

A12/A16-3/WAR  
Serial (2102)

U.S.S. PHELPS

August 17, 1943.

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**CONFIDENTIAL-A-1**

Reg. No. 1399.....  
R.S. No. .... 8 02363...

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.  
Via: (1) The Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE.  
(2) The Commander North Pacific Force.

Subject: Action Report of Bombardments of Japanese  
Installations on Kiska Island on 13-14  
August, 1943 - Submission of.

Reference: (a) PACFLT COMF LTR 3601-42.

ENCLOSURE: (A) Action Report.

1. In accordance with reference (a), the action  
report covering the subject bombardment is forwarded herewith  
as enclosure (A).

J. E. EDWARDS.

Copy to:  
CominCh (advance copy).  
ComDesPac (advance copy).

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U.S.S. ZEPHYR

ACTION REPORT OF COMMANDER OF SUBMARINE INSTALLATIONS ON KIKUA ISLAND  
12-17-1943

1. Summary of Summary of Submarine Events.

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None.

2. Preliminary Operations.

This vessel was stationed on the "Subarna Patrol" off Kikua Island in accordance with orders from Commander North Pacific Force. The ZEPHYR was ordered by despatch from Commander North Pacific Force to bombard targets 904, located in Fox Thumb Cove, and 910-913, located in Whited Cove, on Kikua Island during the first and third hours after darkness during the night of 17-18 August, 1943 and to transmit weather reports at 2100 WILLIAM and 2345 WILLIAM.

The wind was from the southwest, force one. The sea was calm with a slight swell from the south. Visibility at the time of bombardment was excellent, with the ceiling at 600 feet.

3. Chronological Log of Events.

2100 Changed course to 000 True and commenced approach to firing point.

2105 Went to General quarters.

2110 Changed speed to 10 knots.

2115 Changed course to 315 True.

2120 Changed course to 000 True.

2125 Made weather report to Commander North Pacific Force.

2130 With target number 904 on Kikua Island bearing 318 True, range 9000 yards, ZEPHYR opened fire to port.

2135 With target number 904 on Kikua Island bearing 308 True, range 9000 yards, ZEPHYR opened fire, having expended 10 rounds of A.A. Cannon powder and micheles powder.

2140 Changed speed to 15 knots. Changed course to 195 True.

2145 Changed speed to 10 knots and resumed Subarna patrol.

0210 Retired from General quarters. Set Condition of Readiness II.

0100 Went to General quarters.

0110 Changed course to 070 True and commenced approach to firing point.

0200 With target number 913 on Kikua Island bearing 323 True, range 10,000 yards, ZEPHYR commenced fire to starboard.

0205 Ceased fire on target number 913, having expended 12 rounds of A.A. Cannon powder and micheles powder. Shifted to target number 910.

0210 With target number 910 bearing 308 True, range 9000 yards, ZEPHYR opened fire to starboard.

0215 Ceased firing on target number 910, having expended 10 rounds of A.A. Cannon powder and micheles powder.

0220 Changed speed to 15 knots. Changed speed to 15 knots.

0212 Retired from General quarters. Set Condition of Readiness II.

0215 Changed speed to 10 knots and resumed Subarna patrol.

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## 4. Special Comments on Enemy Losses.

No return fire by the enemy shore batteries was noted during the bombardment. Projectiles were seen exploding on the island. It is believed, but not known, that bursts exploded in the target area.

## 5. Special Comments on Gun Range.

The navigational range and bearing to each target was transmitted from O.I.C. to Central. The ship was plotted in navigationally by Sagar George ranges and bearings. The PHMDS fired three-gun salvoes, with the exception of the last salvo, which consisted of 4 rounds. The performance of the battery and morale of the crew were excellent.

## 6. Recommendations where warranted.

## 7. Lesson Learned and Recommendations.

During a night bombardment, it is impossible to determine that the projectiles are falling in the target area unless the area is very prominent or illuminated.

(4)

PHELPS' TRACK DURING  
BOMBARDMENT OF KISKA  
NIGHT OF 13-14 AUGUST, 1943

