

COMMANDER DESTROYER DIVISION TWO
C/O Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

Reg. No. 403
R. S. No. 8 03604

CDD-2/A16-3
Serial 019.

23 July 1944.

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

From: The Commander Destroyer Division TWO.
To : The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via : The Commander Cruiser Division SIX.
The Commander Cruiser Division NINE.
The Commander Group Three, Fifth Amphibious Force.
The Commander Fifth Amphibious Force.
The Commander Fifth Fleet.

Subject: Underwater Demolition Mission Off AGAT Beaches,
17 July 1944 and Night Bombardment of GUAM, 18 July
1944 - Report of.

1. Forwarded.

2. Commander Destroyer Division TWO was directed by CTG 53.5 (Rear Admiral W.L. AINSWORTH, USN), on the afternoon of 17 July 1944 (D-4 day), to conduct and support the initial underwater demolition operations off AGAT beaches. Underwater Demolition Team #4, from USS KANE, performed a creditable night reconnaissance and removed a considerable number of reef obstacles. There were no casualties and no enemy gunfire was reported. One boat was stranded on the reef.

3. Prior to sunset, seven LCI's which were made available for close support were directed to form column on KANE and, with FARRAGUT and MONAGHAN on either bow of KANE, retirement from Fire Support area was made to the westward. Roger hour (at which time the UDT boats were to leave KANE) having been set for 2000, it was necessary to reverse course and head for the beach during twilight. LCI's were scheduled to commence preliminary bombardment with 40MM and 20MM at 1930 but were 15 minutes late in opening fire so Roger hour was postponed 15 minutes in order that the teams might have the advantage afforded by the full bombardment period. The delay was due solely to my reluctance to "telegraph the punch." The entire beach area was effectively covered by LCI gun-fire. FARRAGUT and MONAGHAN were stationed in flanking positions north and south of KANE, 1,000 - 1,500 yards offshore, and directed to confine their gun-fire to counter-battery, the necessity for which did not arise. No opposition having developed after the first hour of operations, MONAGHAN was directed to patrol to seaward and continued patrol until 0245.

4. On return of UDT #4 to KANE, MONAGHAN was directed to retire with them to westward and FARRAGUT commenced bombardment as

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described in basic letter. At 0245 MONAGHAN returned to the area and commenced bombardment. ComDesDiv TWO in FARRAGUT proceeded with KANE and LCI's to 0600 rendezvous with CTG 53.5.

5. UDT #4 destroyed wooden and wire cribs on the reef which covered the entire beach; also barbed wire fencing 20 yards off-shore. No mines were found. Reef was reported to be uneven to seaward of the cribs, with bad coral heads.

6. No accurate estimate can be made of damage resulting from ships' gunfire but frequent salvos in the beach area discouraged enemy efforts (if any) to replace reef obstacles during the night. It was regretted that star shells could not be used, but their use was discontinued when UDT#3 off ASAN beach, reported that our illumination of AGAT beaches, revealed their activity.

7. Material failures reported will be investigated and corrected during forth-coming Navy Yard overhaul.

T. H. TONSETH.

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