

Serial 0014.

**SECRET**

Subject: War Diary for the month of May 1944.

9 May

(a) 0646 underway from SORRENTO to regularly assigned anchorage off NAPLES. 1823 underway from anchorage off NAPLES for routine dispersal of vessels and anchored in the BAY OF CASTELLAMMARE.

10 May

(a) 0703 shifted berth and anchored in regularly assigned berth off FORT DELL'OVO, NAPLES.

(b) Conducted practice of light weapons at towed sleeve during forenoon. At 1636 underway for dispersal anchorage; fired 5"/25 A.A. practice in E-W channel south of Naples anchorage, enroute at sleeve towed by Defiant A/C. Anchored at 1856 off CASTELLAMMARE in 13 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain.

11 to 13 May

(a) At 110701B shifted berth from BAY OF CASTELLAMMARE to regularly assigned anchorage off NAPLES.

(b) At 122010 underway and anchored in dispersal anchorage off CASTELLAMMARE and returned to regular anchorage off NAPLES at 130800B.

14 May

(a) 0331 Yellow Naples. Executed Yellow procedure. 0339 Red Naples. Sounded General Quarters. Shore A.A. batteries firing heavily. 0342 Two flares sighted bearing 020°R. At this time ship's head was 158°T, sea calm, wind 2 to 3 from 090°T, moon  $\frac{1}{2}$  19 bearing 130°T. Whaleboat stood out and dropped smoke pots to the eastward and these with the help of beach smoke were effective in covering area. Barometer 29.91; temperature 63°F. 0342 Report that planes (hostile) at 320°T, 10 miles. 0344 Bomb hit ashore off port beam 080°T; caused large explosion and flame. 0345 Plane seen burning and falling at 055°T and another a half minute later at 065°T. 0346 Plane went over ship at estimated altitude of 3 to 4 thousand feet; felt two explosions in water 10 seconds later. One plane seen in path of moon; unidentified. Planes could be heard overhead. 0351 Quiet in Naples area. 0354 A.A. batteries ashore opened up. 0356 No planes on SK screen; radar showed presence of large amount of "window". There was a continuous sound of detonating bombs on shore. Groups of not over 6 flares were noted on either bow.