

U.S.S. LST 581
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

A16-3

6 February 1945

FF-9148

From: Commanding Officer
To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet

Via : Commander, Task Unit 78.5.5
Commander, Task Group 78.5
Commander, Task Force 78
Commander, SEVENTH Fleet

Subject: Action report, Musketeer Mike ONE operation and
reinforcement, 17 December 1944 to 30 January 1945.

Reference: (a) U. S. Navy Regulations, 1920 Art. 712, 874 (6).
(b) Pacific Fleet Confidential letter LCL-45.

Part I.

A. This vessel participated in the Musketeer Mike ONE Operation as a part of the San Fabian Attack Force, Blue Beach ONE, S-day section, departing Hollandia, New Guinea 17 December 1944 and arriving Sansapor, New Guinea on 20 December 1944 for loading and rehearsal. Rehearsal conducted 23 December 1944. Underway 30 December 1944 for assault area carrying TWO 2x30 pontoon causeways, ONE LVT(A)(1), TEN LVT(4)'s assault troops of the 6th Infantry Division U. S. Army and miscellaneous vehicles and bulk cargo. Anchored at 0750, 9 January 1945 in assault area, launched LVT's and pontoons. Beached at 1238 same date with pontoons alongside. Rigged causeways, disembarked vehicles and bulk cargo, retracted at 0530, 10 January 1945. Underway from Lingayen area 11 January 1945, returned to LEYTE, P.I., arriving 15 January 1945 to load for Mike 1 reinforcement. Loaded at Catman Hill Beach 18 January 1945 with vehicles, cargo and troops of 32nd Infantry Division U. S. Army. Underway 20 January 1945 enroute Lingayen. Arrived 27 January 1945. 29 January 1945 beached at White Beach 2, Lingayen and unloaded. Released from Mike 1 Operation upon completion, underway on 30 January 1945.

Part II.

A. This vessel operated as a part of S-day section (8 LST's) of T.U. 78.5.5 (29 LST's) of the Blue Beach Attack Group, San Fabian Attack Forces under CANF SWPA operating under order #17-44, Commander Task Force 78 operation order #103-44, and Commander Task Group 78.5 attack order #2-44.

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Part II. (cont'd)

- B. Operations of this unit from leaving Hollandia were routine. Attack rehearsal held on 23 January 1945 in Cape Omarai section of New Guinea. AA gunnery drill at burst targets held 31 December, 1 Jan and 2 January.
- C. Primary mission of this vessel to land 11 LVT's on Blue Beach in conjunction with assault waves from other LST's and transports of the Blue Beach Attack Group. Plans and assumptions as in Task Group 78.5 Attack Order #2-44. Secondary mission to proceed to LEYTE, embark reinforcement units and land them in the Lingayen area.
- D. Own Force as in Task Group 78.5 Attack Order #2-44.
- E. Enemy forces encountered. Surface, None; Aircraft, THREE ZEKES identified in daylight raid of Jan. 8. Very sporadic attacks on this formation at other times with no direct attacks on this vessel.

Part III.

- A. Chronological account of important events. Zone Item (-9) time.

17 December 1944:

0850 Underway from anchorage, Humboldt Bay, New Guinea, for Sansapor Area.

20 December 1944:

0834 Anchored in Mios Sois Bay. 0930 Beached at White Beach, Sansapor. Commenced loading cargo and troops.

22 December 1944:

1532 Underway in company with T.G. 78.5 for rehearsal with cargo, vehicles, amphibian tractors and 16 Officers 300 enlisted men of the 6th Infantry Division U. S. Army.

23 December 1944:

0730 Arrived LST area off Omarai. 0738 Launched first wave of LVT's. 0808 Completed launching LVT's 0858 Underway from LST area. 0957 Anchored in Mois Sois Bay.

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Part III. (cont'd)

24 December 1944:

Beached for restowing cargo load.

25 December 1944:

At anchor Mois Sois Bay.

26 December 1944:

1647 Beached for final loading LVT's and Troops.

27 December 1944:

0500 Loading completed, retracted and anchored Mios Sois Bay.

28 December 1944:

2045 Single enemy aircraft reported over area. Shore batteries and several ships opened fire. Results negative.

29 December 1944:

Anchored in Mios Sois Bay, no activity.

30 December 1944:

0028 General Quarters. 0031 Plane sighted all ships and shore batteries opened fire. 0035 Burning target fell into Ocean, 0108 Secured from General Quarters. 1545 Underway in company with Task Group 78.5 for assault area.

31 December 1944:

0900 AA gunnery drill at burst target.

1 January 1945:

0830 AA gunnery drill at burst targets.

2 January 1945:

1300 AA gunnery drill at burst targets.

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Part III. (cont'd)

5 January 1945:

1700 Submarine attack reported by convoy ahead of this formation.

6 January 1945:

0552 General Quarters. 0624 Suicide crash into LST 912. 0635 Secured from General Quarters.

8 January 1945:

0246 General Quarters. 0759 3 Enemy aircraft dove into convoy from cloud cover, one crashing into stern of Callaway, AA fire ineffective against others. 0909 Secured from General Quarters.

9 January 1945:

0620 General Quarters. 0750 Anchored in inner LST area, Blue Beach. 0800 Assault personnel embarked in LVT's. 0805 Launched LVCP's ONE and TWO to act as wave guide boats. 0811 Launched LVT's with assault personnel. 0920 Launched starboard pontoon. 0931 Launched port pontoon. 1031 Secured both pontoons along starboard side. 1143 Underway proceeding to beach. 1238 Beached on Blue Beach ONE. 1310 Rigged pontoon causeways, commenced discharging vehicles and cargo. 1310 KATE approached from 005(T) distance 5000 yards, commenced firing. 1312 Ceased firing. 1900 Unidentified, type unknown, enemy aircraft sighted 170(T) distance 6000 yards commenced firing. 1903 Ceased firing. 2200 Set condition 1-Easy.

10 January 1945:

0425 Unloading completed. 0530 retracted. 0605 Anchored in Lingayen Gulf in SIX fathoms of water with 20 fathoms of chain to the bower anchor. 1810 Underway in obedience to signal from Commander, LST Flotilla EIGHT, proceeding to Leyte Gulf for reinforcement loading.

15 January 1945:

1110 Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf

18 January 1945:

0830 Beached at Catman Hill Beach, Leyte P.I.

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Part III. (cont'd)

18 January 1945 (cont'd)

commenced loading vehicles and equipment of the 32nd Infantry Division, U.S. Army. 2200 Loading completed. 2234 Retracted and anchored off beach.

19 January 1945:

1107 Underway shifting berth. 1333 Anchored in berth #212, San Pedro Bay.

22 January 1945:

1426 Underway proceeding in company with T.U. 78.5.3 to Lingayen Gulf, LUZON, P.I. for reinforcement of Mike ONE operation.

27 January 1945:

1422 Anchored in berth E-179, Lingayen Gulf, LUZON, P.I.

28 January 1945:

1954 Beached at White Beach TWO, Lingayen Gulf, LUZON, P.I., 2020 commenced unloading.

29 January 1945:

0235 Unloading completed. 1734 retracted. 1905 Anchored in berth E-179, released from Mike ONE reinforcement.

B. Weather for assault convoy and S-Day was excellent. On S-Day, wind averaged THREE knots, temperature 80°F, few clouds, and excellent surf conditions on Blue Beach.

Part IV.

ORDNANCE:

A. Ordnance equipment this vessel consists of 20MM and 40MM automatic weapons. Performance was excellent. Fire discipline was fair showing improvement. Effectiveness difficult to judge because of few targets presented this vessel, but failure to lead target was noticed, particularly in the 20MM battery. Ammunition expended during entire operation, including training 289 40MM; 2,472 20MM.

B. No opportunity was presented to witness the operation of enemy ordnance.

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Part V. BATTLE DAMAGE:

- A. No damage was suffered by this vessel or immediate unit.
- B. Damage to enemy units. ONE plane destroyed at Sansapor night of 30 December. Reports (unofficial) that plane fired on by this unit at 1310, 9 January subsequently crashed inland.

Part VI. C. Amphibious Action.

1. Troops and cargo.

TROOPS MIKE ONE OPERATION

| <u>ORGANIZATION</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED MEN</u> |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| 302nd Construction Battalion | 1 | 17 |
| Company "A" 1st Inf. 6th Div. | 6 | 135 |
| Hdqtrs & Hdqtrs Co. 1st BN, 1st Inf. | 3 | 10 |
| Naval Fire Control Party (JASCO) | 1 | 4 |
| Air Ground Liaison Party (JASCO) | 1 | 4 |
| 543rd Eng. boat & shore Regiment- | | |
| -of 1462 Engineer Maintenance Co. | 3 | 4 |
| 543rd Engineer, boat & shore Regiment- | | |
| -Company "F". | | 39 |
| 543rd Engineer, boat & Shore Regiment- | | |
| -Hdqtrs and Hdqtrs Company | | 3 |
| 543rd Engineer, boat & Shore Regiment- | | |
| -Hdqtrs Company 2nd BN. | | 2 |
| Co. "B" 727th Amphibian Tractor BN. | 2 | 47 |
| Company "D" 1st Inf. 6th Div. | 3 | 45 |
| Battery "B" 198th AAA Auto WPNS BN (SEM) | 1 | 27 |
| Battery "C" 198th AAA Auto WPNS BN (SEM) | 1 | 25 |
| Hdqtrs Battery 198th AAA AW BN (SEM) | 4 | 19 |
| Company "B" 1st Inf, 6th Division. | | 8 |
| Company "A" 6th Engineer C. BN | 1 | 21 |
| totals | 27 | 410 |

TROOPS MIKE ONE REINFORCEMENT

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| Service company 127th Inf. 32nd Div. | 12 | 66 |
| 16th Portable Hospital 32nd Div. | | 4 |
| Military Police detachment 32nd Div. | | 3 |
| 2nd Platoon, Co. "D", 107th Med BN- | | |
| -32nd Division drivers | | 6 |
| Cannon company 127th Inf. 32nd Div. | | 2 |
| Med. Detachment, 127th Inf. 32nd Div.(driver) | | 1 |
| Hdqtrs Co. 127th Inf. 32nd Div. | 1 | 27 |
| Co. "B" 107th Med. BN, 32nd Div (drivers) | | 6 |
| Company I, 127th Inf. 32nd Div. | 1 | 48 |
| ⑨ Replacements to 32nd Div. | 2 | 30 |
| totals | 16 | 193 |

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Part VI. (cont'd)

CARGO MIKE ONE OPERATION

- (a) Assigned vehicles and equipment of attached troops.
- (b) 200 Tons ammunition.
- (c) 50 Tons culk provisions.
- (d) 20 Tons engineering timbers.

CARGO MIKE ONE REINFORCEMENT

- (a) Assigned vehicles and equipment of assigned troops.
- (b) 87 Tons ammunition.
- (c) 39 Tons rations
- (d) 100 Drums P.O.L.

2. LANDING CRAFT:

- (a) 2 LCVP - 1 LVT(1) 10 LVT(4).
 - (b) LCVP's were used as wave guide boats for LVT's. LVT's launched fully loaded while at Anchor.
 - (c) Landing craft were controoled by PC's acting as control vessel on this beach.
3. Minesweeping and demolition carried out prior arrival this vessel in assault area.
4. Landing of troops and cargo. Landing of assault troops was accomplished by LVT's launched through bow doors while at anchor. Landinf of base troops and cargo was handled by truck over pontoon causeways while beached. Fire support and beach organization as provided for in Commander Task Force 78 operation plan 103-44.

5. CASUALTIES.

- (a)(b) Casualties were handled, transported and loaded as provided for in Commander Task Force 78 operation plan 103-44. This vessel had no casualties.

Part VII.

PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALTIES.

Personnel performance was excellent. Men carried out their assigned duties in a workmanlike manner in spite of inexperience. No casualties were suffered.

Part VIII.

LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Inasmuch as this was the first operation in which this vessel took part, and the first time the

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Part VIII. (cont'd) LESSONS, LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

been in action, the lessons learned were numerous. The value of strict fire control and training in "Leading the target" was clearly emphasized in the few targets presented this vessel. Handling of troops aboard. Handling of pontoon causeways and their use in loading, handling LVT's all acted as lessons for the crew and officers of this vessel. Much was gained that will make future operations run smoothly.

Major difficulty was encountered due to overheating of auxiliary engines, as pontoon causeways blocked the exhaust of these engines to a very great extent. It is recommended that vessels carrying causeways and barges be provided with a deck exhaust for these engines making far more efficient operation and guarding against sudden loss of power due to overheating.

O. F. Rapelyea
O. F. RAPELYEA

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File No. LST/FLOT-8/ A16-3(1)

Serial No. E-090

LST FLOTILLA EIGHT
% FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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12 May 1945

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to:
LST 581 letter dated
6 February 1945

From: Commander, LST Flotilla EIGHT.
To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.

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

Subject: Action report, Musketeer Mike ONE operation and
reinforcement, 17 December 1944 to 30 January 1945.

1. Forwarded.

E. Watts
E. WATTS

cc: CO LST 581

8 01147

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File No. FE25/A16-3

Serial No. 0183

AMPHIBIOUS GROUP EIGHT
SEVENTH FLEET
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

2 JUN 1945

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SECOND ENDORSEMENT to
LST 581 letter dated
6 February 1945

From: Commander Task Group 78.2 (Commander Amphibious Group
EIGHT, SEVENTH Fleet).
To: Commander, LST Flotilla EIGHT.
Subject: Action Report, Musketeer Mike ONE Operation and Reinforce-
ment, 17 December 1944 to 30 January 1945.

1. Returned. Comment is requested on the overheating of auxilliary engines described in Part VIII. Particular comment is desired whether other LSTs have experienced the same difficulties reported by LST 581 and what corrective measures have been taken.

A. G. Noble

A. G. NOBLE

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File No. LST/FLOT-8/ AL6-3

Serial No. E-0109

LST FLOTILLA EIGHT
% FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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4 June 1945

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to:
LST 581 letter dated
6 February 1945

From: Commander, LST Flotilla EIGHT.
To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.

Via : (1) Commander, Task Group 78.2
(Commander, Amphibious Group EIGHT)
(2) Commander, Task Force 78
(Commander, SEVENTH Amphibious Attack Force)
(3) Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject: Action Report, Musketeer Mike ONE operation and
reinforcement, 17 December 1944 to 30 January 1945.

1. Returned. General overheating of auxiliary engines and excessive carbonization has been encountered by LSTs side carrying pontoon causeways and barges. Satisfactory corrective measures have been made by cutting holes about one foot square in both sides of the cube so that the exhaust passes directly through it.

E. Watts
E. WATTS

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File No.

Serial No. 0205

1476

AMPHIBIOUS GROUP EIGHT
SEVENTH FLEET
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San Francisco, California

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28 JUN 1945

FOURTH ENDORSEMENT to:
LST 581 letter dated
6 February 1945.

From: Commander Task Group 78.2 (Commander Amphibious Group
EIGHT, SEVENTH Fleet).
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Task Force 78 (Commander SEVENTH
Amphibious Force).
(2) Commander Task Force 77 (Commander SEVENTH Fleet).
Subject: Action Report, Musketeer Mike ONE operation and
reinforcement, 17 December 1944 to 30 January 1945.

1. Forwarded.

A. G. Noble
A. G. NOBLE.

cc: CO, LST 581

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File No. FE25/A16-3
Serial No. FF-0366

SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
Fleet Post Office
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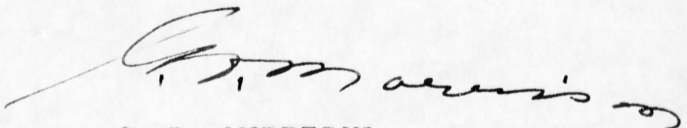
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FIFTH ENDORSEMENT to:
CO U.S.S. IST 581 conf.
ltr., of 6 February 1945.

From: Commander Task Force SEVENTY-EIGHT.
(Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force)
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
Subject: Action Report, MUSKETEER MIKE ONE Operation
and reinforcement, 17 December 1944 to 30
January 1945.

1. Forwarded.


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

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UNITED STATES FLEET
COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET

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

Serial 05037

REC NO F-1046
8 01147

REC. SHEET NO 69

28 JUL 1945

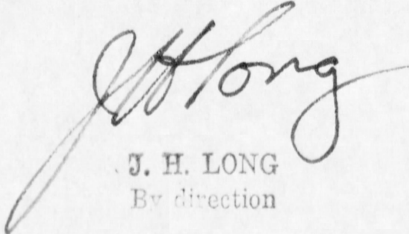
CONFIDENTIAL

SIXTH ENDORSEMENT on:
CO, USS LST 581, Conf.
Ltr., serial none,
dated 6 February 1945.

From: Commander Seventh Fleet.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: Action Report, Musketeer Mike ONE operation and
reinforcement, 17 December 1944 to 30 January
1945.

1. Forwarded.


J. H. LONG
By direction