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ACTION REPORT

ORIGINAL

USS MAC KENZIE

DD 614

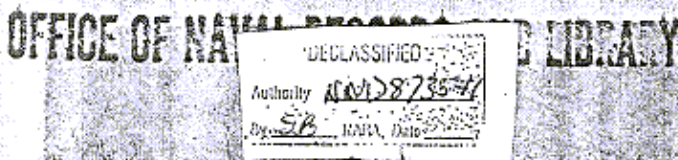
SERIAL 011

31 MAY 1944

USS MAC KENZIE - REPORT OF NAVAL ACTION IN SUPPORT  
OF SIXTH CORPS, FIFTH ALLIED ARMY, 23 MAY TO 4 JUNE  
1944.

[COVERS BOMBARDMENT OF SHORE TARGETS  
NEAR ANZIO, ITALY ON 27-28 MAY, 1-2  
JUNE 1944 WHILE PART OF TASK GROUP  
86.3.]

75849



DD614/A5-1  
Serial No. 011

U. S. S. MAC KENZIE (DD614)

Reg. No. 011  
R.S. No. 6 01740  
10-mp

31 MAY 1944

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C-O-D-E-I-N-T-I-A-L

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : The Commander in Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET  
(Readiness Section).

Via: (1) The Commander Task Force EIGHTY SIX.  
(2) The Commander EIGHTH FLEET.

Subject: U.S.S. MAC KENZIE - Report of naval action in  
support of Sixth Corps, Fifth Allied Army,  
23 May to 4 June 1944.

Reference: (a) CinCLANT letter 13CL-43 (Revised).  
(b) ComNavNAW letter 4CL-43.  
(c) United States Navy Regulations, Article  
712 and 948.

1. The MAC KENZIE and the KENDRICK formed Bombardment Group 86.3 as directed by CTF-86; with commanding officer U.S.S. MAC KENZIE as group commander. The duties of this group as laid down in the operation plan No. 2-44 of CTF-86 were to act as a unit or separately in support of other bombardment groups; to act as "Call" ship in the fire support area during dawn and dusk periods; and to augment the night Anzio patrol when present. During the operation both ships acted separately.

2. At 1039 B, 27 May, MAC KENZIE got underway from Naples Harbor and proceeded to the swept bombardment area off Anzio known as "Mike Love Channel" and relieved the KENDRICK at 1530 B. From 1608 until 1710, 177 rounds of 5" AA Common were fired at three targets described as enemy gun emplacements. There was no opposition and after standing by during dusk period the MAC KENZIE retired from the area and took up night patrol as directed by SOPA Anzio. At 0420 B, 28 May, MAC KENZIE proceeded to bombardment area and stood by during dawn period; at 1040 B, commenced firing intermittently at enemy gun emplacements. At 1750 B, ceased firing having expended 411 rounds of 5" AA Common. During the afternoon MAC KENZIE was subjected to heavy and accurate shore fire that consisted of about 18 salvos. No casualties were sustained. At 1930 B, the area was cleared and MAC KENZIE proceeded to Naples, arriving 0100 B, 29 May. At 0755 B, 29 May, MAC KENZIE got underway and proceeded to bombardment area, arrived at 1215 B. No firing was conducted and no enemy fire was encountered during the day. MAC KENZIE acted as support for the French ship EMILE BERTIN and assisted her

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Authority: 10018735-1  
By: SB NARA Date:

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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with communications. At 1830 B, proceeded to Naples and arrived at 2330 B. 30 May and 31 May were spent at anchor. Ammunition was replenished. At 0200 B, 1 June, got underway, proceeded to bombardment area and arrived at 0630 B. At 1019 B, commenced firing intermittently at enemy gun emplacements. At 1530 B, ceased firing having expended 352 rounds 5" AA Common. There was no opposition during the day and after standing by during dusk period the MAC KENZIE retired from the area and took up night patrol as directed by SOPA Anzio. At 0456 B, 2 June, proceeded to bombardment area and stood by during dawn period. At 1320 B, commenced firing intermittently at enemy gun emplacements. At 1840 B, ceased firing having expended 255 rounds 5" AA Common. Two rounds of enemy fire were returned with no casualties. At 1907 B, proceeded to Naples and arrived at 2329 B.

3. Battery performance and personnel performance was excellent during the entire firing period. There were no battery casualties. Rate of fire was deliberately slow, spotting was done by plane or by shore fire control party, and from spotter information fire was accurate. All firing was on targets of opportunity, either close or deep supporting fire.

4. Firing procedure followed was strictly doctrine. There was no necessity for variance from procedures learned from many shore bombardment practices. This command is impressed by the distinct improvement since this ship first fired a shore bombardment in the Sicily invasion. Improvement can be traced to three things: (1) Practice. (2) Installation of C.I.C., and (3) Improved communications. Improved communications have been the greatest factor. All voice circuits were exceptionally good, and when a plane was spotting, spots were received and applied very rapidly. CW between shore fire control parties and ship is also improved mostly because personnel are better trained in procedure. Excellence in communications is proved by the fact that the MAC KENZIE acted for a time as communication liaison between the EMILE BERTIN and shore fire control party.

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5. The executive officer in accordance to U.S. Navy Regulations, Article 948 had nothing to report in addition to the above report.

B.N. RITTENHOUSE, Jr.

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Authority: <u>10028735-71</u>
By: <u>SL</u> NARA, Date: <u>8/2/00</u>