

FF-9148
File No. A9-8
Serial No. 219

U. S. S. LST-628
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

A16-3

15 March 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander LST Flotilla Eight. (CTU 78.5.5)
(2) Commander Amphibious Group Eight,
Seventh Fleet. (CTG 78.5)
(3) Commander Seventh Fleet, Commander
Seventh Amphibious Force. (CTF 78)
(4) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report; submission of.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Confidential Ltr. 1CL-45,
dated 1 January 1945.

1. In accordance with reference (a), this action report is respectfully submitted.

2. In accordance with Top Secret CANF SWPA Operation Plan No. 17-44, and CTG 78.5 Top Secret Attack Order No. 2-44, beached and embarked the following Sixth Army assault forces, service units and their equipment at Sansapor, New Guinea, on 21 December 1944:

UNITS	USA ENL	USA OFFICERS	TOTAL
2nd Bat. Medical Detachment 20th Inf.	10	1	11
Co. F, 20th Infantry	5	-	5
Co. G, 20th Infantry	195	6	201
Battery D 198th AAA Auto WPNS Bn. (SEM)	26	-	26
51st FA Bn.	4	1	5
Co. H, 20th Infantry	51	5	56
706th Ordnance Co	1	-	1
36th Military Police Co	2	-	2
6th Signal Co	1	-	1
48th Ordnance MM Co	2	-	2
American Red Cross	1	-	1
HQ Co 20th Infantry	2	-	2
Service Co. 20th Inf.	3	-	3
HQ Co 2nd Bn 20th Inf.	6	-	6
Co. "B" 6th Engr. C Bn.	26	1	27
6th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop MECZ	5	1	6
Co. "B" 727th Amphibian Tractor Bn	35	2	37
543rd Eng. Boat and Shore Reg.	68	4	72
Sixth Quartermaster Co.	25	1	26
TOTAL	468	22	490

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Subject: Action Report; submission of.

Anchored in Sansapor Anchorage at 1906, 21 December 1944, upon completion of loading. Standing by awaiting further orders.

2. On 22 December 1944 at 1537, this vessel got underway to take part in landing rehearsal in accordance with CTG 78.5 Top Secret Rehearsal Attack Order No. 3-44, Serial 00054, dated 19 December 1944. Formed cruising disposition as directed and made night approach to landing area. Disembarked amphibious vehicles and personnel as directed on morning of 23 December 1944. After rehearsal completed, proceeded to Sansapor Anchorage and anchored at 1033, 23 December 1944, to await reloading of amphibious vehicles.

3. Beached at Blue Beach, Sansapor, New Guinea, at 1609, 24 December 1944 to load provisions. Retracted from the beach and anchored in Sansapor Anchorage at 0113, 26 December 1945, upon orders from CTU 78.5.5. Beached again at 1700 of same date to complete loading of amphibious vehicles, provisions and troops previously embarked. At 0100, 27 December 1944, completed all loading and anchored in Sansapor Anchorage Area. On 29 December at 0945, Major General Patrick, USA, came aboard to review troops and left the ship shortly thereafter.

4. At 0026, 30 December 1944, received red alert signal from CTU 78.5.5, and sounded General Quarters. Sighted enemy aircraft at 0032 and commenced firing at 0033 with port AA 40mm battery. Plane crashed into the sea in flames at 0035. Expended 180 rounds 40mm ammunition. Ammunition performance excellent.

5. Took departure from Sansapor Anchorage at 1625, 30 December 1944, and took assigned station in cruising disposition C-1-A as directed in Operation Order, Rear Admiral W. M. Fechteler, USN, (CTG 78.5) aboard his flagship, the USS FREMONT. This ship a unit in LST Station Unit commanded by Captain O. R. Swigart, (CTU 78.5.5). Held daylight firing practice on December 31, 1944, and Jan. 1st and 2nd, 1945, while enroute to objective area. On morning of 3 January 1945, made contact with friendly CVE's assigned to Task Group 78.5. Sighted friendly convoy astern. CVE's took station in convoy before sunset on 3 January 1945. Proceeded without further incident into Leyte Gulf, ten LST's and other small craft joined cruising disposition in Leyte Gulf after sunset on 4 January 1945, and proceeded in company.

6. On the night of 7 January 1945, sighted star shells and exchange of gun fire off starboard bow near screening vessels of station unit ahead. A short time afterward, high flames were observed and two large explosions occurred in that vicinity. At 2321 received voice radio message from CTG 78.5 saying that a Japanese DD of the Hatsuharu Class had been sunk by ships of the escort screen. Before dawn on morning of 8 January, observed flames on USS

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LST 912 after suicide plane had crashed into that ship's stern. At 0757, 8 January 1945, sighted three enemy aircraft diving on this convoy (TG 78.5). At 0759.5 commenced firing at one of the planes that was within range off to starboard of this ship. Ceased firing at this target at 0801 when plane out of range after having expended 49 rounds 40mm and 348 rounds 20mm service ammunition. The two other planes were fired on by other ships in formation. One of the planes dived on USS CALLOWAY (APA-35) and released bombs which were near misses. This plane then circled and crash dived into the CALLOWAY. A fire broke out, but the ship maintained her position in convoy.

7. On morning of 9 January 1945, made approach to landing area as directed and anchored in LST inner anchorage area, Lingayen Gulf, at 0751. Lowered ship's LCVP boats and dispatched them with Wave Guide officers to line of departure. At 0811 commenced launching amphibious vehicles upon order from CTU 78.5.5 and completed launching at 0852. Launched port and starboard pontoon causeways and completed securing of both causeways to starboard side at 1000. Standing by awaiting orders to beach and unload ammunition and topside cargo.

8. Beached at Blue Beach One at 1252, 9 January 1945, upon orders from CTU 78.5.5. At 1302, sighted two enemy aircraft. One plane, after making bombing run on unidentified friendly destroyer, approached this ship. At 1304.5 commenced firing with port AA battery at this target. Ceased firing at 1305.5 after having expended 175 rounds 40mm and 754 rounds 20mm service ammunition. 20mm hits were observed on the plane which appeared damaged, but did not crash in the vicinity. Pontoon causeways were shifted into position at the bow of the ship and unloading of remainder of cargo was begun at 1350, 9 January 1945.

9. Sounded General Quarters at 1814, and fired on three different enemy aircraft making individual runs near this ship. No positive results observed. Expended 240 rounds of 40mm service ammunition and secured from General Quarters at 2010 to continue unloading cargo.

10. Completed unloading at 2320, 9 January 1945, and retracted from the beach and anchored in LST Inner Anchorage Area at 0041, 10 January 1945. General Quarters' stations manned several times during the day when enemy planes were in the vicinity.

11. Got underway at 1812, 10 January 1945, upon orders from CTU 78.5.5 to rendezvous with ships of Task Unit 78.5.5 and TU 78.1.1 for return trip to Leyte. Took station in cruising disposition as directed at 1932, and departed from area in company with ships of task unit.

12. The performance of ship's crew and officers was at all times in keeping with highest traditions of the Naval service.

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J. C. Siedenburg
F. C. SIEDENBURG 3

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

LST FLOTILLA EIGHT

% FLEET POST OFFICE

Serial No. E-094

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONFIDENTIAL

19 May 1945

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to:

CO LST 628 ltr. A9-8

Serial No. 219 dated

15 March 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; submission of.

1. Forwarded.

E. Watts
E. WATTS

cc: CO LST 628

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File No. FE25/A16-3

Serial No. 0195

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

CONFIDENTIAL

26 JUN 1945

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to:
USS LST 628 conf. ltr. A9-8
serial no. 219 dated 15
March 1945.

From: Commander Task Group 78.5 (Commander Amphibious Group EIGHT).
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 - U. S. S. LST 628 Landing LINGAYEN GULF,
LUZON Operation.

1. Forwarded. TG 78.5 was under command of Commander Amphib-
ious Group EIGHT (Rear Admiral Wm. M. FECHTELER, USN) during the
LINGAYEN Operation.

P. G. Noble
A. G. NOBLE

cc:
ComLSTFlet 8
USS LST 628

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File No. FE25/A16-3
Serial No. FF-0372

SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

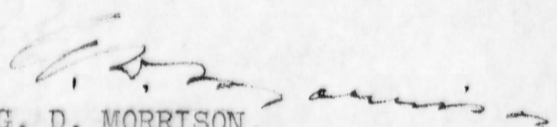
JUL 18 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to:
CO U.S.S. LST 628 conf.
ltr., serial 219 of 15
March 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 - U.S.S. LST 628 Landing
LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON Operation.

1. Forwarded.


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

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UNITED STATES FLEET
COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET

REG. NO 15-1053
R. S. NO 8 01108
REG. SHEET NO 69

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

Serial: 05047

29 JUL 1945

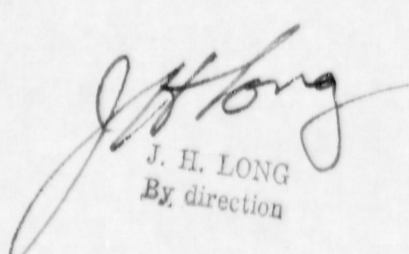
CONFIDENTIAL

FOURTH ENDORSEMENT on:
CO, USS LST 628 conf.
ltr., serial 219 dated
15 March 1945.

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

Subject: Action Report - Submission of.

1. Forwarded.


J. H. LONG
By direction