

Zone description _____

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	38°-12' N	38°-08' N	38°-07'-19" N
Long.	14°-25' E	13°-28' E	13°-23'-00" E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0 to 4:

As before. 0000 Steaming in company with U.S.S. SAVANNAH and two DDs on course 300°(T), speed 20 knots. Operating under orders of the CTF 88. At 2345 Aug. 7, 1943 had been ordered by CTF 88 (ComCruDiv 8 in this vessel) to divert with vessels in company and leave vicinity of CAPE D'ORLANDO, SICILY and proceed towards the vicinity of USTICA Island for the purpose of intercepting, bringing into action and destroying two (2) Italian light cruisers of the GARIBALDI class. Italian vessels reported by Cinmed to be in that area and believed to be heading for Palermo, SICILY. Units at Palermo, SICILY ordered to take defensive and offensive action as directed by CTF 88. Duties assigned to SAVANNAH, PHILADELPHIA and two DDs in company as contained in CTF 88 Operation Order No. 1-43 taken over by remaining Fire Support Group composed of five DDs, until return of cruisers and screen to the vicinity of CAPE D'ORLANDO, SICILY during the morning of August 8, 1943. 0030 General Quarters; set material condition "ABLE", changed course to 280°(T). 0033 Changed speed to 25 knots. 0215 Changed speed to 20 knots, sighted Island of USTICA bearing 000°(T), 7 1/2 miles. 0227 Changed course to 001°(T). 0242 Changed course to 090°(T). 0252 Commenced zig-zagging on base course 090°(T) using plan #11.

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Lieut., U.S.N.R.

4 to 8:

As before. 0400 Changed course to 270°(T). 0501 Changed course to 115°(T). 0508 Changed speed to 25 knots. 0558 Sighted 3 friendly PT boats bearing 090°(T), 9000 yards. 0604 Set material condition "BAKER" plus. 0606 Sighted floating mine bearing 150°(T), 3000 yards. 0613 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on A.A. battery, and condition III Surface on all other stations. 0617 Sighted 2 friendly fighters bearing 070°(T), 4 miles. 0717 Changed speed to 15 knots, arrived Fire Support Area off CAPE D'ORLANDO, SICILY. 0735 Ceased zig-zagging; changed course to 125°(T). 0740 Changed course to 095°(T). 0747 Changed speed to 20 knots.

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8 to 12:

As before. Steaming as before on course 095°(T) at 20 knots in Fire Support Area off CAPE D'ORLANDO, SICILY. 0800 General Quarters. 0804 Changed speed to 10 knots. 0807 Commenced firing main battery at target 600 -439. 0812 Unidentified plane reported by Radar plot at 235°(T), 3 1/2 miles. 0813 Opened fire with A.A. battery. 0820 Friendly planes reported overhead, ceased firing. changed course to 060°(T). 0825 Changed course to 255°(T). 0836 Shell splash in water bearing 150°(T) 3000 yards, changed course to 270°(T), changed speed to 20 knots. 0841 Changed course to 255°(T), changed speed to 10 knots. 0907 Changed course to 055°(T). 0925 Commenced firing main battery at target #45 at 550415. 0945 Shifted main battery fire to target #47 at 545395. 0946 Three splashes sighted 3000 yards off starboard quarter, changed speed to 25 knots. 0947 Ship attacked by enemy aircraft; numerous splashes sighted around ship, one near miss off starboard quarter, opened fire with A.A. battery, commenced evasive maneuvers. 0948 Bridge lost steering control. 0951 Enemy planes retired. 0953 Friendly fighters reported in vicinity. 0955 Changed course to 240°(T), changed speed to 31 knots. 0957 Changed course to 270°(T). 1000 General Quarters; set material condition "ABLE". 1011 Steering control returned to bridge. 1025 Changed course to 262°(T) and commenced evasive maneuvers

Approved: *Paul Hendren*
PAUL HENDREN
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding Officer.

Examined: *C.G. Geesen*
C.G. GESEN,
Comdr., DEV-G, U.S.N.R.
Navigator.

Navigator.