

USS LCT(6) GROUP 66
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

FE25/A16

ELH: by

CONFIDENTIAL

18 February 1945

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander, Task Unit 78.3.3.
(2) Commander, Task Group 78.3.
(3) Commander, Task Force 78.
(4) Commander, Seventh Fleet.

Subject: Action Report - Bataan-Corregidor Operation.

Reference: (a) Article 874(6), U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.
(b) Com7thPhib Conf. ltr. of 17 Feb 1944, Serial 0212.

1. a. LCT's 1071, 1068, 1076, and 722 were designated to land at Orange Beach, Mariveles, as Wave Seven on D-day, H-hour plus twenty-eight minutes. LCT's 724 and 729 were designated to land at Black Beach, Corregidor, on D plus 1 day, H-hour plus 148 minutes, as Wave No. 6.
- b. Loading was completed at Rifle Range Beach, Subic Bay, and LCT's joined convoy leaving Subic in time to arrive at transport area at objective at H minus 1 hours on D-day.
- c. At H-hour minus 15 minutes LCT's 1071, 1068, 1076, and 722 proceeded in column from the transport area, on the line of approach. At reference vessel PC 1119 Nine Corpen was executed and immediately afterward Nine Form was also executed. The LCT's were in line when line of departure was reached. The control and reference vessel (PC 1133) immediately directed this wave to the beach. After proceeding about five hundred yards the wave was halted for about twenty-five minutes. The beach was cleared and LCI(R) and LGS were furnishing close fire support on each flank. The LCT's beached, discharged cargo, and returned to transport area. LCT 1068 reports sniper fire during this phase.

X
111212

3 0394

1

2225/A16
HLH: by

USS LCT(6) GROUP 66
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

18 February 1945

Subject: Action Report - Bataan-Corregidor Operation.

d. After beachhead was secured, all LCT's were ordered into Mariveles Harbor to render possible unloading assistance to LST's. While enroute, ineffective sniper fire was encountered, possibly from Rocky Cochinos Point. The LCT's anchored well into the harbor, about four hundred yards from beachhead.

e. On or about 0300 of D plus 1 day heavy fire of forty and twenty millimeter guns was observed at mouth of harbor. Two or three fires were seen in that vicinity. The gunfire was low and several rounds passed very near the LCT's.

f. LCT's were ordered to proceed out of harbor on course 180° and then come to 270° at La Monja Island. While proceeding from harbor many swimmers were heard and seen in the water. These were at first thought to be enemy, but were quickly proved to be survivors from friendly vessels. Permission was obtained to delay and pick up these survivors.

g. Each LCT began searching and taking aboard every survivor that could possibly be found. Calls from wounded were coming from every quarter. The LCT Skippers did a fine job of ship handling in and around Palamento Rocks and particularly in approaching personnel in the water. Many of the survivors were seriously burned and wounded and it is believed that some of these men would have either drowned or died of exposure had they not been rescued by the LCT's. Several trips were made to the hospital ships LST 667 and LST 613 to transfer the survivors. The rescue operation during darkness was carried out under hazardous conditions since Q-Boat attacks at that time were considered probable. At about 0830 LCT's 724 and 729 proceeded with the Corregidor attack group as per plan and LCT's 1071, 1068, 1076, and 722 continued search for casualties until afternoon of D plus 1 day. During the rescue period the LCT's picked up one hundred ten survivors in the water and on the rocks, delivering them to LST's 613, 667, and 632. Some survivors were transferred to PT Boat 361 for transportation to medical aid.

USS LCT(6) GROUP 66
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

FM25/A16

RMH:by

CONFIDENTIAL

18 February 1945

Subject: Action Report - Bataan-Corregidor Operation.

h. LCT's 724 and 729 proceeded with Corregidor attack group. These craft had already been loaded at Subic Bay and at Mariveles took on additional personnel only. Upon arrival at objective area, these LCT's stood by to be dispatched as the entire Sixth Wave. On two occasions they were sent to the beach by control vessel but both times because of heavy fire, they were ordered to return to line of departure. On the third attempt the LCT's proceeded the entire distance and beached. During this time they were subjected to machine gun fire coming from the vicinity of Ramsay Ravine. A number of hits were sustained on the craft and fire was returned by both twenty millimeter and .50 caliber automatic weapons. At or about the time the LCT 729 beached, the officer-in-charge, Ensign H. E. Kennedy, and Middleton, B. H., Seaman First Class, were hit by enemy fire, the latter being killed instantly. Ensign Kennedy died while being transferred to medical aid. Ensign Carleton Rutledge, Junior, immediately assumed command. Unloading began and continued for about three hours, since about one-half of load was bulk. Both craft retracted and returned to Mariveles Harbor.

i. The six LCT's joined convoy destined for Subic Bay, arriving early on morning of D plus two days.

2. D-Day - February 15, 1945

0130 - Underway in convoy from Subic Bay.
0800 - Arrived in transport area at objective.
0945 - LCT's 1071, 1068, 1076, and 722 formed column and departed transport area.
1000 - Craft formed in line.
1010 - Ordered to beach by control vessel at line of departure.
1015 - Wave No. 7 halted by control vessel and ordered to lay to.
1040 - Ordered to proceed to Orange Beach.
1050 - Beached at Orange Beach and discharged cargo.
1101 - Retracted from beach and proceeded to transport area.
1200 - Arrived transport area and layed to.
1545 - Proceeded to Mariveles Harbor.
1634 - Anchored about four hundred yards south of beachhead.

3 0394

USS LCT(6) GROUP 66
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

FE25/A16
ELH:by

CONFIDENTIAL

18 February 1945

Subject: Action Report - Bataan-Corregidor Operation.

16 February 1945

- 0315 - Observed surface fire and burning objects at mouth of Mariveles Harbor.
- 0405 - Ordered to depart Mariveles Harbor.
- 0415 - Underway to depart Mariveles Harbor.
- 0430 - Commenced picking up survivors.
- 0850 - LCT 724 and LCT 729 joined Corregidor assault convoy.
- 1030 - LCT 724 and LCT 729 dispatched at 1030 by control vessel as entire Sixth Wave for assault on Black Beach, Corregidor Island.
- 1035 - The Sixth Wave was ordered to stop.
- 1140 - The Sixth Wave ordered to proceed to Black Beach.
- 1145 - The Sixth Wave was ordered to stop.
- 1255 - The Sixth Wave ordered to proceed to Black Beach.
- 1310 - Sixth Wave beached on Black Beach. On LCT 729 the officer-in-charge and helmsman were hit by enemy sniper fire.
- 1311 - Unloading began.
- 1330 - LCT's 1071, 1068, 1076, 722 completed rescue operations at Mariveles Harbor.
- 1615 - Unloading completed. LCT's 724 and 729 retracted.
- 1755 - LCT's 724 and 729 joined other LCT's at Mariveles Harbor.
All LCT's joined convoy en route to Subic Bay.

17 February 1945

- 0001 - Arrived Subic Bay.
- 0015 - Anchored Subic Bay.

3. Ammunition expended - 175 rounds 20mm. 211 rounds .50 caliber.
Ordnance casualties - one jam in 1 .50 caliber, trigger failure on 1 20mm. gun.
4. Battle damage was slight consisting of a few small caliber bullet holes above water line. During rescue operations, LCT 1076 suffered three small holes at water line.
5. The LCT's were particularly adaptable to rescue operations in and around Palomoto Rocks by virtue of shallow draft.

34

USS LCT(6) GROUP 66
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Reg. No. 31
R. S. No. 3 0394

FE25/A16
ELH:by

18 February 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Action Report - Bataan-Corregidor Operation.

6. a. Personnel handled themselves well and courageously under fire, and in the rescue operations during darkness on morning of 16 February 1945 in the mouth of Mariveles Harbor.

b. Casualties as follows:

Ensign Harry Elmo KENNEDY, USNR - 335022 -
Died of Wounds or Injuries Received in Action.

Amber

MIDDLETON, Benjamin Howard, 936 15 75, S1e, USNR -
Killed in Action.

7. Commander, USS LCT(6) Group 66 in U.S. LCT(6) 1071.

E. L. HUIE

Copy to:
ComInCh, U.S. Fleet
(Direct)

102 MAR 2 11 55

RECEIVED
12 FEB 1945
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

LST GROUP SIXTY-FIVE

LSTFlot22/A16-3
Serial: 06

20 February 1945.

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

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
Comdr. LCT(6) Gr. 66
ltr fire FE25/A16 ELH:by
dated 18 February 1945.

From: Commander Task Unit 78.3.3.
(Commander LST Group SIXTY-FIVE)
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Task Group 78.3.
(2) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force.
(3) Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
Subject: Action Report - Bataan-Corregidor Operation.

1. Forwarded.
2. The six LCT's, under the immediate command of Commander LCT(6) Group SIXTY-SIXTY, performed their assignments in the face of the enemy in a commendable manner.
3. The operations described herein are also covered in detail in the action report submitted by Commander Task Unit 78.3.3 for the entire Task Unit 78.3.3 (LST Flot. 22 serial 05).

H. R. CARSON

C O P Y

ENCLOSURE A