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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

CTU/78.5.5/A16-3
Serial No. 04

COMMANDER TASK UNIT 78.5.5
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

U.S.S. LST 614, Flagship
21 January 1945

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

From: Commander Task Unit 78.5.5, Commander IST Flotilla EIGHT.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Via : (1) Commander Task Group 78.5., Commander, Amphibious
Group Eight, SEVENTH Fleet.
(2) Commander Task Force 78, Commander, SEVENTH
Amphibious Force.
(3) Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject: Action Report, Luzon Operation, San Fabian Attack Force.

Reference: (a) Art. 762, U. S. Navy Regulations, 1920.
(b) Com7thPhib conf. ltr. FE25/A16-3(3), Serial 0212
dated 17 February 1944.

3 02516

Enclosure: (A) LST Cruising disposition. - p.3

1. This command departed Sansapor, New Guinea on 30 December 1944 in command of Task Unit 78.5.5 with assault troops, equipment and supplies of the Sixth Infantry Division aboard in accordance with CTG 78.5 Movement Order 2-44. O.T.C. was CTG 78.5, Commander, Amphibious Group Eight. Formation was in column of station units, with LST 614, flagship of TU 78.5.5 in station 3.0 080. Cruising disposition of LST station unit was as shown in enclosure (A).

4 January 1945 - (S-5) - Following LSTs joined unit off Leyte, taking station in column on starboard side of formation:
746, 673, 919, 619.

8 January 1945 - 0250 - Task Group was attacked by enemy aircraft.

0334 - O.T.C. gave order to make smoke.

0445 - Enemy plane crashed into port side of LST 912 inflicting slight damage and a few casualties.

0800 - Attacked by three enemy aircraft. Bomb dropped one hundred yards off port beam of LST 614. This unit fired on enemy plane which was later observed to crash into U.S.S. CALLOWAY in transport station unit ahead.

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21 January 1945

Subject: Action Report, Luzon Operation, San Fabian Attack Force.

9 January 1945 - 0625 - On execution of signal "Deploy", LST 614 left formation with LSTs carrying LVTs.

0750 - Anchored in Lingayen Gulf 6200 yards off Blue Beach.

0810 - First wave of LVTs launched.

0850 - Fifth wave of LVTs launched.

1128 - Beached on Blue Beach with LSTs 614, 555, 628, 581, 582, 700, 740, 667, 919, 741, 631, 777. LSTs 628, 581, 582, 555 and 777 launched pontoons. Pontoons were connected to LST on Blue Beach without difficulty.

10 January 1945 - Remainder of LSTs in 78.5.5 Tractor Unit beached. Surf on Blue Beach was too heavy for pontoons and unloading was difficult. LSTs of Blue Beach Unit were ordered to White Beach for unloading.

1805 - Got underway with LSTs 614, 993, 581, 582, 741, 631, 628, 777, 555, and 919. Commander Destroyer Squadron 23, CTU 79.14.3 as O.T.C. en route to Leyte, P.I.

15 January 1945 - Arrived San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I.

2. The launching of LVTs and forming them into waves was accomplished according to plan.

3. The LSTs grounded hard amidships about 100 feet off shore, necessitating the use of pontoon causeways. Sea was calm, with very little surf the first day and early part of the second, during which time the unloading proceeded as fast as trucks could be made available. About 1600 on SUGAR plus one, the surf built up to the extent that pontoons broached and broke away from LSTs.

4. The lack of trucks on SUGAR day to carry the bulk cargo delayed the unloading. Only one LST, the 614, was completely unloaded the first day. Nine LSTs were scheduled to complete unloading on SUGAR day.

O. R. Swigart
O. R. SWIGART

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LST FORMATION IN CRUISING DISPOSITION
OF COMMANDER TASK GROUP 78.5 MOVEMENT ORDER NO. 2-44.

614

581	740	213	694	744	746
582	667	20	569	912	673
555	700	220	993	777	919
712	628	745	1017	910	619
680			126		

NOTE: Column No. 1 did not join formation until arrival at Leyte on S-5.

ENCLOSURE (A).

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AMPHIBIOUS GROUP EIGHT

SEVENTH FLEET

Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, California

File No. FE25/A16-3

Serial No. 022

I-336

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17 FEB 1945

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on:

CTU 78.5.5 conf. ltr.

serial 04 of 21 Jan. 1945

From: Commander Amphibious Group EIGHT, SEVENTH Fleet
To: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet
Via: (1) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force
(2) Commander SEVENTH Fleet

Subj: Action Report, LUZON Operation, San Fabian Attack Force

1. Forwarded. The LSTs under command of Commander LST Flotilla 8, (CTU 78.5.5) were well handled. Landing of LVTs, beaching and unloading were well handled. Unloading was slow due to very unfavorable beaching conditions.

W. M. Fechteler
W. M. FECHTELER.

3 02516

cc:

ComLSTFlot8, (CTU 78.5.5)

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

1042
File FE25/A16-3
Serial: 0402

SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
U.S. Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

A16-3

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24 FEB 1945

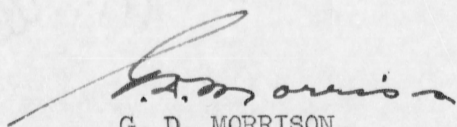
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SECOND ENDORSEMENT on:
CTU 78.5.5 conf. ltr.,
serial 04 of 21 January
1945.

From: Commander Task Force SEVENTY-EIGHT.
(Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force)
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
Subject: Action Report, LUZON Operation, SAN FABIAN
Attack Force.

1. Forwarded.

3 0251G


G. D. MORRISON,
Assistant Chief of Staff,
Operations.

Copy to:
ComPhibGrp 8, 7thFlt.
CTU 78.5.5 (ComLSTF1ot 8)

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

UNITED STATES FLEET
COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET

A16-3(F-3-4/whr)

Serial 02377

142

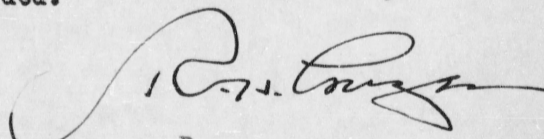
Reg. No.	017-4122 (ONI-03171)
R. S. No.	

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to:
CTO 78.5.5 conf. ltr.,
serial 04 of 21 January
1945.

5 MAR 1945 02516

From: Commander Seventh Fleet.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: Action Report, LUZON Operation, SAN FABIAN
Attack Force.
1. Forwarded.



R. H. CRUZEN,
By direction.

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