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**SECRET**

**DECLASSIFIED**

ACTION REPORT

USS LCI(L) 1

SERIAL NONE

19 AUGUST 1943

REPORT OF LOSS OF LCI(L) 1, 17 AUGUST 1943.

FORWARDS REPORT OF LOSS OF LCI(L) 1  
AS A RESULT OF A BOMB HIT DURING  
ENEMY AIR ATTACK AT LAC DE BIZERTE  
TUNISIA. UNDER COMMAND OF LCI GROUP 4,  
LCI(L) FLOTILLA 2.

53451

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Authority *WWD 902133*  
BY *BA* NARA Date *11-15-07*

DECLASSIFIED

File No.  
LCE/111-1  
Serial: 00109 (Op)

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,  
Amphibious Force,  
Northwest African Waters.

RIC/we

11 1175

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to  
SO LCI(L) Flotilla Two  
Secret ltr IGIF2/111-1  
dated August 20, 1943.

August 25, 1943.

**SECRET**

From: Commander Landing Craft and Bases.  
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
Via : Commander Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.  
Subject: Loss of LCI(L) Number 1.

1. Forwarded.
2. The wounded men listed in paragraph six of the basic letter will be awarded Purple Hearts as soon as a supply reaches this Command.
3. The recommendation made in paragraph seven of the basic letter is concurred with.
4. The LCI(L) #1 has been recommended by me for a Presidential Merit Citation. The action of her personnel, at the end, was in keeping with this citation, and no blame is attached to any person in the Naval Service for her loss.
5. No further inquiry into her loss is being made by this Command.

  
R. L. CONOLLY.

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 962133  
BY NARA Date 11-15-08

August 20, 1945

11 1175

SECOND ENDORSEMENTSECRET

From: Commander LCI(L) Flotilla Two.  
 To: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.  
 Via: Commander Landing Craft and Bases, Northwest African Waters.  
 Commander Amphibious Force, Northwest African Waters.  
 Commander Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.  
 Subject: Loss of LCI(L) No. 1.

1. Forwarded, concurring in the recommendations made in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the basic letter. A letter of appreciation for assistance rendered by ships of Flotilla One has already been addressed to the Group Commander.
2. The loss of LCI(L) One was particularly distressing to all of Flotilla Two as this gallant ship had performed outstanding duty in the SICILIAN invasion and had been recommended for a Presidential Unit Citation. The Captain, Executive Officer and several of the enlisted personnel have also been recommended for suitable individual awards.
3. By separate despatch to his immediate superior in Command, the Flotilla Commander has recommended that the officers and men of LCI(L) number one be transferred to the United States as a unit to take over a new LCI(L) to be designated as LCI(L) Number One in order that this fine ships company may continue as a unit in the war.
4. It is the opinion of the Flotilla Commander that the loss of LCI(L) number one was incident to enemy action, that the ship was well handled, that all hands performed their duty in a manner to be expected of a unit citation ships company and that no blame is attached to any person in the naval service for the loss. It is recommended that no further action in this respect be taken.

*L. S. Sabin, Jr.*  
 L. S. SABIN, Jr.

Copy to:  
 C.O., Ex. LCI(L) No. 1.  
 Com LCI(L) Group 4.

(4)

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DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority: NND 962133  
 BY: NARA Date 11-15-08

AMPHIBIOUS FORCE  
LANDING CRAFT AND BASES  
LCI(L) FLOTILLA TWO  
GROUP FOUR

EWI/ob

August 20, 1943.

11 1175

S-E-C-R-E-T

FIRST ENDORSEMENT: to  
C.O.U.S.S.LCI(L) 1 Ltr.  
File No. Ill-1, dated  
August 19, 1943.

From: Commander Group Four, LCI(L) Flotilla Two.  
To : Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Via : Commander LCI(L) Flotilla Two.  
Commander Landing Craft and Bases, Northwest African Waters.  
Commander Amphibious Force, Northwest African Waters.  
Commander Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.

Subject: Loss of LCI(L) No. 1.

1. Forwarded.
2. Recommendations contained in paragraphs seven and eight concurred in.
3. In addition this command desires to particularly commend the Captain of the LCI(L) One for saving the life of Bos'n Joseph L. PALMER by getting him aboard the S.S. PAINE WINGATE when PALMER was unable to save himself. Also it should be recorded that the Captain in accordance with Navy custom and tradition was the last person to leave his ship.
4. This command desires to point out that the loss of the ship was due to enemy action and that no blame can be attached to any officer or member of the crew of LCI(L) One. This statement is made after careful investigation into the circumstances surrounding the case.

*E. W. Wilson*  
E. W. WILSON

(5)

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: *NND 962133*  
BY: *NARA* Date *11-15-08*

Reg. No. ....

R.S. No. ....

August 19, 1943.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

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BY *Altraw* DATE *4/24/61*

Reg. No. ....

R.S. No. **8 1135**

From: Commanding Officer U.S.S. LCI(L) 1.  
 To : The Secretary of the Navy.  
 Subject: Loss of U.S.S. LCI(L) 1.  
 Reference: (a) Navy Regs., Art. 841(3).  
 Enclosure: (A) Copy of U.S.S. LCI(L) 1 Secret Ltr., dated Aug. 19, 1943 to COMINCH.

1. On August 17, 1943, U.S.S. LCI(L) 1 was hit by a bomb during an enemy air attack in Lac de BIZERTE, TUNISIA, and as a result thereof sank at approximately 2200B on that day.

2. Enclosure (A) is submitted as the report required by Reference (a).

*Carl F. Robison*  
 CARL F. ROBISON

Copy to:

- COMINCH
- ComNavNav
- ComPhibNav
- ComLanCrabNav
- Com LCI(L) Flot.2
- Com LCI(L) Group 4

*Cominch*  
*10/11-1*

*30 Aug 43*  
*op. sec. 60*

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority *NND 962133*  
 BY *SP* NARA Date *11-15-08*

SECRET

19 August 1943

S-E-C-R-E-T

11 1175

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LCI(L) No. 1.  
To : Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Via : Commander Group Four, LCI(L) Flotilla Two.  
Commander LCI(L) Flotilla Two.  
Commander Landing Craft and Bases, Northwest African Waters.  
Commander Amphibious Force, Northwest African Waters.  
Commander Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.

Subject: Loss of LCI(L) No. 1.

1. This ship was sunk on August 17, 1943 at approximately 22<sup>00</sup>B.
2. The position of the ship after sinking was 37° 13' 20" North and 9° 51' 12" East.
3. The sea was calm and visibility was good.
4. Ship was on a course approximately 095° true. The speed varied from 2/3 to full.

5. We were underway through the channel enroute to Lac de Bizerte proceeding at two-thirds speed; and enemy planes were overhead. I did not deem it advisable to proceed at greater speed because wake would reveal position of channel to enemy planes. The enemy then dropped flares illuminating lake and channel. When we were approximately 300 yards from S.S. PAINE WINGATE, the enemy dropped flares over S.S. PAINE WINGATE and we went ahead at full speed in an attempt to get out of that area as quickly as possible. We had just attained full speed when an enemy plane dropped an incendiary bomb just aft the conning tower. The bomb set fire to fuel oil in service tanks immediately, and flames engulfed the ship amidships. Control and communication was disrupted immediately when bomb hit. The switchboard in the engine room was blown aft and up against the controls in engine room; ladder leading topside was disengaged on top. Engine room force succeeded in getting topside by climbing up hand rails. The command to abandon ship was given but due to the fact that communications were disrupted, it was impossible for anyone with the exception of the number one gun crew to hear the command. In the meantime ship was drifting and collided with the S.S. PAINE WINGATE, our bow hitting them forward on port side. I managed to get a line over to the WINGATE and with the help of their ship's force succeeded in getting Bos'n Joseph L. PALMER, Executive Officer who was wounded, aboard the WINGATE and then I went aboard. All men succeeded in getting off the ship and none were killed. Fourteen men and one officer were picked up by the LCI(L) 236; four men picked up by LCI(L) 324; four picked up by U.S.S. DELTA and two by S.S. PAINE WINGATE. The LCI(L) 236 and LCI(L) 324 proceeded as close to flaming hulk of ship as was necessary to pick up the men in the water. They performed this duty with great danger to themselves and are hereby commended for their courageous action. The S.S. PAINE WINGATE extended Bos'n PALMER and myself every courtesy. In this action we did not fire on the enemy planes. All the planes that we could see were out of range of our guns.

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Authority: WMD 962133  
BVA NARA Date: 11-15-09

6. The following is a list of those who were wounded:

- (a) Bos'n Joseph L. PALMER, D-V(S), USNR, File No. 144308. Flesh wound in right leg; burns on arms, hands and face. Condition serious.
- (b) SWILM, Warne Alexander, BMlc, 551 54 58, USNR. Right leg broken; burns about hands and arms.
- (c) MOORE, Edward Charles, GM3c, 664 33 58, USNR. Right eye badly injured, severe shrapnel wound in neck and shrapnel wounds about chest and body.
- (d) ALLEN, Oscar Owen, GM3c, 622 41 59, USNR. One leg bruised and wrenched.
- (e) GREEN, Richard Lee, SM3c, 670 68 74, USNR. Shrapnel wounds and burns about the chest, hands and face.
- (f) ALEXANDER, Marvin Lamar, S2c, 650 65 03, USNR. Shrapnel wounds and sprained or broken ankle.
- (g) BRAGG, James Henry, S1c, 636 72 36, USNR. Shrapnel wound in head.
- (h) AURAND, Ralph Edwin, S2c, 300 77 46, USNR. Shrapnel wounds in head and thigh. Neck strained.
- (i) PITTS, Carl Benjamin, RMLc 660 16 27, USNR. Fractured knee and multiple shrapnel wounds.
- (j) DELPERDANG, Arnold Hubert, MoM1lc, 620 55 56, USNR. Multiple shrapnel wounds; one leg strained or bruised.
- (k) BEVER, Bernard Wilson, MoMM2c, 654 43 77, USNR. Burns on arms and back.
- (l) BOUTILLIER, Curtis Suther, MoMM2c, 368 73 62, USN. Burns on arms, hands and other places about the body.

7. This is the second time that Bos'n Joseph L. PALMER has been wounded in action by the enemy. It is recommended that he be awarded the order of the Purple Heart with a Clasp.

8. It is further recommended that the enlisted men who were wounded and listed in this report be awarded the order of "The Purple Heart."

9. In colliding with the S.S. PAINE WINGATE no damage was done to the merchant ship. We were going approximately 2 to 3 knots when collision occurred. It was not of sufficient force to warrant the making out of a collision report.

*Carl F. Robison*  
CARL F. ROBISON,  
Lieutenant, USNR.