

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Thursday

Date Sept. 9, 1943.

0 to 4:

As before. Lying to off the landing beaches in the vicinity of Salerno, ITALY; part of Task Force 81, Vice Admiral H.K. HEWITT, USN (ANCON), OTC. Transports and other vessels taking assigned positions preparatory to landing of troops on designated beaches. This vessel in assigned fire support area. H-Hour 0330. 0000 Stopped engines. 0002 Both paravanes on deck. 0030 Noticed three large explosions ashore bearing 000°(T). 0054 Stationed lookout and marine with rifle in the eyes of the ship to keep a sharp lookout for floating mines. 0100 Sighted intermittent flashes on beach bearing 000°(T), flashes appeared to be demolition charges. 0136 Artillery fire ashore to the left of the big fire, bearing 020°(T). 0313 Ship was shaken by concussion - a mine may have been set off by the mine sweepers clearing the channel. 0320 Ammunition dump ashore exploded bearing 018°(T). 0355 Plane dropped flare at 060°(T), approximately eight miles. 0357 Heavy A.A. fire ashore. Two large searchlights turned on ashore to assist A.A. batteries. Firing at 015°(T).

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4 to 8:

As before. 0415 Three flares landed in vicinity of Salerno. Flare also in vicinity of large fire at 025°(T). 0449 Planes could be heard overhead, but could not get on them. Numerous flares were dropped over vessels in convoy to the northwest and this convoy was severely bombed but no direct hits were scored. Planes also attacked convoy which was off Naples. At 0518 four bombs were seen to land in vicinity of LSTs of convoy to the northwest. Numerous other bombs were seen, A.A. fire was heavy but no planes were noted crashing or burning. During the entire period that the convoy to the northwest was under fire, numerous planes and groups of planes flew over this vessel and over this Task Force but no flares were dropped and no A.A. opened up. No bombs were seen to fall in area of this Task Force. 0458 Observed numerous flares and much A.A. fire approximately six miles to the Northwest, several unidentified planes reported by Radar plot in that area. 0513 Flares dropped in vicinity of ship. 0515 Bomb splashed 2000 yards off port bow. 0540 Attack on convoy and A.A. fire ceased. 0700 Minesweeper exploded mine bearing 061°(T), 7400 yards. 0709 Another mine exploded by AMs. 0716 Enemy bombing raiders engaged by friendly fighters at an altitude of 1,000 feet and did not get through. 0737 Enemy planes overhead; opened fire with A.A. battery, bomb splash sighted 3000 yards on port beam. 0738 A.A. fire to port, planes coming in from port quarter. 0739 Opened fire to port, planes were believed to be ME-110s and were painted white or silver. 0740 Only four bombs were noted to be dropped by these attacking planes; none close to any vessel in this Task Force. 0743 Opened fire with 5" to starboard at enemy planes. Planes came across from starboard to port. 0749 Opened fire to port, bombs dropped to port, planes identified as ME-110s. 0750 Bomb dropped to port; reported by lookouts but no range given. 0758 Underway for Fire Support area No.1. Shore Fire control party requests vessels of fire support group to open up on enemy batteries ashore.

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8 to 12:

As before. Position: Lat: 40°-24'-00" N, Long: 14°-45'-00"E. 0824 Commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds in Fire Support area. 0943 Opened fire on target No. 905-020. 1023 Commenced steaming at various speeds returning to Fire Support area Two. 1032 Catapulted plane 8-CS-4, pilot Lieut. (jg) Fierstein, passenger Tavernier ARM2c. 1035 Received orders to get set for firing on a bridge at coordinates 861112. Fire necessary to stop the advance of a Panzer Division. 1042 Steaming on various courses at various speeds in Fire Support area One. 1057 Catapulted plane 8-CS-3, pilot Lieut. Mishanec, passenger Gibson ARM2c. 1058 Streamed paravanes. 1140 Fell in astern of U.S.S. PILOT to follow her through swept channel through minefield in order to close landing beaches on orders from ComCruDiv8, course approximately 068°(T), speed 8 knots. 1145 Commenced firing main battery at target #890-055.

Approved:

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Examined:

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