

Serial 017

1 March 1944

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

CONFIDENTIAL

(b). Position: 0800 Lat: 41°-04'-15" N - Long: 12°-29' E
 1200 Lat: 41°-13'-10" N - Long: 12°-31' E

(c). Ship at General Quarters in preparation for shore bombardment. 0825 Changed course to 035° (T). 0854 Noted shells landing on shore to left of ANZIO. 0907 Captain took Conn on Open Bridge. U.S.S. WOOLSEY and U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES led formation through swept channels into fire support area. 0929 Bombs landed in transport area to southwest of ANZIO. 0934 U.S.S. WOOLSEY and U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES started to make smoke to screen this vessel from enemy shore observation. 0937 H.M.S. INGLEFIELD and H.M.S. URCHIN joined in making smoke. 1307 This vessel made smoke. Smoke did not lie very well.

(d). Commenced shore bombardment at 0947. Fired a total of eight missions with targets, coordinates, rounds expended and results in each case as indicated on attached sheets. 1147 Secured from firing and proceeded out to sea for noon meal. 1238 Returned to fire support area.

(e). 1421 Shells from shore batteries landed in various places in fire support area. Commenced evasive maneuvers. At 1432 ship bracketed by shells, distance to splashes 600 yards. Total of sixteen shells landed in area of PHILADELPHIA and destroyers. No hits or damage sustained, and at 1500 secured from firing for the day.

(f). 1537 P-40 came in very low over the water and passed close over U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES. PHILADELPHIA opened fire with 5", 40 mm and 20 mm batteries. No hits noted. Plane was later definitely identified as friendly but actions on part of pilot were contrary to all orthodox friendly doctrines. It was later revealed that a plane had been forced to land in the water and it was believed that the pilot of this P-40 had been attempting to call our attention to the crashed plane. 1930 Anchored off POZZUOLI, joined there by U.S.S. LANSDALE.

15 February

(a). Underway at 0600 screened by U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES and U.S.S. LANSDALE. Stood out of Bay of POZZUOLI headed for ANZIO fire support area. 0915 Arrived off ANZIO.

(b). Scheduled to commence firing at 1100, ship in all respects ready to start shooting at that time. U.S.S. LANSDALE, U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES plus H.M.S. INGLEFIELD and H.M.S. URCHIN made smoke screen as this vessel steamed on east and west courses in fire support area. Communications with P-51 plane which had been ordered to spot for the firing could not be established. At 1130 commenced firing shore bombardment in support of 6th. Corps, complete results of firing as noted on attached sheet, spotting by NLO 30 was most erratic, fire for effect was not given, ranges were extreme and communications very poor. At 1254 P-51 plane which had arrived for spotting was hit by "flak" and forced to return to base. 1330 Left ANZIO area. 1757 Anchored off Fort Dell'Ovo, NAPLES.

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