

223

Reg. No.	3043
R. S. No.	5 03715

P-O-N-T-I-F-I-C-I-A-L

FE25-LST7/Al6-3.
serial 0182.

LST 466, Flagship,
11 May 1945.

From: Commander Task Units 78.1.1 and 78.1.12.
(Commander LST Flotilla SEVEN).

To: The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Via: (1) Commander Task Group 78.1.
(Commander Amphibious Group SIX).
(2) Commander Task Force 78.
(Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force).
(3) Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12,
TARAKAN Operation, 1 May 1945.

Reference: (a) Article 762, U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.
(b) Com7thPhib ltr., Ser. 0563 dated 10 March 1945.
(c) ComPhibGrp6 Attack Order A604-45.

Enclosure: (A) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 67.
(B) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 466. -M-ser. 120963
(C) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 467.
(D) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 562.
(E) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 584.
(F) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 585.
(G) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 590.
(H) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 637.
(I) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 667. -M-ser. 120960
(J) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 711.
(K) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 742. -M-ser. 120962
(L) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 743.
(M) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 993.
(N) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 1025.
(O) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 1027.
(P) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 1035. -M-ser. 120964
(Q) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 171. -M-ser. 120858
(R) Action Report, Commanding Officer LST 924.
(S) Voice Radio Log.
(T) Beaching Schedule.

Missing

1. Enclosures (A) through (R) are submitted herewith,
reports for LSTs 613, 626 and 697 will be forwarded when received.

C-2-H-F-I-P-I-N-T-I-A-L

FM25-1ST7/AL6-3.
Serial 0182.1ST 466, Flagship,
11 May 1945.Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12,
TARAKAN Operation, 1 May 1945.

PART I

2. For this operation the composition of our forces, mission, doctrine, tactical aspects and enemy forces are contained in reference (c). In accordance with reference (c) this task unit staged at MOROTAI for the amphibious landing on TARAKAN, BORNEO. LSTs 584, 585, 590, 711, 743, 993 and 1027 had been previously equipped with pontoon causeways at MANUS for this operation. LST 67 was loaded at MOROTAI with ammunition and dry provisions to act as a logistic ship at the far shore. LST 667 was designated for the PETER mine ONE Day operation at SADAU ISLAND near TARAKAN. On 24 April a rehearsal of launching LVTs and the formation of the assault waves was held at MOROTAI. During the rehearsal one LVT from 1ST 637 sunk, with no casualties, and was replaced with another for the operation.

PART II

LST 667, in company with other vessels, departed MOROTAI for SADAU ISLAND on 26 April. In company with other ships and landing craft as listed in reference (c) this unit departed MOROTAI at 1610, 27 April and arrived off TARAKAN prior daylight 1 May. At about 0900, 29 April a rehearsal of the maneuver from cruising formation to approach formation was held, followed immediately by a return to the cruising formation. At 1705, 30 May the cruising formation was changed to the approach formation for the approach to TARAKAN.

While anchoring in LST AREA 2 prior to disembarking LVTs which were carried by LSTs 466, 467, 562 and 637, two wakes were observed passing through the anchorage in the vicinity of LSTs 466 and 562. One wake disappeared through the anchorage to seaward. Later the U.S.S. RUSHMORE reported that a torpedo, which had apparently caused the second wake, had glanced off her port side without exploding and causing no damage.

All LVTs were launched prior to 0700, 1 May and arrived at Line of Departure from whence they were dispatched in time to land at H hour. The seven pontoon causeway carrying LSTs, upon anchoring, launched causeways and rigged them for beaching by the momentum method. These seven LSTs were beached and unloaded at the times shown in Enclosure (3). Later on PETER Day LSTs 171, 613, 626, 697 and 924 were beached alongside pontoon

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

FE25-137/A16-3.
Serial 0182.

LST 466, Flagship,
11 May 1945.

Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12,
TARAKAN Operation. 1 May 1945.

causeway ships and were unloaded there. Due to shallow gradient of a very muddy beach and the extreme tidal ranges, no other LSTs were beached. LSTs 466, 467, 562, 637 and 667 were discharged by LCMs and LCTs. On 5 May, LST 742 was discharged at the north pontoon pier which by that time had been assembled by the Naval Construction Battalion. On 6 May, LSTs 1025 and 1035 were similarly unloaded. A small amount of bulk cargo remaining in LSTs 742 and 1035 was later discharged by LCMs.

LSTs 171, 613, 626, 697 and 924 departed TARAKAN for MONOTAI on 3 May. LSTs 466, 467, 562, 637, 742 and 1035 departed TARAKAN 8 May for MONOTAI. LST 67, logistic ship, and LSTs 667 and 1025, casualty receiving ships, remained at TARAKAN. LSTs 584, 585, 590, 711, 743, 993 and 1027 were still beached at TARAKAN.

Mortar fire landing in the vicinity of beaches was noted at about the following times: 1000 1 May, 0045 2 May, 0900 3 May, and 1900 3 May. Sporadic enemy sniper fire was noted during the day of 1 May.

Ships of this unit maintained night boat patrols while at anchor or beached as protection against enemy suicide boats or swimmers.

Enclosure (E) is the voice radio log as copied by this Command.

PART III

No ammunition was expended during the operation.

PART IV

PART V

In future operations involving mud beaches, it is recommended that pontoon causeways be extended over the mud bank and that LSTs be beached at the causeways at slow speed and at low stages of the tide.

The time schedule for Obes-One was very tight and allowed only fifteen minutes for beach examination, selection of

BEACHING SCHEDULE

<u>LST</u>	<u>SLOT</u>	<u>TIME ORDERED TO BEACH</u>	<u>BEACHED</u>	<u>UNLOADED</u>	<u>RETRACTED</u>
584*	Red #2	010901 I	010914 I	#012200 I	
585*	Red #1	010920 I	010934 I	#020600 I	
590*	Red #3	010922 I	010937 I	#012200 I	
711*	Yellow #4	010925 I	010939 I	#012300 I	
743*	Yellow #5	010915 I	010930 I	#020800 I	
993*	Yellow #6	010938 I	010950 I	#020700 I	
1027*	Yellow #7	010948 I	010959 I	#020800 I	
171	Stbd Side 584	012100 I	012125 I	#030800 I	030927 I
613	Stbd Side 711	012049 I	012134 I	#030900 I	031107 I
626	Stbd Side 743	012118 I	012155 I	@	030928 I
697	Stbd side 585	012042 I	012057 I	#030700 I	030907 I
924	Stbd Side 993	012044 I	012135 I	#030900 I	031005 I

BEACHING SCHEDULE AT PONTOON CAUSEWAY PIER

742	051705	#051800	051806
1035	061211	#061250	061254
1025	061706	#061825	061830

From 3 May to 6 May the following LSTs were unloaded in the stream by LCMs and LCTs:

466
467
562
637
667

* Carried pontoon causeways.

Approximate time.

@ With concurrence of Principal Beachmaster, retracted and departed with Marsden matting remaining aboard.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5 03715

FL25-157/116-3.
Serial 0182.

1ST 466, Flagship,
11 May 1945.

Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12,
TARAKAN Operation, 1 May 1945.

slots and erection of markers. Under ideal conditions this may be sufficient time for the purpose, but it is urgently recommended that at least an hour be allowed for this purpose where multiple slots are involved

It is further recommended that in future assaults, where similar beaching conditions may be encountered, an alternate plan utilizing small craft for unloading LSTs be prepared.

PART VI

One slight casualty from mortar fire was reported
by 1ST 743.

G. A. SINCLAIR

Adv. Copy:
Cominch (Less enclosures). ✓

15-20

FILE NO. A16-3

SERIAL

0055

COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP SIX
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

(1e)

JUN 5 1945

SECRET

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on
ComLSTFlot 7 Action
Report FE25-IST//
A16-3, serial 0182
dated 11 May 1945.

From: Commander Amphibious Group SIX.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force (CTF 78).
(2) Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12, TARAKAN
Operation, 1 May 1945.

Reference: (a) CominCh rest. serial 2714, 6 April 1944.

1. Forwarded.

2. Enclosure (S), consisting of Voice Radio Log, has been
returned to the originator as not required. Its contents have been
noted.

3. The recommendations made in Part V are worthy of consider-
ation.

(a) The problem at TARAKAN was unique. LSTs and causeways
were found to be the only means for early landing of
equipment and supplies required to sustain the the assault.
Conditions required LSTs to beach at near high tide with
sufficient speed to get through the obstacles at the
edge of the cleared slots and beach in a position from
which a two-section causeway would reach the shore. The
mud bank was impassable for foot or vehicular traffic
for most of its length and was 500 feet or more wide at
low water. Small boat unloading on the beach was possible
only for the short period of highest water. At such
periods, LCTs, also, could get in but they dried out
while they were being unloaded. Consequently small craft
could not readily meet the requirements of assault unload-
ing.

(b) The examination of the beach was completed during the
demolition operations on the day before the assault; there-
fore, on the target morning, fifteen minutes was all that
was required in which to set up slot markers. The work
was done on schedule.

(4)

8 0227

6

SECRET

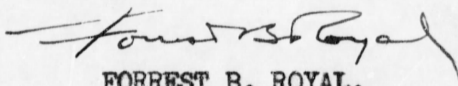
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12, TARAKAN
Operation, 1 May 1945.

- (c) Commander LST Group 44 had been designated as LST Beaching Officer and it was arranged for his ship, LST 584, to beach first. Subsequent LSTs were beached in accordance with his instructions. The first group of LSTs beached higher than anticipated and the subsequent tides, being lower after the day of the assault, prevented retraction of this group of LSTs.
- (d) The second group of LSTs to be beached, five in number, were not driven in so high and they were retracted on schedule.
- (e) The first seven LSTs remained on the beach until the next spring tides, when, under the supervision of Commander Task Group 78.1 and with the efficient preparatory planning of Captain C. W. GRAY (CTG 76.12), Captain G.A. SINCLAIR (ComLSTFlot 7), Commander G.R. BERNER (ComLSTGrp 44), Lieutenant SHROPSHIRE (C.O., LST 1027), and Lieutenant FISH (Salvage Officer, Service Force), they were retracted on 11, 12, and 13 May.
- (f) The delay in retraction of the first seven LSTs did not interfere with the progress of the troops nor with the operations as a whole, and was expected.

4. ^{G.A. Sinclair} The Commander LST Flotilla SEVEN and the officers and men of his ships gave an outstanding performance under very difficult conditions.

5. Because of the use of the code name for the operation throughout the reports, this correspondence is classified SECRET. The attention of reporting officers is directed to reference (a) in connection with code names.


FORREST B. ROYAL.

Copy to:
ComLSTFlot 7

5

8 0227

7

File No. FE25/A16-3
Serial No. FF-0071

SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

JUL 7 1945

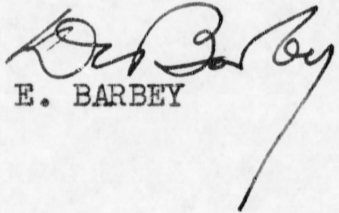
S-E-C-R-E-T

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to:
ComISTFlot 7 conf. ltr.,
serial 0182 of 11 May
1945.

From: Commander Task Force SEVENTY-EIGHT.
(Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force)
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12,
TARAKAN Operation, 1 May 1945.

1. Forwarded.

2. It is considered that Commander LST Flotilla
SEVEN and the vessels under his command performed their duties
at TARAKAN in an excellent manner under most unusual conditions.


D. E. BARBEY

Copy to:
ComPhibGrp 6
ComISTFlot 7

UNITED STATES FLEET
COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET

A16-3(2)(F-3-4/whr)

Serial 04267

23 JUL 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on:
ComLSTFlot 7, Conf. Ltr.,
serial 0182, dated 11
May 1945.

REG. NO F-745
R. S. NO 8 0227
REG. SHEET NO 12

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

Subject: Action Reports, Vessels of Task Unit 78.1.12,
TARAKAN Operation, 1 May 1945.

Reference: (d) CominCh rest. ltr., FF1/A6-3, ser. 3605,
of 16 April 1945.

1. Forwarded.
2. Commander LST Flotilla SEVEN and the officers
and men under his command are congratulated on their outstand-
ing performance.
3. In accordance with reference (d) the classifi-
cation of basic correspondence is hereby reduced to confiden-
tial.
4. By copy of this endorsement Commander Seventh
Amphibious Force is directed to insure that the comment con-
tained in paragraph 2 of the second endorsement and in para-
graph 4 of the first endorsement is made a part of the record
of Commander LST Flotilla SEVEN.

T. C. Kinkaid

T. C. KINKAID

Copy to:
Com7thPhibFor
ComPhibGrp 6
ComLSTFlot 7