

Serial 041

**U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA**  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
New York, New York.  
1 April 1944.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To : Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Subject: War Diary for the month of March, 1944.  
Enclosure: (A) Pictures of MT. VESUVIUS in action.

1 to 6 March

(a) Anchored off FORT DELL'OVO, NAPLES, ITALY in 34 fathoms of water with 130 fathoms of chain to port anchor on the following bearings: FORT DELL'OVO 021°(T), DUCA D'AOSTA LIGHT 064°(T), CARMINE TOWER 034°(T). PHILADELPHIA, with U.S.S. LANSDALE and U.S.S. HILARY P. JONES, operated as Task Group 81.8 (CTG 81.8 in PHILADELPHIA). Task Group 81.8 assigned to Commander Cruiser Squadron 15 (Rear Admiral J.M. Mansfield, R.N. aboard H.M.S. ORION).

(b) Task Group 81.8 remained at short notice (1/2 hour) to proceed to fire support area off ANZIO. No call received for gunfire support during entire period.

7 to 10 March

(a) At 071729A underway from NAPLES, ITALY for PALERMO, SICILY screened by U.S.S. LANSDALE and U.S.S. HILARY P. JONES. At 080750A moored port side to Jetty Diga Foranea, PALERMO. Took on fuel, ammunition and provisions. 100759A departed from PALERMO, SICILY with U.S.S. LANSDALE and U.S.S. HILARY P. JONES as screen proceeded to NAPLES, ITALY. 102729 anchored off FORT DELL'OVO, NAPLES in 41 fathoms of water with 150 fathoms of chain to the port anchor. Passage from NAPLES to PALERMO and return was made in accordance with despatch orders of Commander Cruiser Division Eight (CTF 86).

11 March

(a) 0115 Anti-aircraft batteries ashore commenced firing. No targets reported on radars aboard this vessel. 0314 Combat reported unidentified plane in the harbor area. 0315 Heavy anti-aircraft fire in harbor area; splash in water bearing 090°(R), distant 40 yards. 0318 Sounded General Quarters. 0320 Red alert reported over NAPLES. 0324 Commenced heaving in chain. 0333-Condition White over NAPLES; heavy smoke screen in harbor area as result of smoke pots used by shore and ship units. 0344 Secured from General Quarters.

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