

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LST-565/A16-3
Serial No. 02

USS LST 565

Reg. No. 2036

R. S. No. 2 0196

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

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

15 January 1945.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander, LST Group 41 (OTU 77.9.19).
(2) Commander, LST Flotilla 3 (OTU 77.9.12).
(3) Commander, Amphibious Group 3 (CTG 77.9).
(4) Commander, SEVENTH Amphibious Force.
(5) Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.
(6) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report, Lingayen Gulf Operation.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Confidential Letter 20L-44
Pac 54-Lp, A2-11, A-12 Serial 03, Enclosure C,
dated 1 January 1944.

Enclosure: (A) Report of Casualties submitted to the Chief of
the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, File LST-565/
P6-1, Serial No. 01, dated 14 January 1945. -p.3
(B) Battle Damage Report. -p.5

1. Preliminaries:

USS LST 565, flagship of TU 77.9.19 (ComLSTGroup 41) plus TU 77.9.19 departed from San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P. I., at 0900, 6 January 1945 (Item) and rendezvoused with TU 77.9.12 under command of Commander, LST Flotilla 3 at Point Neb, at 1615 (Item) 6 January 1945, and proceeded towards target. TU 77.9.12 was overtaken by T.G. 77.9 in morning of 10 January 1945. The only disturbances on way to target were numerous air alerts. Entered Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, P. I., during early morning hours of 11 January 1945. USS LST 565 and majority of T.U. 77.9.12, proceeded directly to San Fabian Attack area for beaching.

2. Narrative:

At 1850 (Item) 11 January 1945, USS LST 565, beached at White Beach Two, in the San Fabian Attack area in company with many other LSTs, USS LST 270 on port hand and USS LST 918 on starboard. Lack of good LST beaches prevented proper dispersal of LSTs. Army commenced unloading vehicles and Equipment, a process which was help up by intermittent enemy air attacks.

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White flares appeared at 0140, 12 January 1945, followed by heavy enemy shell fire, at first believed to be mortar fire and later calculated to be five (5) or six (6) inch artillery time projectiles fired from an enemy held range of foothills bearing approximately 015 True from White Beach, three (3) to five (5) miles inland.

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3. An estimated fifteen (15) projectiles exploded in the immediate vicinity of USS LST 565 forward, aft, to starboard and port, resulting in slight battle damage (Enclosure B) to ship, three Naval Personnel casualties, (Enclosure A) and death to one Hubert R. Turner, Sgt., United States Army, Co. A, 632 Tank Destroyer Battalion, 13 Armored Group, passenger aboard. Four (4) army personnel casualties were suffered and two (2) vehicles damaged by direct hits near bow doors.

4. The enemy scored no direct hits on this ship. Casualties, death and damage were result of flying fragments from the violent explosions near at hand. Ships on each side of USS LST 565 suffered direct hits. In the interest of the safety of the ship, its crew and cargo, permission was obtained from Commander, LST Group 41 and Commander, LST Flotilla 3, to retract. Ramp was raised, bow doors closed, and immediate retraction executed at 0210 under continued shell fire. LSTs 270 and 918 remained on beach and reported that after this ship retracted, numerous shells fell where she had been beached. USS LST 565 anchored one and a half (1½) miles off beach and sent injured men to Evacuation LST. Completion of unloading followed during ensuing hours of daylight.

J. S. MEDDAUGH
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

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