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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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

FE25/A12
ELH:by

21 March 1945

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From: Commander.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, February, 1945.
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 February 1945: 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, 1076. Flagship of LCT(6) Group 66 - U.S. LCT(6) 1071.
LCT's of Group 66 operating in Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Exceptions: LCT 1071 undergoing repairs.
- 2 February 1945: Operating in Lingayen Gulf. LCT 1071 completed repairs, resumed operations.
- 3 February 1945: Ships operating in Lingayen Gulf. LCT's drew dry stores from USS TRIANGULUM (AK102); LCT 1071 was distributor. Stores delivered to 21 LCT's and USS AFe 16.
- 4 - 8 February 1945: Ships operating in Lingayen Gulf. On 6 February, issue of dry provisions was completed, and LCT 1071 resumed operations, unloading ships in Lingayen Gulf.
- 9 February 1945: 0800 - LCT's operating in Lingayen Gulf. 1100 - LCT's 1068, 1071, 1076, together with LCT's 722, 724, 729 (temporarily attached to ComLCTGroup66 for operational purposes) loaded at White Beach #2. Load - LVT's and crews. At 1400, above LCT's formed in convoy formation with LCI's 1022, 612, 982 as column guides; escorts, DE218 and PC470. Task Unit 78.11.20. Movement order of CTG 78.1 reference 081555. Destination: Subic Bay, Luzon.
- 10 February 1945: LCT's above listed underway in convoy formation.
- 11 February 1945: 0800 - Underway in convoy. 0900 - Broke convoy. LCT's formed 180° relative on LCT 1071; proceeded into Subic Bay.

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11 February 1945
(Continued):

1140 - ComLCTGroup66 requested orders from CTG 78.3.
1611 - LCT's proceeded to Subic for refueling. 2200 -
Completed refueling and taking on water.

12 February 1945: 0800 - Anchored in Subic Bay. 1400 - LCT's beached at
Subic and discharged cargoes and passengers. 1630 -
Unloading operations completed. Anchored in Subic Bay.

13 February 1945: LCT's 1068, 1071, 1076, 722, 724, 729 anchored in Subic
Bay.

14 February 1945: 0720 - LCT's weighed anchor and proceeded in column to
Rifle Range Beach, Maquinaya Rifle Range, Subic Bay.
0800 - Began beaching and loading operations. Cargo:
Mobile equipment and bulk cargo, and personnel of 139th
Field Artillery Battalion. 1350 - Loading completed;
proceeded in column to entrance of Subic Bay. 1434 -
Anchored in entrance of Subic Bay.

15 February 1945: 0130 - Weighed anchor and the six LCT's fell into convoy
formation. Convoy consisted of 2 LCT's, 24 LCM's, 6
LCT's, 1 PC. 0200 - Departed from Subic Bay. Movement
order: CTG 78.3 Operation Plan 4-45. 0730 - Arrived
transport area off entrance to Manila Bay. 0908 - LCT's
722, 1068, 1071, 1076 departed transport area in column,
and proceeded to Mariveles Harbor, Bataan. 1050 - Beached
at Mariveles, unloaded. 1054 - Retracted and returned
to transport area. 1630 - All six LCT's anchored in
Mariveles Bay to await further orders from CTU 78.3.3.

16 February 1945: 0315 - Ships in Mariveles Bay attacked by Japanese "Q-
Boats". 0415 - LCT's underway, and helped to pick up
survivors of ships damaged and destroyed. Rescue work
continued until about 1200 by LCT's 722, 1068, 1071,
1076. Survivors rescued totalled 110. Wounded men
transferred to hospital LST's for medical treatment.
None of the LCT's suffered battle damage. LCT's 724
and 729 ceased rescue operations at 0850 to join Corregi-
dor assault group. 1030 - LCT's 724 and 729 were dis-
patched to beach at Corregidor, but were twice ordered
to return to line of departure. On third attempt, beach-
ing was made (1315). Just at moment of beaching, Ensign
Harry E. Kennedy, USNR, Officer-in-Charge LCT(6) 729, and

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16 February 1945
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Middleton, Benjamin H., Sic, USNR, helmsman of LCT(6) 729, were struck by bullets from enemy machine gun. Middleton was instantly killed, and Ensign Kennedy died while an attempt was being made to transport him to medical attention. Ensign Carleton O. Rutledge, Jr., USNR, Executive Officer, LCT 729, assumed duties of Officer-in-Charge. Unloading was completed at 1615, and LCT's 724 and 729 retracted and rejoined other LCT's at Mariveles Harbor. 1755 - All LCT's joined convoy en route to Subic Bay.
(Action Reports covering action in Bataan-Corregidor operation have been submitted by this command.)

17 February 1945: Anchored in Subic Bay.

18 - 22 February 1945: Ships lying at anchor in Subic Bay. Some call was made on their services, to help with unloading ships.

23 February 1945: LCT's 1063, 1067, 1069, 1070, 1072, 1073, 1074 arrived at Subic Bay. LCT 1063 temporarily attached this command for operational purposes. Other LCT's temporarily attached to Group 66: 719, 721, 722, 724, 726, 729, 1209, 1210, 1222, 1255, 1258, 1259, 1262.

24 February 1945: LCT's working for Cruiser Divisions and Destroyer Squadrons - unloading and carrying supplies.

25 February 1945: LCT's under operational command ComLCTGroup66 operating in Subic Bay. 1900 - LCT's 1071, 1067, 1069, 1070, 1074, 719, 721, 726, 1063 formed in column and proceeded to mouth of Subic Bay and anchored.

26 February 1945: 0115 - Above mentioned LCT's formed in convoy. Proceeded to Manila Bay. 1550 - Anchored off Vitas River, in Manila Bay. 1700 - Beaching and unloading operations commenced.

26 - 28 February 1945: During the period from 1550 26 February to the time of departure from Manila Bay at 0751 28 February, it was necessary to maintain double watch at all times. There was a great deal of gunfire to be heard in Manila. Warnings were issued to be on the alert for swimmers or possible small boat attacks. Unloading of LCT's was accomplished as quickly as

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26 - 28 February 1945

(Continued):

possible. It was hampered, however, by the restricted facilities. The unloading was done at Balut Island. The channel could accommodate only three ships at one time. Further, all activity ceased at night, due to the danger of enemy infiltrations.

28 February 1945: 0751 - LCT's formed in convoy for return to Subic Bay.
1943 - Broke column and anchored in Subic Bay at Port Olongapo.

E. L. Huie

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