

CONFIDENTIAL

Contributed by Zach Morros

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

18 September 1944.

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LCI (G) 65.  
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via : Commander LCI Group 45(G).  
Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force.  
Commander SEVENTH Fleet. 11 0881  
Subject: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LCI (G) 65 Action Re-  
port Morotai Operation.  
Reference: (a) Article 762, U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.  
(b) Com7thPhib Conf. Ltr. 17 February 1944 Ser-  
ial 0212.  
Enclosure: ✓ (A) Diagram of beach area. -p.11

1. After one preliminary rehearsal in the Maffin Bay area on 6 September 1944 this vessel departed from Maffin Bay pursuant to orders from CTU 77.3.2 on the morning of 11 September 1944 to join convoy in the execution of CTF 77's operational plan 8-44. This vessel was a part of CTU 77.3.28 which included the following vessels; U.S.S. LCI (G) 69 (Group Flagship), U.S.S. LCI (G) 64, U.S.S. LCI (G) 23, U.S.S. LCI (G) 70, U.S.S. LCI (G) 68, U.S.S. LCI (R) 31 and U.S.S. LCI (R) 34 during the landing on Morotai.

By 1130 on the morning of 11 September 1944 this vessel had taken position as a part of CTU 77.3.28 on the right flank of the convoy astern the assault LST's, guiding on the U.S.S. CARTER HALL up ahead.

No difficulty was experienced in convoy and with the exception of one light shower, the weather was clear and the sea calm. Communications were good using the SCR (Walkie-Talkie) at night and visual signals during the daylight hours. There was only one condition red, that being at 1400, 14 September and those planes were found to be friendly.

At about 0600 on the morning of 15 September 1944 the convoy arrived at a point about 5 miles southeast of Cape Gila on the southwest coast of Morotai and the convoy stopped to cast off the LCT's that were being towed by the LST's. At this time one group of gun-boats proceeded ahead of the assault LST's and proceeded toward Red Beach astern the minesweeps, two PC's and two DD's. At this time the preliminary bombardment of the Cape had begun by several destroyers and two heavy cruisers, HMS AUSTRALIA and HMS SIBOFFSHIRE.

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About 0740 the destroyers ahead of us arrived off Red Beach and began to heavily shell that area. About 0750 their bombardment ceased and our group of gunboats with the exception of U.S.S. LCI (G)'s 68 and 70 who were to cover the right flank of White Beach and the LCI (R)'s who were to bombard after us, moved into position about 500 yards from the beach to do our strafing and shelling. The attached diagram will show our disposition at the time in relation to the beaches and the Cape. At 0755 this vessel opened fire. The LCI (G)'s 69 and 23 were covering the left flank of Red Beach. The LCI (G)'s 64 and this vessel were between the two beaches and the LCI (G)'s 70 and 68 were to cover the right flank of White Beach. This vessel maneuvered back and forth between the two beaches with the LCI (G) 64 firing our 3"50 cal., 40MM gun, 20MM's and 50 calibers. During this time we expended the following amounts of ammunition:

3"50 Cal.	43 Rounds HC
40MM	208 Rounds HET
20MM	2520 Rounds
50 Cal.	4785 Rounds

During this time we experienced no return fire from the enemy and all went well with the following exception. The bombardment of White Beach by the heavy cruisers and DD's did not begin until approximately 0800. At this time this vessel was already in position between the two beaches doing our firing. As the attached diagram shows, this vessel was bounded by the left flank of White Beach while the U.S.S. LCI (G) 64 was bounded by the right flank of Red Beach. This brought us very close at times to the area of White Beach under heavy bombardment and while we suffered no casualties, fragments were landing quite close to us and one very large piece missed the ship by a margin of three feet.

At 0819 the assault waves were approaching the beach and the rocket ships maneuvering into position to fire so this vessel withdrew from the area to make patrol of small islands off Morotai.

The patrol was negative and at 1245 this vessel returned to beach area and dropped anchor to await nightfall and a patrol in company with the other gunboats of the area between Morotai, Halmahera and Roi Islands. These patrols for the next few nights were negative and with the exception of a lone enemy plane overhead on the mornings of the 16th, 17th and 18th our activity was null.

A chronological account of the above follows:

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15 September 1944.

CHRONOLOGICAL WAR DIARY  
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0000-0400

Underway in column astern U.S.S. LCI (G) 64 speed 8 knots course 284T in company with various ships of the 7th Fleet proceeding to occupy Morotoi Island.

0400-0800

0500 Went to general quarters.  
0607 C/C to 339T.  
0623 Speed 3 leaving position in convoy in company with U.S.S. LCI (G)'s 69, 23 and 64 to take position astern destroyers to shell Red Beach area.  
0637 C/S to 2/3.  
0641 C/S to 1/3.  
0644 C/S to 2/3.  
0648 C/S to standard.  
0650 Proceeding to position off land astern USS LCI (G) 64. DD's bombarding land.  
0751 Arrived in position off Red Beach. Speed one.  
0755 Opened fire with 3"50 and 40MM guns.  
0756 Opened fire with 20MM and 50 cal. guns.  
0757 Ceased firing.  
0759 Reversed course.

0800-1200

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0800 Opened fire with 3"50 and small arms.  
0801 Ceased firing.  
0802 Reversed course.  
0803 Opened fire with 3"50 and small arms.  
0804 Opened fire with all guns.  
0806 Ceased firing.  
0807 Reversed course. Proceeding back and forth off of beach strafing with all guns.  
0812 HENRY, Walter Winfred, Slc, (RdM), 872 86 95, V-6S, USNR reported suffering from two pieces of shrapnel in right wrist in an attempt to clear a casualty in the #4 20MM gun.  
0819 Proceeding away from beach at full speed.  
0821 Speed 2. HENRY reported a victim of shock and loss of blood.  
0822 Proceeding astern USS LCI (G) 64 on various courses and speeds patrolling small islands just off beachhead.  
0847 Returning to beachhead area to transfer HENRY to LST 456 for medical treatment.

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0800-1200 (CONT'D)

0910 Speed zero. Boat alongside to transfer wounded man.  
0915 Boat cast off with wounded man and pharmacist mate.  
0942 Boat returned with pharmacist mate.  
0943 Boat cast off.  
0947 Underway on various courses and speeds to patrol islands.  
Ammunition expended:  
3"50 43 rounds HC 20MM 2520 rounds  
40MM 208 rounds HET 50 Cal 4785 rounds  
1145 Patrolling islands off Morotai.

1200-1600

1200 Chronometer reported wound, magazines normal.  
1215 Retiring to area of beachhead.  
1245 Anchored in 6 fathoms of water with 12 fathoms of cable  
to stern anchor SW coast of Morotai Island.  
1527 Blaine FIELDER, correspondent from the Australian Evening  
Press came aboard for observation of night patrol.

1600-2000

1630 Underway on various courses and speeds in company with  
USS LCI (G)'s 69 and 64 to patrol area between Morotai,  
Roe and Halmahara Islands.  
1915 Set course 235T.  
1920 G/S to 2/3.  
1925 G/S to 1/3. Went to general quarters.  
1940 Enemy planes reported bearing 204T. Condition Red.  
1955 C/C to 335T.  
1956 C/C to 315T.  
1959 Condition reported Green.

2000-2400

2110 Sighted lights on Roe Island.  
2201 C/C to 030T.  
2245 Patrolling area on various courses and speeds in company  
with USS LCI (G)'s 69 and 64.  
2345 No further remarks.

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----- port Morotal Operation. -----

2. The performance of ordnance material and equip-  
ment was satisfactory with one notable exception. Our numbers  
1 and 4 20MM guns each had a casualty on D-Day and before those  
jams could be cleared, both "cocked off" in the guns.. Each gun  
had less than 500 rounds fired.

One of these "cock offs" wounded a loader, HENRY,  
Walter Winfred, S1c, 872 86 95, V-6S, USNR, in the right wrist when  
the breech was opened and he placed his hand in position to catch  
the projectile as it was cleared. The projectile was not touched  
by the rammer rod.

Ammunition expended for the entire operation is  
as follows:

3"50 Cal

HC	62 rounds
Illuminating	2 rounds
AA	3 rounds

40MM

644 rounds

20MM

3621 rounds

50 Cal.

6430 rounds

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3. The only recommendation this command has to make  
concerns communications and the announcement of conditions (red  
and green) relative to enemy planes in the area. For the first  
few days, the ward was passed only occasionally over the air and  
after trying all other circuits this command found the fighter  
circuit on our VHF radio as good as any for receiving this informa-  
tion.

This situation was remedied on about the 4th day.  
However, there seemed to be a definite need for a means of pass-  
ing such information during the early days of the landing.

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The only other action experienced by this vessel came on 21 September 1944 in the execution of CTU 77.3.2's operation 4-44 under the Morotai landing. We in company with PC 1122, LCI (G) 70, LCI (R) 73, LCI (L) 227 in company with 5 LCM's and the LCT 948 departed from the Cape Gila area, Morotai Island with a company of combat troops and a radar unit at 1820, 20 September to proceed to Point Gorango, Morotai Island, make a landing and establish a radar station.

This force arrived off Point Gorango at approximately 0630 on the morning of 21 September at which time we rendezvoused with the DD JOHN ROGERS.

The PC 1122 then designated a landing area and all ships stood off while the RODGERS shelled the beach. At 0908 the RODGERS secured firing and this vessel in company with the LCI (G) 70, PC 1122 and LCI (L) 227 made one sweep at the beach firing all guns. This vessel was last in column and it was reported by the other ships that we drew 20MM fire as we turned from beach.

At 0935 the LCI (R) 73 stood in to beach to fire rockets but after ranging shots, the remainder of it's rockets would not fire.

The LCM's then made their landing, unopposed, and this vessel in company with the LCI (G) 70 laid off the beach to give support.as needed.

No support was needed however and this vessel merely patrolled the area until 1335 when we received orders from the PC 1122 to return with the LCI (G) 70 to the Cape Gila area.

A chronological account of this action follows.

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21 September 1944.

CHRONOLOGICAL WAR DIARY  
21 SEPTEMBER 1944

0000-0400

0000 Underway with and LCM in tow in company with PC1122,  
LCI(G) 70, LCT 948, LCI (L) 227 and LCI(R) 73 on course  
075T with speed of 5 knots.  
0020 C/C to 020T.

0400-0800

0543 C/C to 330T.  
0559 C/C to 300T.  
0625 Exercised at general quarters - enemy planes sighted.  
0640 Secured from general quarters.  
0652 C/C to 270T.  
0653 DD574 maneuvering close to beach in preparation to  
shell beach.  
0705 C/C to 225T.  
0719 C/S to zero. Taking tow off so that the LCM may come  
alongside to transfer troops from this vessel.  
0732 LCM came alongside, troops transferred to LCM.  
0735 LCI(G) 65 acting at OTC and carrying out orders. PC1122  
proceeding to join DD574.  
0745 LCM away. Proceeding at 1/3 speed on course 200T.  
0748 Exercised at general quarters.

0800-1200

0800 C/C to 170T. C/S to 2/3.  
0820 C/C to 215T.  
0822 C/C to 220T. Standing in toward beach.  
0824 Change speed to 1/3  
0825 DD574 commenced shelling the beach.  
0828 C/X to zero.  
0832 C/C to 285T. C/S to 1/3.  
0835 C/C to 300T.  
0839 C/S to zero.  
0845 C/s to 1/3.  
0850 C/S to zero, lying to.  
0908 DD574 ceases firing.  
0912 PC1122, LCI(G)70 and LCI(G)65 proceeding in to fire on beach.  
0923 Commenced firing.  
0931 Ceased firing.  
0932 Opened fire with 40MM.  
0933 Ceased firing. Standing out from beach at 1.3 speed.

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0935 LCI(R)73 standing by to fire rockets.  
0936 The rockets of LCI(R)73 will not fire due to some  
fault in the firing circuit.  
0950 Maneuvering around and standing by in case of return  
fire from the beach.  
1012 Stopped all engines. Lying to waiting for further orders.  
1020 Maneuvering around to stay clear of reefs.  
1100 Standing out to sea at 1/3 speed. Ammunition expended:  
19 rounds HC 3"50, 351 rounds 40MM, 690 rounds 20MM, 1350  
rounds 50 caliber.  
1103 Went to standard speed to join LCI(G)70 to investigate village  
several miles down the beach.  
1118 C/S to 2/3.  
1119 C/S to 1/3  
1121 Stopped all engines.  
1130 Speed 1/3 proceeding along coast.  
1134 No signs of life seen in or around the village. Standing out  
to sea.  
1138 C/S to 2/3.  
1139 C/S to standard.

1200-2600

1200 Chronometer reported wound and magazines normal.  
1201 Stopped all engines, lying to for further orders.  
1335 C/S to standard. Underway for base at Morotai pursuant to  
orders from Compend 2. In column astern of LCI(G)70.  
1350 C/C to 129T.  
1402 C/C to 182T.  
1514 C/C to 205T.  
1539 C/C to 209T.

1600-2000

1600 Two destroyers sighted bearing 010 relative.  
1647 C/C to 252T.  
1758 Exercised at general quarters.  
1825 Secured from general quarters. Commenced various changes in  
course to enter harbor.  
1840 Exercised at general quarters.

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1912 Anchored in 10 fathoms of water with 28 fathoms of cable to stern anchor off southern end of Loengoe Island on southwestern end of Morotai Island in company with various large and small ships.

2000-2400

2115 Exercised at general quarters.  
2130 Secured from general quarters.

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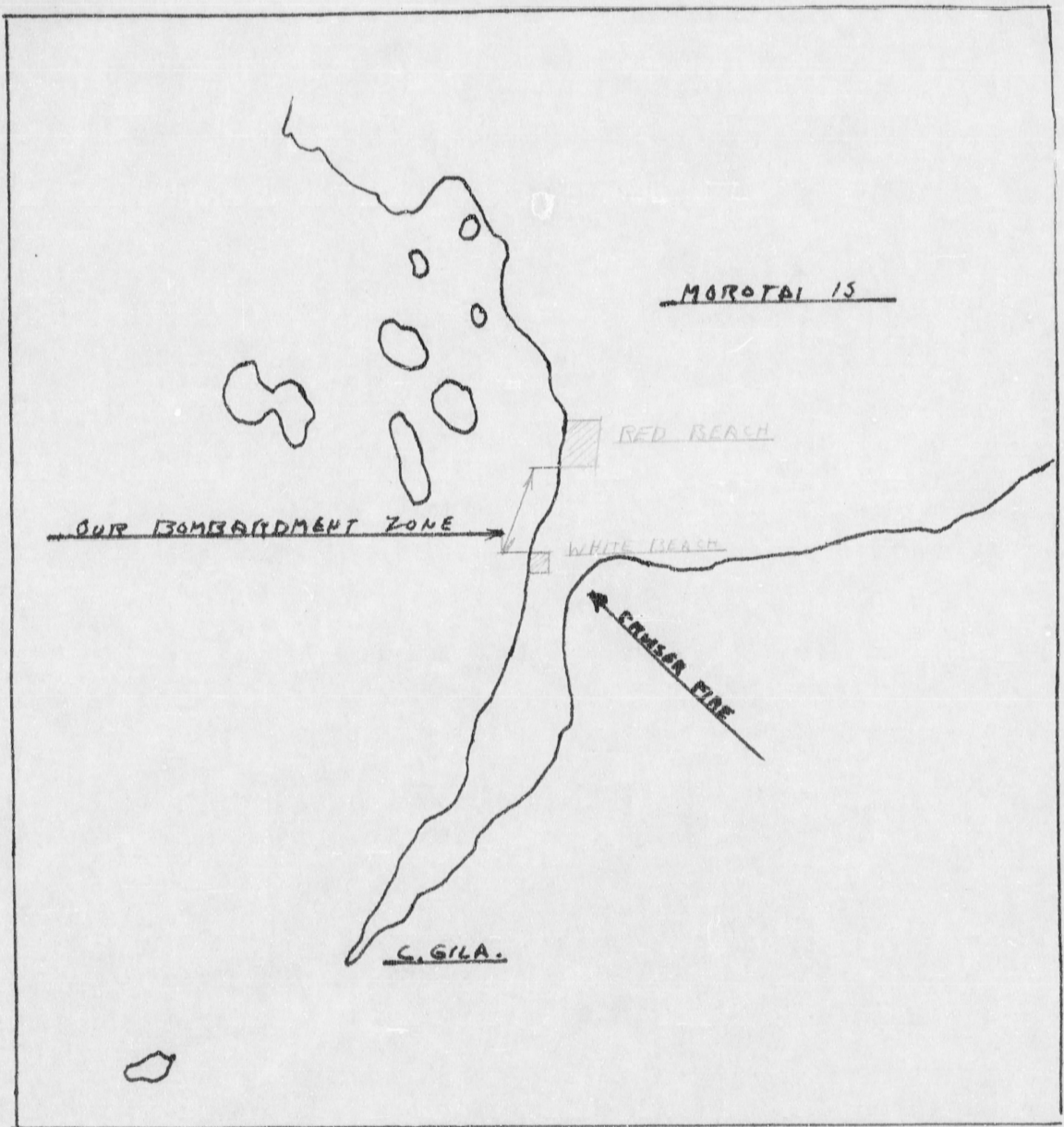
4. As mentioned above, this vessel suffered only one casualty to personnel. This being a wrist wound to HENRY, Walter Winfred, Slc, 872 86 95, V-6S, USNR suffered while clearing a jam on our #4 20MM gun. This man was transferred to medical facilities aboard the U.S.S. LST 456 without delay suffering from shock and loss of blood. *Burton*

All hands, officers and men conducted themselves in a satisfactory manner throughout the entire operation.

*C. J. Macaluso*  
C. J. MACALUSO  
Lt. (jg), D-V(G), USNR

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