

CL41/A12-1

Serial 0014.

SECRET

Reg. No. 660/
R.S. No. 60/ajk

Subject: War Diary for the month of May 1944.

(c) Commander Ragsdale proposed the cutting off of damaged upper and lower bow sections, rejoining of these sections to ship in proper alignment and rebuilding of damaged plating. Seven weeks was estimated as the time needed to complete.

(d) Dock Yard officials intimated a similiar plan as (c) above, but time estimates were much greater.

(e) No definite conclusions were reached. Commanding Officer offered ship's personnel and facilities to work with Yard on restoration of ship. Preliminary jobs to be undertaken by ship at night were agreed upon. Assistance of facilities under U.S. Navy at Palermo were also offered.

29 May

(a) Commander E.M. Ragsdale, USN detached, temporary duty completed. Work continuing on damaged sections of the bow. No definite plan as to work to be done as yet settled upon. See CO Secret letter CL41/L11-1, Serial 0012 of 30 May 1944, for complete report on collision and resulting damage.

30 and 31 May

(a) Although no decision reached as to extent and nature of work to be performed, ship's force and yard workmen proceeded with regular routine of clearing out damaged areas, and preparing for restoration.

(b) Considerable difficulty experienced in obtaining sufficient cooling water for main generator condensers. Yard can furnish only DC and therefore ship must run own generators. Difficulty overcome by piping a bomb damage dock leak into a 1200 gallon tank and running water by gravity, using fuel oil hose as piping, through the condenser.

(c) Drill schedules including loading drills, machine gun firing, close order infantry, were placed in effect. Special bills were written and promulgated setting forth Fire protection while in dock, A.A. measures and Watertight integrity provisions.

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