

Serial 0014.

Subject: War Diary for the month of May 1944.

16 May

(a) 0718 shifted berth to anchorage off NAPLES. 0950 broke flag of Vice Admiral H.K. Hewitt, USN (ComNavNaw) and hauled down flag of Rear Admiral L.A. Davidson, USN (ComCruDiv 8). Vice Admiral Hewitt inspected personnel and main and second decks. 1104 broke flag of Rear Admiral Davidson and hauled down flag of Vice Admiral Hewitt.

17 May

(a) Underway from anchorage in POZZUOLI enroute to bombardment area off GAETA in accordance with CTF 86 orders; U.S.S. KENDRICK and U.S.S. LAUB screening. 0800 Sounded General Quarters. Conditions prevailing at this time: Base course 310°T, zigzagging in accordance with diagram No. 11 at 1/2 time intervals, speed 20 knots, barometer 29.79, temperature 67°F, sky overcast with strato-cumulus clouds predominant, wind 6 knots from 220°(T), visibility 5,000 to 6,000 yards. 0810 Four planes reported as fighter cover; 2 at 4,000 feet and 2 at 11,000 feet. 0855 Sighted U.S.S. KEARNY returning from GAETA patrol on opposite parallel course to starboard; CTF 86 ordered that vessel to return to NAPLES. 0925 Approached point "A". Changed speed to 15 knots. Visibility improved to 15,000 yards. 0926 Changed speed to 12 knots, changed course to 000°T. Entered channel "A" (western channel). Contacted Fire Direction Center. 1002 Changed course to 090°T. Entered area "B", firing area. In contact with Fizzing (spotting plane). 1011 Commenced firing to port, range 24,250 yards at target (2 medium guns) at coordinates 572954. 1023 Plane reported that clouds over target area hampered observations; ceased firing having expended 15 rounds. 1026 Commenced firing at one heavy gun at coordinates 58597-95737. 1031 Completed firing on coordinates 58597-95737 having expended 54 rounds; plane reported area well covered, no activity in area. 1039 Changed course to right to 270°T. 1046 Set up on 572954; fired 11 rounds which were unobserved due to presence of clouds. 1059 Fired six rounds at target of opportunity reported by spotting plane. This target was a concrete emplacement on the beach at coordinates 549-922. 1103 Changed course to 210 T. Modified condition "A" for ventilation and commenced battle feeding. 1120 Changed course to 180°T, changed speed to 15 knots. 1150 Set condition "A". 1202 Changed course to 045°T. 1216 Changed course to 090°T, changed speed to 12 knots. In firing area "B". 1220 Commenced firing on one heavy gun at coordinates 582-960, range 22,240 yards. 1233 Changed course to right to 280°T. 1240 Ceased firing having expended 49 rounds on this target; area well covered. 1249 Commenced firing on three medium guns at coordinates 596-976 opening range 22,380 yards. 1251 Changed course to right to 090°T. 1255 Changed course to 080°T in order to close range.