

Serial 017.

1 March 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

hits scored. 1526 Received urgent call from shore fire control party to open up on enemy at 776333. 1557 Took enemy battery under fire, expended 47 rounds; reports indicated that firing had been effective. 1603 Maneuvered to clear firing area. 1625 Transferred MLO 50 (Ensign GITHENS, USNR) to PC boat. Transferred stores and fresh provisions to PC boat for distribution to LCT's and other small craft. 1650 Left area H-ray.

(c). 19 February marked the second of enemy unsuccessful heavy scale effort to break into bridge head. It was reported that fire from PHILADELPHIA in afternoon of this day contributed importantly in stopping enemy.

20 February

(a). Carried out sweep in accordance with orders of Flag Officer Western Italy. No contact made. 0922 U.S.S. MADISON left formation and proceeded on preassigned duty ANZIO. PHILADELPHIA and Hilary P. JONES steamed at various courses and speeds off ANZIO waiting call for gunfire support. 1005 In execution of orders CCS 15 set course and proceeded to POZZUOLI. 1415 Anchored off POZZUOLI. On short notice (1/2 hour) for ANZIO area.

21 to 25 February

(a). Anchored POZZUOLI, ITALY. On 22 February proceeded to NAPLES, anchored off Fort Dell'Ovo. With approval of Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 (Royal Navy) proceeded on 23 February to TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Recreation parties visited Pompeii. Returned to anchorage in NAPLES area on 24 February at 1800.

(b). During the evening of 21 February "RED" alert reported in NAPLES area; sounded General Quarters. No hostile planes reported. At 2237 22 February observed anti-aircraft firing bearing 320°(T) to 020°(T); sounded General Quarters. No hostile planes reported in area.

(c). On 22 February U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES moored alongside to port and delivered 60,869 gallons of fuel oil. On 22 February received 80 T.N.T. demolition blocks (1 1/4 lb. each, and assemblies for use against limpet attack.

26 February

(a). Received despatch orders from Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 to proceed to ANZIO fire support area, to arrive off PONZA ISLAND at sunrise. 0204 Underway with U.S.S. Hilary P. JONES and U.S.S. LANSDALE for ANZIO. 0402 Picked up radar surface target bearing 252°(T), distance 22,300 yards. U.S.S. LANSDALE left station to investigate stranger. At 0427 U.S.S. LANSDALE obtained proper reply and identified stranger as friendly tug. 0550 Unidentified vessel gave radio distress signals; later ascertained that vessel was LST which had grounded NW side of PONZA ISLAND. Heavy sea running from NW, visibility poor.