

U. S. S. LST #243  
LST Group Thirty-Eight, Flotilla Thirteen

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1 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 14° - 45' N - 149° - 14' E  
(Zone -10)                   1200 - 14° - 37' N - 149° - 42' E  
                                  2000 - 14° - 21' N - 150° - 55' E

Underway as before. Enroute Eniwetok, Marshall Is. on course 103°(T), speed of advance 9 knots.

2 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 13° - 58' N - 152° - 24' E  
                                  1200 - 13° - 51' N - 152° - 56' E  
                                  2000 - 13° - 35' N - 154° - 00' E

Underway as before. Enroute Eniwetok. At 0200 changed to Zone -11 time.

3 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 13° - 14' N - 155° - 22' E  
                                  1200 - 13° - 07' N - 155° - 53' E  
                                  2000 - 12° - 51' N - 157° - 05' E

Underway as before. Enroute Eniwetok.

4 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 12° - 30' N - 158° - 59' E  
                                  1200 - 12° - 15' N - 159° - 31' E  
                                  2000 - 11° - 52' N - 160° - 33' E

Underway as before. Enroute Eniwetok. 1304 - Formed two section column disposition and conducted Gunnery exercises firing at 3"/50 A.A. shell bursts, also fired pyrotechnics. At 1420 secured from Gunnery exercises having expended 1 (r) 3"/50 AA, 60 (r) 40 MM and 180 (r) 20 MM ammunition, also expended 12 canister pyrotechnics. 1435 - Formed exercise disposition one fox. 1600 - formed approach disposition one open order.

5 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 11° - 15' N - 162° - 13' E  
                                  1200 - 11° - 36' N - 162° - 16' E  
                                  2000 - 11° - 36' N - 162° - 16' E

Underway as before. Enroute Eniwetok. 0035 - A hospital ship passed on our port beam. 0615 - Sighted Eniwetok Atoll off the port bow. Approximate distance 8 miles. 0800 - Formed single column entrance disposition and stood into Eniwetok Lagoon. 1300 - Tied up to port side of LST 446 in Berth "J" 729 in Eniwetok Northern anchorage, Marshall Islands.

6 July 1944 - Moored as before. Eniwetok. The Marines left the ship for exercise on the beach, returning aboard in the evening. 1610 - Received water from the USS YW 19.

7 - 9 July 1944 - Moored as before. Eniwetok. 0820 - In accordance with orders of Com Task Group 53.17 proceeded to the USS ARD 15 for dockage. While in drydock completed the following repairs: replaced both propellers, replaced port tail shaft, renewed stern tube bearings and scraped and painted bottom of the ship. Completed repairs and left drydock at 1800 - 9 July. Proceeded to anchorage.

10 - 14 July 1944 - Anchored as before. Eniwetok. Took on commissary supplies, refueled and took on water.

15 July 1944 - Position - 2000 - 11° - 17' N - 161° - 35' E  
 In accordance with C.T.G. 53.17 SECRET mailgram no. 14130 of 14 July 1944 sortied with Tractor Group Four (T.G. 53.17) plus USS GRAPPLE and USS APc 46, two miles out of Eniwetok "Wide Passage" at 1515 after getting underway at 1130. Our sortie was delayed by a transport departing "deep pass" as we were proceeding. We were proceeded out of Eniwetok by Tractor Group Three. 1605 - Formed 2 sections in line column disposition, took assigned station 2 of section 1. 1745 - went to General Quarters. A plane towing a sleeve was to have appeared for Gunnery practice, but due to our delay in leaving Eniwetok, it probably had returned to its base. 1745 - Secured from General Quarters. 1805 - Formed cruising disposition one. 2200 - Settled to course 280°(T), speed of advance 9.5 knots.

16 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 11° - 44' N - 159° - 53' E  
 1200 - 11° - 47' N - 159° - 18' E  
 2000 - 11° - 59' N - 158° - 03' E

Underway as before. Enroute Guam Is., Marianas. Cruising disposition one at station two of LST section one. LST 446 formation guide. 1700 - Sighted tractor Group Three broad on the stbd bow, distance 10 miles. 1900 - Changed to Zone -10 time.

17 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 12° - 25' N - 156° - 13' E  
 1200 - 12° - 31' N - 155° - 46' E  
 2000 - 12° - 34' N - 154° - 52' E

Underway as before. Enroute Guam Is., Marianas. 0820 - Formed 2 sections in line column disposition. Tractor Group Three sighted broad on stbd bow, distance 12 miles. 0945 - Commenced exercises simulating "W" Day maneuvers led by Com Task Group. 1158 - Ceased exercises and formed cruising disposition one able, speed 9 knots.

18 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 12° - 51' N - 153° - 00' E  
 1200 - 12° - 55' N - 152° - 24' E  
 2000 - 13° - 08' N - 151° - 11' E

Underway as before. Enroute Guam Is., Marianas. 0848 - Formed approach disposition one. Destroyer BLACK reported radar contact with friendly aircraft. 1245 - Formed approach disposition two and then formed sortie disposition one followed by Gunnery practice at 1340, firing at 3"/50 A.A. shell bursts. Expended the following ammunition: 3 (r) 3"/50 AA, 60 (r) 40 MM and 540 (r) 20 MM. Marines also test fired small arms. 1355 - Secured from Gunnery exercises. 1425 - Formed approach disposition two and at 1645 formed crusing disposition one able.

19 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 13° - 18' N - 149° - 25' E  
 1200 - 13° - 16' N - 148° - 59' E  
 2000 - 13° - 14' N - 147° - 57' E

Underway as before. Enroute Guam Is., Marianas. 0700 - Refueled and transferred water to the USS SC 1325.

20 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 13° - 14' N - 146° - 33' E  
 1200 - 13° - 07' N - 146° - 30' E  
 2000 - 13° - 10' N - 145° - 34' E

Underway as before. Enroute Guam Is., Marianas. Destroyer BLACK reported radar contact with friendly aircraft. 1045 - Formed approach disposition two. Tractor

Group Three sighted hull down, dead ahead. 1320 - Commenced exercises simulating "W" Day maneuvers led by Com Task Group. Completed exercises at 1520. After sun-down, we observed numerous gun flashes from the direction of Guam Is.

21 July 1944 - Underway as before. Enroute Guam. This day designated as "W" Day for Guam invasion. We are one of Southern Attack Force which is to hit Agat Beach. 0415 - During heavy rolling lost the stern anchor and cable. 0500 - Arrived in the predawn area off the south west shore of Guam. Went to condition I Mike. 0600 - Arrived in the "LST launching area" off Agat Beach, Guam. Upon signal of Com. Task Group turned 60° to the right and first column of LSTs lined up on the Destroyer BLACK on the left flank; proceeded to line of launching. 0730 arrived at line of launching. Commenced disembarking LVTs. Ensign W. H. Lee, Jr., USNR and ship's small boat and crew left ship for duty as boat guide of waves to invasion beach Agat Bay, Guam. 0735 - Completed disembarking LVTs. Disembarked 13 LVTs and 4 LVT(A)s with the following Marine personnel: 4 officers and 96 enlisted men of the III Amphibious Corps and 13 Officers and 233 enlisted of the 1st Bn., 22 Marines. 0737 - Underway and returning to Tractor Group area. The Task Group 53.17 was dissolved upon entering attack area. 0815 - Took aboard Comdr. E. A. Mc FALL, USN (LST Group 38) and staff from the USS BLACK (DD666). 0945 - Layed to in Tractor Group area two. 1615 - Comdr. E. A. McFALL, USN (Com LST Gr. 38) left ship, having been ordered back to the USS BLACK (DD666). Ensign LEE returned to the ship. 1730 - Underway from Tractor area 2 to retire for the night according to Com Task Force 53 retirement plan 163-44. Comdr. Mc FALL in USS BLACK formation guide. This ship guide of 7 LSTs and 2 LCI(G)s. Cruising disposition one at station 1 of section 1.

22 July 1944 - Underway as before in accordance with C.T.F. 53 retirement plan 163-44. 0730 - Arrived in Tractor area 2 off Agat Bay, Guam Is. and layed to. 0830 - Took aboard 5 wounded ships company of the USS SC 1326, which were attended by Lieut. A. M. SHRADER, (MC), USNR (LST Gr. 38 Staff). The men were wounded 21 July by enemy mortar fire. 0930 - Proceeded to Agat Bay in accordance with orders of C.T.G. 53.4 to unload ammunition to Agat Beach. 1230 - Took aboard BENDER, C. L., Pfc "A" Co. 22nd Marines for treatment of shrapnel wounds received 22 July. 1300 - Wounded received aboard from the SC 1326 returned to their ship. 1920 - We proceeded to and beached on the reef off Agat City to facilitate the unloading of vehicles at low tide. LSTs 41, 476 and 38 also beached alongside. Orate Peninsula approximately 1 mile off our port beam is occupied by the Japs. We took precautions against the Japs boarding the ship during the night.

23 July 1944 - Beached as before. Made no headway in the unloading of vehicles due to condition of coral beach, which was extremely uneven and soft. We were menaced by enemy snipers during the night, several shots passing over our bow. 0745 - Retracted from the reef and anchored to permit LCMs to take off vehicles, but were unable to procure LCMs. Finally, at 1450 a channel was dynamited in the reef off Agat City to enable LSTs to beach. We then proceeded through channel and beached. Disembarked vehicles and 1st Lieut. WATSON, Lloyd E. with 16 enlisted men of the III Corps Signal Bn., III Amphibious Corps. 1945 - Retracted from beach and anchored in Agat Bay.

24 July 1944 - Anchored as before Agat Bay. 0900 - Six LVT(A)s proceeded along beach about one mile to three miles north of Agat town. While making strafing run, enemy fire from mortars and about 75 MM rifles, three LVT(A)s were hit, two sunk. LVT(A)s were followed by LCI(G)s. Two LCI(G)s were hit by same enemy fire causing some damage. Results of fire from LVT(A)s and LCI(G)s undetermined. 1100 - DUKWs arrived to unload ammunition. 1500 - The Japs from a position on the south bank of Orote Peninsula, began shelling the line of vehicles being disembarked from LSTs on the beach, setting fire to several vehicles. All LSTs, including this ship, which were in danger of being fired upon, got underway and proceeded to a less dangerous sector of Agat Bay. A destroyer went in close to enemy position and gave it a terrific shelling. The Japs were firing from one of several caves or dugouts, observed in a high bank overhanging Agat Bay. The destroyer upon completion of it's shelling, guaranteed the Com LST Unit that the enemy position was knocked out, and retired. It is not understood why fire support destroyer retired instead of remaining in position to cover unloading operation on Agat Beach. This retirement left LSTs, smallcraft, and vehicles entirely exposed to continued fire from Orote. 1910 - The Japs again opened fire from previously reported position, on LST 481. It was the nearest LST to enemy gun position. It immediately answered Jap gun fire with its own 3"/50 gun. Her return fire silenced Jap gun fire, after several rounds were expended, but it had received several direct hits. LST 481 then got underway and proceeded toward beach. A smokescreen provided cover for other LSTs in proximity of enemy gun, engaged in unloading ammunition and vehicles. They got underway and proceeded to southern extremity of Agat Bay, anchoring for the night. The unloading of ammunition was continued from new anchorage.

25 July 1944 - Anchored as before Agat Bay, unloading ammunition by means of DUKWs. 0925 - The Japs began shelling two LSTs beached off Agat City. This is the third time they have fired from the same position. This time all LSTs nearest enemy gun position returned fire with their 3"/50 and 40 MM guns, each LST firing several rounds. The enemy gun was silenced. After the LSTs ceased firing the destroyer (DD500) steamed into position near enemy gun position and gave it a terrific bombardment in an attempt to again destroy it. 1300 - Completed unloading ammunition.

In accordance with C.T.F. 53 despatch 242225 sortied with Task Unit 53.18.1 at 1600 after getting underway from Agat Bay, Guam at 1515. Comdr. E. A. Mc FALL, USN (C.T.U. 53.18.1) in LST 276 (F) with LSTs 243, 78, 122, 478, 221, 41 and 38 plus LCI(G) 365 - screen consists of the SC 1326 and 2 YMSs - enroute Eniwetok, Marshall Islands. 1615 - Formed 2 sections in line column disposition took assigned station 2 of section 1. 2140 - Settled to course 092°(T), speed of advance 8.5 knots.

26 July 1944 - Position - 0800 - 13° - 02' N - 146° - 15' E  
1200 - 12° - 58' N - 146° - 55' E  
2000 - 12° - 58' N - 147° - 55' E

Underway as before. Enroute Eniwetok, Marshall Is. The LSTs 479 and 477 joined this Task Unit during night taking stations to the rear of each section. 0600 - Sighted a large group of ships and several aircraft off our stern. 1030 - Went to open order disposition.