FE25/A16-3 Serial No. 29-44 LCT GROUP 23, FLOTILIA EIGHT c/o FIET POST OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. 16 June 1944 Action Report, Biak Island, Netherlands New Guinea, Subject: May 27 - June 12, 1944. At 0830, 29 May, five (5) enemy fighters (Zekes) dived over beach and ICT's from northeast, bombing and strafing. Gun watches immediately opened up, along with beach, and three (3) planes were shot down in flames. LCT's 397, 260, 391, among others, were seen to contribute to the destruction of two (2) planes. At 1400, ICT 257 was dispatched to Parai Jetty to take off elements of the 41st Division cut off by the enemy in that vicinity. Despite mortar fire, Lt. (jg) M. A. Evans maneuvered his craft into the narrow channel and took off five (5) jeeps, two (2) anti-tank guns, and about ninety-five (95) men. The LCT received one hit, damaging the ramp engine and wounding one man. On 30 May, ICT's were engaged in transporting gasoline to storage dumps on Owi Island. Upon departure of IST convoy at 1700, three (3) enemy fighter-bombers passed over the convoy with unobservel results. One fighter passed through all anti-aircraft fire of beach and ICT's without damage, and was apparently shot down by a patrolling destroyer about five (5) miles to westward. 31 May, frequent general quarters throughout the night. At 2300 enemy planes dropped parachute flares from medium altitude. Flares were shot out by anti-sircraft. One plane attempted to strafe beach, and was shot down in flames. June 2, ICT's 259 and 248 arrived from Hollandia, At 1615, fifteen (15) Zero fighter-bombers came in low over beach from north, bombing and strafing. Four were immediately shot down by shore and ship anti-aircraft, of which ICT's contributed to the destruction of two (2). Approximately one-half hour later, while ICT's were still at general quarters, six (6) more fighters approached from the same direction. Two (2) of these were shot down in flames by LCT's 259, 397. 166 and 257, with other ICT's contributing. Beach shot down one more, plus one probable. Pilot of plane destroyed by 259 and 397 was captured by 397 and delivered to naval intelligence for questioning. Two casualties, ICT 248 and 391. June 3. At 1100, while engaged in transporting troops and supplies to Owi Island, were attacked by an undetermined number of Zeros, (belived to be 11). ICT 248 loading at jetty suffered a near miss, with two (2) casualties. In the same action the USS Reid (DD369) suffered damage and casualties from a near miss while patrolling outside the harbor. No planes destroyed by ICT's. June 4. Ordered to cease unloading at 1400 because of enemy task force in vicinity. Issued orders to disperse widely in event of attack. At 21.00 our own task force arrived in Jafen Strait. Alerts and bombings continued throughout night, and at about 0130 the following morning, task force fired on an enemy plane which dropped bombs in vicinity. Two planes were knocked down during night by 90 mm. A-A. 9 0110 m 3 m LCT GROUP 23, FLOTILLA EIGHT c/o FLEET POST OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

16 June 1944

Subject:

Action Report, Biak Island, Netherlands New Guinea, May 27 - June 12, 1944.

- The performance of all ordnance was good. One 20 mm. failure was encountered, due to an explosion in the chamber which damaged breech block, barrel and other mechanisms beyond repair. The echelon expended 15,758 rounds of 20 mm., 19,785 rounds of 50 calibre, and 4,290 of 30 calibre. Twenty millimeter magazines were loaded with one HET and 2 HEI. This combination seemed particularly effective, for all planes shot down crashed in flames.
- Following battle damage was suffered: LCT 392 strafed and lightly damaged, including one 50 calibre gun destroyed. LCT 248, near miss on port side, shrapnel holes above and below water line, with no damage to machinery. LCT 257, mortar shell through starboard bow, ramp engine temporarily disabled. In addition, LCT's 359, 391 and 392 were each holed in several compartments in the original assault beaching.
- 27. Because of the volume of anti-aircraft fire, it is not possible to assign definite credit for most planes to either shore or ships afloat. However, during the period covered twenty-seven (27) enemy planes were seen to crash in the Bosnek area, and of these, the LCT's of this echelon contributed to the destruction of eleven (11). Two of the eleven (11) were definitely shot down by LCT's when no other units were firing.
- 28. ICT's were hampered throughout the operation by lack of allowed communication equipment. The standard TCS radio allowed for ICT's has as yet been provided for only two (2) craft in this group. For makeshift radio communication, Army SCR 300 radios were used. Visual signalling was also hampered by the lack of the allowed 12" signal searchlights. Only four (4) Group 23 ships have been equipped with this light, although many of the ships have been operating in combat area for six to ten months. It is recommended that all ICT's operating in this area be provided with this equipment.
- 29. It is recommended that a pharmacist mate be placed aboard each ICT engaged in a combat operation of this type. There was always a considerable delay before wounded could be brought to the ship carrying the one doctor provided the echelon.
 - 30. Casualties were as follows, all wounded:

LCT	392	eno	EASTLAND, S. Jr.	257477	Ensign, D-V(S), USNR.
84	392	4200	BAILEY, William H.	287 58 60	GM2/c, USN.
90	392		MILLER, Richard A.	638 81 01	Cox., V-6, USNR.
			CARON, Herbert (x)	212 7926	5½ USN

LCT GROUP 23, FLOTILLA EIGHT c/o FLEET POST OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

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LCT	391	***	BEACH, Rex Castle	368 58 20	GM2/c, USN.
88	248		BUSCHOW, Raymond C.	614 86 11	SC3/c, V-6 USNR
98	248	630	CARLSON, Raymond A.	639 14 80	SCI/c, V-6 USNR
**	248	400	DE GRAZIO, Frank A. Jr.	810 15 70	GM3/c V-6(SV) USNR
88	257	GED .	LYMAN, Ross M.	664 89 50	MoNNI/c, V-6 USNR

31. The behavior of all hands was exemplary. Without rest and often in imminent personal danger, they carried out orders willingly and well, in the highest tradition of the naval service. It is a privilege to command these men.

J. R. GREGORY

cc Direct to CINCUS

ANTER AUTION DY SURFACE SHIPS

tion of ship Biak Island U.S.S. LCT(5) 397
Date 27 May (1435) 1944
REPEL ATTACK FIRST Then Collect data for this report!
Do not "gun deck" this report if data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for which no data is available.
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.
Surprise attack (yes or no) Yes
Method of picking up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Naked Eye
Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles) less 5 miles .
Number ofplanes <u>five</u>
Type of plane (Fighter, scout, divebomber) 3 Zeros Type of attack Strafing
Speed & altitude (High and fast, intermediate and fast, low and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow) low and fast
Guns firing All Size 20 MM 50 Cal. 30 Callumber 7
Method of control visual Method Spotting direct Ammunition expended 900 rds (500 rds 50 Cal - 400 rds 20 MM)
Percent service allowance expended 5%
Approximate time tracking to first shot 3 seconds
Approximate time of first hits 5 seconds
Approximate time first shot to last shot Three minutes
Approximate position angle open fire 15°
Approximate position cease fire 175°

15.	Approximate position first shot 75°
16.	Approximate bearing last shot 180°
1.7.	Approximate range first shot 2000 yds.
18.	Approximate range last shot 2000 yds.
19.	Approximate altitude bomb release None Type bomb
20.	Approximate range torpedo release Size Torpedo
21.	Hits on ship None Was ship strafed No Size Gun
22.	Number bomb near misses Casualties from near misses
23.	Planes shot downSure 5 Possible Damage
	By what size gun By beach ack-ack & other ships - none by us
24.	Details of damage to target by gunfire if available very minor
	personnel damage.
25.	Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad and poor) Excellent
26.	Pattern sizes (Large, small excessive) Large

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ANT - AIRCHAFT ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

Loca	tion of ship Biak Island U.S.S. LCT(5) #397				
	Date 29 May (0315) 1944				
(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 of picking up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Naked Eye				
3.	Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles) less 5 miles.				
4.	Number ofplanes 2				
5.	Type of plane (Fighter, scout, divebomber) Lily Bombers Type of attack				
6.	Speed & altitude (High and fast, intermediate and fast, low and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow) Intermediate & fast				
7.	Guns firing All Size 2 30 Cal. Size 2 30 Cal. Number 7				
3.	Method of control direct Method Spotting direct Ammunition expended 700 rds.				
9.	Percent service allowance expended 5%				
10.	Approximate time tracking to first shot 3 seconds				
11.	Approximate time of first hits 10 seconds				
12.	Approximate time first shot to last shot 20 seconds				
	Approximate position angle open fire 50°				
14.	Approximate position cease fire 5°				

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15.	Approximate position first shot	100	rato-etrenomina-tionamoninale-aprima parametri-renomina-remagnae
16.	Approximate bearing last shot	850	Tayou-fema veditos vennistra (Chique dina in-digermentale un-institue anticonstitue ventero digerator
17.	Approximate range first shot	1500 yds.	
18.	Approximate range last shot	2000 yds.	
19.	Approximate altitude bomb release		Type bomb
20.	Approximate range torpedo release		Size Torpedo
21.	Hits on ship None Was ship str	afed No	Size Gun
22.	Number bomb near misses	Casualties	from near misses-
23.	Planes shot downSure 2 Po	ssible	
	By what size gun	By beach ack	ack
	Details of damage to target by gur parachute flares over target. Ker quickly.		
	Performance of ammunition (Excelle	nt, good, ba	d and poor) Excellent
26.	Pattern sizes (Large, small excess	ive) Large	then small

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Loca	ation of ship Biak Island	U.S.S. ICT 397				
		Dete 29 May (0825)				
(a)	REPEL ATTACK FIRST Then Collect data for this reports					
(b)	Do not "gun deck" this report- if data cannot be estimated with reasonable accuracy enter dark in space for which no data is evailable.					
(c)	with data aveilablefrom ship's lon, officers, information is assoubled our equipment can be determined. "	taining of this arelounation must not				
1	Surprise attack (yes or no) Yes					
2.	Method of picking up (Radar, binocu	lars, naked eye) Naked Eye				
3.	Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles) less 5 miles .					
4.	Number ofplanes 4					
5.	Type of plane (Fighter, scout, dive of attack Strafing	bomber)Zero fighters Type				
6.	Speed & altitude (High and fast, in high and slow, intermediate and slow	termediate and fast, low and fast, w. low and slow) Iow and fast 20 MM 3 - 50 Cal.				
	Guns firing All Size 2 Method of control Direct Ammunition expended 1200 Rds.	- 30 Cal. Number 7 Method Soctoing Direct				
9.	Percent service allowance expanded	22				
10.	Approximate time tracking to first	shet 2 seconds				
11.	Approximate time of first hits	4 seconds				
12.	Approximate time first shot to last	shot Three minutes				
	Approximate position angle open fir	300°				
14.	Approximate position cease fire					

15	Approximate position first shot	750	
	Approximate bearing last shot	1650	
		2000 yds.	
		2000 yds.	
	Approximate altitude bomb release -		Type bomb
	Approximate range torpedo release		Size Torpedo = = =
	Hits on ship None Was ship straf		Size Gun -
			om near missos
		ible	Damage
	By what size gun	20 MM	
	Details of damage to target by gunfi and received credit for one zero whi sea. Minor strafing to personnel or	re if availa	down overhead & crashed into
25.	Performance of ammunition (Excellent	good, bad	and poor) Excellent
26.	Pattern sizes (Large, small excessiv	small.	

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AND ALECTAPE ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS

Loca	tion of ship Biak Island U.S.S. LCT 397
	Date 30 May (1815) 19/4
(a)	REPEL ATTACK FIRST Then Collect data for this report!
(b)	Do not "gun deck" this reportif 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 of picking up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Naked Eye
3.	Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles) less 5 miles.
4.	Number of planes two or three
5.	Type of plane (Fighter, scout, divebomber) Zero Fighters Type of attack strafing
6.	Speed & altitude (High and fast, intermediate and fast, low and fast, high and slow, intermediate and slow, low and slow) Intermediate & fast 2 - 20 MM 3 - 50 Cal.
7.	Guns firing All Size 2 30 Cal Number 7
8.	Method of control direct Method Spotting direct Ammunition expended 1500 rds
9.	Percent service allowance expended 10 %
10.	Approximate time tracking to first shot 5 seconds
	Approximate time of first hits . 7 seconds
12.	Approximate time first shot to last shot 4 minutes
13.	Approximate position angle open fire 30°
14.	Approximate position cease fire 3000

	pproximate position angle compairing
	Approximate position first shot 10
	Approximate range first shot 2000 yds.
	Approximate range last shot 2000 yds.
19.	Approximate altitude bomb release Type bomb
20.	Approximate range torpedo release Size Torpedo
21.	Hits on ship None Was ship strafed No Size Gun
22.	Number bomb near misses Casualties from near misses
23.	Planes shot downSure 2 Possible Damage
	By what size gun Impossible to say
24.	Details of damage to target by gunfire if available LCT 397's fire heavily damaged one zero which crashed into sea from our fire. This was later confirmed by Army personnel aboard during attack.
25.	Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad and poor) Excellent
26.71	Pattern sizes (Large, small excessive) Small
* ***	proximate position angle open fire
•	proximate time first shot to lest shot
	DOSCONTERNOS EL DE OTTUBBLE DE LA CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRA
	proximate time tracking to First shot

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ANTERSATIONATE ACTION DY SURFACE SHIFS

Loca	ation of ship Biak Island U	.S.S. ICT(5) 397				
	D	ate 2 June (1830)				
(a)	REPEL ATTACK FIRSTThen Collect data for	this report!				
(b)	Do not "gun deck" this reportif data can reasonable accuracy enter dash in space for					
(c) These sheets are to be filled out immediately after action is comwith data available from ship's log, memory, and consultation with officers. Information is essential in order that the effectivene our equipment can be determined. Where data is of doubtful accuration in with general terms. The obtaining of this information must be allowed in any way to adversely affect the handling of equipment during action.						
	Surprise attack (yes or no) Yes					
2.	Method of picking up (Radar, binoculars, na	Method of picking up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye) Naked Eye				
3.	Range plane was picked up (50 miles, 30 miles, 10 miles, less 5 miles) less 5 miles .					
4.	Number ofplanes 15					
5.	Type of plane (Fighter, scout, divebomber) of attack Strafing and small bombs	Zero Fighters Type				
6.	Speed & altitude (High and fast, intermedia high and slow, intermediate and slow, low a	te and fast, low and fast, nd slow) High and fast, later 3 50 Callow and fast				
7.	Guns firing All Size 2 - 30 Ca	1. Number 7				
3.	Method of control Direct Method Ammunition expended 1400 rds.	Spotting Direct				
) .	Percent service allowance expended 15%					
LO.	Approximate time tracking to first shot 5	seconds				
11.	Approximate time of first hits7	seconds				
12.	Approximate time first shot to last shot 2	minutes				
13.	Approximate position angle open fire	150				
14.	Approximate position cease fire	300°				

15.	Approximate position first shot 10°
16.	Approximate bearing last shot 140°
17.	Approximate range first shot 1500 yds.
18.	Approximate range last shot 75 yds.
19.	Approximate altitude bomb release Type bomb
20.	Approximate range torpedo release Size Torpedo
21.	Hits on ship None Was ship strafed No Size Gun
22.	Number bomb near misses Casualties from near misses
23.	Planes shot downSure 10 Possible Damage
	By what size gun 20 MM & 50 Cal. Two planes (Zeros) by LCT 39's one by port 50 cal. & one by starboard 20 MM Details of damage to target by gunfire if available Two planes (Zeros) both hit in belly and daught fire and crashed into sea very close. One enemy pilot captured from water by ICT 397.
25.	Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad and poor) Excellent
26.	Pattern sizes (Large, small excessive) Small

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ENCLOSURE (B) 2.2 ERO SHORE A-A

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File No. FE25/A16-3
Serial No.

SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on: Com LCT Grp 23 conf. ltr., serial 29-44 of 16 June, 1944. 4 AUG1944

From:

Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

(Deputy Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force)

To:

Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Via:

Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject:

Action Report, Commander LCT Group TWENTY-

THREE - BIAK Operation.

Reference:

(a) CominCh restr. ltr., serial 7152 of 29

Oct., 1943.

(b) Com7thPhib secret ltr., serial 0015 of 10 June, 1944.

1.

Forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

- LCTs enumerated in the basic letter performed their assigned tasks in an outstanding manner and contributed materially to the success of the BIAK Operation. Their services were invaluable in negotiating the coral studded landing areas and in shuttling equipment from LSTs.
- The performance of these craft under air attacks related in the basic letter, their contribution to the destruction of enemy aircraft, and their behavior generally under trying conditions of continuous heavy duty are exceedingly commendable and a tribute to the initiative, courage, and zeal of the officers and men who man these craft.
- A full account of the BIAK Operation including comments and recommendations on specific phases of the action was forwarded by reference (b)

W. M. FECHTELER

Copy to:

Com LCT Flotillas

Com LCT Flot

Com LCT Grp 23.

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