

Serial 017.

1 March 1944

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

CONFIDENTIAL

(c). Shells from enemy shore batteries (88mm) landed in vicinity of mine sweepers clearing area to Northward. The small vessels were straddled many times. No direct hits noted. Total of fifteen shells noted.

16 and 17 February

(a). Anchored off Fort Dell'Ovo, NAPLES.

18 February

(a). 0830 Proceeded from NAPLES to TORRE ANNUNZIATA. 1447 Underway from anchorage TORRE ANNUNZIATA. 1539 Anchored in previously assigned berth off Fort Dell'Ovo, NAPLES.

(b). 2236 A succession of red Very's lights observed bearing 090°(T). Sounded submarine emergency, set special sea details. 2321 Secured from submarine emergency and set condition Baker plus.

(c). Received orders from Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 to proceed to ANZIO area, to arrive at 0900 19th. In the period 16-19 February considerable U-boat activity took place between Naples and Anzio. 3 LST's were sunk as was also the British cruiser PENELOPE. It was thought that the U-boat was working out of Gaeta or Terracina. The normal courses followed by ships were well known through German observation from, Cape Circio. This was capitalized upon by the U-boat working from the shoreward side of our route.

19 February

(a). 0336 Underway, screened by Hilary P. JONES proceeded to fire support area off ANZIO. Received orders from Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 to leave firing area prior to 1645. Received orders from Flag Officer, Western Italy to take U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES and U.S.S. MADISON under command leaving fire support area to proceed so as to pass through positions 041-30 N, 011-56 E at 2000 subsequently outside QB 146 as far as 042 N until 0100. Three enemy mine layers suspected to be enroute towards ANZIO. Carried out orders of Flag Officer Western Italy but search was unproductive.

(b). 0900 Entered fire support area. U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES and U.S.S. MADISON led the way. Communications with shore fire control party BNLO 30 were very poor. 0954 B-25 came low over water and crashed close to hospital ship anchored off ANZIO. Plane was one of formation of 24 B-25's heading south. Due to poor communication did not fire during morning. 1302 Ensign GITHENS, USNR (Naval Liaison Officer 50) reported aboard from ANZIO. Discussed communication and gunfire procedures with that officer. 1406 Commenced shore bombardment BNLO 30 spotting. No fire for effect called for. 1502 Started fire against enemy batteries at coordinates 840320, 68 rounds expended. 1507 Shells from enemy guns ashore dropped into eastern part of Channel E. Total of thirteen shells noted, no