

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Wednesday

Date August 18, 1943.

0 to 4:

As before. Steaming on base course 115°(T) at speed of 25 knots, with zig-zag plan #11 in use. Proceeding in company with U.S.S. BENSON and U.S.S. PLUNKETT towards the Italian Mainland to bombard two (2) targets in the vicinity of GIOIA TAURA, ITALY. The U.S.S. BOISE and two (2) destroyers operating approximately five miles to the south of this group and proceeding to bombard targets in the vicinity of PALMI, ITALY. H-hour for firing designated at 0145 for both units. Operations planned by O.T.C., CTF 88 (Commander Cruiser Division EIGHT in PHILADELPHIA). Ship in condition TWO, port watch. Sea calm; visibility good to excellent; full moon; wind 10 knots from 270°(T). 0025 Changed base course to 115°(T). 0039 Sighted Island STROMBOLI, Volcano appeared to be active as occasional bright red flashes were noted. 0044 U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA, U.S.S. PLUNKETT and U.S.S. BENSON parted company from U.S.S. BOISE, U.S.S. NIBLACK and U.S.S. GLEAVES. 0100 Ship went to General Quarters. 0125 Changed speed to 15 knots (150 RPM). 0127 Sighted flares bearing 070°(T), range 39,000 yards. 0130 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course 115°(T). 0142 Changed course to 210°(T). 0148 Destroyer ahead opened fire on shore targets. 0153 Commenced firing on target #1. 0156 Commenced firing on target #2. 0200 Ceased firing, changed course to 255°(T), changed speed to 25 knots (250 RPM). Heading back towards Palermo, SICILY. 0205 Commenced zig-zagging on base course 255°(T) using plan #11 modified (time intervals halved). 0220 Searchlight on beach operating from SCALEA, ITALY illuminated U.S.S. BENSON and beamed on all vessels of this group, bearing 142°(T), range 21,000 yards. 0225 Set material condition "BAKER" plus. 0227 Fires on beach 165°(T). Secured from General Quarters; set condition II starboard watch.

E.W. Bryant
E.W. BRYANT
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

4 to 8:

As before. 0400 Set condition II port watch. 0451 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course 264°(T). 0500 Commenced zig-zag plan #11 modified, base course 264°(T), speed 25 knots. 0530 Changed speed to 20 knots. 0625 Various courses approaching anchorage in Palermo Bay. 0725 Anchored in 18 fathoms of water with 60 fathoms of chain to starboard anchor on the following anchorage bearings: ARCH 224°(T), SIGNAL TOWER 245.8°(T), BREAKWATER LIGHT 315°(T). 0645 Secured boilers #7 and #8. 0732 Secured boilers #1 and #2. 0734 Secured boilers #3 and #4.

H.K. Lockwood
H.K. LOCKWOOD
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

8 to 12:

As before. Position: Lat: 38°-06'-53" N, Long: 13°-23'-43" E. 0800 FORTIER, Wendell, GM2c (212-58-84) (Mail Orderly) returned on board. He missed ship when ship got underway unexpectedly at 2000 August 17, 1943. 0930 YMS 62 came alongside to port. 1000 U.S.S. TRIPPE standing out of inner harbor. 1040 Submarine reported by patrol plane as bearing 108°(T), distance 13 miles from CAPO ZAFFARANO. NOTE: The following ammunition was expended this date, time 0153-0200 for Shore Bombardment: 298 projectiles, 6"/47 H.C., 295 Ctgs., 6"/47 semi-fixed S.P.D.F.; 3 Ctgs. 6"/47 semi-fixed, S.P.D.

W.A. Fite
W.A. FITE
Lieut.(jg), U.S.N.

12 to 16:

As before. Position: Lat: 38°-07'-10" N, Long: 13°-23'-12" E. 1222 U.S. S. LUDLOW and U.S.S. BRISTOL underway. 1246 LCI 213, 214 standing in. 1322 U.S.S. BOISE underway. 1327 SC 692 standing in. 1417 U.S.S. GLEAVES underway. 1423 U.S. S. GLEAVES moored alongside U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT.

E.W. Bryant
E.W. BRYANT
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

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

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

U. S. N., Navigator.