

USS LCI(L) 778
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

LCI(L) 778/A12
Ser. 130

23 September 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Secretary of Navy.
Subject: History of LCI(L) 778 from date of Commissioning, 11 August 1944, to 23 September 1945.
Reference: (a) ALPac 202

Complying with reference (a), herewith is required history.

This ship was Commissioned on 11 August 1944 at the Commercial Iron works, Portland, Oregon. The following officers were assigned for duty: Lt. (jg) W. B. CHINN, Commanding Officer, Ens. J. N. WILSON, Communications Officer, Ens. T. O. BROWN, Executive Officer, Ens. M. P. RAYMOND, Engineering Officer. The crew consisted of twenty-five (25) enlisted men.

On 19 August 1944, the ship left Portland and proceeded to San Diego, California. It arrived in San Diego on 23 August after an uneventful trip.

From 23 August 1944 to 15 September 1944 the ship went through its training and shake down cruises off San Diego. On 15 September the ship began a period of availability at San Diego in preparation for departure over-seas.

On 30 September 1944 the ship left San Diego enroute to Pearl Harbor, arriving in Pearl Harbor on 9 October. On 21 October it departed from Pearl Harbor, proceeding to Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands, arriving there on 29 October. Departure from Majuro was on 31 October, and arrived in Manus Island, Admiralty Group 7 November. Departure from Manus was on 17 November, and the ship arrived at Humboldt Bay, New Guinea, on 18 November.

On 22 November the ship escorted a group of LCT's from Humboldt Bay, to Mios Woendi Island, arriving there on 24 November, and returning to Humboldt Bay on 26 November.

On 2 December the ship escorted group of LCT's to Maffin Bay, New Guinea, returning to Humboldt Bay on 4 December.

From 8 December to 28 December the ship made six round trips from Humboldt Bay to Aitape, New Guinea, such trips being directed by the Commander, Amphibious Command, Seventh Fleet.

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On 29 December the ship reported to Commander LCS(L) Flotilla One, Captain R. E. ARISON, USN, for duty as Flotilla flagship. Captain Arison and his following staff officers reported aboard: Lt. (jg) W. NEILSON, Lt. (jg) N. E. ANDERSEN, Lt. (jg) L. R. RHAME, Ens. W. F. SMITH, Ens. H. E. PAYNE. seventeen (17) enlisted men reported aboard as staff personnel.

On 15 January 1945, departure was made from Humboldt Bay for San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P. I., arriving there on 21 January.

On 13 February departure was made from San Pedro Bay, Leyte, for Mangarin Bay, Mindoro, P. I., arriving there on 16 February. On 20 February departed from Mindoro and arrived at Subic Bay, Luzon, P. I., on 21 February.

On 24 February the ship left Subic Bay and proceed to Manila Bay. Here, working with mine sweepers, the ship was engaged in its first operation against the enemy. One prisoner of war was captured, and several Japanese were killed when attempt to rescue them from the water was met by their attacking the ship with hand grenades. On 26 February the ship returned to Subic Bay.

On 3 March departue was made from Subic Bay, Luzon, and arrival was made in Mangarin Bay, Mindoro, on 4 March.

On 8 March the ship left Mindoro for the Victor Four Operation, this being the invasion at Zamboanga, Mindanao, P. I. Arrival at Zamboanga was on 10 March, and the ship participated in the landing by acting as line of departure ship for the boat waves.

From 8 March to 25 March the ship was in the Zamboanga - Basilan Island area, patrol work being the principal duty.

On 25 March departure was made from Zamboanga, and on 27 March the ship arrived at San Pedro Bay, Leyte.

The ship departed from Leyte on 8 April and proceeded to Mangarin Bay, Mindoro, arriving there on 9 April.

On 14 April departure was made from Mindoro, as the ship left for the Victor Five Operation, the landing of troops at Polloc Harbor, Mindanao. Arrived at Polloc Harbor was on 17 April, at which time the ship was engaged in reconnoitering missions in the immediate area, and doing patrol duty.

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On 9 May departure was made from Polloc Harbor and on 11 May the ship arrived at Taloma Bay, Davao Gulf, Mindanao, Here Capt. R. E. ARISON assumed the duties as SOPA.

On 26 May departure was made for Morotai Island, arriving there on 28 May. On 1 June Ens. T. O. Brown was transferred for temporary duty, and Ens. J. Ernesti reported aboard for temporary duty.

On 2 June departed from Morotai, proceeding to Brunei Bay, Borneo, arriving there on 7 June. From time of arrival until 10 June the ship worked with the mine sweepers in preparation for the landing to be made on 10 June. On the day of the landing of troops, the ship served as a line of departure ship for the boat waves, and in the days following did patrol duty. On 19 June the ship loaded Australian troops at Victoria Harbor and beached them at Mompakol, 15 miles from Victoria. No enemy opposition was encountered.

On 23 June Lt. (jg) W. Nielson left the ship on orders, and on 30 June Lt. (jg) J. Lotzer reported aboard as operations officer for LCS(L) Flotilla ONE.

On 1 July departure was made from Brunei Bay, Borneo, and arrival was at Subic Bay, Luzon, P. I., on 5 July.

On 10 July Ens. R. L. Siler reported aboard as CWO for LCS(L) Flotilla ONE. On 23 July Ens. J. Ernesti completed his temporary duty aboard and was transferred. Ens. T. O. Brown returned aboard and assumed his duties.

The ship remained at Subic Bay from the time of its arrival, 5 July, until 30 August, except for the days of 5 August and 6 August when the ship went to Manila for recreation and liberty.

On 30 August departure was made from Subic Bay, and on 6 September arrival was made at Buckners Bay, Okinawa Shima. On the following day the ship went to the western side of the island and anchored in Hagushi Bay.

On 8 September departure was made from Hagushi Bay and the arrival was at Jinson Harbor, Korea, on 12 September.

From 15 September to 22 September the ship did patrol duty in the Yellow Sea, seeking and destroying floating mines.

On 22 September the ship returned to Jinson Harbor to await further orders.

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It will be noted that there are periods of time spent in various ports. During these periods the ship functioned at the administrative flagship for LCS Flotilla One, as well as performing the necessary ships work.

The officers personnel has been covered in full. The enlisted personnel, both in ship's company and in the staff, changed from time to time as circumstances demanded, and to detail the individuals would be a large and unwarranted task.

All officers and men have performed their duties in a creditable manner.

W. B. CHINN,
Lieut., USNR