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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LST FLOTILLA FOUR

Refer to:

LSTFlot 4/A12-1(7)
(TWG-wd)
Serial No. 0022

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: Commander LST Flotilla FOUR.
To: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: War Diary - period 1 to 24 July 1944.

LST Flotilla FOUR - Commander T. W. GREENE, USN, Commanding - is now attached to the European Theatre of Operations under Commander Landing Craft and Bases, ELEVENTH Amphibious Force. Pennant is in the LST 266. Administration for the flotilla is aboard the flagship. Flotilla ships are now engaged in shuttle service between England and the invasion beachhead in France.

COMPOSITION OF THE FLOTILLA

Group 11 - Commander I. C. MC KEE, USNR, Commanding

<u>Div. 21</u> - Lt. F. J. OBERG, USNR	<u>Div. 22</u>
360 - Lt. W. C. HANWAY, Jr., USNR	1 - Lt. L. EMLEY, USNR
383 - Lt(jg) J. I. LYNCH, USNR	359 - Lt. H.V.R. PALMER, Jr., USNR
384 - Lt. J. H. MILLER, USNR	377 - Lt. J.P. CUNNINGHAM, USNR
385 - Lt. C. STASAVICH, USNR	378 - Lt. E. C. ANDERSON, USNR
386 - Lt. D. A. PACE, USNR	379 - Lt. J. B. CHASE, USNR
327 - Lt. C. J. GILLERAN, USCG	
540 - Lt. F. J. OBERG, USNR	

Group 12 - Commander C. A. LEGG, USN, Commanding

<u>Div. 23</u>	<u>Div. 24</u> - Lt. W. N. FINLEY, Jr., USNR
27 - Lt. A. VOLTON, USCG	539 - Ens. T.J. AUSTIN, USN
28 - Lt. B. D. QUIRK, USNR	351 - Lt. R.W. CALDWELL, USNR
212 - Lt. M. D. ELLIS, USN	16 - Lt. W.L. HORTON, USCGR
262 - Lt. V. HILL, USCGR	519 - Lt. F. L. BRIMMER, USN
266 - Lt. L. A. BOLON, USNR	75 - Lt. S. A. SOKULSKI, USN
538 - Ens. H. W. WILLIAMS, Jr., USN	

1 - 5 July 1944. The ships of the Flotilla are engaged in the Shuttle Service to the beachhead, loading troops and cargo from London, Southampton, and Portland. The return trip from the beachhead, the ships usually carry casualties, mail, and prisoners of war. Enemy air activity over the beachhead has increased; planes make a nightly appearance. LST 538 is in the

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London Area for repairs resulting from torpedo damage. LSTs 28 and 378 are at Falmouth, England, and Penarth, Wales, respectively, effecting repairs to damage due to collisions. On 2 July, the Flotilla Commander acted as Commodore of Convoy FCM-21 consisting of 23 LSTs and 12 Merchantmen, bound from France to various ports on the south coast of England. The passage was uneventful. The majority of the ships of this flotilla have operated on the longest possible run, loading out of the London Area and unloading on the British Assault Sector. The close of the fifth day of July marks the completion of the first month of the invasion of France. During this period the 23 ships of Flotilla FOUR have collectively operated 579 days out of a possible 690 days. The expected percentage of non-operational days used in the planning of this operation was 25%. Our percentage of non-operational time was 7.7%. During this thirty day period, the ships have made one hundred and thirty-nine complete shuttle trips to the beachhead transporting the following:

TO FRANCE

Troops
31,423

Vehicles
8649

TO ENGLAND

Casualties
2363

Prisoners of War
3824

6 - 11 July 1944. Various ships of the Flotilla are undergoing repairs in the United Kingdom, the others are busily engaged in the shuttle service to the Beachhead. The trip to the Far Shore and the return has become more or less routine. Enemy air activity over the beaches at night and occasional E-Boat and Submarine or Human Torpedo alerts are our closest contact with the enemy; however, the casualties that we evacuate from France prove the active presence of the enemy. While crossing the channel at night many of the flying bombs are observed en-route to England. At 2200 on 10 July, while lying at anchor, off Portsmouth awaiting convoy, sixteen flying bombs were counted flying at about twenty minute intervals headed for Portsmouth and Southampton. The anti aircraft put up by the shore defenses was ineffectual. The volume of fire was tremendous but aim appeared indiscriminate. One of the bombs caught fire and fell into the sea. Information is received on 10 July that LST 384 was hit by a flying bomb while at anchor at Deptford, England, on 8 July 1944. Damage to the ship was very extensive. Casualties amounted to three (3) officers and two (2) enlisted men killed and three (3) officers and two (2) enlisted injured. The Commanding Officer of

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the ship was among the fatal casualties. On 11 July, LSTs 379, 359, 360, and 266 are at the Juno Sector of the British beach-head unloading troops and equipment of the First Canadian Army.

12 July 1944. On 12 July, LSTs 359, 360, 379, and 266 are underway in Convoy FTM-35, Convoy Commodore in HMS LST 361, from the Juno Sector of the British Beachhead and bound for various English Channel Ports. At 1034, LST 359, the second ship ahead of LST 266, in column, was mined. A pronounced explosion resulted, throwing up a geyser of water that completely obscured the ship. The 359 apparently passed over the mine before it exploded. The ship developed a slight list to starboard. A medical officer and six (6) hospital corpsmen were sent from the Flotilla Flagship to assist with the injured. LST 379, of this flotilla, went alongside and took the LST 359 in tow. HMS LSTs 199 and 157 stood by to render assistance. The British Hospital Ship #56 came up astern and despatched boats to the stricken ship and took aboard the casualties. A total of twenty (20) officers and men were injured. Convoy FTM-35 proceeded to destination leaving LST 359 in tow of LST 379. Arrangements were effected to provide Tug services in to the anchorage at Portsmouth on arrival, and the 359 arrived safely during the night.

13 - 24 July 1944. Various ships of the flotilla are undergoing repairs as indicated:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Damage Caused By</u>
384	The Nore	Flying Bomb
538	The Nore	Torpedo
359	Portsmouth, England	Mine
378	Penarth, Wales	Collision
28	Falmouth, England	Collision
386	The Nore	Storm

The remainder of the ships are operating in the Shuttle Service to the Beachhead. During this period the Flotilla Commander acted as Convoy Commodore for the following convoys:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Convoy</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Composition</u>
15 July	FPM-5	France	Portland-Soton	18 LSTs - 15 Merchantmen
17 July	EPM-7	Portland	France	13 LSTs - 2 Merchantmen
19 July	FPM-9	France	Portland-Soton	31 LSTs - 12 Merchantmen
22 July	EPM-12	Portland	France	10 LSTs - 15 Merchantmen

On 17 and 22 July the convoys were operating under conditions of zero visibility due to fog for the greater part of the trip. Successful passage can be attributed to the radar equipment aboard. In

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LST FLOTILLA EIGHTEEN

FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: Commander LST Flotilla EIGHTEEN.
To: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: War Diary - period 25 through 31 July 1944.

LST Flotilla EIGHTEEN, Commander T. W. GREENE, USN, Commanding, was organized in accordance with Commander ELEVENTH Amphibious Force Operation Plan EE-44 dated 10 July 1944 and consists of the former LST Flotilla FOUR plus newly added units. The Flotilla is attached to the European Theatre of Operations under Commander LSTs, ELEVENTH Amphibious Force. Pennant is in the LST 266. Administration for the flotilla is aboard the flagship. Flotilla ships are now engaged in the shuttle service between England and the invasion beachhead in France.

COMPOSITION OF THE FLOTILLA

Group 52 - Commander W. J. WHITESIDE, USN, Commanding

Div. 103

543 - Lt. R. F. BLAKE, USNR
682 - Lt. E. R. HEDGE, USNR
980 - Lt. W. F. WESTFALL, USN
981 - Lt. C. A. WILSON, USNR
982 - Lt. W. A. BREEN, Jr., USNR
983(GF) - Lt(jg) W.W.WEIR, USNR

Div. 104 - Lt. W. N. FINLEY, Jr., USNR

327 - Lt. C. J. GILLERAN, USCG
360 - Lt. W. C. HANWAY, Jr., USNR
383 - Lt(jg) J. I. LYNCH, USNR
384 - Lt(jg) J. R. PURCELL, USNR (Act.)
385 - Lt. C. STASAVICH, USNR
386 - Lt. D. A. PACE, USNR

Group 53 - Commander I. C. McKEE, USNR, Commanding

Div. 105

1 - Lt. L. EMLEY, USNR
359(GF) - Lt. C. R. MASTERSON, USNR
377 - Lt. J. P. CUNNINGHAM, USNR
378 - Lt. E. C. ANDERSON, USNR
379 - Lt. J. B. CHASE, USNR
16 - Lt. W. L. HORTON, USCGR

Div. 106 - Lt. F. J. OBERG, USNR

75 - Lt. S. A. SOKULSKI, USN
351 - Lt. R. W. CALDWELL, USNR
519 - Lt. F. L. BRIMMER, USN
539 - Ens. T. J. AUSTIN, USN
540 - Lt. F. J. OBERG, USNR

Group 54 - Commander C. A. LEGG, USN, Commanding

Div. 107

27 - Lt. A. VOLTON, USCG
28 - Lt. B. D. QUIRK, USNR
212(GF) - Lt. M. D. ELLIS, USN

262 - Lt. V. HILL, USCGR
266 - Lt. L. A. BOLON, USNR
538 - Ens. H. W. WILLIAMS, JR., USN

ENROUTE UNITED KINGDOM TO REPORT ON ARRIVAL

Division 108

566
572
616
620
621
674

Division 109

702
920
921
1000
1001
1002

Reg. No. 1928
U.S. No.

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FLEET POST OFFICE
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25 - 31 July 1944. Damaged ships of the newly numbered flotilla are disposed as follows:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Damage Caused By</u>
384	The Nore	Flying Bomb
538	The Nore	Torpedo
359	Portsmouth	Mine
28	Falmouth, England	Collision
386	The Nore	Storm

The remainder of the ships are engaged in the shuttle service to the beachhead in France. The majority of the ships of the flotilla are now operating from the port of Southampton. Commander Task Force ONE TWENTY-THREE (123) has ordered the Flotilla Commander to set up headquarters ashore at Southampton after 31 July 1944. The twelve (12) new ships to be assigned to Flotilla EIGHTEEN are still enroute from the United States. The shuttle trips to the beachhead are now routine. On 27 July, the Flotilla Commander acted as Convoy Commodore for Convoy EPM-17 from Portland to France. LST 378, of this flotilla, completed repairs and has returned to the shuttle run with Convoy EPM-17.


T. W. GREENE

cc: CIN ARS
Com11thPhib
ComPhibsUKay