

Serial 017

1 March 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL4 to 8 February

(a). Position: ALGIERS, ALGERIA. Moored stern to in Berth 45, inner harbor.

(b). On Friday 4 February a fire was reported aboard the U.S.S. THOMAS STONE. Ensign BURROWS and fire fighting party were sent to the U.S.S. THOMAS STONE to assist. Fire was brought under control and Ensign BURROWS and party returned to this vessel. At 1430 Monday 7 February the Commanding Officer of the French Cruiser "GLOIRE" called officially on Commander Cruiser Division 8.

9 February

(a). 0814 U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES stood out of harbor. 0920 U.S.S. LANSDALE stood out of harbor. 1020 The French Cruiser DUGUAY TROUIN stood into inner harbor. 1237 Received Pilot R. MARALLE on board. At 1252 stood out of ALGIERS harbor. 1405 Held anti-aircraft target practice at towed sleeve. 1700 Set base course 090°(T), speed 19 knots, zig-zagging according to plan #11, enroute to BIZERTE, TUNISIA escorted by U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES and U.S.S. LANSDALE. Acting under despatch orders of CTF 86.

(b). The following ammunition was expended for target practice: 6"/47 Cal. battery: 9 rds. SPD 3135 (2500 f.s.) and 9 rds. H.C. projectiles and 9 Mk 8 mechanical time fuzes. 5"/25 Cal. battery: 34 rds. SPDN 4159 and 31 rds. SPDN 4325. 20MM battery: 360 rds. SPDN 3751 and 180 rds. SPDN 5252.

10 February

(a). Enroute ALGIERS, ALGERIA to TUNIS, TUNISIA escorted by the U.S.S. LANSDALE and U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES. Base course 088°(T), speed 16 knots, zig-zagging according to plan #11.

(b). Destination changed from BIZERTE, TUNISIA to Bay of TUNIS, TUNISIA because of weather which would have interfered with transfers to be effected with U.S.S. BROOKLYN.

(c). 1422 Anchored in Bay of TUNIS in 7 fathoms of water with 60 fathoms of chain to port anchor. 2255 U.S.S. BROOKLYN stood in and anchored.

(d). Position: 0800 Lat: 37°- 16' N - Long: 8°- 52' E
1200 Lat: 37°- 16' N - Long: 10°- 10' E

11 February

(a). Anchored in Bay of TUNIS. Rear Admiral DAVIDSON, ComCruDiv 8 and CTF 86 transferred with his staff to the U.S.S. BROOKLYN. All aviation personnel attached to this ship were transferred to NAF, TUNIS, for temporary duty. 2016 Underway, stood out of Bay of TUNIS, enroute to PALERMO, SICILY; course 059°(T), speed twenty-two (22) knots, accompanied by U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES. Commanding Officer U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA O.T.C.