. General Quarters.

1105 Secured from General Quarters.

1200-1600

Steaming on various courses and speeds

1210 Underway on various courses and speeds for San Pedro.

1508 Moored starboard side to west end of Net Dock, Naval Operating Base, Terminal Island, San Pedro, California.
1600-2000

Underway for anchorage in Berth 113.

1823 anchored in Berth 113, Outer L.A. Harbor, N.O.B.

January 8

0000-0400


0800-1200

0800 anchored as before
0802 underway for pier 29-A
0815 moored at pier 29-A N.O.B. port side to.
1130 underway for anchorage.
1150 Anchored in Berth 113

January 9

0800-1200

0800 anchor aweigh, underway for speed runs.
0810 passed thru “George Gate”
0853 Passed RT. Fermin on starboard beam, range 2000 yards.
0922 commenced speed runs.

1200-1600

As before, on speed runs
1410 terminated speed runs underway on various courses and speeds for San Pedro.

1600-2000

Steaming as before
1608 coming alongside station vessel for instructions
1640 passing thru “George Gate”

January 10

0800-1200

Anchored as before.
0900 anchor aweigh, underway for West End Pier
0910 alongside PGM-3 at West End Pier. Dropped off shakedown gunnery officer
0912 proceeding to “George” gate.
0937 passing thru George Gate underway in Los Angeles Harbor on various speeds and courses while holding General Drills.

1200-1600

Steaming as before.
1355 returning to San Pedro
1518 came alongside station vessel for instructions
1545 passing thru “George” gate.

1600-2000

As before
1607 moored starboard side to East End Pier inside breakwater N.O.B.
1723 underway for anchorage, Berth 113

January 11

0800-1200

Anchored as before
0926 underway for Seamanship Dock, N.O.B.
0942 secured at east end of New Dock NOB to take on water
1000 underway for Transient Shed Dock, N.O.B.
1010 moored on west side of Transient Shed Dock.
1120 underway on various courses and speeds in Outer L. A. Harbor compensating compass [this a reference to adjustments to magnetic compass? – J. La Favre]

1200-1600

Steaming as before
1403 underway for Transient Shed N.O.B.
1515 moored to West Side Transient Shed

January 12

0800-1200

Moored as before
0852 underway for gunnery exercises off Catalina Island
0912 passed thru “George” gate
0950 in company with the U.S.S. PGM’s 5, 3 and 2 respectively.
1030 commenced exercises
2000-2400
Steaming as before
2125 ceased firing exercises, underway for Outer L.A. Harbor

January 13

0800-1200
Anchored as before.
0808 anchor aweigh. Underway for Transient Shed Dock.
0840 moored starboard side to U.S.S. PGM-6 at west side of Transient Shed dock, N.O.B.

January 14

0800-1200
Moored as before
1015 Underway on various courses and speeds en route to Catalina Island for gunnery exercises
1100 passing thru “George” gate.
1200-1600
Steaming as before
1300 began gunnery exercises.

2000-2400
Steaming as before
2140 secured from gunnery exercises. Underway for San Pedro, Calif.

January 15

0000-0400
Steaming for San Pedro, California.

0800-1200
Anchored as before.
0819 Anchor aweigh. Underway for Transient Sled, N.O.B.
0849 Moored Starboard side to PGM-6 at Transient Shed, N.O.B.

1600-2000
Moored as before
1730  Underway for anchorage

**January 16**

0000-0400

1200-1600
Anchored as before.
1325  anchor aweigh, underway for Pier 60, Naval Section Base, San Pedro, Calif.
1415  Moored port side to PGM-3 at Pier 60, Berth 65 N.S.B.

1600-2000
Moored as before
1615  underway on various courses and speeds for anchorage at N.O.B.
1645  Anchored in Berth 113, Outer L. A. Harbor, N.O.B.

**January 17**

0000-0400

1200-1600
Anchored as before
1300  commenced military inspection
1430  secured from military inspection.

**January 18**

0000-0400
Moored in berth 113, Los Angeles Harbor

0800-1200
Anchored as before
0830  underway for berth 78 Union Oil dock
0945  secured alongside YMS 268
0950  commenced fueling
1030  secured fueling
1035  underway for pier 60, Section Base
1055  secured alongside PGM 4, San Pedro, Naval Section Base.

1200-1600
Moored as before.
1440  underway to swing ship
1523  secured from swinging ship
1545  moored port side to YF48, berth 60, San Pedro, Section base.

January 19

0000-0400
Moored port side to YF48, berth 60, San Pedro Section Base, San Pedro, California

January 20

0000-0400
Moored port side to berth 60, San Pedro Section Base, San Pedro, California

0800-1200
Moored as before.
0815  Underway for Naval Operating Base, Terminal Island.
0840  anchored berth 113 Los Angeles Harbor off Naval Operating Base
1055  underway for Section Base
1130  secured port side to berth 60 Section Base.

January 21

0000-0400
Moored port side to Berth 60, Naval Section Base, San Pedro, Calif.

1600-2000
Moored as before
1620  underway for anchorage at N.O.B., Terminal Island.
1655  anchored in berth 113, Los Angeles Harbor, off Naval Operating base.

January 22

0000-0400
Anchored in Berth 113 Los Angeles Harbor Naval operating base, Terminal Island, California.
1200-1600
Anchored as before.
1429  underway for Naval Section Base
1500  Moored at Pier 60, Berth 60.

1600-2000
Moored as before
1620  underway for Naval Operating Base
1655  anchored in Berth 103, Los Angeles Harbor N.OB. Treasure island, California.

January 23 [The PGMs begin their journey to the South Pacific and the war zone!]

[My father, Howard La Favre, was on board when PGM 7 left San Pedro en route for the Solomon Islands, where he served on the ship until it was damaged in a collision. Later in 1944 Howard was assigned to PGM 3, the ship he served on until January of 1946, when PGM 3 was decommissioned. In this log the weather is rarely mentioned. However, stories supplied by other sailors in this group of PMGs, found in a book that I have, claim the PGMs sailed into a storm of near hurricane proportions soon after leaving San Pedro. That storm was so bad that some of the PGMs turned back because they were taking on too much water.]

0000-0400
Anchored in Berth 103, Outer Los Angeles Harbor, Naval Operating Base, Terminal Island, California.

0400-0800
Anchored as before
0740  underway in Outer Los Angeles Harbor to take on water from anchored water barge
0750  alongside water barge.

0800-1200  Moored as before
0830  underway to moor approximately 200 yards from water barge
0835  moored using port anchor and six fathoms of chain
1030  underway en route to station vessel passing thru George gate
1045  passed thru George gate.

1200-1600
Steering on various courses and speeds taking steaming formation
1224  underway in formation speed 12.5 knots in company with PGMs 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 respectively, and the U.S.S. Mana
1306 Catalina Island abeam to port range 13 miles
1520 Santa Barbara Island abeam to starboard range 11.5 miles.
January 24

0000-0400
Steaming as before speed 8 knots

January 26

0000-0400
Steaming en route to Pearl Harbor under orders from Commander Western Sea Frontier using _?_ engine speed 8 knots.

0800-1200
speed 11 knots

January 27

0000-0400
Steaming with Task Force 14.25. [the name of the PGM group in transit to Pearl Harbor]

1600-2000
Steaming as before
1640 _?_ in formation astern of tanker in preparation to refuel
1730 began refueling; took on 2700 gal fuel, 550 gal water
1820 ceased refueling & resumed position in convoy

February 1, 1944 [arrive at Pearl Harbor]

0000-0400
Steaming as before speed 10.5 knots en route to Pearl Harbor in company of PGM’s 8, 6, 5, 3, 1. [note here that PGMs 2 and 4 are now not with group but log does not explain – check log for PGM 3, which says that PGMs 2 and 4 turned back]

0800 speed 11.5 knots
1045 passed Diamond Head on starboard beam
1200 using various speeds and courses to enter Pearl Harbor.
1318 secured alongside port side to PGM 6 berth S-19, submarine base, Pearl Harbor.

3 February 1944 Officer’s Next of Kin
Commanding Officer:
A.J. Malcomson, Lt. (jg), USNR, D-V(S)

Next of Kin
Gail S. Malcomson
46 Elmhurst Street
Detroit, Michigan

Executive Officer:
E.S. Rubin, Ensign, USNR, D-V(G)

Next of Kin
Mrs. Lee Rubin
800 Lakeview Drive
Miami Beach, Florida

Third Officer:
L. L. Kupferberg, Ensign, USNR, D-V(G)

Next of Kin
Mrs. Beatrice Kupferberg
1719 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, New York

Feb. 4-March, 1944 – Officer’s Next of Kin [note: new third officer]

Commanding Officer: [same]

Executive Officer:[same]

Third Officer:
Morgan Ellsworth

Next of Kin
Mrs. Agnes Tee Ellsworth
218 N. Broadway
McComb, Mississippi

[deck log continues]
February 2
0000-0400
tied up at Submarine Base Berth s-19 at Pearl Harbor with four manila lines over to the PGM 6. 
1515 underway for berth George Dog [I believe this is berth GD – they use words for letters] 
1545 tied up alongside PGM 1 at Berth George Dog 2.

February 7
0000-0400 tied up port side to with four manila lines over at berth George Dog 2 at Pearl Harbor 
0800-1200 as before – yard work – men making repairs at different places.

February 10
0000-0400 moored port side to with four manila lines over at berth George Dog, pier 1 
1123 underway 
1145 secured at berth S-19 Sub Base.

February 11
0000-0400 tied up port side to PGM 5 at Berth s-19, Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor

February 12 [leave Pearl Harbor en route for Palmyra]
0000-0400 moored as before at Sail 19, Sub Base, Pearl Harbor, T. H. [Territory of Hawaii] outboard of 
PGM [no number given] 
1120 _?_ Special Sea Detail 
1129 underway en route to Palmyra as _?_ of Task Force 16.68 making various courses and speeds 
while leaving harbor. 
1200-1600 
1205 passing through nets, astern PGM 5 [these would be nets to keep out enemy submarines] 
1340 came alongside PGM 5 to receive infra red light 
1345 resumed position 
1440 Gen Quarters for firing practice – 3” 50 cal and 40 mm 
1445 Exercises completed; secured.
2000-2400 steaming as before. Checked pitch 2205 found 2” difference left propeller

**February 13**

0000-00400 steaming as before; en route to Palmyra, speed 14 knots, In company with PGM’s 8, 5, 3, 1; sea calm; moderate wind. [note that PGM 6 is now not with group]

**February 14**

0000-0400 moderate sea & wind; in position, astern PGM 5

1015 PGM 5 came alongside to take salt water pump

1025 PGM 5 left alongside, proceeding on.

**February 15 [arrive at Palmyra Island]**

0000-0400 steaming as before, speed 14 knots; en route to Palmyra Island; in company with PGM 8, 5, 3, 1; wind & sea normal

0800-1200

0930 sighted Palmyra Island

1015 following in wake of PGM 5 to enter harbor

1112 passed between buoys 1 – 2, proceeding thru channel

1115 buoy 3 to port 6 to starboard

1135 inside Harbor

1145 port side too; alongside oil barge

1146 secured

1200-1600

1500 shoved off from oil barge

1515 secured alongside oil dock; alongside PGM 5; liberty for 1st & 3rd section

**February 16 [leave Palmyra en route for Pago Pago]**

0400-0800 as before; proceeding with morning routine.

0800 -1200

0810 underway

0815 coming alongside X33; starboard side too

0820 secured alongside

1000 underway en route to Pago Pago, Tutuila Island [American Samoa], various courses & speeds for leaving Harbor
1020 speed 7 knots, port engine secured [i.e. using only the starboard engine]
1135 speed 12 knots

February 17 [crossing the Equator today!]

0000-0400 steaming as before; using both main engines in company with PGMs 8, 5, 3, 1, en route to Pago Pago

0400-0800

0600 February 17th, Day of passing 0° Lat. [i.e., crossing the equator]; ship was turned over to shell backs; which consisted of following name men; Niess; Savage, Ingram, Lawrence, Dhieux [Edmund Roman Niess (MM second class, enlisted 6 MAR 1940) John Joseph Savage (Pharmacy Mate first class, enlisted 11 FEB 1942) Howard Kelly Ingram (coxswain, enlisted 20 DEC 1940) James Edward Lawrence (radioman second class, enlisted 10 JAN 1940) August Dhieux, Jr. (gunners mate second class, enlisted 27 MAR 1942)] [shell backs are crew members who have crossed the equator previously, thus considered experienced seamen – the tradition is for the shell backs to initiate the neophytes of the crew]

0800-1200 as before; shell backs initiated crew

1400 set clocks back ½ hr.

February 18

0000-0400 steaming as before; en route for Pago Pago, using both main engines; sea and wind normal

February 19

0000-0400 steaming as before en route to Pago Pago in company of PGM’s 8, 5, 3, 1 wind S, force “1” – calm sea with moderate swells – using both main engines

February 20 [arrive at Pago Pago]

0000-0400 steaming as before Using both main engines – sea & wind conditions normal

0200 en route to Pago Pago in company of P.G.M’s 8, 5, 3, 1

0730 – land sighted bearing 010° (T)

1100 - various courses and speeds for entering harbor at Pago Pago

1200-1600 secured alongside pier 8, Pago Pago with P.G.M. 5 outboard of us.

1600-2000 moored as before – Liberty for starboard section.

1940 an officer from S.C. 1042 came aboard to report that Smith, CMM [Joseph Max Smith, service number 283 04 91] had been picked up while hanging to a buoy but that Niess, E.R., MM 1/c was missing after the dinghy in which they were in had sunk. The duty officer immediately informed proper
authorities and had all available patrol boats put in search for Niess. 2300 search for Niess, E.R., MM 1/c abandoned.

February 21

0000-0400 moored as before in harbor at Pago Pago. Tied up to pier 8 with PGM 5 outboard.

February 22

1010 paymaster came aboard to pay crew
1045 Captain and party of men left ship for an excursion of the island
1645 Captain and excursion party returned aboard ship

February 23

0730 underway for fuel dock
0745 secured starboard side to at oil dock ready to take on fuel
1000 Savage PhM 2/c and Rodrick Y 1/c identified body at Mobile Naval hospital as that of Niess, E. R., MM 1/c
1200-1600 moored as before, refueling still in progress
1515 underway from oil dock
1530 secured port side to at pier 4, Pago Pago harbor

February 24 [depart Pago Pago en route for Suva]

0000-0400 secured port side to at pier 4, Pago Pago harbor. PGM’s 5, 3, 8 are outboard of us
0800-1200 moored as before – preparations being made to get underway
1055 underway for Suva, Viti Levu [Fiji] various speeds and courses used for leaving harbor
1355 speed to 14 knots
1600 speed 13 knots

February 25

0000-0400 underway en route for Suva, Viti Levu in company of PGM’s 8 (otc) 5, 3, & 1. Both main engines in use.

2105 speed 11 knots

February 26 & 27 [crossing the date line today?] [arrive Suva]

0000-0400 steaming as before 11 knots in company of PGM’s 8, 5, 3, 1, en route to Suva, Viti Levu using both main engines.
0535  speed 16 knots
1159  changed to Sunday 27 February [i.e. crossing the International Date line?]
1430  speed 12 knots
1730  speed 13 knots; sighted Suva
1835  speed 10 knots
1840  entering harbor
1955  secured at Suva

February 28 [depart Suva en route to Noumea, New Caledonia]

Moored as before at King’s Way, Suva Harbor

0830  starting refueling ship
1000  commenced Liberty for starboard section
1025  finish refueling
1345  brought stores aboard [supplies]
1600  all men mustered back on ship from liberty. Brought aboard machine guns and three 45 cal. pistols
1655  underway for Noumea, New Caledonia
1738  speed 13 knots

February 29

In company of PGMs 8.otc 5 and 3

March 2, 1944 [arrive Noumea, New Caledonia]

1255  land sighted off port bow
1300  speed 8 knots
1345  passed Amandee Lighthouse abeam to port at a distance of about 400 yards
1350  entering harbor
1440  inside harbor
1525  moored to buoy in Fisherman’s Bay at Port Noumea, New Caledonia

March 3

1323  underway to shift berth
1410  secured at berth AD 40 alongside YMS 193, Noumea, New Caledonia

March 6

1140  tug came alongside and shifted us to berth on west side of AD 40

March 9

2000  Demaree, W.C.  F1/c reported aboard for duty
March 11

1600 underway to swing ship
1705 secured from swinging ship, proceeding to port
1720 secured in berth AD 40

March 12 [depart Noumea en route to Espiritu Santo]

0810 special Sea Detail called
0900 alongside R-3 port side to
0915 underway to swing ship
1035 finished swinging ship, coming alongside YO to take on fuel
1200 alongside YO, standing by to get underway
1435 underway from oil dock at Noumea to Espiritu Santo [New Hebrides]
1930 speed 13 knots

March 13

En route to Espiritu Santo in company of PGMs 3, 5 & 8

1120 mast held by captain for following named men: Wolszon, seaman first class, for sleeping on watch, reduced to next inferior rating (seaman second class); Morse Rd.M. second class for shirking duty, given 10 hours extra duty

March 14 [arrive at Espiritu Santo]

0540 speed 13 knots
0608 speed 11 knots
0800 entering harbor
0945 secured port side to alongside PGM 5
1330 Strobielto fireman second class was transferred from this ship to receiving station at Espiritu Santo

March 15 [depart Espiritu Santo en route to Guadalcanal]

moored to buoy with PGMs 8 & 5 tied alongside inboard of us in berth 1 at Espiritu Santo
1200 underway for Lunga Point, Guadalcanal [Solomon Islands]
1230 speed 13 knots

March 16

en route to Guadalcanal with PGMs 5 & 8 (otc)
1100 held firing practice
1120 secured from firing practice
1330 firing exercises, sighted convoy starboard quarter
1400 secured from firing
March 17

0115 speed 15 knots
0850 entering harbor at Guadalcanal
1040 dropped port anchor in 15 fathoms of water
1440 underway for Tulagi [small island (5.5 km by 1 km) in the Solomon Islands, just off the south coast of Florida Island]
1450 speed 15 knots
1557 entered gates at Tulagi harbor
1615 dropped anchor in 19 fathoms of water

March 18

1110 underway for water
1120 left buoy on wrong side and ran aground shoal
1150 backed off shoal with aid of two motor launches – proceeding up channel
1235 moored port side to water dock
1240 PGM 5 tied up alongside
1359 underway for anchorage berth
1415 dropped anchor in 18 fathoms of water

March 19

Anchored as before in Tulagi Bay in 18 fathoms of water

0902 underway for Purvis Bay
1025 coming alongside SC 667
1030 secured port side to SC 667

March 20

1010 underway, came alongside supply ship 515
1100 secured
1305 underway for Argonne
1320 moored at Argonne – starboard side to PGM 5

March 24

Moored at Argonne alongside PGM 5, in Purvis Bay

March 27

1145 underway for Tulagi Harbor
1245 moored at pier 6, Tulagi

March 28
0820 underway to swing ship
0915 secured from swinging ship and returned to pier 6
1940 underway for Purvis Bay
2045 tied up alongside PGM 8 at Argonne
2105 underway, moored to buoy 200 yards off Argonne

March 29

Moored at buoy in Purvis Bay near Argonne

0600 underway for Rendova in company of PGMs 5 & 8
0640 passed through nets, speed 15.5 knots
1445 speed 13 knots
1908 following in wake of PGM 5 through Renard entrance, entering harbor
1930 anchored in 12 fathoms at Rendova

March 30

Anchored in 12 fathoms of water in Rendova Harbor

1635 underway en route to Blanche Island for night exercises
2000 carrying out exercises as before
2400 secured from exercises – proceeding back to port

March 31

0210 entered Renard entrance
0300 dropped anchor in 16 fathoms of water
1830 underway for firing practice
2100 secured from firing – proceeding back to port
2230 dropped anchor in 16 fathoms of water in Rendova Harbor

April 1, 1944

In Rendova Harbor

1 MAY 1944 officers – same as last list

April 4

1045 underway en route to Hathorn Sound, Kula Gulf [next to the island of Kolombangara, New Georgia group, Solomon Islands]
1100 laying to
1145 underway with PGM 5, leaving harbor
1410 coming alongside yog 40 for fuel
1540 underway for ammunition barge
1600  laying off ammunition barge, en route for “Dixie”
1625  secured alongside “Dixie”, taking on provisions

April 5

Secured alongside “Dixie” at Hathorn Sound, Kula Gulf

0955  underway for ammunition barge
1010  secured at ammunition barge
1130  underway for Rendova Harbor
1145  at Rendova Harbor, anchored in 12 fathoms of water
1810  underway for night exercises, proceeding to rendezvous point
1921  at position, waiting to begin exercises
1937  began exercises
2110  secured from exercises, returning to port at Rendova Harbor
2215  anchored in harbor in 12 fathoms of water

April 6

0700  underway, en route for Treasury Island
0705  speed 13 knots, PGM 5 astern
1330  sighted Treasury Island
1435  anchored in 6.5 fathoms of water at Steirling Harbor [could this depth be correct?]

7 April 1944 officers – same as before

April 7

0000  anchored in 12 fathoms in Blanche Harbor at MTB 9 Sterling Island in the Treasuries

April 8

1743  underway by order of commander of MTB base to make anti-barge and anti-submarine patrol in coastal waters of southwest Bougainville [Island] in area W
1757  cleared nets, speed 15 knots to reach rendezvous point
2008  rendezvous with PT’s two miles south of AKO – conducted northern and southern sweeps lying to frequently and illuminating the Mibo River and other possible targets by mortar and three inch star shell, maintaining 1 mile range to beach and various speeds

April 9

0000-0400  steaming as before; en route for Treasury Island
0640  at nets; proceeded through; standing in to Sterling Harbor
0659  dropped anchor
0700  secured
April 10

0000 moored as before; in assigned berth, on beach
1635 special sea detail; underway for area “E”
1708 passed through nets
1712 speed 17 knots
1930 General Quarters Drill
2030 approx. position 5 miles due east of “Cyprian” Bridge [assume this is Cyprian Bridge Island, northeast of Fauro Island]
2120 made visible contact with 2 PT boats
2122 took position on PT boats
2244 5 miles from “Lululia” Point; dead ahead
2305 3 miles from beach
2315 objects ahead, expected PT’s 2 ½ miles & closing
2325 targets identified as “Land”, now 1 ½ miles from beach; proceed southward on first patrol, PT’s following astern

April 11

0000-0400 steaming as before; 1 ½ miles off beach; on southern patrol
0012 PTs investigating target at 090°
0045 sighted object at 070°, looks like a light
0047 all engines stopped; laying to 1 ¾ miles off beach, reported light at 070° not visible; 4 miles off Rantan Island, bearing 345°
0109 set course 127°
0118 change course to 307°
0137 change course to 335°
0142 change course to 000°
0204 change speed to stop, laying to 1 ¾ miles off beach
0210 fired 4 rounds of three inch star shells off port beam, 2 miles south of Tuluai Point, range 1 mile to beach at 090°
0219 underway
0220 “midnite” is now operating in area
0224 ceased patrol
0230 tracer fire off port quarter at Talulai Point

0400-0800 proceeding to base

0600 four PT boats coming up astern
0620 expected gunfire from Shortland [Island], as PTs reported
0712 secured radar [establishes that PGM 7 had functional radar]
0745 passing through nets; at east entrance
0800-1200 proceeding to anchorage

0811 dropped anchor in 25 fathoms of water

April 12

0000-0400 anchored as before, harbor at Sterling Island in 14 fathoms of water

April 13

0000-0400 anchored as before in 14 fathoms of water at MTB base, Sterling Island, Treasuries

1700 underway for patrol of coastal waters southwest Bougainville [Island] by order of MTB in area “W”
1750 cleared nets; speed 15 knots
1755 test fired; condition good all guns
1945 at rendezvous position; laying to 2 miles south of AKO awaiting PT’s
2040 rendezvous with PTs, commenced exercises, southern sweep 1 ¼ miles along beach
2?45 on northern patrol, 1 ¾ miles from beach
2333 reversed course, began southerly sweep 2 ¼ miles north of Moviai River

April 14

0000 patrolling southwest coastal waters of Bougainville [Island] in company of two PTs from MTB 9, now making southerly sweep in area “W”
0056 illuminated Mibo River – no results
0230 all engines stop – lying to, 2 miles northwest of Aitara Point
0240 two PTs from northern sector joining us, underway for Mosiga area
0305 strafed beach at Mosiga – no casualties and no results or return fire noted
0325 secured patrol and proceeding back to base, speed 17 knots
0350 passed abeam to starboard of Antarara Island
0545 entered nets of western entrance
0605 dropped anchor in 12 fathoms of water in anchorage berth at Sterling Island

April 15

0930 shifted berth to one on the beach 50 yards off berth “A”
1707 underway by orders, commander MTB base, to patrol southwest coastal waters of Bougainville [Island] in area “W”
1722 cleared nets, speed 15 knots
1840 test fired all guns satisfactorily
2000 proceeding to rendezvous, 2 miles south of Aitara Point
2040 lying to, rendezvous with PT’s 2 miles south of Aitara
2106 commenced northerly sweep at various courses and speeds to remain 1 ¾ miles off beach
2247 illuminated possible target and found to be shadows
2350 all engines stop, lying to, 2 ½ miles south of Matsun Kei [or Keio], 1 ¾ mile from beach
April 16

0000 lying to, 2 ½ miles off Matsun Kero prior to making southern sweep
0031 commenced southern sweep at various courses and speeds to remain a distance of 1 mile from beach
0225 secured patrol and returning to base, speed 15 knots
0341 passed Antarara abeam to port
0606 entered nets at western entrance
0630 secured at assigned berth on beach at MTB 9, Sterling Island

April 17

0000-0400 moored as before, at berth “A”, Sterling Harbor
1730 underway to proceed on night patrol, at area “W” at Bougainville [Island]
1745 cleared nets, speed 15 knots
2023 at rendezvous 2 miles south of AKO River; rendezvous with PT’s, began northern sweep; 1 ¾ miles off beach
2335 flares sighted and tracer fire from black CAT, north of Aitara [black CAT, I believe is a US seaplane]
2350 all engines stop; laying to, 2 miles south of Aitara
2355 underway, resuming southerly sweep

April 18

0000 southerly sweep, off 2 ½ miles from Mosiga and called General Quarters for possible targets
0007 illuminated and sighted barge
0038 closed range to beach to 700 yards ready to fire
0040 Black Cat is illuminating us and PT’s by mistake are strafing us [I believe the interpretation here is that a US seaplane has dropped a flare or other illuminating device and has spotted the group including PGM 7 and is firing upon them my mistake – this is the middle of the night and trying to identify ships as friendly or enemy was not easy]
0040 Black Cat making strafing run on us [flying in toward ship and firing upon them]
0041 PT reached by Tcs and is holding fire
0045 inspected ship and found no casualties among personnel. Damage to ship was limited to 50 cal indentation in 3 inch splinter shield and a 20 mm shell which passed through the forward magazine into Radio Shack
0200 illumination in vicinity of Mosiga fails to reveal any trace of barges. Continuing our southerly sweep
0230 rendezvous with PGM 8 and 2 PT’s working with her, two miles south of AKO
0300 all boats made firing runs off Mosiga at approx 1500 yards. No casualties and no results noted
0325 secured patrol and returning to base at 17 knots using various courses
0625 cleared nets of western entrance
0640 secured at assigned berth (A) at MTB, Sterling Island, Treasuries
April 19

0000 moored as before, secured to beach
1645 special sea detail
1700 underway, en route for area “William” [area W]
1712 through west gate
1713 speed 15 knots
1721 test fired, all guns, all good condition
1955 2 ½ miles from beach, off “Aitara”, awaiting PT’s
2038 began first run, northern run
2050 sighted search lights at 020°, using various courses and speeds to maintain 1 mile from beach
2350 reversed course, began southerly sweep

April 20

0045 commenced northern sweep, 1 mile along beach
0210 standing by to fire on Puriata River
0223 began firing
0229 ceased firing, proceeding on
0235 expected gun fire from beach
0302 sighted flares & gunfire in vicinity of Aitara Point
0400-0800 steaming as before, proceeding to base
0610 passed through nets
0625 moored at berth

April 21

1645 underway
1710 passed through nets
1957 speed 10 knots
2008 stopped, laying to, 2 miles south of Aitera
2045 rendezvous with PT’s, also PGM 8
2103 began northern sweep, various courses and speeds to maintain 1 ½ miles from beach
2332 began southern sweep

April 22

0115 Aitara to port, closed beach to ¼ mile
0125 laying to
0250 course 160°
0350 laying to, awaiting PGM 8
0402 speed 1200 [rpm] 39 inch pitch
April 23

0605 entered nets
0625 secured at berth

April 23

0800-1200 going on with day’s routine scheduled
1730 underway
1745 cleared nets
2025 range to beach 4 miles, off AKO River
2150 began northern run

April 24

0000-0400 steaming as before, on northern run, various courses and speeds to maintain proper distance from beach
0130 began southerly sweep, 1 mile off beach
0300 2 miles south of Aitara, speed 15 knots, proceeding to base
0645 passed through nets
0615 secured

April 25

0000-0400 moored as before, at berth “A”, Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands
1730 underway, to conduct anti-sub patrol southwest Bougainville [Island] in area “W”
1810 cleared nets, speed 15 knots, test fired guns, all well
2057 stopped at rendezvous position, 2 ½ miles from Aitara
2102 made rendezvous with PTs & PGM 8, began patrol, northern sweep 5/8 of a mile to beach
2330 laying to, south of Matsunkai
2342 reversed course, began southern sweep

April 26

0000-0400 steaming as before, on southerly sweep, in area “W” (SW) Bougainville [Island] with PT and PGM 8
0225 called General Quarters in preparation for shelling Mosiga Point
0242 began firing, 1500 yards, firing all guns on port side, illuminating by mortar
0252 ceased firing, no casualties, no return fire
0255 secured patrol, returning to base
0400 proceeding to base, 15 knots
0557 cleared nets, west entrance, of Treasury
0610 secured at berth “A”, Sterling Harbor

April 27
0000-0400  moored as before at berth “A”  MTB, Sterling Island  
1730  underway by order of MTB’s Treasury to conduct anti-barge anti-submarine patrol in coastal waters of southwest Bougainville [Island] in area “W”
1753  cleared nets, speed 15 knots
1832  test fired all guns satisfactorily
2000  en route to southwest Bougainville [Island] for coastal patrol
2050  lying to at rendezvous point, 2 miles south of Aitara Point
2115  rendezvous with 2 PTs & PGM 8, underway on northerly sweep, maintaining ½ mile from beach
2300  fired 3 rounds star shell at Toko Mission, no results
2353  reversed course 1 mile off Matsunkai to commence southerly sweep, maintain 5/8 mile interval to beach

April 28

0000-0400  steaming as before on southerly sweep in area “W” (SW Bougainville) in company of 2 PTs and PGM 8
0117  commenced shelling mouth of Puriata River with AG mortar
0125  secured mortar fire
0145  fired 3 rounds star shells, 1 ½ miles north Aitara, no observed results
0150  reversed course to commence northerly sweep, maintaining 5/8 mile from beach
0217  fired 4 rounds star shell at mouth Puriata River
0218  reversed course ½ mile off Puriata to make southerly sweep to Aitara
0325  secured operations, returning to base, 1 ¾ mile north of Aitara, speed 15 knots
0617  cleared nets, western entrance, Blanche Harbor
0637  secured at berth “A”, MTB 9, Sterling Island

April 29

1735  underway for southwest Bougainville [Island], area W to conduct anti-barge, anti-submarine patrol by order of commander of MTB 9
1750  cleared nets, speed 15 knots
1833  test fired all guns satisfactorily
2034  lying to at rendezvous point, 2 miles south of Aitara
2055  rendezvous with 2 PTs, underway on southerly sweep maintaining 1 ¾ miles off beach and lying and illuminating possible targets frequently
2345  reversed course 1500 yards off Mobiai River to commence northerly sweep maintaining 1 mile off beach

April 30

0000-0400  underway as before on northerly sweep, in company of 2 PTs, lying to frequently
0400  rendezvous with PGM 8, 1 mile north of Aitara, secured patrol and returning to base
0445  speed 17 knots
0628 entered nets
0650 secured at berth “A”, Sterling Island

May 1, 1944

0000-0400 moored as before at assigned berth (B) at Sterling Island, MTB base, Treasury Islands
1750 underway, under orders from Commander Motor Torpedo Boats, Treasury, for anti-barge, anti-submarine patrol in coastal waters of southwest Bougainville Island, operating in area “William” (prescribed by Commander Task Force 31). Steering various courses at various speeds clearing Blanche Harbor.
1811 speed 15 knots
1837 sighted and sunk by gun fire empty oil drum
2010 rendezvous with PT 359 and PT 250
2100 commenced patrol in company with PT 359, PT 250 (PT 359 otc) proceeding approximately 1 mile off beach at 6 knots, lying to frequently to investigate possible targets using 3 inch star shells for illumination
2345 reversed course and commenced southerly sweep

1 June 1944 Officers list – same as before

May 2

0000 steaming in company with PT 359 (PT 359 otc) and PT 250 patrolling coastal waters of southwest Bougainville under orders from Commander Motor Torpedo Boats, Treasury
0100 reversed course, commenced northerly sweep, remaining 1 mile off beach
0220 made strafing run on beach 1 mile north of Matsunkei. No return fire. No results observed. Firing done from range of 800 yards.
0239 commenced southerly sweep
0325 secured from patrol by orders of OTC, changed speed to 15 knots, set course to return to Treasury
0400 en route to Treasury, Sterling Island
0638 entering Blanche Harbor
0655 moored at Berth (B) Motor Torpedo Boat base, Sterling Island

May 3

0000 moored as before at berth “A” MTB base, Sterling Island, Treasury Islands
0900 underway and secured at water dock, MTB base
1315 underway and secured at berth “A”
1335 underway to have aerial pictures taken of ship
1345 passed through nets
1350 speed 15 knots to reach rendezvous point 4 miles off Treasury
1425 lying at rendezvous point, 1 ½ miles northwest of Treasury with PT (Gwm 103) & a B-25 overhead
1430 underway, called General Quarters, various courses and speeds during maneuvers for aerial pictures
1520 secured from exercises, returning to base
1600 entered nets
1610 secured at assigned berth “A” at MTB base, Sterling Island
1740 underway for night operations at southeast coastal sector of Bougainville [Island] and small
outlying Islands, orders for anti-barge, anti-submarine patrol and to operate with PT’s 374 and 377 from
Commander of MTB base at areas “O” and “E”
1800 cleared nets, speed 17 knots
1825 called General Quarters and test fired all guns
1930 friendly plane passed overhead
2000 steaming as before en route to areas “O”
2050 radio report informs two Black Cats operating in the area
2317 visual contact with PT’s 277 & 274
2335 rendezvous with PT’s 277 & 275 2 miles south of Loluai Point
2337 commenced southerly sweep, remaining approximately 1 ¾ miles off beach

May 4

0000-0400 patrol area “O” at Bougainville [Island] in company with PT’s and with 277 + 275, on
southern sweep, to remain 1 ¼ miles off beach
0034 called General Quarters while investigating possible targets, northeast of Rantan Island
0040 PT’s made run on ____?____ 3 barges, in one group and 2 in another, approx ½ mile Rantan Island,
varying courses and speeds, laying to frequently
0042 fire from either beach or barge at PT’s
0042 PTs returning fire
0046 making run on barges from starboard side of approx ¾ mile
0050 Japanese aircraft dropped bomb, in close vicinity just off stern of PT 277 and is now returning
making strafing runs on PT’s and us
0100 laying to & proceeding slowly at intervals, waiting developments, Japanese aircraft still in vicinity,
check ____?____ no hits on ship and no casualties among personnel
0250 secured patrol, speed 17 knots
0305 secured from General Quarters, proceeding to beach or base
0400-0800 steaming as before, proceeding to Treasury
0645 altered course to left upon sighting gunfire from shore batteries, proceeding on no further
0845 entered nets, “S” entrance
0900 secured at berth “A”, Sterling Harbor

May 5

0000 moored at berth “A”, MTB base, Sterling Island, Treasuries
1600 underway from orders of Commander of MTB base to patrol area “Q” at Choiseul Island for barges
and submarines, PTs 356 and 375 are to work with us
1615 cleared eastern entrance Blanche Harbor, speed 17 knots
1805 called General Quarters and test fired all guns
2025 approaching Moli Island
2021 all engines stop, waiting for rendezvous 2 miles off Moli Island
2106 rendezvous with PTs 356 and 375, commenced northerly sweep maintaining distance of 1 mile from beach, speed 6 knots
2151 called General Quarters, investigated possible targets by 3 inch illumination and found to be bushes on water close to beach
2155 reversed course to commence southerly sweep using same formation as before
2205 Black Cat sighted visually
2238 speed 10 knots, called General Quarters while investigating two targets west of Redland Island
2240 began on port run, range ½ mile from expected barge, firing 40, 50’s & 3 inch, dropped back to make starboard run
2303 stopped, 2 miles off Redman Island
2330 targets ___?__ to be ___?__ Japanese barges
2345 report from PT boat 356 indicates she is aground on reef

May 6

0000 standing by and now closing to beach in attempt to pull PT 356 off reef, PT 375 standing by also
0030 firing messenger lines and various maneuvers against strong current to get in position to tow PT 356 off reef, men from PT in rubber boat aiding in floating line over on life jackets
0200 main line over, jockeying for position to pull them off reef
0205 line has fouled up in our port screw [propeller], secured port engine [turned it off], running on starboard only
0225 tracer fire sighted from report night fighters between Bougainville and Choiseul Islands
0330 investigated four targets, found to be the two beached barges and PT’s 375 and 356
0410 PT 375 picked up four men & life boat from the PT 356
0500 secured patrol and returning to base with starboard engine making 12 knots
0715 sighted mine 11 ½ miles southeast of East Cape, circled mine firing small arms and 40mm, mine did not explode but sank
0735 resume course, speed 12 knots on starboard engine
0800 proceeding back to base alone
1026 entered nets of Eastern Entrance of Blanche Harbor
1043 secured at berth “A” at MTB 9, Sterling Island, Treasuries

May 7

0000 moored as before at assigned berth “A” at MTB 9, Sterling Island, Treasuries
0800 members of crew going down in divers mask to look over the screw and try to free fouled line from it
1200 continued diving operations
May 8

0000 moored as before at berth “A” MTB 9, Sterling Island, Treasuries
1200 diving and repairing screw

May 9

0000 moored as before

May 10

0000-0400 moored as before
1449 underway for patrol in coastal waters of southeast Bougainville [Island] in Area “O”, “S” and part of “E”
1515 cleared nets, speed 17 knots, test fired all guns
1822 sighted PGM 5
2034 rendezvous with PTs 362 and 372 and PGM 5, 5 miles north of Oema Atoll
2150 checking two possible barges on beach, 3 miles south of Luluai Point, Black Cat illuminating for us and strafing targets
2332 all engines stop, laying to, 1 ½ miles north of Rantan Island

May 11

0000 lying to during patrol 1 ½ miles north of Rantan Island with PTs 361, 372 & PGM 5
0025 underway for northerly sweep at 6 knots, maintaining mean range of 1 mile to beach
0123 made firing runs on beached barges 3 miles south of Luluai Point, no casualties and no results observed, resumed northerly sweep
0150 secured from General Quarters
0253 reversed course to commence southerly sweep 1 ½ miles abeam of Taki, 6 knots and maintaining from 1 to 1 ¼ miles from beach
0335 Luluai Point abeam to starboard at 1 ¼ miles
0400 making southerly sweep, area “O”
0435 fired 3 rounds star shells in mouth of Perias River
0501 secured from anti-barge patrol and proceeding to area “Q” near West Cape in Choiseul Island to join in mine search
0535 speed 15 knots
0611 maintaining ½ mile range to PGM 5 on port beam, PTs 361 & 372 are port side to PGM 5
0715 lay to while PT 361 picked up object similar to new buoy
0740 underway in line abreast searching southwest coast of Choiseul Island, other boats inboard
0800 steaming as before in line abreast with PGM 5 and PTs 361 & 372 inboard while searching southwest coast of Choiseul for mine
0945 Sasa Point abeam to port at 3 miles
1050 investigating wrecked aircraft on beach
1110 sighted mine 1 ½ north Moli Island, sunk by fire from PT 361
1150  PTs 361 & 372 departed to Gurava Reef to investigate mine, we are proceeding north
1200  speed 11 knots, with PGM 5 on port bow ½ mile range. Proceeding on mine search southwest
coast of Choiseul Island
1305  barge on beach sighted off Dahanimbolio Island
1330  search off southwest coast of Choiseul Island, maintaining 2 to 3 miles off beach
1445  secured search, 17 knots returning to base
1450  sighted floating buoy 4 miles northwest of Moli Island, sunk by PGM 5
1500  proceeding to base at 17 knots
1600  proceeding to base at 17 knots following in wake of PGM 5, who is approx 4 miles ahead
1900  cleared nets
1924  secured at berth “A”, MTB base, Sterling Island

May 12

0800  secured at water dock, MTB
1445  underway by order of Commander MTB 9 to conduct coastal patrol of southeast Bougainville
[Island] in areas “O” and southern part of “E”
1505  cleared nets of Eastern entrance of Blanche Harbor, speed 17 knots
1510  sighted LCI 61 on starboard bow
1545  test fired all guns satisfactorily
1905  flashing light (unidentified) observed on Masa Masa Island
2130  all engines stop, rendezvous with LCI 61 & PTs 375 and 256
2145  commenced southerly sweep, range 1 mile off beach, Luluai Point, LCI 61 astern and PTs inboard
of us
2340  PBY (Dark Eyes) reported in area

May 13

0000-0400  steaming as before in area “O”, reversed course and commencing northerly sweep, 3 miles
north of Rantan, 1 mile range to beach, PTs astern, inboard
0117  reversed course, 1 mile south of Luluia Point, began southerly sweep
0200  Black Cat and PTs of Area “E” are strafing barge 11 miles northwest of Luluai Point
0221  reversed course, 3 ¾ miles north of Rantan and began northward, PT 375 & 256 left formation for
“E” to aid in sinking barge
0330  17 knots, proceeding to area “E” to fire on barge
0341  abeam Luluia Point, ½ mile
0411  6 knots, called General Quarters
0433  began illumination on barge with 3 inch and mortar, position 2 ¾ miles southeast Kolomira Point
0450  commence firing with 3 inch at target
0506  made starboard run
0514  made port run
0520  ceased firing, barge believed to be sunk
0525  secured patrol, returning to base, 17 knots
0915  cleared nets
0932  secured at Sterling Harbor, berth “A”

May 14

[moored all day as before]

May 15

0000  moored as before at berth “A” MTB 9, Sterling Island, Treasuries

May 16

0000  moored as before
1630  underway by orders of Commander MTB to conduct anti-barge and anti-sub patrol in coastal waters of southeast Bougainville [Island] in area “O”
1650  cleared nets, speed 17 knots
1745  test fired all guns satisfactorily
2140  called General Quarters while unidentified aircraft in area
2144  secured from General Quarters, lost target
2216  rendezvous with 2 PTs 2 miles south of Luluai Point, underway on southerly sweep remaining from ½ to ¾ mile off beach, 1 mile at rivers
2320  reversed course and commenced northern sweep, 3 miles north Rantan
2350  flares sighted northwest of Luluai Point

May 17

0000  steaming as before on northwardly sweep in area “O” (SE Bougainville) in company of 2 PTs and remaining ½ - ¾ miles off beach
0005  unidentified aircraft reported to have passed 7 miles to seaward heading north
0015  Green very’s pistol sighted dead ahead
0035  reversed course and commenced southerly sweep
0101  all engines stop, lying to, 2 miles south of Luluai, bougie reported to have passed overhead
0123  underway, resuming southerly sweep
0218  reversed course, 2 ½ miles north of Rantan and commenced northerly sweep
0337  all engines stop, lying to, 2 ½ miles south of Otua Island
0344  underway on reversed course to commence southerly sweep, maintaining ½ to ¾ mile off beach
0430  investigated to try and find 2 reported barges ¾ mile north Perias River, negative results
0505  secured patrol, returning to base, 17 knots
1010  cleared nets eastern entrance Blanche Harbor
1025  secured at berth “A” MTB, Sterling Island

May 18
0000 moored as before
1515 underway by orders of Commander MTB to patrol coastal waters of southeast Bougainville in area Oboe [area “O”]
1535 cleared nets, 17 knots
1600 test fired all guns satisfactorily
2130 rendezvous with PT 358 (OTC) and PT 373, commenced southerly sweep from 4 ½ miles south of Otua Island, maintaining from ½ - ¾ mile off beach
2200 Bougie reported in area but no visual contact
2315 reversed course 3 miles north of Rantan Island and commenced northerly sweep maintaining between ½ - ¾ mile off beach

May 19

0000 steaming as before on northerly sweep in coastal waters of southeast Bougainville [Island] in company of PTs 358 & 373, maintaining 1 mile off beach
0020 reversed course off Luluai Point and commenced southerly sweep maintaining 1 mile off beach
0145 reversed course 3 miles north of Rantan to commence northerly sweep
0225 unidentified aircraft reported to have passed by 10 miles to seaward heading south
0255 reversed course and commenced southerly sweep
0331 reversed course 3 miles north of Rantan to commence northerly sweep, 1 mile off beach
0407 received orders from PT 358 to depart station and return to base, speed 17 knots
0940 entered nets of western entrance, Blanche Harbor
1000 secured at berth “A” Sterling

May 20

0000 steaming as before on northerly sweep with PTs in southeast Bougainville area “O”
0102 reversed course and commenced southerly sweep, maintaining 1 ¾ miles off beach
0130 secured patrol by orders of OTC and returning to base, speed 15 knots
0147 reduced speed to 12 knots
0720 entered nets western entrance Blanche Harbor
0740 secured at berth “A” Sterling Island

May 21

0000 moored as before

May 22

0000 moored as before

May 23

000 moored as before
1620 underway by orders of Commander Base 9 to patrol coastal waters of southeast Bougainville
[Island] in area “O”
1637 cleared nets, speed 17 knots following in wake of PGM 8
2305 3 miles south of Luluai Point, 2 miles off beach
2330 various courses proceeding to take station 2 miles west of Oema Island

**May 24**

0000 lying to between Rantan and Omi, west of Oema Island, underway at various intervals to maintain position
0400 lying to between Rantan & Oema Islands
0500 secured from station and returning to base
0800 speed 15 knots
1124 entered nets western entrance Blanche Harbor
1137 secured at berth “A” MTB 9 Sterling Island

**May 25**

0000 moored as before

**May 26**

0000 moored as before

**May 27**

0000 moored as before

**May 28**

0000 moored as before
1446 underway by orders of Commander MTB to conduct coastal patrol of southeast Bougainville [Island] in area “O”. To operate with PGM 8 (OTC)
1519 cleared nets, speed 15 knots
2123 on station two miles south of Luluai Point and commencing southerly sweep, maintaining 2/3 mile from beach, speed 6 knots, lying to frequently
2301 reversed course and commenced northerly sweep at six knots keeping 2/3 mile off beach

**May 29**

0000-0400 steaming as before in coastal waters of southeast Bougainville [Island] area “O” in company with PGM 8 (OTC) speed 6 knots, maintaining 2/3 mile off beach
0050 investigating radar pip, found no target, 4 miles south of Luluia Point
0230 investigating possible targets off Rantan, our position is one mile off beach and 1 ¾ miles north of Rantan, negative results
0330 Tar Baby is in area and is dropping flares and strafing beach in vicinity of Lulura Point
0435 secured patrol, proceeding to base
0940 cleared nets, proceeding in
1000 secured at Sterling berth “A”

May 30

0000 moored as before
1625 underway in place of PGM 8, who has shaft trouble, to patrol area “O”
1632 cleared nets, speed 17 knots
1643 reversed course and returning to base on orders PGM who is now in running condition
1650 starboard engine burned out, proceeding slowly on port engine
1653 cleared nets
1720 secured at berth “A”

May 31

0000 moored as before at berth “A” MTB 9
0820 officers from base came aboard to look over damage to starboard engine
0930 shifted berth to water dock, PT base
1200 moored as before

May 31 to June 30, 1944, Officers of PGM 7 same as before

June 1

0000-0400 moored as before
1230 PGM 8 came alongside to our port

June 2

0000-0400 moored as before, alongside steaming dock at Sterling Island, Treasury Islands
0400-0800 carrying out morning routine
0830 getting underway to go alongside Engineering pier
0845 secured at engineering dock

June 3

0000-0400 moored as before, alongside steaming dock [should it be at Engineering pier?]
1200-1600 carrying out days work

June 4

0000-0400 moored starboard side to steaming dock at Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands

June 5

0000-0400 moored as before
June 6
0000-0400  moored as before
0400-0800  morning routine being carried out as scheduled
0800-1200  carrying out day’s work

June 7
0000-0400  moored as before
0500  made reveille
0545  set special sea detail
0555  underway from steaming dock, Treasury Islands en route for Rendova for ships repair, in company with APC 33. Running with one engine (port)
0643  cleared nets, East Entrance
1303  abeam to starboard of Wo. Island, distance approximately 2 miles
1445  departed company with APC 33, proceeding on to Rendova
1720  sighted Rendova
1743  varied courses and speeds for entering harbor
1810  dropped anchor in Rendova

June 8
0000-0400  moored as before at Rendova Harbor
0800-1200  carrying out day’s work
1705  underway, leaving harbor to rendezvous with (APC) 33
1730  APC (33) left before rendezvous, returning to Rendova for further orders
1805  received orders, proceed on to Purvis Bay, underway

June 9
0000-0400  en route to Purvis Bay, using port engine
0012  target off starboard beam, identified as APC (33)
0144  abeam to starboard of west tangent of Baraku Island
0920  entered nets at Purvis Bay
0955  secured port side to alongside YP520, Port Purvis
1230  underway, proceeding to YR46 to assigned berth
1300  secured at YR 46 port side to

June 10
0000-0400  moored as before, at Purvis Bay
0400-0800  carrying out schedule of morning work
1445  Smith, J.M. CMM (AA) 283 04 91, USN was transferred in accordance with Commander Service Squadron Two order serial 4664 to report to R/S, San Francisco
June 11

0000-0400 moored as before at Purvis Bay, alongside YR 46
0830 underway for water, laying alongside R3 waiting for Captain
0930 underway, coming alongside U.S.S. Burnett for supply
1100 left Burnett, underway for Tulagi
1210 passed through nets at Tulagi, proceeding in
1230 secured at pier 6, port side to
1530 received supplies from beach
1645 underway for Purvis Bay using port engine
1728 passed through nets at Purvis Bay
1750 secured at water dock, alongside PC 598
1933 underway for YR 46
1955 secured at YR 46

June 12

0000-0400 moored as before at Purvis Bay
0800-1200 carrying out days routine
1445 underway, standing by for dry dock, when PGM 1 is out
1500 in dry dock

June 13

0000-0400 moored as before at Purvis Bay in dry dock
0400-0800 proceeding with work

June 14

0000-0400 in dry dock as before, carrying out work on ship at Purvis Bay

June 15

0000-0400 moored in dry dock as before at Purvis Bay
1800 began flooding dry dock
1815 clear from dry dock, underway
1835 tied alongside barge, receiving supplies left earlier in the day
1900 underway for water
1930 secured alongside T 371, at water dock
2000 secured at YR 46 for night

June 16

0000-0400 moored as before at Purvis Bay
1640 underway for Tulagi
1733  through nets
0800-1200  steaming as before, entering Tulagi
0847  secured alongside YOG 41 at Tulagi, taking on fuel
0947  left YOG 41 for pier (6) 51X
1015  secured at pier six
1045  left pier six en route for point Lunga at Guadalcanal, using port engine
1200  secured at Lunga Point, anchored in 17 fathoms of water, received out board motor
1510  underway for Tulagi
1700  secured at pier six, Tulagi

June 17

0000-0400  moored as before, at pier six, Tulagi
0820  underway from Tulagi to Treasury Islands
1025  Savo Island abeam to starboard
1105  Cape Esperance abeam to port
2038  two targets 050° R, friendly ships
2305  four miles to Bluiz Point, starboard beam

June 18

0000-0400  steaming as before, en route for Treasury Islands, using port engine, proceeding from Tulagi
0030  investigated two targets to port, friendly ships
0330  present position Simbo Island abeam to starboard, proceeding on to Treasury Islands
0705  sighted Treasury
0920  entering harbor
0950  through nets
1020  secured at berth, Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands

June 19

0000-0400  moored as before at Treasury Islands, Sterling Harbor
1135  getting underway for PT base
1200  secured at pier
1200  put in starboard engine
1600  switch berths to steaming docks, secured

June 20

0000-0400  moored as before, at steaming dock, PGM 6 starboard side, PGM 8 port side, at Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands

June 21

0000-0400  moored as before at MTB 9, Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands
June 22

0000-0400 moored at berth “A”, MTB 9, Treasury Islands with both #3 lines over on beach

June 23

0000-0400 moored as before

June 24

0000-0400 moored as before
1555 underway by orders from Commander MTB to conduct ant-barge patrol in coastal waters of southeast Bougainville [Island] in area “O”
1607 cleared nets, speed 15 knots
1645 test fired all guns satisfactorily
1705 speed 17 knots
1951 five miles northeast of Cyprian Bridge Island
2115 rendezvous with PGM 8, closing to beach at various courses and speeds to commence patrolling
2225 commenced southerly sweep two miles south of Luluai point, maintaining ½ mile off beach
2323 reversed course 2 miles south of Pirius River and commenced northerly sweep under same conditions

June 25

0000 steaming as before on northerly sweep in area “O”, astern PGM 8, maintaining ½ mile off beach, weather clear no wind slight sea
0115 reversed course off Luluai Point and began southerly sweep maintaining 1 ½ miles to beach
0312 reversed course 1 ½ miles off Rantan Island and commenced northerly sweep
0452 reversed course off Luluai Point and commenced southerly sweep keeping ¾ mile off beach
0528 secured night patrol, speed 15 knots
0725 changed speed to 7 knots on starboard engine
0800-1200 various courses and speeds during mine search in area prescribed by orders
1200-1600 various courses and speeds during mine search in area prescribed by orders
1840 secured mine search, running on both engines
2000 proceeding to area “O” for night patrol
2148 rendezvous with PGM 5 one mile north of Pirias River, and commenced northerly sweep ¾ mile off beach
2202 reversed course for southerly sweep off Luluai Point
2307 reversed course 3 miles northern end of Rantan Island and commenced northerly sweep

June 26

0000 steaming as before keeping inboard eschlan astern of PGM 5 on northerly sweep in are “O”
0055 reversed course off Luluai Point to commence southerly sweep keeping ¾ miles off beach
0225 reversed course and commenced northerly sweep two miles north of Rantan using eschlan form
with PGM 5 ahead of us
0355 reversed course 1 ¾ miles south of Otua Island to commence southerly sweep
0400 steaming as before on southerly sweep
0505 secured night patrol proceeding back to base
0800 speed 15 knots
1000 sunk two mines nine miles south of Cape Stephens
1202 entered nets of Blanche Harbor
1216 secured at oil barge
1310 shifted to berth “A” at Treasuries

June 27

0000-0400 moored as before at steaming dock, MTB 9, Treasury Islands
0715 underway for Torokina in company of PGMs 8 & 5
0755 cleared nets, speed 15 knots
0800-1200 speed 17 knots
1200-1600 en route to Torokina, speed 17 knots
1310 speed 12 knots
1315 various courses and speeds for harbor at Torokina
1355 dropped anchor in 8 fathoms of water, in harbor at Torokina

June 28

0000-0400 anchored at Torokina
0800 weighed anchor, underway and secured alongside LCI 22 starboard side to for water
0809 Lieut. Com. Curtis (MD) came aboard
0900 Lieut. Com Curtis left ship for temporary duty on PGM 5
0920 underway for patrolling area in northwest New Ireland called “Uncle” with PGMs 5 and 8
0940 speed 15 knots
1310 test fired all guns satisfactorily
2225 closing to beach of New Ireland to begin patrol
2305 began northerly sweep in area uncle in column formation maintaining 1 mile off beach
2330 abeam Tambaker Point at 1 ½ miles

June 29

0000-0400 steaming as before on northerly course up coast of New Ireland range to beach 1 mile to starboard, speed 10 knots, in company of PGMs 5 and 8
0040 Huru Point abeam to starboard
0210 Dunup Plantation abeam to starboard
0320 Cape Roloss abeam to starboard
0532 secured patrol northwest of New Ireland
0541 speed 10 knots
0845 secured port engine
0945  varied courses and speeds during morning laying off New Britain and New Ireland
1810  switched in both engines
1916  sighted mine, sank same
2023  beginning southern sweep
2050  sighted blinker lights on beach inside of tangent of Labur Bay
2125  sighted more blinker lights
2135  sighted lights and called general quarters
2140  PGM 8 fired mortar illumination
2151  secured General Quarters, no targets other than lights on beach
2229  friendly plane dropped flare on possible target, no targets
2315  Dunup Plantation abeam to port

June 30

0000-0400  steaming as before, patrolling coast of New Ireland, now on southerly sweep, 1 mile off
beach, in company with PGMs 5 and 8
0035  reversed course, began northern sweep, 1 mile off Huru Point
0320  abeam Lalur Bay, reversed course, began southern sweep
0445  Ulaputul Plantation abeam, to port
0500  Cape Roloss abeam to port
0535  secured patrol, proceeding to day rendezvous point
0845  secured port engine
1715  switched both engines in, proceeding to patrolling point
2020  on station, sighted search lights over Rabaul
2112  laying to 7 miles south of Labur Bay, awaiting plane to drop flares
2120  plane dropped flares
2140  PGM 8 illuminated, negative results
2125  called General Quarters investigating target
2144  secured General Quarters, no target
2257  called General Quarters upon hearing gun fire; preparing for starboard run
2250  PGM 8 started firing
2300  PGMs 7 and 5 began firing
2305  secured, ammunition expended: 3” 23 – 12 rounds, 37mm – 28 rounds, 60mm – 15 rounds, 40mm
– 84 rounds, 50 cal – 400 rounds
2308  secured General Quarters, proceeding on patrol

July 1, 1944

0000-0400  steaming as before, now on southern sweep, patrolling along shore of New Ireland, west of
New Britain, distance to beach is approximately one (1) mile, to our port, two (2) miles south of
Nakudukudu Bay, speed 10 knots, maintain 1 mile from beach, in company with U.S.S. PGM 8 and U.S.S.
PGM 5
0000  reversed course, now on northern patrol at Dunup Plantation
0045  came to General Quarters, upon hearing shore fire at Nakudukudu, now preparing to make a port run astern of PGM 8, PGM 5 following astern us
0046  PGM 8 opening fire and reported to be getting return fire
0047  we commence firing, range one mile to beach
0049  ceased firing
0050  began firing again
0051  ceased firing, resuming northerly sweep
0057  sighted search lights at Rabaul
0058  ammunition report: 3 inch – 27 rounds, 40mm – 60 rounds, 50 cal – 350 rounds, 37mm – 18 rounds, 60 mm mortar – 30 rounds
0107  secured General Quarters
0155  reversed course, began southerly sweep, 2 ½ miles north of Matakan Plantation
0205  came to general quarters, preparing to strafe Matakan Plantation
0228  commence firing, 1000 yards, port run, flash noted half way up hill on beach
0230  ceased firing, ammunition report 40mm – 50 rounds, 3 inch – 19 rounds, 50 cal – 1000 rounds, 37mm – jammed, 60mm mortar – 20 rounds, no casualties, proceeding on
0300  preparing to make a starboard run at 1200 yards on section in Nakudukudu Bay
0305  commence firing
0330  ceased firing
0330  Japanese Boogie recorded in area, change speed to 5 knots, departing station at course 170°
0330  ammunition report, 40mm – 48 rounds, 3 inch – 15 rounds, 60mm mortar – none, 50 cal – 450 rounds, 37mm – none, secured General Quarters, proceeding to Green Island, through channel
1300  sighted land ahead, Green Island
1410  entering harbor
1430  entered harbor
1450  secured alongside PGM 8, at repair ship, began taking on fuel
1600-2000  moored as before, alongside APG (5) at Green Island, carrying out days routine

July 2

0000-0400  moored as before, alongside APG (5) at Green Island, PGM 8 inboard, PGM 5 outboard
0400-0800  carrying out morning schedules
0930  underway to take on water
1012  secured at PT Base Dock, receiving water
1430  underway, proceeding to APG (5)
1445  secured alongside APG (5)
1600-2000  moored as before, crew eating on beach due to shortage of water supply

July 3

0000-0400  moored as before alongside APG (5) at Green Island, PGM 8 and 5 are outboard
0800-1200  carrying out day scheduled routine
July 4

0000-0400 moored as before
0800-1200 proceeding with days work
1435 special sea detail
1440 underway from Green Island, en route for operating area at New Ireland
1450 speed 15 knots
1600-2000 steaming as before, in company with PGM 8 and PGM 5
2045 sighted white flare bearing 315°, friendly plane over New Britain
2213 night fighter now is in the area
2215 forming port echelon in St George Channel
2359 search lights sighted over Rabaul

July 5

0000-0400 steaming as before on northerly patrol between New Ireland and New Britain in company with PGM 8 and 5, approximate position 4 miles northwest of Tambaker Point, range to beach 2 miles, speed 8 knots
0053 closing beach to investigate possible target, no target
0134 change speed to 11 knots
0415 reversed course, formed starboard echelon off Lalur Bay
0527 ceased patrol off southern end of Nakudukudu Bay, proceeding to daytime operating area
0825 PGM 5 sighted object on starboard bow, proceeding toward
0840 PGM 8 picked up survivor (New Zealander) from life raft
0855 secured port side engine
1035 12 bombers sighted over Duke of York Island, AA fire sighted near them
1836 two officers came aboard from the PGM 5 while underway, proceeding to night’s operating area
2055 commencing southerly sweep at Labur Bay
2255 reversed course at Nak Bay

July 6

0000-0400 steaming as before, now on northerly sweep patrolling between New Ireland and New Britain, position at present Cape Roloss abeam to starboard, 2 ½ miles from beach, PGMs 8 & 5 in company
0045 laying to, reversed course, proceeding on southerly patrol
0130 PGM 8 believed to have radar target dead ahead
0133 changed speed to 15 knots, target now believed to be clouds
0155 General Quarters
0203 preparing to strafe beach 6 miles south of Cape Roloss at approximate position Dunlap Plantation, preparing for port run
0206 began firing
0207 ceased firing, ammunition expended 3 inch – 18 rounds, 40mm – 40 rounds, 50 cal – 1100 rounds,
37mm – 18 rounds, mortar 45 rounds, secured General Quarters, proceeding on southern sweep
0400 reversed course at Huru Point
0530 leaving station, securing patrol at Cape Roloss
0640 PGM 5 came alongside, leaving two PT officers aboard
0800-1200 at daytime position
1845 left daytime position, proceeding to station for nights patrol
2000-2400 steaming as before, now on station at Labur Bay, opening intervals between ships to one mile
2025 starting southern sweep
2115 made contact with night fighter, proceeding on patrol, 5 miles from beach

July 7

0000-0400 steaming as before, on southern sweep between New Ireland and New Britain in company with PGMs 8 & 5, distance one mile between each, speed 8 knots, present position Huru Point
0040 reversed course, just south of Huru Point, proceeding on northern sweep
0052 tracer noted from Aircraft over Duke of York Island
0220 reversed course, now on southern sweep, present position 2 miles off shore at southern part of Nakukdukudu Bay
0505 proceeding down channel between New Ireland and New Britain en route for Green Island, speed 15 knots
1340 PGM 5 came alongside to transfer baggage
1345 came alongside LCI (70), transferred one PT Officer
1350 proceeding into port
1425 through nets
1510 dropped anchor, in harbor at Green Island
1700 moved to APG (5), port side to, taking on water, fuel

July 8

0000-0400 moored as before, port side to APG (5) in harbor at Green Island, PGMs 8 & 5 to starboard
0600 reveille, preparing to get underway
0615 underway, en route to Treasury Islands
0630 through nets, PGMs 8 & 5 in company
0810 speed 15 knots
2205 entering harbor at Treasury Islands
2218 through nets
2240 secured at berth, Sterling Harbor

July 9

0000-0400 moored to steaming dock at Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands, PGMs 8 & 5 to our port
0400-0800 proceeding with morning schedules
0800-1200 proceeding to carry out days work aboard ship
1845 movie party left ship
2230 movie party returning

July 10

0000-0400 moored at steaming dock as before
1620 moved from steaming dock to our beachhead berth, secured to beach with two manila lines, nose of ship on beach

July 11

0000-0400 moored as before, at berth on beach at Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands
0700 underway, changing back to steaming dock
0730 secured to steaming dock as before
1300 began Deck Court Martials
1400 Deck Court Martials ended. The following named men were awarded the following punishments:

Ingram, Howard Kelly, Cox, 262 76 33 USN
Charges: Sleeping below decks in disobedience of orders
Awarded: Reduced to seaman first class, 20 days loss of pay, 30 days restriction

Musser, Robert Edward, EM2c, 256 46 64, USN
Charges: Sleeping below decks in disobedience of orders
Awarded: 20 days loss of pay, 30 days restriction

La Favre, Howard Floyd, S2c, 565 05 38, V-6, USNR
Charges: Sleeping below decks in disobedience of orders
Awarded: 20 days loss of pay; 30 days restriction and 30 hours extra duty

July 12

0000-0400 moored as before, at berth at beach, Sterling Island, Treasury Islands
1200-1600 carrying out days work

July 13

0000-0400 moored as before
0400-0800 carrying out morning schedules
0800-1200 proceeding with days work

July 14

0000-0400 moored as before
0800-1200 carrying out days work

July 15
July 16

0000-0400 moored as before

0930 held Captain’s Mast, the offender: Wolszon, Arthur George, S1c, 851 25 94, USN
charges: oversleeping, morning of 15 July 1944
awarded: restricted to lose three liberties, no entry to be made in his record

July 17

0000-0400 moored as before

July 18 [a fateful day for the ship PGM 7]

0000-0400 moored as before

0300 underway from Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands, en route to New Ireland and New Britain for operations in company with PGMs 4, 5 & 8
0543 rammed by PGM 4 in engine room, port side. Collision piped by watch topside, General alarm dead, all hands given word to put on life jackets, PGM 4 drifted out of hole alongside port side, bow facing PGM 7's stern, Captain went aboard PGM 4, directed all hands to abandon ship, 19 men abandon ship before ships drifted apart, Executive and Third Officer and 8 men aboard PGM 7, Executive Officer passes word to men still aboard to jettison all ammunition on starboard side of forward magazine, engine room flooded 30 inches above deck, control room had 6 inches above deck, after crew's quarters reported by Savage, J.J., PhM1c, water up to deck boards, permission granted by Executive Officer to jettison 40mm ammunition in after magazine, Captain returned aboard in rubber life raft with Reuter, J.E, BM1c and proceeded to unload after magazine, in order to counter-balance starboard list, 2 barbettes were jettisoned, during this time the water had risen above the deck in the after crew's quarters and attempts were made to pump out the water with a gasoline handy-billy, it failed to start and soon after Lt. (jg) Lindbloom and two MoMMs came aboard from the PGM 5 in a rubber life raft and attempted to start handy-billy, it failed and the PGM 5 sent over their handy-billy which also failed, later these pumps were operated successfully

0745 PGM 8 attempted to tow the PGM 7 with the anchor chain but the attempt failed after five minutes when the chain parted

0830 PGM 8 attempted to tow the PGM 7 with the six inch hawser approximately 200 feet in length, this also failed several minutes later when the tow line parted due to the short length of the line used

0945 PGM 8 again attempts to tow with their own anchor chain, this attempt also failed about 45 minutes when chain parted

1000 the gasoline handy-billy began to work and the after compartment and the tank compartment were continually pumped thereafter

1240 U.S.S. YMS 249 came alongside to tow us in, proceeding at 1250
1846 through nets, U.S.S. YMS 249 still towing
1900 PGM 8 received tow and brought us up to Steaming Dock, Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands
July 19

0000-0400 moored as before alongside Dry Dock Pier at Sterling Harbor, Treasury Islands, being patched temporarily

July 20

0000-0400 moored as before
0900 court of investigation in the case of the ramming of PGM 7 convened. Lt. Comdr. Matteson Senior Officer, MTBRon 28, convened by order of Commander Destroyer Squadron 21, to inquire into collision between PGM 4 and 7, met at MTBRons, Base nine, Treasury Islands

July 21

0000-0400 moored as before, officers living aboard, crew on beach

July 22

0000-0400 moored as before

July 23

Moored as before

July 24

Moored as before
0400 secured board of investigation, Lt. Comdr. Matteson, Senior Officer, adjourned to await the action of the convening authority

July 25

Moored as before

July 26

Moored as before
0715 getting underway, secured alongside PGM 4, proceeding in harbor, en route for Purvis Bay
0755 through nets
0800 PGM 4 left alongside, now taking tow, speed 5 knots
0800-1200 being towed by PGM 4 en route to Purvis Bay, speed 5 knots, using 1200 feet ¾ inch cable, temporarily patched on deck and port side, 2 gasoline pumps on board for purpose of pumping bilges, 8 men and 2 officers aboard
1030 commenced pumping bilges aft
1130 secured pumping
1600  making approximately 8 knots
1815  Simbo Island abeam to port, distance approx. 1 mile

July 27

0530  Rendova Island abeam to port, distance about 6 or 8 miles
0745  Tetipari Island abeam to port beam
1200-1600  Frandeen, Frank Adolph, MoMM2c, 239 99 30, V-6 USNR reported aboard for duty

July 28

0000-0400  under tow as before with PGM 4 using 1200 feet of ¾ inch cable, en route for Purvis Bay from Treasury Islands, speed 8 knots, 8 men and two officers aboard [the two officers were commanding officer, A.J. Malcomson and executive officer E. S. Rubin, as evidenced by their signatures in the logs for dates during tow, I have not determined who the 8 crew members were]
0615  Cape Esperance abeam to starboard beam
0900  PGM 4 passed the work to drop the cable when word was passed
0910  PGM 4 dropped cable
0913  we dropped cable, PGM 4 coming alongside to bring us into port at Purvis Bay
1115  through nets
1130  Carter City, now secured to Sub-Buoy in harbor, PGM 4 left for water

July 29

0000-0400  moored as before at Carter City Repair Base, using portable gasoline generator aboard ship for power

July 30

0000-0400  moored as before, crew moved to beach, officers aboard

July 31

Moored as before

August 1, 1944

0000-0400  moored at Carter City, Florida Islands area. Using portable gasoline generator aboard to supply ships power, crew living on base, officers staying aboard, waiting further orders from Bureau

Note: No weather log is submitted with this log since there are no instruments aboard. Watches were stood during the month of August for security reasons without benefit of barometers, thermometers etc. since these were removed from the vessel after being rammed by the U.S. S. PGM 4 on July 18, 1944

[the entries for each day of August are the same as August 31, the last page available in the log for PGM 7 – the final fate of PGM 7 is unknown to me]
August 31, 1944 [last available page of log]

0000-0400 moored as before at Carter City, Small Craft Repair Base, Florida Island area, in dry dock, using portable gasoline generator for ships power, crew living on base, officers living aboard, awaiting further orders from Bureau

[all entries for August are signed by the commanding officer of PGM 7, A. J. Malcomson]