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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

USS LCI (G) 560  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

125  
Reg. No. 43502068  
R. S. No.

3 02068

CONFIDENTIAL

25 JANUARY, 1945

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER  
TO: COMMANDER IN CHIEF, UNITED STATES FLEET  
VIA: 1. COMMANDER TASK UNIT 79.7.1 (COMMANDER LCI (G) GROUP 16)  
2. COMMANDER TASK UNIT 79.7 (COMMANDER LCI (L) FLOTILLA SIX)  
3. COMMANDER TASK GROUP 79.1 (COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP 7)  
4. COMMANDER TASK FORCE 79 (COMMANDER THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE)  
5. COMMANDER TASK GROUP 77.6 (COMMANDER MINESWEEPING AND  
HYDROGRAPHIC GROUP)  
6. COMMANDER TASK GROUP 77.2 (COMMANDER BOMBARDMENT AND  
FIRE SUPPORT GROUP)  
7. COMMANDER TASK FORCE 77 (COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET)  
8. COMMANDER IN CHIEF, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA (CINC SWPA)  
SUBJ: ACTION REPORT.

Part I BRIEF SUMMARY

- A. This report covers this ship's activity (24 DECEMBER, 1944 TO 24 JANUARY, 1945) in relation to its participation with the LUZON ATTACK FORCE. For purposes of movement to objective and operations prior to S-DAY, this ship participated as one of five LCI (G)'s (LCI (G) 422, 558, 559, 560, 751) labeled LYTE UNIT ONE and in charge of LT. COMMANDER RICKABAUGH, COMMANDER LCI (G) GROUP 16. On S-DAY and thereafter, units were consolidated under COMMANDER MONTGOMERY, COMMANDER LCI (L) FLOTILLA 6.
- B. Essential function of reporting ship was that of close-in fire support - both prior to S-DAY (9 JANUARY, 1945) in supporting underwater demolition operations at BLUE BEACH, and on SUGAR BAY in rocket bombardment of BEACH YELLOW area while leading assault waves in. Post-invasion activity was primarily that of laying smoke and serving as part of inshore screen unit.

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**PART II PRELIMINARIES**

- A. A participant in the LEYTE OPERATION (20 OCTOBER, 1944), this ship remained in the LEYTE - SAMAR area until 4 DECEMBER, 1944 (a period of forty-five days), upon which date it proceeded to HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA for repairs in preparation for further activity. Repairs completed (24 DECEMBER, 1944) this ship, in company with LCI (G) 558, 559, 751, 422, departed HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA enroute to LEYTE GULF STAGING AREA. AS LINGAYEN GUNBOAT UNIT 77.6.14 on 2 JANUARY, 1945, LCI (G) 558, 559, 560, 751, 422) commanded by LT. COMMANDER RICKABAUGH departed LEYTE GULF, LEYTE for LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS in company with MINESWEEPING AND HYDROGRAPHIC GROUP (77.6).<sup>02068</sup> Route taken was that through the SURIGAO STRAIT, MINDANAO SEA, SULU SEA, then north through MINDORO STRAIT into the SOUTH CHINA SEA and thence into LINGAYEN GULF. No prior training or training enroute available this ship.

**PART III CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT**

- A. 24 DECEMBER, 1944 - 30 DECEMBER, 1944: Under LT. COMMANDER RICKABAUGH, LEYTE UNIT ONE (79.7.1) LCI (G) 558, 559, 560, 751, 422, departed HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA 24 DECEMBER, 1944 enroute to LEYTE GULF, LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. RENDEZVOUSED 26 DECEMBER, 1944 with MINESWEEPING AND HYDROGRAPHIC UNIT in LATITUDE 04-35N LONGITUDE 137-36E and proceeded to LEYTE STAGING AREA.

30 DECEMBER, 1944 - 2 JANUARY, 1945: At LEYTE STAGING AREA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. 2 JANUARY, 1945 departed LEYTE GULF OSO in company with MINESWEEPING AND HYDROGRAPHIC UNIT (77.6) as LINGAYEN GUNBOAT UNIT 77.6.14 with LCI (G) 558, 559, 751, 422 under LT. COMMANDER RICKABAUGH. This for purpose of movement to objective.

2 JANUARY, 1945 - 5 JANUARY, 1945: Intermittent nuisance raids by enemy groups of two and three planes. No damage to this ship. Total ammunition expenditure negligible during this period:

20MM	214 rounds
40MM	140 rounds

2

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5 JANUARY, 1945: Several JAPANESE planes (Vals and Namps) in vicinity (approximately 60 miles north-west of MANILA) during the day. 1523, two JAPANESE destroyers reported twenty miles distance off port quarter out of MANILA. Escort dropped back and drove them off while convoy maneuvered in emergency turns. No damage. Ammunition Expended:

20MM	792 rounds
40MM	388 rounds

6 JANUARY, 1945: Entered LINGAYEN GULF 04451, maneuvered in column and independently as sweepers preceded into gulf. Japanese raids in northern gulf area (our position) purely nuisance raids, this ship only expended 38 rounds - 40MM. On emergency steering 0738; secured 0755. 1827 retired from gulf on course 345T, speed 08 knots.

7 JANUARY, 1945: Operating with LT. COMMANDER HOLMES, in command of the SAN FABIAN UNIT (77.2.8) this ship entered bay and proceeded by various maneuvers into area opposite BEACH BLUE, SAN FABIAN, LUZON. Operating directly under LT. COMMANDER HOLMES and with LCI (G) 69, the two ships (LCI (G) 69, 560) approached beach on course 140 T, leading and flanking small boats carrying UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAM #10 from the USS RATHBURN (APD #25). At 1510 bombardment of beach begun, covering UNDERWATER DEMOLITION OPERATIONS. Very little opposition from the beach. 1655 ceased shelling beach, retired and formed column for night retirement out of bay. No casualties to crew or UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAMS. No opposition of any substance on beach. Ammunition expended:

40MM	540 rounds
20MM	1090 rounds

8 JANUARY, 1945: Underwater demolition reconnaissance found no necessity for our return to supposedly mined areas. Maneuvered in bay. At 1235, proceeded to strip south of SAN FERNANDO, PORO POINT, LUZON, to strafe and damage beyond use a quantity of landing barges beached there. Preceded in column formation led by LT. COMMANDER RICHBAUGH IN LCI (G) 558. Gunboats firing in succession as approaching target area and turned off in column to starboard. No serious damage effect seen. Possible hit on small calibre ammunition dump. For the most part, ships seemed to be taking "pot-shots" at the larger ships aground in the area. Firing of all ten ships (LCI (G) 558, 559, 560, 751, 422, 69, 70, 68, 64, 65) ceased 1339. Proceeded to night retirement area, having reverted to command of LT. COMMANDER RICHBAUGH.

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9 JANUARY, 1945: LBYTE UNIT ONE (LCI (G) 558, 559, 560, 751, 422) rendezvoused off LINGAYEN, LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, with MANUS UNIT (LCI (G) 565, 365, 407, 442, 561, 567, 568, 580.), MORTAR UNIT (LCI (M) 975, 1055, 1057, 1058, 1059) and SALVAGE UNIT (LCI (L) 564, 676), this forming complete TASK UNIT 79.7 in charge of COMMANDER MONTGOMERY.

0800, entire TASK UNIT (79.7) took stations in line abreast, 167°T heading five hundred (500) yards seaward of LINGAYEN BEACH LINE OF DEPARTURE. In each five hundred (500) yard lane, ships so disposed as to include one (1) MORTAR ship with two (2) ROCKET ships. This ship in lane YELLOW ONE with LCI (G) 751 to starboard and LCI (M) 975 to port.

0830, entire line abreast moved forward inshore of line of departure three hundred (300) yards. Await forming up of assault waves on the line of departure.

0856, entire line abreast began beach approach, course 167 T, speed 4.5 knots, with leading assault waves three hundred (300) yards astern. Mortar ships open fire 3500 yards from beach, all ships open fire with 40MM at 2000 yards and 20MM at 1000 yards. Rocket ranges began at 1300 yards. (Rocket boat mission is to saturate area 800 yards wide along beach).

0928, ceased firing 40MM and 20MM. All engines stopped and assault waves pass through ROCKET - MORTAR UNIT as latter maintain heading and position three hundred (300) yards off beach. Fired remaining rockets as assault wave passed through. 068

0936, after fifth assault wave passed through, turned to starboard and followed in column (led by LT. COMMANDER RICKABAUGH in LCI (G) 558) to area seaward of transports.

9 JANUARY, 1945 - 18 JANUARY, 1945: During this period, participated as smoker and inshore screening unit. Air raids of single plane nuisance variety and practically non-existent, some concern as to small enemy surface craft and enemy swimmers. Constant alert by armed watch. No damage to this vessel.

18 JANUARY, 1945 - 23 JANUARY, 1945: Departed for LBYTE GULF, LBYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Towed LCI (G) 559 in tow (19 January, 1945) and towed entire return route. No enemy strength (air or surface) encountered.

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**PART IV ORDNANCE**

- A. Rocket launchers and 40MM operated satisfactorily. A high rate of 20MM gun stoppages occurred as the result of short blew-backs.
- B. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES: (24 DECEMBER, 1944 - 24 JANUARY, 1945).

Rockets	439 rounds
20MM	2779 rounds
40MM	2670 rounds

**PART V DAMAGE**

- A. No battle damage to ship or own personnel.
- B. No damage (certain) to enemy air or surface crafts. Minor damage to beached craft at FORO, SAN FERNANDO, LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS during strafing attack on these vessels.

**PART VI PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALTIES**

- A. Performance of personnel was exceptional, considering all the possibilities of the circumstances in which the crew was placed. Their coolness under trying conditions is to be highly recommended.
- B. No casualties.

**PART VII CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Small calibre (30, 50 calibre, and 20MM) firing generally more dangerous than effective in repelling Japanese suicide attacks.
- B. Recommend a delegation of range shots for rockets in approaching beach, ie, perhaps every third ship serve as range ship for those flanking her. This would seem effective and at the same time less confusing.
- C. Secure all 50 calibre guns not mounted forward on rocket - mortar ships as they approach beach. Some of this small calibre fire is an absolute menace to our own ships.

Charles J. Mackres,  
Lt. (jg), USNR.

5

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<b>COPY TO:</b>	COM LCI (8) GROUP 16	(79.7.1)
	COM LCI (L) FLOT 6	(79.7)
	COMPHIB GROUP 7	(79.1)
	COM 3rd PHIBFOR	(79)
	COMIBRON 2	(77.6)
	COMTASK GROUP	(77.2)
	COM 7thFLT	(77)
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