

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Tuesday

Date Sept. 14, 1943.

12 to 16:

(Cont'd). course to 150°(T). 1350 Changed course to 330°(T). 1420 "RED" alert; manned battle stations, set material condition "ABLE", commenced evasive maneuvers. 1428 Saw ship afire in area of AGROPOLI. 1503 Commenced firing at coordinates 957-147, course 165°(T), speed 5 knots. 1530 Cargo ship on fire in transport area. 1549 Ceased firing shore bombardment. 1559 Changed course to 330°(T).

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16 to 18:

As before. 1600 Changed speed to 10 knots. 1605 Steaming on various courses at various speeds. 1610 Unloaded guns through the muzzle at coordinate 926-188. 1614 Condition "WHITE", secured from material condition "ABLE", set "BAKER" plus. 1619 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on the A.A. batteries and Lookout stations, condition III Surface on all other stations. 1640 "YELLOW" alert set in area; steaming on various courses at 15 knots in evasive maneuvers. 1641 "RED" alert set in area, changed speed to 20 knots; sounded General Quarters; set material condition "ABLE". 1646 Unidentified aircraft reported bearing 165°(T), 17 miles. 1651 "YELLOW" alert set in area. 1652 Changed speed to 10 knots. 1655 Steadied on course 325°(T). 1657 Condition "WHITE" set in area; secured from material condition "ABLE" set "BAKER" plus. 1658 Changed course to 155°(T). 1703 Changed course to 330°(T); secured all stations from General Quarters except main battery; set condition II on A.A. batteries and Lookout stations, condition III Surface on all other stations. 1700 Changed speed to 5 knots. 1716 Commenced firing main battery at coordinates 84652109, 84282100, and 83952092 which were the sites for ammunition dumps. Fired 24, 24, and 27 rounds at these targets respectively. Total 72 rounds. Report received later indicated that one dump was hit and blown up. 1735 "RED" alert; sounded General Quarters, set material condition "ABLE". Two planes reported bearing 222°(T), 20 miles closing. 1740 "WHITE" alert set in area; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1745 Steaming on courses and at speeds in evasive maneuvers. 1750 Secured from General Quarters; "YELLOW" alert in area. Set condition II on all stations. 1758 "RED" alert; set condition "ABLE", ahead 15 knots. 1759 JL: FW-190s overhead, 25°right rudder; bombers within area (TBS), approaching from the beach.

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18 to 20:

As before. 1800 Manned battle stations; commenced evasive maneuvers. 1801 One hostile plane to starboard, opened fire; 25°left rudder. 1802 Planes off port quarter. 1803 Opened fire with A.A. battery on enemy plane. 1804 Planes levelled off and then went out. No planes were seen to have been hit. 1806 Ceased firing. 1807 25°left rudder. 1808 Condition "YELLOW". 1815 Condition "WHITE"; secured from alert. 1820 "YELLOW" alert, ahead 15 knots, 25°right rudder. 1821 "RED" alert; ahead 20 knots, set condition "ABLE", continued evasive maneuvers. 1824 Enemy planes reported 15 miles to the South, closing. 1851 Condition "YELLOW"; no attacks developed during this attack. 1853 Secured from alert. 1905 "RED" alert; set condition "ABLE". 1910 Secured from alert; steaming on various courses at various speeds to close U.S.S. BISCAYNE. 1911 Condition "YELLOW", modified condition "ABLE" for ventilation. 1928 Clearing southeastern area. Preceding in Red Beach area. Getting ready to send off one officer for SFCP liaison work. 1940 Stopped engines; lying to in Transport area. 1951 Changed speed to 20 knots; Changed course to 175°(T). NOTE: Air activity on the part of our forces was also heavy during the 2000-2400 watch. Numerous flares were dropped over the hills in back of AGROPOLI at a range of 36,000 yards from this vessel and bombs were seen to be landing well beyond that range. A Liberty ship afire in the harbor outside of AGROPOLI burned all night and lit up the area. At 0355 this ship exploded and fuel oil burned fiercely in that area for some time.

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