

U.S.S. LCI(G) 340  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

CONFIDENTIAL

28 October 1944

**From:** Commanding Officer, USS LCI(G) 340

**To:** Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet

**Via:** (1) Commander Task Unit 78.2.8  
(2) Commander Task Group 78.2  
(3) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force  
(4) Commander SEVENTH Fleet

**Subject:** Action Report-  
LEYTE Operation

**Reference:** (a) Article 87416, U.S. Navy  
Regulations, 1920  
(b) Com7thPhib Conf. Ltr. FE25/A16-3(3) su. 0212  
of 17 February 1944.

1. On 20 October 1944 this ship as a part of the San Ricardo Attack Group, Task Group 78.2, assisted in establishing the Landing Force on Leyte Island. This force consisted of seven APA's, two AP's, two AKA's, five DD's, three PC's one SC six LCI(R)'s, two LCI(G)'s, one ATP, and two beach party units. This ship was a part of the close covering fire support group in company with other LCI(R)'s, mission was to accompany the leading boat waves and support the landing on White Beach from H-5 minutes to H hour. Rocket ships were to be abreast and stationed about 400 - 500 yards apart with one ship on each flank of the boat waves and three inside the lane. The sixth to be stationed 800 yards on right flank to cover narrow neck of land leading to Tacloban Air Strip. Station of this ship was first inboard on Starboard flank. Each ship's responsibility was to cover one-fifth of the beach (400 yards), and support the landing with rockets and automatic weapons, covering the beach thoroughly with rocket fire to a depth of three hundred yards, and additional salvos to a depth of 800 yards. Upon completion of rocket bombardment proceed at slow speed and strafe with automatic weapons, air strip area. (Pertaining only to ships of the right flank). Upon completion of strafing run remain on flanks and reload forward rocket launchers and standby to engage targets of opportunity.

2. Chronological order of events:

20 October 1944

- 0620 Sighted one enemy medium bomber (Betty or Sally?), out of range for this ship's guns - all guns held fire.
- 0627 Plane float type, flew directly over ship, high and fast, all guns held fire due to lack of identification.
- 0745 Deployed from transport group and proceeded independently to line of departure (5,000 yards from landing beach), to take station 500 yards to shoreward of station vessel, USS SC 991.
- 0855 Arrived at line of departure and took proper station for rocket run.
- 0948 Proceeded abeam of control craft leading small boat wave, on rocket run to beach, speed approximately 7 knots, course 279° true.
- 0956 Fired spotting shots to check range for rocket barrage.
- 0957 Commenced firing rocket barrage. Eleven salvos of 44 rockets each were fired in all. First six at approximately 11 second intervals, last five at approximately 21 second intervals. First salvos landed at waters edge and each succeeding salvo penetrated inland at regular intervals up to an estimated six or eight hundred yards.
- 1000 Turned to starboard, cruised at dead slow speed on course parallel to beach and strafed Tacloban air strip.
- 1005 Received return fire from beach from small caliber automatic weapons. Upon placing bursts of automatic weapons fire in general direction of enemy fire, it ceased.
- 1019 Completed strafing run turned right and lay to reloading forward rocket launchers. Stood by on right flank to engage targets of opportunity.
- 1722 Anchored with Task Unit 78.2.8, Lat. 11°10'02" N., Long. 125°07' E.
- 1845 All hands to General Quarters. Ships in harbor fired at enemy plane. This ship held fire.
- 1910 Secured from General Quarters.

21 October 1944

- 0555 All hands to General Quarters.
- 0600 Ships in harbor opened fire on unidentified aircraft. This ship held fire.
- 0605 Ships in harbor ceased fire.
- 0638 Secured from General Quarters.
- 0850 All hands to General Quarters.
- 0952 Secured from General Quarters; no enemy planes sighted by this ship.
- 1226 Moored alongside U.S.S. LCI 364 to take on 4.5" rocket ammunition.
- 1412 Completed loading of rocket ammunition, returned to assigned anchorage.
- 1641 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1653 Secured from General Quarters; no enemy planes sighted.
- 1738 Underway proceeding to screening station assigned by CTU 78.2.8 .
- 1855 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1913 Shore batteries opened fire on enemy plane. This ship held fire.
- 1955 Secured from General Quarters.
- 2330 Unidentified plane flew directly overhead low and fast.

22 October 1944

- 0550 All hands to General Quarters.
- 0702 Secured from General Quarters.
- 0713 Anchored in assigned screening station. Lat. 11°09'04" N.,  
125°07'15" E.
- 1152 Moored alongside USS ARL 41 for emergency repairs, in accordance with orders from CTU 78.2.8.
- 1700 Underway and anchored in vicinity of USS ARL 41/
- 1837 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1945 Secured from General Quarters; no planes sighted.

23 October 1944

- 0540 All hands to General Quarters.
- 0634 Secured from General Quarters; no planes sighted.
- 0740 Underway and moored alongside USS ARL 41 for completion of emergency repairs.
- 1104 Taken in tow by USS LCI 463 and towed alongside USS ARL when she reanchored in new anchorage.
- 1818 Sighted one twin engined bomber (Sally?) circled overhead flying fairly low and fast. Went to general quarters; no guns fired on planes.
- 1928 Secured from General Quarters.
- 2000 Underway and anchored near Dio Island. Lat. 11°14'00" N., Long. 125°02'18" E.

24 October 1944

- 0825 All hands to General Quarters. Enemy twin engine bomber, type unknown shot down by ships AA fire approximately 800 yards off port bow. This ship held fire.
- 0828 Enemy fighter plane (Zeke?) flew directly overhead, fast, and low going from forward aft, all guns opened fire; ship's fire astern of target.
- 0832 Enemy fighter plane (Zeke?) flew directly overhead, fast, at medium altitude, going from aft forward, all guns opened fire. Direct hits made by ship's Nos. 2 & 3 20 MM, guns. Plane trailing smoke, but did not fall.
- 0847 Enemy twin engine Bomber (Dinah or Sally?) shot down by this ship. Plane flew in very low and fast approximately 800 yards off port bow. Nos. 2 & 3 20MM, No. 2 50 cal., and 40 MM shot off tail assembly from bomber causing plane to go straight up and while in this position, 50 cal. and 40 MM bursts were fired in plane's fuselage. Plane rolled over and dropped burning into water and sank.
- 0941 Secured from General Quarters, set condition II.
- 1113 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1135 A single enemy twin engined bomber (Sally or Dinah?) flew low and fast past our starboard bow, approximately 1,000 yards distant, No. 2 20 MM, No. 2 50 cal., and 40 MM guns opened fire. All bursts were short of target. No bursts hit plane. Plane dropped bomb off port quarter of ship. Plane was not shot down.

- 1341 Secured from general quarters.
- 1713 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1749 Ships and shore batteries opened fire on lone single engine plane. Plane was out of range of this ships guns. All guns held fire.
- 2005 Secured from General Quarters.
- 25 October 1944
- 0508 All hands to General Quarters.
- 0547 Shore batteries opened fire. This ship held fire; target not visible.
- 0649 Secured from General Quarters.
- 0709 All hands to General Quarters.
- 0725 Shore batteries opened fire at unidentified enemy plane. This ship held fire.
- 0740 Navy fighter shot down enemy twin engine bomber, type unidentified.
- 0841 Shore batteries and ships opened fire on enemy twin engine bombers (Sally?), one destroyed. This ship held fire.
- 0945 Secured from General Quarters.
- 1137 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1241 Ships and shore batteries opened fire on enemy dive bomber (Val?) This ship held fire.
- 1305 Enemy dive bomber (Val?) shot down by ships gun fire.
- 1321 Underway and proceeding to new anchorage.
- 1350 Shore batteries opened fire on enemy dive bomber (Val?) scored hits but plane did not fall.
- 1534 Secured from General Quarters.
- 1535 Anchored in anchorage off Die Island.
- 1620 All hands to General Quarters.
- 1647 Fired at enemy dive bomber (Val?) flying in high and fast approximately 500 yards abeam to port, dropped bombs, none of which landed near this ship.

- 1738 Received radio message from CTG 78.2 to proceed to vicinity of USS Blue Ridge for orders.
- 1848 Closed USS Blue Ridge and were given orders to proceed with USS PC 623 and USS PC 1119 and USS LCI 71, 357, 34, and 341 to rescue US Naval survivors from DD's and CVE.
- 1849 Underway and proceeding on assigned mission.

26 October 1944

- 1646 Sighted lone survivor in water; proceeded to investigate.
- 1657 Reached survivor and identified him as Japanese. Reported to CTU and were given orders to make rescue.
- 1700 Rescued survivor from water. Man taken aboard, stripped of clothing, and searched, all papers and valuables taken in custody by Commanding Officer. Survivor given medical attention, food, and water, then placed under guard. Approximate position of rescue Lat.  $11^{\circ}34.5' N.$ , Long.  $125^{\circ}57'30'' E.$
- 2335 Received radio message to proceed at best speed to vicinity of USS PC 623 to effect rescue of American survivors.

27 October 1944

- 0122 Picked up lone US Naval survivor from USS CVE 73. Was taken aboard given immediate medical attention, dry clothing, food, and drink.
- 0156 Commenced rescue of survivors from seven life rafts that were secured together.
- 0247 Completed rescue, taking aboard approximately 110 US Naval survivors from USS CVE 73. Several survivors were badly wounded and were given all available medical attention of this ship. Every effort was made to give all men dry clothing, food, and drink. All ship's bunking facilities, both officers' and men's were turned over to survivors. Though cooking facilities were inadequate, hot meals were served. No bodies were taken aboard.
- 0856 Sighted single life raft and proceeded to rescue survivors.
- 0930 Effected rescue of 15 US Naval survivors from USS DD 557. Large percentage of men badly wounded. Given immediate medical attention, food, drink, dry clothing, and berthing space.

1008 Sighted one enemy twin engine bomber (Sally?) flying low eastern of convoy, distance approximately 2,000 yards. All hands to General Quarters. Plane did not attack, no guns fired.

1010 Proceeded on course to return to Leyte Island.

1140 Secured from General Quarters.

1900 All hands to General Quarters; no planes sighted.

1937 Secured from General Quarters.

28 October 1944

0046 All hands to General Quarters. AA fire sighted off port bow; no planes sighted.

0132 Secured from General Quarters.

0220 Anchored in San Pedro Bay, Leyte Island, close aboard USS AGC 9.

0350 All hands to General Quarters. Enemy bombers (type unknown) dropped bombs on beach area. No guns fired from this ship.

0401 Transferred Japanese prisoner to small boat, with all possessions in care of Executive Officer, for transportation to USS AGC 9.

0645 Started unloading US Naval survivors into small boats. Ambulatory cases were taken to LST 226, casualties were taken to USS PCF 852.

0853 All survivors unloaded. Secured from General Quarters; no guns fired.

0905 Received radio message from CTU 78.2.8. Were informed that we were detached from this group and assigned to TU 78.1.8

*Ben Cuss*

11 02924

3. Performance of all ordnance material was highly satisfactory and very effective, however, twelve rockets failed to fire, but this believed to be due to their vibrating upwards from contact points in launchers. The following ammunition was expended.

583	rounds	40 MM
1327	rounds	30 MM
340	rounds	50 Cal.
472	rounds	4.5" rockets

4. No battle damage was sustained by this ship during said action. As for damage done to enemy forces, buildings, and equipment, due to lack of later inspection can not be easily ascertained. Although small buildings and huts along beach were shelled heavily by automatic weapons during strafing run, inflicting serious damage!

5. No comments.

6. No casualties were incurred. All men and officers performed their duties in a most praiseworthy manner.

Joe O. Luby  
Lt.(jg) D-V(G) USNR.  
Commanding

Advance copy to:  
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CTM 78.1.8



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

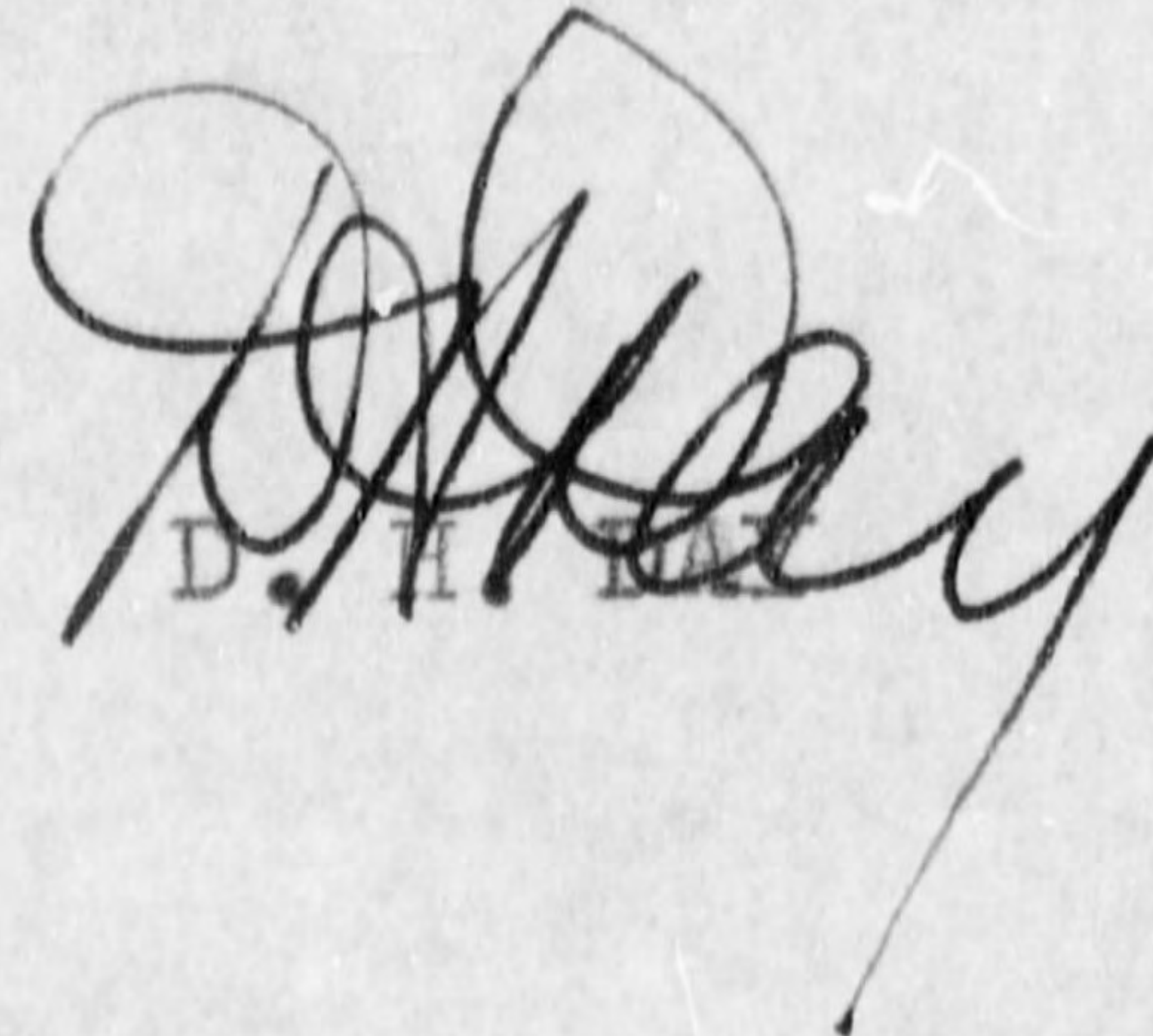
FIRST ENDORSEMENT ON;  
CO LCI(G) 340 Conf.ltr.  
of 28 October 1944.

5 November 1944

From: Commander Task Unit 78.2.8.  
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
  
Via : (1) Commander Task Group 78.2.  
(2) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force.  
(3) Commander SEVENTH Fleet.  
  
Subject: LCI(R) 340 - Action Report - LEYTE Operation.  
  
Reference: (a) Article 762 Navy Regulations.  
(b) Com7thPhib Conf. ltr. FE25/A16-3(3),  
Serial 0596 of 30 October 1943.

1. Forwarded. LCI(G) 340 carried out the above assignment in a highly creditable manner.

2. The claim of shooting down one enemy bomber on 24 October appears justifiable. It is stated by other sources that no other guns were firing at the plane at the time.

  
D. H. May

1 01582