

S E C R E T:

12 June 1945.

Subject: War diary for the month of May 1945.

5. 16 May 1945

(a) The ship was steaming independently en route to the Gulf of Paria on base course 140(T), speed 15 knots zigzagging in accordance with plan no. 16(BR-248). Various courses were followed until 1014 when ship entered swept channel leading into the Gulf. At 1054, the ship anchored in berth Baker 3 in the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad, British West Indies. Commenced fueling from barges alongside to port at 1130 and completed fueling at 1635.

(b) Because of the inability of the ship to recover aircraft due to faulty crane 4 officers and 17 enlisted men of the aviation unit were transferred for temporary training duty to the Naval Air Station, Trinidad, British West Indies.

(c) The ship remained at anchor the rest of the night.

6. 17 through 24 May 1945

(a) The ship got underway at 0711 from berth Baker 3 en route to the exercise area to continue refresher training exercises and practices. During the period of the next 8 days the ship remained in the exercise area in the Gulf of Paria continuing refresher training program in accordance with enclosure (A). Upon completion of the 8 day program the ship returned to anchor at berth Baker 3, Trinidad, British West Indies.

(b) At 0745, 24 May as the ship was preparing to get underway it was discovered that after the turning gear in no. 4 main engine had been in operation for one hour and 15 minutes the drive shaft could not be removed. Numerous remedies were attempted which included small ship movements with other engine shafts, turning the jacking motor ahead and back with a strain on the drive shaft; but all efforts were unsuccessful until 1900 on 26 May when the shaft was removed after a circular strong back was bolted in place of the drive shaft handle and a pressure applied to the low speed gear hub. Satisfactory operation of this machinery was successfully obtained after overhaul by the ship's force.

18 May 1945

Ammunition expended:

6"/47 Cal. Battery

56 rds - B.L. and T. projectile (130 lbs)  
15 rds - A.P. projectiles (130 lbs)  
10 rds - H.C. projectiles (105 lbs)

6 925