

During the morning of 17 January the newly painted ship got underway and tied up in berth T-7, Westloch Channel. There a capacity load of ammunition was taken aboard from Naval Ammunition Depot, Pearl Harbor, before again shifting berths to Naval Supply depot docks on 21 January.

During 21-23 January 1945, the first load of provisions for servicing operations was taken aboard. A balanced item ration loading plan was followed as closely as possible with a resultant load of dry provisions 243 tons, fresh and frozen 163 tons - a total of 406 tons. Approximately 175 board feet of 1" x 1½" dunnage were used in the freeze boxes and each box was filled within 18" of the overhead. All chill boxes were stowed checkerboard fashion to allow adequate circulation. Spud lockers on the main deck provided stowage space for 120 crates of potatoes. Ship's Service and Small Stores were stocked for sale at the target.

After loading, fueling, and completion of all final logistics, the ship moved to berth 3, Iroquois Point on 1 February. There 315 enlisted men and officers comprising Boat Pool Baker, Standard Landing Craft Unit #36 under command of Lt. Condr. Sauers, USN, reported aboard for transportation to the scene of invasion. At 0830 2 February, after briefing, we sortied from Pearl Harbor in accordance with Commander Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet Secret Movement Order no. 3-45 Serial 00100, of 31 January 1945, for the Solomon Islands via Tulagi in company with LST's 651, 759, 833, 947, 949, 950, 951, 952, LSM's 84, 162, 220, 265, 271, 274, 325, LCI(M)'s 810, 809, 1088, 1089, and LCS(L)'s 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, in Task Group 13.13 under Captain Weedon, USN, Commander LST Flotilla 23, in flagship U.S.S. LST 651.

The voyage was utilized in general drills, tactical maneuvers, and flag hoist drills. After passing Howland and Baker Islands 50 miles to starboard and skirting around the Ellice Group the Solomon Islands were sighted in the early morning of 17 February. At 1945 that night the 677 anchored in berth 31, Hutchinson Creek, Florida Island, Solomon Islands. A five day availability was granted alongside U.S.S. ARISTAEUS, ARB-1 where repairs and minor alterations were completed. Although having received and studied Training Order no. A-401-45 participation in the training exercises of 1-8 March was not required as they consisted mostly of beaching and retracting under simulated invasion conditions. Extensive study was made of Commander Amphibious Group Four Movement and Attack Orders. Restocking of depleted provisions at Naval Supply depot, Tulagi, and watering from Purvis Bay water hole, completed preparations for the run to the target, Okinawa, via Ulithi.

At 1520 on 12 March 1945 in accordance with Commander Task Group 51.11 Secret Movement Order and Commander Amphibious Group Four movement order A-404-45 this ship sortied from Tulagi, Purvis Bay area underway for Ulithi, MacKenzie Islands, West Caroline Islands with Unit Three, Tractor Group Charlie, Task Unit 51.12.3. The composition of Unit Three of Task Unit 51.12.3 was as follows - - flagship LST 1015, Commander C.E. Artz, USN, Commander LST Group 42, LST's 267, 568, 576, 704, 708, 927, and 1030; LST(L) 677, CLIFFROSE (AN43); LSM's 278, 325, 326. Next higher operational commander (1) for the movement phase (12 March to 1 April 1945) Commander Task Unit 51.12.3. Captain E. Watts, USN, Commander LST Group 17. (2) for the assault phase (1 April to 3 April 1945) Commander Transport Group Able (Transron 12) Commodore H. B. Knowles, Commander Task Group 53.1. (3) for the occupational phase (3 April to 21 June 1945) Commander Northern Tractor Flotilla, Task Unit 51.22.3, Captain J.H. Breton, USN, Commander LST Flotilla 21.

In the afternoon of 12 March aircraft gunnery exercises were held at towed sleeves. During the remainder of the movement until 17 March when heavy seas made training exercises impractical, surprise gunnery exercises were held, using smoke bursts fired by screen vessels as targets over sectors of the convoy. Signal drills were held daily.