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NADA, Date: [signature]

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ACTION REPORT

ORIGINAL

USS MAC KENZIE

DD 614

USS SERIAL 022

21 APRIL 1945

ACTION REPORT - FIRE SUPPORT ON FRANCO-ITALO BORDER .

AS PART OF FLANK FORCE - RENDERED FIRE
SUPPORT IN AID OF THE ALLIED ARMY ON
THE FRANCO-ITALO BORDER WHERE ARMY ARTILLERY
WAS NOT EFFECTIVE - DURING 28 MARCH TO
21 APRIL 1945 - UNDER COMMAND OF TASK
GROUP 125.6.

117919

DD614/A5-1
Serial No. 022

U.S.S. MAC KENZIE (DD614)

10-jk

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

21 April 1945.

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From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.
Via: (1) The Commander Task Group 125.6 (CDS-16).
(2) The Commander Task Force 125.
(3) The Commander 12th Fleet.

Subject: Report of Operation March 28, 1945 - April 21, 1945.

Reference: (a) FlankFor Instructions - 2.
(b) Cominch Serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.
(c) LantFlt Conf. Ltr. 13CL-43 (Revised).

Enclosure: ~~(A)~~ Chart of firing area.

1. This report of operations with Flank Force, which includes Shore Bombardment on enemy positions in vicinity of the French - Italo boundary bordering on the Ligurian Sea and patrol operations in Gulf of Genoa, combines parts I and II of suggested form for action reports as given in reference (b). This report is not sent via ComFlankFor, since weekly reports of operations have been submitted to him in accordance with reference (a).

2. The Flank Force is composed of French and British Cruisers, U.S., French and British Destroyers, French PC's and SC's, and U.S. PT boats, operating in the western Ligurian Sea. Enemy forces are located at various Italian ports on the Gulf of Genoa and consist of a mine layer and sundry small craft including E-boats, one and two-man submarines and explosive boats. Flank Force mission is to aid the allied army on the French - Italo border where army artillery is not effective, and to deny the use of the Gulf of Genoa to enemy forces where possible. The latter is in conjunction with other forces directly under FONAM (Flag Officer Northern Area Mediterranean) which guards the Eastern side of the Gulf.

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PART I - II

March 28

Reported for duty to Commander Flank Force in F.S. MONCALM at Toulon, France.

March 29

Proceeded to Napoule Gulf, Cannes, France. While enroute, sighted body in water in position Lat. 43°-25.5' and Long. 06°-58E (two miles off Cape Drammont, France). Recovered body at 1430A. Body was that of German seaman from the German Destroyer TA-24. Body was subsequently buried at sea. All effects, including harbor and ship photos and personal papers, were given to U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Officer at Cannes, France, for immediate evaluation and then to be forwarded to the U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer, P.T. Base, Golfe Juan, France. Letter report was made to Com Flank Force.

March 30

0800 Shifted to anchorage in Golfe Juan, France. 1700 Underway with H.M.S. MILNE (OTC) and H.M.S. METEOR to conduct patrol in Gulf of Genoa. 2030 Commenced patrol.

This patrol, established by Com Flank Force, is known as the Grande Garde. It is established roughly on a line ten miles south of Bordighera to 45 miles west of Leghorn for the purpose of contacting, reporting, and attacking all enemy forces attempting to sortie out of the Gulf of Genoa. SC's, PC's and PT's from Golfe Juan patrol between the west end of Grande Garde and the Riviera Coast. SOIS Leghorn provides patrol from the eastern end of Grande Garde to Leghorn. Usually three or four destroyers are available for nightly patrol. The senior officer of the destroyers available for the night organizes the patrol; and they are varied in design from "Concertina" patrol, to straight line patrols of varying length, or triangular patrol. Speed was usually about 12 knots advance, zigzagging independently.

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March 31

0530 Patrol completed, no enemy contacts. Rapid moving "phoney" radar contacts caused some concern during the night. Similar contacts occurred during subsequent patrols. 0830 Anchored in Golfe Juan, France, as standby destroyer to await call by the Senior Bombardment Liaison Officers. No calls received. 1630 Underway for Gulf of Genoa. 2000 Commenced Grande Garde Patrol with H.M.S. MILNE (OTC) and H.M.S. METEOR.

April 1

0530 Patrol completed; no enemy contacts.
0630 Standing by in swept channel eight miles off of Bordighera, Italy, awaiting assignment of shore bombardment missions by shore fire-control party, patrolling at 12 knots, length of patrol about 5 miles.
0815 SFCP 20 checked in with the Senior Bombardment Liaison Officer and this ship with a cherry "Good Morning".
0925 Answered call for deep supporting fire from SFCP 20 on enemy active at emplacement at 835909. This target was two miles inland on the Brevera branch of the Roira River near Ventimiglia. It was not visible to this ship which was about 9500 yards from the shoreline during the firing. Navigational range, 13,600.

From SFCP:

"Use W.P. projectiles
Unobserved Down 500
Unobserved Up 400 - Left 500
Up 600 - Left 500
Up 400 - Left 200
Up 300 - No Change
Down 100 - Right 100
Affirmative (To ship's inquiry if AA common air bursts would be satisfactory.)
Fire 3 salvos.
Up 100 - No change - Fire 2 salvos
Up 200 - No change - Fire 1 salvo
Up 200 - No change - Fire 1 salvo
No change - No change
Lower burst 300 feet. Fire 2 salvos.
End of mission. Target was in valley inland and was difficult for the SFCP to observe.
Several air bursts probably close to the target."

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U.S.S. MAC KENZIE (DD614)

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32 rounds W.P and 23 rounds AA common expended. 0933 Just before the last salvo fired, a splash evidently caused by an enemy 88 MM gun, landed about 600 yards ahead while the ship was on an easterly course. It was followed by a similar splash a few seconds later 150 yards ahead. The ship changed to a southerly course to clear the area. The third and last splash was 400 yards astern. The enemy battery was not engaged because this ship was not sure of its location. Sometime later the SFCP reported the battery position as probably 894876.

In the execution of this mission, as well as subsequent missions, the shore was closed from the swept channel upon assignment of a target. A speed of 20 knots was used and a narrow sonar search was conducted as a warning against possible mines. Upon closing to approximately 14,000 yards from the target, the ship zig-zagged, using either an easterly or westerly base course while firing to the northward. Minor course changes were made to avoid sonar contacts on mines. Navigation and initial gun-laying was by SG Radar. Four-gun salvos were used throughout except when limit of train prevented, which was infrequently. At the completion of each mission the ship would promptly withdraw to the southward.

1120 Answered call for deep supporting fire from SFCP 20 on enemy storehouses in occupied area at 856876. This target was about 500 yards west of Ventimiglia. AA common impact bursts were requested. Navigational range 14,200 yards.

From SFCP:

"Fire
No change - Right 200
Up 100 - Right 300
Up 100 - Right 100 - Fire 3 salvos
Up 100 - No change - Fire 1 salvo
(Hits in target area observed from the ship)
Up 100 - No change - Fire 3 salvos
Mission successful. You hit enemy occupied houses. Very good shooting indeed."

40 rounds AA common expended. One floating mine sunk by gunfire at 856750 while in bombardment area. Expended 160 rounds 20MM.

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1412 Answered call for deep supporting fire from SFCP 20 on enemy transportation and personnel in vicinity of railway station at Bordighera (906857). Ground bursts requested. Navigational range 16,500 yards.
From SFCP:

"Fire
Up 300 - Left 300
Up 600 - Left 300
Up 400 - Left 100
Up 300 - No change
No change - No change - Request air bursts at 100 feet. Fire 3 salvos
Wait 50 seconds for smoke to clear. (Hits in target
No change - Right 100 - Fire 2 salvos. (area observed
Up 100 - Right 100 - Fire 1 salvo. (from ship.)
Ground impact.
Up 200 - No change - Fire 1 salvo. Ground impact.
No change - Right 100 - Fire 2 salvos. Ground impact.
End of mission. Very good shooting.
Best I have seen in this area.
Hits on troops, railway yard, and buildings.
Area was well covered. You had a close pattern in range and the drift (evidently meant deflection) was not over 65 yards."

64 rounds AA common expended. One floating mine was sunk by gunfire at 840722 while retiring from the bombardment area. 56 rounds 20MM expended.

Fire on this mission was commenced at 16,600 yards partly because the ship was at a distance to the west of the target when the call for fire came and partly to test the efficiency of the battery at that range. The results were most encouraging.
1608 Approached shoreline to answer call for deep supporting fire by SFCP 20 on activity at enemy CP at 863874. Target was located on the west bank of the Roira River opposite Ventimiglia. Cloud interference prevented SFCP observation of target. After a short wait for better visibility the SFCP cancelled the mission and directed this ship to withdraw from the bombardment area.

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1715 SFCP 20 requested permission from the Senior Bombardment Liaison Officer to close down for the night. Permission was granted and SFCP 20 checked out with a "Good Night and Happy Easter".
2030 Commenced Grande Garde Patrol with F.S. TEMPETE (OTC) and U.S.S. LAUB.

April 2

0245 Sighted floating mine at Lat. 43°-38'N, Long. 08°-14' E. Mine was drifting to the southward with the prevailing current. Radar contact was made on it later during the night.
0530 Patrol completed. No enemy contacts.
0545 Search to locate mine unsuccessful.
0830 Anchored in Golfe Juan.
1630 Underway.
2030 Commenced Grande Garde Patrol with F.S. TEMPETE (OTC) and U.S.S. LAUB.

April 3

0530 Patrol completed. No enemy contacts. Proceeding to Toulon.
1030 Arrived Toulon for fuel.

April 4

Underway. 1547 Anchored in Golfe de la Napoule.

April 5

At anchor in Golfe de la Napoule.

April 6

Assumed 4 hours notice. 1103 Underway.
1138 Anchored in Golfe Juan.
1648 Underway proceeding to Grande Garde Patrol Area in company with H.M.S. MUSKETEER and H.M.S. METEOR.
2100 Commenced patrolling. Several flares were noticed on the beach.

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April 7

0514 Fired starshell on radar contact, identified as own PT boat. (This particular night, an arrangement had been made whereby the PT boats were not to show IFF unless requested by the patrol destroyers. This request was made, but no indication was obtained on the radar, so illumination was commenced at a present range of about 5500 yards. The PT boat in question immediately by radio made it known who we were illuminating; and the opportunity to sink an E-boat dissolved.)

0700 Commenced off shore patrolling in bombardment area awaiting call for supporting fire.

1034 Answered call for supporting fire, Target at 826900. This target was a gun position of unknown caliber on a hillside about two miles inshore. The SFCP desired white phosphorous ammunition as visibility was poor. Due to low allowance of that type of ammunition, only one WP per four gun salvo was used.

1033 Commenced firing.

From SFCP:

"No change - Right 400

No change - Right 400

Down 600 - No change

No change - Right 500

Land artillery is firing at same target as we are.

May we switch to 825883?"

New target was enemy occupied mortar area near a cross road about 800 yards inshore.

1054 Commenced firing.

From SFCP:

"Down 400 - Left 400

Up 600 - Left 200

Up 200 - Left 300

Up 100 - Left 200

Up 200 - No change

Up 100 - Right 100 - Fire 3 salvos

Down 100 - No change

Visibility bad on first target. Excellent

shooting on second. Area well covered."

6 WP, 7 AA common and 11 WP, 30AA common ammunition expended. Firing range was about 13,000 yards at all times, our closest approach to the beach was about 12,000 yards.

1358 Received call from SFCP. Target was mortar area and personnel at 819866 on Capo Mortala.

1440 Commenced firing.

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From FCP:

- "Up 300 - No change
- Up 100 - No change - 3 salvos
- Up 200 - Left 100
- No change - Left 100
- Down 300 - Right 100
- No change - Right 200
- No change - Right 200 - 3 salvos
- Up 200 - No change - 3 salvos
- No change - Right 300 - 3 salvos
- Up 500 - No change
- No change - No change - 3 salvos
- No change - Right 400
- Up 400 - No change
- No change - No change - 3 salvos
- Down 200 - No change
- Target area well covered. 3 or 4 direct hits on main building and mortar area behind building.
- Very good shooting. Pattern 150 yards."

114 rounds AA common ammunition expended. This shooting was done with aerial spotting and ran off very smoothly.
 1745 Departed bombardment area to patrol area.
 2100 Commenced patrol with U.S.S. LAUB, and F.S. TEMPETE.

April 8

0600 Left patrol area for Golfe Juan.
 0822 Anchored in Golfe Juan. One hour notice as standby bombardment ship.
 1643 Underway for Grande Garde.
 2100 Arrived on station in patrol area, patrolling in company with U.S.S. LAUB and F.S. TEMPETE.

April 9

0600 Set course for bombardment patrol area.
 0755 Arrived in shore fire support area awaiting call from SFCP.
 1035 Designated target by SFCP, 873871 Target was a road junction and command post in the town of Ventiniglia.
 1046 Commenced firing.

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From SFCP:

"Down 400 - No change
No change - No change
No change - Left 200
No change - Right 100
Down 100 - Right 100 - 3 salvos
No change - No change - 3 salvos
Shift target
Up 300 - Right 300
No change - Right 200 - 3 salvos
Up 300 - Right 100 - 3 salvos
Down 200 - No change
Two direct hits on command post, covered
it with debris and flying material.
Excellent shooting. Then we took you
along main supply route. You scored
eight direct hits on road.
Very good shooting. Just what we wanted."

70 rounds AA common expended. Firing range was about
14,000 yards.

1510 Received call from SFCP, Target designated was a
gun emplacement at 880891, about 3 miles inland on the
Nervia River. Our firing position was about 11,500 yards
from the shoreline.

1517 Commenced firing.

SFC Remarks:

"No change - Left 500
No change - Right 100
Fire for effect - 3 salvos
No change - Right 200
Fire for effect shell bounced off target
Fire for effect
(Note: Continuous salvo fire for 8 salvos were fired)
Last salvo was Right 300 - the salvo before
that right on target.
The fire is effective
(Note: 8 salvos fired)
No change - Left 100
(Note: 8 salvos fired)

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The fire is effective - Down 100
(Note: Our spotter was a French aerial observer and seemed to think our fire was very effective, ie, gave few spots, and ordered us to keep shooting. We would stop about every 8 salvos to see if it were still "effective")
(Note: 8 salvos fired)
The firing is effective - Right 100
(Note: 3 salvos fired. Due to the great amount of ammunition being expended, cut salvos to 3)
Fire for effect - Right 200
(Note: 3 salvos fired)
The fire is perfect, in place, resume firing.
Right 100
(Note: 3 salvos fired)
Right 300
(Note: 3 salvos fired)
Right 200
(Note: 3 salvos fired)
Up 200 - Right 400 - 1 salvo
Clear the guns.
Area well covered.
Towards last, shots were drawing left."

241 rounds AA common expended. Communication was difficult. During the bombardment this vessel was frequently fired upon, but all firing was ragged and ineffective.
1532 Shell burst 190° relative, distance 1,500 yards, course 085, speed 15 knots.
1535 Shell burst 135° relative, 200 yards, c/s to 20 knots, c/c to 100°T.
1539 Shell burst 120° relative, 1,500 yards, c/c to 120°T, c/s to 25 knots.
1540 Shell burst 060° relative, 300 yards, c/c to 270°T.
1545 C/c to 275°T.
1550 C/c to 100°T.
1553 C/c to 085°T.
1555 Shell burst 180° relative, 500 yards.
1558 C/s to 15 knots. Shell burst 090° relative, 200 yards.
1600 Shell burst 165° relative, 1,000 yards, c/s to 20 knots.
1602 Shell burst 310° relative, 100 yards, c/c to 260°T.
1605 C/s to 15 knots (range to target now 16,000 yards).
All shells were believed to be 88MM, altho some bursts were reported to be considerably larger than others.
1612 Left bombardment area for bombardment patrol area.
Mission successful.

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The observers could not locate the position of the enemy battery firing on us, and the aerial spotter could see no sign of firing from the target area.
1812 Left bombardment patrol area for night patrol area. Joined up with F.S. TEMPETE and F.S. TROMBE.
2100 Commenced night patrol, Grande Garde.

April 10

0500 Left patrol area.
1047 Moored in Toulon.

April 11

0820 Underway for Golfe de la Napoule.
1035 Destroyed with 30 caliber rifle and "Tommy" gun fire, floating mine, exploding mine about 150 yards on port bow. Of the several mines destroyed by this vessel this was the only one exploded. Position Lat. 43°-06'-30"N, Long. 06°-35'-30"E.
1227 Anchored in Golfe de la Napoule.

April 12

At anchor off Cannes.

April 13

0958 Underway for bombardment area (Taking assigned place of U.S.S. LAUB, detached).
1120 Arrived in standby patrol area awaiting call for supporting fire.
1700 Left bombardment area for night patrol.
1741 Joined up with H.M.S. METEOR.
1810 Joined up with F.S. TEMPETE.
2100 Commenced Grande Garde Patrol.
Weather was very hazy, low visibility, hence no firing.

April 14

0530 Left patrol area.
0828 Anchored in Golfe Juan, on one hour bombardment notice.
1630 Underway for night patrol.
2100 Commenced patrol with F.S. TEMPETE and H.M.S. METEOR.

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April 15

0500 Underway for bombardment area.
0624 On station, commenced firing 30 rounds on town of Ventimiglia at random as diverting fire, no spots, 2 gun salvos.
0635 Sank mine with 20MM fire.
0715 Commenced firing 30 rounds on target as before for diverting fire.
SFCP request for this firing was:
"Diversionary firing this morning specially requested by army. Similar firing last Tuesday successful. 30 rounds in Ventimiglia."
0745 F.S. TEMPETE joined in bombardment area.
0930 Target designated 869869 enemy occupied building. Target was in town of Ventimiglia, opening range 14,000 yards.
0945 Commenced firing.
SFCP Remarks:
"No change - Right 100
Down 100 - Right 200
Up 200 - Right 200
No change - Right 300
Up 200 - No change - 3 salvos
No change - No change
Up 300 - Left 1,800 - Shifting target, Personnel.
Air bursts 100 feet.
Up 400 - No change
Area well covered - One direct hit."
44 rounds AA common expended.
1002 Completed firing, underway for standby patrol area.
1015 F.S. TIGRE joined up.
1030 F.S. TIGRE conducted shore bombardment.
1112 Target designated 865873 enemy occupied area, town of Ventimiglia.
1126 Commenced firing, range 14,000 yards.
SFCP Remarks:
"Down 200 - Left 600
Up 100 - Right 100
Down 200 - Right 100
No change - Right 200
No change - Right 300
No change - No change - 4 salvos
Target area well covered. Very good shooting.
Ranging very good, 90% rounds in target area.
Pattern good."

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40 rounds AA common expended.
1151 In patrol area, standing by.
1400 F.S. TEMPETE conducted shore bombardment.
1608 F.S. TIGRE conducted shore bombardment.
1930 Underway for patrol area, Grande Garde.
2100 On night patrol with F.S. TIGRE, F.S. TEMPETE,
and H.M.S. TROMBE. During the patrol this night much
action was seen on beach, flares dropped, firing, etc.

April 16

0500 Left patrol area.
1200 Moored in Toulon.

April 17

1108 Underway for Golfe de la Napoule.
1434 Commenced submarine hunt as ordered by SOAD, in
company with 2 French PC's and 2 French SC's conducting
search 10 miles south of Iles' St. Honorat. Submarine
was reported seen by French airplane. Conducted circular
patrol at speed of 8 knots. Streamed Foxer gear.
Search unsuccessful.
2022 Anchored in Golfe de la Napoule.

April 18

Anchored in Golfe de la Napoule.

April 19

1247 Underway.
1420 Joined up with F.S. TIGRE, F.S. GLORIE (ComFlankFor),
and F.S. DUGUAY TROUIN.
1626 Patrolling 10 miles south Pte Imperia for scheduled
bombarding, which was later cancelled because of low
visibility.
2100 Night patrol in company with H.M.S. MUSKETEER and
F.S. TIGRE.

April 20

0530 Left night patrol area.
0700 Arrived off bombardment area awaiting call. Low
visibility prevented firing. Shore Fire Control Party
remarked that it was very unusual weather for this time
of year.
1725 Detached. Ordered to proceed to Oran.

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PART III

Total ammunition expenditure:

5"/38 caliber A ⁴ common projectiles	709
5"/38 caliber White Phosphorous projectiles	49
5"/38 caliber Star Shell projectiles	9

Star shells were used to clean excessive copper deposits out of guns.

Operation of ordnance equipment was generally good. The last six salvos fired on April 9 and all firing subsequent to that date was accomplished with director control in elevation due to casualty to the Stable Element, Mark 6, Mod. 0.

On April 8 excessive noise and vibration of the Stable Element was noticed. Investigation showed no excessive electrical load and the gyro came up to speed in normal time.

On April 9, during bombardment, a sudden increase in noise and vibration plus a considerable increase in electrical load was noted. The Stable Element was immediately secured to prevent further damage to working parts.

In dismantling the Stable Element, it was found that the top gyro wheel bearing was galled and the bottom bearing was badly worn. These bearings are identical and are listed as: MRC (Marlin Rockwell Corporation) Number 200 R4-9; Ordnance Number 177007-10. Lubrication had been carried out in accordance with instructions listed in O.D. 1063 as revised by OTI F6-43. Inspection of the lubrication wicks showed them to be oil soaked.

Firing after the Stable Element was secured was accomplished by director control in elevation and the director pointer's firing key was used. The difference in elevation in feet between the visual point of aim and the target height was determined and was set into the computer as an elevation spot.

When the casualty occurred the Stable Element had completed 6,856 hours of operation with no repairs or replacement required.

Ability to hit the target was not appreciably affected by this casualty; and the ship was fortunate in that the sea remained moderate or less, and firing continued as rapidly as before the casualty.

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PART IV

There was no battle damage to this vessel.

The battle damage to the enemy is as reported by the Shore Fire Control Parties which included 5" gun hits on storehouses, gun emplacements, road junctions, command posts, railway stations, and personnel.

PART V

Special comments are as follows:

- (a) CIC and radars functioned very well. Using radar for navigation and target designation, opening salvos were usually within 400 yards of the target, and often within 100 yards.
- (b) Radar phantom targets are prevalent in Gulf of Genoa, and radar conditions vary greatly from night to night. Destroyers have been "picked up" on the SG at ranges varying from 27 miles to 13 miles.
- (c) Voice communication, on 2470 Kcs, was usually good during the day, but at night was interfered with by heavy traffic on a CW circuit near same frequency. In addition, night or day, French PC and SC boats were likely to break in while someone else was using the circuit, and thus end R/T communication for that time.

Communication with Shore Fire Control Parties was by SCR 609 at 33 Mcs. Inside of 10 miles, communication was usually fair; outside of this range, quite poor.

- (d) Altho there had been two recent dispatches from CINC MED to keep IFF functioning during darkness and low visibility in this area, the planes patrolling nightly over the Gulf of Genoa seldom seemed to comply. These planes have occasionally flown directly over this vessel during night patrols in the Gulf; and this is quite disconcerting, even though no vessels have been attacked in this area by enemy planes for over six months.

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French Destroyers operating with this force are not IFF equipped.

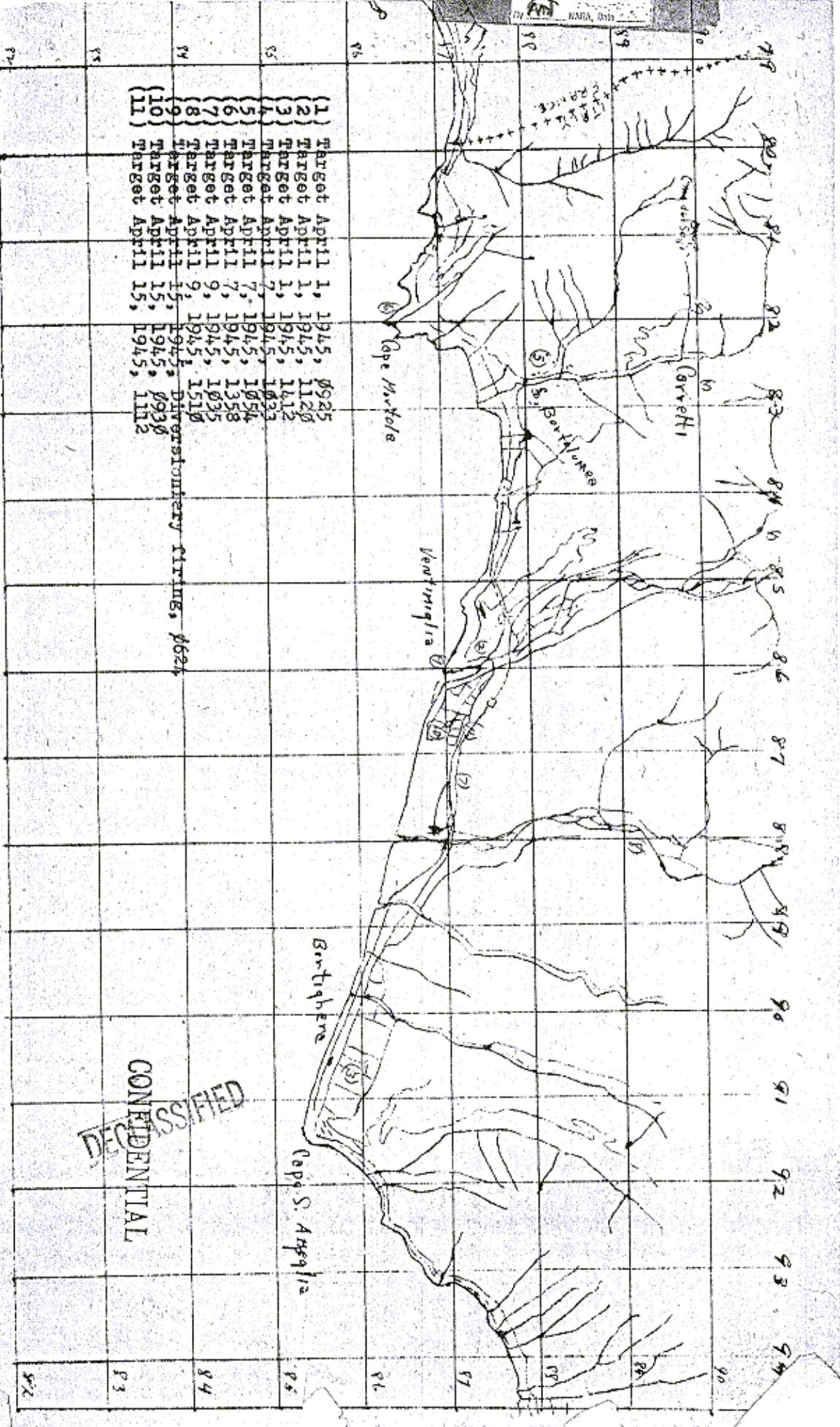
- (e) Early morning of the 16th of April, the F.S. TROMBE, was torpedoed forward by an E-boat in position 43°-40'N, 08°-10'E, which she did not contact with her radar. In view of the fact that there is believed to be only one enemy ship of size comparable to a destroyer in the Gulf of Genoa since the two sinkings on the night of 16 - 17 March by H.M.S. METEOR and H.M.S. LOOKOUT; this command believes that the destroyer patrol in the Grande Garde should be discontinued; and the denying of the Gulf of Genoa to the enemy should be left to air craft and PT-boats. This suggestion has been conveyed to Senior Officer Destroyers Flank Force.

PART VI

Personnel performance was excellent throughout. The return fire from shore batteries served us more than the enemy, since it heightened interest in the bombardment which is usually monotonous shooting when controlled by a Shore Fire Control Party.

O.D. HUGHLETT.

- CC: 2 - Cominch
- 1 - CTG 125.6
- 1 - ComNavNaw
- 1 - CinCLant
- 1 - File



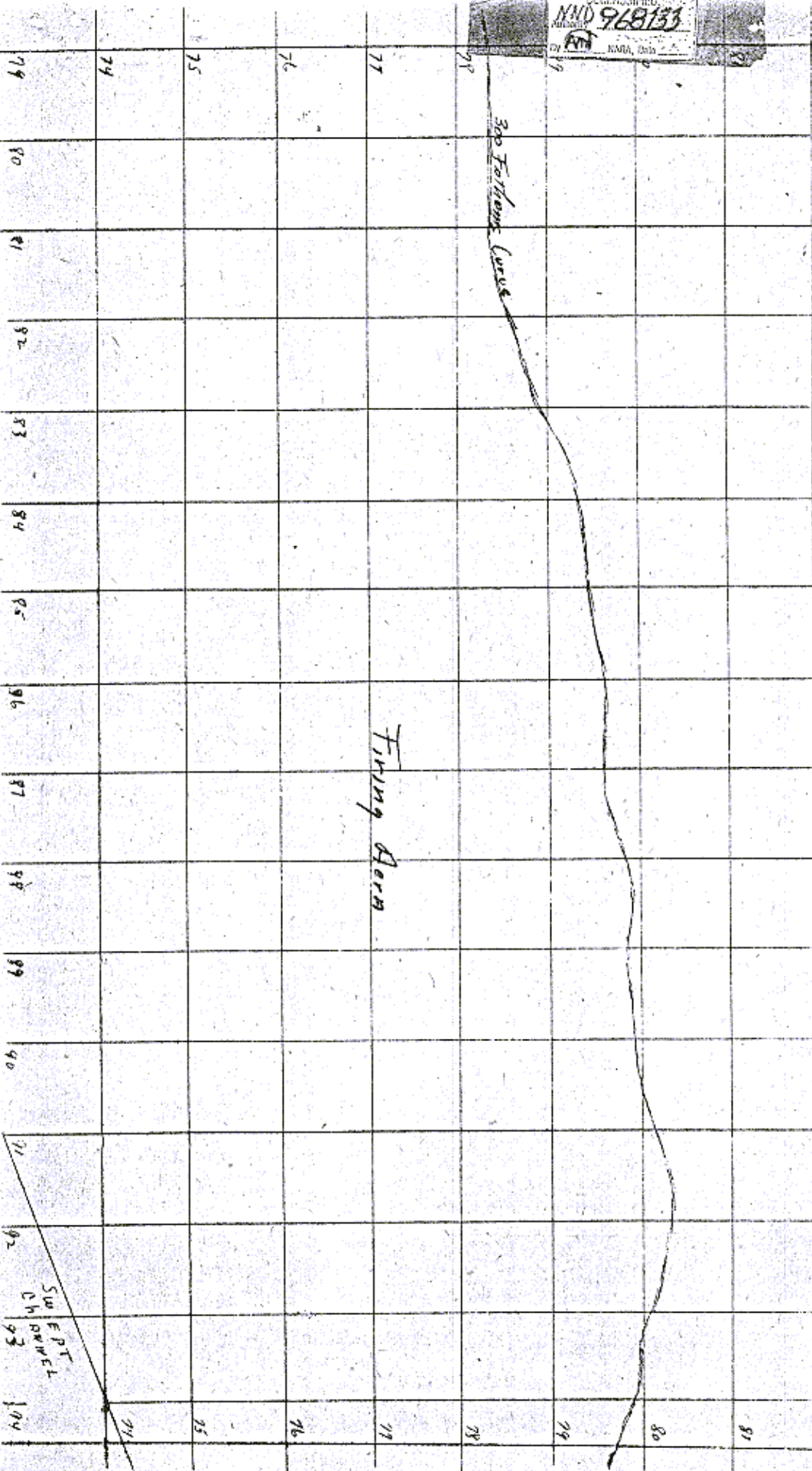
- (1) Target April 1, 1945, 0925
- (2) Target April 1, 1945, 1120
- (3) Target April 1, 1945, 1412
- (4) Target April 7, 1945, 1033
- (5) Target April 7, 1945, 1054
- (6) Target April 7, 1945, 1358
- (7) Target April 9, 1945, 1035
- (8) Target April 9, 1945, 1510
- (9) Target April 15, 1945, Diversions firing, 0624
- (10) Target April 15, 1945, 0930
- (11) Target April 15, 1945, 1112

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ENCLOSURE #4A

UNCLASSIFIED
NND 968133

NOVA, Ohio



300 Fathom Curve

Firing Area

SURF
POWER

OP6-16/A5-1
ll/pe
Serial: 067

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON SIXTEEN
CARE FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

4 May 1945.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to:
CO, USS MackENZIE conf.
ltr. A5-1, serial 022
dated 21 April 1945.

From: Commander Task Group 125.6.
(Commander Destroyer Squadron SIXTEEN).
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Task Force 125.
(2) Commander TWELFTH Fleet.
Subject: Report of Operation March 28, 1945 -
April 21, 1945.

1. Forwarded, noting the number of requests made by shore fire control parties for the use of W. P. ammunition. This seems to have been occasioned chiefly by the frequent periods of low visibility. However, this ammunition has also served effectively when firing against personnel and targets constructed of wood, or other combustible substance, using either air or impact bursts. The allowance of fifty (50) rounds per ship was arrived at chiefly because of its infrequent use, and the former relative scarcity, making local replacement of this type difficult.

2. The cautious approach and subsequent evasive maneuvers initiated by MackENZIE during the conduct of each mission are considered sound since the return fire from enemy batteries, now described as "ragged", has not always been so ineffective.

3. MackENZIE's loss of stable element, during her Flank Force assignment, would ordinarily have necessitated her relief. However, she was permitted to remain because of the moderate sea conditions existing, which rendered the use of director pointer fire entirely feasible.

4. The complimentary remarks made by the shore fire control party concerning MackENZIE's firing are very gratifying, and the Commanding Officer is hereby commended for the ship's performance. This command has taken particular care to ensure readiness for duty in the Flank Force, "checking out" each destroyer in battery alignment, and

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OF6-16/A5-1
ll/pe
Serial: 067

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON SIXTEEN
CARE FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

4 May 1945.

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

Subject: Report of Operation march 28, 1945 - April 21, 1945.

two practice shore bombardments. Prior to, and after each practice, a conference is held between ship and shore fire control party. Destroyers in this force have been directed to install SCR609 speakers in plot, which has assisted materially in speeding up the rate of fire by direct application of spot without relay via the C.I.C. This is a modification of Destroyers Atlantic Fleet procedure.

5. A recommended award for this action is contained in other correspondence.

J. P. Clay
J. P. CLAY

Copy to:
CO, USS MACKENZIE

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NND 968133
By [signature] NAVA, Date

7693

File No.
A16-3

UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
NORTHWEST AFRICAN WATERS

Serial: 0811

JUN 24 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
D SECOND ENDORSEMENT to:
CO, USS MackENZIE conf.
ltr. A5-1, Serial 022
dated 21 April 1945.

22 JUN 1945

From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : Commander U. S. Naval Forces in Europe.

Subject: Report of Operation March 28, 1945 - April 21, 1945.

1. Forwarded, concurring in the previous endorsement.
2. The statement contained in Part V, section (e), of the basic letter concerning the discontinuance of the nightly destroyer patrol off the Franco-Italian border, the Grande Garde, is noted. This patrol was abolished on 26 April and the destroyers were maintained at Golfe Juan for bombardment missions as deemed necessary for the support of the Army. The commitment of a United States destroyer for operations under the Commander Flank Force was discontinued on 4 May 1945.

Spencer Lewis
SPENCER S. LEWIS
CHIEF OF STAFF

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NND 968133
By [signature] DATE [blank]

UNITED STATES FLEET REG. NO 50689

UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE
20 GROSVENOR SQUARE
LONDON W.1
REG. SHEET NO 40

Please refer
to file: A16-3

SERIAL: 04513

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

JUN 30 1945

End--3 to:
CO, USS MackENZIE conf.
ltr. A5-1, Serial 022
dated 21 April 1945.

From: Commander, U. S. Naval Forces in Europe
To : Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
Subj: Report of Operation March 28, 1945 - April 21, 1945.
1. Forwarded.

L. T. DuBose

L. T. DuBose,
Chief of Staff.

1700
STANDARD TIME
ATTACHED

7 0808

NO
FILMED