

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Sunday

Date Sept. 12, 1943.

0 to 4:

As before. 0010 Changed course to 150°(T); changed speed to 11 knots. 0230 U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA screened by U.S.S. MAYO and U.S.S. PLUNKETT parted from group, changing course to 331°(T), to return to operation area. 0232 Changed speed to 23 knots. 0240 Commenced zig-zagging using plan #11, base course 331°(T).

*B.S. Head*  
B.S. HEAD  
Lieut.(jg), U.S.N.

4 to 8:

As before. 0500 Sighted what appeared to be a flare or rocket bearing 240°(T). 0515 Radar contact bearing 000°(T), range 20,000 yards. Later identified as British Carrier Support Group. 0540 Ceased zig-zagging, changed course to 010°(T) to clear Carrier Group. Held Sunrise General Quarters. 0542 Changed course to 020°(T). 0547 Changed course to 000°(T). 0553 Changed course to 331°(T). 0600 Commenced zig-zag plan #11, base course 331°(T), speed 23 knots. 0606 Set modified condition "ABLE". 0628 Set condition "BAKER" plus. 0637 Cut in after Gyro. 0638 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course. 0641 Changed course to 060°(T). 0642 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on all A A battery, Radar, and Lookout stations. 0645 Commenced zig-zagging using plan #11, base course 060°(T), speed 23 knots. 0710 Ceased zig-zagging, resumed base course. 0711 Changed course to 085°(T). 0715 Commenced informal zig-zagging. 0720 Destroyers U.S.S. PLUNKETT and U.S.S. MAYO ordered to proceed on duty assigned. 0730 Changed speed to 15 knots, maneuvering on various courses and speeds conforming to entry to Salerno Bay, Salerno, ITALY.

*R.L. Caton*  
R.L. CATON  
Lieut., U.S.N.R.

8 to 12:

As before. 0800 Position: Lat: 40°-21'-15" N, Long: 14°-54'-08" E. 0830 Stopped all engines and lost all way. 0852 "RED" alert; went to General Quarters, set material condition "ABLE". Commenced maneuvering on various courses and at various speeds for evasive purposes. Fired 20 rounds of 40MM ammunition at unidentified planes, no hits observed. Four Spitfires circling over the transport area. 0911 Planes overhead; ahead 20 knots, 25° left rudder. Opened fire with 40MM at Spitfires. Captain ordered Control not to open fire at friendly planes. 0923 Condition "WHITE"; no enemy planes sighted during this attack. 0924 Secured from condition "ABLE" set "BAKER" plus. 0929 Stopped all engines and lost all way. 0931 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on all A.A. batteries and Lookout stations, and condition III throughout the rest of the ship. 1005 PT-214 came along port quarter to take on fuel. 1011 Commenced fueling PT boat. 1036 Completed fueling PT 214 with 700 gallons 100 octane gasoline. 1102 Ship went to General Quarters; planes diving on area, underway at 10 knots on course 155°(T). 1104 Changed speed to 35 RPM; changed course to 25 right rudder. Bomb landed off port side in the transport area, bearing 225°(R). Ships in that area opened fire. Ahead 10 knots, 25 left rudder. Sky Aft heard plane but did not see it, but saw bomb dropping. 1110 Stopped all engines. Fighter pilots reported that 2 hostile aircraft in the area flying very high(JS). 1112 Radar plot reported unidentified planes 174°(T), 12 miles. 1120 On various courses at various speeds standing by U.S.S. ANCON. 1126 No further word from our fighters, secured from condition "ABLE" set condition "BAKER" plus. 1130 Radar plot reported unidentified planes 304°(T), 8 miles. 1131 Sky Aft on planes 312°(T), 5.5 miles. 1132 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on all A.A. batteries and condition III Surface on all other stations. 1144 Two planes 010°(T), 8 miles (Radar plot). Over the beach. This report came over the Air Raid circuit. 1149 TBS: Hostile aircraft 340°(T), 42 miles. 1150 Fighter Circuit: Hostile planes coming in from the west at 10,000 feet. No further attack developed and secured from alert.

*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. GEESER  
Comdr., DEV-G, U.S.N.R. U. S. N., Navigator.  
Navigator.