

6. After the above-described attack, LCT 380 proceeded at flank speed to seaward past Pilelo Island. Two enemy planes started down on this craft, but turned away when all guns on the port side opened up: two Bofors, one 20mm and one 50 caliber.

7. LCT 380 was flying the International Mike flag, signifying medical guard duty. On a signal from SC 743, LCT 380 went alongside and evacuated casualties. Two of these died within a few minutes after being brought on board.

8. LCT 380 reentered Arawe Harbor and proceeded to Orange Beach to unload. Beached at approximately 1900. The mobile equipment was unloaded in about one-half an hour. Bulk stores, mostly ammunition, were not unloaded because darkness had set in and the Army policy at that time was against unloading at night. LCT 380 attempted to retract but was unable to do so on own power. LCT 88 attempted to pull 380 off the beach, but with no success. At this time, enemy planes came over, and LCT 88 abandoned the planned salvage operation. Further efforts were made to get 380 off the beach but all methods failed. At approximately 0200, 17 December,

LCT 384 came into Orange Beach and attempted, by towing, to retract 380 from the beach. This effort failed. Further attempts to get off the beach were not made until 1030, 17 December. From 0100, 17 December until daybreak, the area was subjected to bombing attack by enemy planes. A near miss on LCT 380 caused shrapnel wounds to three Army personnel on deck.

9. At approximately 0730, 17 December, enemy planes again attacked the area. One enemy plane was hit by our port 20mm. LCT 88 was also firing at and hitting this plane. The Commanding Officer of LCT 88 later reported that this plane went down. LCT 380 claims an assist here.

10. From the time LCT 380 beached until retracting, the 13th Portable Surgical Unit set up a hospital in the quarters. Approximately twenty five casualties, in addition to those already on board, were brought on board throughout the night and morning. The quarters and all facilities and equipment that were of any use to the Army medical unit were put at their disposal. Major Hunter, MC, U.S. Army and his unit did a praiseworthy job under very difficult circumstances.



An LCT(5) on the beach at Morobe, Papua New Guinea in August of 1943. LCTs from Flotilla 7 took part in the amphibious landings and supply operations throughout this area in the South Pacific into early 1944.