

U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA (CL41) Thursday

Date Sept. 16, 1943.

8 to 12 :

(Cont'd). approximately 4000 yards, due to heavy mist. 1100 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1103 Changed course to 330°(T), changed speed to 5 knots. Ceased firing. 1122 Resumed fire on target 952-148. 1135 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE". No hostile planes made attacks on this vessel although many unidentified planes noted over the beach area apparently on bombing missions. Saw bombs dropping ashore to starboard. Very unusual white "parasel" type markers were dropped by the bombing planes. They burst over the target area and showered the skies with a white smoke which took the form of a sheath of wheat. It remained in the sky for approximately fifteen minutes before breaking up. 1154 Changed course to 160°(T).

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12 to 16:

As before. 1200 Position: Lat: 40°-29' N, Long: 14°-52' E. 1225 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1233 Changed course to 350°(T). 1257 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE". 1321 Secured from alert. 1326 Commenced firing main battery at target at coordinates 968-130. Fired only three rounds and ceased firing. 1328 Commenced firing AA battery at unidentified plane overhead. 1337 Condition "RED"; set condition "ABLE". 1340 Radar plot reported an explosion in the shipping area. 1343 Hostile planes reported flying low over shipping area. 1400 Condition "YELLOW"; modified condition "ABLE" for ventilation. 1405 "RED" alert; reset condition "ABLE", commenced evasive maneuvers. 1423 Ships in area attacked by fighter-bombers, commenced firing AA batteries at enemy planes. 1429 Ceased firing, heavy A.A. fire in the transport area. Two planes seen to be coming down in flames and smoke. Right standard rudder, already steaming at 15 knots. 1433 Another plane seen to be burning and falling. Sky Control reported that a total of four planes were seen to go down in flames and only three bombs seen to fall in the Transport area. Maneuvering on various courses and speeds during the attack but still headed towards the Transport area. 1440 Changed course to 145°(T), changed speed to 10 knots. 1444 Commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds in Fire Support area. 1507 Stopped engines. 1516 LCT 33 came along starboard quarter with ammunition. 1527 Port engine ahead 030 RPM. 1529 Secured from material condition "ABLE"; set "BAKER" plus.

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16 to 20:

As before. 1628 Completed taking on 6" ammunition. 1629 LCT 33 cast off, Commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds, proceeding to Transport area. 1701 "RED" alert; set material condition "ABLE", commenced evasive maneuvers. 1711 Planes reported to the south and others to the north heading south. 1717 Numerous groups of unidentified planes reported in the vicinity. 1730 Lying to in Transport area near U.S.S. ANCON. 1732 LCM 718 came alongside to starboard to transfer 6" projectiles. 1807 Completed taking on 6" projectiles. 1809 LCM 718 cast off. Commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds proceeding to Fire Support area One. 1817 Hostile planes reported over Licosia Point. Fighters engaged the enemy 15 miles to the northeast and northwest. 1820 Commenced firing 5" battery at enemy planes overhead. 1824 Several dogfights going on over the beach; 25° right rudder. 1825 Opened fire with 5" battery to starboard and then to port. 1826 Left standard rudder. Planes had been flying at an altitude of 17,000 feet and were definitely identified as FW-190s. No planes were seen to be hit. 1849 Secured from alert; set material condition "BAKER" plus. 1854 Changed course to 340°(T). 1855 Numerous fighters reported planes and Radar plot had planes on the screen but no further attacks developed. Secured from condition "ABLE". 1905 Changed speed to 5 knots. 1924 Noticed heavy AA fire in the vicinity of the Selee River and over the ships in the northern transport area. 1930 Changed course to 170°(T).

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