

**U.S.S. *Nevada* from June 6 to June 15, 1944, off
Normandy, France, UTAH Beach**

Part Two

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U.S.S. *Nevada* (BB-36)
U.S. Navy Photograph PD102 National Archives and Records Administration, Still Pictures
Division, College Park, Md.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

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Preface to Part 2

In Part 2, I will be discussing *Nevada*'s Main and Secondary Battery Missions of June 7th and June 8th after which she steamed to Plymouth Sound, Great Britain, to resupply on June 9th. She returned to Utah Beach on June 10th, 1944. For background information, please see the Introduction in Part 1.

Firing Missions on June 7, 1944

At the end of D-day and the beginning of June 7th, D plus 1, there was no actual front line at Utah beach. The airborne operations had left pockets of enemy forces which had to be eliminated before communications and supply lines could be secured. This was the task that lay ahead and was the immediate operational goal to secure the beachhead. Day one objectives such as the seizure of the Azeville and Crisbecq batteries had yet to be achieved. A stalemate at the La Fiere bridge was in place. German forces could not move east but U.S. forces could not move west. Neuville-au-Plain was still in German hands.¹

The Germans started to dig in and form a defense line between Quinéville near Target #14A (German designation Wn22) along a ridge toward the town of Montebourg and then to the city of Valognes to the north to protect Cherbourg. Elements of the 1st battalion 1058 entrenched around the town of Emondeville. Units of the 243 Division stationed near Cherbourg and on the west coast of the peninsula moved east toward this line centering on Montebourg to reinforce the 709 Division and 91st Division forces. The 795 Ost battalion near the town of Turqueville 2 km east of Ste. Mère Église formed a line of defense along a ridge between the towns of Fauville-Ecoqueneauville. They would be reinforced by the 1st and 2nd battalion Fallschirmjäger Regiment 6. This cut off Ste. Mère Église from the south.

From *Nevada*'s log: At 0000 June 7th U.S.S. *Nevada* anchored. All was quiet, heavy overcast ceiling less than 5,000 feet, weather threatening. Ship in condition 1 readiness and material condition zebra. At 0400 *Texas* and *Augusta* broadcast guided missile warnings. 0405 interrupted and jammed guided missile signals. 0433 interrupted and jammed guided missile signals. "Red alert Juno area" 0500 All clear, quiet for the remainder of the night. 0530 dawn, and Spitfires and P-40s were over the assault area. 0600 Air troop transports were observed overhead going in. 0602 *Nevada* gets underway to firing station to bring port batteries to bear on

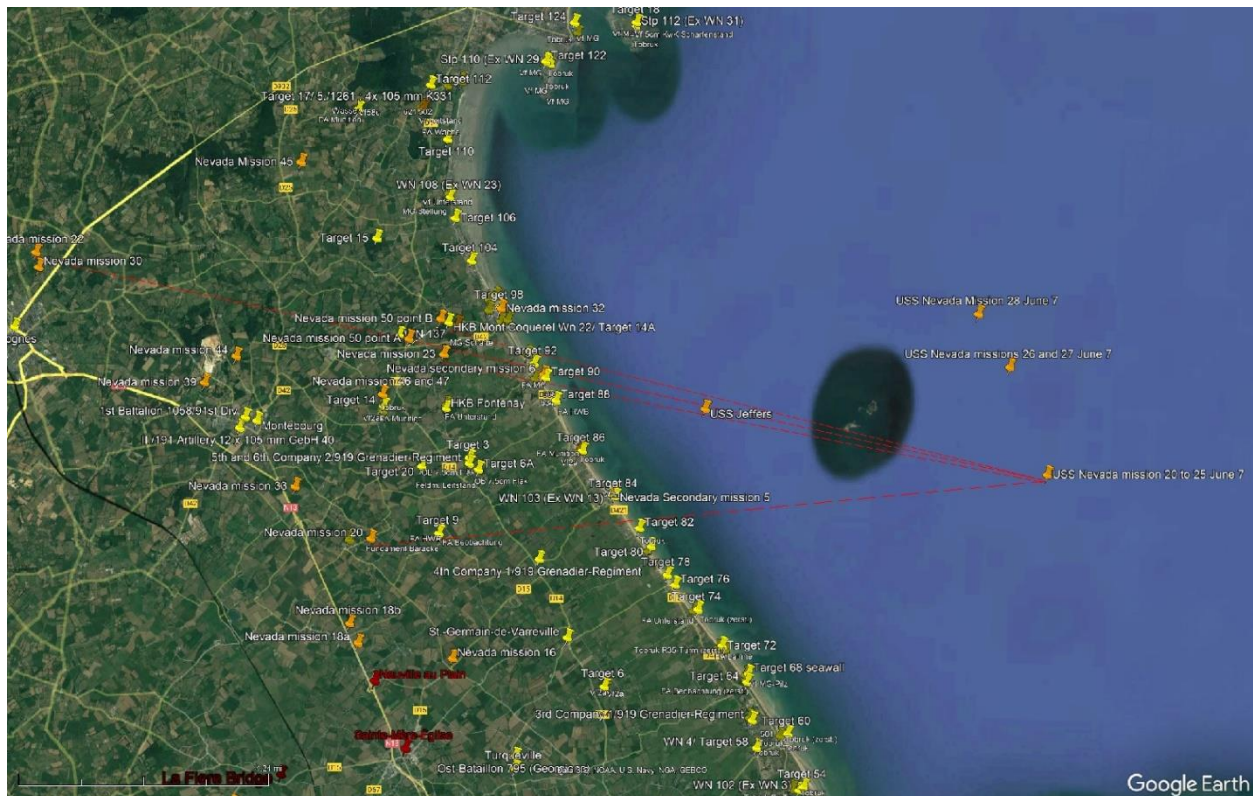
¹ UTAH BEACH TO CHERBOURG (6 June-27 June 1944) Department of the Army Historical Division Washington 25, D.C. 1 October 1947, Page 61.

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designated targets. 0615 Two planes shot down²; one landed on water but turned over, pilot not recovered. 0625 DC-3 dropped yellow parachute smoke signals. 0636 DC-3 crashed into sea dead ahead and burst into flames, pilot saved. 0645 DC-3 crashed off San Markoff Island. PT boat rescued some of the crew. 0655 Another plane crashed. 0721 commenced firing Main Battery Mission #20.³

June 7, 1944, 0721-40 to 1205-35



U.S.S. Nevada fires Main Battery Missions 20, 21, 22, and 23 during this time period. Mission 20 is against an enemy battery spotted by plane in a farmers field just east of the town of Emondeville. Main Battery Mission 21 is against Target #14A (German designation Wn22). Main Battery Mission 22 Enemy battery located by plane just slightly southwest of the town of Tamerville and north of Valognes. Main Battery Mission 23 was on an enemy battery located by

² These are friendly aircraft Nevada was observing being shot down by enemy fire from the shore.

³ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure A page 12, page 32 of full report.

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plane, just south of Quinéville and Target #14A. All the other ships such as *Quincy* and *Tuscaloosa* are still present, but I removed them from the map to show movement by *Nevada*.

Main Battery Mission 20



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 20 Target enemy battery spotted by plane. A farmers field just east of the town of Emondeville, from 0721-40 to 0724-35. U.S.S. *Nevada*'s target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO340020 Latitude : 49° 27' 35" N, Longitude : 1° 20' 01" W.⁴

⁴ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 20, page 72 of full report.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 20 Battery 14"/45 Cal Date 7 June 1944
Time 0721-40 to 0724-35

Target Coordinates 340020 Ship's Coordinates 529059
Target Navigational Range 21,070 Gun Range 21,930
True Bearing 255-45

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery located by plane.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvo	Time	No of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0721-40	2	No Observation	
2	0724-35	2	No Observation	
		4		

4 HC

RESULTS: Plane spotter reported that he could not observe because of low clouds. Ceased fixing.

COMMENT: None.

- 20 -

ENCLOSURE (B)

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Author's note: Elements of 1st battalion Grenadier-Regiment 1058 of the 91st Infantry Division are installed as a solid defense in the village. 0724 Nevada reported results unobserved due to

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low cloud ceiling. At 0740 she contacted the Shore Fire Control Party who reported that there were no fire missions needed at the present time.

Main Battery Mission 21



U.S.S. Nevada Main Battery Mission 21, Target #14A (German designation Wn22) – 4th Battalion of the 1261 Marine Artillery Regiment, four 155 mm guns all casemated from 0743-25 to 0843-30. U.S.S. Nevada's target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO361080 Latitude : 49° 30' 52" N, Longitude : 1° 18' 31" W.⁵

⁵ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 21, page 73 of full report.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 21 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 0748-25 to 0843-30

Target Coordinates 361080 Ship's Coordinates 532062

Target Navigational Range 18.820 Gun Range 19.560

True Bearing 273-18

Target Number and Description: #14A - Four 155MM guns, casemated.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0748-25	2	4 o'clock - 100	U 200 R 04
2	0750-20	2	6 " - 50	NC R 03
3	0752-55	2	6 " - 50	U 700 R 05
4	0756-05	2 AP	8 " - 100	D 100 R 02
5	0759-35	2 AP	5 " - 200	U 100 R 15
6	0802-10	2 AP	3 " - 200	U 200 R 05
7	0804-05	2 AP	3 " - 200	U 200 R 02
8	0806-25	2 AP	2 " - 200	U 200 L 3
9	0808-45	2 AP	11 " - 200	NC L 10
10	0811-25	2 AP	11 " - 200	NC L 16
11	0815-10	4 AP	12 " - 100	NC L 10
12	0818-00	3 AP	12 " - 50	NC L 3
13	0820-30	3 AP	9 " - 50	NC NC
14	0822-10	4 AP	6 " - 50	NC R 02
15	0824-15	3 AP	3 " - 100	U 200 NC
16	0826-50	3 AP	9 " - 200	D 200 NC
17	0829-25	4 AP	5 " - 100	NC R 05
18	0832-20	3 AP	11 " - 200	D 100 L 9
19	0834-40	3 AP	1 " - 200	U 100 L 14
20	0836-55	2 AP	3 " - 50	NC NC
21	0839-10	2 AP	3 " - 100	U 100 L 3
22	0841-20	3 AP	2 " - 100	U 50 L 3
23	0843-30	2 AP	9 " - 100	NC NC
		59		
		6 NC		
		53 AP		

RESULTS: Many hits in target area, one direct hit on casemate, damage to others, and battery out of action reported by air spotter.

COMMENTS: On sixth salvo this mission a powder bag jammed the left powder hoist of Turret 1. See Casualty Section of Report

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Mount Coquerel fortifications after the battle of Normandy



Mount Coquerel fortifications after the battle of Normandy

Author's note: Target #14A (German designation Wn 22) would be *Nevada's* favorite target during the Normandy campaign. This would not be the last time this battery would suffer under her guns. The first four salvos were all within 50 to 100 yards. Salvos 11 to 15 repeated this and then the last four salvos again were very close. Spotter reported many hits in target area, one direct hit on casemate, damage to others and battery out of action. At 0830 shell splashes 1,500

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yards on port quarter from unidentified enemy battery fell near the *Nevada*. This was an indication the shore batteries had not yet been completely silenced.^{6 7}

⁶ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure A page 13, page 33 of full report.

⁷ During this mission, the following casualties occurred:

- Turret 1 – At about 0800 on sixth salvo of mission 21, shock of firing caused powder bag at bottom of left hoist in turret one to jump off the flight and get caught between the flight and the bottom of the hoist casing. The powder bag was so badly damaged that the powder was gathered up and dumped in an immersion tank. No delay in firing was caused. During the lull the immersed powder was dumped over the side.

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Main Battery Mission 22



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 22⁸, Enemy battery located by plane just slightly southwest of the town of Tamerville and north of Valognes, possibly 1st/191 Artillery regiment, from 0950-45 to 1028-15. U.S.S. *Nevada*'s target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO249099 Latitude : 49° 31' 36" N, Longitude : 1° 27' 52" W.

⁸ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 22, page 74 of full report.

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H-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 22 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 0950-45 to 1028-15

Target Coordinates 249099 Ship's Coordinates 526067

Target Navigational Range 30,650 Gun Range 31,860

True Bearing 274

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery located by plane.

Spotting method: Air Spot.

Salvo	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0950-45	2	N.O.	
2	0953-45	2	7 o'clock - 800	D 600 R 1 ⁰ 12'
3	0957-20	2	5 o'clock - 400	U 300 R 10
4	1000-10	2	4 " - 50	NO R 02
5	1002-45	2	5 " - 200	U 100 R 06
6	1005-20	2	3 " - 400	U 400 L 2
7	1008-40	2	3 " - 100	U 100 NO
8	1011-45	2	5 " - 200	U 100 R 06
9	1014-40	2	Hit	NO NO
10	1018-10	2	4 " - 200	U 200 L 5
11	1025-15	2	No Spot	U 200 NO
12	1026-30	2	" "	D 400 NO
13	1028-15	<u>2</u>		
		<u>26</u>		

26 NO

RESULTS: Several hits in target area, one casemate demolished, and gun blown out reported by plane spotter.

COMMENTS: On second salvo this mission a casualty occurred to left rammer controller of Turret II. (See Casualty section of report)

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Author's note: This was the longest range mission fired in the Normandy campaign. What is confusing about this report is the plane reports a gun being blown out of a casemate, yet this was a field battery there are no casemates at the coordinates provided. I am not discounting that *Nevada* scored a direct hit on a gun on her ninth salvo but there are no ruins at this location to support the report that the battery was protected by casemates.⁹

⁹ During this mission, the following casualties occurred:

- Turret 2 – At about 0953, on salvo number two of Main Battery Mission 22, the pin connecting the control handle to the control drum on the left rammer control panel fell out. The order to load had been given when this was discovered and the shell for the left gun was rammed by hand. After this salvo the pin was replaced, and normal operations were resumed.

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Main Battery Mission 23



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 23¹⁰, Target enemy battery located by plane, north by 1,500 yards from Target #13A (German designation HKB Fontenay), from 1131-05 to 1205-35.

U.S.S. *Nevada*'s target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO360070 Latitude : 49° 30' 20" N, Longitude : 1° 18' 34" W.

¹⁰ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 23, page 75 of full report.

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S-N-C-R-R-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 23 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1131-05 to 1205-35

Target Coordinates 360070 Ship's Coordinates 522060

Target Navigational Range 17.750 Gun Range 18,500

True Bearing 270-30

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery located by plane.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvo	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1131-05	2	1 o'clock 1000	U 800 L 2050'
2	1134-00	2	12 o'clock 800	NC L 2050'
3	1136-15	2	12 o'clock 200	NC L 11
4	1138-50	2	11 o'clock 200	D 100 L 10
5	1141-40	2	10 o'clock 400	D 400 L 12
6	1143-40	4	12 o'clock 400	NC L 22
7	1146-10	2	6 o'clock 100	NC R 06
8	1147-35	2	6 o'clock 50	NC R 03
9	1150-30	2	3 o'clock 100	U 100 NC
10	1152-50	5	HIT	NC NC
11	1157-25	5	3 o'clock 300	U 300 NC
12	1159-50	4	HIT	NC L 6
13	1202-30	5	10 o'clock 100	D 100 L 3
14	1205-35	5	10 o'clock 200	D 200 L 6

44

44 NC

RESULTS: One gun hit and fire started, a second gun hit, and many bursts in target area reported by plane spotter.

COMMENTS: on sixth salvo this mission a casualty to the salvo latch push rods on all guns of Turret IV was noted. See Casualty Section of Report.

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Author's note: Have not identified the German unit involved. It may be possible the 3rd Battalion, 1261 Marine Artillery Regiment moved their position north from Target #13A after June 6th. At 1206 *Nevada* reported by air spot, one gun directly hit, two guns knocked out, remaining one not in action.¹¹

¹¹ During this mission, the following casualties occurred:

- Turret 4 – At about 1143 on the sixth salvo of mission 23, it was discovered that on all guns in Turret 4 the pins through the forward collars on all the salvo latch push rods were sheared and the welds on the collars broken. This allowed the collars to move axially along the rods. On the right gun the collar had moved far enough along the push rod to allow the roller on the push rod to move forward of the salvo latch on recoil. Upon counter recoil the roller caught forward of the salvo latch pushing the latch aft and breaking the actuating lever from the latch, leaving the salvo latch jammed in a locked position. The collars on the push rods of the center and left guns had not moved far enough axially to cause damage to the salvo latches at the time of discovery. The left and center guns could have continued firing if it had been necessary but Turret 4 was instructed to clear the jam on the right gun. The push rods were removed from all three guns and a new actuating lever was installed on the right gun. New push rods, with collars machined as an integral part, were available as spares. These new rods with integral collars had been manufactured by the U.S.S. *Denebola* just prior to departure for the United Kingdom as the same casualty had occurred in turret one on the last target practice at Casco Bay. Upon installation of new rods, it was found that push rod carriers were out of alignment and the new rods would not work. The rods were removed and for the rest of the firing the salvo latches were operated by hand. After departure from assault area the push rod carriers were shimmed, and the new rods installed. The surfaces upon which the push rod carriers are mounted are not machined, for reasons unknown, and this made shimmed and aligning the carriers most difficult.

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June 7, 1944, 1213-00 to 1655-40



Main Battery Missions 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 during this time period. Main Battery Mission 24 was on Target #9 (German designation STP133 Azeville 2nd Company of the Marine Artillery Regiment 1261. Main Battery Mission 25 was on an enemy battery located by plane just to the west of the church Eglise Notre Dame and slightly northeast of Quinéville very near Target #14A (German designation Wn22). Main Battery Missions 26, 27 and 28 were on enemy troop concentration outside town of Picauville, France along road D69 which heads toward the Chef du Pont bridge about 3,110 yards distant. Likely elements of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier-Regiment 1057, 91st Infantry Division or the 3rd Battalion Grenadier-Regiment 1058, 91st Infantry Division.

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Main Battery Mission 24



Mission 24¹² was on Target #9 (German designation STP133) Azeville, 2nd Company of the Marine Artillery Regiment 1261 from 1213-00 to 1249-25. U.S.S. *Nevada*'s target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO359024 Latitude : 49° 27' 51" N, Longitude : 1° 18' 28" W.

¹² United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 24, page 76 of full report.

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M-E-C-R-R-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 24 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1213-00 to 1249-25

Target Coordinates 359024 Ship's Coordinates 525066

Target Navigational Range 18,700 Gun Range 19,500

True Bearing 251

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery located by plane.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1213-00	2	3 o'clock 800	U 1000 R 11
2	1214-50	2	10 o'clock 600	D 500 L 22
3	1217-22	2	10 o'clock 400	D 300 L 14
4	1219-45	2	8 o'clock 200	D 200 R 03
5	1222-20	2	4 o'clock 50 HIT	NC R 03
6	1225-55	5	NC	NC NC
7	1227-50	5	NC	U 700 R 02
8	1231-20	6 AP	11 o'clock 50	NC L 3
9	1234-45	4 AP	9 o'clock 400	D 400 L 6
10	1237-20	2 AP	7/30 o'clock 250	D 200 R 6
11	1241-15	3 AP	5 o'clock 100	NC R 06
12	1243-30	3 AP	6 o'clock 50	D 700 R 05
13	1246-15	4	3 o'clock 600	U 700 R 08
14	1249-25	3 AP	3 o'clock 50 HIT	NC NC
		45		
		24 HG		
		21 AP		

RESULTS: Direct hit on number Four gun, one gun set on fire, direct hit on third gun causing heavy smoke, many hits in target area, and all activity ceased reported by plane spotter.

COMMENTS: At about 1220 during this mission the accelerating coil of Turret IV burnt out in the right powder hoist panel. (See Casualty Section Report)

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Author's note: The gun in Casemate 4 at Target #9 (German designation STP133) Azeville was disabled during this mission by a pair of 14-inch AP shells from the U.S.S. Nevada. The first penetrated the embrasure and exploded. The other penetrated the embrasure, crashed through the back wall into the ready room and passed back outside through the next wall. This projectile did not explode and was found still intact in 1994. Some reports say that the shock wave from this hit killed all fifteen men in the ready room as it passed through while other reports say there were five men killed. This pair of shells were likely from the salvo fired at 1249-25.

This would be the first gun lost at Azeville, but the battery still had three functional guns after this mission. Results reported by air spot were: Direct hit on No.4 gun, one gun on fire, direct hit on 3rd gun, many hits in target area, all enemy activity has ceased.

The time is now 1250. U.S.S. Nevada has expended 50% of her main battery ammunition and the 14th salvo was the last salvo of Main Battery Mission 24. The gun in Casemate #4 was silenced due to these hits. This would be the first gun lost at Azeville, but the battery still had three functional guns.^{13 14}

¹³ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure A page 13, page 33 of full report.

¹⁴ During this mission, the following casualties occurred:

- Turret 4 – At about 1220 on the first salvo of Mission 24 the accelerating coil in the right powder hoist panel of Turret 4 burned out due to overheating and broken insulation. The hand passage was manned immediately, and the service of the turret was continued with no delay. Considerable time was required to find the trouble but once found it was repaired immediately and normal service resumed.

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Author's Note: In October 2023 we were contacted by someone familiar with the Azeville fortifications who had read this article. He provided the following photographs of Casemate #3 and #4 which help to clarify what took place during Main Battery Mission 24.



This is Casemate #3 at Azeville, and the large gash on top of the wall is the result of a HC shell hit from U.S.S. Nevada two-gun salvo Number 5 fired at 1222-20. In this case, the concrete structure held, and the gun was not damaged and remained operational. The U.S.S. Nevada then switched to armor piercing ammunition beginning with her 8th salvo at 1231-20.



This is Casemate #4 looking at the front. At 1249-25 the casemate was hit by two 14-inch AP rounds from U.S.S. Nevada's 14th salvo for the mission.

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One of these AP shells exploded in the SE corner of the casemate and its heavy nose piece remains within the structure today. The second projectile did not explode and continued through the structure.

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This is within Casemate #4 where the second projectile crashed through the back wall and into the ready room. It failed to explode and passed back outside through the next wall. Some reports say the shock wave killed all fifteen men in the ready room, others say there were five men killed.

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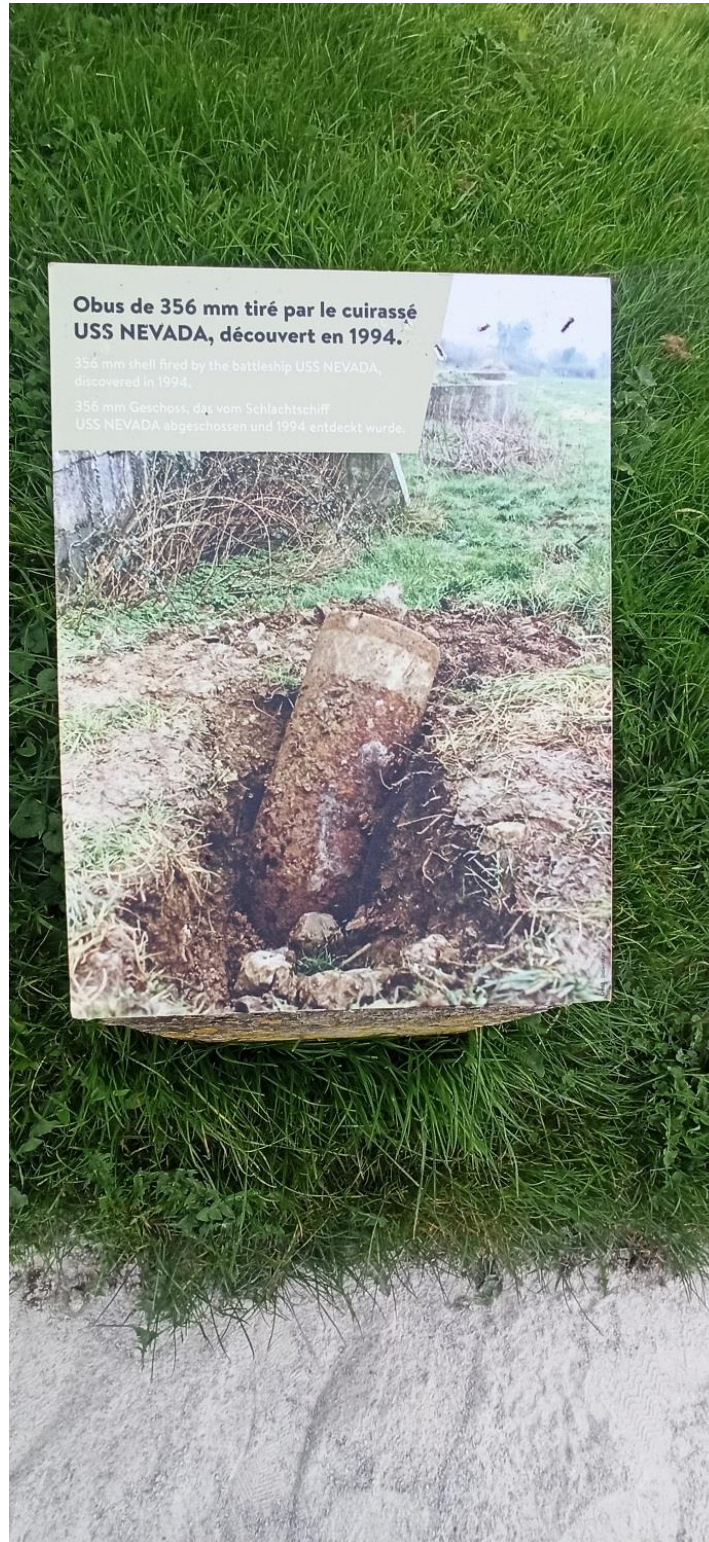
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This is the exit hole in the back of Casemate #4 caused by the second projectile.

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In 1994 the intact second projectile was discovered behind Casemate 4.

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Main Battery Mission 25



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 25¹⁵, Target enemy battery located by plane just to the East of Target #14A (German designation Wn 22) and slightly northeast of Quinéville, from 1316-00 to 1332-45. Target Coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO364078 Latitude : 49° 30' 46" N, Longitude : 1° 18' 16" W.

¹⁵ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 25, page 77 of full report.

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M-R-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 25 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1316-00 to 1332-45

Target Coordinates 364078 Ship's Coordinates 520064

Target Navigational Range 17,200 Gun Range 17,900

True Bearing 272-39

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery located by plane.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1316-00	2	6 s'slack - 400	HC R 12
2	1327-15	2	4 " - 200	U 200 R 06
3	1328-45	2	8 " - 200	D 200 R 06
4	1330-40	2	6 " - 200	HC R 12
5	1332-45	2	3 " - 200	U 200 HC
		<u>10</u>		

10 HC

RESULTS: Spotting plane went down to observe and reported target apparently deserted. Ceased firing.

COMMENTS: None

6 1665

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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Author's note: Again, I believe this speaks to Admiral Deyo's position that batteries would be abandoned under the impact of naval artillery making them combat ineffective especially if morale of the defenders was low. I have not been able to identify the German unit involved.

Main Battery Missions 26 and 27



Main Battery Missions 26¹⁶ and 27¹⁷ were to attack large troop concentrations along road D70 just south of town of Picauville which heads directly toward the Chef du Pont bridge about 3,320 yards distant.

¹⁶ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 26, page 78 of full report.

¹⁷ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 27, page 79 of full report.

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S-R-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 26 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June, 1944

Time 1414-20 to 1414-20

Target Coordinates 28729150 Ship's Coordinates 512069

Target Navigational Range 28,650 Gun Range 29,780

True Bearing 216-18

Target Number and Description: Large troop concentration.

Spotting method: Shore Fire Control Party.

<u>Selves</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>No. of Guns</u>	<u>Spot Received</u>	<u>Spot Applied</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>1414-20</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>No Observation</u>	
		<u>2</u>		

2 NC

RESULTS: Communication with Shore Fire Control Party was lost
and no observation was received.

COMMENTS: None

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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Author's note: 1500 Shore Fire Control Party reported moving up, contact lost.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSILES FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 27 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944
Time 1513-20 to 1513-20

Target Coordinates 28729350 Ship's Coordinates 520078
Target Navigational Range 29.950 Gun Range 31.250
True Bearing 235-30

Target Number and Description: Large troop concentration.
Spotting method: Shore Fire Control Party

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1513-20	<u>2</u>	No Observation	

3 NC

RESULTS: Communication with Shore Fire Control Party was lost and no observation was received.

COMMENTS: None.

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Author's note: 1545 Communication with Shore Fire Control Party lost.

U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

Main Battery Mission 28



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 28¹⁸ was also to attack large troop concentration outside town of Picauville once communications were restored with the Shore Fire Control Party. Likely elements of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier-Regiment 1057, 91st Infantry Division or the 3rd Battalion Grenadier-Regiment 1058, 91st Infantry Division from 1604-55 to 1655-40. Along road D70 which heads toward the Chef du Pont bridge about 3,320 yards distant. Target coordinates 28729350 are coordinates that do not use French Lambert Zone 1 system. However, *Nevada*'s position does. French Lambert Zone 1vO520078 Latitude : 49° 31' 10" N, Longitude : 1° 05' 21" W. I then measured using navigation range of 28,650 yards bearing 236-16 degrees and shells fell along road D70 just south of town of Picauville. 49° 22' 18.4" N, 1° 23' 44.19" W.

¹⁸ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 28, page 80 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 28 Battery 14"/45 cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1604-55 to 1655-40

Target Coordinates 28729350 Ship's Coordinates 498081

Target Navigational Range 28,100 Gun Range 29,300

True Bearing 232-30

Target Number and Description: Large troop concentration.

Spotting method: Shore Fire Control Party.

Salvo	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received		Spot Applied	
1	1604-55	2			NC	NC
2	1608-05	2	NC	R 200	NC	R 07
3	1614-15	2	NC	L 100	NC	L 3
4	1617-25	4	D 200	NC	D 200	NC
5	1619-05	2	D 200	L 100	D 200	L 3
6	1629-05	4	NC	NC	D 1000	L 3
7	1636-55	4	NC	NC	NC	L 3
8	1638-00	4			NC	NC
9	1639-45	2			NC	NC
10	1640-05	2	U 100	R 50	U 100	R 02
11	1643-05	4			NC	NC
12	1644-20	2	U 100	R 300	U 100	R 10
13	1647-15	2			NC	R 02
14	1648-30	4	NC	NC	NC	NC
15	1651-40	5			NC	NC
16	1652-40	5			NC	NC
17	1655-40	5	Cease Fire			
		<u>53</u>				

53 NC

RESULTS: Shore Fire Control Party reported mission was successfully completed. Ceased firing.

COMMENTS: On the fourth salvo of this mission a casualty occurred to the gas ejection valve on the right gun of Turret IV. See Casualty Section of Report.

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

Author's note: 53 HC rounds expended. The fire control party reported the mission successful. This was not a small bombardment for enemy troops in the field. After her 6th salvo she was pretty much on target. She also at the end was firing half broadsides or five guns to put more shells into the pattern. When we consider Main Battery Missions 18a and 18b fired 36 HC rounds in total, it can be seen that *Nevada* was really pounding the enemy position with 53 total rounds.

Stalemated at La Fiere bridge just to the north the German forces attempted to move toward the Chef du Pont bridge further south in hopes of outflanking the U.S. forces. I believe these troops were likely elements of the 3rd Battalion 1057 but may also have been 3rd Battalion 1058 of the 91st Division.

On the U.S. side Colonel Raff, who was still stuck south of Ste. Mère Église, received orders to bring his force to Chef du Pont along with elements of the 325th Glider Infantry. While Colonel Raff carried out his orders, arriving at the division command post at noon Colonel Lewis took his 3d Battalion to the Carquebut area and sent the 1st and 2nd Battalion to Chef du Pont. He found Carquebut evacuated by the enemy and proceeded to rejoin the other two battalions.¹⁹ This is where U.S.S. *Nevada* played another key role on June 7 as this mission likely stopped or at minimum interfered with German plans to attack the Chef-du Pont bridge. No major German attack on the Chef du Pont bridge materialized on June 7th which I believe was due to *Nevada*'s successful mission 28.²⁰

¹⁹ UTAH BEACH TO CHERBOURG (6 June-27 June 1944) Department of the Army Historical Division Washington 25, D.C. 1 October 1947, Page 65.

²⁰ During this mission, the following casualties occurred:

- Turret 4 – At about 1615 on the fourth salvo of mission 28, the gas ejection valve on the right gun of turret 4 failed to seat, causing leakage of the gas ejection air. The gun was fired during the rest of the mission by opening and closing the valve on top of the gun in the gas ejection airline after each salvo and blowing out with the auxiliary gas ejection hose before loading. During the lull the leaking gas ejection valve was replaced. Upon examination of the leaky valve later it was found that a small piece of metal had lodged in the valve seat when open, preventing it from reseating.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

June 7, 1944, 1800- 1914



Secondary Battery Mission 3. Main Battery Missions 29 and 30 were conducted during this time period. Secondary Battery Mission 3 on Target #86 (German designation WN 14). Main Battery Mission 29, Mortar Battery on western shoreline of La Jourdan River. Main Battery Mission 30, target enemy battery of four-gun emplacements just north of the town of Valognes.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Main Battery Mission 29



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 29²¹, Mortar battery on western shoreline of La Jourdan River next to Les Ponts Douve. This is slightly northwest of the city of Carentan and just south of Saint Come du Mont from 1800-00 to 1813-20. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vT380865 Latitude : 49° 19' 20" N, Longitude : 1° 16' 06" W.

²¹ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 29, page 81 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 29 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944.

Time 1800-00 to 1813-20

Target Coordinates 380865 Ship's Coordinates 502070

Target Navigational Range 25,900 Gun Range 27,050

True Bearing 208

Target Number and Description: Motor Battery

Spotting method: Shore Fire Control Party

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received		Spot Applied	
1	1800-00	2	D 500	R 500	D 500	R 18
2	1801-55	2	D 400	L 100	D 400	L 4
3	1807-30	2	NC	NC	NC	NC
4	1810-10	5	NC	NC	NC	NC
5	1812-05	5	NC	NC	NC	NC
6	1813-20	5	NC	NC	NC	NC
		<u>21</u>				

21 NC

RESULTS: Shore Fire Control Party reported fire effective, mission successful, cease firing.

COMMENTS: On the sixth salvo of this mission a casualty occurred to the center rammer chain of Turret IV. (See Casualty section of report)

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 3 Battery 5"/38 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1858 to 1914

Target Coordinates 398045 Ship's Coordinates 503064

Target Navigational Range 11.625 Gun Range 12,000

True Bearing 257

Target Number and Description: #86. Strongpoint. Three concrete shelters and several machine gun positions.

Spotting method: Spotted by U.S.S. JEFFERS.

Salves	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received		Spot Applied	
1		4	D 300	NC	D 300	NC
2		4	U 150	L 50 (Yds)	U 150	L 50 (Yds)
3		4	NC	L 50 (Yds)	NC	L 50 (Yds)
4		4	NC	R 30 (Yds)	NC	R 30 (Yds)
5		4			NC	NC
6		4				
			24 Rounds Expended		Ceased fire and shifted target.	

RESULTS: Hits observed in target area. U.S.S. JEFFERS reported "Target you fired on so nicely is not firing on us anymore. Shift to target 88".

COMMENTS: JEFFERS requested fire on target #84 and this was changed to #88 before fire was opened on target #84. JEFFERS spotted for fire on target #86 and after six salves requested that fire be shifted to target #88. Computer in control of train and elevation. Navigational range from chart set on computer. No battery casualties. Initial spot of D-500 R-500 received but not applied as first salve of fire on #86 had not landed.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: I believe U.S.S. *Jeffers* was under fire from Target #86 (German designation Wn 14) The destroyer requested assistance and *Nevada* responded. U.S.S. *Jeffers* had assumed the position that U.S.S. *Corry* held on the previous day. *Nevada* reported 1855 *Jeffers* being fired on by Target #86. At 1858 *Nevada* commences firing 5"/38 in Secondary Battery Mission 3. At 1904 *Jeffers* is straddled from enemy batteries. At 1914 *Jeffers* reported shift to Target #88 and that she is clearing the area.

Main Battery Mission 30



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 30²⁴, target enemy battery of four-gun emplacements just north of the town of Valognes, possibly elements of the 1st/191 Artillery regiment, from 1840-25 to 1904-40. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO250095 Latitude : 49° 31' 23" N, Longitude : 1° 27' 46" W.

²⁴ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 30, page 82 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

B-E-C-R-E-F

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 30 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1840-25 to 1904-40

Target Coordinates 250095 Ship's Coordinates 502072

Target Navigational Range 27,700 Gun Range 28,915

True Bearing 272-30

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery of four gun emplacements.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1840-25	2	6 o'clock - 800	NO R 30
2	1843-15	2	5 " - 400	U 200 R 12
3	1846-20	2	4 " - 400	U 400 R 36
4	1849-45	2	Hit	NO NO
5	1851-35	2	6 " - 50	NO R 02
6	1854-20	5	6 " - 50	NO R 04
7	1857-35	2	Hit	NO R 02
8	1859-50	5	3 " - 100	D 100 R 02
9	1902-20	5	7 " - 100	D 100 R 07
10	1904-40	2	Perfect Hit	NO NO
		<u>29</u>		

29 NO

RESULTS: Two hits, and "Perfect Hit in middle of four guns," reported by air spotter. Ceased fire.

COMMENTS: None

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Secondary Battery Mission 4



U.S.S. *Nevada* Secondary Battery Mission 4²⁵ on Target #88 Church Eglise Notre Dame de bon Secours, small machine gun position, this target evidently had in addition to the machine gun positions several light guns as U.S.S. *Jeffers* asked for fire on this target when she was being fired upon from 1914-1955

²⁵ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 56, page 113 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 4 Battery 5"/38 cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1914 to 1955

Target Coordinates 392057 Ship's Coordinates 502072

Target Navigational Range 12.175 Gun Range 12.550

True Bearing 259-45

Target Number and Description: #88. Small machine gun position. This target evidently had in addition to the machine gun positions several light guns as JEFFERS asked for fire on this target when she was being fired upon.

Spotting method: Ship's spot.

Fired 51 salvos most of which were 4 gun salvos. Initial spot of U 100 R 4 was made and applied. Thereafter Control Officer adjusted fire to cover target area completely.

Expended 180 rounds.

RESULTS: Many hits observed in target area and on buildings adjacent to target area. One fire was started in building adjacent to target.

COMMENTS: JEFFERS did not spot on this target as she was leaving area. Director in control of train, computer in control of elevation. Navigational ranges from chart set on computer. No battery casualties.

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: Target #88 is literally a church and the building just to the left of it likely were the targets for this mission.

Secondary Battery Mission 5



U.S.S. *Nevada* Secondary Battery Mission 5²⁶ on Target #84 (German designation WN 13) from 1915-1955. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO407033 Latitude : 49° 28' 27" N, Longitude : 1° 14' 32" W.

²⁶ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 57, page 114 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

R-E-C-O-R-D

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 5 Battery 5"/38 Cal. Date 7 June 1944
Time 1915 to 1955

Target Coordinates 497033 Ship's Coordinates 502072

Target Navigational Range 11,250 Gun Range 11,580

True Bearing 245

Target Number and Description: #84 Strongpoint. One concrete shelter, ten machine gun positions.

Spotting method: Ship's spotter.

Fired 40 salvos. All salvos were four gun salvos.

First spot D 100 L 3 D 100 L 3

Second spot NC L 2 NC L 2

After first two spots Control Officer adjusted fire to cover the entire target area.

Expended: 160 rounds.

RESULTS: Many hits observed in target area. No report received aboard concerning damage to target.

COMMENTS: Director controlled train, computer controlled elevation. Navigational ranges from chart set on computer. No casualties on battery.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's Note: Could not find any information on damage inflicted.

Main Battery Mission 31



U.S.S. Nevada Main Battery Mission 31²⁷, Target #4 (German designation STP 141) Morsalines battery, six 155 mm guns not in casemates, 6th Battery of the 1261st Coastal Artillery Regiment, from 1932-15 to 1952-30. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO356137 Latitude : 49° 33' 56" N, Longitude : 1° 19' 10" W.

²⁷ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 31, page 83 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSILES FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 31 Battery 1A"/45 Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 1932-15 to 1952-30

Target Coordinates 356137 Ship's Coordinates 503064

Target Navigational Range 18,150 Gun Range 18,850

True Bearing 294

Target Number and Description: #4 - Six 155 MM guns not in casemates.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Selves	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1932-15	2	5 o'clock 400	U 500 R 12
2	1934-30	3	5 o'clock 100	U 100 R 03
3	1937-55	2	5 o'clock 200	U 300 R 08
4	1939-45	3	HIT	NC NC
5	1942-30	4	HIT	NC NC
6	1945-40	5	5 o'clock 100	U 100 R 03
7	1947-35	5	HIT	NC NC
8	1949-30	5	HIT	NC NC
9	1952-30	5	Target demolished	
		<u>34</u>		

34 NC

RESULTS: Air spotter reported four direct hits. He went down to take a look at target and reported "Target demolished, waste no more ammunition on this target."

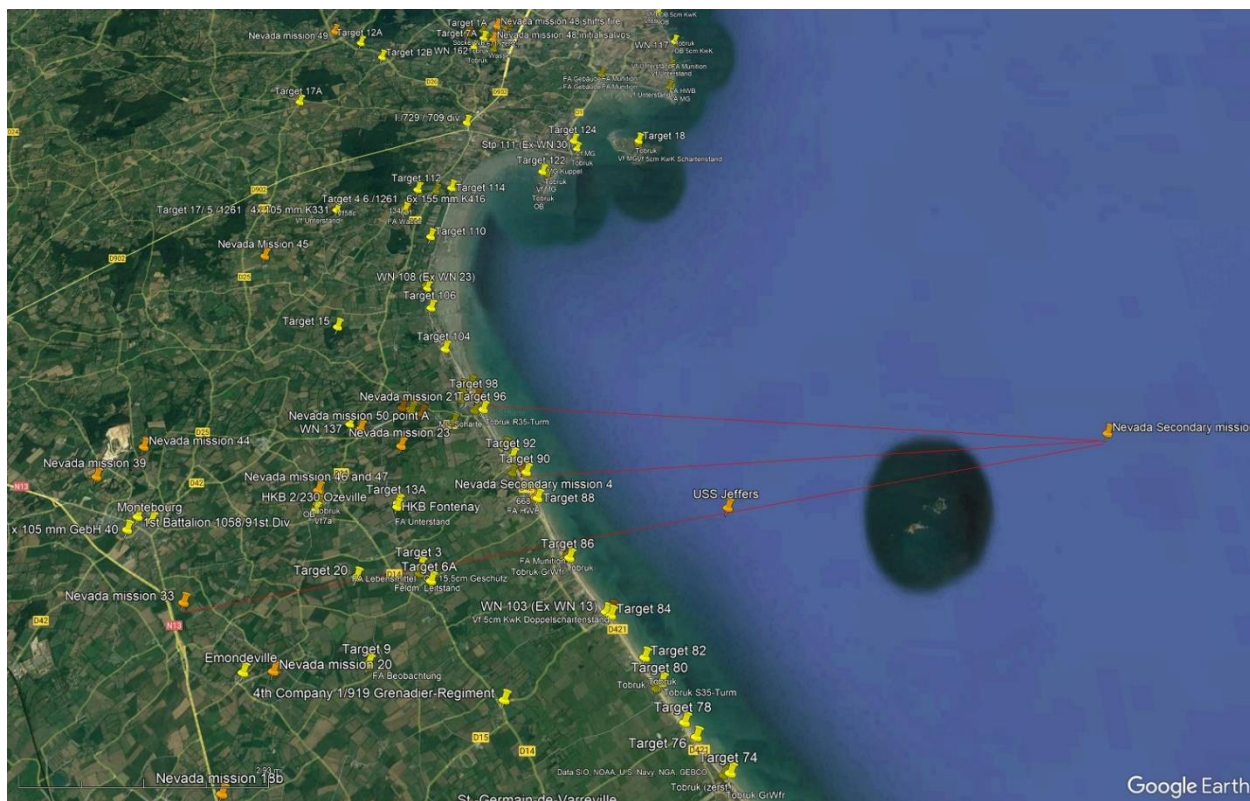
COMMENTS: None.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: The Morsalines battery, Target #4 (German designation STP 141), 6th Battery of the 1261st Coastal Artillery Regiment is located about a hundred meters south-west of the village of Morsalines, on the heights dominating the coast. It is one of the oldest batteries of the Atlantic Wall in Normandy, whose construction began in 1941.

June 7, 1944, 2027 to 2109



Secondary Battery Mission 6 and Main Battery Missions 32 and 33 are during this time frame. Secondary Battery Mission 6 was on Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17). Main Battery Mission 32, Target #98 is slightly north of Target #96 (German designation Wn 18) and south of Target #102 (German designation Wn 19). Main Battery Mission 33 targeted enemy battery located by plane just west of towns Joret and Auberville.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Secondary Battery Mission 6



U.S.S. Nevada Secondary Battery Mission 6²⁸ on Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17) from 2027-2109. There is a Tobruk with an R35 turret close to this location. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO389063 Latitude : 49° 30' 02" N, Longitude : 1° 16' 08" W.

²⁸ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 58, page 115 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944

MISSION NO. 6 Battery 5"/38 cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 2027 to 2109

Target Coordinates 329063 Ship's Coordinates 510054

Target Navigational Range 13,300 Gun Range 13,700

True Bearing 272°

Target Number and Description: #90. Strongpoint. Scattered
pill boxes and three concrete
shelters.

Spotting method: Ship's Spotter.

Fired 65 salvos of which nearly all were four gun salvos.
Initial spot of D 200 L 8 was made and applied.

Expended 244 rounds.

RESULTS: Many hits observed in target area. No report received
aboard concerning damage to target.

COMMENTS: Director in control of train, computer in control of
elevation. Navigational ranges from chart set on
computer. No casualties on battery.

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ENCLOSURE (B)

115

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: Could not find any information relating to damage inflicted on this target. *Nevada* reported at 2000 *Jeffers* hit in after engine room. Believe fire from Target #84 or tanks on the beach.

Main Battery Mission 32



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 32²⁹, Target #98 is slightly north of target #96 (German designation Wn 18) and south of Target #102 (German designation Wn 19), from 2021-20 to 2029-10. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO375082 Latitude : 49° 31' 01" N, Longitude : 1° 17' 22" W.

²⁹ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 32, page 84 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

H-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 32 Battery 14"/45 cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 2021-20 to 2029-10

Target Coordinates 375082 Ship's Coordinates 510054

Target Navigational Range 14,900 Gun Range 15,520

True Bearing 279-00

Target Number and Description: #98 - Enemy Strongpoint.

Spotting method: Ship's Spotters

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received		Spot Applied	
1	2021-20	2	NC	NC	NC	NC
2	2023-05	2	NC	NC	NC	NC
3	2023-50	2	D 300	NC	D 300	NC
4	2025-05	2	U 150	R 03	U 150	R 03
5	2026-05	2	NC	NC	NC	NC
6	2028-05	2	U 200	R 07	U 200	R 07
7	2029-10	2	NC	NC	NC	NC
		<u>14</u>				
		14	NC			

RESULTS: Several hits on houses near beach and fires started.

COMMENTS: None.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's Note: Could not find any information relating to damage inflicted on this target.

Main Battery Mission 33



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 33³⁰, Target enemy battery located by plane just west of towns Joret and Auberville, from 2021-20 to 2029-10. Likely due to wrong coordinates there was nothing here. Shells impacted farmers field just east of N-13 north of Emondeville. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO320035 Latitude : 49° 28' 20" N, Longitude : 1° 21' 44"

W.

³⁰ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure B page 33, page 85 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 33 Battery 14"/45Cal. Date 7 June 1944

Time 2047-30 to 2105-50

Target Coordinates 320035 Ship's Coordinates 517049

Target Navigational Range 21.650 Gun Range 22.700

True Bearing 262-50

Target Number and Description: Enemy battery located by plane.

Spotting method: Air Spot

<u>Salvos</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>No. of Guns</u>	<u>Spot Received</u>	<u>Spot Applied</u>
1	2047-30	1	NC R 800	NC R 34
2	2052-30	2	NC R 1600	NC R 4 ⁰
3	2057-30	2	NC L 800	NC L 2 ⁰
4	2105-50	2	N.O.	
		<u>7</u>		

7 NC

RESULTS: Air spotter made radical and confused spots. Ceased firing. No Results.

COMMENTS: None

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

Author's notes: Unfortunately, on this mission *Nevada* was given the wrong coordinates. This was the last mission fired on June 7th, 1944.

Summary for June 7th, 1944

At 2132 *Nevada* anchored in seven fathoms of water with San Markouf Island bearing 291 degrees true, distance 4,050 yards. The firing was complete for June 7th. She had fired 74 x 14-inch AP, 276 x 14-inch HC, and 608 5" AA common projectiles on this day. She had remaining on board 128 x 14-inch AP, 180 x 14-inch HC, and 4,016 x 5-inch AA common.³¹

U.S.S. *Nevada*'s early missions on June 7 attacked German forces along the ridge between Quinéville near Target #14A (German designation Wn22) toward the town of Montebourg and the city of Valognes. It would be in this area that the Germans began to form a defensive line to protect the port of Cherbourg. Main Battery Mission 24 saw the first gun at Target #9 (German designation STP133) at Azeville destroyed. Probably the most difficult of the 4th Division's missions were those assigned to the 22nd Infantry on the division's right flank. The 1st and 2nd Battalion had the job of capturing Crisbecq and Azeville fortifications. The first attempt by the 22nd Infantry to capture Azeville and the Crisbecq battery failed and at the end of the day they were both still in German control.

The 8th Infantry attacked the Turqueville salient on the morning of 7 June, with the objective of establishing contact with the 82d Airborne Division at Ste. Mère Église. Turqueville was held by a battalion of 795 Ost. Battalion of Georgians, which initially put up a stiff fight but was finally talked into surrender.³² At the La Fiere bridge June 7th had been a continued stalemate. Enemy counterattacks were repulsed, and the American position was slightly strengthened by reorganization. But no progress had been made in establishing a bridgehead on the west bank. Stalemated at La Fiere bridge the German forces attempted to move toward the Chef du Pont bridge and *Nevada*'s Main Battery Mission 28 at minimum interfered with this movement. No major attack on the Chef du Pont bridge ever materialized. The 82d Airborne Division forces west of the Merderet remained isolated. The 8th Army captured Neuville-au-Plain to the north securing this town. In general, the situation of the 82d at the end of D plus 1 had been solidified, particularly around Ste. Mère Église.³³

The Army had yet to advance up the coast so Targets #84 through #98 still posed a threat to ships offshore as shown by *Jeffers* suffering a hit to her after engine room. These targets were taken under fire by *Nevada* late in the afternoon and into the evening. The 3d Battalion of the

³¹ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944. Enclosure A page 16, page 36 of full report.

³² UTAH BEACH TO CHERBOURG (6 June-27 June 1944) Department of the Army Historical Division Washington 25, D.C. 1 October 1947, Page 62.

³³ UTAH BEACH TO CHERBOURG (6 June-27 June 1944) Department of the Army Historical Division Washington 25, D.C. 1 October 1947, Page 75.

U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

22nd Infantry (Lt. Col. Arthur S. Teague) had been given the mission of reducing these beach fortifications. The method of attack followed the pattern taught at the Assault Training Center in England. Naval gunfire adjusted by the Naval Shore Fire Control Party laid down a preparation. Then tanks and 57-mm anti-tank guns approached within 75 to 100 yards of the fort to fire point-blank, while infantrymen moved, often through waist-deep water, to the rear of the strong point under the cover of mortar fire. The enemy, however, would allow the men to come near the fort before opening up with small-arms fire, and in addition subjected the assaulting troops to artillery fire from inland batteries such as Azeville. The reduction of the forts thus turned out to be slow and costly.³⁴

³⁴ UTAH BEACH TO CHERBOURG (6 June-27 June 1944) Department of the Army Historical Division Washington 25, D.C. 1 October 1947, Page 71.

U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

Firing Missions on June 8, 1944

June 8th would see continued effort to suppress fortifications along the beach such as Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17) to Target # 102 (German designation Wn 19). German fortifications #9 (German designation STP 133) Azeville, #7A (German designation HKB Pernelle 1) and Target #8 (German designation STP 152) Battery de Gatteville were still shooting at the ships offshore. Along with suppressing enemy fire, supporting U.S. troops along the Quinéville to Montebourg line would be the major objectives for *Nevada* on this day.

From *Nevada*'s log: 0000, *Nevada* anchored as before, bright moonlight night, sky clear, visibility excellent, wind nil. Much AA firing along coast. All boilers steaming, ship in condition of readiness one and material condition zebra. 0034-0227 intercepted and jammed 17 guided missile control signals. 0130 "Red" alert Sword, Juno, and Needles areas. 0145 report received of E-Boat attack and engagement with own screen in vicinity of Barfleur Point. 0200 Heavy AA fire Omaha sector, Unidentified plane sighted overhead drawing fire from screen. 0210 four small flashes followed by vapor trails observed. Strong guided missile signals being jammed. Heavy bomb struck about 500 yards from H.M.S. *Black Prince* and 1,000 yards from *Nevada*. 0211 *Meredith* (DD726) reported struck by bomb and requiring assistance *Herndon* went to her aid and removed casualties.³⁵ 0215 smoke ships commenced laying smoke screen. 0428 Message from *Meredith* "Still afloat, how long don't know?" 0435 CTG 125.8 ordered "In event *Meredith* cannot be saved, see all confidential matter is removed or otherwise properly delt with." At 0557 *Nevada* commenced firing Main Battery Mission 34.³⁶

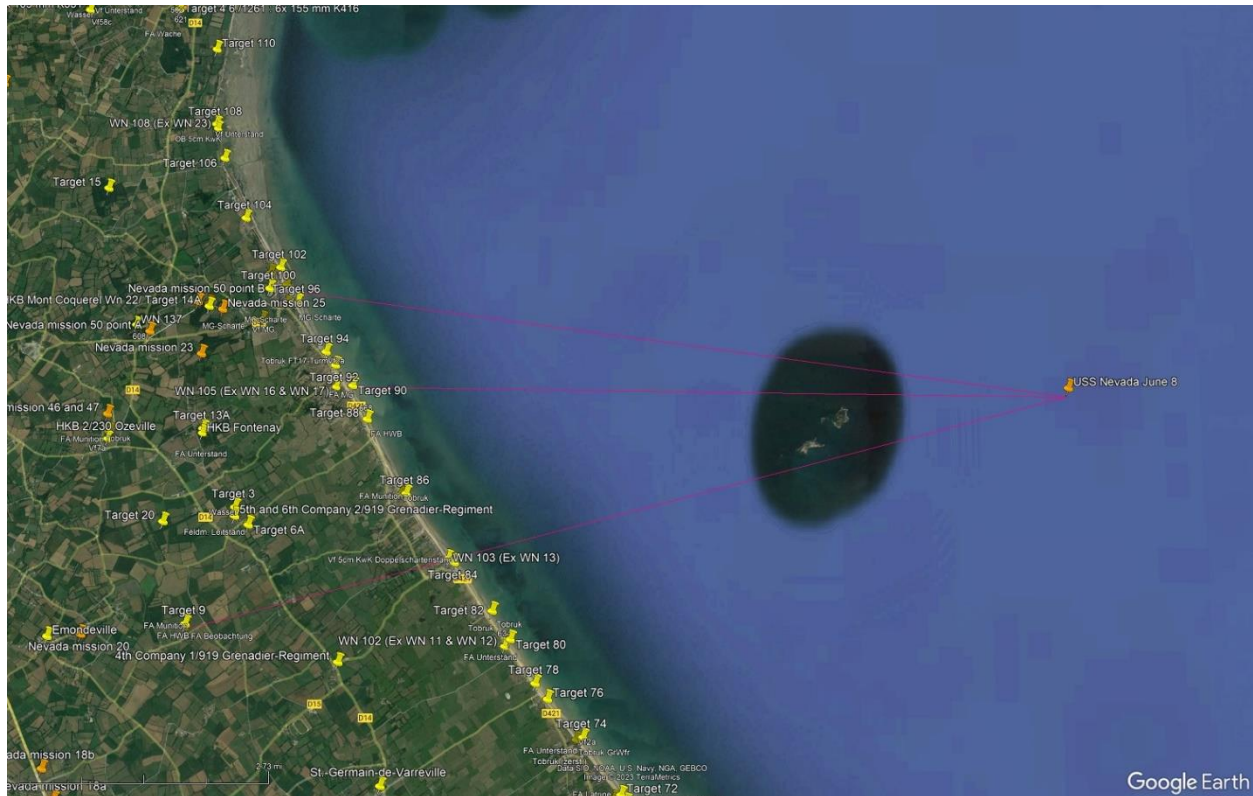
³⁵ U.S.S. *Meredith* (DD-726) while patrolling off Utah beach reportedly struck a mine June 8, 1944, with seven killed and 50 wounded. She was towed to Bale de la Seine to be salvaged but on June 9th broke in two and sank. "*Meredith* (DD-726) III" Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships. United States Navy, Volume M page 333.

³⁶ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure A page 17, page 37 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

June 8, 1944, 0557-10 to 0750



U.S.S. Nevada completes Main Battery Missions 34, 35, 36 and Secondary Mission 7 during this time period. Main Battery Mission 34 was against Target #9 (German designation STP 133). Main Battery Mission 35 was for Target #98, which is slightly north of Target #96 (German designation Wn 18) and south of Target #102 (German designation Wn 19). Main Battery Mission 36 on Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17). Secondary Battery Mission 7 was also on Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17).

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 34 Battery 1A"/45 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 0557-10 to 0631-45

Target Coordinates 35950219 Ship's Coordinates 521059

Target Navigational Range 18,100 Gun Range 18,800

True Bearing 254-00

Target Number and Description: Four 105MM field gun howitzers, all casemated.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0557-10	2	9 o'clock - 1200	D 1200 L 14
2	0600-35	2	3 " - 100	U 100 R 01
3	0602-30	2	3 " - 300	U 300 R 04
4	0605-30	2	12 " - 200	NO L 12
5	0606-40	2	10 " - 100	U 700 L 2 (10)
6	0611-00	3 AP	10 " - 600	D 400 L 20
7	0627-05	3 AP	No Obs.	U 100 NO
8	0631-45	3 AP	No Obs.	
		15		
		10 HC		
		9 AP		

RESULTS: Air spotter reported hits in target area, difficult to identify your bursts due to others firing on same target. Ceased firing.

COMMENTS: None

-34-

ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: Ten HC and nine AP rounds expended. Air spotter reported hits in target area, but it was difficult to identify *Nevada*'s shell bursts due to other ships firing on same target. *Nevada* or one of the other ships which were firing simultaneously with the *Nevada* put casemate No. 1 out of action, killing all the Germans manning the gun. This was the second gun lost to this battery. At 0615 *Nevada* got underway to bring batteries to bear, steaming to keep in approximate same position.³⁸

Main Battery Mission 35



U.S.S. Nevada Main Battery Mission 35, Target #98 which is slightly north of Target #96 (German designation Wn 18) and south of Target #102 (German designation Wn 19), from 2021-20 to 2029-10. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO375082 Latitude : 49° 31' 01" N, Longitude : 1° 17' 22" W.

³⁸ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure A page 17, page 37 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 35 Battery 14"/45 cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 0652-00 to 0705-20

Target Coordinates 375082 Ship's Coordinates 517 072

Target Navigational Range 15,400 Gun Range 16,100

True Bearing 271-10

Target Number and Description: #98 - Enemy Strongpoint.

Spotting method: Air Spot.

Salvo	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0652-00	2 AP	6 o'clock - 50 HIT	NC R 02
2	0654-35	3 AP	5 " - 400	U 200 R 22
3	0657-30	3 AP	HIT	NC R 04
4	0700-10	3 AP	HIT	
		shift to 9	" - 800	U 800 R 10
5	0703-25	2 AP	9 " - 200	D 200 NC
6	0705-20	1 AP		

~~12~~
14 AP

RESULTS: Air Spotter reported four hits, one of which was a direct hit on gun house, and all activity ceased.

COMMENTS: None

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: 14 AP rounds expended. Air spotter reported four hits one of which was a direct hit on gun house and all activity ceased. I think it is very likely she is hitting either Target #96 (German designation Wn 18) or Target #102 (German designation Wn 19) but because Target #98 coordinates are right in between these two German strongpoints, I am not sure which one *Nevada* was actually hitting.

Main Battery Mission 36



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 36 on Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17) from 0723-20 to 0705-20.³⁹ There is a Tobruk with an R35 turret close to this location (see photograph of similar Tobruk in Part 1). Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO389063 Latitude : 49° 30' 02" N, Longitude : 1° 16' 08" W.

³⁹ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 36, page 88 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

R-E-C-O-R-D

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIELD
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 36 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 0723-20 to 0747-05

Target Coordinates 189060 Ship's Coordinates 514058

Target Navigational Range 13,600 Gun Range 14,150

True Bearing 269-00

Target Number and Description: Enemy Stronghold

Spotting method: Ships Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received		Spot Applied	
1	0723-20	3 AP	U 500	NC	U 500	NC
2	0725-30	3 AP	D 200	L 3	D 200	L 3
3	0728-25	3 AP	NC	R 02	NC	R 02
4	0736-00	3 AP	D 400	L 2	D 400	L 2
5	0739-50	3 AP	D 200	R 02	D 200	R 02
6	0742-10	3 AP	D 200	NC	D 200	NC
7	0745-30	3 AP	U 200	NC	U 200	NC
8	0747-05	2 AP	U 200	NC	U 200	NC

23

23 AP

RESULTS: Several hits observed in target area, one building demolished and all activity ceased.

COMMENTS: None.

88

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: 23 AP rounds expended. Several hits were observed in the target area, one building demolished and all activity ceased. The ship had a direct line of sight to this target and was using the ship's directors. The secondary battery would join in this mission as well and this is the second time that both her main and secondary guns fired on same target, the first being Main Battery Mission 3 and Secondary Mission 1 on Targets #66/#68 (German designation Wn-8) on June 6th.

Secondary Battery Mission 7



U.S.S. Nevada Secondary Battery Mission 7 on Target #90 (German designation Wn 16 & Wn 17) from 0723-20 to 0705-20.⁴⁰ There is a Tobruk with an R35 turret close to this location. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO389063 Latitude : 49° 30' 02" N, Longitude : 1° 16' 08" W.

⁴⁰ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 59, page 116 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

R-E-C-O-R-D-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 7 Battery 5"/38 cal. Date 8 June 1944
Time 0743 to 0759

Target Coordinates 390061 Ship's Coordinates 51A058

Target Navigational Range 13,400 Gun Range 13,850

True Bearing 269°

Target Number and Description: Reported battery, size unknown.

Spotting method: Ship's spotter.

Fired 31 salvos of which nearly all were four gun salvos.

Expended 106 rounds.

RESULTS: Many hits observed in target area and several buildings damaged. No report received on board concerning damage to target.

COMMENTS: Computer in control of elevation and train. Navigational range from chart set on computer. No battery casualties.

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ENCLOSURE (B)

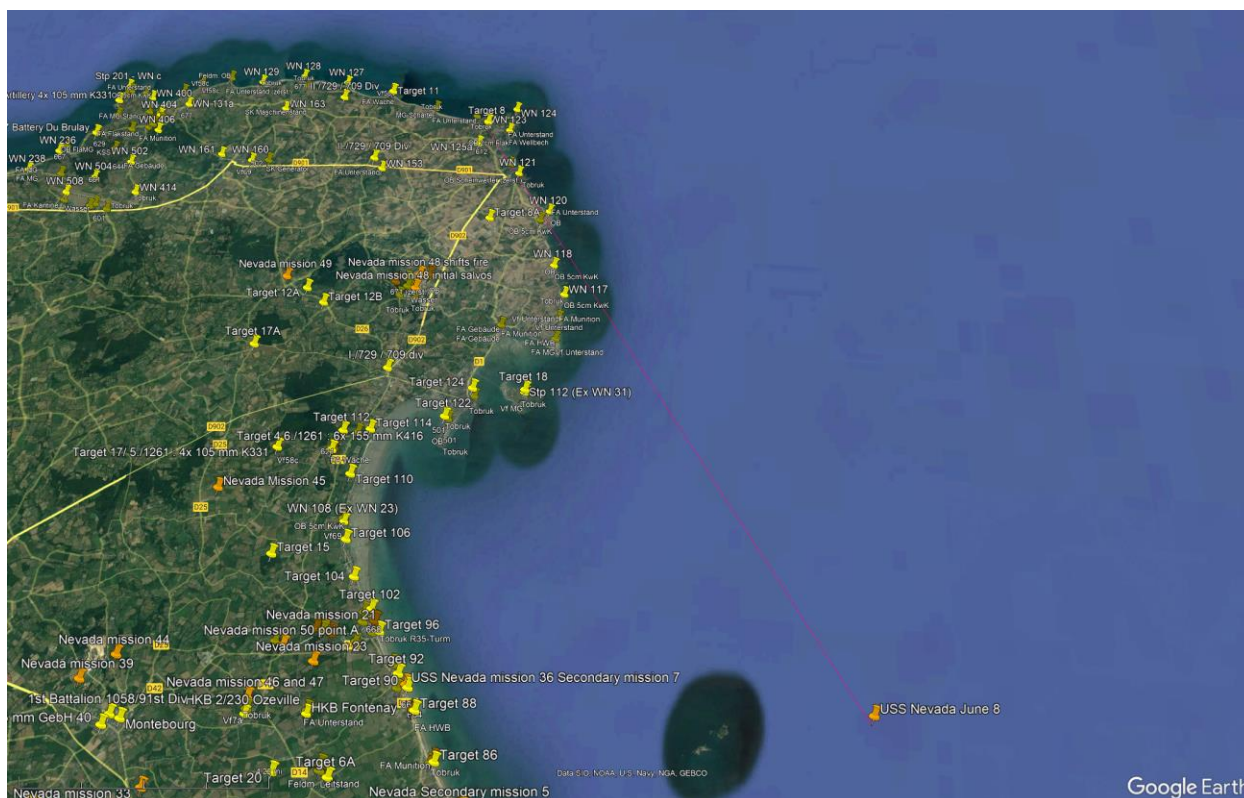
116

Author's note: Same target as Main Battery Mission 36.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

June 8th, 1944, 0827-25 to 0900-30



U.S.S. Nevada will complete Main Battery Mission 37 during this time period. Her Main Battery Mission 37 was Target #8 (German designation STP 152) Battery de Gatteville, 7th Company of the Marine Artillery Regiment 1261 from 0827-25 to 0900-30.⁴¹ Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO392275 Latitude : 49° 41' 28" N, Longitude : 1° 16' 44" W.

⁴¹ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 37, page 89 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Main Battery Mission 36



U.S.S. *Nevada* will complete Main Battery Mission 37 during this time period. Her Main Battery Mission 37 was Target #8 (German designation STP 152) Battery de Gatteville, 7th Company of the Marine Artillery Regiment 1261 from 0827-25 to 0900-30.⁴² Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO392275 Latitude : 49° 41' 28" N, Longitude : 1° 16' 44" W.

⁴² United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 37, page 89 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 37 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 0827-25 to 0900-30

Target Coordinates 392275 Ship's Coordinates 499095

Target Navigational Range 22,900 Gun Range 24,050

True Bearing 326-00

Target Number and Description: #8 - Six 155 MM guns in
uncompleted casemates.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0827-25	2	3 o'clock - 200	U 200 L 8
2	0829-45	4	5 " - 200	U 300 NC
3	0834-50	2	- HIT	U 100 NC
4	0837-35	6	6 " - 100	U 200 R 02
5	0840-05	4	4 " - 400	U 500 L 8
6	0843-15	3	8 " - 200	U 200 R 08
7	0846-10	4	- HIT	U 100 NC
8	0849-25	5	- HIT	U 200 NC
9	0854-30	4	- HIT	U 200 R 08 & U 700 R 02
10	0857-20	5 AP	3 " - 100	U 100 L 5 (AP)
11	0900-30	2 AP	12 " - 400	D 300 L 11
		<u>41</u>		
		34 NC		
		7 AP		

RESULTS: Air spotter reported ten hits, one casemate demolished, all others appeared to be hit or damaged.

COMMENTS: On seventh salvo this mission salvo latch on the right gun of Turret I jammed in the locked position. (See Casualty section of report)

U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

Author's note: The air spotter reported ten direct hits which tells me that on the salvos where a hit was seen, that due to multiple shells being fired, more than one direct hit was actually scored at these times. This battery never fired on again, so I believe it was likely destroyed or silenced by this mission. At 0728 the *Nevada* was directed to take troublesome Target #8 under fire. She expended 44 rounds using air spot, and aerial photographs have since substantiated that one casemate was demolished as stated by *Nevada*'s spotting plane.⁴³

- Turret 1 – At about 0845 on salvo seven of Main Battery Mission 37 the salvo latch on the right gun of Turret 1 jammed in a locked position. This was caused by the breaking of the weld and the sheering of the pin both which held the forward collar of the salvo latch push rod in place. This problem was exactly the same as #8 on this list which took place on the right gun of Turret 4. The salvo latch rod was removed, and the salvo latch operated by hand during the remainder of the firing. New salvo latch push rods were installed after departure from the assault area, with some difficulties in their installation as were experienced similar to those described in #8.⁴⁴

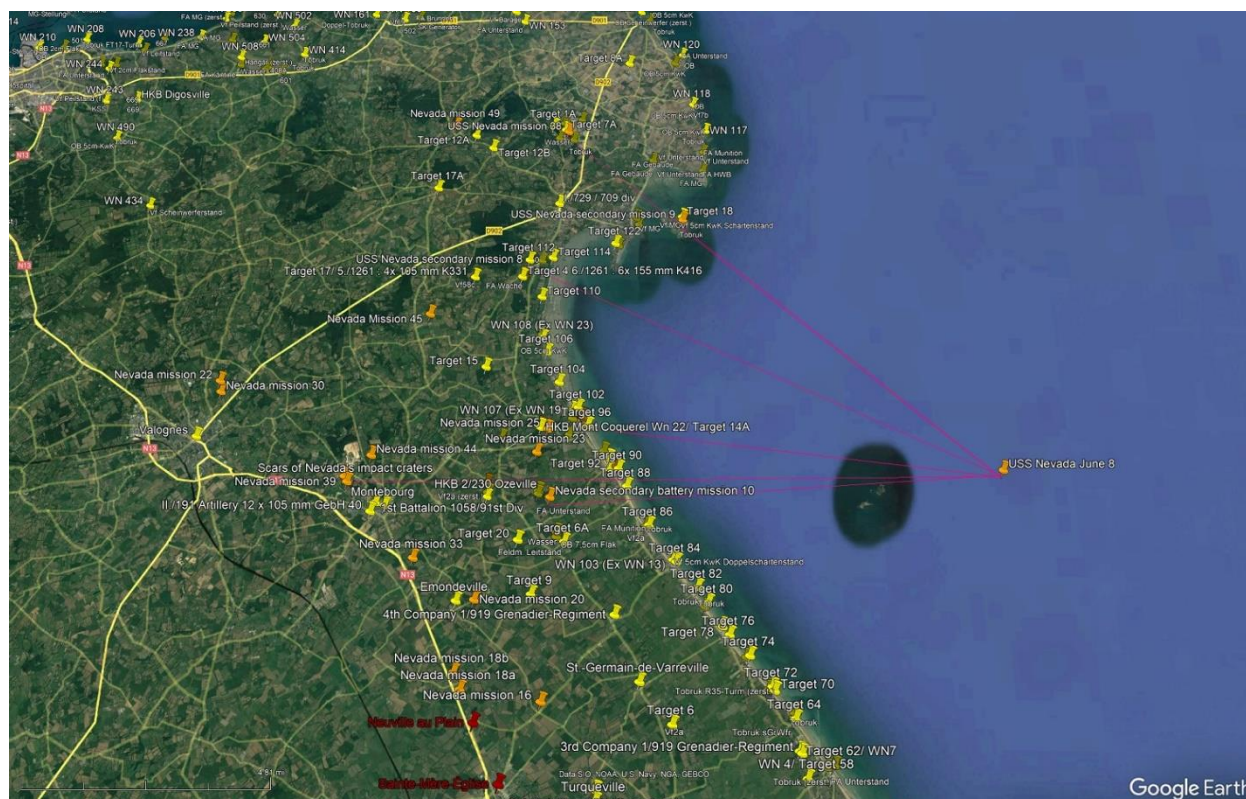
⁴³ Commander Cruiser Division 7, A16-3 Serial 0061, Action Report Operation Neptune, July 10, 1944, page 19, Enclosure A, page 21 of full report, M.L. Deyo.

⁴⁴ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure E page 5, page 204 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

June 8, 1944, 0827 to 1448



U.S.S. Nevada completed Main Battery Missions 38, 39, 40 and Main Battery Mission 8, 9, and 10. These would be her last missions on June 8th.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Secondary Battery Mission 8



U.S.S. Nevada Secondary Battery Mission 8 on Target #112 / Road Ham de Beauvais close to WN 140 which was 500 yards east of the position fired on from 0827-0829.⁴⁵ Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO357143 Latitude : 49° 34' 15" N, Longitude : 1° 19' 06" W.

⁴⁵ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 60, page 117 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSILES FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 8 Battery 5"/38 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 0827 to 0829

Target Coordinates 357143 Ship's Coordinates 499095

Target Navigational Range 16.375 Gun Range 16.950

True Bearing 286°

Target Number and Description: Vicinity of target #112, Battery
observed firing, size unknown.

Spotting method: Ship's spotter

Fired one four gun salvo. Initial spot of U 400 L 5 made and
applied.

Expended 4 rounds.

RESULTS: No known damage or hits on battery.

COMMENTS: Director in control of elevation, train, and range.
Ceased fire after first salvo to stand by for call
fire from Shore Fire Control Party. No battery
casualties.

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ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: Was not able to identify German unit involved with this mission. Possibly forces retreating from Target #4 (German designation STP141) which would be 6th Company of the Marine Artillery Regiment 1261, but this must remain speculation on my part.

Main Battery Mission 38



U.S.S. Nevada Main Battery Mission 38 Target # 7A (German designation HKB Pernelle 1), 9th Battalion of the 1261 Marine Artillery Regiment, six 105 mm guns all casemated, from 0926-15 to 0952-25.⁴⁶ Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO372198 Latitude : 49° 37' 16" N, Longitude : 1° 18' 05" W. If you look very carefully in the field upper located in the left corner, you can still make out faint impact craters.

⁴⁶ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 38, page 90 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 38 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 0926-15 to 0952-25

Target Coordinates 17219E Ship's Coordinates 509087

Target Navigational Range 19,200 Gun Range 20,150

True Bearing 306-00

Target Number and Description: 57A - Six 105 MM guns or howitzers all casemated.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	0926-15	2 AP	No spot	NC NC
2	0929-05	2 AP	12 o'clock 100	D 100 L 4
3	0931-10	2 AP	5 o'clock 50	U 100 R 01
4	0933-30	2 AP	6 o'clock 100	NC R 04
5	0935-55	4 AP	Change to 11 o'clock	200 U 300 R 04
6	0938-05	4 AP	4 o'clock 300	U 400 NC
7	0941-05	4 AP	HIT	U 100 NC
8	0943-10	4 AP	Direct HIT	NC L 2
9	0946-05	3 AP	Change to 12 o'clock	600 U 400 R 17
10	0952-35	4 AP	Cease Fire	

31

31 AP

RESULTS: Air spotter reported five hits on target, one of which was a direct hit on one casemate. No further activity at target.

COMMENTS: On the sixth salvo of this mission one AP shell fired from turret III disintegrated from 100 to 1000 yards from the ship. See Comments on Battery Performance.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Author's note: The spotter records five direct hits so this implies that on salvos 7 and 8 more than one hit was achieved.

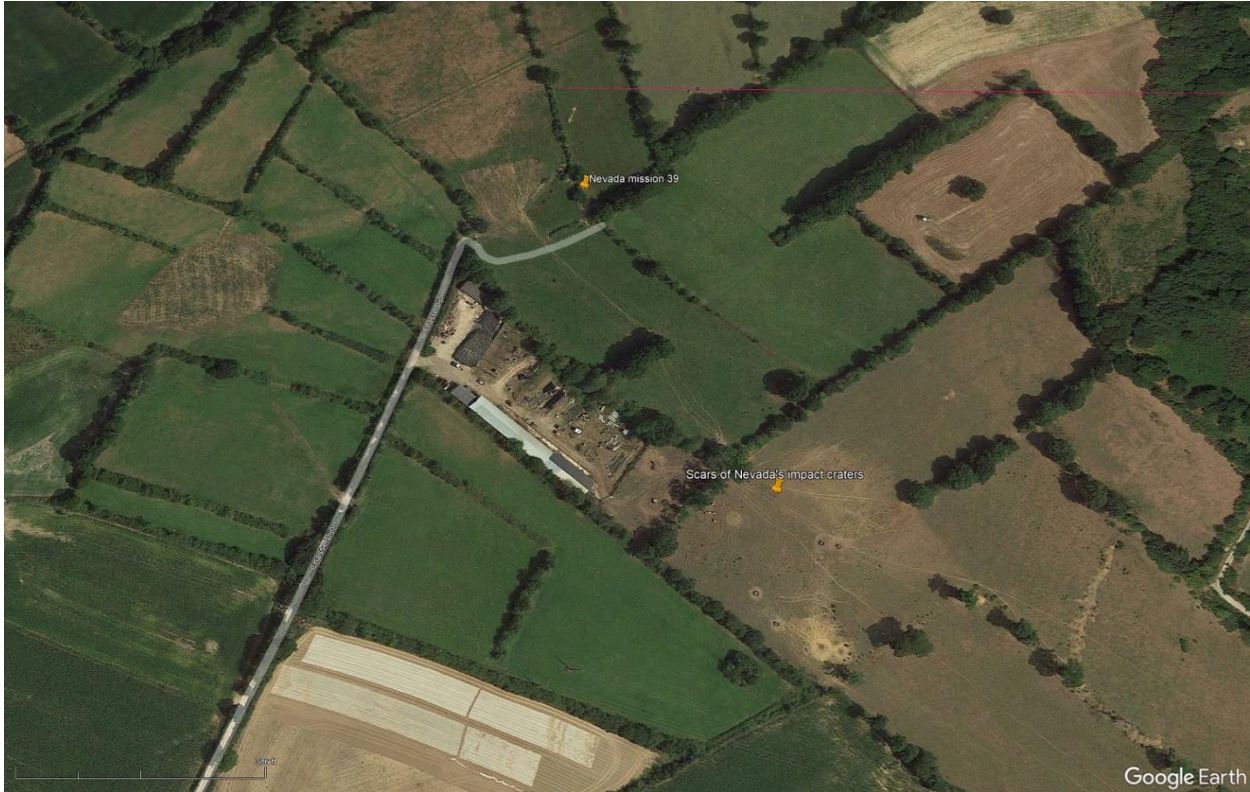
Main Battery Mission 39



One of the most important missions U.S.S. Nevada fired during the Normandy campaign was Main Battery Mission 39 just north of the city of Montebourg.

U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 39 Wooded area along small road Chasse Dijon just northwest of the town of Le Haut Gele and northwest of Montebourg. Target large enemy tank concentration (approximately 90) and lorry concentration with approximately 20 vehicles in the woods on either side of the road. German units are likely 206 Panzer Battalion and Panzerjäger-Abteilung 243 of the 243rd Division from 1023-45 to 1121-45.⁴⁷ Scars from this bombardment are faint but still visible when this satellite photograph was taken in 2023.

⁴⁷ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B pages 39a-39b, pages 91-92 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 39 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 1023-45 to 1121-45

Target Coordinates 295063 Ship's Coordinates 497094

Target Navigational Range 22.450 Gun Range 23.575

True Bearing 258-15

Target Number and Description: Large enemy tank concentration (approximately 90) and lorry concentration (approximately 20) in woods on either side of road.

Spotting method: Air Spot

Salvo	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received		Spot Applied	
			No.		NO	NO
1	1023-45	2			NO	NO
2	1027-20	2	2	o'clock - 800	U 1000	L 13
3	1029-40	2	3	" - 400	U 600	R 03
4	1031-50	2	4	" - 300	U 300	R 08
5	1034-25	2	5	" - 200	NO	R 08
6	1036-40	2	3	" - 50	NO	NO
7	1039-40	4	3	" - 50	U 100	NO
8	1042-20	5	12	" - 50	NO	L 2
9	1045-15	3	9	" - 200	D 200	L 6
10	1048-30	4	6	" - 100	NO	R 04
11	1051-00	4	6	" - 200	NO	R 14
12	1054-25	4	6	" - 50	NO	NO
13	1057-55	4	6	" - 800	D 100	R 35
14	1102-15	4	5	" - 300	U 100	R 13
15	1105-30	4	3	" - 300	U 300	R 03
16	1108-15	4	4	" - 100	U 100	R 03
17	1110-45	4	6	" - 100	NO	R 05
18	1113-15	4	6	" - 50	NO	R 03
19	1115-05	4	Shift to 5	" - 100	NO	L 4
20	1119-05	3			NO	NO
21	1121-45	3		Cease Fire		
		<u>70</u>				
		70 NO				

RESULTS:

During firing air spotter reported "You are really plastering them." Later he reported that some were trying to get on road and get away and shifted fire to road temporarily. He also reported woods on fire and badly torn up. After

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U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 39, Continued.

ordering cease firing air spotter reported
fire very effective, all tanks and lorries
destroyed or damaged, none got away.

COMMENTS: None

-39B-

ENCLOSURE (B)

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U.S.S. *Nevada*

Part Two

Author's note: On 5 June 1944 Panzer Abteilung 206 had the following French equipment: 28 x Pz-H38(f) a French Hotchkiss Char 1938-H, 10 x Pz-S35(f) a French Somua Char 1935-S, 6 x Pz-B2 Flamm(f) a French Char BI bis converted to a flame tank, 2 x Pz-R35 (f) a French Renault 35 tanks. Total vehicles 46. Panzerjäger-Abteilung 243: - 1. Panzerjäger-Company (12 x towed AT gun) - StuG-Abteilung (10 x StuG III, IV or Hetzer) - 3. Flak-Company (12 x towed 20 mm Flak). Total vehicles 34. This adds up to about 80 vehicles, which I feel is fairly close to the pilot's estimate of 90.⁴⁸

As early as June 7, 1944, American soldiers stationed at Ste. Mère Église were ordered to advance along the national road N-13 towards Montebourg, an important crossroads road and one of the last defendable areas before Valognes and Cherbourg . But the Germans, belonging in this sector to the 1st Battalion Grenadier-Regiment 1058 (91. Infantry-Division), 2nd Battalion Grenadier-Regiment 729 (709 Infantry Division) and the Sturm-Battalion AOK 7 (709 Infantry Division) are firmly set up for defense. Elements of the 243rd Division were here to reinforce these elements of the 91st Division and 709 Division. I believe *Nevada*'s mission 39 largely eliminated the available German armor to these defenses. I am sure some elements of these units survived to retreat back to Cherbourg where they were officially disbanded after Cherbourg surrendered, but I believe the majority of the damage to these armored units was inflicted on June 8th, by U.S.S. *Nevada*.

Admiral Deyo reported: "*At 1010 Nevada's heavy battery was again put to good use in firing on a concentration of 90 enemy tanks and 20 trucks. Nevada fired 78 rounds on this mission. This was a very large amount, but the need was reported as very urgent, and her spotting plane reported that all tanks and lorries were destroyed or damaged and that none got away.*"⁴⁹

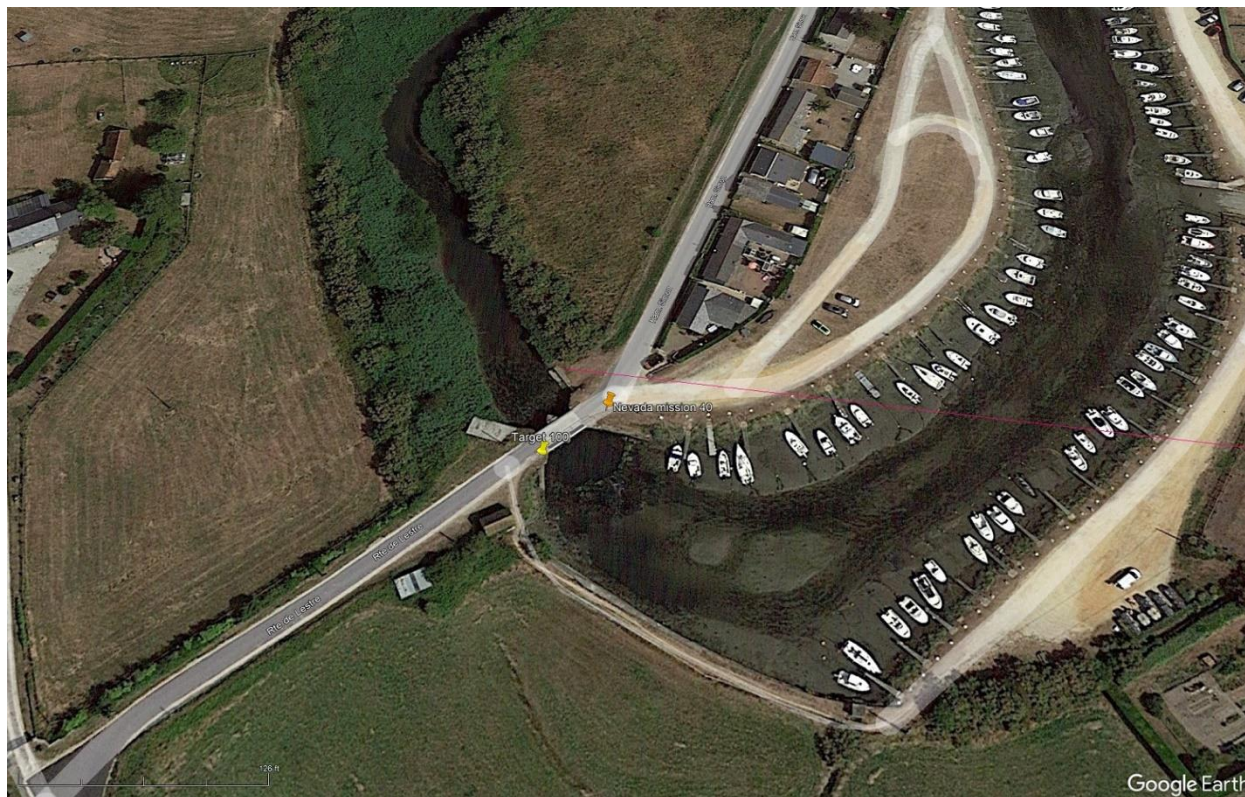
⁴⁸ Normandy 1944, Niklas Zetterling page 183.

⁴⁹ Commander Cruiser Division 7, A16-3 Serial 0061, Action Report Operation Neptune, July 10th 1944, page 19, Enclosure A, page 21 of full report, M.L. Deyo.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

Main Battery Mission 40



U.S.S. *Nevada* Main Battery Mission 40 Target #100 La Sinope Dam, from 1133-45 to 1209-45.⁵⁰ Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO373085 Latitude : 49° 31' 10" N, Longitude : 1° 17' 33" W.

⁵⁰ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 40, page 93 of full report.

U.S.S. Nevada

Part Two

U.S.S. NEVADA

S-E-C-R-E-T

MAIN BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 40 Battery 14"/45 Cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 1133-45 to 1209-45

Target Coordinates 373085 Ship's Coordinates 500-090

Target Navigational Range 13,700 Gun Range 14,440

True Bearing 263-15

Target Number and Description: Dam on Sincop River

Spotting method: Air Spot.

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1	1133-45	3	8 o'clock - 200	D 300 R 06
2	1135-25	2	8 " - 200	D 300 R 06
3	1137-30	2	10 " - 290	U 200 L 6
4	1139-20	2	3 " - 300	U 300 NC
5	1141-15	2	7 " - 400	D 200 R 10
6	1148-45	2	8 " - 100	D 100 R 02
7	1150-50	4	2 " - 200	U 150 L 8
8	1154-25	5	5 " - 200	U 100 R 13
9	1156-35	3	3 " - 100	U 100 R 03
10	1201-45	3	3 " - 300	U 300 NC
11	1203-35	3	8 " - 100	D 100 R 06
12	1206-00	3	11 " - 100	NC L 3
13	1207-45	3	11 " - 100	NC NC
14	1209-45	5	11 " - 100	D 50 L 4
		<u>41</u>		

41 NC

RESULTS: Many hits reported within 50 to 200 yards. No direct hits. Dam undamaged. Released air spotter to HMS HAWKINS due to reaching low limit of 14" ammunition.

COMMENTS: None

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Author's note: She expended a lot of ammunition on this target with the final four salvos coming to within 100 yards, but no direct hits were scored. This was her last Main Battery Mission for June 8th. 4th Division Artillery Headquarters requested that an earth dam on the Sinope River near Quinéville be breached. Although this target was taken under fire successively by *Nevada*, *Hawkins*, *Enterprise*, and *Tuscaloosa*, all using air spot, the dam was not breached.⁵¹

Secondary Battery Mission 9



U.S.S. *Nevada* Secondary Battery Mission 9 on Target #18 (German designation STP112), Vauban's tower on Island of Tatihou, from 1214-1226.⁵² Report used target coordinates of 41251591. Possibly vO412159 was just west of the tower. French Lambert Zone 1 vO410163 are the coordinates for the tower itself. Latitude : 49° 35' 28" N, Longitude : 1° 14' 48" W.

⁵¹ Commander Cruiser Division 7, A16-3 Serial 0061, Action Report Operation Neptune, July 10, 1944, page 19, Enclosure A, page 21 of full report, M.L. Deyo.

⁵² United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 61, page 118 of full report.

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R-E-C-R-E-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 9 Battery 5"/38 cal. Date 8 June 1944

Time 1214 to 1236

Target Coordinates 41251591 Ship's Coordinates 500090

Target Navigational Range 12,200 Gun Range 12,550

True Bearing 305° 45'

Target Number and Description: #18. Three 75MM guns in casemates. Battery observed firing in this immediate vicinity and assumed to be target #18.

Spotting method: Ship's spotter.

Salves	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1		4	U 300 NC	U 300 NC
2		4	D 100 L 3	D 100 L 3
3		4	NC NC	NC NC
4		4	D 100 R 5	D 100 R 5
5		4	NC NC	NC NC
6		4	U 200 L 2	U 200 L 2
7		4	D 100 R 3	D 100 R 3
8		4	NC NC	NC NC

32 rounds expended

RESULTS: Hits observed in target area. One hit observed on base of light house. Battery not observed to fire again. No report received aboard concerning damage to target.

COMMENTS: Director in control of train and elevation. Navigational ranges from chart set on computer. No battery casualties. Control Officer observed battery firing, and after cease firing was given battery was not observed to fire again.

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Author's note: Whatever gun was observed, firing this mission at minimum temporarily suppressed it. I do not believe any significant damage was done to the tower itself or if the tower was indeed the actual target.

Secondary Battery Mission 10



U.S.S. *Nevada* Secondary Battery Mission 10 on battery observed firing in the open, from 1420 to 1448.⁵³ This may have been Target 13A and her secondary battery fire fell short, landing in a field just to the east of Target 13A. Target coordinates French Lambert Zone 1 vO365054 Latitude : 49° 29' 29" N, Longitude : 1° 18' 05" W.

⁵³ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 62a, page 119-120 of full report.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

SECONDARY BATTERY MISSIONS FIRED
JUNE 6 - 17, 1944.

MISSION NO. 10 Battery 5"/38 Cal. Date 8 June 1944
Time 1420 to 1448

Target Coordinates 365054 Ship's Coordinates 518078

Target Navigational Range 16,800 Gun Range 17,150

True Bearing 268-45

Target Number and Description: Battery observed firing in the open.

Spotting method: Ship's spotter.

Salvos	Time	No. of Guns	Spot Received	Spot Applied
1		4	No observation	
2		4	No observation	
3		4	No observation	
4		4	No observation	
5		4	NC R 20	NC R 20
6		4	U 400 L 10	U 400 L 10
7		4	U 400 NC	U 400 NC
8		4	U 200 NC	U 200 NC
9		4	See Comment	
10		4	See Comment	
11		4	See Comment	
12		4	See Comment	
		<u>48</u>	Rounds Expended.	

RESULTS: No hits observed in target area.

COMMENTS: This battery was observed firing by the Control Officer. Director in control of elevation, train, and range. Two other ships were firing on this target at the same time and the Control Officer was unable to identify the first four salvos and therefore could not spot. Target proved to be beyond the maximum range of the battery at the time due to erosion loss, powder temperature, and opposing wind. The last four salvos were fired after introducing trial up spots with the sight angle crank in an endeavor to attain greater range.

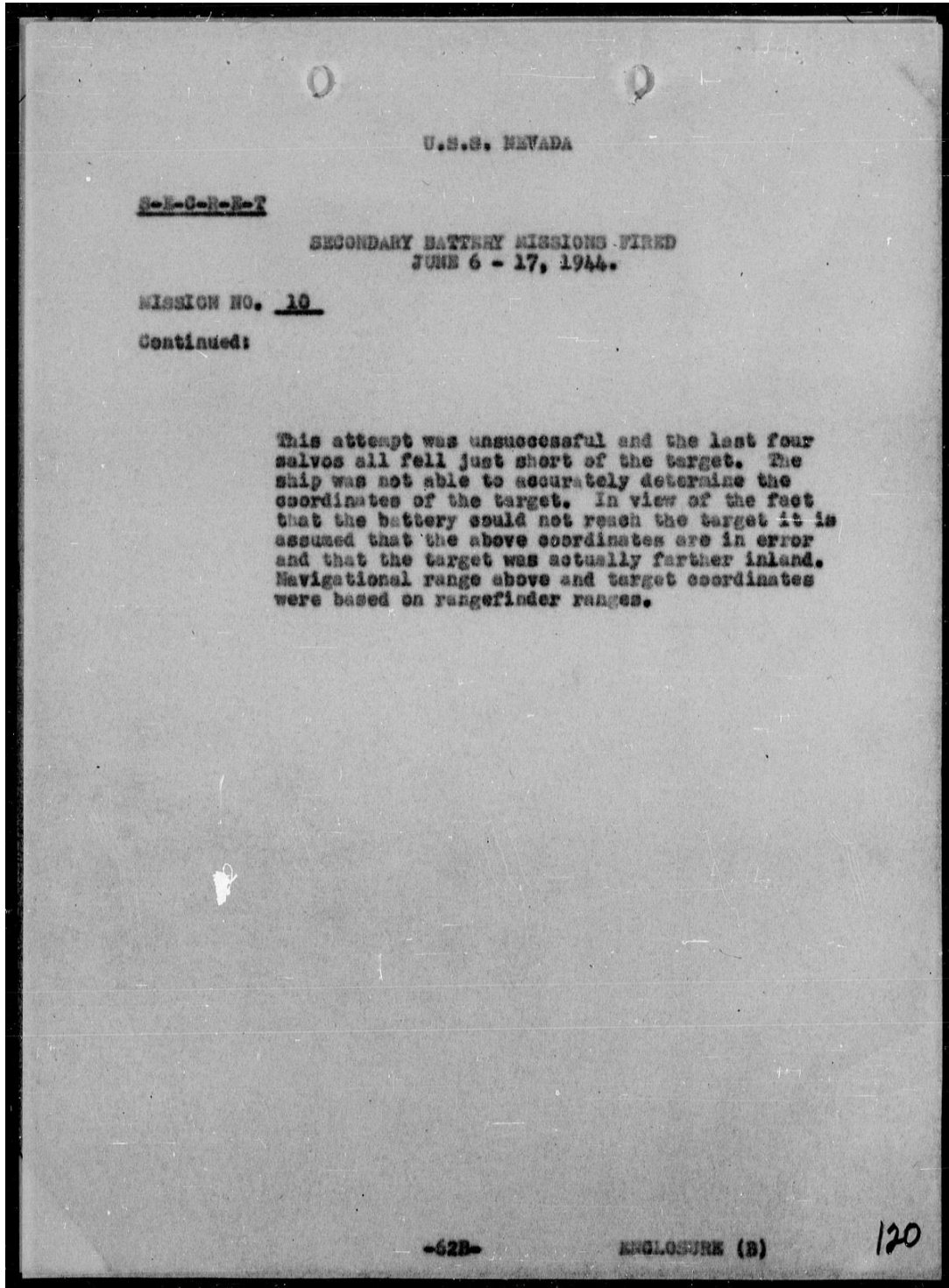
-62A-

ENCLOSURE (B)

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Author's note: This was the last mission fired on June 8th, 1944.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. Nevada, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure B page 62b, page 120 of full report.

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Summary of June 8th, 1944, and movement up to June 10, 1944.

On this day U.S.S. *Nevada* started where she had left off on June 7th attacking the fortifications and strongpoints along the beach and supporting 3rd Battalion 22nd Infantry. Bombardment group U collectively took out another casemate at Azeville. She then turned her guns on Target #8 for Main Battery Mission 37 and severely damaging this fortification. This fortification was originally assigned to H.M.S. *Erebus* but on June 6th at 1701 she split her left gun, mounting and cradle, thus preventing her from further action. The services of the *Erebus* as a long range counter battery ship were missed considerably during the later stages of the operation.⁵⁵ *Nevada* being assigned this target was likely due to the loss of *Erebus*. She continued to suppress Target #7A (German designation HKB Pernelle 1) with Main Battery Mission 38.

By far her most significant mission on June 8th was Main Battery Mission 39 where I believe she destroyed the Panzer Abteilung 206 and Panzerjäger-Abteilung 243 of the 243rd Division. Most of the German Panzer Divisions were in the British sector. Rommel had to contain the British Sector because if the British forces broke out, they could make a direct thrust toward Paris or Germany itself. This was one aspect of General Montgomery's plan allowing U.S. forces to cut off the Cotentin Peninsula and attack Cherbourg from the rear while British forces held the main German armored divisions in check. *Nevada*'s mission 39 largely eliminated the remaining German armor on the Cotentin Peninsula. The northern flank and the Battle of Montebourg would continue to rage for several more days but U.S. troops only had to deal with German infantry after June 8th, and this gave the U.S. troops the advantage in breaking this defensive line despite hard fighting for several more days. This mission had huge tactical implications to the operation.

For the southern flank, by the evening of 8 June, the 101st Airborne Division had occupied a defensive arc on the southern flank of the VII Corps from Chef du Pont to the mouth of the Douve. The 502d Parachute Infantry, after accomplishing its missions in the Foucarville area, had taken positions on the right flank of the division, from Chef du Pont to the vicinity of Houesville. The 327th Glider Infantry, relieved Colonel Johnson's men in the vicinity of the Barquette lock and the Le Port bridges. The 506th Parachute Infantry held the center, astride the Carentan highway, while the 501st Parachute Infantry was assembled near Vierville as division

⁵⁵ Commander Cruiser Division 7, A16-3 Serial 0061, Action Report Operation Neptune, July 10, 1944, page 16, Enclosure A, page 18 of full report, M.L. Deyo.

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reserve.⁵⁶ Though *Nevada* did not fire any missions on June 8 in support of this front, her Main Battery Mission 28 on June 7th likely helped to solidify the Allied hold on it.

On June 8th, she had fired 84 x 14-inch AP projectiles, 155 x 14-inch HC projectiles, 190 x 5-inch AA common projectiles. In total for three days, she had expended 227 x 14-inch AP, 699 x 14-inch HC, and 3,491 x 5-inch AA common projectiles. She had remaining on board 44 x 14-inch AP, 25 x 14-inch HC, 3,826 x 5-inch AA common. At 1551 she was underway enroute to Plymouth Sound, Great Britain, to replenish ammunition, fuel, and provisions at a speed of 17 knots with U.S.S. *Walke* and U.S.S. *Fitch* as escorts.⁵⁷

At 0522 June 9th she moored to buoy D in Plymouth Sound. From her log: 0655 U.S.S. *Nitro* moored to starboard side and commenced taking on ammunition. 0700 various ammunition lighters moored alongside and commenced discharging ammunition to *Nevada*. 0724 British oil barges moored alongside, and *Nevada* received 209,020 gallons of fuel. 1550 received fresh water and provisions which were completed by 2025 having delivered 51,520 gallons of water.⁵⁸

June 10th 189 x 14-inch AP projectiles received, 742 x 14-inch HC projectiles received, 3,600 x 5-inch AA common projectiles received. Total on board 233 x 14-inch AP, 767 x 14-inch HC, and 7,426 x 5-inch AA common on board. 0814 underway to assault area. Arrived at assault area at 2049 and anchored in 10 fathoms water with Saint Markouf Island bearing 275.7 degrees true distance 4,010 yards. Own aircraft active over assault area, otherwise quiet.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ UTAH BEACH TO CHERBOURG (6 June-27 June 1944) Department of the Army Historical Division Washington 25, D.C. 1 October 1947, Page 73.

⁵⁷ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure A page 21-22, page 40-41 of full report.

⁵⁸ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure A page 22, page 41 of full report.

⁵⁹ United States Atlantic Fleet, Battleship Division Five, U.S.S. *Nevada*, BB-36/A16-3/A9 Serial 0060, June 23, 1944, Enclosure A page 23, page 42 of full report.

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Appendix- Utah Beach Allied Target List and German Designations

Allied Target Number	Target Coordinate using the French Lambert zone 1 map	German Designation
Target 1	vT586938	Point Du Hoc STP 75
Target 2	vO266268	STP 234
Target 3	vO368043	Crisbecq STP 135
Target 4	vO355138	Morsalines battery – Stp 141
Target 5	vT533918	Maisy Battery STP 83
Target 6	vT405980	Ste. Martin de Varreville STP108
Target 7	vO246264	Battery Du Brulay
Target 8	vO391275	Battery de Gatteville STP 152 7./1261
Target 9	vO360022	Azeville STP 133
Target 10	vT792832	Unknown - North of Vaux-sur-Aure along road D104. North of Bayeux. 2000 yards west of Wn 46.
Target 11	vO353290	Battery de Caqueret STP 126
Target 12	vO378204	Wn 148
Target 13	vT848853	Unknown, along road D67 behind Wn 43 Omaha Beach sector
Target 14	vO344057	HKB 2/230 Ozeville, near Village de Leglise
Target 15	vO342102	Unknown, Wooded area north of Lestre and slightly southwest of Amerville-Lestre
Target 16	vT528916	STP84 near Maisy
Target 17	vO339138	Battery de Crasville STP 142
Target 18	vO413160	STP 112 ex WN31
Target 20	vO353040	Unknown, Near Ferme du Chateau de Fontenay. Ruins visible.
Target 1A	vO366201	Unknown, Scars of bombardment remain visible. Northwest of 7A. 500 yards west of WN149.
Target 5A	vT797871	Battery Longues-sur-Mer Wn 48
Target 6A	vO369040	Crisbecq Wn 134 AA section
Target 7A	vO372198	HKB Pernelle 1
Target 8A	vO396229	Unknown, South of town of Montfarville
Target 12A	vO336197	Unknown, Rt de Quettehou D26. Possibly targeting road itself.
Target 12B	vO343191	Unknown, along road D128. Possibly Targeting Road itself.
Target 13A	vO361056	HKB Fontenay
Target 14A	vO361080	HKB Mont Coquerel Wn22

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Allied Target Number	Target Coordinate using the French Lambert zone 1 map	German Designation
Target 16A	vT531914	STP 85
Target 17A	vO323174	Unknown, Near town of Coimbot. Possibly targeting road D25.
Target 32	vT537935	Wn81
Target 34	vT527935	Wn82
Target 36	vT541934	Wn87
Target 38	vT512924	Wn88
Target 40	vT505916	Wn90
Target 42	vT495905	Wn92
Target 44	vT447912	Wn100 ex Wn 1
Target 46	vT447918	Wn100 ex Wn 1
Target 48	vT447922	Wn101 ex Wn 2
Target 50	vT448926	Wn6
Target 52	vT448928	Wn2A
Target 54	vT458950	Wn102 ex Wn3
Target 56	vT452950	Wn102 ex Wn3
Target 58	vT444960	Wn4
Target 60	vT452967	Wn 104 ex Wn 5
Target 62	vT442970	Wn 7
Target 64	vT442980	Wn 106 ex Wn8 south
Target 66	vT442982	Wn 106 ex Wn8 north
Target 68	vT443983	Seawall in front of Wn 106 ex Wn8
Target 70	vT436992	Wn 100 ex Wn9
Target 72	vT438993	Wn 100 ex Wn9
Target 74	vT428999	STP 101 ex WN 10
Target 76	vT423009	Between STP 101 ex Wn10 and Wn 102 ex WN 11 & Wn12
Target 78	vO421009	South of Wn 102 ex WN 11 & Wn12 and
Target 80	vO420015	Wn 102 ex WN 11 & Wn12
Target 82	vO415024	Wn 102 ex WN 11 & Wn12
Target 84	vO407033	WN103 ex WN 13
Target 86	vO398045	WN104 ex WN 14
Target 88	vO392057	Church Eglise Notre Dame de bon secours
Target 90	vO398063	Wn 105 ex Wn 16 & Wn 17 (South WN16)
Target 92	vO390061	Wn 105 ex Wn 16 & Wn 17 (WN17)
Target 94	vO383069	Wn 105 ex Wn 16 & Wn 17 (WN17)
Target 96	vO379077	WN106 ex WN 18
Target 98	vO375082	WN106 ex WN 18
Target 100	vO373085	La Sinope Dam
Target 102	vO374086	WN 107 ex WN19

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Allied Target Number	Target Coordinate using the French Lambert zone 1 map	German Designation
Target 104	vO368096	WN 107 ex WN19
Target 106	vO364108	South of Wn 108 ex WN23
Target 108	vO362114	Wn 108 ex WN23
Target 110	vO362129	North of Wn 108 ex WN23
Target 112	vO357143	Road Ham de Beauvais close to WN 140
Target 114	vO366145	WN 109 ex WN 25
Target 122	vO389143	STP 110 ex WN29
Target 124	vO395156	STP 111 ex WN30

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