

CM5/A9-4

CM5 SERIAL 0126

CONFIDENTIAL

U. S. S. TERROR

c/o FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

229
Reg. No. 01133
R. S. No.
13 May 1945.

WAR DIARY FOR APRIL 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATING AS FLAGSHIP OF COMINPAC, REAR ADMIRAL ALEXANDER SHARP, C.T.G. 52.2.

1. Anchored in Kerama Kaikyo, Kerama Retto, performing various services for minecraft.
2. 0621 Fired 2 rounds 5"/38 cal. A.A.C., 28 rounds 40MM HET and 224 rounds 20MM HET and HEI at Japanese plane. 0855 Commenced firing at Japanese plane which dived in water about 600 yards away. Expended 16 rounds 40MM HET.
3. 0116 Fired at enemy plane, ammunition expended 489 rounds 40MM HET and 631 rounds 20MM HET and HEI. We stayed in Condition 1 "EASY" throughout the night. Have been warned to be prepared for enemy air attacks in force at any time also repeated warnings of Japanese swimmers, suicide boats and "buzz bombs". At night we have special deck sentries armed to repel boarding and maintain a picket boat cruising about the ship with armed sentries.
4. During the afternoon the swivel on the starboard anchor chain uncoupled and we lost the starboard anchor and it was necessary to get underway to resume our proper berth.
5. Remained at anchor performing various logistic services for minecraft.
6. For four hours in late afternoon we had numerous attacks by Japanese planes from all bearings, we also received aboard survivors from L.S.T. 447 and SS LOGAN VICTORY. Both ships were hit by suicide planes in our vicinity. We clothed and treated for immersion all of these people in addition to firing at planes and furnishing rescue boats. Ammunition expended 87 rounds 5"/38 cal. A.A.C., 346 rounds 40MM HET and 89 rounds 20MM HEI and HET. Our gun fire definitely hit two of the attacking planes but in view of the large number of ships firing at these planes it is not possible to claim credit for their destruction.
- 7-19. Anchored in Kerama Retto performing logistic services for minecraft, having numerous raids by enemy aircraft, however the C.A.P. has kept the enemy outside of effective range of our guns, we are laying smoke screens several times each night and going to general quarters whenever enemy aircraft are in the vicinity. We are also assisting by receiving casualties from ships hit by suicide planes.
20. Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp, Commander Minecraft, U.S. Pacific Fleet, hoisted his flag in USCGC BIBB, but staff remained aboard this vessel.

121937

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 21-27. Anchored in Kerama Retto performing logistic services for minecraft.
28. At 1929 the U.S.S. PINKNEY anchored nearby was hit by an enemy suicide plane. At 1944 we fired 30 rounds of 40MM HET and HEI and 172 rounds of 20MM HEI and HET ammunition at an enemy plane. At 2026 we fired 35 rounds of 5"/38 cal. ammunition at another enemy plane. Both of these were attempting suicide attacks. Due to the number of ships in the anchorage which fire at enemy planes it is not possible to evaluate our fire even though a number of planes are brought down. We received aboard a number of casualties from the U.S.S. PINKNEY, treated them and transferred them to the U.S.S. HOPE. Our power boats and medical officers were all sent to the PINKNEY's aid.
29. At 0114 we fired 42 rounds of 40MM HET ammunition at a Japanese plane.
30. During this month we have gone to general quarters 93 times. The shortest period was seven minutes and the longest, six and one half hours. The enemy is making full use of high speed, weak IFF and running lights in their air attacks. The use of our air search radar for close in detection and ranging has been seriously handicapped by the fact that we are almost totally surrounded at close range by land.


H.W. BLAKESLEE.