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U.S.S. LCI (G) # 337
 C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

27 OCTOBER 1944

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS LCI (G) 337
 TO: COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U.S. FLEET.
 VIA: (1) COMMANDER SUPPORT UNIT 78.2.8
 (2) COMMANDER ATTACK GROUP 78.2
 (3) COMMANDER NORTHERN ATTACK FORCE
 (COMMANDER TASK FORCE 78)
 (COMMANDER SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE)
 (4) COMMANDER TASK FORCE 77
 (5) COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET.

SUBJECT: ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT 24 OCTOBER 1944
 LEYTE GULF, PHILIPPINES

REFERENCE: (A) ARTICLE 874(6) U.S. NAVY REGULATIONS 1920
 (B) COM7THPHIB CANF. LTR. FE25/A16-3(3) SERIAL:
 0212 OF 17 FEBRUARY 1944.

ENCLOSURE: (A) ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT FORM

FIRST ACTION - 0831

1. ON THE MORNING OF 24 OCTOBER 1944 THIS VESSEL WAS LAYING TO SOME 300 YARDS S.E. OF DIO ISLAND, SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE GULF, PHILIPPINES ISLANDS APPROXIMATELY 1200 YARDS WEST OF THE NORTHERN EXTREMITY OF WHITE BEACH AND THE SOUTHERN END OF THE AIR STRIP THEN RECENTLY CAPTURED FROM THE ENEMY. WE WERE AWAITING AVAILABILITY FOR REPAIRS ALONGSIDE THE U.S.S. ARL 41. THE IMMEDIATE AREA WAS WELL FILLED WITH VESSELS OF OUR TYPE, SEVERAL LST'S DD'S, MERCHANT SHIPS AND ASSORTED CRAFT. IN ADDITION, SAN PEDRO BAY AS A WHOLE HAD MUCH SHIPPING IN IT. PRIOR TO 24 OCTOBER, THIS VESSEL HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE ORIGINAL LANDING ON WHITE BEACH ON 20 OCTOBER AND IN LIMITED PATROL DUTY WITHIN SAN PEDRO BAY ON SUCCEEDING NIGHTS. ENEMY AIR FORCES HAD NOT BEEN SIGHTED BY THIS VESSEL AT ANY TIME PREVIOUS TO TIME OF THE ATTACK AND SINCE THE EARLY MORNING OF 20 OCTOBER, ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS RED ALERTS HAD BEEN SOUNDED AND GENERAL QUARTERS HAD BEEN SOUNDED MANY TIMES, WITH CONDITION TWO BEING IN EFFECT BETWEEN TIMES.

2. AT 0820, WITH FRIENDLY HELLCATS IN THE AIR, AN ENEMY BETTY OR SALLY BOMBER WAS SEEN PLUNGING IN FLAMES HIGH ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN RANGE WEST OF THE AIR STRIP ON LEYTE ISLAND. NO NOTICE OF AIR ALERT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THIS SHIP. GENERAL QUARTERS WAS SOUNDED AT ONCE AND SECONDS LATER A SECOND PLANE OF THE SAME TYPE WAS OBSERVED PLUNGING IN FLAMES IN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AREA AS THE FIRST. BOTH PLANES HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY OUR FIGHTERS AND WERE OBSERVED AT AN ESTIMATED DISTANCE OF 5 TO 7 MILES. A THIRD PLANE, AT GREATER DISTANCE WAS OBSERVED ALSO TO PLUNGE TRAILING SMOKE WEST OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE. SECONDS AFTER THE THIRD AT

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ABOUT 0822 A FOURTH PLANE CRASHED IN FLAMES SOME 600 YARDS OFF PORT BOW, JETTISONING ONE BOMB BEFORE HITTING WATER, AT ABOUT 0830 AN ENEMY SALLY OR BETTY TYPE PLANE WAS SIGHTED OFF STARBOARD BEAM, SHIPS HEAD BEING 270 DEGREES T, FLYING LOW AND FAST ON COURSE 250 DEGREES T, HEADED FOR THE AIR STRIP AND/OR SHIPS IN OUR AREA. AFTER POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION WAS MADE OPEN FIRE WAS ORDERED WITH THE PLANE BEARING 070 DEGREES RELATIVE, POSITION ANGLE 010 DEGREES, DISTANCE 1300 YARDS. ONLY THE 40MM ON BOW GOT ON TARGET AND CONTINUED FIRING UNTIL PLANE BORE 320 DEGREES RELATIVE, POSITION ANGLE 004 DEGREES AND DISTANCE 1800 YARDS AT WHICH POINT TARGET WAS OBSCURED BY OTHER SHIPS IN LINE OF FIRE. A SINGLE BOMB WAS DROPPED ON BEARING 300 DEGREES RELATIVE AND EXPLODED HARMLESSLY IN WATER SOME 1000 YARDS FROM THIS SHIP. BOMB WAS APPARENTLY OF MEDIUM SIZE, RAISING A GYSER OF SOME 30 FEET AND DROPPED FROM ESTIMATED ALTITUDE OF 200 FEET.

3. ORDNANCE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT PERFORMED WELL, WITH 18 ROUNDS OF 40MM EXPENDED AND 150 ROUNDS OF 50 CAL.

4. NO DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THIS SHIP OR ANY OTHER SHIP. NO DAMAGE WAS OBSERVED TO ENEMY, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT KEPT IN VIEW AFTER CEASE FIRE WAS ORDERED.

5. SHIP COMMUNICATIONS FAULTY, 20MM CREWS DID NOT RECEIVE ORDER TO OPEN FIRE. ALL DISTANCES, BEARINGS, COURSES AND POSITION ANGLES THIS REPORT ARE APPROXIMATE.

6. PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE WAS OF A HIGH ORDER, IT BEING THE FIRST ENEMY PLANE SOME 50% OF THE CREW AND OFFICERS HAD EVER FIRED UPON. NO CASUALTIES TO PERSONNEL WERE SUSTAINED.

SECOND ACTION - 0845

1. THE SECOND ACTION, APPARENTLY STILL A PART OF A SUSTAINED ATTEMPT BY THE ENEMY TO ATTACK OUR AIR STRIP AND SHIPPING OCCURED AT 0845 WITH THIS VESSEL WITHIN 200 YARDS OF ITS LOCATION DURING THE FIRST ACTION, MANEUVERING SLOWLY IN RESTRICTED WATERS, WITH SHIPS HEAD AT ABOUT 220 DEGREES T.

2. AT ABOUT 0845 A BETTY TYPE MEDIUM BOMBER WAS OBSERVED APPROACHING ON RELATIVE BEARING OF 000 DEGREES ON COURSE 000 T, MAKING A FAST, LOW APPROACH OVER SHIPPING IN DIRECTION OF AIR STRIP, SHIPS HEAD WAS HELD STEADY AND ALL GUNS OPENED UP AS RANGE CLOSED AND WHEN THEY COULD BEAR ON THE TARGET. FIRST SHOT WAS FIRED AT 2500 YARDS, PLANE BEARING 000 DEGREES RELATIVE POSITION ANGLE 012 DEGREES LAST SHOT WAS FIRED AT SAME RANGE, RELATIVE BEARING 095 DEGREES RELATIVE POSITION ANGLE 014 DEGREES. BOMB WAS SEEN TO DROP SHORTLY AFTER FIRING BY THIS AND OTHER SHIPS WAS BEGUN. ALTITUDE OF BOMB RELEASE ESTIMATED TO BE 400 FEET, 800 YARDS FROM THIS SHIP. BOMB EXPLODED HARMLESSLY IN WATER AND BELIEVED TO BE OF MEDIUM CALIBER PRODUCING GYSER SOME 30 FEET HIGH.

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3. ORDNANCE MATERIAL PERFORMED WITHOUT CASUALTY.
AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE AS FOLLOWS : 40MM - 22 ROUNDS, 20MM - 120
ROUNDS, 50 CAL. - 200 ROUNDS.

4. NO BATTLE DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED BY THIS SHIP, NOR WAS
ANY OBSERVED TO OTHER SHIPS. PLANE WAS SEEN TRAILING SMOKE AND WAS
REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY DD FIRE AS IT DISAPPEARED OVER
LAND TO NORTH.

5. COMMUNICATIONS WERE SATISFACTORY. EXCELLENT WORK
BEING DONE BY HELLCATS WAS INTERFERED WITH DURING ATTACKS BY
SHIPBOARD GUNFIRE BY SOME SHIPS IN AREA. WHILE THIS ATTACK WAS
BEING PRESSED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER CEASE FIRING WAS ORDERED, ONE
OTHER BOMBER WAS SEEN TO CRASH AND BURN IN WATER SOME 2000 YARDS
OFF STERN. AN ADDITIONAL BOMBER WAS SEEN TO GO ON FIRE IN ~~XXX~~ TAIL
HEADED AT HIGH SPEED LOW OVER THE WATER TOWARD SHIPS IN BAY.
NUMBER 2 20MM PASSER REPORTED SEEING IT CRASH INTO LCI AT ANCHOR.
OF THE SIX CERTAIN KILLS AND ONE PROBABLE OBSERVED BY THIS COMMAND
DURING THESE TWO ACTIONS, 5 WERE SHOT DOWN BY NAVY FIGHTERS AND THE
SIXTH PROBABLY. THE ONE PROBABLE KILL APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A
VICTIM OF SHIPBOARD FIRE ALONE, WITH A DD APPEARING TO MAKE THE
DECISIVE HIT. A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE SECOND ATTACK APPEARED TO
BE SPENT, SMOKE WAS OBSERVED ON 2 SHIPS IN HARBOR. EQUIPPED WITH
FIRE FIGHTING GEAR THIS SHIP PROCEEDED AT BEST SPEED TO U.S.S.
SONOMA. UPON ARRIVAL SHE WAS SMOKING SERIOUSLY WITH A STARBOARD
LIST, WITH THE LCI(G)72 MOORED ALONG PORT SIDE FORWARD, THE U.S.S.
CHICKASAW ALONGSIDE STARBOARD AND AN UNIDENTIFIED OTHER
LCI(L) WITHOUT SPECIAL FIRE PUMPS ALONGSIDE PORTSIDE AFT. SEVERAL
OTHER LCI(G)'S AND ANOTHER TUG WERE LAYING TO. ALTHOUGH THE FIRE
WAS REPORTED TO BE "PROBABLY UNDER CONTROL", THIS VESSEL WENT ALONG
SIDE LCI(G) 72 TO RENDER ANY ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE, PLACED A FIRE PARTY
AND A 2 1/2" STREAM ABOARD THE SONOMA AND CONTINUED TO DIRECT
A STREAM OF WATER UPON THE FLAMES FOR SOME MINUTES UNTIL SERVICES
NO LONGER REQUIRED. TWENTY CASUALTIES WERE TAKEN ABOARD UNDER
THE DIRECTION OF DR. D.A.FELDER AND REMOVED TO U.S.S. LST 464
HOSPITAL SHIP.

6. NO CASUALTIES TO PERSONNEL WERE SUSTAINED AND THE
PERFORMANCE OF ALL MEN AND OFFICERS DURING BOTH ACTIONS WHILE
FIRE FIGHTING AND CARING FOR WOUNDED WERE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

7. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE U.S.S. LCI(G)72 IN FIGHTING
FIRE ABOARD THE U.S.S. SONOMA AND BRINGING IT UNDER CONTROL ARE
WORTHY OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION AND RECOGNITION IN THE OPINION OF
THIS COMMAND.

H. T. MOEN

COPY TO: COM LCI(L) FLOT 7
COMGR. 20 LCI(L) FLOT 7