From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
Via: (1) CTG 53.16
     (2) CTF 53.
     (3) Commander, Central Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report LST 117 Tractor Group 53.16 June 17, 1944.

1. While enroute from Kwajalein, Marshall Is., to perform a
mission according to operation plan A62-44 CTF 53 in company with convoy
Tractor Group THREE and screen vessels, Captain G. B. Carter, USN CTG 53.16
in command on board the U.S.S. STEMBEL, cruising and maneuvering on different
courses and formations, waiting for orders to proceed and accomplish our
mission, on June 17, 1944, at latitude 13° 17' N. and longitude 148° 05' E.,
at 1755 enemy planes being reported in the vicinity by the screen vessel.
At 1755 three enemy torpedo planes being sighted on the starboard side two
points forward of the starboard bow bearing 68° relative bearing, ships
heading 112° (T), and one plane off the port beam. The convoy continued its
speed of eight knots and course on reverse formation and 60° right turn.
The first plane making approach for the center of the convoy on approximate
course 50° (T). The heavy concentration of fire from the LST's forced the
plane to change course to approximate 330° (T) heading for the rear end of
the convoy. The second plane making approach for the head of the convoy and
directly for LST 117 one minute later on approximate course 50° (T). The
heavy concentration of the LST's fire forced the plane to change course to
approximate 110° (T) and released his torpedo at altitude of about fifty
feet and about seven hundred yards from the LST 117 and three points off the
starboard bow. The torpedo passing clear of all ships ahead of the convoy.
The plane being hit from the LST's and escorts and it begin to lose altitude and
gain altitude as if he was out of control, gaining altitude again and
making wild right turn with the U.S.S. STEMBEL chasing and firing on the
plane, the plane heading on approximate course 140° (T). The plane landed
on the water about six miles ahead of the convoy but not on fire. The third
plane making the same approach from the starboard side. Again the heavy fir-
ing of the LST's forced the plane to change course to approximate 120° (T)
passing the LST 117 bow about seven hundred yards. The plane being hit by
a barrage from the LST 117 and started burning. The plane made about 80° left
turn and released his torpedo with flames breaking out all over the plane, few
moments later the LCI(G) 468 being hit by the torpedo. The LCI(G) 468 was 180
yards off the LST 117 and two points off the port bow, with debris and fragments
dropping all around the LST 117. The plane changed course to approximate 50° (T)
passing ahead of the LST's. The plane went about six miles on that course
made 180° turn and crashed in the water and exploded. The fourth plane
making approach from the port side as a snooper, I lost observation.

2. The repelling of the air attack and the destruction of the
enemy planes by the LST's is a credit to Captain G. B. Carter and his staff

11 705 16
U. S. S. LST 117
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

CONFIDENTIAL

27 June 1944.


for the great effort they made to build the LST Flotilla FIVE with such a firing power, not only to be protected from air attacks but we are willing to go out and hunt for Jap planes.

STANLEY PRAS
LIEUT. USN (T)
Commanding.
ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

Location of ship 15°17'N 148°05'E U.S.S. 117
Date 26 July 1944

NOTES

(a) Repel Attack First—Then collect data for this report!

(b) Do not "gun deck" this report—if data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for which no data is available.

(c) These sheets are to be filled out immediately after action is completed with data available from ship's log, memory, and consultation with ship's officers. Information is essential in order that the effectiveness of our equipment can be determined. Where data is of doubtful accuracy fill in with general terms. The obtaining of this information must not be allowed in any way to adversely affect the handling of equipment during action.

1. Surprise attack (yes or no) Yes

2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Radar
   (If by Radar state type of set)
   (Name)  
   (Rate)  
   (Service No.)
   made initial contact by (sound), (radar), (SMSD),
   (RAD), (Sight)

3. Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles) Ten miles

4. Number of planes Four

5. Type of plane (Fighter, scout, dive-bomber) Torpedo Bomber
   Type of attack Torpedo

6. Speed and altitude (High and fast, intermediate and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow) Low and fast

Enclosure (A)

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7. Guns firing 40mm 20mm
   Size 250mm
   Number 26

   Method of control [redacted] Method spotting [redacted]

8. Ammunition expended 206 40mm 1680 20mm 200 50 10

9. Percent service allowance expended 170

10. Approximate time tracking to first shot 1.57

11. Approximate time of first hits 1.57

12. Approximate time first shot to last shot 1.57

13. Approximate position angle open fire 1.57

14. Approximate position cease fire 3.57

15. Approximate bearing first shot 68

16. Approximate bearing last shot 340

17. Approximate range first shot 3400 yards

18. Approximate range last shot 3500 yards

19. Approximate altitude of bomb release 50 feet

20. Approximate range torpedo release 100 Size of torpedo

21. Hits on ship None Was ship strafed no Size gun

22. Number near bomb misses none Casualties from near misses none

23. Planes shot down-sure 2 Possible 1 Damage 1
   By what size gun 40mm 20mm 10mm

24. Details of damage to target by gunfire if available one landed
   on the water but not on fire. One crashed on fire

25. Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad, poor) excellent

26. Pattern sizes (Large, small excessive) small

SKETCH

(a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
(b) Show relative position of sun.
(c) Indicate own maneuvers.

Enclosure (A) 20
L.S.T. FLOTILLA FIVE
THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
Office of the Commander
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California,

5 July 1944.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
C.O. USS LST 117 conf.
ltr. of 27 June 1944, file
A/2, serial 0152.

From: Commander Task Group 53.16 (Captain G. B. Carter,
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Via: (1) Commander Task Force 53.
(2) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report-USS LST 117.

1. Forwarded.

2. The Group Commander concurs with the remarks con-
tained in paragraph 1 of the basic report that the heavy auto-
matic weapon fire from the convoy operated to impair the
efficiency of the attacking planes to an extent which made
certain of the torpedoes pass clear of the formation.

3. The use of barrage balloons in conjunction with
such gun fire is bound to impair the efficiency of torpedo planes
attacking a convoy to an even greater extent.

[Signature]

Copy to:
C.O. USS LST 117.
FILE NO. A16-3
SERIAL NO. 00366

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
GROUP THREE, AMPHIBIOUS FORCES
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

12 September 1944.

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to
O.0. USS LST 117 conf.
ltr. of 27 June 1944, file
A12, serial 0152.

From: Commander Group THREE, Amphibious Forces Pacific.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Amphibious Forces Pacific Fleet.
     (2) Commander FIFTH Fleet.
     (3) Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report - USS LST 117.

1. Forwarded.

2. The value of Barrage Balloons in LST's, as recommended
in paragraph 3 of first endorsement is questionable. Their
disadvantages are considered to outweigh any advantages. Certainly
their effect is not as positive and destructive as the well
directed anti-aircraft gunfire from a large number of such weapons.

R L CONOLLY

11 705
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES, U. S. PACIFIC FLEET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Serial: 00312

S-E-D-E-T
THIRD ENDORSEMENT to
CO, USS LST 117 Conf.
Ltr. A12 Serial 0152
of 27 June 1944.

From: Commander Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander FIFTH Fleet.
(2) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report - USS LST 117.

1. Forwarded.

2. Concur in paragraph two of second endorsement.

P. S. THEISS,
Chief of Staff.

Copy To:
CO, USS LST 117
CO, LST Flotilla FIVE
ComGroup THREE.
COMANDER FIFTH FLEET
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
FLAGSHIP OF THE COMMANDER

Serial: 00629
SECRET
SECRET

FOURTH ENDORSEMENT to
CO, USS LST 117 Conf. Ltr.
A12, Serial 0152
dated 27 June 1944.

From: Commander FIFTH Fleet.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas.

Subject: Action Report - USS LST 117.

1. Forwarded, concurring in the comments of the second
endorsement.

A. C. DAVIS,
Chief of Staff.