

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CI41) Friday

Date Sept. 17,

0 to 4:

As before. 0000 Steaming along at various speeds and courses in the Fire Support area No.1 standing by to furnish support for Shore Fire Control parties of the 5th. U.S. Army in the vicinity of Salerno, ITALY. During the morning noted numerous flares and considerable bombing and artillery and anti-aircraft firing over the beach well inland. 0010 Stopped both engines. 0012 Using various courses and speeds to close beach. 0020 Changed speed to 3.5 knots. 0021 On firing course 335°(T), speed 3.5 knots. 0027 Commenced firing 5" shore bombardment in sector # 837-198. 0032 Ceased firing. 0035 Changed course to 160°(T). 0110 "RED" alert in south. 0200 Changed course to 070°(T). 0220 Changed course to 335°(T). 0250 Changed course to 010°(T). 0255 Changed course to 335°(T). 0300 Changed course to 350°(T), observed bomb flashes bearing 000°(T). 0305 Changed course to 335°(T). 0320 Commenced firing 5" shore bombardment on sector # 837-198. 0325 Ceased firing, changed course to 160°(T).

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4 to 8:

As before. 0503 Unidentified planes reported by fighters to be in the vicinity. Alerted the A.A. batteries; changed speed to 15 knots; steaming on various courses in evasive maneuvers. 0506 "RED" alert set in area. 0509 Sounded General Quarters; set material condition "ABLE"; observed A.A. fire in Transport area. 0511 Heavy A.A. fire to the north. Sky Control is not on any targets; Radar plot says screen is clear. 0516 25° right rudder. 0519 Radar plot reported hostile aircraft 315°(T), 11 miles. 0520 Fighters reported one bandit flying SE. 0523 Radar plot reported 3 or 4 planes 258°(T), 5 miles. 0524 25° right rudder. Radar plot reported plane at 260°(T), 5 miles. Plane was lost overland and came out a few minutes later. 0525 Opened fire on planes closing. Changed speed to 20 knots. Firing 5" only. 0538 Changed speed to 15 knots; expended 15 rounds 5"/25 ammunition during this attack. Planes did not come in close, no bombs were dropped during this attack. 0603 Secured from material condition "ABLE", set "BAKER" plus. 0608 Changed speed to 5 knots, steadied on course 340°(T). 0610 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on Gunnery and Lookout stations, condition III Surface on all other stations. 0620 Steaming on various courses to take station for Fire Support of Shore Fire Control Party No.1. 0633 Steadied on course 010°(T). 0700 Changed course to 340°(T); held Sunrise General Quarters. 0725 commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds to close beach.

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0800 Position: Lat: 40°-31'-15" N, Long: 14°-52'-45" E. 0810 Unidentified planes lying to near U.S.S. ANCON in transport area. 0810 Unidentified planes along starboard quarter to transfer 6" powder charges to ship. Unidentified planes reported over area. NOTE: 393 6" powder charges were transferred aboard this vessel via LCM from U.S.S. ANCON. 1000 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE". 1002 Ship receiving ammunition from LCMs at this time. Main deck aft ready to cut off LCMs at moments notice. 1008 Destroyers commenced laying smoke screen. 1017 LCM cast off. Other LCM still alongside starboard quarter. 1026 Cast off other LCM, commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds returning to Fire Support area at 20 knots. 1036 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1138 Commenced firing main battery at target 915-233. Firing course 155°(T), speed 3½ knots. 1142 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE". 1149 Ceased firing. Target completely covered. Expended 33 rounds. 1150 Changed course to 160°(T). 1155 Commenced firing at artillery at coordinates 900-250.

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Approved:

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