

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LST697/A16-3(3)/BRS:ms  
Serial: 014

U.S.S. L.S.T. 697  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

**CONFIDENTIAL**



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

Via : (1) Commander, Task Unit 78.1.12.  
(2) Commander, Task Unit 78.1.1.  
(3) Commander, Task Force 78.1.  
(4) Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.

Subject: Action report, U.S.S. L.S.T. 697, Tarakan Island, Borneo Operation  
1 May 1945.

1. This ship, 22-23 April 1945, loaded 65 vehicles, 505 tons bulk cargo (includes 112 tons gasoline and 40 tons of explosives), 30 officers and 437 enlisted men at Morotai Island and 27 April 1945 underway in Attack Unit 78.1 towing L.C.M. 44.

2. This vessel on 28 April 1945 at 1705 sighted floating mine Lat. 02° 32' N, Long. 125° 38' E which was destroyed by escort.

3. On 1 May 1945, this ship anchored in Berth 21, Tarakan Road, east off L.C.M. and launched four ship's boats to carry assault troops to beach and to aid in unloading cargo from HMAS Westralia.

4. On 1 May 1945, this vessel, at 2055, beached at Red Beach on starboard side of L.S.T. 585 which was unloading on causeway. Commenced unloading onto causeway at 0915, 2 May 1945 and completed unloading at 0700, 3 May 1945. Retracted at 0916 with the aid of two L.C.I.'s (625 and 626) and L.S.T. 1035.

5. On 3 May 1945, at 1425, (while at anchor at Tarakan Road) loaded eight L.V.T.'s through bow doors with four officers and twenty-four enlisted men and at 1626 underway in Task Unit 78.1.92 for Morotai Island.

6. On 2 May 1945, at 0100, while high and dry on beach, Japanese Artillery (75mm) fired 16 shells at shipping unloading on beach, four of which exploded within fifty yards of the ship's starboard bow causing casualties to personnel on beach (no damage or casualties were encountered by this ship from the fire; although, one boatman from this vessel was wounded by sniper fire while unloading cargo onto South Pier, Tarakan from HMAS Westralia on 1 May 1945).

7. Occasional Japanese sniper fire onto Red Beach slightly delayed unloading of this ship.

140615

Enclosure (C)

7 04258

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Page 2

IST697/A16-3(3)/BRS:ms  
Serial: 014

16 May 1945

Subject: Action report, U.S.S. L.S.T. 697, Tarakan Island, Borneo Operation  
[REDACTED] 1 May 1945

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

8. On 6 May 1945, this vessel beached at Blue Beach, Morotai Island, loading 31 vehicles, 290 tons of bulk cargo and 3 officers and 124 enlisted men, and proceeded in Resupply Unit 78.1.92 to Tarakan Island, Borneo, unloading on 12 May 1945.

9. On 9 May 1945, at 2140, this vessel went to General Quarters and at 1944 escort dropped depth charges 400 yards off starboard column, results negative (on position 22).

10. This ship, on 13 May 1945, at Tarakan Island, loaded 1 ton Australian mail, 22 vehicles, 3 tons of bulk cargo and 6 officers and 87 enlisted men and proceeded to Morotai Island in Task Unit 78.1.99 unloading on May 1945 onto causeway.

11. No ammunition expended, one casualty, and equipment and personnel performed well.

*J. E. Tanner*  
J. E. TANNER

Enclosure (C)

7 04258

2