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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

File No. LSTGR44/AL2-1

Serial: 067

LST FLOTILLA 15
GROUP 44

114
Reg. No. 00568
R. S. No.

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

% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

21 May 1945

From: The Commander LST Group FORTY-FOUR, Flotilla #15.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: War Diary, Submission of.
Reference: (a) CominCh 43-1531 Rest. Navy Dept. Bulletin, Cumulative
Edition - 31 Dec. 1943.
Enclosure: (A) War Diary for the month of April 1945.

1. Enclosure (A) is hereby submitted in accordance with
reference (a).

G. A. Berner, Jr.
G. A. Berner, Jr.

Copy to:
ComLSTFlot 15.

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

LST 703 sailed in convoy accordance orders C.T.G. 76.4 from Mindoro to Leyte and arrived 16 April 1945. Remained San Pedro Gulf 16-26 April for logistics, maintenance and repairs, training. Received material inspection 18 April by Commander LST Flotilla FIFTEEN. 26 April sailed in convoy IG-19 and at noon 30 April position was 6°-03'N, 134°-31'E.

LSTs 578, 579 and 705 were at anchor San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P. I. 1-10 April for logistics, upkeep and repairs. Combat loaded 10-13 April accordance C.T.G. 78.2 Operation Plan 4-45. Underway in T.U. 78.2.13 on 14 April for assault landing in Melabang-Parang-Cotabato area, Mindanao. Conducted A.A. practice with towed sleeve targets. Three vessels fired total of 2419 rounds 40MM and 7802 of 20MM. On 16 April T.U. 78.2.13 dissolved and all joined T.U. 78.2.5. At 0817-0852, 17 April anchored in LST anchorage off assault beach in Falloc harbor, Mindanao. At 1538-1608 shifted anchorage to one-half mile of Parang beach and began discharge by landing craft lighterage, using LCTs and LSMs ramp to ramp. LSTs 579 and 705 completed discharge and sailed for Leyte 19 April in T.U. 78.2.19. Loaded support and resupply at Catmon Hill beach 22-24 April and sailed in T.U. 78.2.21 for Falloc Harbor, Mindanao 25 April 1945.

Two LSTs conducted A.A. practice with towed sleeve targets 25 April and fired total 3737 rounds 40MM and 12999 of 20MM. Arrived Falloc Harbor, Mindanao 28 April and docked at pontoon dock 29 April. Discharged cargo same day and sailed for Morotai, N. E. I. in T.U. 78.2.32 on 29 April 1945.

LST 578 carried low priority cargo and stopped discharge at anchorage before completely unloaded. U.S.S. Wasatch then lifted five boats carried by this vessel for use in objective area. Discharge was completed at pontoon dock on 22 April and sailed for Leyte on orders C.T.G. 78.2 same date. Arrived 25 April at San Pedro Bay and reported to C.T.G. 76.6 for two day availability for repairs. Remained in anchorage remainder of April for logistics, maintenance and training. No enemy opposition was reported in the Mindanao operation.

LST 626 remained in Leyte area 1-12 April for maintenance, repairs to battle damage and training. On 12 April 1945 underway on orders C.T.G. 76.6 with Commander LST Flotilla SEVEN as O.T.C. enroute to Morotai, N.E.I. and with Commander LST Group FORTY-FOUR in LST 924 in company. Both vessels fired A.A. practice at towed sleeve targets. LST 924 expended 798 rounds 40MM, 2460 of 20MM; LST 626 expended 490 of 40MM, 2109 of 20MM without casualties.

14 April 1945 half-masted colors and conducted Memorial Services for the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Arrived Morotai 16 April and anchored at 0915, reported to C.T.G. 78.1 for duty in assault operation on Tarakan Island, Borneo, N.E.I. All ships completed logistics and loaded 26th Infantry Brigade, Reinforced, Australian troops, equipment and cargo 20-25 April 1945. Commander LST Group FORTY-FOUR was in charge of LST beaching, loading and retracting except for one day, also conducted two rehearsals for P-1 operation from LST 667.

At 1650 Commander LST Group FORTY-FOUR in LST 924 with LST 626 underway and sortied with LST T.U. 78.1.12 (ComLSTFlot 7) in accordance with C.T.G. 78.1 (ComPhibGrp 6) attack order 604-45. O.T.C. was C.T.G. 78.1 in U.S.S. Rocky Mount. LSTs towing LCTs and LCMs. At 0914, 28 April formation did emergency 30° right turn to avoid reported possible submarine contact. At 1620, 30 April slowed to five knots and cast of LCT tows. At 1705 changed from cruising to approach formation. At 2016 and 2022 did emergency 30°

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

LST Group FORTY-FOUR, Flotilla FIFTEEN
SEVENTH Amphibious Force
SEVENTH Fleet

April 1945

1. LST Group FORTY-FOUR is composed of ten (10) LSTs operating in the Southwest Pacific Area.

Division 87

Division 88

LST Commanding Officer

679 N. A. Nelmes, Lieut., DE, USNR

703 E. H. Marsland, Lieut., D, USNR

705 C.F. Caughthen, Lieut., DVG, USNR

924 L. Tinsley, Lieut., USN

LST Commanding Officer

578 H.J. Thompson, Lieut., D, USNR

579 H.B. Severs, Lieut., USN

626 M. J. Codoner, Jr., Lieut., D-M, USNR

680 E. M. Sullivan, Lieut., D, USNR

706 L. W. Schmidt, Lieut., D, USNR

753 W. M. Filmer, Lieut., D, USNR

2. Commander LST Group 44 in LST 924 was anchored off Pulupanden, Negros Occidental on 1 April 1945. At 1730 underway for Leyte, Philippine Islands as Commander Task Unit 78.3.16 and O.T.C. for Task Unit of nineteen (19) vessels consisting of U.S.C.G. Ingham (C.T.G. 78.3 flag), thirteen (13) LSTs: 924(F), 67, 68, 469, 573, 637, 639, 666, 667, 697, 721, 742 and 1025, four (4) LSMs: 66, 224, 267 and 269 and escort U.S.S. Claxton.

Arrived Leyte, P. I. without incident 3 April 1945 and Task Unit dissolved.

LST 924 (GF) at anchor Leyte overhaul, upkeep and logistics until 12 April 1945.

LST 679 enroute Hollandia, N. G. arrived 1 April 1945. Loaded and sailed for Morotai 3 April; arrived 7 April and discharged 8 April. 9 April underway in Task Unit 78.2.17 for Sansapor, N. G. where arrived 10 April and loaded 198 tons bulk, 358 vehicles and mobile cargo, 232 troops on 13 April. Anchored Sansapor until 17 April 1945.

LST 706 awaiting repairs at Leyte acted as fuel, water and logistics ship serving numerous LSTs 1 April-11 April 1945. Loaded at Tanuaun beach 12-13 April and sailed in Philippine Island Sea Frontier convoy 17 April 1945 for Manila, P. I. Arrived 20 April and discharged 21-22 April. 23 April underway in convoy under orders C.T.G. 76.2 for Leyte, P. I. Arrived 26 April and docked in ARD 17 on 27 April for repairs to shaft. Undocked 30 April and anchored San Pedro Bay for completion of repairs by U.S.S. Rigel.

LSTs 680 and 703 were in Lingayen Area 1-4 April 1945. Underway 4 April in T.U. 75.2.10 for Mangarin Bay, Mindoro, P. I. with U.S. Army troops, equipment and cargo aboard. Arrived 6 April and discharged 6-7 April. LST 680 loaded 9-12 April total 307 troops, vehicles, equipment, ammunition and gasoline. Sailed 14 April in T.U. 78.2.5 for Mindanao, P. I. Arrived Port Baras, Mindanao 17 April and discharged. Sailed 18 April in T.U. 78.2.16 for Mindoro and arrived 21 April. Loaded 201 troops 21st Infantry 22 April and departed for Mindanao resupply in T.U. 78.2.22.

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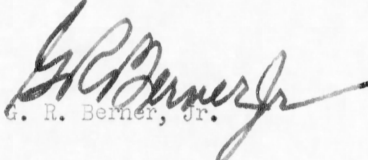
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

left turns. At 2032 ship's right 30° to course 270° true, slowed to six knots. At 2235 decreased interval to 275 yards to enter north channel just south of Tarakan Island.

LST 679 departed Sansapor, New Guinea at 1550 in T.U. 78.2.17 for Morotai, N.E.I. At 1255 I, 19 April joined T.U. 78.2.16 (ComLSTFlot 22) as O.T.C. and proceeded to Palloc Harbor, Mindanao, P. I. Arrived 0955, 22 April 1945 and at 1832 moored bow on to pontoon dock. Discharged vehicles and returned to anchorage 2308. Unloaded remainder bulk cargo and personnel 23 April and proceeded to form convoy at 0030, 24 April enroute to Morotai, N.E.I. 0730, 25 April joined T.U. 78.2.20 (O.T.C. ComLSTFlot 15). Arrived Morotai 26 April 1945 and beached Blue Beach to load 380 troops and 430 tons equipment. 27 April retracted and returned to anchorage. Sailed 1000, 30 April in convoy V5-N (T.U. 78.2.24) for Palloc Harbor, Mindanao, P. I. on resupply run.

LST 753 reports not received and will include in supplementary report.


G. R. Berner, Jr.

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Reg. Sheet No. 250

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GROUP 44

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

% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Supplementary April War Diary

April 1945

LST Group FORTY-FOUR, Flotilla FIFTEEN
SEVENTH Amphibous Force
SEVENTH Fleet

1. Supplementary War Diary for LST 753 is submitted herewith.
2. LST 753 was beached on Tanuan Beach, Leyte, P. I. on 1 April 1945 and retracted same date and proceeded to Guinan Harbor, Samar. On 2 April moored to pontoon dock, Calicoan Island, P. I. and loaded personnel and cargo of Naval Advance Base Unit Eight and returned to anchor in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I. 4 April.
On 7 April LST 753 sailed in T. U. 76.6.20, Commanding Officer LST 753 O.T.C. Arrived Zamboanga, Mindanao, P. I. 10 April and beached on Red Beach to discharge. Retracted 14 April and anchored in Basilan Strait anchorage. Got underway 20 April 1945 with T. U. 78.2.14 for Leyte, P. I.; arrived 22 April and anchored in San Pedro Bay. On 24 April changed both propellers alongside ARD 19.
On 26 April 1945 LST 753 underway with T. U. 75.6.1, Commander LST Group TWENTY as O.T.C. for Cairns, Australia via Hollandia and Milne Bay, New Guinea.

G. R. Bennett, Jr.
G. R. Bennett, Jr.

ENCLOSURE "B"

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