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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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

FE25/A12
ELH:by

27 January 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, December, 1944.
Reference: (a) Com7thPhib Restricted ltr FE25/A12-1/A16-3(3)
Serial: 35 dated 4 January 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), the following War Diary for this command is submitted:

- 1 December 1944: WAR DIARY of USS LCT(6) GROUP 66, Flotilla 22, Seventh Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet. Composed of LCT(6)'s 1038, 1039, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076. Flagship of LCT(6) Group 66 - LCT(6) 1071. LCT(6)'s of Group 66 at Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea. LCT(6) 1071 drydocked. Repaired sea chest. Ensign Ralph R. ROMINGER, D-V(G), USNR, reported aboard for duty as Executive Officer, LCT(6) 1073.
- 2 December 1944: LCT's of Group 66 in Jautefa Bay Anchorage off Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea. Spent day installing and tuning SCR-610 radios on ships of Group. LCT's 724, 725, 722, temporarily attached to this command for operational purposes. LCT 1070 in drydock. LCT 1076 alongside ARL2 for welding work (.50 cal. gun mount). LCT 1069 alongside ARL2 for repairs. Transferred LOCKLEAR, Tommie (n), S2c, USNR to Commander LCT Flotilla 22 for duty. Personnel reports for LCT(6) Group 66 completed at 2230 and delivered to ComLCTFlot22 for distribution.
- 3 December 1944: 0800 - LCT's of Group 66 in Jautefa Bay, Dutch New Guinea. LCT 1070 still in drydock. LCT 1076 and LCT 1069 still alongside ARL2. 1235 - LCT's of Group 66 entered LSD's in Humboldt Bay, D.N.G., for transportation; exceptions: 1069, 1070, 1076; substitutions (for operational purposes): 722, 724, 725. Identifying designation of operation plan or order of the immediate superior: ComLCTFlots, 7thPhib Movement Order 71-44 dated 12-3-44. LSD's underway in convoy.

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- 4 December 1944: 0800 - LCT's in LSD's, underway in convoy.
1500 - LCT's off-loaded at Biak, Schouten Islands;
beached at LST Jetty, Biak, and loaded with Army
troops and material.
- 5 December 1944: 0135 - LCT's re-entered LSD's for further trans-
portation.
- 6, 7, 8 December 1944: LSD's underway in convoy.
- 9 December 1944: LCT's in LSD's, underway in convoy, in Leyte Gulf,
Philippine Islands (0800).
0950 - LCT's off-loaded in Leyte Gulf.
1015 - LCT's anchored off beach at Palo.
1150 - LCT's anchored off White beach. Commenced
beaching and unloading operations.
- 10 December 1944: 0645 - LCT's of Group 66 proceeded from Tacloban,
Leyte, P.I., south to Abuyog. Received further
orders at Abuyog and proceeded to Tarragona.
1430 - Anchored off Tarragona. Received assign-
ments for ships and LCT's commenced unloading opera-
tions with ships in Leyte Gulf.
1700 - Enemy aircraft attacked ships in area. LCT
1075, alongside Liberty Ship MARCUS DALY, was hit
by an enemy plane that dived into the side of the
SS MARCUS DALY and was deflected onto the LCT 1075.
Plane crashed on deck of 1075, exploding and set-
ting LCT afire. Casualties: HEIGL, Raymond
Charles, EM3c, USNR - Killed in action; Ensign
James MC CORMICK, D-V(G), USNR, - Wounded (critical);
Ensign Darrell Ingram MAXWELL, D-V(G), USNR - Mis-
sing in action; HAMMOND, Richard Norman, Slc, USNR -
Missing in action; CROWE, Niles (n), S2c, USNR -
Wounded; FITZGERALD, Edward Francis, Flc, USNR -
Wounded; HARGREAVES, Roger Brown, QM3c(T), USNR -
Wounded; HUDZIK, Frank (n), Slc, USNR - Wounded;
KEILING, John James, Slc, USNR - Wounded; LAGATTUTA,
Salvatore Frank, SC3c, USNR - Wounded; BROWN, Billy
Warren, Slc, USNR - Wounded; MAHER, Elmer Michael,
Cox, USNR - Wounded; TRICH, Jack Douglas, Flc(MoMM),
USNR - Wounded; THOMPSON, James Lewis, Flc(MoMM),
USNR - Survivor.
Survivors picked up by LCT's 1073 and 1074. LCT
1071 picked up two (2) soldiers who had left SS
MARCUS DALY to avoid being hit by diving plane.
Wounded given emergency treatment aboard LCT 1073, j

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10 December 1944
(Continued):

then transferred to Army hospital facilities ashore for further treatment. LCT 1075 towed to beach, after fire was extinguished. All LCT's in area fired anti-aircraft guns during action. Action reports have been submitted.

11 December 1944: Resumed operations off Tarragona, Leyte, Philippine Islands. Two soldiers, picked up by 1071 as survivors of SS MARCUS DALY, returned to said ship. 1100 - Ensign James MC CORMICK, D-V(G), USNR, wounded in action aboard LCT 1075 on 10 December 1944, died of wounds received in said action. Remains interred by Graves Registration Service. Working party was put aboard LCT 1075 to commence salvage operations.

12 December 1944: LCT's continued unloading operations. Resumed salvage operations on LCT 1075. 1730 - Following enlisted men from LCT 1075 reported back to Group Commander following treatment in Army hospital and were assigned to quarters on other ships of Group 66, and for temporary duty until receipt of orders for disposition: FITZGERALD, Flc; HARGREAVES, QM3c(T); HUDZIK, Slc; KEILING, Slc; LAGATTUTA, SC3c; THOMPSON, Flc(MoMM).

13 December 1944: Continued unloading operations. Made attempt to pull LCT 1075 off beach, using LCT 1071, but unsuccessful. Salvage operations continued. Salvaged material placed aboard LCT 1071.

14 December 1944: Continued unloading operations, and salvage operations on LCT 1075.

15 December 1944: Continued unloading operations. Completed salvage of gear on 1075 insofar as possible with limited facilities at hand. Secured guard on LCT 1075, authority ComLCTFlot7 dispatch 150255 Z of December 1944. Party sent ashore to locate rest of survivors of LCT 1075. Learned that one (1) man (MAHER, Elmer Michael, Cox, USNR) had been evacuated by air. Destination unknown. Other three (3) men had been taken to another Army hospital north of present location of Group 66. (CROWE, BROWN, TRICH).

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Reg. No. 106

R. S. No.

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Subject: War Diary, December, 1944.

16 December 1944 to

26 December 1944, Inclusive: Continued unloading operations, all LCT's working 24-hour schedule.

CROWE returned to duty on 26 December.

BROWN and TRICH have been evacuated. Destination unknown.

27 December 1944: LCT's of Group 66 in anchorage off Tacloban awaiting orders for movement north. Exceptions: 1069, 1070, 1076, 1075. Substitutions: 722, 724, 725, 1063, (for operational purposes).

28 December 1944: LCT's in anchorage.
FITZGERALD, Flc, survivor of LCT 1075, transferred to U.S. Army Hospital Ship MARIGOLD for treatment and disposition. Diagnosis: Perforated eardrum, result of action aboard 1075.

29 December 1944: LCT's in anchorage off Tacloban.

30 December 1944: LCT's in anchorage off Tacloban.
Transferred LAGATTUTA, THOMPSON, HARGREAVES, CROWE, HUDZIK, and KEILING to USS BARNES FFT ComSerFor 7thFlt, Furas, by order SOPA, Philippine Sea Frontier. All survivors of LCT 1075.
Records of TRICH, MAHER, BROWN, evacuees, transferred to LCCO, Leyte Gulf.

31 December 1944: LCT's in anchorage off Tacloban.

E. L. Huie

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