

U.S.S. LCI (G) 65  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

13 November 1944

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LCI (G) 65.  
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.

Via : (1) CTU 78.1.(8) Lt. Sargent  
(2) CTG 78.1 Admiral Barbey  
(3) CTF 78 Admiral Barbey  
(4) Com7thPhib Admiral Barbey

Subject: Action Report, Initial Landing Leyte Island,  
Philippine Islands.

Reference: (a) Com7thPhib Conf. Ltr. 17 February 1944 Serial  
0212.  
(b) Article 762, U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.

1. At 0000 hours on the morning of 20 October 1944 this vessel was proceeding from Hollandia, New Guinea to Leyte Island in the Philippine Islands in convoy pursuant to orders from Commander Task Group 78.1 for execution of CTF 78's operation plan 101-44. This vessel was a member of 78.1.8 LCI support unit which included the following vessels: U.S.S. LCI (R) 71, Group Flagship; U.S.S. LCI (R) 72, U.S.S. LCI (R) 73, U.S.S. LCI (R) 74, U.S.S. LCI (R) 331 and U.S.S. LCI (G) 23.

Little difficulty was experienced in convoy. With the exception of several showers, the weather was clear and the sea calm. There were no red alerts until 0600 of 20 October 1944 when one enemy twin engine bomber flew over the convoy. Communications were good using the SCR 610 at night and visual signaling during the daylight hours.

At 0642 of 20 October 1944, we were falling in astern of U.S.S. LCI (R) 74 and then a few minutes later we fell in astern of U.S.S. LCI (R) 331. Proceeding around transports to be off beach. At 0915 we stopped our engines and laid to awaiting orders to proceed in toward the beach. Half an hour later we stood in toward the beach a short distance ahead of the first wave of LVP's and commenced shelling with our 3" 50 in a flank formation, with other vessels of our support unit. The Battleships, cruisers and destroyers bombardment had ceased at this time. The U.S.S. LCI (G) 23 was on our port beam covering the left flank of the beach with us and the U.S.S. LCI (R)'s 71, 72, 73, 74, and 331 were on our starboard beam standing in toward the beach to lay their rocket pattern. After several minutes of bombardment from dead ahead this vessel and U.S.S. LCI (G) 23 executed a 9 turn and strafed and shelled the beach for a short time from our starboard beam with our 3" 50, 40 MM, 20 MM's and 50 calibers before heading away from the beach and laying to, awaiting further orders. During this time we expended the following amount of ammunition.

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Subject: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. LCI (G) 65, Action Report  
Leyte Operation, Philippines.

**Ammunition expended:**

3" 50	H.C.	24 rounds
	A.A.	20 rounds
40 MM	H.E.-T	400 rounds
50 Cal.		1600 rounds
20 MM		840 rounds

Of the seven craft in our support unit that went in to bombard the beach, three were hit by 75 MM fire from the beach. The ships hit were the following: U.S.S. LCI (R) 71, U.S.S. LCI (R) 72, and U.S.S. LCI (R) 331.

At 1140 we received orders to go in to the beach and give fire support to an LST which had been hit and was on fire. However after about ten minutes we returned from the beach and laid to again because the LST had no longer needed help and retracted from the beach. We laid to the rest of the morning and afternoon.

At 1720 we got underway and proceeded with U.S.S. LCI (G)'s 23, 64 and 69 to the mouth of San Juanico Strait where we anchored off Cataisan Pt. and Julianici Island the remainder of the night to intercept any enemy torpedo boats or barges that might try coming through the Strait. This and other patrols this vessel made were negative with the exception of numerous air raids.

One notable air raid as far as this vessel was concerned occurred about 0840, 24 October 1944. At this time about twenty-five enemy twin engine bombers came in from the west just as we were getting underway to leave our patrol area at the mouth of San Juanico Strait. One of these bombers left the formation and came in on our port beam for an attack. As he came in we opened fire with our 3" 50, 40 MM, 20 MM's, and 50 Calibers scoring a number of hits while the plane was still some distance away. However he would not fall and as he came in low he made a strafing and torpedo attack. The torpedo passed under our stern. After numerous hits the plane crashed into our fan-tail. One man was killed and damage was done to our stern winch, stern 20 MM guns, splinter screens, and stanchions. Details of this attack are contained in enclosure (A).

( A chronological account of the above follows.)

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0000 - 0400

0000 Underway in column astern U.S.S. LCI (D) 227, speed 9.5 knots, course 310 T. in company with various ships of the 7th Fleet proceeding to occupy Leyte Island in the Philippines Islands.

0020 C/C to 295 T.

0036 C/C to 286 T.

0038 Sighted Suluán Island on starboard bow and Homonhon Island on port bow.

0115 C/C to 273 T.

0215 C/C to 300 T.

0235 C/C to 320 T.

0305 C/C to 330 T.

0311 Convoy changed speed to zero.

0314 C/S to 7.5 knots.

0400 - 0800

0500 C/C to 309 T.

0535 Exercised at General Quarters.

0602 C/C to 295T.

0642 Deploy. Falling in astern of U.S.S. LCI (R) 74.

0651 Falling in astern of U.S.S. LCI (R) 331.

0800 - 1200

0842 Standing in toward beach with various courses and speeds.

0915 C/S to zero and lying to.

0944 Standing in to shell beach with various courses and speeds.

0952 Commenced strafing and shelling the beach.

0955 Executed 9 turn.

1006 Ceased firing.

1020 Lying to awaiting further orders.

Ammunition expended: 3" 50 24 rounds H.C.  
20 rounds A.A.  
40 MM 400 rounds HE-T  
20 MM 840 rounds  
50 Cal. 1600 rounds

1140 Standing into beach to give fire support to LST on fire.

1150 Returning from beach and lying to again. The LST had already been reached by several LCI rocket ships and no longer needed help.

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CHRONOLOGICAL WAR DIARY  
20 OCTOBER 1944 (Continued)

1200 - 1600

1200 Chronometer reported wound, magazines temperature normal.  
No further remarks.

1600 - 2000

1720 Underway with various courses and speeds for assigned  
area for the night.

1830 Anchored in 2 fathoms of water with 6 fathoms of cable  
to stern anchor in San Pedro Bay off Calaisan Pt. and  
Jinamoc Island, Leyte Island in the Philippines.

1850 Enemy plane overhead.

1900 Enemy planes no longer overhead - Remaining at general  
quarters.  
No further remarks.

2000 - 2400

No remarks.

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Leyte Operation

2. The performance of ordnance material and equipment was satisfactory with only one exception. A loose 3" 50 projectile jammed in the barrel of the gun due to faulty ammunition. The projectile was cleared 6 minutes later with a clearing charge.

Ammunition expended on A day was as follows:

3" 50 Cal.	24 rounds H.C. 20 rounds A.A.
40 MM	400 rounds HE-T
20 MM	800 rounds
50 CAL.	1600 rounds

3. Our only battle damage was sustained when an enemy twin engine bomber crashed on our stern. At that time our stern winch, stern 20 MM guns, splinter screens and stanchions were damaged.

4. The only recommendations this command has to offer concerns the preliminary bombardment of the beach area. We suggest that the destroyers make a close in bombardment as they did in the Morotai Operation.

5. On the 24 October 1944, AISTON, Lester Eugene, SC3c, USN - 860 75 33 was killed by a twin engine enemy bomber which made a suicidal crash on our stern after the guns of this vessel had shot it down.

*C. J. Macaluso*  
C.J. MACALUSO,  
Lt.(jg), D-V(G), USNR  
Commanding

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