

Serial 017

1 March 1944

Subject: War Diary for the month of February, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

(b). Received despatch orders for this ship and the U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES to report to Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 (Royal Navy) as relief for U.S.S. BROOKLYN (Naval Gunfire Support ANZIO beachhead); to be known as TG 81.8, Captain ANSEL CTF 81.8 (CTF 86 111225A/February 1944).

(c). Received the following ammunition from the U.S.S. BROOKLYN: 600 rds. 2800 f.s. powder of various indexes and 102 105# H.C. projectiles.

12 February

(a). Enroute TUNIS, TUNISIA to PALERMO, SICILY escorted by U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES. Commanding Officer this vessel O.T.C. 0040 Altered base course to 043°(T). 0100 Commenced zigzagging according to plan #11. 0213 Changed speed to 20 knots. Passed MARETTIMO ISLAND abeam to starboard seven miles. 0523 Entered swept channel to PALERMO. 0649 Pilot K.A. BUCK, U.S.N.R. came aboard. 0713 Moored in PALERMO harbor, port side to jetty Diga Foranea. 0750 U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES moored alongside to starboard. Received 99,770 gallons fuel oil. 0910 Commodore ZIROLI, U.S.N. came on board for transportation to NAPLES, ITALY. 0940 Pilot K.A. BUCK, U.S.N.R. reported aboard. 1025 Underway, stood out of PALERMO harbor enroute to NAPLES, ITALY course 005°(T), speed 24 knots. 1040 Pilot left. 1105 Changed course to 043°(T), speed 26 knots. 1130 Commenced zigzagging on base course 016°(T), plan #11, speed 25 knots. Pumped all gasoline 590 gallons over the side and flushed out tanks. 1717 Entered Gulf of NAPLES. 1823 Anchored in Gulf of NAPLES in 42 fathoms of water with 135 fathoms of chain to port anchor.

(b). Position: 0800 Moored in harbor PALERMO, SICILY.
1200 Lat: 38°-35' N - Long: 13°-35' E.
2000 Anchored in Gulf of NAPLES, ITALY.

13 February

(a). Reported to Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 Rear Admiral J.M. MANSFIELD (Royal Navy) as relief for BROOKLYN in Naval Gunfire Support missions at ANZIO.

(b). Anchored in Bay of NAPLES, ITALY. This vessel is part of TG 81.8 and is temporarily operating under Commander Cruiser Squadron 15. There were various units of the U.S., British and Italian fleets present. 1543 Underway, stood out of NAPLES harbor for familiarization sweep POZZUOLI, ISCHIA and approaches to ANZIO.

14 February

(a). In accordance with orders from Commander Cruiser Squadron 15, proceeded to ANZIO, ITALY. Arrived in Fire Support area at 0900, 14 February, 1944. In accordance with orders of Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 proceeded toward anchorage off POZZUOLI, ITALY.