

USS LSM 46
FLEET POST OFFICE
San Francisco, Cal.

FILE NO. LSY 412-1

9 March 1945

MAIL NO.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: - Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Group THIRTEEN, LSM Flotilla Five.
(2) Commander LSM Flotilla FIVE.
(3) Commander Task Force FIFTY-ONE.
(4) Commander Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces,
United States Pacific Fleet.
(5) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action at Iwo Jima - 19 February to 8 March 1945 -
Report of.

Reference: (a) Cincpac File A2-11/A12 Serial 101-45 of 1 Jan.
(b) Com LSM Flot despatch 042311 of 4 March 1945.
(c) Com LSM Flot despatch 052345 of 6 March 1945.
(d) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920 Art. 712, 874 (6).

Enclosure: (A) Action report for period 19 February to 8 March 1945
(B) List of damage sustained - as per enclosure (A) c
reference (a).
(C) List of casualties.

1. In compliance with references (a), (b), (c), and (d),
in accordance with instructions contained in references (a), and (c),
enclosures (A), (B), and (C) are forwarded.

19 February. At 0834 LSM 46 in Group 13 of LSM Flotilla 5, layed to in LSM Area Mike, off the line, awaiting call to beach and discharge our six medium tanks. At 1140 we were called in with LSM's 43 and 44 to beach on Red Beach One. While enroute to beach, TARKEY, Fred A. USMC 905585, shot himself in left hand while examining his pistol. He was later transferred to U.S.S. LURDOCK. We beached at standard speed at 1206, using 80 fathoms of cable. We discharged our tanks, and at 1215 we retracted and proceeded to APA 197 for cargo. During beaching several 105M/W mortar shells straddled the ship on all sides, and the first tank that left the ship was put out of commission by a land mine. At 1245 we took on ammunition from APA 197, and transferred our marine casualty. At 1746 we left APA 197 and lay to in LSM area Mike. 1914 Enemy aircraft sighted - we made smoke from fog generator. 1925 We had to secure fog generator as it was working improperly. 2050 Secured from General Quarters and shifted position to Transport Area Zebra.

20 February. Layed to in Transport Area Zebra awaiting call. 1830 Received orders to shift position to LST Area Charlie. Shell fire from shore fell about ship all during night and day.

21 February. 0730 Underway to line of departure, and awaiting call. At 1525 we went alongside LST 758 to pick up causeway to take to the beach - sea extremely choppy. 1534 Began moving toward beach with causeway attached to our port side. At 1550 a SeaBee fell overboard from causeway. In resulting confusion BRUNGER, William J. 916 09 85 had his left leg caught in causeway. Leg was almost completely severed at knee - bone was crushed. Our pharmacist mate, HIRD, P.E. PH16c, boarded causeway to treat the man. Result was that the leg had to be completely amputated at knee to prevent infection and to stop bleeding. One-half grain morphine tartrate was administered and man was transferred to AGC 11. At 1705 we beached on Red Beach One with causeway. 1804 Retracted. 1813 We beached on right flank of Red Beach and commenced unloading cargo. 1930 Flash Red - General Quarters. 1935 Flash White - and we again commenced unloading cargo. 2035 Two casualties were brought aboard. 2325 Four more casualties were brought aboard for treatment.

22 February. Transferred casualties to LVT's for further transfer to hospital ships. 0117 Retracted and proceeded to LST area Charlie. 0318 Flash Red. 0350 Flash White. 0850 Secured port engine for repairs. 1150 Completed repairs to port engine. 1340 Moored portside to KA 91. 1500 Flash Red. 1547 Flash White. 1740 Cast off and proceeded to line of departure with water and general supplies. 1813 Beached on Red Beach One, and began discharging cargo. 2315 We ceased unloading. 2318 Retracted and proceeded to Area William.

23 February. 1218 Moored to KA 68. 1433 Cast off and proceeded to line of departure. 1559 Beached on Red Beach Two. 1736 Retracted because of rough surf. 1740 Beached harder on same beach - Red Beach Two - and commenced unloading. 1915 Flash Red - General Quarters. 1930 One enemy aircraft observed, and we opened fire. 1935 Ship was hit by two 105M/W mortar shells from enemy mortars. One hit at #4 50 calibre machine gun on port side weather deck at frame 13. Second shell hit starboard side at waterline at frame #14. Ship's office on fire from number one hit. Seventeen (17) casualties and two (2) dead were suffered from shell number one, as enumerated in Enclosure (C). 1945 Retracted as ship was being straddled by mortar fire. Damage control party putting out fire, and casualties being treated. 2035 Anchored off Red Beach using stern anchor and letting out 40 fathoms of cable. 2130 Discharged our serious casualties - ten (10) in all - to several hospital ships, the others staying aboard. 2145 Flash White. Damage control continuing to repair damage to electrical system and to our watertight integrity.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

24 February. Beached on Red Beach One using 100 fathoms of cable. 0759 The bodies of our dead casualties, Anderson, and Winters, were taken ashore for burial. We commenced unloading ship. 1535 Retracted and proceeded to ARL #3 for temporary repairs. 1758 Received message that ARL #3 could not work on us until 0700 on the 26th. 1801 Anchored by stern anchor off Red Beach #2. 2030 Flash Red - General Quarters. 2224 Flash White.

25 February. 0718 Moored portside to ARL #3 for temporary repairs. 1432 Underway for APA 197. 1820 Cast off all lines from APA 197, having received six (6) two and one-half (2½) ton trucks. 1835 Beached on Red Beach One. 1949 Completed unloading and retracted. 2040 Moored portside to KA 64 and started taking on cargo.

26 February. 0650 Cast off all lines from KA 64. 0730 Beached on Red Beach Two. 0750 We retracted to make a new beaching. 0755 Beached on Red Beach One using 110 fathoms of cable. 1630 LST 121 fouled our anchor. 1735 Anchors cleared.

27 February. 0000 Beached on Red Beach One as before. 0200 LCT 1269 hit their stern on our port side causing cut in skin of ship - one foot long. 1215 Retracted from beach. 1240 Anchored off Red Beach trying to repair damage to port bow door caused by wreckage on beach. Port flap lost. 1647 Moored to KA 93 - started taking on cargo. 1940 Completed receiving cargo, consisting of eighteen (18) pieces of rolling stock. Underway for beach. 2100 Beached on Red Beach Two and commenced discharging cargo. 2137 Completed discharging cargo, and retracted. 2223 Underway for APA 70.

28 February. 0105 Moored portside to APA 70. 0855 Cast off all lines and proceeded to line of departure. 1020 Beached on Red Beach One. 1030 LSM 140 fouled our anchor. 1100 Retracted from beach and cleared anchors. 1340 Moored to KA 64 for cargo. 1703 Cast off, and proceeded to line of departure. 1721 Beached on Red Beach One with general cargo. 1930 Retracted from beach. 2255 Moored to port side of APA 70.

1 March. 0045 Shell fire from beach fell around us. 0050 Taking on cargo of trucks and jeeps. 0239 Flash Red - General Quarters. 0424 Flash White. 1122 Cast off all lines, and underway for line of departure. 1450 Beached on Red Beach One. Commenced discharging cargo. 1935 Completed discharging cargo - retracted from beach. 2129 Underway for AKA 61. 2138 Flash Red - General Quarters. 2143 Anchored by stern anchor in transport area. 2205 Flash White.

2 March. 0145 Moored port side to KA 61. 0718 Underway for line of departure loaded with general cargo. 1044 Beached on Green Beach One and unloaded cargo. 1101 WURKEL, C. R. M3c 819 70 91 and STURN, C. J. (No 753 34 21 reported back from hospital ship for duty. 1315 BLACK, C. E. PFC USMC 898358 received wound in neck. Morphine Tartrate and 100 cc of serum albumin were administered. 1630 Retracted from beach. 1658 Moored to AKA 61. 2000 Underway for Green Beach, but could not beach as all berths were full. Awaiting instructions.

3 March. 0125 Beached on Green Beach One. 0545 Retracted - proceeding to APA 61. 0800 Shifted to west side of Iwo Jima Island. 0815 All power on ship failed. Shifted to emergency hand steering. 0818 All power on again. 1035 Moored port side to AKA 61 taking on five hundred eight (508) drums of gasoline - aviation type. 1845 Shifted berth with AKA 61. 2315 Cast off all lines and underway for beach.

4 March. 0033 Took aboard Doctors and gear at control vessel to be landed on Black Beach. 0040 Beached on Black Beach and began unloading cargo. 1545 Retracted from Black Beach. 1600 Went alongside AML #3 for valves, etc., that had been repaired for us. 1900 Moored to merchant ship Cape Isabell.

5 March. 0212 Cast off, and underway for eastern side of Iwo Jima. 0325 Anchored off Red Beach repairing emergency tackle for bow doors. 0842 Beached on Blue Beach One. 1054 Forced to retract from beach due to sunken causeway pounding our hull. 1225 Beached on Yellow Beach. Started unloading cargo.

6 March. 0545 Retracted from Yellow Beach. 0740 Moored to YA 41 on West side of Iwo Jima Island. 1334 Underway for Black Beach. 1545 Beached on Black Beach and commenced unloading 460 barrels of diesel fuel. 2345 Retracted.

7 March. 0015 Anchored and began welding lube oil lines to hydraulic couplings that had vibrated loose on beach. 0225 Flash Red - General Quarters. 0235 Flash Blue. 0550 Preparing to come alongside merchant ship Cape Stephens. 0650 Moored to Cape Stephens. 2302 Underway from Cape Stephens with general cargo - proceeding to yellow beach.

8 March. 0055 Beached on Blue Beach Two and began unloading cargo. 1750 Retracted from Blue Beach Two - starboard engine inoperative due to possible fouled or damaged screw. 1904 Moored alongside AOG 11 for fresh water. 2005 Cast off all lines from AOG 11 and proceeded as ordered to LSM 59. 2035 Moored portside to LSM 59 furnishing power while we are awaiting divers inspection of starboard screw.

1. A-103L Shell hole in hull starboard side forward of frame 14. Hole approximately 3ft. x 2ft.
2. A-104L Shell hole in overhead forward of frame 13. Hole approximately 3ft. by 2ft. All longitudinals and hull plates bent or buckled. Electric cable 5-7-1103 severed. Operating lamp destroyed. Two desks in ship's office damaged beyond repair. Ship's office typewriters damaged beyond repair.
3. A-104L Outer jacket of coffee urn split. Ranges knocked loose from securings. All longitudinals, hull plates and deck plates sprung and buckled. Water heater leaking, (already repaired). Refrigerator sprung.
4. A-104L (Callej stores) Bulkheads, overhead, deck plates, hull plates, and overhead buckled. Transverse frames buckled and split.
5. C-102A (Machine Shop) Longitudinals, hull plates and deck plates buckled.
6. C-102A Forward bulkhead at frame 27 buckled.
7. Engine room. Hull plate split at frame 23 on port side.
8. Wherry battered and broken by loading.
9. All stanchions port side bent or broken off.
10. Life lines port side severed.
11. Fire riser aft on port side sprung and leaking.
12. Fire riser forward on port side broken off at one outlet.
13. Fire hose support port side forward of #4 gun tub bent.
14. Port yard arm bent. #1 antenna badly bent (not sure of operation).
15. Hot fresh water line starboard side forward crew's quarters severed.
16. Both bow door flaps missing.
17. Upper left corner of port ammunition locker damaged badly. Light shows through. Doors open and metal ripped.
18. Chocks on port side bent back upon themselves.
19. Hand wheel for manual anchor windlass brake broken off.
20. 50 caliber guns on port side badly damaged and bent.
21. #4 201/4 trusion bent.
22. #4 50 caliber damaged beyond repair.
23. Gun tub banged in.
24. Life raft #4 badly damaged.
25. Support for life rafts badly bent.
26. Base for wherry davit badly bent.
27. Buckles in plating of skin of ship all along port side.
28. Sick Bay cabinets springing out of place.
29. Approximately 15% or more of ship's office records destroyed due to mortar hit and consequent fire. Official manuals destroyed by fire and blood stains.
30. Storage cabinet in galley moved from supports.
31. Bottom heater plate of range buckled and causing food to burn in oven.
32. Small range foundation badly damaged.
33. Cornice of port weather deck split. Light showing thru in various places.
34. Insulation badly damaged port side.
35. Hole in overhead main deck port side at frame 19.
36. Frame 19 partition ripped.
37. Hole starboard side fantail 2ft. x 2ft.
38. Rip 7 feet long on starboard quarter.
39. Port hydraulic piston cracked and rod sheared off on bow door machinery.
40. #4 201/4 guard rails off.
41. Two flags in flag bag destroyed by shell fragments (3rd and 4th repeat).
42. Fog generator gasoline and fog fluid supply systems fouled.
43. Starboard main engine clutch regulating valve will not hold pressure.
44. Port main engine sea water line from hydraulic coupling lube oil cooler ruptured in two places.

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ENCLOSURE (11)

CASUALTY LISTCONFIDENTIAL

ANDERSON, Raymond C. 869 97 90 Flc Amputation - both legs.
 WINTERS, Tommy (n) 357 15 32 Mlc Wound - entire frontal region
 of body.

Casualties Evacuated

CAFARELLA, Robert A. 825 99 44 M3c Wound - shell fragment - left
 sacral region.
 KROMER, Richard J. 820 83 48 Slc Wound - shell fragment - left
 dorsal & left lumbar regions-back.
 MC CREAMY, Harry D. 921 98 61 82s Wound - shell fragment - upper &
 lower rt. leg & rt. hand.
 MC HENNOTT, Frederick J. 921 99 00 82s Wound - shell fragment - hypogastric
 and umbilical regions of abdomen &
 dislocation of rt. shoulder.
 MERRITT, Howard P. 839 86 38 Slc Wound - shell fragment - right
 shoulder blade.
 OSIDENE, John "O" 847 77 46 Slc Wound - shell fragment - left
 middle neck.
 MURCELL, Clarence R. 819 70 91 M3c Wound - shell fragment - left arm
 and back.
 SCIBELL, Goodwin H. 888 20 74 Flc Wound - shell fragment - femoral
 region of leg.
 STURM, Charles J. 753 34 71 Slc Wound - shell fragment - left jaw.
 UTSCH, William L. 944 13 74 Cox. Wound - Shell fragment - left
 upper arm.

Casualties not evacuated

BRASSINGTON, Robert L. 332427 Ens. Out left hand - shell fragment.
 EDWARDS, Frederick R. 365127 Lieut. Left leg and head injury.
 LINCOLN, Allen A. 267285 Lt.(jg) Right face and leg -shell frag.
 DEES, Bert 636 77 47 M2s Left leg - shell fragment.
 HENDRICKSON, Earl F. 808 60 48 Cox. Legs - shell fragment.
 JUDD, Thomas L. 936 29 39 Slc Arm - shell fragment.
 PRAYGER, Alexander J. 920 86 80 Cox. Left ear - shell fragment.

* Died from wounds.

ENCLOSURE (C)