

GR 72 FLOT 24
Flag/A12-1
Serial: 027

LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif. S. No.

275
59053 SweKore
2 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary
Reference: (a) Com-in-Ch rest. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, serial
7152 of 29 October 1943.
Enclosure: (A) War Diary of Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-
Two, Flotilla Twenty-Four, for month of
December 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), The Commander,
LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two, Flotilla Twenty-Four, hereby submits
War Diary for month of December 1944.

A.T. Baker III
A.T. BAKER III

cc: ComLCI(L)Flot24 (1)
File (3)

117363

LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO FLOTILLA TWENTY-FOUR

W-A-R D-I-A-R-Y

DECEMBER 1944

Alfred T. Baker III
Alfred T. BAKER III
Lt. Cmdr. U.S.N.R.
Commanding.

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ENCLOSURE "A"

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
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c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in U.S.S. LCI(L) 636.
LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two constitutes part of LCI(L) Flotilla
Twenty-Four, COMMANDER A. VERNON JANNOTTA, and is attached to
Commander Seventh Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet.

LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two is comprised of twelve (12) LCI(L)s
as follows: LCI(L)s 636(GF), 635, 637, 652, 701, 702, 703, 773,
774, 1074, 1075 and 1076.

A.T. Baker III

A.T. BAKER III
Lt. Cmdr. U.S.N.R.

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USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

2 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary for month of December 1944.
Reference: (a) Com-in-Ch rest. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3,
serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. Following is a diary of operations of LCI(L)s of LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two for month of December 1944, with narrative of operations listed by days:

1 December: LCI(L)s 635, 637, 652, 1074 on troop carrying mission for 40th Infantry division from Cape Sudest to Cape Gloucester, New Britain, arrived back in Hollandia on CTF 76 Operation Order # 220545. LCI(L)s 636 (Group Flagship), 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 at Woendi Lagoon, staging for operations with Task Group 77.11 (formerly 70.4) in company with MTB Squadrons 8, 24 and 25 and Beach Jumper Units 6 and 7. Captain MENTZ, Commander Task Group. LCI(L)s 701, 773 and 774 at Hollandia.

2-4 December: No change. - LCI(L)s in Woendi provisioning, loading Beach Jumper Units 6 and 7, and squadron base equipment for MTBs, conducting practice for towing MTBs in case of breakdown, conducting tactical exercises in preparation for mission of Task Group 77.11. LCI(L) 636 fitted with launchers for 5" rockets, mounted on both ramps.

5 December: LCI(L) 701 departed Hollandia for Manus with Navy casualties in company with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-One in LCI(L) 1008 and LCI(L) 700. No other changes.

6-9 December: No change.

10 December: LCI(L) 636 with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two departed Woendi Lagoon for Hollandia on orders from Commander, LCI(L) Flotilla Twenty-Four; speedletter to CTG 70.7 File A4-3, serial 288 of 9 December 1944. Mission: To transport forward Beach Jumper and MTB gear and ammunition from Hollandia. No other change.

11 December: LCI(L) 701 returned to Hollandia from Manus with Navy casualties. Total Naval casualties transported between Manus and Hollandia, two-hundred seventy-three (273).

LCI(L) 636 with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two arrived Hollandia. No other change.

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
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2 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of December 1944.

12 December: No change.

13 December: LCI(L) 636 with Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two departed Hollandia for return to Woendi Lagoon with nineteen (19) tons MTB ammunition and six (6) tons of Beach Jumper gear.

LCI(L)s 635, 701, 774 and 1074 departed Hollandia for Leyte, P.I., in company with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy in LCI(L) 1002 plus five other Flotilla Twenty-Four LCIs, in convoy, upon orders received in Com7thPhib speedletter, serial M-0084 of 12 December 1944, to report to Senior LCI Officer Present upon arrival for duty in connection with reception and evacuation of survivors.

LCI(L)s 773, 637 and 652 departed Hollandia in same convoy for Leyte, P.I., with orders to report to ComSerForSEVENTHFlt for duty on ComSerFor7thFlt msg. 110533. Mission assigned to be transport of Navy replacements, harbor entrance control and such other duty as ComSerFor7thFlt might assign.

LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 at Woendi with Commander, LCI(L) Flotilla Twenty-Four.

14 December: LCI(L) 636, with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two enroute to Woendi. LCI(L)s 635, 637, 652, 701, 773, 774 and 1074 enroute in convoy to Leyte, P.I.

LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 at Woendi.

15 December: LCI(L) 636 with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two, arrived Woendi from Hollandia and unloaded Beach Jumper and MTB gear. 40mm A/A gun mounted on bow, replacing #1 20mm.

16 December: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 with Commander, LCI(L) Flotilla Twenty-Four in LCI(L) 624 departed Woendi with twenty-three (23) LCI(L)s of Flotilla Twenty-Four, including LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076, in movement to forward area of Task Group 77.11. Beach Jumper Units 6 and 7 embarked and base equipment for MTBrons 8, 24 and 25. LCI(L) 636 loaded with thirty-two (32) tons cargo, eleven (11) personnel; LCI(L) 702 loaded twenty-eight (28) tons cargo of Beach Jumper Units, eighteen (18) personnel; LCI(L) 703 loaded with twenty-four (24) tons cargo, forty-two (42) personnel; LCI(L) 1075 loaded with fifteen (15) tons cargo, fifty (50) personnel; LCI(L) 1076 loaded with twenty-six (26) tons cargo, thirty-nine (39) personnel. Task Group proceeded to Kossol, Palau Island., for further routing on to Leyte. OTC Commander John KREMER in LCI(L) 624. Movement Order 1-44 of CTG 77.11. Other ships of group enroute to Leyte.

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2 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of December 1944.

17 December: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with LCI(L)s 636(GF), 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 enroute to PALAU as part of T.G. 77.11.

LCI(L)s 635, 637, 652, 773, 774 and 1074 enroute to LEYTE, P.I. in convoy from HOLLANDIA.

18 December: No change.

19 December: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 in T.G. 77.11 arrived KOSSOL ROADS, PALAU ISLANDS and anchored in lagoon.

Other ships of group enroute to LEYTE, P.I.

20 December: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 departed KOSSOL ROADS as part of T.G. 77.11 enroute to LEYTE, P.I. LCI(L)s of Task Group loaded twenty (20) tons of 5" rockets for use with task group operations. Other ships of group enroute to LEYTE, P.I.

21 December: Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 enroute to LEYTE as part of T.G. 77.11.

LCI(L)s 635, 701, 774 and 1074 arrived LEYTE and reported to Senior LCI Officer Present for duty in connection with reception and evacuation of survivors.

LCI(L)s 637, 652 and 773 arrived LEYTE in same convoy and reported to ComSerFor7thFlt, for duty. (CTF 77.7.2 .)

22 December: Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two and LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 enroute to LEYTE, P.I.

LCI(L) 1074 (OTC) with LCI(L)s 709 and 744 loaded two-hundred eighty-six (286) naval personnel of CUB 12 at DULAG, LEYTE, and transported them to GUIAN, SAMAR. Other ships at anchor SAN PEDRO BAY, P.I.

23 December: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 with LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076, in company with Commander, LCI(L) Flotilla Twenty-Four and eighteen (18) other Flotilla Twenty-Four ships, arrived SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, P.I.

LCI(L)s 773 and 652 on verbal orders from CTU 77.7.2 transported casuuls from DULAG, LEYTE to GUIUAN, SAMAR, i.e. LCI(L) 773 transported 138 casuuls and LCI(L) 652 transported 82 casuuls. LCI(L) 637 in company with another Flotilla Twenty-Four LCI(L) carried 84 casuuls from DULAG, LEYTE to GUIUAN, SAMAR.

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
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2 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of December 1944.

24 December: LCI(L)s 637, 652 and 773 returned to SAN PEDRO BAY from GUIUAN, SAMAR.

LCI(L) 774 transported one-hundred sixty-three (163) naval personnel of CBMU 517 and CUB 12 from DULAG, LEYTE to GUIUAN, SAMAR.

Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two, with LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 at anchor SAN PEDRO BAY watering and provisioning for onward routing.

25 December: LCI(L) 1074 (OTC) and LCI(L) 774 returned to SAN PEDRO BAY.

LCI(L) 701 transported two-hundred twenty-four (224) men on liberty party to TOLOSA BEACH, LEYTE, on verbal orders from Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy. No other change.

26 December: LCI(L) 635 loaded three (3) officers and sixty-eight (68) enlisted men from LST 471 and DD 521, survivors, and subsisted them for four days, delivering them to LSD 3 on 29 December.

Other ships of group at anchor in SAN PEDRO BAY.

27 December: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 with LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 departed SAN PEDRO BAY in movement of T.G. 77.11 to MINDORO, P.I., as part of the U-plus-15 Re-supply Echelon, OTC Captain MC CLEAN in U.S.S. BUSH (DD529). LCI(L)s in Division Three, behind LSTs and Liberties. LCI(L) 702 and LCI(L)s 703, 1075 and 1076 loaded with elements of 21st Infantry Regiment of 24th Division. No other change.

28 December: LCI(L) 774 upon verbal orders from Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy, loaded and issued one-hundred forty-nine (149) sets of gear to survivors quartered on LCI(L)s 635 and 701.

Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 with LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 in T.G. 77.11 in U-plus-15 Re-Supply Echelon were attacked by Japanese planes south of CEBU. One (1) plane crashed just ahead of LCI(L) 1076, this ship being credited with its destruction. Thereafter until arrival at MINDORO, the task group was subjected to forty-one (41) air attacks, shooting down twenty-two (22) planes besides those accounted for by air cover. LCI(L)s of T.G. 77.11 were credited with ten (10) planes destroyed.

Planes were accredited to ships of Group Seventy-Two as follows:

LCI(L) 636 - one destroyed 12/29 and one assist on plane destroyed 12/28

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Subject: War Diary for month of December 1944.

LCI(L) 702 - two assists on planes destroyed 12/28 and 12/30.

LCI(L) 1075 - one destroyed 12/29

LCI(L) 1076 - one destroyed 12/28

See attached action report, for period 27 December 1944 to 30 December 1944!

29 December: No change.

30 December: Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two, with LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 in T.G. 77.11 forming part of U-plus-15 MINDORO Re-supply Echelon arrived MINDORO.

LCI(L)s 635(OTC), 1074 and one other Flotilla Twenty-Four LCI(L), assigned to DULAG transport area for smoke coverage for period of four days.

31 December: LCI(L) 773 with one other Flotilla Twenty-Four LCI(L), on verbal orders of CTU 77.10.1, transported 9,000 gallons fuel, 8,700 gallons water and 841 pounds of meat to AN43 and AN35 at DINAGAT ISLAND, P.I. Transported on return two (2) sick men, returning 1 January 1945.

During period 22-28 December 1945 ships assigned to SAN PEDRO area carried liberty parties from DDs and DEs and performed smoke duties for harbor area during air alerts.

/S/ *A.T. Baker III*
A.T. BAKER III

cc:

ComLCI(L)Flot24 (1)
File. (3)

ENCLOSURE "A"

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GR 72 FLOT 24
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Serial: 028

LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

271
59013
R. S. No.

8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. FLEET.

Subject: War Diary.

Reference: (a) Com-in-Ch rest. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3,
serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary of Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-
Two, Flotilla Twenty-Four, for month of
January 1945.

Removed - (B) ComTaskUnit 77.11.2(ComLCI(L)Gr72) Secret ltr.
Taken up in Secret Mail Room. Serial 0001 of 4 February 1945.

1. In compliance with reference (a), The Commander,
LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two hereby submits War Diary for month of
January 1945.

A.T. Baker III

A.T. BAKER III

cc:
ComLCI(L)Flot24 (1)
File (3)

LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO FLOTILLA TWENTY-FOUR

W-A-R D-I-A-R-Y

JANUARY 1945

Alfred T. Baker III

Alfred T. BAKER III
Lt. Cmdr. U.S.N.R.
Commanding.

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
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8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Disposition of LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two: Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with LCI(L)s 636, 702, 703, 1075, 1076, with Commander, Flotilla Twenty-Four and eighteen (18) other Flotilla Twenty-Four LCI(L)s attached to Task Group 77.11. Commander, LCI(L) Flotilla Twenty-Four assumed command of task group after evacuation of Captain MENTZ because of wounds received. Task Group staging at MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO ISLAND, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, for diversionary operations associated with the invasion of LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. Task Group assigned further duties of shore-to-shore movements in cooperation with Commanding General Western Visayan Task Force at SAN JOSE, MINDORO, for seizing and securing the remainder of MINDORO ISLAND and MARINDUQUE. LCI(L) 636 fitted with twelve (12) 5" rocket launchers on ramps and one 40mm A/A gun on bow replacing #1 20mm. Task Group and Beach Jumper units 6 and 7 embarked, together with base equipment of MTBrons 8, 24, 25, attached to Task Group.

LCI(L)s 637, 652, 773 at SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, attached to ComSerFor7thFlt, engaged in running supplies, passengers and mail in LEYTE area.

LCI(L)s 635, 652 and 773 at SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, P.I., assigned to Senior LCI Officer present LEYTE and further assigned to CTF 75 (ComPhilSeaFrontier) for duty in quartering and messing survivors and evacuation and transportation of casualties.

A.T. Baker III

A.T. BAKER III

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USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
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San Francisco, Calif.

8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.
Reference: (a) Com-in-Ch rest. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3,
serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. Following is a diary of operations of LCI(L)s of LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two for month of January 1945, with narrative of operations listed by days:

1 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L)s 703 and 1075 departed MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO, P.I., for PALUAN under cover of darkness. Evacuated one-hundred seventy-five (175) troops and three (3) tons cargo and carried them to MABURAO. LCI(L) 636, with LCI(L)s 634, 999, 1000, 1001, 1005, 1006, 1071, 1072 and 1076, returned from night dispersal anchorage area close in under the east shore of AMBULONG ISLAND, between AMBULONG and ILIN ISLANDS. This measure was adopted by CTG 77.11 (ComFlot24) to conceal ships from easy observation during the brilliant moonlight by hiding their silhouettes and making an attacking approach difficult for a plane. Ships were anchored as close in to shore reef as possible, using both bow and stern anchors to fix them in the most desirable position. Returned to MANGARIN BAY and anchored before first light, rendezvousing there with rest of task group to afford maximum of concentrated fire against plane attacks during daylight hours. Air alerts during day at 1122-1218 and at 1905. After dark underway again with ships as before to AMBULONG for dispersal.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComSerFor7thFlt (LEYTE) - LCI(L) 773 returned to SAN PEDRO BAY from DINAGAT ISLAND from delivery of meat, fuel and water to AN 43 and AN 35, with two sick men. LCI(L) 652 loaded ninety (90) barrels lube oil at SS MISSION SANTA MARIA at TOLOSA, and transported them to IX 136 at SAN PEDRO BAY.

2 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L)s 703 and 1076 with troops of 21st Infantry regiment departed MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO for a landing on MARINDUQUE ISLAND. LCI(L) 703, fifty-six (56) troops, seven (7) tons cargo; LCI(L) 1076, fifty (50) troops, twenty (20) tons cargo. These ships traveled in company with six (6) LCMs escorted by four (4) PTs of TG 77.11. Landed at BUENA VISTA, MARINDUQUE ISLAND, 0730 3 January, and were unopposed. LCI(L) 1076 was unable to retract, and after attempts had been made to pull her off, the other ships of unit returned to MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO. LCI(L) 1076 floated off at high tide, and returned to MANGARIN BAY 2045 3 January.

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8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with LCI(L)s 636, 634, 999, 1000, 1001, 1005, 1006, 1071, 1072 and 1075 returned from AMBULONG dispersal area before first light. At approximately 0500 LCI(L) 1006 while in column behind LCI(L) 636 was attacked by a low-level bomber off northwest corner of ILIN ISLAND. Two bombs dropped straddled ship. Brilliant moonlight, with moon close to overhead. No ships opened fire. Additional air alerts at 0702 and 1533. "Flash reds" off and on all night. Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 on orders from CTG 77.11 proceeded to burning tanker PORCUPINE (IX 126) off SAN JOSE, MINDORO, upon request from SOPA MINDORO, to investigate possibility of extinguishing flames. Ship had been burning since it was hit 30 December and was understood to be loaded with aviation gasoline. Flames were roaring from six scuttle-type hatches in tanks forward of bridge. Decks close to red heat. There was evidence that other tanks in ship still contained unburned fuel, making it inadvisable to blow ship open to extinguish fire. Only feasible method of fighting fire seemed to be to throw large amounts of foam down hatches from a distance, since hot decks made them inaccessible. Soundings taken all around ship indicated she was resting on bottom in about five fathoms of water. Reported these findings and recommendations to SOPA MINDORO and CTG 77.11. Returned with ships as before to night dispersal anchorage after dark. LCI(L) 702 upon orders from CTG 77.11 with LCI(L) 1006 pulled a stranded gasoline barge off reef on northern end of ILIN ISLAND, for use in fueling PTs.

3 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L)s as before including LCI(L) 1075 of Group Seventy-Two returned to MANGARIN BAY at first light. Plane observed proceeding southward over ILIN STRAIT at first light, altitude about 1000 feet. LCI(L) 636 with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two assigned to towing off LCI(L) 1071 who was stuck on shore reef at AMBULONG. Efforts unsuccessful, and ship left there until tide could float her off. No attacks during day. Returned to AMBULONG anchorage after dark. Received and briefed on CTG Op. Plan 1-45, for a diversionary strike at SIGAYAN BAY, BANTIGUI POINT, TAYABAS BAY area, scheduled for the night of 5 January and coordinated with the movement of ships to the LINGAYEN area LUZON.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComSerFor7thFlt (LEYTE) - LCI(L) 652 transported seventeen (17) men from AO 49 to ASD 3, towed crane

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barge to NAVSTA GUIUAN, SAMAR, returned to SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, completing operation 5 January.

4 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with accompanying ships returned from dispersal area before first light. While ships in column rounding northwest corner of ILIN ISLAND, LCI(L) 1072 was attacked by torpedo bomber from port beam in bright moonlight. Plane approached from NW. Torpedo dropped passed under ship amidships but did not explode. Air attacks at night on air field continued, and an air attack occurred in daylight at 1648. At 1715 two Jap planes were sighted directly over anchorage flying SW. One circled out beyond ILIN ISLAND and at 1722 dove on an AVP anchored about 2,000 yards west of CAMINAWIT POINT. Despite heavy fire from LCI(L)s and PTs of task group in addition to AVPs themselves, plane was apparently not hit during approach in long straight flat dive from seaward. Released bomb which missed AVP and circled past edge of MANGARIN BAY, where it was heavily fired upon at a low altitude by all LCI(L)s and PTs of task group, and hits were observed. Plane not downed, but disappeared trailing smoke. Plane was probably VAL. At 1724 large explosion was heard in group of ships off SAN JOSE, MINDORO, which was reported to be ammunition ship. 1852 secured from general quarters, and returned to dispersal anchorage after dark.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComSerFor7thFlt (LEYTE) - LCI(L)s 637, 652 and 773 on orders from ComSerFor7thFlt, with LCI(L) 1004, picked up, housed, subsisted, Salvage and Fire-Fighter Unit Seventh Fleet, continuing this duty till 11 January.

5 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two with accompanying ships returned to MANGARIN BAY getting underway after first light. This change in procedure was considered preferable in view of torpedo attack of previous night. The fact that a torpedo plane was used indicated that ships had been spotted in open water at that place and time. After first light, enemy planes had been withdrawing in the face of threats from our daylight fighters; therefore believed safer to have ships remain in protection of AMBULONG ISLAND hills where attack approach difficult until most likelihood of attack was over. Brightness of moonlight made attacks on ships underway feasible and affording planes every advantage of visibility. Air attacks from 0430 to 0515 on air field. One plane observed shot down. Tanker PORCUPINE still burning brightly off JAN JOSE beaches.

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8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

CTG 77.11 OpOrd 1-45 cancelled and operation called off. Returned to night anchorage as usual after dark.

6 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, Group Seventy-two moved to and from night anchorage as before, with LCI(L) 1075. LCI(L)s 702 and 703 during this period assigned to Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-One, with Task Group 77.11 also, but dispersing to ILIN ISLAND anchorage nightly instead of with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComSerFor7thFlt (LEYTE) - LCI(L) 773 loaded twenty-eight (28) troops and eight (8) tons of cargo from SS GUS DARNELL and transported them to SS CHARLES LOOMIS and USS CAIRO. LCI(L) 652 removed armed guard crew and all Navy equipment from U.S.S. WHEELER, including twenty-eight (28) men and fifteen (15) tons cargo and delivered all gear and ammunition to U.S.S. OTUS and men to U.S.S. LOOMIS.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComPhilSeaFron (LEYTE) - LCI(L)s 1074 and 635 returned to SAN PEDRO BAY anchorage after being released from duties as smokers for transport area at DULAG, LEYTE, which they had been on since 28 December. These two ships assigned duties as receiving ships for survivors, mail duty, transport of casualties and supplies. This period of duty continued to 16 January, during which time LCIs subsisted three-hundred (300) personnel.

7 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two at MANGARIN BAY continuing night dispersal movements. Night air attacks continued sporadically, but no day attacks; one red alert from 0842 to 0849, but no attack developed. LCI(L) 702 in company with LCI(L) 699 and LCI(L) 1071 with PT escort transported elements of Company "K", 21st Infantry, from SAN JOSE, MINDORO to BONGABONG, MINDORO, during darkness. During this period all troops movements were made during night hours because of the inability of the local air forces to provide air cover. This involved numerous landings on strange beaches in darkness, all of which were accomplished without damage or incident. Total transported this movement three-hundred sixty-three (363) troops, thirty (30) tons cargo.

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Flag/A12-1
Serial: 028

LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComPhilSeaFron-- LCI(L) 1074 assisted in the rescue of a P-47 pilot who jumped from his burning plane a few hundred yards from their anchorage. LCI(L) 1074 transported the pilot to the beach at TOLOSA, LEYTE, where he was met by an ambulance. The joint efforts of LCI(L) 1074 and Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy were successful in making possible the saving of the pilot's life, and won a letter of commendation for promptness and efficiency for LCI(L) 1074 from ComPhilSeaFron.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComSerFor7thFlt (LEYTE) - No change.

8 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two at MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO, with LCI(L)s 1075, 702, 703. LCI(L) 1075 with escort of two (2) PTs, transported one-hundred twenty-five (125) troops of 507th Airborne Infantry and one (1) ton of cargo from PALUAN, MINDORO to MAMBURAO, MINDORO. Loaded three (3) casual passengers and two wounded at MAMBURAO and returned with them to SAN JOSE, arriving 9 January.

9 January: No change.

10 January: No change.

11 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1076 with five (5) other LCI(L)s transported five companies of 21st Infantry Regiment to PINAMALAYAN, MINDORO, amounting to eight-hundred fifteen (815) troops, one-hundred ten (110) tons cargo. OTC Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 702. Landing made at night on beach marked by Army patrols already in the area. Slow unloading over unfavorable beach with bar delayed return until after daylight. One unidentified plane sighted to north of formation at 0900, but not further seen.

LCI(L)s GR.72 with ComSerFor7thFlt (LEYTE) - LCI(L)s 637, 773 and 652 continued quartering and subsisting Salvage and Fire-Fighting Unit Seventh Fleet. This duty continued for these ships through 18 January.

12 January: No change.

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
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San Francisco, Calif.

8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

LCI(L) 635 proceeded to assist in salvage of an LCM adrift in heavy sea with two men aboard. When LCM located, found SC 737 had it secured alongside with two men aboard SC. At daylight managed after considerable difficulty in raising bow ramp of LCM and securing it, by repairing LCM's retracting and ramp-operating gear.

13 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11- No change.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComPhilSeaFron - LCI(L) 635 assigned Commodore LOOMIS, ComTransDiv II, as courier service and transport. During this duty fourteen (14) passengers were transported from TARRAGUNA, LEYTE to TOLOSA, LEYTE. Completed this duty 19 January.

14 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two and ships of Task Group received CTG 77.11 OpOrd 2-45, calling for diversionary strike against the LUCENA, TAYABAS BAY area of SOUTHERN LUZON, the date to be designated by dispatch.

15 January: No change.

16 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - No change.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComPhilSeaFron(LEYTE) - LCI(L) 774 assigned duties of subsisting, quartering, transferring, clothing, survivors and casuals, battle wounded totalling one-hundred eighty-seven (187) officers and enlisted men including seven (7) wounded during the period 16 January to 29 January. Most transferred to U.S.S. ALCOA POLARIS, U.S.S. PASTORIS or U.S.S. REFUGE. LCI(L) 1074 assigned similar duties as receiving ship for survivors and casuals, continuing on these duties through 29 January.

17 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L) 1075 transported twenty-six troops and sixty-five (65) tons cargo from SAN JOSE, MINDORO to PINAMALAYAN, MINDORO, and returned with four (4) wounded and two (2) Japanese prisoners. LCI(L) 1075 was accompanied by LCI(L) 1071 and PT escort.

18 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - No change.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComSerFor7thFlt(LEYTE) - LCI(L)s 637, 652, 773 with 1 other LCI(L) assigned continuance of duty subsisting and quartering Salvage and Fire-Fighter Unit Seventh Fleet.

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Flag/A12-1
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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

8 April 1945.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

19 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L) 1075 evacuated one-hundred fifty-six (156) troops, four (4) wounded and four (4) tons of supplies from MAMBURAO, MINDORO to SAN JOSE MINDORO.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComPhilSeaFron(LEYTE) - LCI(L)s 635, 701, 774 plus seven (7) other LCIs assigned duties subsisting, quartering and transporting casual passengers, with LCI(L) 635 alone serving 1,755 meals, and carrying six-hundred ninety-five (695) passengers from this date to 28 January. These ships were making smoking on call during this period.

20 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L)s 702, 703 and three other LCIs transported 1,033 men, sixty-one (61) tons cargo of 21st Infantry Regiment to BULALACAO, MINDORO from SAN JOSE, MINDORO.

21 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commanger, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two received CTG 77.11 OpOrd 3-45, for the conduct of a diversionary operation on the night of 22-23 January in the UNISAN, TAYABAS, Southern LUZON area, in coordination with the landings planned for the NASUGBU, BATANGAS area the latter part of January. LCI(L) 703 with six (6) other LCIs comprised T.U. 77.11.1 and LCI(L)s 702, with Commander, Group Seventy-One embarked, 1075, 1076 assigned T.U. 77.11.2 Both groups were underway from MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO for dispersion area at 2400, T.U. 77.11.1 proceeding to BUENAVISTA, MARINDUQUE and T.U. 77.11.2 to PINAMALAYAN, MINDORO.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComSerFor(LEYTE) - LCI(L) 652 assigned duties (transport duties) between AF 16 and U.S.S. GENERAL HOWSE, totalling sixty-seven (67) men, picked up 400 smoke pots from IX 173 and delivered them to AK 99, picked up 44 drums lube oil and delivered to AVP 51. This duty completed January 27th.

22 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L) 636 upon request from SOPA MINDORO with LCI(L) 626 towed stranded LCT off beach at CAMINAWIT POINT, MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO. LCI(L)s 636, 711, 1071 and 699 departed MANGARIN BAY for ESTRELLA, MINDORO, upon request of ComGenWesternVisayanTaskForce to transport 21st Infantry in end-run movement upon CALAPAN, MINDORO. Arrived at 0200 23 January. LCI(L) 711 landed 10 tons medical supplies. Other ships not

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

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Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

required and all returned to MANGARIN BAY. LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076, conducted diversionary operations in UNISAN area of TAYABAS BAY, Southern LUZON, and retired to BUENAVISTA and PINAMALAYAN in accordance with CTG OpOrd 3-45, completing retirement before first light on 23 January.

23 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L) 636 with Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two returned MANGARIN BAY. LCI(L) 703 with CTU 77.11.1 at BUENAVISTA, MARINDUQUE and LCI(L)s 702, 1075 and 1076 at PINAMALAYAN, MINDORO, with CTU 77.11.2.

24 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two departed MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO in PT 145 in company with another PT, to make reconnaissance of MOMPOG PASS and UNISAN area of Southern LUZON, and to sound for and locate the reef off UNISAN which obstructed the approach to the landing beaches in that area. Patrol was carried out successfully. A radar contact was made near south end of MOMPOG PASS which was apparently a plane which circled the boats for about ten minutes at about a half mile distance. Though moonlight was brilliant, plane was not seen. While sounding the edge of reef off UNISAN, small patrol-type vessel was observed standing in to UNISAN, and turned toward boats, but then turned away. Return to MANGARIN BAY was without incident, the morning of 25 January.

25 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L) 636 despatched to SEMIRARA ISLAND to assist in salvage of PT 338 which was hopelessly reefed, and disintegrating under pounding of high seas. Despite heavy seas all thirteen (13) members of crew and secret publications and instruments were successfully taken off.

LCI(L) GR.72 ComSerFor7thFlt(LEYTE) - LCI(L)s 637, 652 and 773 continued duty in subsisting and quartering Salvage and Fire-Fighter Unit Seventh Fleet, continuing through 1 February.

26 January: No change.

27 January: LCI(L)s GR.72 TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two and other LCI(L)s of task group received CTG 77.11 OpOrd 4-45, ordering a diversionary operation directed at UNISAN, EASTERN TAYABAS BAY, Southern LUZON, for the night of 30-31 January,

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LCI(L) GROUP SEVENTY-TWO
USS LCI(L) 636, Flagship
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San Francisco, Calif.

8 April 1945.

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Subject: War Diary for month of January 1945.

1945, in association with the landings to be made at approximately the same time in the NASUGBU-BATANGAS area. Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two assigned as CTU 77.11.2, Hydro-Smoker Unit, with the duty of simulating a minesweeping formation in advance of the main body, or marking the reef which obstructed the approach channel with flares, and with providing smoke screen coverage of the main body with the purpose of concealing the true composition of the force from the enemy observation, and to protect the main body from possible shore bombardment. LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 assigned to T.U. 77.11.3, Transport Unit, Lieut. S.L. FAWCETT, to simulate large body of attack transports lying to in transport area. LCI(L) 1076 with four (4) other LCIs evacuated six-hundred fifty-one (651) troops, twenty-two (22) tons supplies of 19th Infantry Regiment from BULALACAO, MINDORO and returned them to SAN JOSE.

28 January: LCI(L)s TASK GROUP 77.11 - LCI(L) 1075 evacuated thirty-nine (39) troops, 2 tons supplies from PALUAN, MINDORO and returned them to SAN JOSE.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComSerFor7thFlt(LEYTE) - LCI(L) 652 picked up total of one-hundred seven (107) men from LST s 593 and 722, and USS MAUI for transportation to NAVSTA GUIUAN, SAMAR. Loaded 2,266 smoke pots from AKS 4 and delivered them to AW1, a cargo of 60 tons, completing duty 2 February.

29 January: LCI(L)s TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 departed MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO in accordance with CTG 77.11 OpOrd 4-45, as Commander Task Unit 77.11.2, and proceeded to LAYLAY, MARINDUQUE. For report of actions in carrying out this operation, see ComLCIGr72 Action Report, (Enclosure "B"). LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 underway from MANGARIN BAY, with CTU 77.11.3, proceeding to dispersal areas in MARINDUQUE, in accordance with operation order.

LCI(L)s GR.72 ComSerFor7thFlt(LEYTE) - LCI(L) 773 with another LCI(L) transported one-hundred thirty (130) enlisted men and 3 officers from SAN PEDRO BAY to NAVSTA GUIUAN, SAMAR and MANACANI ISLAND. Returned to SAN PEDRO BAY anchorage 30 January.

30 January: LCI(L)s TASK GROUP 77.11 - Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 and LCI(L)s 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 carrying

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out CTG OpOrd 4-45 in diversionary strike in UNISAN area, Southern
LUZON.

31 January: LCI(L)s TASK GROUP 77.11 -- Commander, LCI(L) Group
Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636 with four (4) other LCIs and four (4) PTs
departed BUENAVISTA, MARINDUQUE, for MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO, arriving
1 February. LCI(L) 1076 with one (1) other LCI and two (2) PTs
evacuated two-hundred twenty-three (223) troops and 12 tons cargo
from PINAMALAYAN, MINDORO, and returned them to SAN JOSE, MINDORO,
arriving 1 February. LCI(L)s 702, 703 and 1075 with six (6) other
LCI(L)s evacuated eight-hundred ninety-nine (899) troops four (4)
tons cargo of 21st Infantry Regiment from CALAPAN, MINDORO, and re-
turned them to SAN JOSE, MINDORO, arriving 1 February.

Disposition of LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two, 31 January 1945:

Commander, LCI(L) Group Seventy-Two in LCI(L) 636
with 702, 703, 1075 and 1076 at MANGARIN BAY, MINDORO, assigned to
CTG 77.11 for conduct of diversionary operations, and shore-to-shore
movements in cooperation with ComGenWesternVisayan Task Force for
seizing and securing MINDORO and MARINDUQUE ISLANDS, PHILIPPINE
ISLANDS.

LCI(L)s 635, 701, 774 and 1074 at SAN PEDRO BAY,
LEYTE, with Commander, Group Seventy, and assigned to duty with
ComPhilSeaFron.

LCI(L)s 637, 652, 774 at SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE, assigned
to duty with ComSerFor7thFlt.

A.T. Baker III

A.T. BAKER III

cc:
ComLCI(L)Flot24. (1)
File (3)