

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

SECRETNO LTR OF TRANS.
MILITARY.REPORT OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPLocation of ship 13° 30'N. 148° 20'E. U.S.S. L.S.T. 123

17 June 1944

1. Surprise Attack.
2. Plane picked up by binoculars immediately following radio report that enemy planes approaching.
3. Planes first spotted at distance of less than five (5) miles.
4. Number of planes 3.
5. Type of plane Torpedo. Type of attack Torpedo.
6. Speed and altitude Low and Slow.
7. Guns firing:

40 MM	7
20 MM	12
50 Cal.	2
30 Cal.	3

8. Ammunition expended:

40 MM	77 rounds
20 MM	859 rounds
50 Cal.	10 rounds
30 Cal.	455 rounds

Method of control: Pointer fire. Method of spotting: Tracer.

9. Percent service allowance expended 1.1% of 20 MM 45% of 40MM.
10. Approximate time tracking to first shot 3 seconds.
11. Approximate time of first hits 1757.
12. Approximate time first shot to last shot 2 1/2 minutes.
13. Approximate position angle open fire 000.
14. Approximate position cease fire 030.
15. Approximate bearing first shot 50° relative.
16. Approximate bearing last shot 315° relative.

11 705

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

SECRET

U.S.S. L.S.T. 123
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

17 June 1944

REPORT OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIP

17. Approximate range first shot 250 yards.
18. Approximate range last shot 400 yards.
19. Approximate altitude of torpedo release 25 feet.
20. Approximate range of torpedo release 250 yards.
21. Hits on ship None. Ship was not strafed.
22. Near torpedo misses Two. Casualties from near misses None.
23. Planes shot down - sure One. Possible One.
By 40 MM, 20 MM and 30 Cal. guns.
24. Damage to target by gun fire:
One plane destroyed by gun fire this ship.
A second plane destroyed by combined gun fire this ship and U.S.S. Agenor.
25. Performance of ammunition excellent.
26. Pattern sizes large.
27. One enemy aircraft, identified by spotters as Mitsubishi type 97 - "Kate", destroyed by action this ship at distance of three hundred (300) yards; destruction observed by following ship's officers:

Lieutenant W. BYRON, U.S.N., Commanding.
Ensign JOEL H. GRIFFIN, USNR., Gunnery Officer.

Second enemy aircraft of type as above identified destroyed by combined action this ship and the U.S.S. Agenor; destruction observed by Lieutenant L.L. BUTLER, USNR., Executive Officer, this ship.

28. Sketch attached.
29. Report by Executive Officer attached.

W. Byron
W. BYRON,
Commanding.

Authority: E.O. 13526
By: NDC **NARA Date:** Dec 31, 2012

LST 123

U.S.S. AGENOR

L.C.I. 468

45° R.

FIRST TORPEDOE LAUNCHED

SECOND TORPEDOE LAUNCHED

580 YDS.

185 YDS.

C. 142°

5.00 KNOTS

N

SUN 290° 1755

W

E

142°

S

0 100 200 300 400 500 600

SCALE OF DISTANCE IN YARDS

* BLACK INDICATES POSITION WHEN FIRST TORPEDOE WAS LAUNCHED.

RED INDICATES POSITION WHEN SECOND TORPEDOE WAS LAUNCHED.

LST 123 17 JUN 1944 27

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

U.S.S. L.S.T. 123
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

17 June 1944

From: The Executive Officer.
To: The Commanding Officer.

Subject: After Battle Report.

Reference: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920, Article 948.

1. Pursuant to requirements of Reference (a), the following report is respectfully made.

2. At or about 1753 (-10 ZD), this date, a radio communication was received from the U.S.S. Stemble stating that enemy planes had been picked up, by radar, at a distance of twenty five (25) miles. You immediately sighted two planes at a distance of about five (5) miles, bearing about eighty (80) degrees relative (we were on course one hundred forty two (142) degrees True, speed eight (8) knots). The General Alarm was sounded and all hands manned their battle stations in record time - all guns were manned and the ship cleared for action by 1755. By this time, a third plane was sighted and all three were identified as enemy torpedo planes. One of the planes began a low run bound directly for this ship and at a distance of about three hundred (300) yards and altitude of about twenty five (25) feet launched its torpedo on a line of bearing of about forty seven (47) degrees relative this ship and directed at this ship. The torpedo rode the surface and appeared to maintain a straight course. Both the LCI-468 and this ship were in direct line of the torpedo, with the LCI-468 intervening us and the torpedo. The torpedo hit the starboard bow of the LCI-468; there was an explosion, lifting the bow of the LCI-468 out of the water and carrying it away. Our forward battery opened fire on this attacking plane without successful effect, although a number of rounds were observed to have entered the fuselage - this plane escaped.

At about 1757 a second enemy plane initiated its run off our starboard bow at a distance of about one thousand (1000) yards. We withheld our fire so as not to endanger intervening ships. Torpedo was launched at about two hundred-fifty (250) yards off our starboard bow at an altitude of thirty (30) feet; torpedo rode the surface and maintained a steady course. I observed the bearing on the torpedo to be changing very rapidly; the torpedo crossed our bow at a distance of about sixty five (65) yards and maintaining its course skirted the stern of the U.S.S. Agenor at a distance of about eighty five (85) yards (Agenor apparently increased her speed as much smoke was observed to issue from her exhausts).

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

U.S.S. L.S.T. 123
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

17 June 1944

Subject: After Battle Report.

We opened fire on this plane immediately after it launched its torpedo. No effective hits were observed until after the plane had started its climb with a banking to starboard, presenting its belly to us, and crossed forward of our ship. Ensign Joel H. Griffin, Gunnery Officer, confirms your statement that six (6) 40MM tracers, from our No. 1 40MM, were observed to enter the port side of the plane at the junction of the wing with the fuselage and that smoke, immediately followed by flame, did result. This burning plane fell into the sea at a distance of about one thousand (1000) yards off our port bow. Upon being hit, the pilot leveled the plane; no one was observed to have escaped from the plane.

During above action, a third plane began a run toward the formation from a distance of about one thousand (1000) yards and bearing about three hundred-thirty (330) degrees relative from this ship. The U.S.S. Agenor opened fire and our after port battery opened fire at a range of six hundred (600) yards the plane banked sharply to starboard. Both our No. 4 and No. 6 20MMs were putting tracer into the cockpit area of the plane. The stern and after-port guns of the U.S.S. Agenor appeared to be bearing directly on the target when this plane began smoking prior to its plunge into the sea at a distance of about one thousand four hundred (1400) yards off our port quarter.

3. We claim the sole and complete destruction of one enemy plane by action of our No. 1 - 40MM gun. We claim joint destruction of a second enemy plane by combined action of this ship's No. 4 and No. 6 - 20MM guns and the guns of the U.S.S. Agenor.

4. Witnesses:

As to plane destroyed by sole action this ship:

Lt. W. BYRON, USN., Commanding Officer, U.S.S. L.S.T. 123.
Ens. Joel H. GRIFFIN, Gunnery Officer, U.S.S. L.S.T. 123.

As to plane destroyed by joint action:

Lt. L.L. BUTLER, USNR., Executive Officer, U.S.S. L.S.T. 123.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

U.S.S. L.S.T. 123
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

17 June 1944

Subject: After Battle Report.

5. Following number of guns fired and ammunition expended:

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Number of Guns</u>	<u>Rounds expended</u>
40 MM	7	77
20 MM	12	859
50 Cal.	2	10
30 Cal.	5	455

6. Percent of service allowance expended:

1.104% of 20 MM expended.
.45 % of 40 MM expended.

7. Only two of deck 20 MM guns opened fire and these without effect. Due to the low flying altitude of the planes, the pointers' vision was blocked by the pontoon barges mounted along the sides of the ship.

8. There were no casualties.

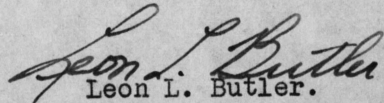
9. The performance of ammunition was good.

10. Performance of gun crews was good.
The 1st. Loader on No. 1 - 40MM is not emotionally well suited to that station and will be replaced immediately.

11. The repair parties served very well in the clipping rooms.

12. In view of the fact that this is the first action engaged in by this ship, I am particularly well pleased with the performance rendered by all hands. It is believed that the gun crews have profited greatly by the experience gained in this action and all targets will be sufficiently well lead in the future.

Respectfully submitted,


Leon I. Butler.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LSTFLOT5/A16-3
Serial 00147.

L.S.T. FLOTILLA FIVE
THIRD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
Office of the Commander

(cwb)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California,

S-E-C-R-E-T

5 July 1944.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
C.O., U.S.S. LST 123,
Action Report of 17
June 1944.

From: Commander Task Group 53.16 (Captain G. B.
Carter, U.S. Navy, Commander L.S.T. Flotilla
FIVE).
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Task Force 53.
(2) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific
Fleet.

Subject: Action Report.

1. Forwarded.

2. The request contained in paragraph 27 of basic report for credit for destruction of enemy planes by U.S.S. LST 123 cannot be allowed, but credit for their destruction is assigned to the whole convoy. Undoubtedly the splendid battery performance of LST 123 contributed in no small measure towards the destruction of these planes and the Group Commander congratulates the LST 123 for excellent performance of duty while under fire as indicated in paragraph 12 of the Executive Officer's report.

G. B. Carter
G. B. Carter

Copy to -
C.O., U.S.S. LST 123.

11 705

31

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC **NARA Date:** Dec 31, 2012

FILE NO. A16-3

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

13748
90/fps

SERIAL No. 00372

S-E-C-R-E-T

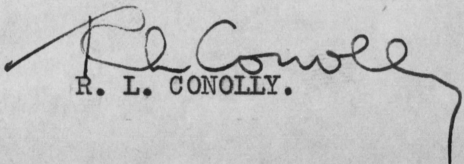
14 September 1944.

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to
CO, USS LST-123 Action
Report of 17 June 1944.

From: Commander Group THREE, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet,
(Commander Task Force FIFTY-THREE).
To : Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet,
(Commander Task Force FIFTY-ONE).
(2) Commander FIFTH Fleet, (Commander Task Force FIFTY).

Subject: Action Report of 17 June 1944.

1. Forwarded, concurring in the comments contained in the first endorsement.


R. L. CONOLLY.

Copy to:
ComLSTFlot-5.
CO, USS LST-123.

11 705

32'

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

OM-28963

CAF/A16-3(3)

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

90/Sy

Serial: 00896

4298

S-E-C-R-E-T

20 SEP 1944

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to
CO, USS LST-123 Action
Report of 17 June 1944.

From: Commander Amphibious Forces, U. S. Pacific
Fleet.
To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander FIFTH Fleet.
Subject: Action Report of 17 June 1944.
1. Forwarded.

W C Mott
W. C. MOTT,
By direction.

4298

11 705

33

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

ComFIFTHFleet File

A16-3(18-A)

COMMANDER FIFTH FLEET
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
FLAGSHIP OF THE COMMANDER

Serial: 00616

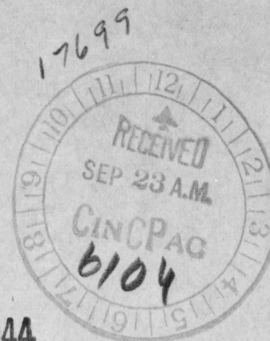
SECRET
SECRET

23 SEP 1944

FOURTH ENDORSEMENT to
CO, USS LST - 123 ACA
Form, dated 17 June 1944.

From: Commander FIFTH Fleet.
To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Action Report of 17 June 1944.
1. Forwarded.

A. C. Davis
A. C. DAVIS,
Chief of Staff.



11 705

ENCLOSURE JJJJJJJ

34

