

c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.
26 July 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer,
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.
Via: Commander Task Group 16.7.
Subject: Action Report for Night of 25-26 July, 1943, in Aleutian Area.
Enclosure: (A) Track Chart of U.S.S. BACHE for Night of 25-26 July 1943.

1. At the commencement of the action of the night of 25-26 July 1943, this vessel was on station (5316) in anti-submarine screen ahead of cruisers of Task Group 16.7. Task Group 16.7 (WICHITA, PORTLAND SAN FRANCISCO, LOUISVILLE, SANTA FE, MORRIS, BACHE, MUSTIN, AYLWIN, and HUGHES) together with Task Group 16.12 (NEW MEXICO, MISSISSIPPI, FARRAGUT, ABNER READ and PERRY) in approach disposition number 8, fleet axis 180°, fleet course 095°, fleet speed 15 knots, were operating in the Southern Operating Area south of Kiska in order to intercept and destroy any Japanese Task Force which might attempt a sneak surface raid in the Aleutians from the south or southeast.

2. At 0050 V, 26 July 1943, a report was made by the MISSISSIPPI over the TBS of an unidentified contact bearing 060° true at 15 miles. The O.T.C. in WICHITA immediately directed destroyers of our group to deploy in accordance with plan 3, which required one section to form ahead and one section to form astern of the cruiser group. BACHE and HUGHES comprised the section which should go astern so both ships countermarched, formed column and took station 2,000 yards astern of the SANTA FE, the last ship in the cruiser column. Meanwhile at 0055, O.T.C. directed battleships and cruisers to deploy on course north and subsequently assured himself over TBS that heavy ships were set up and ready to open fire. Commence firing was given at 0113. Various ships opened fire and continued to fire until 0227. BACHE, being out of range, did not open fire.

3. During the firing phase of the action, BACHE with HUGHES astern, followed the movements of the column leader and executed courses changes at times indicated:

0130	-	340° true
0157	-	090° true
0202	-	000° true

Speed was varied from 15 to 21 knots to keep station astern. Attempt was made to pick up radar targets as reported by larger ships but no positive results were obtained. This was thought to be due to ranges involved. At 0116 the TBS channel of communication failed because of a high pitched squeak accompanying each attempted transmission. Our receiver was checked

52539 FILMED

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and HUGHES confirmed the existence of the garbled voice transmissions. This dislocation of communications, although annoying because the ship was unable to understand any message, did not prevent maneuvers from being followed but would have made it impossible to get the signal to attack with torpedoes by that channel, had that signal been ordered. Voice transmissions on 3265 kcs and CW transmissions on 2744 kcs bridge radio were received plainly when subsequently used. TBS communication was restored at 0240.

4. At 0212, while ship was on course 000° true, ^awake, as if from a torpedo, was plainly observed to come from direction of action and to pass from starboard to port about one hundred yards astern on approximate course 240° true. The path was straight but due to phosphorescence of sea and numerous large fish in this area, it could not be positively said to be a torpedo wake.

5. At 0135 illumination, which appeared to be from starshells, was observed in the direction of firing. It could not be determined whether this illumination originated in our battle line, in the enemy's, or was caused by planes dropping flares. Subsequent starshell illumination originating in our ships was observed beginning 0215 and ending about 0227.

6. After the firing phase, BACHE continued to follow movements of column leader making courses changes as indicated on track chart (Enclosure (A)). Continued radar contact reports were heard over TBS from large ships but they were not persistent and general behavior indicated presence of a puzzling radar phenomena in lieu of actual surface targets. A dispatch report from Commander North Pacific Force, indicating presence of seven Zeros in Kiska, tended to confirm possibility of some surface target in vicinity which might have brought them but this report was later discounted and again threw doubt on possible presence of surface vessels.

7. Regarding radar phenomena, it is noted that this vessel was unable to pick up and track with any positive results any radar contact during and subsequent to firing. Pips were observed but their nature and behavior continuously threw doubt as to their origin.

F. M. ADAMSON.

Copy to:

C.T.G. 16.7
COMNORPAC
COMDESPAC
CINCPAC

52-00N

51-00N

176E

177E

178E

179E

