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**Authority: E.O. 13526**

**By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012**

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Contributed By William L. Williams

USS LST 125  
FLEET POST OFFICE,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

Reg. No.	1118
R. S. No.	30 JUL 1944

Thursday, 1 June, 1944.

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
Subject: War Diary.  
Reference: (a) FFI/Al2-1/Al6-3, Serial 7152, 29 October 1943.  
Zone: -11

0800	Posit-	07 - 13 S	160-19 E
1200		06 - 40 S	160-27 E
2000		05 - 34 S	160-58 E

Steaming in company with Task Group 53.16 in accordance with Commander Task Force 53 movement order A163-44.

0920 Commenced schedule exercise AA practice on sleeve target towed by B-26 Set Condition I at all guns.

1020 Ceased present exercise, and set Condition III through-out the ship.

1040 Executed divisions column right 90° in preparation for forming cruising disposition.

1046 Executed ships left 90° and formed in accordance with ComLSTFlot 5 Serial 0092 of 29 May 1944. "Charlie Form One", column I: USS LCI's 464, 465, 468, 471, and USS AGENOR; Column II: USS LST's 117, 447, 207, and 123; Column III: USS LST's 70, 219, 247, 118, and USS ALOE; Column IV: USS LST's 125, 269, 399, 220, and USS HOLLY; Column V: USS LST's 488 (Formation Guide, ComLSTGrp15), 241, 343, 449; Column VI: USS LCI's 466, 467, 469, 472, and 473. Screen on circle 5, from ahead clockwise: USS P.C. 555, P.C. 1125, S.C. 727, S.C. 1273, S.C. 667, P.C. 549, YMS 273, YMS 216, YMS 195, YMS 242, YMS 184, YMS 136, S.C. 504, S.C. 521, S.C. 724. USS STEMBLE (DD 644, ComTaskGrp 53.16) on circle 8 dead ahead, USS S.C. 1273 on circle 8 bearing 080°R., and USS S. C. 504 on circle 8 bearing 280°R. Distance and interval 300 yards except LCI's interval 150 yards.

Friday, 2 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	03-56 S	161-44 E
1200		03-19 S	161-44 E
2000		02-15 S	162-13 E

Steaming as before.

1415 Executed "Deploy Charlie." LST's formed 270°R. in double line. Screening, fire support, and control vessels take station on USS STEMBLE ahead. USS AGENOR, USS ALOE, and USS HOLLY conform to movements of LST's astern of formation.

1600 Reformed cruising disposition.

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USS LST 125  
WAR DIARY

Zone - 11

Saturday, 3 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	00-39 S	163-04 E
1200		00-11 S	163-25 E
2000		01-51 N	163-58 E

Steaming as before.

Sunday, 4 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	02-22 N	164-43 E
1200		02-51 N	164-57 E
2000		03-44 N	165-28 E

Steaming as before.

1506 Executed "Deploy Charlie" as previously described.  
1615 Re-formed cruising disposition.

Monday, 5, June 1944.

0800	Posit-	05-11 N	165-59 E
1200		05-39 N	166-16 E
2000		06-41 N	166-53 E

Steaming as before.

0640 USS S.C. 727 came alongside port quarter for fuel and fresh water.  
0732 USS S.C. 727 away from alongside, having received 1750 gallons of fuel, and 500 gallons of fresh water.

Tuesday, 6 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	08-20 N	167-31 E
1200		08-49 N	167-36 E
2000		08-46 N	167-40 E

Steaming as before.

0635 Land sighted identified as Lib Island, Marshall Islands, bearing 318° T.  
0945 Land sighted identified as Kwajalein Atoll, bearing 045° T.  
0950 Commenced maneuvering to place this Task Group in single column in preparation for entrance to Kwajalein lagoon.  
1158 Standing in through Gea Pass. This vessel number four in column behind USS LST 488. Screening vessels except for USS STEMBLE, and USS P.C. 555 screening entrance area.  
1536 Anchored in berth # 29, "L" Anchorage.  
2100 Commenced receiving fresh provisions from the USS ALDEBARAN.

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USS IST 125  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
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WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 7 June, 1944.

Zone: -11

0800 Posit- 00-46 N 167-40 E  
1200  
2000

Anchored as before.

0930 Received provisions from the USS ALDEBARAN.

Thursday, 8 June 1944.

0800 Posit- 00-46 N 167-40 E  
1200  
2000

Anchored as before.

1430 Disembarked two officers and seventy-five men of Company "B" 5th Field Depot Marine Supply Service, 5th Amphibious Corps to report to the USS WHARTON for further transportation.

1630 Embarked eight officers and two hundred sixteen (216) enlisted men of company "I" 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd MarDiv, FMF, Captain W. G. SMITH, USMC, commanding, for further transportation in accordance with previous orders.

Friday, 9 June 1944.

0800 Posit- 08-46 N 167-40 E  
1200  
2000 08-02 N 166-58 E

Anchored as before.

0010 Disembarked twenty-three (23) enlisted men of Marine Air Warning Squadron TWO, Captain, G. T. C. FRY, USMCR, commanding, to report to the USS WARREN, for further transportation.

1112 Ship went to general quarters on condition "Red" report.

1130 Set harbor defense watch.

1212 Ship went to general quarters on condition "Red" report.

1220 Set harbor defense watch.

1309 Sortied in accordance with orders from CTG 53.16. Order of departure same as entrance plan.

1535 Formed cruising disposition as before.

Saturday, 10 June 1944.

0800 Posit- 09-46 N 165-10 E  
1200 10-03 N 164-36 E  
2000 10-33 N 163-40 E

Steaming as before, in accordance with CTF 53 operation plan A162-44, and CTF 53 approach plan A164-44. Routing in accordance with COMFIFTH Fleet operation plan No. CEN 10-44, appendix 1 to annex C.

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USS LST 125  
WAR DIARY

Zone: -11

Sunday, 11 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	11-09 N	161-37 E
1200		11-23 N	161-03 E
2000		11-44 N	159-56 E

steaming as before.

0900 Task Group exercised at gunnery drill. Burst target firing.

1000 Set condition III Victor.

1330 Executed "Deploy Charlie" as previously described.

1415 Re-formed cruising disposition.

Zone: -10

Monday, 12 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	12-00 N	158-15 E
1200		12-06 N	157-38 E
2000		12-20 N	156-16 E

Steaming as before.

0630 Sighted task group 53.17 bearing 080°T on the horizon.

1600 Set all clocks back one hour to conform with -10 zone time.

Tuesday, 13 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	12-36 N	154-32 E
1200		12-46 N	153-43 E
2000		12-53 N	152-39 E

Steaming as before.

0850 Executed "Deploy Able". This maneuver basically the same as "Deploy Charlie", except that control units, fire support units, and screening units maintain parallel course with LST's, then all units execute ships left together. This plan to be used in case CTF 53 Attack Plan 167-44 is put into effect.

1146 Reformed cruising disposition.

Wednesday, 14 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-14 N	151-04 E
1200		13-20 N	150-36 E
2000		13-28 N	149-43 E

Steaming as before.

1410 Executed "Deploy Charlie."

1440 Re-formed cruising disposition.

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USS LST 125  
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Zone: - 10

Thursday, 15 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-31 N	148-23 E
1200		13-28 N	147-59 E
2000		13-24 N	147-03 E

Steaming as before.

1600 Executed "Deploy Able."

1710 Sighted anti-aircraft bursts and plane bearing 225°R. on the horizon. Ship went to general quarters. Increased speed to flank, conforming with movements of U.S.S. LST 488.

1720 Received voice message from CTG 53.16 that TG 53.17 is undergoing air-attack.

1725 CTG 53.17 reported via voice radio that three enemy torpedo planes are attacking that group on the port bow.

1730 This group commenced forming cruising disposition. Meanwhile USS STEMBLE proceeded to station between this unit and planes.

1731 Sighted two planes astern position angle 05°.

1733 This vessel on station in cruising disposition.

1740 This group ordered to take regular stations in cruising disposition.

1742 CTG 53.17 reported having successfully repelled attack.

1755 Set condition III Victor.

Friday, 16 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-27 N	147-26 E
1200		13-26 N	147-46 E
2000		13-21 N	147-50 E

Steaming as before.

0402 CTG 53.16 reported bogie dead astern of this group closing. Ship went to general quarters.

0407 Received order to make smoke. Observed short bursts being fired by vessels in the screen astern and on the starboard beam. Did not observe any plane.

0415 Received order to cease making smoke.

0504 U.S.S. STEMBLE lost contact with bogies.

0536 Set condition III Victor.

0544 Executed "Charlie Form One", screen moved in to 2000 yards for A.A. defense.

0930 ComTaskGrp 53.17 reported bogie bearing 240°T.

Saturday, 17 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-23 N	147-00 E
1200		13-27 N	147-33 E
2000		13-19 N	148-16 E

Steaming as before.

1750 CTG 53.17 reported bogies 25 miles on starboard beam of this group. Ship went to general quarters.

1751 Three (3) enemy torpedo planes attacking off starboard bow, approximately 3 miles distance.

1752 Opened fire on one enemy plane bearing 115°R., range 2500 yards.

1753 Observed plane drop torpedo about 2000 yards distance and turn off of stern of this task group.

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USS LST 125  
WAR DIARY

SATURDAY 17 June 1944 (Continued)

1754 Opened fire on two (2) enemy torpedo planes broad on starboard bow.  
1757 U.S.S. LCI 468 bearing 345°R. hit in bow by torpedo. (see USS LST 125  
Action Report - 17 June 1944, file LST 125/A16-3, Serial 183)  
1810 Bogie reported bearing 200°T distance 20 miles.  
1835 Many bogies reported bearing 155°T, distance 60 miles.  
1915 Set condition three (III) Victor Mike.

Sunday, 18 June 1944.

0800 Posit- 13-26 N 148-32 E  
1200 13-26 N 148-36 E  
2000 13-23 N 147-55 E

Steaming as before.

1035 Bogie reported bearing 155°T, distance 19 miles. Ship went to general  
quarters.  
1104 Set Condition III Victor.  
1200 Ensign was lowered to half-mast in commemoration of men killed during  
enemy air attack of previous day.  
1300 Ensign hoisted to the peak. U.S.S. LCI 468 scuttled by main battery  
fire of U.S.S. STEMBLE.  
1330 Bogie reported bearing 040°T distance 22 miles. Ship went to general  
quarters.  
1350 Set Condition III Victor. \* Bogie reported bearing 262°T, distance 15 miles.  
Ship went to general quarters. \*1750  
1920 Set Condition III Victor.

Monday, 19 June 1944.

0800 Posit- 13-40 N 147-45 E  
1200 13-43 N 148-07 E  
2000 13-56 N 147-51 E

Steaming as before.

Tuesday, 20 June 1944.

0800 Posit- 14-46 N 148-41 E  
1200 14-47 N 148-07 E  
2000 15-06 N 147-10 E

Steaming as before.

0516 Received voice from CTG 53.16 - "Friendly Aircraft bearing 040°T."  
0518 Received following message; "Do not open fire, friendly planes."  
0521 Several ships of this group opened fire on TBF approaching on starboard  
bow. TBF was shot down approximately 500 yards on starboard beam of  
formation.

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## USS LST 125 WAR DIARY

Tuesday, 20 June 1944 (Continued)

This vessel did not fire on TBF shot down, however, three (3) 20MM guns opened fire on second formation of 8 planes, after hearing fire from other ships. These guns expended total 94 rounds of ammunition before they could be stopped.

- 0526 Several ships on port side of formation opened fire on TBF approaching on port beam. This aircraft blinked recognition signals.
- 0529 CTG 53.16 reported all aircraft in the vicinity to be friendly.
- 0548 Set condition III Victor.
- 0556 Sighted carrier task group on the horizon starboard bow.  
(Later intercepted voice radio message to the fact that two other TBFs had been damaged by the fire of this group.)
- 1515 USS LST 343 exchanged stations with USS LST 399, third station in LST columns 4 and 5.
- 1533 Dropped out of position to make repair on port engine.
- 1610 Regained station, having made repair.
- 1936 Sighted hospital ship bearing 305°T, distance 5 miles.
- 2005 Sounded four (4) blasts on whistle as hospital ship had approached dangerously close on this vessel's port beam.
- 2010 Hospital ship backed down and then passed astern of formation.

Wednesday, 21 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	15-37 N	148-34 E
1200		15-37 N	148-01 E
2000		15-33 N	147-05 E

Steaming as before.

- 0605 Sighted task group 53.17 bearing 208°T, on the horizon.

Thursday, 22 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	15-23 N	148-28 E
1200		15-23 N	148-24 E
2000		15-45 N	147-04 E

Steaming as before.

- 1715 Sighted carrier task group on the horizon bearing 245°T closing.
- 1735 Changed course to the right to avoid carrier task group.
- 2305 USS LST 207 dropped out of the formation as a result of complete power failure. USS P.C. 555 standing by.



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Friday, 23 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	15-44 N	147-55 E
1200		15-32 N	148-01 E
2000		15-26 N	146-43 E

steaming as before.

1530 The USS AGENOR, USS LCI 469, USS LCI 471, USS LCI 472, USS P.C. 549, and USS S.C. 504 were detached with orders to report to CTF 51 at Saipan.

Saturday, 24 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	15-32 N	147-58 E
1200		15-26 N	148-23 E
2000		15-19 N	148-46 E

steaming as before.

0705 sighted carrier task group on the horizon bearing 285°T.  
1300 USS S.C. 727 came alongside for fuel and fresh water.  
1340 USS S.C. 727 away from along starboard side having received 1150 gallons of fuel and 550 gallons of fresh water.

Sunday, 25 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	15-49 N	147-20 E
1200		15-43 N	147-44 E
2000		15-10 N	148-07 E

steaming as before.

0805 USS GRAPPLE joined this task group.  
1005 USS GRAPPLE departed formation.

Monday, 26 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	14-39 N	149-11 E
1200		14-31 N	149-41 E
2000		14-18 N	150-41 E

steaming as before.

0730 USS IST 476 joined task group and took station formerly occupied by USS AGENOR.

Tuesday, 27 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-58 N	152-30 E
1200		13-53 N	153-01 E
2000		13-41 N	154-05 E

steaming as before.

1012 USS S.C. 727 came along starboard side for 50 gallons of lube-oil.  
1030 Task group sighted on horizon off starboard quarter.  
1035 USS S.C. 727 away from alongside.

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USS LST 125  
WAR DIARY

Zone: -11

Wednesday, 28 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-24 N	155-39 E
1200		13-17 N	155-39 E
2000		13-01 N	157-23 E

Steaming as before.

0000 Set all clocks ahead one hour to conform with -11 zone time.  
1103 Bogies reported bearing 290°T, distance 32 miles opening.  
2000 Fire reported on tank deck. Man fire stations. Reported fire to ComIST Group 15.  
2030 Ordered to fall astern of formation. USS LCI 466 and USS LCI 469 ordered to stand by us. Reduced speed to 1/3 and took position astern. Heavy smoke on tank deck and second deck living compartment. Shut off tank deck exhaust fans. Fire reported to be forward on starboard side of tank deck. Tank deck sprinkler system and all available hoses used to pour water into tank deck.  
2045 Fire reported extinguished and investigation started.  
2055 USS LST 488 transferred fire fighting authorities to this vessel by small-boat.  
2115 Reported to CTG 53.16 and ComISTGrp 15 that fire was believed to be caused by white phosphorus smoke grenade.  
2250 Reported to CTG 53.16 that fire was caused by smoke grenade, and extinguished without damage other than considerable water on tank deck aft. (about 1½ feet). No apparent damage to vessel or cargo. No personnel casualties. Commenced discharging water overboard.

Thursday, 29 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	13-40 N	159-05 E
1200		12-33 N	159-41 E
2000		12-22 N	160-45 E

Steaming as before.

1053 USS S.C. 727 came along starboard side for fuel and fresh water.  
1136 USS S.C. 727 away from along side having received 1650 gallons of fuel and 450 gallons of water.  
1655 Regained assigned station in formation.

Friday, 30 June 1944.

0800	Posit-	11-54 N	162-19 E
1200		11-15 N	162-30 E
2000		11-36 N	162-18 E

Steaming as before

0940 Sighted Eniwetok Atoll bearing 245°T on the horizon.  
0945 Formed single column for preparation for entering.

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WAR DIARY

Zone: -11

Friday, 30 June 1944 (Continued)

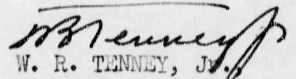
Many ships in the vicinity, also unidentified group sortieing and entering.

1743 Proceeding to Deep Entrance, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands.

1753 Standing in.

1803 Laying to inside entrance while USS S.C. 759 delivers anchorage charts.

1931 Anchored in berth #645, anchorage "H", Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands.

  
W. R. TENNEY, JR.  
Lieutenant, USNR,  
Commanding.

CC: CincPoa  
ComLSTFlotFIVE.