

Serial 0014

SECRETSubject: War Diary for the month of May 1944.

condition "A" below the third deck but continued to drop small depth charges at irregular intervals from whaleboat.

21 May

(a) In standby condition of alert against limpet attack. No attack developed and at 0657 shifted berth to regular anchorage off FORT DELL'OVO, NAPLES.

(b) PHILADELPHIA has been designated as firing cruiser for shore bombardment off GAETA; assumed duties as ready vessel at 0001. Upon receipt of information that Allied troops had occupied GAETA and patrols had entered TERRACINA, orders for bombardment off GAETA were cancelled.

22 May

(a) In accordance with orders of local shore authorities commenced making preparations at 0100 against possible limpet attack. 0336 "Yellow" NAPLES; executed "yellow" procedure. 0344 "Red" NAPLES; sounded General Quarters. No unidentified planes reported in immediate vicinity. 0420 "White" NAPLES; secured from General Quarters. 0515 Ceased dropping depth charges and secured from precautionary measures against limpet attack.

(b) During forenoon conducted antiaircraft practice with sleeve towed by Defiant plane; fired 5 rounds 5"/25 cal. and brought down sleeve. U.S.S. BROOKLYN also fired anti-aircraft batteries at towed sleeve.

(c) At 1801 this vessel was designated as ready cruiser for firing off ANZIO in support of 6th Corps; gunfire support to be furnished in accordance with Operation Order "BUFFALO". 1902 underway and shifted berth to POZZUOLI.

(d) At 2334 underway in company with U.S.S. LAUB and U.S.S. KENDRICK as screen enroute to firing area off ANZIO. Steamed at various courses and speeds through swept channel.

23 May

(a) Steaming in company with U.S.S. KENDRICK and U.S.S. LAUB as screen enroute to firing area off ANZIO to furnish gunfire support to the FIFTH ARMY in accordance with Operation Plan "BUFFALO". U.S.S. KENDRICK screening to starboard and U.S.S. LAUB to port. On various courses and speeds to arrive in firing area at 0530. 0330 Sounded General Quarters.