23 July 1944 (continued)

Position: 0800 Latitude 11°57'N., Longitude 149°41'W.
1200 11°59'N. 149°41'W.
2000 11°47'N. 149°47'W.

Ammunition expended:
433 rounds of 6'/47 caliber.
276 rounds of 5'/38 caliber.
414 rounds of 40mm.

24 July 1944

Steaming as before.

At 0402 approached Tinian Island. U.S.S. Montpelier, U.S.S. San Juan, and the screen left formation.

At 0450 maneuvering to take station in fire support area #3 (west of southern part of Tinian Island) on orders from OTC to carry out bombardment of Tinian Island in accordance with CTF-52 Attack Order All-44. At 0530 in position, with Guam Point bearing 019° True east, distant 2,500 yards, and commenced firing on designated targets. Own plane in air for gunnery observation and spotting. Operating in the same sector were the U.S.S. Colorado, bearing 151° True, distant about 7,500 yards, and the U.S.S. Nevada, bearing 140° True, distant about 2,000 yards. As a result of the assignment of the USS-521 to other duty, the Guam Point had been shifted from the southern part of area #3 to the northern part.

At 0615 observed landing craft leaving transports for landing fleet on Tinian Town, actual landing taking place to northward.

A. J. Sheard
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding
At 0742 as the landing craft approached within 8,000 yards of the beach, enemy shore batteries in areas 507 and 510 south of TINIAN TOWN whose existence had not previously been known, opened fire on the landing craft, the U.S.S. NORMAN SCOTT, and U.S.S. COLORADO. COLORADO was almost exactly in the spot which had been occupied by the CLEVELAND from 1200 to 1500 the previous day while shooting to the southward of TINIAN TOWN. COLORADO was on a northerly heading, NORMAN SCOTT on a southwesterly heading, and CLEVELAND on 169° True. All ships were stopped or steaming very slowly. At 0742 direct hits on COLORADO's starboard side, and splashes of straddles, were observed. Each hit was accompanied by the ignition and flashing of the external paint for some distance around the hole. Several internal fires were observed along COLORADO's starboard side, but she promptly counter-marched, probably to let the smoke blow clear, and at 0745 resumed fire with port batteries. CLEVELAND, in the meantime immediately (0743) opened fire, with main and secondary batteries, firing to port and turning to starboard with opposed engines through about 30° to course 200° True, in order to bring full batteries to bear on the enemy guns firing on the COLORADO. Direct fire and top-spot were used at first as plane was at the moment about over grid areas 553-555, about 7,500 yards to the northwest. When he got in position, about 0745, plane spot was used primarily. First salvos of both CLEVELAND batteries were short about 200 yards. Second and succeeding salvos of both batteries were on the target. Rapid salvo fire was used by both batteries. At 0746 observed fire from battery in area 554, directed at boat waves and at NORMAN SCOTT. Shifted fire of Group IV secondary battery to enemy battery in 554, and opened fire with port and after 20mm and 40mm machine guns on the same area, maintaining rapid salvo fire of main battery and Group II secondary battery on enemy batteries in 507 and 510.
At 0752 observed direct shell hit on stern of U.S.S. HORNAN SCOTT, slightly on our port bow, close aboard. Momentarily dead in the water and being repeatedly straddled, she continued counter fire with all guns except Mount 5, which had been hit and put out of action.

At 0758 enemy shell burst off port beam of CLEVELAND, distant 50 yards. Observed splashes from enemy batteries among demonstration group, and straddles on the COLORADO, the latter maintaining counter battery fire.

At 0759 U.S.S. HORNAN SCOTT crossed CLEVELAND's bow, headed to seaward, with flag hoists flying indicating that steering gear was disabled and serious fire had broken out. U.S.S. NOBUSITIC stood by to assist. Fires were reported out within a few minutes.

At 0759 turned the CLEVELAND to starboard, between enemy and HORNAN SCOTT, to throw off enemy fire which had been very close a moment before, using a sudden, momentary, acceleration of engines and full rudder. Maintained the fire throughout turn. Stopped when on heading 010°. At this time BIRMINGHAM (Comrad/Flot) and BERMUDA hove in our direction in support. BERMINGHAM reported by USN that CLEVELAND appeared to have been hit and be on fire. Happily, we were not. what BIRMINGHAM saw was the effect of our firing main, secondary, and machine guns, simultaneously rapid fire.

Enemy batteries neutralized by about 0759.

COLORADO and HORNAN SCOTT each had two officers killed. The HORNAN SCOTT lost 20 men killed, and the COLORADO 37. Both had numerous minor personnel casualties. The HORNAN SCOTT's captain and her navigator were killed.

APPROVED: L. A. HARRISON, Jr.,
Communication Officer.

A. J. COLEY
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.
24 July 1944 (continued)

At 0830 maneuvered to open range to 10,000 yards under orders from CTTF-52 and CTU-52.17.3 to keep ships of the unit beyond effective range of enemy batteries. After 0800, had reduced the fire of all batteries to slow fire to maintain neutralization. At 0840 ceased firing. Ammunition expended between 0743 and 0840, about 80% between 0743 and 0800, was as follows: 1057 6"/47 H.C.; 624 5"/38 A.A.C.; 41 5"/38 W.F. (Smoke); 1796 40mm; 2370 20mm.

At 0854 observed fires and explosions, in the CLEVELAND's target, area 554. It appeared to be from an ammunition dump or stowage adjacent to the battery. This battery had been neutralized about the same time as the batteries in 507 and 510, but the exact time was not noted.

At 1027 maneuvering to take position between grid lines 02 and 99, a rectangular area off GURGUAN POINT, 3,000 yards north and south, in accordance with CTU-52.17.3 despatch 241009, July 1944. In answer to CLEVELAND despatch 241041, July 1944, CTU-52.17.3 granted permission to relax speed and range limitations while operating in new area with the warning to "be careful." In new area, delivered fire on targets of opportunity and those designated in CTTF-52 Attack Order 112-44. Own plane in air for gunnery observation and spotting.

At 1202 firing at various targets on southwest part of island south of TINIAN TOWN. Received permission to move into other areas as long as no ships were interfered with. COLORADO remained in position off areas 507 and 510 until about 1630, methodically shelling those areas with 16-inch. As she left, about 1630, for the SAIPAN anchorage,

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Commanding.

L. A. HARRISON, Jr.,
Communication Officer.
we counted 13 holes in her starboard side. She appeared
unaffected, although she reported one 5"/31 gun and one
5"/25 mount knocked out. She was leaving an oil slick.
When she left, the LOUISVILLE and CLEVELAND fired into 507
and 510 together slowly and carefully, LOUISVILLE until
about 1800, CLEVELAND until 1812.

At 1840 proceeded to fire support area 2 for night
harassment fire duty with the U.S.S. WADLEIGH, in accord-
ance with CTF-52 despatch 240612Z, July 1944. At 1920
U.S.S. WADLEIGH conducting harassing fire in accordance
with CLEVELAND despatch 240827, July 1944, which assigned
WADLEIGH the harassment watch from sunset until midnight,
CLEVELAND the watch from midnight to sunrise, 0600. Each
ship standing by in addition for supporting or special
fire as called for over naval gunfire circuit during the
night.

Steamed during night in rectangular area 6,000 yards
from beach, 8,000 yards north and south, centered on a
point bearing 260° True, distant 7,500 yards from CURUAN
POINT.

(Attack report attached, covering period 23 - 29
July 1944.)

Position:

0800 Latitude 14°57’N. Longitude 140°41’E.
1200 14°56’N. 140°43’E.
2000 13°40’N. 140°43’E.

Ammunition expended:

1272 rounds of 6"/47 caliber.
1436 rounds of 5"/38 caliber.
1698 rounds of 40mm.
2270 rounds of 20mm.

APPROVED:

L. A. HARRISON, Jr.,
Communication Officer.

A. D. SHIPTON,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.