

ICI(M)809
File: A16
Serial: 43-45

U.S.S. ICI(M) 809
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

9 June, 1945

From: The Commanding Officer, U.S.S. ICI(M) 809
To: The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet

Via: (1) Commander, Mortar Support Division Seven
(Commander, ICI(M) Group 41) (CTU 52.24.3)
(2) Commander, ICI Flotilla 14 (CTG 52.24)
(3) Commander, Amphibious Group 4 (CTF 53)
(4) Commander, Amphibious Group 1 (CTF 52)
(5) Commander, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet,
(CTF 51)
(6) Commander in Chief, United States Pacific
Fleet.

Subject: ACTION REPORT - 14 May to 1 June, 1945, Including
the bombardment of the City of Naha, Okinawa.

1. During this period the principal assignments of this vessel were anti-aircraft screen and smoke screen. On 14 May, as a unit of Mortar Division Seven, this vessel participated in the first two of four bombardments of Naha City.

2. A. At 0450, began approach to target area, following guide of Division Flagship. 0537, opened fire on objective with mortars and 40/MM, firing 244 rounds mortar and 76 rounds 40/MM ammunition. 0604, ceased fire and returned from area, lying to off shore for additional firing. One mortar disabled because of damage to box supporting base.

B. 0850, underway to bombard assigned area. 0925, opened fire on assigned area. 0940, ceased firing, having fired allotted number of rounds of mortars (100). During the firing the box of number two (2) mortar cracked and jumped out of base. Upon completion of the firing, it was found that number one (1) mortar was in the same condition as number two (2), and three (3). Since the mortars could not be repaired immediately, this vessel lay to off shore while the other ships of the Division bombarded the area for the third and fourth time.

C. No return fire was observed and no damage was suffered by this vessel.

9 0334

137740

③

ICI(M)809
File: A16
Serial: 43-45

ACTION REPORT - page two

CONFIDENTIAL

3. The damage to the mortar boxes was the result of insufficient strength of the boxes to withstand the recoil of the mortars while firing the maximum number of powder rings (16). This deficiency has been overcome by securing the mortars and box with cable instead of line, and by welding horizontal strips between the mortar boxes and the base, which is adequately secured to the deck.

J.L. Pierce
J.L. PIERCE

9 0334