

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3
Serial: 09

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (Temp)
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

Reg. No. 756

R. S. No.

2 02117

(rko)

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

Care of Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.
25 January 1945.

From: Commander Task Unit 78.5.1.
(Commander Task Unit 78.5.2)
(Commander Transport Division TWENTY (Temp)).
To : The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Amphibious Group EIGHT, SEVENTH Fleet
(Commander Task Group 78.5)
(2) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force
(Commander Task Force 78)
(3) Commander Allied Naval Forces Southwest
Pacific Area, and Commander SEVENTH Fleet
(Commander Task Force 77)

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
Philippine Islands, in LINGAYEN GULF Area.

Reference: (a) Article 762, U.S. Navy Regs. 1920.
(b) Com7thPhibFor Conf. ltr. ser. 0212 of 2/17/44.
(c) AlNav 215-44.
(d) CTF 78 OpPlan No. 103-44.
(e) CTF 77 OpPlan No. 17-44.
(f) CTG 78.5 Movement Order No. 2-44.
(g) CTD-26 Action Report ser. 0202 of 1/15/45.

Enclosures: (A) Action Report; U.S.S. LEONARD WOOD. -M-ser. 103563
(B) Action Report; U.S.S. PIERCE -M-ser. 103577
(C) Action Report; U.S.S. JAMES O'HARA - *Missing*
(D) Action Report; U.S.S. LA SALLE. - *Missing*
(E) Action Report; U.S.S. ~~LEONARD WOOD~~ *BELLE GROVE*. -M-ser. 104467

1. Subject report is submitted herewith in accordance
with references (a), (b) and (c).

PART I

Brief Summary:

Task Unit 78.5.1 embarked troops of the 6th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, together with their supplies and equipment at SANSAPOR, NEW GUINEA; transported and landed them on BLUE Beach at LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON, P.I., in accordance with references (d), (e) and (f).

105613

- 1 -

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3
Serial: 09

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (Temp)
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

(hjl)

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

25 January 1945

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
Philippine Islands, in LINGAYEN GULF Area.

PART II

Preliminaries:

Task Unit 78.5.1 with Commander Transport Division TWENTY (Temp) as Unit Commander, was formed 14 December 1944, at SANSAPOR NEW GUINEA.

Comprising the Transport Unit of Task Group 78.5 Task Unit 78.5.1 was composed as follows:

TU 78.5.2
(TransDiv 20)

TU 78.5.3
(TransDiv 26)

TU 78.5.4
(TransDiv 32)

LEONARD WOOD (SF)
PIERCE
JAMES O'HARA
LA SALLE
ELECTRA
BELLE GROVE

CALLAWAY (F)
FREMONT (GF)
SUMTER
STORM KING
MONITOR
JUPITER
GUNSTON HALL

BARNSTABLE (F)
BANNER
RIKEY
MERCURY
HERALD OF THE MORNING

These ships remained at anchor at SANSAPOR Anchorage, NEW GUINEA, from 14 December 1944 to 22 December 1944, and embarked troops and supplies of the 6th Infantry Division, U.S. Army. A rehearsal was conducted 23 December in the SANSAPOR Area, after which, ships returned to their former anchorage and troops remained on the beach. Embarkation of the 6th Infantry Division was resumed 26 December and completed 29 December 1944.

With CTG 78.5 (OTC) in FREMONT, Task Unit 78.5.1 (plus the OAK HILL) and other units of the Task Group, got underway from SANSAPOR shortly after 1500 on 30 December, and proceeded along designated routes to LINGAYEN Gulf, LUZON, P.I. The OAK HILL was detached on 4 January 1945 and joined Task Group 78.1.

On the night of 7th January, destroyer pickets of TG 78.5 screen engaged and sank an enemy surface vessel, identified by them as a Japanese Destroyer, approximately seventeen miles from the starboard bow of the formation. 202117

On the same night, enemy snoopers were sighted flying low over the task group, one of which crashed into the LST 912, causing damage. During the next forty-eight hours, the task group was attacked at intervals by single enemy planes. On 8 January, at approximately 0757, a single engine, enemy plane, hit by AA fire, dove into the starboard side of the U.S.S. CALLAWAY.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3
Serial: 09

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (Temp)
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

(hjlw)

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

25 January 1945

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
Philippine Islands, in LINGAYEN GULF Area.

The plane first dropped two bombs; neither of which hit, continued on past the CALLAWAY into the sun, banked sharply, approximately reversing its course and crash-dived into the ship. The plane was on fire prior to its striking the ship.

The efficient and quick manner in which the CALLAWAY put out the fire, never losing station as column leader, and later discharging its duties in the transport area with one hundred per cent efficiency, is considered an outstanding performance. Consider this to be particularly true because she was struck near the bridge causing many casualties. Details of this action are contained in ComTransDiv 26 action report, serial 0202 of 15 January 1945.

The Task Group entered LINGAYEN GULF at 0300, 9 January 1945 (S-Day), and at 0630, the transports proceeded independently to the Transport Area.

PART III

Chronological Account of the Action

At approximately 0715, ships of Task Unit 78.5.1 arrived in assigned stations in BLUE Transport Area and commenced lowering boats and disembarking personnel.

CTU 78.5.3 with control personnel transferred by tender to PC 1133 at the line of departure to assume his duties as Commander Control Unit, CTU 78.5.7.

Assault Control Group vessels anchored on station at the line of departure at 0730 as planned.

From the LST's, which had arrived ten minutes early and lowered wave guide boats, the first LVT waves were launched on schedule at 0810. and the remaining four waves were launched at five minute intervals without mishap.

NCDU representatives reported on board each control vessel at approximately 0815 with detailed hydrographic information and charts, indicating that Beach BLUE ONE was more favorable for landing LST's, LSM's and LCT's. As result, LSM's and LCT's were subsequently beached 500 yards to the eastward.

LCI's of the close support unit, TU 78.5.3 arrived on station in the boat lane at 0850

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3
Serial: 09

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (Temp)
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

(hfw)

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

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
Philippine Islands, in the LINGAYEN GULF Area.

Promptly at 0900, as scheduled, the ONE Flag was executed and the first wave proceeded toward the beach in good formation. All waves were dispatched from the line of departure on schedule.

The first wave landed on both beaches at 0933, three minutes after HOW Hour, and met no opposition. All succeeding waves beached within three minutes of their schedule landing time. Surf and beach conditions were generally good, only one boat being lost by swamping throughout the assault phase.

The last organized assault wave was dispatched to the beach at 1038, and immediately thereafter, control vessels shifted to their unloading phase stations about 700 yards from their respective beaches.

Unloading Phase

Upon return of the first assault landing craft from the beach at about 1100, the unloading phase began. Thereafter, LSMs and LCTs and pontoon barges, as well as LCVPs and LCMs, were used in unloading supplies and equipment from the eight ships of this Task Unit carrying S-Day cargo.

At approximately 1100, LST 614 approached Beach BLUE ONE and succeeded in driving her bow within fifty yards of the beach but the depth of the water necessitated use of pontoons in unloading. Remaining priority-loaded LST's were beached during the next two hours.

Transports commenced shifting to inner transport areas at 1226.

At about 1230 pontoons arrived at the LEONARD WOOD for further assignment.

Tonnage loads of Tu 78.5.1 S-Day shipping were as follows:

LEONARD WOOD	457
PIERCE	429
JAMES O'HARA	325
LA SALLE	335
CALLAWAY	450,
SUMTER	368
STORM KING	240
MONITOR	564

2 02117

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3
Serial: 09

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (Temp)
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

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

25 January 1945

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
Philippine Islands, in LINGAYEN GULF Area.

Discharge rate of S-Day ships in tons per hour was as follows:

LEONARD WOOD	70
PIERCE	71
JAMES O'HARA	54
LA SALLE	61
CALLAWAY	69
SUMTER	67
STORM KING	40
MONITOR	86

At 1800, all S-Day ships of TU 78.5.1 were unloaded and ready to retire.

Task Unit 78.5.1 less FREMONT, ELECTRA, and JUPITER, began retiring from LINGAYEN GULF shortly after 1730. At 1930, Commander Transport Division TWENTY was designated CTU 79.14.1 and directed to organize unloaded transports from Transport Divisions TEN, TWENTY, TWENTY-SIX, TWENTY-EIGHT, and THIRTY, for retirement to LEYTE.

Task Unit 79.14.1 was formed as follows: SARASOTA, MANOORA, WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, KNOX, CUSTER, CALVERTLINDEN ALD, CASAGRANDE, CLAY, BIDDLE, MIDDLETON, BAXTER, CATSKILL, G.F. ELLOITT, CALLAWAY, SUMTER, STORM KING, MONITOR, GUNSTON HILL, BELLE GROVE, LEONARD WOOD, PIERCE, JAMES O'HARA, LA SALLE, OAK HILL, SHADWELL, HARRIS BOLIVAR, DOYEN, GOLDEN CITY, SHERIDAN and OZARK; and screening vessels, PICKING, SPROSTON, WICKES, ABERCROMBIE, YOUNG, WANN, ARUNTA, LAVALLETTE, WILSON, JENKINS, STERRETT, and HODGES.

Later joined by the AUSTRALIA, LOUISVILLE, COLUMBIA and KADASHAN BAY, the Task Unit proceeded TO LEYTE.

The retirement from the transport area was made under considerable difficulty as it was not commenced until after dark, and the Task Unit Commander did not know which ships, with the exception of TransDivs 20 and 26, were retiring. As ships reported in, in some cases under their Division Commanders and in other cases singly, a formation diagram was made out. However, it was decided to have ships remain in their approximate locations, relative to each other, until daylight. Later at night it became apparent that a formation was roughly taking shape and based upon the position ships found themselves, the formation for the night was fixed. As the formation included thirty-six large ships and twelve screening vessels, it is considered that a high degree of seamanship was displayed by the individual ships' captains in avoiding collisions, particularly since at one time many ships

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3 UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
Serial: 09, TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (temp)
 AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

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

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
 Philippine Islands, in the LINGAYEN GULF Area.

had to filter through the fire-support group. Basically, their only information was the course, speed and the route to be followed by the guide.

At 0710, 10 January, a twin-engine enemy plane released a bomb which was a near miss on the WICKES, causing some casualties. The plane came in so quickly from the land that it was not taken under much gunfire. After releasing its bombs, it headed back quickly toward the land, escaping without damage.

PART IV

Ordnance

No remarks.

PART V

Damage

With the exception of the damage to the CALLAWAY, covered in a separate report, and the demolishing of an LCVP of the PIERCE by a direct bomb hit, no damage was sustained by vessels of TransDivs 20 and 26.

PART VI

Special Comments and Information

The lack of adequate beach intelligence, particularly as regards to beach gradient, was a source of great concern, since such information as was available indicated that LST's would be unable to land directly and might require more lengths of pontoon than were readily available. The hydrographic reports of the UDT Teams, delivered on arrival, proved of great value and were quite accurate.

Although no damage was sustained in the transport area by vessels of TransDivs 20 and 26, a great number of near misses from our own AA fire were observed.

The performance of the LST's, LSM's and small boats was of a high order.

2 02417

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FC7-11/A16-3
Serial: 09

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
TRANSPORT DIVISION TWENTY (Temp)
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES

(hjlw)

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

25 January 1945

2 02117

Subject: Action Report - Amphibious Assault on LUZON,
Philippine Islands in the LINGAYEN GULF Area.

The question of adequate labor on the beach for unloading purposes is still unsolved. Bulk cargo from vessels of TransDivs 20 and 26 was practically entirely unloaded by the organization of working parties composed of ships' personnel sent to the beach for this purpose. As a possible remedy for this recurrent situation it is recommended that ships' complements be increased to include an unloading detail. This, it is realized, is undesirable. However, the present system does not provide the labor necessary to accomplish a fast unloading.

Despite lack of opportunity for either combined training or proper rehearsals, the organized landing went smoothly. It is to be noted that the organized landing with experienced naval personnel usually does go smoothly, but when the unloading phase begins, the operation to some extent bogs down. Too much reliance cannot be placed on mechanical equipment and at times rough and ready means, plus elbow grease, must be relied upon. Here the importance of practice unloading during training becomes apparent, for then it is brought home to personnel the fact that things will not go in accordance with plan and that rough and ready means must be employed.

Where one-day unloading is the primary consideration, the governing factor is the number of LCM loads and craft which will take these loads (LCMs, LSMS, LCTs) which are available.

The question of rapid unloading can only be solved by considerable training of shore party personnel. Such training can only be obtained during training periods when shore Party personnel are embarked on ships and cargo is unloaded.

D. W. Loomis
D. W. LOOMIS.

Advance Copy to COMINCH ✓ (1) *less Enc.*
Copy to CinCPac (3) " "
Copy to ComPhibsPac (1) " "

Authenticated:

R.W. POWER
Staff Secretary