

DD360/A12/A16-3
Serial (0151)

U.S.S. PHELPS

DECLASSIFIED-A-L



A-9

B

RM-1628

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander Task Force 54.
Subject: Action Report of Fire Support Delivered.
Reference: (a) Commander Task Force 52 Amphibious
Attack Order No. A3-43.
Enclosure: (A) Chronological Record of Events.
 (B) Comments and Recommendations by
the Gunnery Officer.

1. In accordance with paragraph 13, annex "C" of reference (a), enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded herewith. Since the U.S.S. PHELPS did not deliver any call fire, there is no radio log included.

2. The Commanding Officer believes that for bombardment of enemy installations on the atoll type islands of the Central Pacific the ammunition should be half AA common and half common. It is also believed that more accurate fire control can be obtained at a range of 6,000 to 8,000 yards. Firing at such a range decreases the danger to the firing ship and increases the nicety of control of the M.P.I. and pattern size allowing more search and less firing time to be lost in turns. It also gives a more plunging fire for effect against pill boxes and bunkers.

J. E. Edwards
J. E. EDWARDS

Copy to: Commanding General, Fifth Amphibious Corps.

38438

FILMED

02717

C-DECLASSIFIED A-L

20 November 1943

LCT

- 0900 U.S.S. PHELPS and U.S.S. MacDONOUGH formed column and proceeded to Makin Lagoon for shore bombardment, following U.S.S. REVENGE with her paravanes streamed and sweeping ahead for mines.
- 0921 Entered Makin Lagoon.
- 1000 U.S.S. REVENGE commenced shore bombardment. Many shells from other bombardment units landed close by. O.T.C. notified on T.B.S. by Comdesron One.
- 1005 U.S.S. PHELPS and U.S.S. MacDONOUGH commenced firing at assigned target areas numbers 836, 838, 842, 844, 894, 895. Many large fires observed on the beach.
- 1025 Ceased firing shore bombardment. Expended: 236 rounds 5"/38 AA common projectiles. One hangfire in gun #5 prevented expending the full allowance of ammunition.
- 1032 First wave of landing boats landed at Yellow Beach 2 inside the lagoon and reported severe opposition by the enemy with heavy machine gun fire.
- 1035 Proceeded out of lagoon to Fire Support Sector No. 5.
- 1126 Commenced patrolling Fire Support Sector 5, using various courses and various speeds, standing by for call fire from shore fire control party.

Enclosure (A)

82

3 02757

DECLASSIFIED-A-L

Comments and Recommendations by the Gunnery Officer.

A. Training.

The fire control party understood the problem, having carried out shore bombardment exercises and the bombardment of other enemy held islands. A complete study of all intelligence data was carried out by all control personnel.

B. Procedure.

At the designated time, W-25, the U.S.S. PHELPS proceeded to the assigned track and commenced firing. Full salvos were fired with the mounts in automatic. 236 rounds of 5"/38 AA common with fuzes set on safe were expended in covering the six assigned target areas. Approximately 10% of the projectiles were fired into the water just short of the beach. Due to a persistent hangfire in one gun, firing was ceased to prevent casualty to the gun or personnel nearby. For this reason the full allowance of ammunition was not expended.

C. Recommendations.

The gunnery officer has no recommendations.

W.R. KURTZ

Enclosure (B)

826

3 02757

58

05A/A16-3

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
FIFTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Serial 0138

DECLASSIFIED

DEC 19 1943
72 408-42

825

FIRST MESSAGING to
CO, USS PHLEPS Ltr.
DU360/A12/A16-3 Ser.
0151 dated 12-8-43.

From: Commander FIFTH Amphibious Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet.
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
Via: Commander Central Pacific Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Action Report of Fire Support Delivered.
1. Forwarded.

R. K. Turner
R. K. TURNER.

Copy to:
CO, USS PHLEPS

825

3 02757

05A/A16-3

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
FIFTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

05/JAB

Serial 0138

DECLASSIFIED

DEC 19 1943

~~TOP SECRET~~
TOP SECRET to
CO, USS PHILPS
0510/A16/A16-3 Ser.
0138 dated 12-9-43.

From: Commander FIFTH Amphibious Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet.
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
Via : Commander Central Pacific Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Action Report of Fire Support Delivered.
1. Forwarded.

R. K. TURNER.

Copy to:
CO, USS PHILPS

3 02737