

DD354/A12/A16
Serial (0251)
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U.S.S. MONAGHAN (DD354)

Reg. No.

275

R. S. No.

801030

Care Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
28 July 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: (1) Commander Destroyer, Division TWO
(2) Commander Task Unit 53.5.2 and
Commander Task Group 53.5 (Commander
Cruiser Division NINE).
(3) Commander Task Force 53.
(4) Commander Fifth Fleet (Commander
Central Pacific)
(5) The Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Action Report of Night Support of UDT-4 and
Bombardment of Agat Beach Area, Guam,
Night of 17-18 July 1944.

Reference: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations (1920) Art. 874(6).
(b) Pacific Conf.Ltr. 2CL-44 of 1 January
1944.

Enclosure: ✓ (A) Subject Report.

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b) the
subject Action Report is submitted herewith as Enclosure (A).

W.F. Wendi
W.F. WENDI

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Copy to: ✓ Cominch (Airmail)
CinCPac (Airmail)
CDS-1

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Action Report of Night Support of UDT-4 and Bombardment of Agat

Beach Area, Guam, Night of 17-18 July 1944

PART ONE

1. General Narrative:

FARRAGUT (Comdesdiv 2) and MONAGHAN, as directed by Commander Task Group 53.2, covered UDT-4 in KANE during demolition work on Agat beaches night 17-18 July and on completion conducted harassment of Agat area. Eight LCIs assisted in covering the teams. The general conduct of the operation consisted as follows: At 1850 KANE leading the column of LCIs stood in to Agat beaches with MONAGHAN furnishing close support on starboard beam of KANE and FARRAGUT on the port beam of KANE. The unit was conducted in to the beach by Comdesdiv 2. About 1200 yards off reef KANE, MONAGHAN and FARRAGUT lay to and boats of UDT-4 proceeded to reef for demolition work screened by two LCIs for close support. At 2153, no enemy activity interfering with demolition work, MONAGHAN was directed to make an investigating run outside of beach to ascertain presence of any enemy craft. At 0115 demolition work was completed. MONAGHAN took charge of KANE and LCIs and conducted them to seaward while FARRAGUT commenced harassing fire. At 0245 FARRAGUT relieved MONAGHAN who then proceeded with harassing fire until daylight at which time she rejoined the FARRAGUT and LCI group.

2. Preliminaries:

(a) MONAGHAN as part of Destroyer Division TWO with KANE, CLEMSON, Cruiser Division NINE, departed Eniwetok 14 July 1944 and arrived off Agat beaches morning of 17 July 1944, at which time Cruiser Division NINE commenced bombardment. This was continued throughout the day, other units of Task Unit 53.5² joining. MONAGHAN was in station in anti-submarine screen to seaward throughout the day. At 1553 FARRAGUT and MONAGHAN closed beaches to take preliminary survey during daylight and at 1715 joined KANE and LCIs forming for night demolition work with Comdesdiv 2 in command.

(b) Own mission was to cover UDT-4 in KANE during demolition work by close support in event of enemy counter action. As no enemy action ensued during demolition work no counter fire was called for. This unit operated under Comcrudiv 9 operation order No. 7-44, ComTaskForce 53 Operation Plan A162-44, and secret despatches of CTF 53 giving detailed instruction. The pertinent despatch ordering the operation was issued by ComTaskGroup 53.5 and is appended.

ENCLOSURE (A) to
MONAGHAN Confidential
Serial (0247) of July
28, 1944.

Action Report of Night Support of UDT-4 and Bombardment of Agat Beach Area, Guam, Night of 17-18 July 1944

PART ONE

1. Preliminaries (Continued)

The night harassment was conducted with the mission of preventing the enemy from replacing defenses and in general to worry them through the night.

(c) During this operation the forces involved were: FARRAGUT MONAGHAN furnishing close support to KANE assisted by LCIs. The approach to the beach and conduct while there were given in paragraph (a). The harassment fire was conducted from 0115 to 0245 by FARRAGUT and from 0245 until dawn (0510) by MONAGHAN. During latter time the KANE and non-firing ships plus LCI retired to seaward.

(d) No enemy forces were encountered.

(e) Wind - ENE, force four.

Sea - short swells from northeast.

Visibility - dark but clear until about 0300 when intermittent heavy rain squalls set in, visibility at times reduced to 2,000 yards.

PART TWO

Chronological Account of Events:

Monday, 17 July 1944 -- Zone Time Minus Ten

1850 - Stood toward Agat beach on course 070^oT, speed 11 knots.

1925 - Closed beach on course 070^oT, speed 8 knots to act as covering unit for underwater demolition teams to conduct operations on Agat reefs.

1938 - Hove to with Alutom Island bearing 090^oT, distant 1500 yards.

1945 - CDD-2 authorized a delay in Roger hour of 15 minutes from 2000 to 2015.

2015 - Underwater Demolition Teams left KANE for beach.

2030 - Underwater Demolition Teams at edge of reef.

2053 - In accordance with orders from CDD-2 proceeded to patrol a line between Orote Point and Facpi Point about 4000 yards to seaward of Alutom Island, speed 15 knots.

Action Report of Night Support of UDT-4 and Bombardment of Agat Beach Area, Guam, Night of 17-18 July 1944

PART TWO

Chronological Account of Events (Continued)

Tuesday, 18 July 1944

- 0003 - Underwater Demolition teams exploded last charges, completing assigned duty and returned to U.S.S. KANE.
- 0030 - U.S.S. MONAGHAN encountered LCVP containing personnel of UDT and directed it to the KANE.
- 0115 - MONAGHAN took tactical charge of U.S.S. KANE and LCIs and departed Agat Bay, MONAGHAN and KANE screening LCIs, course 270°T, speed 10 knots. U.S.S. FARRAGUT commenced scheduled bombardment.
- 0200 - Changed course to 090°T and closed Agat Bay.
- 0245 - Closed Agat Bay beach in preparation for bombardment having been relieved of screening duties by the U.S.S. MONAGHAN.
- 0305 - Commenced firing bombardment of Agat Bay Area with main battery.. For complete list of salvos and target areas see schedule of fire attached. While bombarding Agat Bay beaches ship was maneuvered in Agat Bay so as to keep batteries unmasked, ship speed five knots.
- 0410 - Changed course to 270°T.
- 0423 - Changed course to 000°T.
- 0429 - Changed course to 320°T
- 0459 - Changed course to left to 140°T.
- 0504 - Changed course to 165°T.
- 0510 - Ceased firing, completed bombardment having expended 108 5"/38 Cal. A.A. Common, Mk.18 fuze projectiles, 108 powder charges.
- 0510 - Changed course to 315°T. Retired to rejoin U.S.S. FARRAGUT at rendezvous in accordance with orders from Commander Destroyer Division TWO.

Action Report of Night Support of UDT-4 and Bombardment of Agat Beach Area, Guam, Night of 17-18 July 1944

PART THREE

1. Performance of own ordnance material and equipment:

(a) The material and personnel performance were excellent. There were no material casualties. Fire discipline was excellent. Indirect fire was used with C.I.C. placing director on targets using SG radar fixes, supplemented by FD radar ranges to prominent objects when available.

(b) Ammunition expended during harassment as follows:

A.A. Common - 108 rounds.
Illuminating - 0 rounds.

(See appended schedule of fires for statistical record of fires into individual target areas)

Illumination could not be conducted because of interference with Task Unit 53.14.1 working off Asan beaches. No fire was conducted during demolition work of UDT-4.

(c) The gunnery appeared effective in so far as could be determined during the night. Illumination was not used because of interference to work on Asan Beaches. The harassment mission is considered to have been successful.

PART FOUR

No damage to own ship occurred.

An estimate of enemy battle damage cannot be assessed although shots were landing in the target areas.

PART FIVE

1. Communications functioned normally.

2. Radar (SG) was used by C.I.C. to place the director on the targets. C.I.C. both navigated the ship placed the fire by radar.

3. Conclusions: The covering of the underwater demolition teams at night by withholding fire until enemy counter activity is present is sound. The use of night harassment to prevent subsequent activity to repair defenses and to keep the enemy in "their holes" with the added possibility of damaging specific targets need no comment. Its usefulness has been proven before.

Action Report of Night Support of UDT-4 and Bombardment of Agat
Beach Area, Guam, Night of 17-18 July 1944

U.S.S. MONAGHAN (DD354)

-A-3K5 170409 D348 D354 -W- DivD2 D568 GR 23 BT

ACTION ADEES COVER UDT 4 IN KANE DURING DEMOLITION
WORK TONIGHT AAA ON COMPLETION CONDUCT
HARASSMENT AGAT AREA EXPENDING NOT OVER TWENTY
FIVE PERCENT

SYSTEM: VIZ/0500/RW/DLS/JULY 17-44 PRECEDENCE - ROUTINE

FROM: CTG 53.5

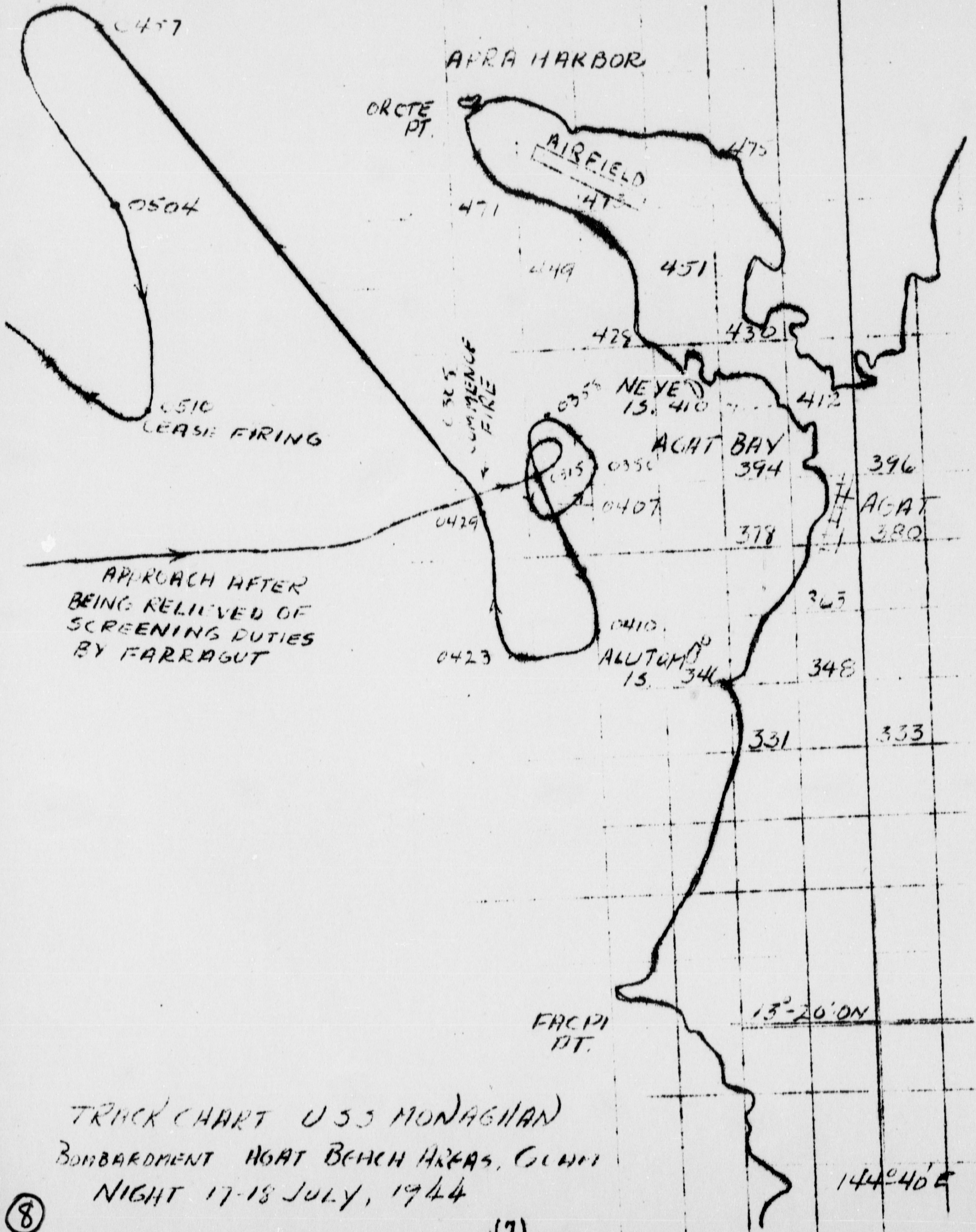
ACTION TO: FARRAGUT/ MONAGHAN

INFO TO: COMDESDIV 2/ KANE

ANNEX I to Action Report
Bombardment of Agat Beach
Area, Guam, Night 17-18
July 1944.

Statistical record of fires, Night Bombardment of Agat Area 17-18
July 1944

FROM	TIME		TARGET	AVERAGE RANGE	ROUNDS FIRED	PROJECTILES	
		TO					
0305	-	0307	331-B	4000	4	A.A.	Common
0309	-	0311	336-S	4500	4	"	"
0311	-	0316	379-N	4600	10	"	"
0317	-	0318	395-Q	5000	44	"	"
0325	-	0327	411-O	3750	6	"	"
0328	-	0329	411-P	4000	2	"	"
0330	-	0331	412-P	4000	4	"	"
0334	-	0334	412-M	4450	2	"	"
0443	-	0345	347-U	3200	3	"	"
0348	-	0349	396-H	4500	3	"	"
0352	-	0353	433-K	5500	3	"	"
0355	-	0355	430-V	2800	2	"	"
0401	-	0404	379-H	5500	12	"	"
0407	-	0408	363-B	4750	4	"	"
0409	-	0411	363-H	4100	4	"	"
0416	-	0419	497-U	7100	10	"	"
0424	-	0428	380-P	5800	6	"	"
0441	-	0443	411-C	6200	5	"	"
0444	-	0448	451-M	6500	7	"	"
0449	-	0449	379-T	11000	2	"	"
0454			473-G	10000	1	"	"
0500	-	0501	473-X	10200	3	"	"
0503			379-R	13000	1	"	"
0505			430-Y	11300	1	"	"
0506			079-T	13000	1	"	"
0506			431-U	10500	1	"	"
0508			379-Y	12300	1	"	"
0510			395-Q	11000	1	"	"
0511			079-R	11200	1	"	"
					108	Total	



TRACK CHART USS MONAGHAN
BOMBARDMENT AGAT BEACH AREAS, GUAM
NIGHT 17-18 JULY, 1944

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