

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Wednesday

Date Sept. 15, 1943.

12 to 16:

(Cont'd). changed course to 340°(T). 1347 Commenced firing main battery on target 957-147. Furnishing deep supporting fire. Course 340°(T), speed 5 knots. 1352 Changed course to 330°(T). 1412 SFCP reported mission completed; ceased firing. Set material condition "BAKER" plus. Changed course to 160°(T). 1453 Condition "RED", 12 hostile planes north of Agropoli. 1458 Planes identified as friendly fighters, condition "WHITE", secured from alert. Changed course to 330°(T). 1520 Changed course to 155°(T). 1534 "YELLOW" alert; unidentified planes reported east of Salerno. 1559 Secured from alert.

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16 to 20:

As before. 1625 "YELLOW" alert; set material condition "ABLE". 1640 AA fire observed bearing 155°(T), commenced evasive maneuvers. 1642 "RED" alert; changed speed to 15 knots. 1643 Commenced firing main battery at target 915-145. 1644 Changed course to 335°(T). 1647 Changed speed to 10 knots. 1704 Set material condition "BAKER" plus. Condition "WHITE". 1729 Changed speed to 15 knots; changed course to 155°(T). 1730 Large group of B-26s sighted overhead. 1742 Changed course to 340°(T). 1748 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE", commenced evasive maneuvers. 1752 Large group of planes reported bearing 020°(T) 25 miles. 1804 Ships in area attacked by large group of fighter-bombers; commenced firing A.A. battery to port. Planes coming in just abaft the port beam, crossing to starboard. Three planes seen to fall from heavy A.A. fire. One plane brought down by this vessels A.A. (5"/25) fire. Attack lasted for only 45 seconds from time of diving attack until last shot was fired by this vessel. LST in transport area seen burning immediately after attack was over-apparently hit by bomb. 1805 Condition "YELLOW"; changed speed to 5 knots, changed course to 155°(T). 1811 25 right rudder. 1812 TBS: Planes attacking AGROPOLI are ME-109s. 1813 Lookouts reported planes 010°(R), elevation 20. 1830 Unloaded one gun of Turret #2 through the muzzle. Gun had been loaded with 3 second time fuze projectile for repelling low altitude attack. 1844 Commenced firing main battery at artillery at coordinates 900-180. 1904 SFCP requested cease firing as they could not observe due to heavy artillery firing smoke. 1910 Changed course to 335°(T). 1927 Resumed firing at target 900-180. Heavy A.A. fire over the beach area. B-25s seen flying over the area and far above A.A. bursts.

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20 to 24:

As before. 2000 Position: Lat: 40°-31'-15" N, Long: 14°-52'-45" E. 2003 Ceased firing; "WHITE" alert set in area; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 2007 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on all Gunnery stations, condition III Surface on all other stations. Changed course to 155°(T). 2106 A stick of 3 or 4 bombs, landed in the water to port about 1,000 to 1,500 yards away. 2107 Sounded General Quarters; set material condition "ABLE"; commenced evasive maneuvers. Board was clear in Radar plot and fighters said nothing. Changed speed to 20 knots, then full speed. 2108 TBS: "RED" alert; dive-bombers in the area. Full moon at 098°(T). NOTE: Planes came in from the starboard bow and dropped their bombs to port. This ship did not fire any A.A. at the planes as they were not seen at any time. Planes were heard as they were coming in on the glide attack and as they passed over from starboard to port. A heavy smoke screen covered the entire area. Sky overhead was clear. The ship was in the path of the moon at the time of the attack. 2124 TBS: Two groups, "A" and "B" coming in from 200°(T) and 340°(T), very low over the water and can be seen on both SC and SG screens. In to 2,000 yards. Standby. Ship maneuvering on various courses taking defensive positions against torpedo attacks. Advantage of moonlight, smoke screen, speed and course of planes taken into consideration with each change of course. 2140 Condition "YELLOW" set in area, changed speed to 5 knots. 2145 Modified condition "ABLE" for ventilation. 2150 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on all Gunnery stations, condition III Surface

Approved:

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