

10 October 1944.

S-E-C-R-E-T

Subject: War Diary for Month of September, 1944.

12. 23 thru 25 September.

(a) The ship got underway from inner harbor, PALERMO, Sicily at 1759, and anchored in the Gulf of PALERMO; remained at anchor until midnight, 24 September at which time ship got underway for MARSEILLES, France via the Straits of BONIFACIO in accordance with orders from Commander Task Force 86.

(b) On 24 September, while enroute to MARSEILLES, France, the ship conducted test firing of the main batteries and the forty and twenty millimeter batteries. Two planes were launched at 1627 to conduct a search of the area surrounding the Straits of BONIFACIO for the possible presence of "E" boats which had been reported earlier in the day. Both planes reported no observation of any enemy craft.

(c) The U.S.S. EDISON joined the PHILADELPHIA at 2220, 24 September, and took screening position ahead at a distance of five thousand (5000) yards.

(d) Position:

0800 - Lat. $39^{\circ}48'$ N, Long. $12^{\circ}06.3'$ E.

1200 - Lat. $40^{\circ}42'$ N, Long. $10^{\circ}52'$ E.

(e) On 25 September the ship entered Rade de MARSEILLES, France and anchored at 0755. Remained at anchor throughout the remainder of the day. A strong northwest mistral wind was blowing.