

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Sunday

Date Sept. 12, 1943.

12 to 16:

As before. 1200 Position: Lat: 40°-25'-30" N, Long: 14°-56'-00" E. 1203 Enemy aircraft reported in area. 1220 Changed speed to 10 knots, changed course to 335°(T). 1221 Alerted batteries; Air fighter circuit reported bandits. No. 2 MWB secured in hangar. 1225 Ahead 15 knots, sounded General Quarters; set material condition "ABLE". 1226 TBS: Many hostile aircraft heading towards you. 1228 Changed course to 155°(T). JL reported group of planes bearing 170°(R). Identified by Lookout Officer as friendly. 25° left rudder. 1229 Air Fighter Circuit: Total of 9 hostile planes approaching area. Radar plot reported unidentified planes at 010°(T), 20 miles. 1230 Three enemy planes reported bearing 010°(T), 24 miles. 1231 Changed speed to 20 knots, 25° right rudder; A.A. bursts off port bow. 1232 A.A. fire and bomb bursts in transport area; ME 109 planes reported over the fighter circuit. TBS: Planes coming down from the sun. One plane seen coming down, may have been shot down by AA fire as 5" bursts were all around him. 1238 Changed speed to 10 knots. 1239 Radar plot reported hostile aircraft at 340°(T), 20 miles. 1241 Changed course to 335°(T), after steering various courses at full speed. 1243 Stopped both engines. 1248 Changed speed to 3.5 knots, commenced shore bombardment at coordinates 860-200, target (tanks on road). Firing course 335°(T). 1249 Checked fire so that lookouts could get off Turret II in order that all turrets could be used for firing. 1251 Commenced firing main battery. 1252 Enemy planes reported bearing 285°(T), 3 miles closing. 1253 Saw two dogfights; one to the NE and one to the NW. 1310 Commenced rapid fire. 1305 Stopped rapid fire, continued regular fire. 1306 Stopped engines. 1314 Army requested rapid fire for one minute. 1315 Modified material condition "ABLE". 1327 Shore Fire Control Party requested "cease firing" and gave ship coordinates 852-183. Requested immediate heavy supporting fire. NOTE: First target was tanks, second target machine guns. Commenced firing on target at coordinates 852-183. Ship is now 4,850 yards from beach, time 1337. 1351 Secured from "RED" alert. Secured from condition "ABLE" set condition "BAKER" plus. 1400 TBS: Several hostile aircraft heading in this direction from the northeast. Ship firing one minute rapid fire. 1402 Hostile planes, 30 miles bearing North and East, heading this way. 1403 Radar plot reported planes coming in from northeast 7 miles, planes closing rapidly. 1404 Set condition "ABLE", changed speed to 15 knots, changed course to 155°(T). Radar plot reported planes to the north 10 miles. 1405 Fired two 15-gun salvos at coordinates 852-183 and secured from firing main battery; to be resumed later after air raid is over. 1408 Coming to course 155°(T), stopped all engines. 1409 Changed speed to 10 knots. 1410 Changed speed to 5 knots. 1411 Stopped engines, commenced one minute rapid fire. 1414 Shore Fire Control Party requested one more minute rapid fire. 1415 Commenced one minute rapid fire. 1416 Modified condition "ABLE". 1419 "Cease-firing" from Shore Fire Control Party, Quote "Good work boys, thanks a lot" unquote. 1420 TBS: All hostile aircraft previously reported are being engaged by friendly fighters. Changed speed to 10 knots. 1423 Secured from material condition "ABLE" set "BAKER" plus. 1429 Stopped engines; secured from General Quarters; set condition II Port watch on all A.A. batteries, condition III Surface on all other stations. 1524 Hoisted out No. #2 MWB. 1525 Changed speed to 5 knots, changed course to 148°(T). 1532 Changed course to 155°(T), stopped engines. NOTE: Expended the following ammunition this date for Shore Fire Support: 357 rds. 6"/47 Ctgs., SPD, (Service); 357 rds. 6"/47 H.C. projectiles.

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

16 to 18:

As before. 1600 Patrolling in Salerno Bay, Salerno, ITALY on various courses and speeds so as to remain in Fire Support area #2.

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

18 to 20:

As before. 1805 Opened fire with A.A. battery on 6 FW-190s fighter bombers which came in low over land and from in the sun and under the fighter

Approved: *Paul Hendren*
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U. S. N., Navigator.