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AUTH: CG, 96th Inf Div.
Init: C.T.D&H, G-3

Hq 728th Amph Trac Bn,
In the Field, APO 235,
7 March 1945.

REHEARSAL
FO LA

MAP: ANNEX ABLE, Operations Map 1: 12600 TARRAGONA BEACH Area, LENTE ISLAND.

1.a. See Par la FO LA, 10 Feb 45 this Hq.

B. LEX #1 - 0830 hrs 16 Mar 45.

(1) RCT 381 and RCT 383 less reserve Bns land on Beach WHITE and Beach BROWN respectively, debark from LVT's and clear beaches. Reserve Bns. transfer from LCVP's to LVT's on transfer line, land on RCT order. RCT 382 will be boated and proceed to LCD but will not transfer to LVT's. All RCT's will reembark on Div order at approximately 1130 hrs. Div troops will not be boated.

LEX #2 - 0830 hrs 19 Mar 45.

(1) Same as LEX #1 except RCT 382 will boat, proceed to transfer line and transfer to LVT's, landing two (2) battalions on Beaches BROWN and one Bn on Beaches WHITE on Div order. Troops of RCT 382 go no further than beach proper. All RCT's will reembark on Div order at approximately 1400 hours if surf conditions permit. Div troops will be boated, transferred to LVT's, and landed insofar as time permits.

(2) Amph Tks will execute flank movement to intervals between beaches and take position as Fld Arty on both LEX #1 and LEX #2.

(3) Tanks on LSD will move to vicinity of beaches in LCMS but will not land, moving to flanks and returning to LSDs.

2. The 728th Amph Trac Bn will:-

a. Participate in LEX #1.

(1) Transport assault BLTs landing on Beaches WHITE, rally at sea, transfer reserve BLT from boats, land on Beaches WHITE, assemble on beach for refueling. Reembark on Bn order at approximately 1130 hrs.

b. Participate in LEX #2.

(1) Land assault BLTs on Beaches WHITE, rally at sea, transfer and land reserve BLT on Beaches WHITE and assemble on land. Be prepared to land one Bn of the reserve Regt on order. After refueling, reembark on Bn order at approximately 1400 hrs.

3.a. Co. A, 728th Amph Trac Bn will:-

(1) Participate in LEX #1, transporting BLT 381/1, landing on Beaches WHITE 2 & WHITE 3, unload troops at simulated seawall, rally at sea (for rally area see Opn Map, Annex ABLE), and furnish waves No. 1 & 2 for transfer of reserve BLT from boats to LVT's. Land reserve BLT on RCT order on Beaches WHITE 2 & 3 (see Ship to Shore Movement Plan, Annex CHARLIE). Assemble on beach by LST to refuel and reembark assault troops. ~~Reembark on Bn order at approximately 1130 hrs.~~

(2) Participate in LEX #2, transporting BLT 381/1 land

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reserve ROT 582 on order and transfer Div troops. Assemble on beach by LST to refuel and reembark assault troops. Reembark on Bn order at approximately 1400.

b. Co. B, 728th Amph Trac Bn will:-

(1) Same as Co A, except transport BLT 581/3 and land Beach WHITE 1. Furnish waves No. 3, 4 & 5 for transfer. All reserve troops will be landed on Beaches WHITE 2 & 3.

x. (1) First wave is Amph Trac wave. Designation Tare wave will not be used.

(2) There will be no actual Naval gunfire or aerial bombardment and strafing during rehearsal.

(3) During reembarkation, every effort will be made to conserve LVT's by utilizing ship's boats, and LST's to the maximum.

(4) Rally areas at sea are in intervals between Beaches WHITE 1 & 2 (see Opn MAP, Annex ABLE).

(5) Unloading details remain aboard ship.

(6) Organizational equipment guards remain aboard ship.

(7) Bn S-3 report aboard Control Vessel PC 578 for LVT control.

(8) Bn S-4 report to C.O., 170th Engr Bn. when Shore Party lands for liaison.

(9) Bn S-1 report to Beachmaster, Beach WHITE 1 for liaison.

(10) Hq & Sv Co C.O. report to Beachmaster, Beach WHITE 3 for liaison.

(11) En Maint. will follow 6th wave to transfer line then move to assembly area and await orders.

(12) Ship to Shore Movement Plan Annex CHARLIE.

(13) Schedule of Events, Annex BAKER.

4.a. Supply.

(1) Rations -

(a) A maximum of one type K ration may be consumed by personnel debarking, during the entire rehearsal period.

(2) Gas and Oil -

(a) Div will establish dumps on rehearsal beaches to refuel all vehicles landed and provide necessary resupply for LVT's.

(3) Water -

(a) Div will provide, from sources ashore, any water necessary.

b. Evacuation.

(1) Personnel - evacuated directly to 116th Sta Hosp in unit transportation.

5.a. SOI.

b. During the LEX prescribed by this order, only such means of communication as are essential to effectively to control the troops engaged will be employed, except in the case of Naval gunfire and Air Support circuits.

c. Every precaution will be taken to prevent damage to Communication equipment due to submersion in water or other causes.

d. Bn SX with Rear CP remain afloat and mark rally area.

e. CP afloat - LST 612.

ashore - on beach at south limit Beach WHITE 1.

OFFICIAL: *Boyle* S-5.

M.N.J.
Comdg.

ANNEXES:

Annex ABLE - Opn MAP.

Annex BAKER - Schedule of Events.

Annex CHARLIE - Ship to Shore Movement Plan.

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ANNEX BAKER TO FO LA (Rehearsal).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This annex outlines in general terms the daily schedule of events. Details are contained in annexes.

R Day (14 March 1945)

1. AM--All ships complete loading of troops, equipment, and supplies. Destroyers of Fire Support Units FOUR and THREE conduct scheduled AA practices.
2. PM--Transport Groups DOG and EASY move by transport groups from loading anchorages to Transport Areas DOG ONE and EASY ONE and conduct AA firing practices enroute. Tractor Groups DOG, EASY, and FOX move by groups from loading anchorages to (LST) Areas TWO ABLE and FIVE ABLE.

R / 1 Day (15 March 1945)

1. AM-- Transport Groups and Tractor Groups make daylight approach from Transport Areas DOG ONE and EASY ONE and (LST) Areas TWO ABLE and FIVE ABLE to Transport Areas DOG and EASY and (LST) Areas TWO and FIVE and anchor. Control Vessels and SOUTHERN Support Craft take positions on and near the Line of Departure, and SOUTHERN Support Craft make dummy firing runs upon orders of Commander SOUTHERN Control Group. Radar reflector ships take station before transports start approach.
2. Upon orders of Commander SOUTHERN Attack Force, Tractor Groups and Transport Groups get underway (probably in early afternoon). Tractor Group DOG proceed along designated route for AA firing practices and return to (LST) Area TWO ABLE. Transport Groups DOG and EASY return to Transport Areas DOG ONE and EASY ONE respectively, enroute conducting Fighter Direction exercises and tracking exercises on planes towing sleeves in simulated strafing, bombing, and torpedo attacks. Ships will not fire. Tractor Groups EASY and FOX return to (LST) Areas TWO ABLE and FIVE ABLE respectively.

R / 2 Day (16 March 1945) (H-Hour 0830)

1. Transport Group DOG and EASY and Tractor Groups DOG, EASY and FOX get underway and move from anchorages to Transport Areas DOG and EASY, and (LST) Areas TWO and FIVE, passing through points at times indicated in Movement Plan, Annex (I). Transports will not anchor until reserves are boated. Conduct full scale landing of assault regiments and with gunfire support ships and craft and aircraft simulating gunfire and air support. Reserve regiments will be boated and taken to Line of Departure, but not landed. Land such $\frac{1}{2}$ ton vehicles as are designated by Inf Div Commanders. Simulate launching of LCTs and Pontoon Barges. Heavy equipment and artillery will not be boated or landed. Inf Div Commanders will go with Inf Div Commanders to transfer dummy cargo. Boat Pool Commanders establish their commands. Screen will be stationed

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As directed by Area Commanding Gen. Anax (K). Observers as directed by Commander SOUTHERN Attack Force will be present on beaches during landings. Execute modified ASLT plan as directed by Commander SOUTHERN Attack Force. No troop exercises will be conducted ashore other than assault waves rapidly crossing the beach. During landing all communication channels will be thoroughly tested. Upon completion of landing, reembark troops as ordered by Transport Group Commanders.

2. During afternoon quarters and before Support Craft conduct scheduled AA practices. In late afternoon or evening, individual ships hold critiques.

R / 3 Day (17 March 1945)

1. All--Transport Group Commanders and other Task Group Commanders hold critiques as desired. Destroyers of Base Support Units DE1 and TMO and DES conduct AA firing exercises.

2. PH--Commander SOUTHERN Attack Force hold critique aboard Force Flagship for Task Group Commanders and a limited number of personnel of their commands. Ships move to Transport Areas FOX ONE and EASY ONE, and (LSI) Areas TWO ABLE and FIVE ABLE, conducting beaching drills on sleeve dry runs. Ships will not fire. LSI Group conduct AA firing practices scheduled.

R / 4 Day (18 March 1945)

Tractor Groups EASY and FOX and Screen conduct scheduled AA firing and drone practices; otherwise, this day is available for drills by individual ships (boat group exercises, fire and emergency drills, etc.,) and drills by larger units (maneuvering and anti-aircraft drills by TransDivs, shore fire control party drills, control group drills, communication drills, etc.,). Units desiring drills which involve movement of own ship, furnishing of sleeve towing facilities, or possible interference with other units submit requests by visual after R / 2 landing through chain of command to reach Commander SOUTHERN Attack Force by 1500 R / 3 Day for coordination and approval. It is intended that this day be used primarily to correct deficiencies observed during the preceding landings, but it is also available for drills as desired by unit commanders.

R / 5 Day (19 March 1945) (H - 0830)

Same program as R / 2 Day except that smoke plan will not be executed unless specifically directed. Troops will be landed, and will conduct exercises as directed by Commanding General XXIV Corps. Problem to end at 1400. If impractical to be reembarked, reserve Regts may remain ashore overnight if desired by TransRon or Inf Div Comdrs. Transport anchor as directed by Transport Group Commanders after landing of troops.

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R / 6 Day (20 March 1945)

1. AM--Complete reembarkation of troops. RCM and Rocket Support Units and LCS Support Units conduct scheduled AA firing exercises.
2. PM--Individual ship critiques followed by critiques of unit commanders, if desired.

R / 7 Day (21 March 1945)

1. AM--Ships move to logistics anchorages or other anchorages as directed.
2. PM--Commander SOUTHERN Attack Force hold critique aboard Force Flagship for all Task Group Commanders.

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