

Reg. No. 359
R.S. No.

File No.

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,
Amphibious Force,
Northwest African Waters.

LCB/A12-1

05/Wr

Serial 00155

May 30, 1943.

SECRET

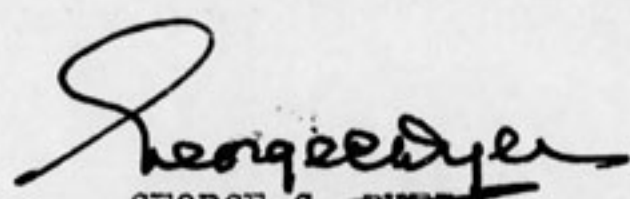
From: Commander Landing Craft and Bases.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: War Diary.

Reference: (a) Cominch restr. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 ser. 3899 of
October 19, 1942.
(b) Cominch restr. ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 ser. 299 of
January 23, 1943.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary, Commander, Landing Craft and Bases,
Amphibious Force, Northwest African Waters,
for the month of May, 1943.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith in accordance with
the directions contained in references (a) and (b).


GEORGE C. DYER,
Chief of Staff.

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05/Bc

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WAR DIARY OF COMMANDER LANDING CRAFT AND BASES, AMPHIBIOUS FORCE,
NORTHWEST AFRICAN WATERS.

1 May 1943.

Units of Combat Command A practiced loading with two LCT's.

The thirty-sixth Shore Engineers practiced landings using LCTs, LCMs, and LCVPs at Beach 5.

2 May 1943.

As before.

3 May 1943.

Combat Command A held inspection of landing craft and TQM orientation school using LSTs, LCTs, LCMs and LCVPs.

4 May 1943.

As before.

531st Engineers carried out a two-company night landing using LCTs, LCMs, and LCVPs at Beach 14.

Third Landing Craft Convoy consisting of 23 LSTs with LCTs loaded on deck and 37 LCIs arrived in the Port Lyautey-Oran-Arzew Area.

5 May 1943.

531st Engineers held two one-engineer company landings at Beach 5.

During the period 1-5 May, practice was held in unloading an LCT at Beach 5 using DUKW's.

The Fourth Landing Craft Convoy consisting of 14 LSTs with LCTs loaded on deck and escort sweeper units consisting of one YN and five PCs arrived in the Port Lyautey-Oran-Arzew Area. Of the 463 personnel aboard, 132 were LCT crews.

6 May 1943.

531st Engineer held a two-company practice night landing at Beach 14.

During the period 5-6 May the Armored Force TQM School practiced leading using LSTs, LCTs, LCMs and LCVPs.

During the period 1-6 May one LST participated in various experiments with waterproofed vehicles and with evacuation of casualties with DUKWs.

The Thirty Sixth Engineers held company landings at Beach 5 using LCT's, LCM's and LCVP's.

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,
Amphibious Force,
Northwest African Waters.7 May 1943.

All training called off because of weather.

Secret Security Operation Plan No. 101-43 activated upon the fall of Tunis and Bizerte. This plan calls for the departure of the first wave of landing craft (LSTs and LCTs) to Bizerte and Tunis within 48 hours after receipt of notice. This plan further provides in detail for the establishment of advanced Bases at Bizerte and Tunis under the Commands of Lieutenant Commanders G. H. Patterson, USNR and L. D. Roberts, USNR respectively.

8 May 1943.

One LST used for instruction of TQMs of 141st Infantry in loading.

One company of the 36th Engineers held landing exercise at Beach 5.

Combat Command A practiced loading at Mostaganem, Algeria, using 3 LSTs and 2 LCTs.

Practice in and demonstration of rubber boat, day and night landings from LCIs at Beach 6. First battalion 141st Infantry held night landing exercise with one company of the 36th Engineers using LCTs, LCMs and LCVPs at Beach 14.

531st Engineer held night landing practice at Beach 13 using 6 LCTs, 3 LCMs and 12 LCVPs.

Combat Command A held night landing practice with LST, LCT and LCVP at Mostaganem.

9 May 1943.

Training called off because of weather.

By Operation Order No. 3-43 the Tunisia Unit under the command of Commander Roger E. Nelson, USN is established and duties detailed.

Captain Zimmerli, USN, Commander Advanced Amphibious Bases and Training Group, Tunisia is proceeding under orders to establish the command in the Forward Area.

10 May 1943.

Thirty Sixth Engineers held day and night landing practice on Beaches 5 and 6.

Thirty Sixth Infantry held battalion day and night landings on Beach 6.

The First Wave consisting of 4 LSTs, 12 LCIs, 2 SCs, 2PCs and one AM departed for Advanced Bases in the Forward Areas.

11 May 1943.

The Thirty Sixth Engineers held night landing practice on Beach 13.

The Thirty Sixth Infantry practiced as above.

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,
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Northwest African Waters.12 May 1943.

Secret Security Operation Plans 104-43 and 105-43 issued by Commander Landing Craft and Bases. Operation Plan 104-43 effects certain modifications in Operation Plan 103-43 and sets May 22, 1943 as date of Second Wave to Forward Area.

Operation Plan No. 105-43 provides for the movement of a Third Wave to the Forward Area on June 1, 1943.

531st Engineers practiced night landings on Beach 13. 36th Engineers practiced day and night landings on Beaches 5 and 14.

Thirty Sixth Infantry practiced as above.

13 May 1943.

Task Units 81.1.122, Bougie Unit LSTs under the command of Lieutenant S. Howe, USNR and 81.1.123, Escort Unit under the command of Lieutenant Pinkham, USNR established by Operation Order No. 5-43.

Thirty Sixth Engineers practiced day and night landings on Beaches 5 and 12.

Thirty Sixth Infantry practiced as above.

14 May 1943.

As above. Commander Landing Craft and Bases left for trip to advanced bases in Forward Area.

15 May 1943.

Thirty Sixth Engineers and Navy Beach Company held joint night problem off the Cheliff River.

531st Engineers practiced night landings at Beach 14.

Thirty Sixth Infantry practiced as above.

16 May 1943.

Thirty Sixth Engineers practiced night Landings on Beach 12.

Thirty Sixth Infantry practiced battalion day landings on Beaches 5 and 6.

17 May 1943.

Thirty Sixth Engineers practiced day landings on Beach 5.

Thirty Sixth Infantry practiced battalion night landings on Beach 6.

18 May 1943.

Loading for the regimental problem of the 19th. Thirty Sixth Engineers practiced night landings on Beach 12.

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,
Amphibious Force,
Northwest African Waters.19 May 1943.

Thirty Sixth Infantry Division held Regimental daytime problem on Beaches 5 and 6.

Thirty Sixth Engineers held day and night landings on Beaches 5 and 13.

At 2100 two German planes presumably JU 88, dropped three bombs on the AATB Arzew killing five soldiers and causing some damage to warehouse and sheds as well as minor damage to an LST. Several bombs were dropped in the harbor. There were nine Navy minor casualties, caused, in the main, by falling shrapnel. Attacks were also delivered on the port of Oran and the city of Mostaganem.

20 May 1943.

Task Unit 81.1.124, Tunisian Support Unit under the command of Lieutenant Commander R. G. Newbegin, USNR and consisting of 10 LSTs, 12 LCIs, 6 LCTs and 2 SCs was established by Operation Order 6-43.

Anti-aircraft barrage set up at 1930 after red alert. Targets not seen. Casualties from shrapnel.

Thirty Sixth Engineers held daytime practice landings on Beach 12.

540th Engineers held night landings on Beach 14.

21 May 1943.

Practice landings as before.

Anti-aircraft fire on occasion of red alert at Arzew and Mostaganem.

Casualties from Shrapnel. Orders issued by Commander Landing Craft and Bases prohibiting the firing of 20 and 40 mm guns unless and until the target is visible and within range.

22 May 1943.

Second Wave departed, consisting of 6 LSTs, 6 LCTs, 20 LCI(S)s, 2 SCs, 2 PCs, 2 YMSs and one AM, for the Forward Area. At this time, the Operations and Planning Officer, Commander C. A. Buchanan, USN together with initial complement of men for Headquarters left for Bizerte preparatory to the establishment of Headquarters at Bizerte.

Training as before.

23 May 1943.

Thirty Sixth Engineers training as before.

Second Armored Division practiced loading and landing with LSTs and LCTs on Beach 11.

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,
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Northwest African Waters.24 May 1943.

Commander Landing Craft and Bases presented Silver Stars to Ensign Jesse Anderson, USNR, Ernest Ball, F2c, USNR and George Lyman Beals, S2c, USNR of the LCT 33 for having shot down a Junkers 88 near Tenes on April 20, 1943.

Second Armored Division training as before.

The 36th and 531st Engineers practiced daytime landings on Beaches 5 and 14.

25 May 1943.

By Operation Plans 106-43 and 107-43, issued this date, Commander Landing Craft and Bases has provided for the movement of the Fourth and Fifth Waves to the Forward Area on June 8 and June 15, 1943 respectively.

Second Armored Division and 36th Engineers as before.

540th Engineers practiced daytime landings on Beach 12.

26 May 1943.

Task Unit 81.1.125, Tunisia Support Unit under the command of Commander R. M. Morris, USN and consisting of 15 LSTs, 10 LCIs, 18 LCTs, 1 AM, 1 YMS, 2 PCs and 2 SCs, was established by Operation Order 7-43.

The Fifth Landing Craft convoy consisting of 16 LSTs with LCTs loaded on deck arrived in the Port Lyautey-Oran-Arzew area together with 6 PCs, 14 SCs and 13 YMSs.

Second Armored Division practiced as before.

Night landings by the 531st and 540th Engineers on Beaches 5 and 12.

Ship to Shore Training by the 16th Regimental Combat Team of the First Infantry Division with the USS SAMUEL CHASE on Hard No. 1 and beach 6.

27 May 1943.

Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters, arrived at Headquarters for conference with Commander Amphibious Force, Northwest African Waters and with Commander Landing Craft and Bases.

Firing from tanks on LCTs by the Second Armored Division on Beach 11.

Ship to Shore training as before.

Day landings by the 36th Engineers at Beach 14.

Night landings by the 531st Engineers on Beach 12.

28 May 1943.

Ship to Shore movements as before.

Second Armored Division training as before.

Night landings by the 36th and the 531st Engineers on Beaches 5 and 12.

LANDING CRAFT AND BASES,
Amphibious Force,
Northwest African Waters.

29 May 1943.

Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters and Commander Amphibious Force, Northwest African Waters arrived at Headquarters for conference with Commander Landing Craft and Bases.

Second Armored Division training as before.

Night landings as before.

Ship to shore training as before.

Day landings by the 540th Engineers on Beach 14.

30 May 1943.

Ship to shore training as before.

Second Armored Division training as before.

Night landings by the 540th Engineers on Beach 12.

31 May 1943.

Ship to shore training as before.

Night landing by the 531st Engineers on Beach 14.

Loading and unloading by Second Armored Division on Beach 11.

Commander Landing Craft and Bases, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, the Communications Officer, the Flag Lieutenant and an Assistant Operations Officer departed Headquarters near Arzew, Algeria at 0730 to establish Headquarters at Bizerte Tunis. Captain Kendall S. Reed, USN, Deputy Chief of Staff for Bases assumed command of the Rear Echelon Headquarters subject to orders from the Headquarters in the Forward Area.