

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CI41) Friday

Date Sept. 17, 1943.

12 to 16:

As before. 1200 Position: Lat:40°-25' N, Long: 14°-51' E. 1203 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1210 Changed course to 335°(T). 1212 Spotting plane reported that target had been "saturated." Ceased firing. 1217 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE". Fighters reported 6 hostile planes coming down from the North, 30 miles away. 1223 Two ME-109s reported by fighters to be overhead. 1225 Opened fire on ME-109 fighter-bombers with A.A. battery, as they came in to attack shipping in the area; commenced evasive maneuvers. 1226 Ceased firing; no planes seen to be brought down, no bombs dropped in area. 1240 Hostile planes reported at 350°(T), 7 miles. 1242 Fighters reported that the hostile planes were headed toward the shipping area and that the friendly planes were coming in to head them off. Fighters intercepted the hostile aircraft and broke the attack. Numerous reports of hostile planes were received but no further attacks developed. 1255 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1300 Commenced firing main battery at target 940-163. Firing course 160°(T), speed 3½ knots. 1325 Changed course to 335°(T). 1345 Changed course to 145°(T). 1350 Hostile aircraft reported in area; checked fire, commenced evasive maneuvers; set material condition "ABLE". 1354 SC Radar is out of commission. Told Control to be on the alert as the Radar is out. 1355 Friendly fighters reported engaging enemy planes over beaches. 1413 Secured from condition "ABLE", coming back to position to resume firing. 1420 Commenced firing on target 940-163, firing course 335°(T), speed 3½ knots. 1434 SFCP gave word to cease firing. Stand by for next target. 1435 Fighters reported hostile planes at 12,000 feet 12 miles to the north. 1436 Fighters reported bandits making dive-bombing attacks on ships in Avalanche area. "RED" alert; set condition "ABLE". 1440 Ahead 15 knots. Maneuvered on various courses and speeds in Fire Support area. Friendly fighters intercepted hostile planes. No actual attacks were made against the ship and no bombs seen to fall. 1512 Secured from alert, set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1521 Commenced firing main battery at target 940-163; firing course 335°(T), speed 3½ knots. 1530 Changed course to 155°(T). 1541 Ceased firing, having cleaned out target. 1549 Commenced firing at another target not far from previous target. 1554 Ceased firing mission completed and battery destroyed. 1557 Commenced firing at A.A. battery which was firing at spotting plane. Battery was situated at coordinates 900-187

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16 to 20:

As before. 1611 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE". 1620 Hostile aircraft reported at 210°(T), 20 miles, closing. 1627 Observed A.A. fire bearing 355°(T). 1628 Changed course to 335°(T), changed speed to 20 knots. 1631 Changed speed to 3½ knots. 1633 Fighters reported bandits at 6,000 feet altitude. Right rudder, ahead 20 knots. 1636 Hostile planes reported at 265°(T), 10 miles and 268°(T), 5 miles, closing. 1637 Told Control that ship was coming to 335°(T). Changed speed to 10 knots. SFCP #4 requested immediate fire at battery on coordinate 915-178 as they "were being killed". 1640 Bandits reported approaching Salerno from the Northeast. 1641 Opened fire with main battery at 915-178. 1645 Opened fire on planes overhead, reported to be 4 at very high altitude. 1647 Enemy planes sighted overhead at approximately 25,000 feet towing gliders which left a white streak. Commenced evasive maneuvers; opened fire with A.A. battery. Two rocket bombs landed approximately 50 yards from ship on port beam and port quarter. Two ordinary bombs landed on starboard side approximately 300 yards from ship during rocket bomb attack. 1649 Commenced making smoke from stacks and from smoke screen generator. 1650 Enemy planes diving on ship from port quarter. Planes over stern, ship swinging right. 1651 Fired a few rounds of 5" at plane off the port bow. 1652 Commenced high speed evasive turns. 1653 U.S.S. NIBLACK commenced laying smoke screen for this vessel. 1711 Two more bombs landed in water, 2,500 yards off port beam. 1758 A.A. fire observed in northern transport area, continued evasive maneuvers. 1803 SC Radar reported back in commission. 1813 Ordered engine room to make white smoke just in case bombers overhead were still looking for us. 1820 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1832 Commenced firing main battery at target 955-153, firing course 160°(T), speed 3½ knots. 1912 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE"

Approved:

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