

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

FE25/A9

U. S. LCT FLOTILLA NINETEEN
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

15 July 1944.

From: The Officer in Charge, LCT (5) 555.
To : The Commander U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.
Via : (1) Commander, LCT(6) Flotilla #19.
(2) Commander, Assault Group 124.3.
(3) Commander, Task Force 124.
(4) Commander, Western Naval Task Force.

Subject: Action Report, Operation XXXXXXXXXX6 June 1944.

1. LCT 643 was unable to take part in the invasion of Normandy, France on D-day due to operational difficulties. In her stead the Officer in Charge, Ensign Homer M. Clevenger, took command of LCT 555. It was ordered that Ensign Clevenger take command of LCT 555 by the Commanding Officer, LCT Flotilla NINETEEN. The Commander deemed this necessary due to the fact that the Officer in Charge of LCT 555, Ensign Keefe, had not been briefed on the operation.

2. Change of load, motor vehicles, from LCT 643 to LCT 555 was accomplished the evening of June 4, 1944. LCT 555 left Portland Harbor in company with assault Force O-3 on the morning of June 5, 1944, and arrived at Omaha Beach rendezvous area number three on or about 0630 Tuesday, June 6, D-day. Laid to until 0837 at which time the craft proceeded to line of departure in company with LCT 644 and LCT 22. On arrival at the line of departure, was ordered by the control ship to stand by until called to the beach. Ordered to Easy Red Beach at 2200 D-day. Easy Red Beach had one opening cleared through the mine fields and beach obstacles by this time. The craft approached through opening to within one hundred yards of the beach when she struck an underwater mine. The mine exploded under the starboard generator room, completely damaging that generator and rendered the port and starboard engines inoperative. Flying metal from the explosion injured a soldier who was in the head at the time and came up through the second deck into the wheel-house where the throttleman of the crew was struck. The names of the injured men are unknown to Ensign Clevenger.

8 03485

3. The craft was beached after considerable difficulty, a badly faulting center engine, a heavy starboard list, and a very narrow mine swept channel. Beaching was accomplished at 2230. The load of vehicles was discharged without loss of equipment within five minutes after beaching. At 2300 all hope of retraction from the beach was abandoned, the center engine had been drowned-out and the craft was drawing considerable beach fire. At 2305 the Officer in Charge found it necessary to remove personnel from the ship for their safety. LCT 598 came along side and accepted officers and men of LCT 555 for transfer to an LST.

83954

(1)