

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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FE25/A16-3/(006)
Serial: 093

U.S.S. LCI(R) 230
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

2 July 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via : Commander Task Unit 78.2.8 (Comdr D.H. Day)
Commander Task Unit 78.2 (ComPhibGroup 8, 7th Fleet)
Commander Task Force 78 (Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force)
Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
Subject: Action Report - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO - Oboe-Two (6-45)
Reference: (a) Article 874(6) U.S.N. Regulations.
(b) Com7thPhib Conf. ltr. FE25/A16-3(3) Serial 0212 dtd 17 February 1944.

1. This vessel was close Support Unit flagship for CTG 78.2.8, Comdr D.H. Day during the Oboe-Two (6-45) operation. The objective of the Oboe-two operation is to destroy hostile garrisons, seize and occupy the BALIKPAPAN-MANGGAR area of BORNEO; establish military, naval, air and logistic forces and facilities therein; protect and conserve petroleum producing and processing installations; and re-establish Constituted government in the area.

The objective of the Close Support Unit, made up of ten LCS(L)'s, eight LCI (Rocket Ships), and six LCI(G)'s, was to furnish close fire support on the landing beaches, to annihilate enemy personnel, quiet enemy gun positions, and effect a neutralization of the beaches to a depth of 600 yds and for 600 yds on both flanks. Two rocket runs were to be made, making a total expenditure of 8800 rockets augmented by 3.inch, 40MM, and 20MM strafing fire.

2. An attack and landing rehearsal was held on 23 and 24 June on east coast of MOROTAI. H hour for the rehearsal was 0900 on 24 June.

3. Sortie for the attack force 78.2 began at 1300(I) at MOROTAI on afternoon of 26 June and began movement toward the objective area. This ship was station and unit guide for T.U. 78.2.8. This ship got underway at 1400(I) 26 June and proceeded in proper station in task force to BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO. The movement to the objective area was without incident.

4. At 0550(I) on Fox day, 1 July, 1945, CTG 78.2 gave order to deploy. The port column of close support vessels, led by this ship, immediately made full speed and crossed over in front of the main task unit and set a parallel course with the starboard column of close support vessels, led by LCS(L) 50.

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Course 000° True was set and the two columns headed direct for U.S.S. KLINE, anchored on station and showing a red light. The object of setting course for the KLINE was to stay clear of an unswept mine field to port of the KLINE's station. When approximately 2 miles beyond the U.S.S. KLINE, the columns changed course to 286° True, keeping buoys, marking a mine field, to our port. LCS(L) 48 was on station 3000 yds from beach and on right flank of Green beach. Our columns headed direct for LCS 48. At 0715 this ship left the port column and took station astern of LCI(R) 338. At 0718 the lead ships reached the LCS(L) 48 on line of departure and all ships, in turn, took their proper stations on Green, Yellow, and Red beaches at intervals of 220 yds and 2700 yds from beach. All ships were on station at line of departure at 0728. This vessel was on station at extreme right flank of Red beach. At 0738 the close support unit, in line abreast began first rocket run on beach. Speed of advance 6 knots. Ranges from Unit to beach was constantly checked on this ship by radar and optical range finders. At 0743 range of 1250 yds, this ship fired first range rocket, which as expected fell 50 yds short of the beach. At 0743-15s second spot rocket landed on beach. At 0744 red mortar was fired from this ship as signal to large Naval support ships that rocket barrage had started.

At 0744- distance 1200 yds from beach this ship fired first rocket salvo at beach. This was signal for other rocket ships to begin firing. Firing from these ships began immediately.

Eleven salvos were fired on the beach by this ship.

At 0746-45s all ships made turn to starboard and returned to line of departure. Ships were on station at departure line 2700 yds from beach at 0755

All ships resumed proper stations.

Launcher rocket loading was completed on this vessel at 0822.

At 0831 one enemy shell, size 6", was noted landing 50 yds off port bow of LCS 50.

At 0835 support ships started second run toward beach.

At 0850, distance 1250 yds from beach, this ship fired first range rocket and at 0850-20s a second was fired. The latter range rocket fell on the edge of beach.

At 0850-40s all rocket ships began firing rocket salvos. At 0855 last rocket salvo was fired. This ship fired 12 salvos at 20 second intervals. At end of rocket firing, all ships stopped dead in water and allowed first boat wave to pass. At end of rocket barrage all our guns began engaging targets on the beach.

At 0901 this ship moved 300 yds to port to clear boat lanes.

At 0902 two enemy mortar shells landed approximately 100 yds off our starboard quarter.

At 0903 two more mortars fell 75 yds off our port quarter. Source of enemy fire was undetermined. Our batteries kept up a continuous fire.

0906 an enemy shell of size 3" fell short 75 yds of our stern. We altered our position 200 yds farther to port.

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At 0908 five enemy shells fell close aboard this vessel and the LCI(G) 66.

At 0909 the LCI(G) 67, 150 yds to our port took two near misses off her starboard bow.

At 0910 this ship, with LCI(G)'s 66 and 67, moved out from beach 400 yds and continued to fire at targets on beach.

At 0913 flashes of enemy batteries were noted and concentration of our fire began in that area.

At 0914 one 6" shell fell 25 yds off our port bow and two others followed close aboard off our starboard beam and quarter.

At 0915 the LCI(G) 67 reported two near misses off her port bow. We intensified our fire at the enemy batteries and they were quieted.

At 0918 we moved 2000 yds farther to seaward from the beach and enemy batteries again scored numerous near misses at us and at LCM's in the boat lane. When 3000 yds from beach the LCI(G)'s 66 and 67 engaged enemy targets with their 3" guns.

At 0923 thru 0927 numerous enemy mortar shells and, what appeared to be 3" shells, fell in our vicinity and near boats in boat lane.

At 0938 this ship anchored at short stay 3500 yds from beach.

At 0941 last enemy shell was noted, at intervals following, near the beach.

At 1535 this vessel moved to vicinity of U.S.S. WASATCH and Unit Commander went aboard.

At 1805 this ship took night screen station 500 yds from beach, 200 yds to left of left flank of Red beach- anchored for night.

July 2

At 0810 this ship took in anchor and proceeded to vicinity of destroyer PHILLIPS.

At 0852 this ship went alongside PHILLIPS and delivered Naval Gunfire Control Party.

At 0917 we were in vicinity of LCI 635 and delivered two War Photographers.

At 0950 we were at Close Support rendezvous area.

At 0959 we were anchored at rendezvous area.

5. A chronological list of events.

23-24 June - Rehearsal for operation.

26 June - Departed MOROTAI for operation.

1 July - 0550 - Deployed from Task Group 78.2, as flag-ship for 78.2.8.

0718 - Lead close support ships reached LCS 48, on station at line of departure.

0728 - On station at line of departure.

0738 - Began rocket run to beach-Course 357° True