

Serial 041

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

CONFIDENTIAL -----

(b) Fired one ranging salvo for Fizzing at extreme range (24,820), at 1052. Fizzing had reported heavy flak and that he could not see very well. He gave an up spot of 3,000 yards on the ranging salvo which was beyond our range. Endeavored to have him locate batteries firing at us, but he was unsuccessful.

(c) At point "E" changed course down channel "E" - "Q". Enemy shells followed the ship's track down and 3000 yards south of "E".

(d) Reported to FOO 1 that naval gunfire support was considered unfeasible from channels available because of enemy shellfire and requested his reaction. Made a similar report in more detail to Commander Cruiser Squadron 15. Stood out to the southward at 18 knots.

(e) On orders of CCS 15 returned to NAPLES anchorage.

14 March

(a) Nothing of interest to report.

15 March

(a) 0125 Planes reported over NAPLES. Sounded General Quarters. Anti-aircraft batteries ashore opened fire. 0127 Harbor circuit announced condition RED in NAPLES area. 0128 Approximately twenty flares dropped over the harbor area of NAPLES, flares were of two colors; white and yellow; of about eight minutes duration. 0129 Commenced preparations for getting underway. 0130 Stick of bombs (three or four bombs) landed in water close to transport bearing 015(R), distant 3,500 yards. 0131 Three or four bombs landed dead ahead distant 1200 yards. At this time entire harbor area was brightly lighted up by flares. Smoke becoming very effective in covering lower portion of port area. Control reported no solution on planes in the vicinity. 0133 Sky Forward on plane. 0133 Three or four bombs landed between this ship and hospital ship bearing 010°(R), distant 1800 yards, no direct hits noted. 0136 Bombs landed ashore causing large explosion and flames, bearing 350°(R); Combat reported nothing on the SK radar, but one plane clearly seen in beam of searchlights. 0137 Sky Forward on plane coming in from 8,000 yards; stopped making stack smoke which was black and did not blend with white smoke pouring from smoke pots. Engineer room reported it would be ready to answer all bells by 0200. No more flares in area. Ship blanketed by smoke from shore. 0142 All stations manned for General Quarters and ship in Materiel Condition "ABLE"; anchor at short stay, 75 fathoms. Captain ordered more smoke pots