

**DECLASSIFIED****Authority:** E.O. 13526**By:** NDC **NARA Date:** Dec 31, 2012**SECRET**

WAR DIARY  
U.S.S. LST 488  
LST FLOTILLA FIVE  
LST GROUP FIFTEEN  
THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Reg. No.	W-504
S.S. No.	

Time Zone -11.

June 1, 1944.

Underway for Kwajalein, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands in company with, and as a part of Task Group 53.16, of Task Force 53, Fifth Amphibious Forces. (Rear Admiral R. L. CONNOLLY, USN, U.S.S. APPALACHIAN, Flagship). Operation plan No. Al62-44.

0800	Latitude	07° 12' S.
	Longitude	160° 14' E.
1200	Latitude	06° 48' S.
	Longitude	160° 24.0' E.
2000	Latitude	05° 40' S.
	Longitude	160° 50' E.

June 2, 1944.

Underway for Kwajalein, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands in company with, and as a part of Task Group 53.16, of Task Force 53, Fifth Amphibious Forces. (Rear Admiral R.L. CONNOLLY, USN, U.S.S. APPALACHIAN, Flagship). Operations plan No. Al62-44.

0800	Latitude	03° 50' S.
	Longitude	161° 20' E.
1200	Latitude	03° 19' S.
	Longitude	161° 37' E.
2000	Latitude	02° 16' S.
	Longitude	162° 10' E.

June 3, 1944.

Underway for Kwajalein, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands in company with, and as a part of Task Group 53.16, of Task Force 53, Fifth Amphibious Forces.

0800	Latitude	00° 24' S.
	Longitude	163° 09' E.
1200	Latitude	00° 10' S.
	Longitude	163° 21' E.
2000	Latitude	00° 55' N.
	Longitude	163° 55' E.

1944 AUG 18 15 40  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
FLAG OFFICE  
RECEIVED

June 4, 1944.

Underway for Kwajalein, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands in company with, and as a part of Task Group 53.16, of Task Force 53, Fifth Amphibious Forces.

82529 0800 Latitude 02° 20' N.  
Longitude 164° 41' E.

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June 4, 1944 (continued).

1200      Latitude      02° 49' N.  
            Longitude    164° 59' E.

2000      Latitude      03° 46' N.  
            Longitude    165° 30' E.

June 5, 1944.

Underway for Kwajalein, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands in company with, and as a part of Task Group 53.16, of Task Force 53, Fifth Amphibious Forces.

0800      Latitude      05° 03' N.  
            Longitude    165° 55' E.

1200      Latitude      05° 39' N.  
            Longitude    166° 18' E.

2000      Latitude      06° 49' N.  
            Longitude    166° 58' E.

June 6, 1944.

Underway for Kwajalein, Ralik Chain, Marshall Islands in company with, and as a part of Task Group 53.16, of Task Force 53, Fifth Amphibious Forces. Anchored in berth 30, Kwajalein Harbor, Marshall Islands.

0800      Latitude      08° 22' N.  
            Longitude    167° 32' E.

June 7, 1944.

Proceeding to YOG 184, Kwajalein Harbor, moored starboard side to YOG 184 in berth A94, Kwajalein Harbor, Marshall Islands. Underway from YOG 184, anchored in berth A96, Kwajalein Harbor, Marshall Island.

June 8, 1944

Proceeding to berth 30, Kwajalein Harbor. Anchored in berth 30, Kwajalein Harbor, Marshall Islands.

June 9, 1944.

Anchored in Kwajalein Harbor, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing on operation plan No. A162-44. In company with Task Force 53.16.

2000      Latitude      09° 06' N.  
            Longitude    166° 50' E.

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June 10, 1944.

Underway for Guam, Marianas Group.

0800	Latitude	09° 53' N.
	Longitude	165° 05' E.
1200	Latitude	10° 08' N.
	Longitude	164° 31' E.
2000	Latitude	10° 30' N.
	Longitude	163° 27' E.

June 11, 1944.

Underway for Guam, Marianas Group.

0800	Latitude	11° 13' N.
	Longitude	161° 46' E.
1200	Latitude	11° 26' N.
	Longitude	161° 02' E.
2000	Latitude	11° 42' N.
	Longitude	159° 58' E.

June 12, 1944.

Underway for Guam, Marianas Group. Changed time zone from -11 to -10 at 1600.

0800	Latitude	12° N.
	Longitude	158° 20' E.
1200	Latitude	12° 06' N.
	Longitude	157° 35' E.
2000	Latitude	12° 21' N.
	Longitude	156° 07' E.

June 13, 1944.

Underway for Guam, Marianas Group.

0800	Latitude	12° 41' N.
	Longitude	154° 19' E.
1200	Latitude	12° 40' N.
	Longitude	153° 37' E.
2000	Latitude	12° 58' N.
	Longitude	152° 32' E.

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June 14, 1944.

Underway for Guam, Marianas Group.

0800	Latitude	13° 13' N.
	Longitude	151° 05' E.
1200	Latitude	13° 20' N.
	Longitude	150° 38' E.
2000	Latitude	13° 28' 5 N.
	Longitude	149° 43' E.

June 15, 1944.

Underway for Guam, Marianas Group. Observed anti-aircraft fire bearing 070° true, distance approximately 8 miles, immediately went to general quarters. Received message that task group 53.17, which bore approximately 065° true at approximately 8 miles was being attacked by torpedo planes. Sighted two twin engine, enemy planes flying low on water and bearing 070° distance approximately six (6) miles on various courses. Planes disappeared from our sight within about five (5) minutes, bearing about 050° true, and heading about 330°. Both planes were identified as "Betty".

0800	Latitude	13° 32' N.
	Longitude	148° 25' E.
1200	Latitude	13° 29' N.
	Longitude	148° 00' E.
2000	Latitude	13° 29' N.
	Longitude	147° 07' E.

June 16, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group.

0800	Latitude	13° 30' N.
	Longitude	147° 20' E.
1200	Latitude	13° 28' N.
	Longitude	147° 22' E.
2000	Latitude	13° 16' N.
	Longitude	147° 45' E.



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June 17, 1944.

Received orders from ComTaskGroup 53.16, to retire on course Speedway (CTF 53, operation attack order No. 164-44) returning by 1800 daily to a point 80 miles from point Abolone, Latitude 15° 27' N., Longitude 145° 47' E. At 1750 upon report from U.S.S. BLACK that enemy aircraft were in the vicinity bearing 232° true and distance approximately 15 miles, ship immediately went into condition of readiness one. Task Group being then in cruising disposition Charlie One, and being composed of sixteen (16) LST's in four (4) columns with four (4) ships in each column, distance 300 yards, interval 300 yards flanked on both port and starboard side by one column of LCI's at interval of 300 yards, screen by six (6) S.C.'s and two (2) PC, at 1000 yards. This ship, LST 488, being the last ship in the port column of LST formation. The formation having just completed the evolution of turn six (6) was then on course 142° true. Visibility was good all around the horizon, and was good overhead up to approximately 2000 feet, where the sky was spotted with large cumulus clouds. The sea was calm or slight (1) with about a four knot wind from the Northeast. At 1753 the Task Group was attacked by three (3) enemy torpedo planes, the first of which was observed at about 5000 yards at 10° elevation on starboard beam of the LST formation, bearing 232° true. At 2000 yards this plane came down to approximately 30 feet of the water and headed for the starboard beam of the formation; apparently heading for either LST 125 or LST 488. These two ships being the last ships in formation at the time. As the plane approached to approximately 1000 yards on starboard beam of this ship it changed course slightly to its port and at the same time launched a torpedo. Due to plane's slight change in course the torpedo passed well astern of this ship and the LST formation. After launching its torpedo, the plane then turned sharply to port and began to gain altitude, going away at 180° relative to this ship and the formation. This ship and numerous ships of the task group, commenced firing at this plane at 1500 yards, elevation 00° on approximate bearing of 232° true, and continued to fire until the plane was at 3000 yards, bearing approximately 310° true, and out of range. No damage whatsoever to this plane was observed. This plane was identified as a "Kate" type 97 MK3TB. The second plane to attack was sighted at about 5000 yards bearing approximately 232° true, at altitude of 10°, at 2000 yards it was observed to dive until just above the water, coming in on the starboard beam of the formation. This plane came in almost simultaneously with the first plane, except that it was approximately 1000 yards to the right of the first plane and about thirty (30) seconds later than the first. As this plane approached the formation and while still about 500 yards from the starboard column, this plane suddenly began gaining altitude, passing directly over the center of the formation from starboard to port at an altitude of about 300 feet, continuing to gain altitude more slowly as it went away. This ship and numerous other ships of the Task Group opened fire on this plane on bearing 200° true, 1500 yards at 05° elevation, and continued to fire on the plane until it had passed

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June 17, 1944(cont.)

over the formation and went out of range at approximately 2000 yards, position angle  $30^{\circ}$  on bearing  $053^{\circ}$  true. During its flight across the formation, this plane met with a terrific volley of anti-aircraft fire from all ships. After passing over the formation by approximately 1000 yards the plane was observed to be trailing a stream of black smoke from each engine. It is uncertain as to whether or not this plane ever launched a torpedo. This plane was identified to be a Sally-type 97 MB. At 1756 the third plane attacked, coming in at practically the same angles as the other two, leveling off at 2000 yards and coming in very low (twenty (20) feet) apparently aiming at the lead ship in the starboard column (LST 123) or LCI 468, which was the first craft in the starboard LCI column being abreast of, and 150 yards to the right of LST 123. At approximately 150 yards on the starboard beam of LCI 468, this plane launched a torpedo which immediately struck the bow of the LCI and exploded. The plane passed directly over the lead ships in the LST columns, from starboard to port, at an altitude of 175 feet meeting with intense anti-aircraft fire and bursting into a huge flame while still over the LST formation, crashing into the sea approximately 500 yards off the port side of the formation, burning and sinking quickly. This ship as well as other ships of the formation fired at this plane, opening fire at approximately 1500 yards on bearing approximately  $160^{\circ}$  true, elevation  $00^{\circ}$  and continued to fire until the plane burst into flames almost dead ahead. It is noted here that this particular plane met with most intense Anti-Aircraft fire, it being the only plane in sight at the time, practically every ship in the formation had all guns trained on this target, whereas with the first two plane the fire was divided between the two. This plane was identified as Sally, Type 97 M.B. At 1800 a fourth plane was observed bearing  $130^{\circ}$  true, elevation  $10^{\circ}$ , distance four (4) miles, on course approximately  $230^{\circ}$  true. This plane was then observed to dive sharply, leveling off just above the water and passing below the horizon. Although no splash was observed, what appeared to be the tail of a plane sticking out of the water was observed at  $100^{\circ}$  true on horizon. This plane was identified as "Sally" Type 97, M.B.

The performance of all ordnance equipment was good. Ammunition expended; 20MM-620 rounds, 40MM-101 rounds, 50 cal-110 rounds, 3 "50 cal-6 rounds. Guns firing were 10-20MM, 6-40MM, 4-50cal., 1-3 "50 cal. Performance of ammunition was good. The following casualties occurred on board during this action; AKERS, Joseph Patrick, 462622, Cpl., USMCR, K., Co., 3rd Bat., 9th Marines. Diagnosis: WOUND, Gunshot, left ear and left mastoid region, #2576, Key Ltr. "K". EVANS, Robert Edward, 817 67 17, MMLc, V6, USNR, 1039 NCB detachment. Diagnosis: WOUND, Gunshot, rt. deltoid region, #2576, Key Ltr. "K".

No damage whatsoever was caused this ship by this action. Enemy losses by this action was one plane definitely destroyed, two probably destroyed or damaged.

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June 17, 1944 (cont.)

0800	Latitude	13° 18' N.
	Longitude	146° 56' E.
1200	Latitude	13° 23' N.
	Longitude	147° 34' E.
2000	Latitude	13° 14' N.
	Longitude	148° 09' E.

June 18, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800	Latitude	13° 32' N.
	Longitude	148° 12' E.
1200	Latitude	13° 35' N.
	Longitude	148° 12' E.
2000	Latitude	13° 30' N.
	Longitude	147° 46' E.

June 19, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800	Latitude	13° 40' N.
	Longitude	148° 06' E.
1200	Latitude	13° 46' N.
	Longitude	148° 16' E.
2000	Latitude	13° 53' N.
	Longitude	147° 52' E.

June 20, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800	Latitude	14° 48' N.
	Longitude	148° 48' E.
1200	Latitude	14° 47' N.
	Longitude	148° 10' E.
2000	Latitude	15° 04' N.
	Longitude	147° 11' E.



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June 21, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800      Latitude      15° 46' N.  
             Longitude    147° 56' E.

1200      Latitude      15° 40' N.  
             Longitude    148° 07' E.

2000      Latitude      15° 37' N.  
             Longitude    146° 49' E.

June 22, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800      Latitude      15° 31' N.  
             Longitude    148° 16' E.

1200      Latitude      15° 34' N.  
             Longitude    148° 10' E.

2000      Latitude      15° 46' N.  
             Longitude    146° 59' E.

June 23, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800      Latitude      15° 46' N.  
             Longitude    147° 56' E.

1200      Latitude      15° 40' N.  
             Longitude    148° 07' E.

2000      Latitude      15° 37' N.  
             Longitude    146° 49' E.

June 24, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily.

0800      Latitude      15° 30' N.  
             Longitude    147° 48' E.

1200      Latitude      15° 30' N.  
             Longitude    148° 05' E.



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June 24, 1944.(cont.)

2000 Latitude 15° 23' N.  
Longitude 148° 28' E.

June 25, 1944.

Underway for Guam Island, Marianas Group, continuing to retire and return from a point eighty (80) miles East of point Abolone at 1800 daily. Received orders from ComTaskGroup 53.17 to proceed to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Group. Proceeding to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands Group.

0800 Latitude 15° 47' N.  
Longitude 147° 14' E.

1200 Latitude 15° 41' N.  
Longitude 147° 39' E.

2000 Latitude 15° 05' N.  
Longitude 148° 12' E.

June 26, 1944.

Underway proceeding to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Group.

0800 Latitude 14° 38' N.  
Longitude 149° 18' E.

1200 Latitude 14° 26' N.  
Longitude 149° 37' E.

2000 Latitude 14° 15' N.  
Longitude 150° 37' E.

June 27, 1944.

Underway proceeding to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Group.

0800 Latitude 13° 58' N.  
Longitude 152° 26' E.

1200 Latitude 13° 49' N.  
Longitude 152° 58' E.

2000 Latitude 13° 34' N.  
Longitude 154° 15' E.

June 28, 1944.

Underway proceeding to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Group. Changed time zone from -10 to -11 at 0000.

0800 Latitude 13° 23' N.  
Longitude 155° 42' E.

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June 28, 1944 (cont.)

1200      Latitude      13° 12' N.  
             Longitude    156° 17' E.

2000      Latitude      12° 57' N.  
             Longitude    157° 30' E.

June 29, 1944.

Underway proceeding to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Group.

0800      Latitude      12° 32' N.  
             Longitude    159° 00' E.

1200      Latitude      12° 24' N.  
             Longitude    159° 44' E.

2000      Latitude      12° 21' N.  
             Longitude    160° 52' E.

June 30, 1944

Underway proceeding to Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Group.  
Anchored in Eniwetok Atoll Harbor, Marshall Group.

0800      Latitude      12° 00' N.  
             Longitude    162° 00' E.

*G. E. Scott*  
G. E. SCOTT,  
Lieut. USNR  
Commanding Officer.