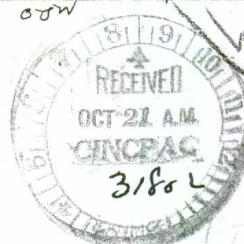


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By J.M. NAW: DSI 5/30

To be coded 6-6-57 osw



COMSOPAC FILE

A16-3/(90)
Serial 002180

SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER

S-E-C-R-E-T 002190

17 OCT 1943

From: The Commander South Pacific.
To : The Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports - forwarding of.

CONFIDENTIAL - OPNAV INST 5500.30
BY *[Signature]* DATE 1/24/61

- Enclosure: (A) CO LCI(L) 65 Secret Ltr. Report of 11 September, 1943, and endorsements thereto.
 (B) CO LST 399 Secret Ltr. Report of 26 August, 1943, and endorsements thereto.
 (C) CO LCI(L) 330 Conf. Action Report of 4 July, 1943, dated 5 September, 1943, and endorsements thereto.
 (D) CO LST 485 Conf. Action Report of 1 October, 1943, forwarded direct.

1. Enclosures (A) to (D) inclusive are forwarded herewith.
2. Classification of enclosures (C) and (D) has been changed to Secret.
3. By copy of this endorsement the Commanding Officer of LST 485 is directed to submit future action reports through the proper chain of command.

[Signature]

ROBT. B. CARNEY,
Chief of Staff.

- Copy to:
 CTF 31
 ComlancraftflotsSopac
 Com LST Flot 5
 CO LCI(L) 65
 CO LST 399
 CO LCI(L) 330
 CO LST 485

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Authority 968133
By J.M. HWA: DSA 5130

SECRET

U.S.S. LCI (L) 65
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

11 Sept. 1943

From: The Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LCI (L) 65
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet

Via The Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet
The Commander, South Pacific Force
The Commander, Landing Craft Flotillas, South Pacific
The Commander, LCI (L) Flotilla Five
The Commander, LCI (L) Group Fourteen, Flotilla Five

Enclosures: (a) Anti-Aircraft action by surface ships, report of
(b) Sketch of location of action

Subject: Anti-Aircraft action, report of

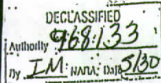
1. At 1410 July 4, 1943 this vessel in company with LCI (L)'s 327, 329, 332, 328, 330, 336, 63, 23, and 24 (Task Unit 31.9.1) was attacked by enemy bombers while unloading troops and equipment at Rendova Harbor.

2. These vessels under Commander LCI (L) Group Fourteen were disposed as indicated in reference (b) which shows path of enemy bomber formation and area that bombs fell in.

3. At 1405 lookout reported sighting planes bearing northwest engaging enemy planes. GQ was sounded and all troops ordered ashore. At 1407 a formation of 16 Mitsubishi 97's were observed passing over just north of the harbor. At 1408 enemy formation turned to make a run across the harbor from east to west. All ships started firing at 1409 and at 1410 bombs exploded in the area. Six (6) of the enemy planes were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire before the formation passed out of range. Firing ceased at 1430.

4. Three (3) LCI (L)'s, namely, 23, 2⁴ and 65 were hit and damaged by near bomb misses. A bomb fell between 65 and 24. Another landed off the starboard quarter.

5. A hole seven (7) feet long and five (5) feet high was blown in the starboard side of the number three troop space extending two (2) feet below the water line. This resulted in the flooding of troops space by one and one half (1½) feet of water. There were no fires and/or damage to machinery. The damaged side was shored up by the 24th Construction ~~REPAIR~~ Battalion for a return to Guadalcanal.



U.S.S. LCI (L) 65

6. The number four gunner, CHRISTIAN, Hurley E., Flc 552 85 05 USNR was struck in the forehead and killed instantly by a flying bomb particle. No other members of the crew were injured. CHRISTIAN was buried in a plot one quarter (1/4) mile west of the landing beach, Rendova Harbor with other American soldiers and sailors.

7. As enemy bomber formation approached heading in a westerly direction, number one (1) gunner picked up the range of a plane in the formations left wing. This guns tracers were observed piercing the underside of the bomber and she burst into flames instantly. Before the formation was overhead this plane had fallen out and another had moved in to take its place. Explosions of bombs occurring just after this made it impossible to observe where the plane fell. Statements certifying to the claims of the gunner and trunnion man of number one (1) gun were sworn to by Major Wilbur E. Brodt, Commanding the 169th Field Artillery who was on board observing the action ~~and witnessed the destruction~~. Lt. C.R. Tompkins, USNR, Commanding Officer and Ens. Charles J. Macaluso, USNR, Executive Officer both of whom were on the bridge during the action and witnessed the destruction. Major Brodt, who was standing on the main deck forward left a written statement certifying that gunner W.L. McDaniel, Cox, 311 24 05 USN and trunnion man Joseph M. Klawon, Slc, 608 40 43, USNR had shot down a Jap bomber.

C. R. Tompkins
C.R. Tompkins, Lt., USNR
Commanding Officer

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: 988133
 Date: 11/11/2011
 By: J.M. HARRIS, DSR/SBD

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ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS (V)

Location of ship East Beach, U.S.S. ICI (L) 65
 Date 4 July 1943
Rendova Harbor

NOTES

- (a) Repel Attack First--Then collect data for this report!
- (b) Do not "gun deck" this report--if data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for which no data is available.
- (c) These sheets are to be filled out immediately after action is completed with data available from ship's log, memory and consultation with ship's officers. Information is essential in order that the effectiveness of our equipment can be determined. Where data is of doubtful accuracy fill in with general terms. The obtaining of this information must not be allowed in any way to adversely affect the handling of equipment during action.

ST HREF ON SHIP J HVE SHIP APPLIED NO TIME SHIP

1. Surprise attack (yes or no) No
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye)
Naked eye (If by Radar state type of set)

(a) Lookout (s) or special equipment detector operator (s):

(Name)	SN (Rate)	(Service No.)
Sprouse, Clarence W.	SM3c	283 70 47
Hodge, Richard E.	SM2c	555 57 99

made initial contact by COX
 (sound), (radar), (SMSD),

Sight
 (MAD), (Sight)

3. Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles)
Less 5 miles

4. Number of planes 16 bombers, numerous but uncertain number of fighters

5. Type of plane (Fighter, scout, dive-bomber) Mitsubishi 97
 Type of attack Level Bombing in Formation

6. Speed and altitude (High and fast, intermediate and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow) Intermediate and Slow

Enclosure (A)

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Authority 768133
By I.M. HAW; D.M. SBO

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- 7. Guns firing AA Size 20 MM Number 4 came (1)
Officers on Bridge Method spotting Ships
- 8. Ammunition expended (1990 rounds) Officers
- 9. Percent service allowance expended 8%
- 10. Approximate time tracking to first shot 40 Seconds
- 11. Approximate time of first hit 1/2 minutes
- 12. Approximate time first shot to last shot 15 minutes
- 13. Approximate position angle open fire Ahead
- 14. Approximate position cease fire Astern
- 15. Approximate bearing first shot 095 True
- 16. Approximate bearing last shot 275 True (RELATIVE TO...)
- 17. Approximate range first shot 9,000 feet
- 18. Approximate range last shot 13,000 feet
- 19. Approximate altitude of bomb release 4,000 release
Type Bomb Personnel - 100 pounds
- 20. Approximate range torpedo release ----- Size of Top-
pedo -----
- 21. Hits on ship 1 Was ship strafed No Size gun -----
- 22. Number near bomb misses 2 Casualties from near misses 1
- 23. Planes shot down - sure ----- Possible ----- Damage -----
By what size gun 20 MM
- 24. Details of damage to target by gunfire if available Plane burst into flames underneath.
- 25. Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad, poor) Good
- 26. Pattern sizes (Large, small excessive) Small

SKETCH

- (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
- (b) Show relative position of sun.
- (c) Indicate own maneuvers.

WALL-VINCKVILL VCLION BA 20V Enclosure (A)

cobA

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Authority: 968133
By: JML/NARA Date: 5/00

ENCLOSURE B

