

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Tuesday

Date Sept. 14, 1943.

0 to 4:

As before. Steaming as before at 3.5 knots on course 155°(T) in Fire Support area off Salerno, ITALY, conducting shore bombardment on targets being designated by Fifth U.S. Army Shore Fire Control Parties off AVALANCHE area. 0015 Commenced main battery fire at target at coordinates 948-223. 0018 Checked fire. 0023 Resumed fire. 0030 Ceased fire having expended 60 rounds on this target. 0036 Changed course to 155°(T). 0039 Commenced firing main battery at target 877-228. 0056 Message from SFCP: Cease firing. 0110 Enemy planes reported in area by Radar plot; ceased firing; commenced evasive maneuvers; set material condition "ABLE". 0112 Planes reported friendly, set material condition "BAKER" plus; changed speed to 3.5 knots; changed course to 155°(T). 0120 Turret #2 out of commission temporarily and permission granted to break "B" fittings to to break out necessary gear to put Turret #2 in commission. Turret in commission and ready to fire on next firing. 0130 Received coordinates 890-170 to 890-140 from SFCP. Rechecked these coordinates. 0146 Two unidentified planes 306°(T), 7 miles. Ahead full speed, 25°right rudder. 0207 Commenced firing main battery at coordinates 890-170 to 890-140, firing course 155°(T), speed 3.5 knots. 0209 Radar plot reported large group of unidentified planes 265°(T), 6 miles. Set condition "ABLE". 0216 Ceased firing. Commenced maneuvering in fire support area, standing by for further word from SFCP. 0223 Changed course to 335°(T). 0224 Secured from condition "ABLE". 0234 Commenced firing main battery at targets at coordinates 887-220. 0245 Ceased firing. 0246 After repeated 1 minute rapid fire calls had been answered SFCP said "Very good". We are under attack. Stand by. 0321 Commenced firing main battery on coordinates 885-235 to 890-243. Close supporting fire. No change, no change. Repeatedly asked for rapid fire and all calls were answered. 0334 Ceased firing. SFCP: Thank you. Standby. 0357 Commenced firing on target area from 888-239 to 890-243. NOTE: Made numerous Radar contacts on both friendly and unidentified aircraft.

R.L. Caton
R.L. CATON
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

4 to 8:

As before. 0405 Ceased firing; mission completed. 0406 Changed course to 160°(T). 0458 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II Port Watch on all A.A. batteries and Lookouts, condition III on all other stations. 0520 Changed course to 335°(T). 0614 Changed course to 000°(T). 0628 Changed course to 335°(T). 0650 Changed speed to 5 knots. 0709 Changed course to 335°(T). 0710 Changed course to 160°(T). 0718 Changed speed to 3.5 knots. NOTE: Numerous Radar contacts made on friendly planes.

W.A. Fite
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Lieut. (jg), U.S.N.

8 to 12:

As before. 0800 Position: Lat: 40°30'-15" N, Long: 14°-51'-00" E. 0800 Patrolling in Salerno Bay, Salerno, ITALY in Fire Support area on various courses and speeds. 0930 General Quarters - "RED" alert. 0932 Changed speed to 15 knots. 0935 Changed speed to 20 knots, commenced evasive maneuvers. 0948 Condition "WHITE", changed speed to 10 knots; set condition "BAKER" plus. 0950 Changed speed to 5 knots. 0955 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on A.A. battery and Lookouts, condition III Surface on all other stations. NOTE: The following Service ammunition was expended on the 6"/47 battery for Shore Fire Support, between the hours of 2100 and 0900 Sept. 13 th. and 14th: 915 rds. of powder charges; 915 rds. of H.C. projectiles. NOTE: Made numerous Radar contacts on friendly and unidentified planes.

E.W. Bryant
E.W. BRYANT
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

12 to 16:

As before. Position: Lat: 40°-28'-43" N, Long: 14°-53' E. 1247 Changed

Approved:

Paul Hendren
PAUL HENDREN
Captain, U.S. Navy.

Examined:

C.G. Gesen
C.G. GESEN,
Comdr., DEV-G, U.S.N.R.