ACTION REPORT OF U.S.S. MAC KENZIE (DD614) IN OPERATION ANVIL, FROM 2139B, 17 AUGUST 1944 TO 1315B, 28 AUGUST 1944.

COVERS EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE DURING THE ASSAULT AND REDUCTION OF THE FORTRESS OF SAINT MANDRIER AND IN THE BOMBARDMENT OF TOULON AREA.
From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, UNITED STATES Fleet.
(Readiness Division)

Via: (1) The Commander Task Group 80.6.
(2) The Commander Task Force 86.
(3) The Commander Western Naval Task Force.
(4) The Commander in Chief, ATLANTIC Fleet.


1. The action report covering the period from the beginning of the Anvil operation to 2138B, 17 August 1944, is contained in reference (a).

2. During the period between 2138B, 17 August 1944, and 1315B, 28 August 1944, the U.S.S. MAC KENZIE was assigned to the following commands during the periods indicated:

(a) From 2139B, 17 August 1944, to 0001B, 20 August 1944, the MAC KENZIE operated under the command of Commander Task Group 80.6. Her specific duty was in the outer beachhead screen in stations assigned daily by one of two screen commanders, Commander Destroyer Squadron 18 or Commander Destroyer Division 14.

(b) From 0001B, 20 August 1944, to 1420B, 22 August 1944, the MAC KENZIE operated under the command of Commander Task Force 86. The specific duty assigned during this period was as screen for the USS PHILADELPHIA and various other units assigned by Commander Task Force 86. Operations during this period were off TOULON, FRANCE.

(c) From 1420B, 22 August 1944, to 1400, 24 August 1944, the MAC KENZIE was reassigned to Commander Task Group 80.6, who assigned duty in the outer beachhead screen off the ALPHA, DELTA and GAMMA areas. This ship operated with the screen until 0620B, 23 August 1944, when she was detached to proceed to PROVINCIA, CORSICA for logistics and minor repairs. This ship reported back to Commander Task Group 80.6 at 1400B, 24 August 1944.
29 August 1944.

**Subject:** Action Report of U.S.S. NEC KENZIE (DD614) in Operation Anvil, from 2139E, 17 August 1944 to 1315E, 28 August 1944.

(d) From 1400B, 24 August 1944, to 1315B, 28 August, 1944, the U.S.S. NEC KENZIE was assigned to Commander Task Force 86. The specific duty assigned during this period was as screen for heavy units as designated daily by Commander Task Force 86 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>UNITS SCREENED AND LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1400B, 24 August to 1440B, 25 August</td>
<td>USS OKAIA; off TOULON, FRANCE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0600B, 27 August to 0653B, 28 August</td>
<td>HMS RAMILLES and HMS SIRIUS; off SAINTE MANDRIER, FRANCE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0653B, 28 August to 1315B, 28 August</td>
<td>F.S. MONTCALM, F.S. EMILE BERTIN, F.S. GLOIRE, F.S. DUQUAY-TROUIN, F.S. LORRAINE; off island of PORQUEROLLES, FRANCE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The events worthy of comment which occurred during the period covered by this report are set forth in the paragraphs following, one paragraph being devoted to each.

(a) At 15593, 18 August 1944, the NEC KENZIE dropped a 15 charge, very deep depth charge pattern in a creeping attack directed by the USS G.F. HUGHES off CALAIS, FRANCE. No visible results were observed.

(b) At 1552B, 20 August 1944, the USS PHILADELPHIA was fired upon by heavy coast defense guns while firing in the area off the peninsula of GIENS, FRANCE. The NEC KENZIE made stack and fog-oil smoke while screening the evasive action of the USS PHILADELPHIA. The burst closest to this ship was approximately 500 yards. Neither this ship nor the PHILADELPHIA suffered damage. Five bursts were observed from this ship, and from the size of the bursts the shells were from high calibre guns.
(c) At 1749B, 21 August 1944, the USS PHILADELPHIA was again fired upon in the same area by a gun of approximately the same size as that observed on 20 August 1944. Three bursts were observed. During this firing, the MAC KENZIE made smoke and fog-oil smoke to screen the PHILADELPHIA.

(d) At 2015B, 24 August 1944, while screening the USS OHIO, five minesweepers of the fleet AM class were fired upon off CAPE SPICIE, FRANCE, by a coastal battery or batteries. From the appearance of the bursts, the shells were fired in salvos. At least fifteen splashes were observed from the MAC KENZIE, and the projectiles appeared to be dye-colored. Pursuant to orders of the OHIO, the MAC KENZIE made smoke and fog-oil smoke until approximately 2040B. No damage to the MAC KENZIE was suffered and none was observed on the minesweepers.

(e) At 1530B on 25 August 1944, while operating as screen for F.S. MONTCALM and other units of the French Fleet, USS MAC KENZIE commenced firing upon targets of opportunity on the island of SAINTE MANDELER, FRANCE. Direct fire was used at a range of 15,000 yards at what was believed to be gun emplacements. Hits were observed on the targets fired upon. At 1534 the MAC KENZIE ceased firing. At 1632B, the MAC KENZIE again commenced firing upon targets of opportunity believed to be gun emplacements or pill boxes on the island of SAINTE MANDELER and at 1639B ceased firing. Hits were observed on the targets fired upon. Direct fire was used at a range of approximately 14,000 yards. During these two firings 38 rounds of 5"/38 cal. AA Common projectiles and smokeless powder were expended.

(f) It had been suggested during the afternoon of 25 August 1944 by the commanding officer of the HMS AURORA that directing fire against SAINTE MANDELER by all units in the area might force the surrender of the enemy units still holding out on the island. The suggestion was apparently adopted and at 1851B, the L.C KENZIE commenced firing on the island in accordance with this plan. A fortress on the eastern end of the island was used as a point of aim; direct

Fire was used; four gun salvos were fired. Spots to the right and left of the point of aim were made. Range was 12,000 yards. Fire was ceased at 1900Z. 48 rounds of AA common projectiles and smokeless powder were expended.

(g) At 1425Z, 26 August 1944, the U.S.S. MAC KENZIE commenced firing on targets of opportunity on SAINTE MANDRIER. Emplacements and concrete block houses were fired upon, three separate targets having been chosen. Direct fire was used at a range of 2,000 yards. Four gun salvos were fired. Hits were observed on all three targets fired upon. At 1457Z fire was ceased, 108 rounds of AA Common projectiles and smokeless powder having been expended.

(h) At 0640Z on 27 August 1944 prisoners were sighted on a rubber raft off SAINTE MANDRIER by the MAC KENZIE. A white cloth was being flown and at 1858Z thirteen prisoners were taken aboard. These men claimed to be of the following nationalities: one, Czechoslovakian; three, German; one, Polish-German; eight, Polish. Their clothing was adequate. They were unarmed. They carried kits containing clothing, emergency rations and toilet articles. None was identified as an officer. No resistance was offered and they all seemed cheerful, not displeased with surrendering. Several of the prisoners said that they had evacuated their positions on SAINTE MANDRIER the previous night on orders of their officers, because of lack of ammunition to defend the island. The interrogation was necessarily cursory because of the short time they were aboard. By direction of Commander Task Force 86 all prisoners were delivered to the HMS RAMILLES at 0915Z, for interrogation with bag and baggage.
SECRET

29 August 1944.


4. On 28 August 1944 the U.S.S. M.C KENZIE was detached from Commander Task Force 86 and left the area of Operation Anvil.

B. N. RITTENHOUSE, Jr.

Advance Copy - Cominch [Readiness Division]
Copy to - ComDesNANT
             ComNavNAT
COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON SEVEN
CARE POSTMASTER, MORGAN ANNEX
NEW YORK, N. Y.
1 November 1944.

SECRET

FIRST ENDORSEMENT TO:
CO, MAC KENZIE Secret ltr.
DD614/45-1, Serial 004
of 29 August 1944.

From: Commander Task Group 80.6, (ComDes8thFleet).
To: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
(Reassure Division)

Via:
(1) The Commander Task Force 86.
(2) The Commander "western Naval Task Force.

Subject: Action Report of U.S.S. MAC KENZIE (DD614)
in Operation Anvil, from 2139Z, 17 August
1944 to 1315B, 28 August 1944.

1. Forwarded, re-routed as indicated.

2. During the periods of time covered by this report that MAC KENZIE was attached to Task Group MIGHTY POINT SIX she was assigned to beachhead screen. Her performance of duty while attached to this command was reliable and entirely to my satisfaction.

J. P. Clay

Copy to:
COMINCH
CINCPLANT(Complete)
COMDESLANT
CO, MAC KENZIE
CDS-16

12 1582
From: Commander Cruiser Division EIGHT.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: Commander EIGHTH Fleet.


1. Forwarded.

2. During the period MAC KENZIE was attached to Task Force EIGHTY-SIX, her performance was excellent and very efficient, particularly during the assault and reduction of the Fortress of Saint Rendelier.

3. The classification of basic letter is hereby reduced to confidential.

T. R. DODGE

Copy to:
CO MAC KENZIE
A16-3

UNITED STATES EIGHTH FLEET

Serial: 001387

SECRET

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to
CO MacKENZIE Secret
Ltr. DD614/A5-1 (004)
of 29 August 1944.

6 DEC 1944

From: Commander United States Eighth Fleet.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: Action Report of USS MacKENZIE (DD614) in Operation
ANVIL, from 2139Z, 17 August 1944 to 1315Z, 28 August 1944.

1. Forwarded.

2. Classification of the basic report and endorsements is
restored to "Secret" owing to the use of codewords.

3. This report relates briefly the part played by USS MacKENZIE
in the bombardment of the Toulon area as one of the Support Force, and as a
member of the beachhead screen.

[Signature]

Spencer S. Lewis
Chief Ops Staff

Commander-in-Chief

U.S. Navy Reserve

FILMED
From: Commander United States Eighth Fleet.
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: Action Report of USS Mackenzie (DD614) in Operation NAVIL, from 2139E, 17 August 1944 to 1315B, 28 August 1944.

1. Forwarded.
2. Classification of the basic report and endorsements is restored to "Secret" owing to the use of codewords.
3. This report relates briefly the part played by USS Mackenzie in the bombardment of the Toulon area as one of the Support Force, and as a member of the beachhead screen.

SPENCER S. LEWIS
Chief Of Staff