

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Monday

Date Sept. 13, 1943.

20 to 24:

(Cont'd). number of flares dropped by planes bearing 350°(R)- 000 (R). Approximate range 36,000 yards. One outstanding flare dropped burst into many smaller ones which in turn streamed down giving the impression of being a burning plane, after having exploded. 2103 Observed many flares and A.A. fire bearing 330°(T), 15 miles. 2104 Commenced firing main battery at coordinates 885-220 to 885-335. 2110 Plane heard going over ship, going to port. 2112 Heard bomb fall into water. Report received on bridge that it had landed in the wake but no range was given. CTF 86 said to make smoke; commenced making smoke. 2113 Many friendly and hostile signals to the North. CTF 86 said to stop smoke. Stopped smokeing. 2117 Sounded General Quarters. 2118 AA fire at 020°(R); saw plane burning and then crash at 110°(R); very large explosion and fire in the vicinity of the airfield. 2132 Ceased firing. 2150 Changed course to 155°(T). 2156 Secured from condition "ABLE". 2211 Commenced firing main battery at coordinates 881-160. 2236 Changed course to 325°(T). 2243 Commenced firing at coordinates 877-228. 2309 Commenced firing on large strip of road with 7 targets on it. Firing 10 rounds at each target. 2328 Ceased firing; changed course to 155°(T). 2348 Commenced firing on first set of coordinates 893-241. NOTE: Numerous Radar contacts were made on planes which were never identified. During the entire watch numerous flares, considerable A.A. fire and very heavy bombing could be seen in the area from northwest of Salerno to area beyond Naples. Artillery fire ashore in the general area of our firing was also noted to be very heavy. The bombing may have been done by Allied planes as the Radar plot screen showed many large groups of friendly planes at various times in that area.

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