U.S.S. L.C.I. G/#561 FLEET POST OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

5 FEBRUARY 194X

CONFIDENTIAL.

FROM.

COMMANDING OFFICER, USS LCI'G'561 COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U.S.FLEET

VIA.

COMMANDER TASK FORCE 77 COM 7TH FLT

SUBJECT

ACTION REPORT

REFERENCES *

A SEVENTH FLEET CONF.LTR.1CL-44 OF 24 JANUARY 1944.
B COMINCH RES.LTR.FF1/A12-1/A16-3. SERIAL 7152 OF

29 OCTOBER 1943. C PAC.FLT.CONF.LTR.1CL-45 OF I JANUARY 1945.

PART 1

THE USS LCI'G'561 WAS A MEMBER OF THE CLOSE IN FIRE SUPPORT UNIT, ATTACHED TO TASK GROUP 78.2, WHICH LANDED ELEMENTS OF THE 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, U.S. ARMY, ON A BEACH IN THE VICINITY OF NASUGBU, BATANGAS PROVINCE, LUZON, X-RAY DAY 31 JANUARY 1945, HOW HOUR Ø815, ACCORDING TO APERATION PLAN MIKE SIX. THIS ATTACK GROUP REHEARSED THE OPERATION AT LEYTE GULF, PHILLIPINES, ON 27TH JANUARY, 1945, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR OBJECTIVE.

THE PRINCIPLE ENEMY COUNTER ACTION TO THIS OPERATION WAS EXPECTED FROM PT BOATS, AND 25Ø THIRTY FOOT SUICIDE Q BOATS WHICH WERE REPORTED TO BE IN THE NASUGBU-BATANGAS BAY AREA.

THE MISSION OF THE COOSE IN FIRE SUPPORT UNIT EAS TO PERFORM CLOSE INSHORE ROCKET BOMBARDMENT AND STRAFING WITH 40MM AND 20MM GUNS IN ADVANCE OF THE ASSAULT WAVES. THE SPECIFIC MISSION OF THIS SHIP WITHIN THE FIRE SUPPORT UNIT WAS TO DESTROY THE TOWN OF WAWA, APPROXIMATELY 1000 YARDS NORTH OF THE BEACH ON WHICH OUR FORCES WERE TO LAND.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION, 4 LCI R S AND 4 LCI G S FORMED ON A LINE OF 100 YARDS INSHORE OF TH LINE OF DEPARTURE WHICH WAS 2500 YARDS FROM THE BEACHES, ON, A LINE BEARING 170 DEGREES TRUE, HEADING 80 DEGREES TRUE. THIS SHIP'S POSITION WAS ON THE

PART 1 CON T EXTREME NORTHERN FLANK. THE UNIT HEADED INTO THE BEACH ON COURSE Ø8Ø DEGREES TRUE, SPEED 8 KNOTS, TIME H-15 MINUTES. H HOUR FOR THE OPERATION WAS Ø815, ITEM'-9'ZONE. AT 2ØØØ YARDS FROM BEACH, COMMENCED FIRING 40MM AT TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY ON THE BEACH, AT 1500 YARDS FROM BEACH, COMMENCED FIRING 20MM AND SWUNG SHIP S HEADING TO COURSE 050 DEGREES TRUE IN ORDER TO TRAIN BOCKETS ON OBJECTIVE. AT 1100 YARDS, WHEN RANGE ROCKET WAS OBSERVED TO HIT ON BEACH, WE FIRED FIRST SALVO OF 35 ROCKETS, WHICH WERE SEEN TO LAND IN OBJECTIVE AREA, APPROXIM-ATELYSØ YARDS IN FROM BEACH. THE SECOND AND THIRD SALVOES WERE FIRED IN 25 SECOND INTERVALS IN ORDER TO SPACE SALVOES 100 YARDS APART. ALL ROCKETS WERE SEEN TO LAND IN THE TOWN, CAUSING DESTRUCT-ION OFMANY GRASS HUTS AND OTHER BUILDINGS. AT H-3 MINUTES, CEASED FIRING AND WITHDREW NORTH OF BEACH TO A POSITION APPROXIMATELY 1200 YARDS FROM MOUTH OF WAWA RIVER TO ACT AS GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE SORTIES OF ENEMY SMALL CRAFT AGAINST AMPHIBIOUS SHIPPING ON THE BEACHES. AS WE WERE TURNING TO WITHDRAW, 40MM AND 20MM FIRE CONCEN-TRATED ON A CONCRETE BOX STRUCTURE SITUATED ON THE END OF A PIER NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE WAWA RIVER. THE ENTIRE PIER AREA WAS STRAFFED. LATER IN THE MORNING WE WERE ORDERED TO PROCEED INTO THE BEACH TO SILENCE THREE OF FOUR MACHINE GUN NESTS WHICH WERE ATTACKING LSM S UNLOADING ON THE BEACH. TOGETHER WITH LCI'G' 558

LATER IN THE MORNING WE WERE ORDERED TO PROCEED INTO THE BEACH TO SILENCE THREE OF FOUR MACHINE GUN NESTS WHICH WERE ATTACKING LSM S UNLOADING ON THE BEACH. TOGETHER WITH LCI'G' 558 WE THOROUGHLY STRAFED A BARN SUSPECTED OF HOUSING MACHINE GUN NESTS AND CONCENTRATED ON OTHER SUSPICIOUS OBJECTIVES. A DESTROYER LANDED TWO OR THREE FIVE INCH SHELLS ON THE BARN AT THE SAME TIME WE WERE STRAFING IT. LATER WE RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT OUR TROOPS HAD PENETRATED THE WAWA AREA AND WE CEASED FIRING. ONLY ONE MACHINE GUN OF THE ENEMY REMAINED IN OPERATION WHICH LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THE COMBINED FIRING OF THE DESTROYER AND THE TWO LCI & S HAD SILENCED TWO OR THREE MACHINE GUN NESTS.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON OF X-RAY DAY, WE WERE ORDERED TO PROCEED NORTH OF NASUGBU POINT AND INVESTIGATE A NATIVE OUTRIGGER, CONTAINING FIVE PERSONS. THE PARTY PROVED TO BE AN ARMY OFFICER, MAJOR VANDERPOOL, CENTRAL LUZON INTELLIGENCE COORDINATOR, AND FOUR PHILIPINO GUERILLAS. WE TOOK THE PARTY ABOARD AND DELIVERED THEM TO THE TASK GROUP HEADQUARTERS ON THE BEACH. WHILE ENROUTE FROM THE POINT WHERE WE PICKED UP THE PARTY TO THE HEADQUARTERS ON THE BEACH, MORTAR AND MACHINE GUN FIRE LANDED APPROXIMATELY 200 YARDS FROM THE CHIP. THIS FIRING CAUSED THE SCREENS TO MOVE OUTWARD FROM THE SHORE. WE WERE UNABLE TO DECTECT WHERE THE FIRE WAS COMING FROM AND DID NOT RETURN FIRE.

ON THE NIGHTS OF XRQAY DAY AND XRAY PLUS ONE, ENEMY SMALL CRAFT ATTEMPTED TO PENETRATE THE AREA WHERE OUR SHIPS WERE ANCHORED BUT THE OUTER PROTECTIVE SCREEN EITHER DESTROYED THEM OR DROVE THEM OFF AND THE MAIN SHIPPING WAS NOT THREATENED.

AT Ø75Ø ON XRAY DAY, 31 JAN., 1945 THIS SHIP WITH REST OF CLOSE INSHORE BOMBARDMENT BEGAN TO MOVE IN TOWARD THE LANDING BEACHES OF NASUGBU BAY FROM LINE OF DEPARTURE. THIS SHIP OCCUPIED THE LEFT FLANK, TOWARDS WAWA TOWN. AT Ø812 40 MM GUNS BEGAN STRAFING THE TARGET AREA, AND 20 MM GUNS FOLLOWED SUIT THREE MINUTES LATER. AT \$816, AFTER THE SHIPS HEADING HAD BEEN CHANGED FROM Ø8ØOT TO Ø5ØOT TO FACE WAWA TOWN, RANGE ROCKETS WERE FIRED WHICH WERE SEEN TO HIT ON THE BEACH, AND THREE 35 ROCKET SALVOES WERE THEN FIRED IN 25 SECOND INTERVALS, ALL OF WHICH LANDED IN THE TARGET AREA. AT Ø818, THE SHIP BEGAN A RUN PARALELL TO THE BEACH, WITH STARBOARD 40MM AND 20MM GUNS STRAFING TARGETS NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE WAWA RIVER, CONCENTRATING ON OBJECTS AROUND A PIER. AT Ø821, SHIP BEGAN PULLING AWAY FROM THE BEACH AND ALL GUNS CEASED FIRING. AT Ø826, SHIPTOOK STATION 1200 YARDS FROM MOUTH OF WAWA RIVER TO ACT AS GUARDSHIP AGAINST ENEMY FAST BOATS POSSIBLY ATTEMPTING A SURPRISE SORTIE.

AT Ø92Ø, SHIP WAS ORDERED TO PROCEED INTO BEACH AND SILENCE THREE OR FOUR MACHINE GUN NESTS WHICH WERE ATTACKING OUR LSM S, THEN IN THE PROCESS OF UNLOADING ON THE BEACH. THE MACHING GUN FIRE SEEMED TO BE COMING FROM A LARGE BARN, NEAR THE MOUTH OF WAWA RIVER. AT Ø922, IN COMPANY WITH LCI-G-558, THE SHIP MOVED IN AND BEGAN STRAF-ING THE BARN WITH 40MM AND 20MM GUNFIRE, WITH GOOD RESULTS. A DESTROYER OPENED FIRE ON THE BARN AT Ø923 AND SCORED TWO OR THREE DIRECT HITS WITH 5 INCH SHELLS. AFTER GIVING THE BARN A THOROUGH STRAFING, OUR GUNS FIRED ON OTHER SPOTS SUSPECTED OF HOUSING MACHINE GUN NESTS, INCLUDING A LIGHTHOUSE, SMALL HOUSES, CLUSTERS OF SHRUBBERY. AND CAVES NEAR THE MOUTH OF WAWA RIVER. WHILE WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO SILENCE THE MACHING GUN FIRE, THE ENEMY OPENED UP ON OUR LSM S WITH HEAVIER FIRE, BELIEVED TO BE 105MM. THESE BATTERIES WERE SUSPECTED TO BE FIRING FROM A CLIFF BACK OF NASUGBU POINT AND WERE BEYOND THE RANGE OF OUR GUNS. FIVE SHELLS WERE SEEN TO LAND SHORT OF NORTHERN LSM AND THEN THE FIRE CEASED. NO DAMAGE WAS INFLECTED ON OUR SHIPPING. AT Ø942, RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT OUR TROOPS HAD PENETRATED INTO THE WAWA TOWN AREA, AND WE CEASED FIRING. ONLY ONE ENEMY MACHING GUN CON-TINUED TO FIRE, WHICH LEAD US TO CONCLUDE THAT TWO OR THREE ENEMY MACHING GUNS HAD BEEN SILENCED BY THE COMBINED FIRING OF THE TWO LCI-G- S AND THE DESTROYER. THIS WAS THE END OF ACTION. WE THEN RESUMED OUR GUARDSHIP STATION 1200 YARDS FROM THE MOUTH OF WAWA RIVER.

AT 1740, THE SHIP WAS ORDERED TO 00 NORTH OF NASUGBU POINT AND INVESTIGATE AN OUTRIGGER, CONTAINING FIVE PERSONS. 1805, WE PICKED UP THE OCCUPANTS OF THE OUTRIGGER, WHICH PROVED TO BE AN ARMY OFFICER, MAJ. VANDERPOOL, CENTRAL LUZON INTELLIGENCE COORDINATOR AND FOUR PHILIPINO GUERRILLAS. WE THEN PROCEEDED TO DELIVER THIS PARTY TO THE TASK GROUP HDQ. ON THE BEACH. AT 1830, WHILE ENROUTE TO THE BEACH MORTAR AND MACHINE GUN FIRE LANDED APPROXIMATELY 200 YARDS ASTERN OF THE SHIP, THE FIRE COMING FROM SOME POINT BACK OF NASUGBU POINT. THIS FIRE CAUSED THE INSHORE SCREENS TO MOVE OUTWARD FROM THE BEACH BUT NO DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED BY ANY OF THE SHIPS. AT 1855, THE PARTY WAS DELIVERED TO AN LCVP FOR DELIVERY TO THE BEACH.

SMALL CRAFT ATTEMPTED TO PENETRATE THE AREA WHERE OUR SHIPS WERE ANCHORED BUT WERE DRIVEN OFF OR DESTROYED BY THE OUTER PROTECTING 3

SCREENS AND THIS SHIP WAS NOT INVOLVED. PART 3 DURING THE ENTIRE ACTION PERIOD, THE 40MM GUNS EXPENDED 1125 ROUNDS, THE 20MM GUNS 650 ROUNDS, ALL WITHOUT CASUALTY TO GUNS OR PERSONELL. ALL OF OUR MACHINE GUN FIRE WAS SLOW, DELIBERATE, AND ONLY AT SPECIFIC TARGETS. ONLY 107 OF A SCHEDULED 150 ROCKETS WERE FIRED, THE FAULT BEING A COMBINATION OF THE EXTREMELY POOR WIRING SYSTEM WHICH WAS INSTALLED AT PEARL HARBOR, AND JAMS IN THE LAUNCHES WHICH PREVENTED SOME ROCKETS FROM REACHING CONTACT POINTS. PART 4 THIS SHIP SUFFERED NO DAMAGE, AND WE WERE UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT DAMAGE WE INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY. WE SPOTTED NO ENEMY MOVEMENT OR DEFINITE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS, BUT BLEW UP MAJOR PART OF BEACH AREA TO DEPTH OF 300 TO 400 YARDS. CIC, COMMUNICATIONS, ENGINEERING, NAVIGATION AND ALL DIVISIONS OF THE SHIP PERFORMED IN A HIGHLY SATISFACTORY MANNER. PART 6 PERFORMANCE BY SHIPS PERSONNEL WAS EXCELLENT. WERE NO CASUALTIES. COMMANDING ENC. (H),