

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. LCI (G) #337
#10 FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

17 DECEMBER 1944

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER, U.S.S. LCI (G) # 337
TO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, U.S. FLEET
VIA: COMMANDER TASK GROUP 78.3.7
COMMANDER TASK GROUP 78.3
COMMANDER TASK GROUP 78.
COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET.
SUBJECT: ANTI-AIRCRAFT SPECIAL ACTION REPORT
MINDORO (PHILIPPINES) OPERATION
REFERENCE: (A) ARTICLE 874(B) U.S. NAVY REGULATIONS, 1920
(B) COM7THPHIB CANF LTR. FE25/A16-3(3) SERIAL:
0212 OF 17 FEBRUARY 1944.
ENCLOSURE: (A) REVISED FORM FOR REPORTING AA ACTION BY SURFACE
SHIPS.

1. AT 0830 15 DECEMBER 1944, THIS VESSEL WAS LAYING TO 800 YARDS FROM CONTROL VESSEL ON STARBOARD SIDE OF APPROACH CHANNEL LEADING TO WHITE BEACH ON MINDORO ISLAND, PHILIPPINES. WE HAD PARTICIPATED IN ESTABLISHING THE BEACHEAD AT ABOUT 0720 WITH ROCKET BARRAGE AND 40MM STRAFFING AND HAD RETURNED TO AREA OF LINE OF DEPARTURE 1500 YARDS FROM BEACH, RELOADED 100 ROCKETS AND WERE AWAITING ANY FURTHER ASSIGNMENT. FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SIGHTED IN THE AREA FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT NONE FOR SOME MINUTES IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDING THE SIGHTING OF 8 TO 12 ENEMY PLANES APPROACHING THE TRANSPORT AREA IN SCATTERED FORMATION AT ABOUT 0840. APPROACH WAS ROUGHLY FROM SOUTHWEST. PRIOR TO ENGAGING ENEMY PLANE, THIS SHIP HAD OBSERVED ONE ENEMY ATTEMPT A CRASH DIVE ON A DESTROYER SOME 5000 YARDS OFF OUR PORT QUARTER. A SECOND PLANE BELIEVED TO BE TWIN ENGINE BOMBER WAS OBSERVED TO CRASH DIVE AND SET AFIRE AN LST IN TRANSPORT AREA, AS WAS A THIRD PLANE OBSERVED TO CRASH DIVE AND SET AFIRE A SECOND LST IN THE SAME AREA. A FOURTH AND FIFTH PLANE WERE OBSERVED TO ATTEMPT CRASH DIVES IN THE TRANSPORT AREA, BUT MISSED AND HIT THE WATER.

2. AT ABOUT 0852 A SINGLE ENGINE FIGHTER WAS OBSERVED ON COURSE 090 DEGREES T. ALTITUDE 3000 FT. DISTANCE 4 MILES, SLOWLY ALTERING COURSE TO PORT AND SEEMINGLY HEADED FOR ONE LCI ROCKET GUNBOAT AND ONE OR MORE OF THESE SHIPS WERE SEEN TO OPEN FIRE ON THE PLANE, BUT NO DAMAGE WAS OBSERVED. PLANE CONTINUED TO ALTER COURSE TO PORT, PARALLELED THE BEACH AND RAPIDLY CAME WITHIN RANGE OF THIS SHIP'S GUNS. AT ABOUT 0853, ON HEADING 310 T ORDER WAS GIVEN TO OPEN FIRE AND HITS WERE SCORED BY PORTSIDE 50 CAL. TWIN MOUNT. AS TARGET CONTINUED ALTERING TO PORT, BY NOW FLYING BETWEEN BEACH AND THIS SHIP, HE DIPPED SHARPLY OVER OUR CONTROL VESSEL AND ALTERED COURSE SHARPLY TO BORT IN A POSITION TO ATTACK EITHER THIS SHIP OR ANY ONE OF SEVERAL LST'S OFF OUR BOW SLOWLY APPROACHING LINE OF DEPARTURE. ALL GUNS THAT COULD BEAR FIRED, SCORING 2 CERTAIN HITS WITH BOW 40MM IN ENGINE OF TARGET AND PROBABLE HITS BY 20MM AND 50 CAL. TARGET WAS SMOKING WHEN IT BEGAN WHAT APPEARED A CRASH-DIVE ATTEMPT ON LST, FALLING INSTEAD INTO THE WATER BETWEEN THIS SHIP AND THE LST ON OUR STARBOARD BOW.

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3. ORDNANCE MATERIAL PERFORMED WITHOUT 2 CASUALTY. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE AS FOLLOWS:

40MM - 28 ROUNDS

20MM - 150 ROUNDS

50 CAL. 500 ROUNDS

4. NO DAMAGE TO THIS SHIP OR NOR TO ANY OTHER OBSERVED, 50 CAL. AND 40MM HITS ON ENEMY, PROBABLE 20MM HITS. PLANE WAS SMOKING WHEN SEEN TO CRASH CLOSE ABOARD LST. ALL BEARINGS, DISTANCES AND COURSES THIS REPORT ARE APPROXIMATE.

5. SLIGHT DELAY IN ONE GUN STATION RECEIVING ORDER TO OPEN FIRE. SOME AA FIRE WAS REPORTED OBSERVED FROM LST NEAREST PLANE, DURING FINAL SECONDS OF PLUNGE, BUT IT IS BELIEVED FIRE FROM THIS SHIP SET PLANE AFIRE.

H.T. MOEN

ADVANCE COPY TO COMINCH

COPIES TO: COM LCI (L) FLOT 7
COM LCI (G) GROUP 20 FLOT 7