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U.S.S. MONITOR (LSV-5)

REPORT OF LUZON OPERATION, LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON, P.I.
9 JANUARY 1945

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List of Directives:

CANF SWPA Operation Plan No. 17-44.
CTF 78 Operation Plan No. 103-44.
CTG 78.5 Attack Order No. 2-44.
CTG 78.5 Movement Order No. 2-44.

PART I

1. Assigned to Task Unit 78.5.3 (Transport Division TWENTY-SIX, Captain Wright, in USS CALLOWAY) as part of Task Force 78.5 (Rear Admiral Fechtler in USS FREMONT, Commander Blue Beach Attack Group of San Fabian Attack Force) and Task Unit 78.5.1 (Commodore Loomis in USS LEONARD WOOD). This vessel made initial landing on Blue Beach, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 9 January 1945, landing a total of 477 troops and 564.5 tons of cargo, including 31 DUKW's, completing in time to retire from the area at 1835, 9 January 1945, as part of Task Unit 79.14.1 (Commodore Loomis in USS LEONARD WOOD) in accordance with Commander Task Force 79 Movememt Order Number 14-44 and Commander Task Force 79 despatch.

2. (a) Sortied from Sansapor, New Guinea, at 1547, 30 December 1944, in accordance with Commander Task Force 78 Movement Order No. 2-44, dated 11 December 1944, for invasion of Luzon in the Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands, as outlined in Commander Task Force 78 Operation Order No. 103-44 dated 3 December 1944. At 0630, 2 January 1945, joined Task Force 78 (Vice Admiral Barbey in USS BLUE RIDGE) Commander San Fabian Attack Force, ahead, distance fourteen (14) miles, and LST Group of Task Force 79, fourteen (14) miles astern. Arrived Outer Transport Area, Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands, at 0735, 9 January 1945.

(b) Mission was to land following troops and cargo on Blue Beach II, Lingayen Gulf, P.I.:

UNIT	OFFICERS	MEN
466th Amphibian Truck Co.	4	104
418th Quartermaster Service Co.	4	178
1st Field Artillery Battalion	0	52
51st Field Artillery Battalion	2	58
543rd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment	1	39
Co. "B", 6th Engineers "C" Battalion	0	8
Co. "B", 6th Signal Company	0	4
Co. "B", 6th Medical Batallion	0	4
11th Portable Surgical Hospital	0	1
15th Portable Surgical Hospital	1	2
Co. "B", 727th Amphibian Tractor Battalion	0	9
29th Evacuation Hospital Co.	2	18
"E" Co., 543rd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment	1	0
	15	477

CARGO: 7 trucks, 46½ tons; 31 combat loaded DUKW's, 327½ tons; Engineer's explosives, 70 tons; Ammunition, 120½ tons; total cargo tonnage of 564½ tons.

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(c) Disposition of own forces in accordance with attack orders.

(d) Sporadic enemy air attacks and suicide planes encountered. (See appendices "A" to "D", inclusive). At 2230, 7 January 1945, destroyer screen started firing star shells on bearing 030° (T). At 2253 two large explosions were observed on horizon at 045° (T). Screen reported enemy destroyer of "HATSUHARU" class destroyed by screen.

(e) Calm seas and good visibility throughout operations.

PART II

1. CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF ACTION.

7 January 1945

0840 - Sighted heavy anti-aircraft firing in Task Force 78 ahead. Sounded general quarters, and at 0851 enemy plane reported shot down.
1200 - Position, 12-49 N. lat., 120-26 E. long.; course 305° (T); speed 9 knots.
2230 - Destroyer screen starboard commenced firing star shells at target bearing 030° (T). Sounded general quarters.
2253 - Observed large explosions on horizon at 045° (T). Screen reported destroyer of "HATSUHARU" class destroyed by screen.

8 January 1945

0245 - Enemy aircraft reported vicinity. Sounded general quarters.
0315 - Commenced making smoke.
0500 - Two bombs dropped on LST astern and plane reported as crashed.
0700 - Ceased making smoke and at 0757 was subjected to attack by three Japanese planes, one of which dropped bombs astern of and then making suicide crash on USS CALLOWAY (APA-35). No planes were taken under fire by this vessel due to danger of hitting friendly ships.
1200 - Position, 15-52 N. lat., 119-08 E. long.; course 002° (T); speed 9½ knots.

TARGET DAY
9 January 1945

0319 - Entered Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands.
0400 - Went to general quarters.
On order of Division Commander, proceeded to assigned anchorage.
0725 - Set Condition IA. Commenced hoisting out boats.
0747 - Completed hoisting out all boats which proceeded to assigned stations as relief boats.
0810 - Commenced unloading cargo into four (4) DUKW's arriving from other ships. Upon return of ship's boats at 0848, commenced loading LCVP's.
0915 - Commenced unloading DUKW's and debarking of troops.
0932 - Completed unloading DUKW's.
1148 - Upon orders from Commander Task Unit 78.5.1 proceeded to line of departure and anchored 3,500 yards off Blue Beach I at 1240. Continued to unload ship at best possible speed.
1305 - Enemy plane dived on USS PIERCE (APA-50), dropping two bombs. Commenced firing at second plane which dived over this ship as outlined in Appendix "A".
1713 - Unloading cargo completed. Completed hoisting in boats and got underway to Outer Transport Area at 1730 to form up with Task Unit 79.14.1.
1835 - Reported to Commander Task Unit 78.5.1 (Commodore Loomis in USS LEONARD WOOD).

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1857 - Commenced firing on enemy plane bearing 358° (T) in accordance with Appendix "B".
1909 - Commenced firing on enemy plane bearing 180° (T). See Appendix "C".
2008 - Commenced firing at enemy plane which was shot down by this vessel. See Appendix "D". Credit for this plane was awarded by CTU 78.5.3.
2107 - Secured from general quarters and formed up with Transport Division TWENTY-SIX (Captain Wright in USS CALLOWAY (APA-35)).

PART III

1. Performance of own ordnance material and equipment:

(a) Excellent.
(b) Ammunition expended: 5"/38 caliber - 28 rounds; 40mm - 70 rounds; 20mm - 150 rounds.
(c) When clear shots were afforded the results of gunnery was excellent, this vessel shooting down one enemy plane, type undetermined.

2. No comments.

PART IV

1. No comments.

PART V

1. (a) Communications were excellent. Radio discipline good.
(b) Radar reports in Lingayen Gulf under attack as outlined in Appendix "A" were negative due to SC being land-locked.
(c) See Appendices "A" through "D".
(d) No comments.
(e) through (j) No comments.

2. This operation was first that an exact timing was made of continuous discharging fully loaded DUKW's; from time order was given to launch DUKW's until time of completion, 16 minutes 30 seconds elapsed which was much better than expectations. The general cargo handling facilities remains the major problem due to slowness of cranes and difficulty in working poorly arranged holds.

K. J. OLSEN

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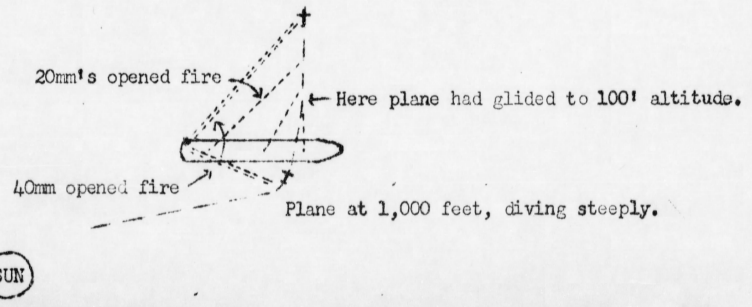
FORM FOR REPORTING A.A. ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS:

Location of ship (area): Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Island.
Zone Time: 1305 Item. Date: 9 January 1945.

1. Surprise attack (yes or no): Yes. Day or night: Day.
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye): Naked eye.
3. Range plane was picked up (50, 30, 10, less than 5 miles): Less than 5 miles
4. Total number of planes observed: 2. Type: "Hamp", "Zeke".
5. Total number of planes attacking own ship: 1 Type: "Zeke".
6. Number of planes taken under fire by own ship: 1. (a) Of those attacking own ship: 1. Type: "Zeke".
7. Speed and altitude of approach in knots and feet: Approx. 250 knots; 1,000'.
8. Number of guns firing-by caliber: 1-40mm; 3-20mm.
9. Ammunition expended-by caliber: 32 rounds 40mm, Fuze Mk. 27; 150 rounds 20mm HEI and HET.
10. Percent service allowance expended: Negligible.
11. Method of control: 40mm-Mk.51 director; 20mm-Mk.14 sight. Method of Spotting Tracer. Method of ranging: Tracer observation. Method of firing: 20mm-Pointer; 40mm-Director.
12. Approximate time tracking to first shot: 2 seconds.
13. Approximate time of first hits: ---.
14. Approximate time first shot to last shot: 15 seconds.
15. Approximate position angle open fire: 75° on starboard beam.
16. Approximate position angle cease fire: 10°, 2 points forward of port beam.
17. Approximate bearing first shot: 085°(R).
18. Approximate bearing last shot: 290°(R).
19. Approximate range first shot: 500 yards. Altitude of plane: 1,000 feet.
20. Approximate minimum range aircraft approached: 100 yards. Altitude: 300 ft.
21. Approximate range last shot: 4,000 yards. Altitude of plane: 100 feet.
22. Approximate altitude of bomb release: No bombs.
23. Approximate range torpedo release: No torpedos.
24. Number of hits on ship by boms: -- by torpedos: -- Was ship strafed: No.
25. Number near bomb misses damaging ship: ---
26. Planes shot down: (Damaged)
    (a) Those attacking own ship: 1
    (b) Other aircraft 1
27. Best estimate of size gun or guns responsible for each "Sure": ---
28. Performance of ammunition (excellent, good, bad, poor): Excellent.
29. What failures in material occured in this action?: None.
30. Sketch: (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
    (b) Show relative position of sun.
    (c) Indicate own maneuvers.



When plane reached range of 4,000 yards to port, this vessel ceased fire. Plane banked left and crashed into forward stack of Australian cruiser HMAS AUSTRALIA, bounced off stack, struck surface of water and sank immediately. Gun Control Officers believe our guns scored hits, but no visible damage resulted.
Ship was at anchor in Lingayen Gulf discharging cargo, 3,500 yards off Blue Beach 1.

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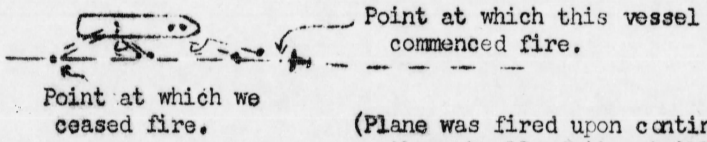
Appendix (B) U.S.S. MONITOR (LSV-5) (fd)

FORM FOR REPORTING A.A. ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS.

Location of ship (area) Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands.
Zone Time: 1857 Item. Date: 9 January 1945

1. Surprise attack (yes or no): No. Day or night: Day-twilight.
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye): Naked eye.
3. Range plane was picked up (50, 30, 10, less than 5 miles): 10 Miles.
4. Total number of planes observed: 3 Type: All seemed to be single engine fighter-bombers.
5. Total number of planes attacking own ship: None Type:
6. Number of planes taken under fire by own ship: 1
7. Speed and altitude of approach in knots and feet: Approx. 150 knots; 18,000'
8. Number of guns firing-by caliber: 4-5"/38 cal. (2 single mounts, 1 twin)
9. Ammunition expended-by caliber: 21 rounds, 5"/38 cal., AA common, Mk18 fuze.
10. Percent service allowance expended: Negligible.
11. Method of control: Mk 51 directors with Mk 15 sights. Method of spotting: Method of ranging: --- Method of firing: Director. Observation of bursts.
12. Approximate time tracking to first shot: 15-20 seconds.
13. Approximate time first shot to last shot: 20 seconds.
14. Approximate time of first hits: ---
15. Approximate position angle open fire: 60°
16. Approximate position angle cease fire: 63°
17. Approximate bearing first shot: 005°(R).
18. Approximate bearing last shot: 150°(R).
19. Approximate range first shot: 6,000 yards. Altitude of plane: 18,000 feet.
20. Approximate minimum range aircraft approached: ---. Altitude: ---.
21. Approximate range last shot: 6,500 yards. Altitude of plane: 18,000 feet.
22. Approximate altitude of bomb release: No bombs.
23. Approximate range torpedo release: No torpedo.
24. Number of hits on ship by bombs: - by torpedos: -- Was ship strafed: No.
25. Number near bomb misses damaging ship: None.
26. Planes shot down: None.
27. Best estimate of size gun or guns responsible for each "Sure": ---.
28. Performance of ammunition (Excellent, good, bad, poor): Good.
29. What failures in material occured in this action?: None.
30. Sketch: (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
(b) Show relative position of sun.
(c) Indicate own maneuvers.



(Plane was fired upon continually through all of its visible flight. It escaped apparently undamaged.)

The performance of our Mk. 51 directors with Mk. 15 sights, was noteworthy. Observation of tracers showed the projectiles to be well lined up with the target, on a good lead angle. Fuze time was 10.1 seconds, with a burst range of 6,200 yards. The first bursts were above the target, and the last ones below it, indicating that it was forced to fly through the barrage.

Our director control of 5"/38 caliber mounts is fully automatic. Radar fuze settings are mandatory for accurate fire of this type.

Ship was in outer Transport Area of Blue Beaches, forming up for sortie.

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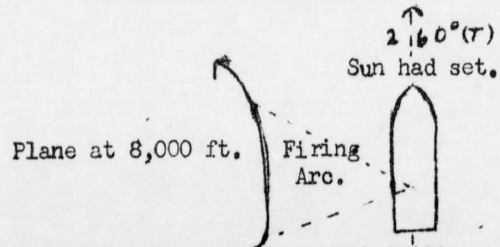
Appendix (C) (fd)

FORM FOR REPORTING A.A. ACTION BY SURFACE SHIPS:

Location of ship (area): Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippine Islands.
Zone time: 1909 Item. Date: 9 January 1945.

1. Surprise attack (yes or no): No. Day or Night: Evening-twilight.
2. Method picking plane up (Radar, binoculars, naked eye): Naked eye.
3. Range plane was picked up (50, 30, 10 or less than 5 miles): Less than 5 miles.
4. Total number of planes observed: 1. Type: Single engine.
5. Total number of planes attacking own ship: 0.
6. Number of planes taken under fire by own ship: 1.
7. Speed and altitude of approach in knots and feet: 150 knots; 8,000 feet.
8. Number of guns firing by caliber: 2-5/38 (twin); 2-40mm (twin).
9. Ammunition expended by caliber: 7 rounds, 5/38; 18 rounds, 40mm.
10. Percent service allowance expended: Negligible.
11. Method of control: Mk. 51 director, automatic. Method of spotting: Tracer. Method of ranging: Tracer. Method of firing: Automatic.
12. Approximate time tracking to first shot: 3 seconds.
13. Approximate time of first hits: ---
14. Approximate time first shot to last shot: 40 seconds.
15. Approximate position angle open fire: 40°.
16. Approximate position angle cease fire: 40°.
17. Approximate bearing first shot: 250°(R).
18. Approximate bearing last shot: 280°(R).
19. Approximate range first shot: 5,000 yards. Altitude of plane: 8,000 feet.
20. Approximate minimum range aircraft approached: 4,500 yards. Altitude: 8,000 feet.
21. Approximate range last shot: 5,000 yards. Altitude of plane: 8,000 feet.
22. Approximate altitude of bomb release: No bombs.
23. Approximate range torpedo release: No torpedos.
24. Number of hits on ship by bombs: -- by torpedos: -- Was ship strafed: No.
25. Number near bomb misses damaging ship: ---
26. Planes shot down: ---
27. Best estimate of size gun or guns responsible for each "Sure": ---
28. Performance of ammunition (excellent, good, bad, poor): Excellent.
29. What failures in material occured in this action: None.
30. Sketch: (a) Indicate direction of attack relative ship's head.
(b) Show relative position of sun.
(c) Indicate own maneuvers.



No hits were observed; due to poor visibility, it was not possible to see the target after we had ceased fire.
Ship was in Outer Transport Area of Blue Beaches, forming up for sortie.

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