

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CI41) Wednesday

Date Sept. 15, 1943.

0 to 4:

As before. 0000 Steaming along at various speeds and on various courses maneuvering within prescribed limits of Fire Support area off Agropoli, ITALY. Intermittent bomb bursts, flares and artillery fire noted throughout the morning over the land areas. One Liberty ship which was on fire since the early afternoon of the 14th. lighted up the entire harbor of Agropoli. The smoke screen layed down by small vessels throughout the entire southern transport area was very effective. 0055 Transport planes commenced dropping parachute troops on beaches. 0350 A very large explosion observed as ship burning in transport area blew up.

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Lieut., U.S.N.R.

4 to 8:

As before. 0545 Sunrise General Quarters. 0626 Underway on course 330°(T) speed 15 knots for Fire Support area #2 of operational area, to furnish Fire Support for SFCP No. 4. 0640 Changed speed to 5 knots for firing position. 0728 Changed course to 350°(T). 0734 "YELLOW" alert in Avalanche area south. Set material condition "ABLE". 0735 "RED" alert in area. 0740 Commenced firing main battery for shore bombardment on coordinates 920-140. Firing course 350°(T), speed 5 knots. 0743 Ceased firing main battery until alert is over. Ahead 20 knots. Heavy fire in the southern transport area (AA). Saw bombs fall in transport area and one LCM smoking, result of bomb hit. Maneuvering at high speeds and hard right and left rudders during imminent attacks. 0758 Friendly fighters reported that hostile aircraft flying at an altitude between 8,000 and 11,000 feet headed north.

B.S. Head
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Lieut.(jg), U.S.N.

8 to 12:

As before. 0800 Position: Lat: 40°-15'-14" N, Long: 14°-56'-17" E. 0801 Fighter circuit reports 3 planes to the south. 0810 "YELLOW" alert in southern area. Changed speed to 5 knots. No hostile aircraft seen during the alert. 0813 Changed course to 160°(T). 0823 PHILADELPHIA took over Radar guard. 0824 Condition "WHITE". 0835 Secured from material condition "ABLE" set "BAKER" plus. 0845 Enemy planes in area. 0920 Changed speed to 15 knots. 0922 Changed speed to 5 knots. 0925 "RED" alert; 0930 Set material condition "ABLE"; maneuvering at high speeds on various courses, using hard right and left rudder. Friendly fighters reported 10 or more hostile planes in the area. 0940 Changed speed to 25 knots, zig-zagging at Flank speed. 0943 Changed speed to 20 knots. 0952 "YELLOW" alert in southern area. 1000 Observed white object high up directly overhead. Appeared to be a ballon. Changed speed to 15 knots. 1026 Changed speed to 10 knots, steaming on course 155°(T). 1036 Changed course to 345°(T). 1037 Set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1040 Forward Gyro reported out of commission. 1115 Changed course to 160°(T). 1120 Cut out forward Gyro for repairs. 1144 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE", commenced evasive maneuvers. 1146 Lookouts reported plane overhead, very high. 25 right rudder. 1159 Friendly fighters reported hostile aircraft flying south of Agropoli.

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12 to 16:

As before. 1200 Position: Lat: 40°-30'-00" N, Long: 14°-51'-00" E. 1207 Hostile planes reported over Agropoli headed for the airfield. 1212 Saw three bombs fall in the transport area. 1214 Commenced firing A.A. batteries to starboard at enemy planes. 10 to 12 planes in this attack believed to be FW-190s. None hit by this vessels fire. 1215 One plane seen to fall near LST in transport area. Not the result of this vessel's firing. 1216 Ceased firing; enemy planes retired to the eastward. No other attacks developed although friendly fighters reported hostile aircraft in the vicinity. 1308 Secured from alert, set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1322 Changed speed to 5 knots,

Approved:

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Examined:

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