

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Thursday

Date Sept. 16, 1943

0 to 4:

As before. 0000 Patrolling in Gulf of Salerno, Salerno, ITALY in Fire Support area on courses 155°(T) and 335°(T), speed 5 knots. 0205 "RED" alert; sounded General Quarters; changed speed to 15 knots. 0210 Radar plot had targets on the screen, hostile planes closing over the area. Friendly patrols reported overhead and in the general vicinity. Maneuvered on various courses and at various speeds, using no speed greater than 15 knots. No planes sighted and no bombs dropped. Moon was full. Inner transport area off AGROPOLI was well concealed by smoke screen. This vessel was outside of the smoked area taking position as anti-aircraft firing vessel. 0215 Changed speed to 10 knots. 0216 Unidentified planes bearing 042°(T), range 2 miles. 0217 Changed speed to 15 knots, commenced evasive maneuvers. 0218 Observed flare ahead on port bow. 0222 Changed course to 335°(T), changed speed to 10 knots. 0230 Changed course to 155°(T). 0239 Set modified condition "ABLE"; unidentified planes bearing 255°(T) range 5 miles. 0247 "YELLOW" alert; set condition "BAKER" plus, changed course to 335°(T), changed speed 5 knots. 0250 Secured from General Quarters; set condition II on all A.A. batteries, condition III Surface on all other stations. 0304 Observed "white flare" bearing 333°(T).

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4 to 8:

As before. 0405 Changed speed to 15 knots. 0406 Changed course to 155°(T), all engines stopped. 0410 Flare at 025°(T), range 34,000 yards. 0447 Changed course to 335°(T). 0508 Flare bearing 000°(T), range 35,000 yards. 0509 Changed speed to 3.5 knots. 0525 Changed course to 155°(T). 0526 Small electrical fire in radio transformer in Control Forward, extinguished immediately. 0546 Changed course to 145°(T), changed speed to 5 knots. 0650 Unidentified planes bearing 155°(T), range 20 miles. Changed course to 340°(T). 0700 General Quarters; ship in material condition "BAKER" plus. 0713 Changed course to 140°(T). 0715 Changed speed to 10 knots. 0721 "YELLOW" alert. 0730 Enemy fighter-bombers attacked ships in-transport area; commenced firing A.A. battery, commenced evasive maneuvers. Planes came in on glider attack from starboard and crossed to port. Plane brought down by this vessel's 5" fire seen to fall and crash ashore. Three other planes hit by A.A. fire from vessels or shore batteries in the Transport area, were seen to fall down. Second plane, hit by this vessel, was seen to be burning and going into a long glide over the mountains. At time of the attack the ship was heading 155°(T). Ship was headed toward Transport area about four miles away. Planes flew over the Transport area after crossing this ship. Three bombs were seen to fall in the vicinity of the ships. No ships were hit. 0732 TBS: Friendly fighters are engaging the hostile aircraft which have been identified as ME-109s. Dogfighting going on over the beach area.

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8 to 12:

As before. 0800 Position: Lat: 40°-27'-30" N, Long: 14°-54'-15" E. 0810 "RED" alert; continued steering evasive courses at various speeds. Set material condition "ABLE". 0814 Hostile aircraft 10 miles to the southeast of AGROPOLI (JS). 0815 BOISE took over Radar Guard vice PHILADELPHIA. 0830 Secured from "RED" alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. Commenced steering various courses at various speeds in Fire Support area. 1003 Stopped engines, lying to U.S.S. ANCON. 1009 "YELLOW" alert. Ship proceeding to Fire Support area. No hostile planes were seen although fighters and Radar screen had numerous bandits in the area. 1015 Changed course to 320°(T); changed speed to 15 knots, proceeding northern part of Fire Support area. 1033 Commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds in Fire Support area. 1041 "RED" alert; commenced evasive maneuvers. 25° right rudder. 1042 TBS: There are hostile fighters in the area. No hostile planes were seen although fighters and Radar screen had numerous bandits in the area. 1045 Changed course to 155°(T); changed speed to 15 knots. Commenced firing main battery at target 952-148. Visibility closed to

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Examined: *C.G. Gese*
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