

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LSTFlot5/Al6-3/P20
Serial 0244

Contributed William L. Williams

L.S.T. FLOTILLA FIVE
THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
Office of the Commander

c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

4 August 1944.

From: Commander Task Group 53.16 (Commander L.S.T. Flotilla FIVE).

To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Via: (1) Commander Task Force 53.
(2) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action of Certain Vessels, Task Group 53.16 attached to Commander Task Force 53 (ComGroupTHREE, PhibPac) off and on Asan Beach, Guam, Marianas Islands, about 1800 - 1900 KING 28 July 1944.

Reference: (a) C.O., USS STEMBEL conf. ltr. DD644/Al6-3, serial 043, dated 30 July 1944.
(b) C.O., USS APACHE conf. ltr. ATF67/Al6, serial 09, dated 2 August 1944.
(c) C.O., USS LST 29 secret ltr. dated 1 August 1944.
(d) C.O., USS LST 71 secret ltr. dated 30 July 1944.
(e) C.O., USS LST 244 secret ltr. Al6-3, dated 1 August 1944.
(f) C.O., USS LST 334 Action Report, dated 1 August 1944.
(g) C.O., USS LST 343 secret ltr. Al2-1(7), serial 240, dated 31 July 1944.
(h) C.O., USS LCI(G) 469 Action Report, file Al6-3, dated 1 August 1944.
(i) C.O., USS LCI(G) 471 Action Report, dated 1 August 1944.
(j) C.O., USS LCI(G) 472 Action Report, file Al6-3, dated 1 August 1944.
(k) C.O., USS LCI(G) 473 Action Report, file Al6-3, dated 2 August 1944.
(l) C.O., USS PC 555 conf. ltr. A9-4, ATG/jp, dated 2 August 1944.
(m) ComLCI(G) Group 37 secret ltr. Al6-3/117-44, dated 1 August 1944.
(n) C.O., USS LCI(G) 466 Action Report, dated 31 July 1944.

1. The several reports, references (a) to (n), from vessels of Task Group 53.16 present and participating in the subject action describe fully this action. The observations con-

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tained therein are in general supported by the Task Group Commander who, aboard STEMBEL, witnessed this action.

2. Preparations had been made for unloading during night of 28-29 July 1944 LST's 343, 29, 71, 244, and 334 beached at Asan beach, Guam, M.I. Weather conditions for this work were good, and no idea was entertained of any enemy opposition by gun fire; none was expected, and prior contact with Third Marine Division indicated this beach safe in this respect for unloading. Task Group Commander in STEMBEL about 1800 KING moved into toward Asan beach to make final check on preparations for unloading when splash from shell fire was observed on beach near one of the LST's. Orders to take in hand preparations for retracting were immediately issued. Gun positions from which fire came were unknown, and therefore fire could not be returned. A lull in this fire then occurred only to be resumed with considerable intensity, shells dropping not only around the beached LST's, but about STEMBEL, other destroyers, and LCI "gunboats" as well lying approximately 1000 to 1500 yards off Asan beach. STEMBEL along with LCI "gunboats" brought suspected enemy gun positions under fire with automatic weapons. These positions proved false whereupon Task Group Commander ordered STEMBEL and LCI "gunboats" to move out to seaward out of range of this fire. Meanwhile LST's were engaged in retracting from beach, LST's 244 and 343 experiencing difficulty in doing so. Task Group Commander thereupon ordered APACHE and GRAPPLE respectively to proceed inshore to aid these vessels. Services of GRAPPLE were not required, this vessel then standing to sea out of gun range. APACHE on other hand closed LST 244 passed towing pendant to this vessel at which time LST 244 eased off beach, APACHE casting loose and standing to seaward out of range. All beached LST's stood out to sea, sustaining no appreciable damage. This mortar and artillery fire coming from concealed Japanese gun positions lasted for about one hour - 1800 to 1900 KING - 28 July 1944, and approximately fifty shells fell about the beached LST's, STEMBEL, and LCI "gunboats", many of which were near misses.

3. Conduct of all hands engaged in this action was most commendable, especially that of beached LST's and APACHE, comment in this connection has been made by Task Group Commander in his endorsements to the several action reports of these vessels.

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K.B. Carter
K. B. CARTER

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A16-3(3)
FILE NO. A16-3

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
GROUP THREE, AMPHIBIOUS FORCES
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

90/fps

SERIAL No. 0225

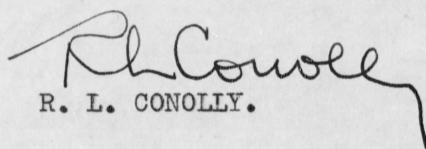
C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

7 September 1944.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
ComISTFlot-5 Conf.Ltr.,
Serial 0244 of 8/4/44.

From: Commander Group THREE, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet,
(Commander Task Force FIFTY-THREE).
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet,
(Commander Task Force FIFTY-ONE).
(2) Commander FIFTH Fleet,
(Commander Task Force FIFTY).
(3) Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Action of Certain Vessels, Task Group 53.16 Attached
to Commander Task Force 53 (ComGroupTHREE, PhibsPac)
off and on ASAN BEACH, GUAM, MARIANAS ISLANDS, about
1800 - 1900 KING 28 July 1944.

1. Forwarded.


R. L. CONOLLY.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

CAF/Al6-3(3) OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES, U. S. PACIFIC FLEET 05/c1
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
Serial: 0642

CONFIDENTIAL

16 SEP 1944

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to
ComLSTFlot FIVE Conf.
Ltr. Al6-3/P20 Serial
0244 dated 4 August 1944.

From: Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander FIFTH Fleet.
(2) Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action of Certain Vessels, Task Group 53.16 Attached
to Commander Task Force 53 (ComGroupTHREE, PhibsPac.)
off and on ASAN BEACH, GUAM, MARIANAS ISLANDS, about
1800 - 1900 KING 28 July 1944.

1. Forwarded.

W. C. Mott
W. C. MOTT,
By direction.

Copy to:
ComLSTFlot5

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