

DECLASSIFIED

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 February 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commander.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Subject: War Diary, January, 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 January 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, 1075 (at Leyte, Philippine Islands - Battle damage), 1076. Flagship of LCT(6) Group 66 - U.S. LCT(6) 1071. LCT's of Group 66 in anchorage off Tacloban, Leyte Island, Philippine Islands. Exceptions: LCT's 1069, 1070, 1076, 1075. Substitutions (for operational purposes): LCT's 722, 724, 725, 1063. LCT's spent day fueling and taking on water.
- 2 January 1945: LCT's in anchorage off Tacloban. Completed fueling and watering operations. Radiomen checking SCR-610 radios.
- 3 January 1945: LCT's took on cargo of army personnel and equipment, at Palo. 469th Anti-Aircraft Unit.
- 4 January 1945: LCT's, loaded, anchored in San Pedro Bay anchorage, off Leyte Island. 1450 - LCT's in column proceeded to Dulag, Leyte Island. Arrived and anchored off Dulag at 1724.
- 5 January 1945: 0700 - LCT's of Group 66, in company with LCT's of Group 81, fell into formation. Escort - DE's, numbers 585 and 586. Guide of formation - USS APC 16. Commander LCT Flotilla SEVEN Movement Order 1-45. 0730 - Underway in formation.
- 6 January 1945:- LCT's underway in formation. 0620 - Two flashes observed close off bow of USS APC 16, formation guide, reported to be two bombs dropped by single Japanese plane. No damage. /

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6 January 1945

(Continued): 1905 - Japanese plane attacked convoy and was shot down into water off DE 586. No damage to convoy.

7 January 1945: LCT's underway in convoy formation.

8 January 1945: 0800 - Underway in convoy formation.
2315 - Convoy anchored in southeast section of Mangarin Bay, Mindoro, Philippine Islands.

9 January 1945: 0800 - LCT's in anchorage in Mangarin Bay.
1230 - LCT's formed in column and proceeded for oiler anchorage. Commenced taking on fuel and fresh water, and dry provisions, from tankers. Radiomen checked over SCR-610 radios on all ships of Group 66.
1800 - LCT's returned to anchorage.

10 January 1945: 0800 - Anchored in LCT anchorage. LCT's completed fueling and taking on water.
1730 - Transferred LUXTON, Eugene Allen, 851 33 41, EM2c, V6 SV, USNR to AOG5 (USS SUSQUEHANNA) for hospitalization, treatment and disposition.

11 January 1945: 0800 - Anchored in LCT anchorage.
0900 - LCT's fell into formation.
0930 - APC 16 took position as guide of formation. Two DE's, escort. Formation underway. ComLCTFlot7 Movement Order 1-45 dated 1 January 1945.

12 - 13 January 1945: LCT's underway in convoy formation.

14 January 1945: 0500 - Entered Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands.
1050 - Broke convoy.
1245 - LCT's anchored in Lingayen Gulf off San Fabian, Luzon. Commander, Group 66 (Lieut. E. L. HUIE, USNR) received orders from LCCO aboard USS PC 598.
1335 - LCT's of Group 66 proceeded in column to Lingayen.
1530 - LCT's of Group 66 anchored off Lingayen, Luzon.

15 January 1945: LCT's at anchor off Lingayen.

16 January 1945: 0100 - Commenced beaching and unloading operations, discharging cargo of Army personnel and equipment

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16 January 1945

(Continued): brought from Leyte. Unloading completed, LCT's anchored off Lingayen.

17 January 1945: LCT's of Group 66 moved northeast to San Fabian. Commenced operations unloading ships in Lingayen Gulf. Commander, Group 66, operational commander of following LCT's: 722, 724, 725, 1038, 1039, 1063, 1067, 1068, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1272, 1253, 1168, 1271, 1035, 909, 1033, 1024, 733, 732, 731, 734, 735. LCT's 1069, 1070, 1076 in area, operating temporarily under Commander, LCT Group 64.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 January 1945:

During this period, unloading operations were continued. Poor beaching conditions and heavy seas caused considerable minor damage to hulls of LCT's; continuous running of engines while on the beach was necessary in order for LCT's to hold positions, and sand traps on engines filled rapidly; engines took a lot of punishment and required considerable maintenance and repair work. Screws became fouled with hawser and occasionally with anchor cables. Repairs were made "on the run" and LCT's maintained a twenty-four hour schedule throughout period. Commander, LCT Group 66 was temporarily relieved of duties as operational commander of ships in this area by Commander, LCT Group 80 in order to supervise repair work on certain ships of Group 66 (1068, 1071, and 1076) by repair ships, on 29 January 1945, and for administrative work.

E. L. Huie
E. L. HUIE