

Serial 0014.

SECRET

Subject: War Diary for the month of May 1944.

The flares however did not aid in illumination; smoke cover was heavy and appeared to be effective. Some bombs were undoubtedly dropped nearby in the water as the ship was shaken by their concussion repeatedly. 0407 Report received from Combat that hostile planes at 320°T, 25 miles. 0410 Engineer room reported ready to get underway on 2 boilers. Hostile planes appeared to be 20 miles to the northwest. Permission granted to engineer room to turn over engines every three minutes. 0415 Large amount of window still on radar screen on bearing 030°T. 0442 All clear; secured from General Quarters. Reports later received that hostile aircraft had dropped approximately 18 circling torpedoes in Naples harbor and surrounding waters. No report was received until about 0615.

(b) 0609 underway from Bay of NAPLES, ITALY, in company with U.S.S. BOYLE and U.S.S. KENDRICK, proceeding to fire support area off GAETA, ITALY. 0923 Approached point "A". Destroyers in column ahead, KENDRICK leading. Speed 22 knots. Sea calm, wind 6 knots from 000°T, visibility 5,000 feet, barometer 29.93, temperature 65°F. Two sections of fighters furnishing cover; 2 planes low (at 4,500 feet) and two high (at 11,000 feet). In contact with FOO and gave him our desires for precedence of targets, namely 1, 9 and 7 for the 1000 mission. 0925 changed speed to 15 knots, coming to 000°T in channel "A". 0932 Chief Engineer reported bad steam leak on #2 engine and requested permission to slow down turns on this engine and make them up on other engines while making repairs; permission granted. 0950 Established communications with "Fizzing", spotting plane. 0953 Changed course to 090°T, changed speed to 10 knots. At this time the visibility was still bad. Shore could not be seen. Set up on target No. 1 but Fizzing was lost and then he requested a wait as he was apparently engaged in a dogfight with enemy planes. 1010 Fizzing again requested a wait as he was in dogfight. 1016 Commenced firing on target No. 1 (170 mm heavy gun at 587973). 1030 Changed course to right coming to 270°T. 1046 Expended 99 rounds and completed firing on target No. 1; plane reported right on target; firing effective. 1052 Commenced firing on target No. 7 (Town of ITRI at 608989). Target No. 9 was out of range at this time. 1058 Out of range; changed course to right to 090°(T). 1107 Changed course to 095°T to give DDs more sea room in channel. 1111 Fizzing reported that clouds obscured observations on target. Captain ordered 30 rounds unobserved fire at No. 7. 1115 Fizzing reported that he must leave area. 1119 Completed firing on target No. 7 having expended 91 rounds with effective results. Changed course to 270°T. 1130 All engines reported back in commission. 1207 Between 1125 and 1207 set Modified Material Condition "A" and carried out battle feeding. On course 090°T, speed 10 knots, getting set up on target No. 10 (Medium battery at 627933). 1219 Commenced firing on target No. 10. 1236 Completed firing on target No. 10 having expended 48 rounds and straddled the target.