

C O N F I D E N T I A L

WAR DIARY

COMMANDING OFFICER U.S.S. PHELPS

From: The Commanding Officer, U.S.S. PHELPS

To: Chief of Naval Operations.

July 1, 1942 — July 31, 1942

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To: Chief of Naval Operations
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REPORT FOR COMMANDING OFFICER U.S.S. PHELPS

Operating under Commander Task Force 11.4, U.S. Pacific Fleet
(Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE)

TASK ORGANIZATION

- 11 Rear Admiral Fletcher (Task Force Commander) - SARATOGA
- 11.2 Rear Admiral Wright - MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, ASTORIA
- 11.4 Captain S.B. Brewer - Desron ONE less MONAGHAN, AYLWIN.

Changes: On 6 July DALE departed Pearl Harbor, on detached escort duty.

On 7 July VINCENNES, TransDiv-12 (GREGORY, LITTLE, CALHOUN, MCKEAN), PLATTE and CIMARRON joined Task Force for temporary duty.

On 16 July TransDiv-12 detached. Rear Admiral Fletcher appointed Vice Admiral.

On 21 July PLATTE escorted by WORDEN detached on independent duty. ✓

On 24 July VINCENNES detached, joined Task Force 18. HULL left disposition on detached duty, proceeding to SUVA.

On 26 July SALT LAKE CITY joined Task Force.

On 27 July SALT LAKE CITY and ASTORIA left disposition on detached duty. HULL rejoined. HULL and DEWEY detached left disposition for temporary duty with Task Force 62. CIMARRON detached. AARON WARD reported for temporary duty this Task Force.

On 28 July CIMARRON escorted by BENHAM joined

On 29 July BENHAM, AARON WARD and CIMARRON escorted by WORDEN detached. PLATTE escorted by WORDEN rejoined

On 30 July PLATTE detached. GWIN joined for temporary duty.

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1 - 5 JULY 1942

Moored Berth X-7, Pearl Harbor.

6 JULY 1942

GCT LCT Moored Berth X-7, Pearl Harbor.

0130 1600 DALE got underway for special detached duty.

7 JULY 1942

1600 0630 Underway in company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

2000 1030 Fired surface and A.A. Practice.

2130 1200 Posit. Lat. 20-46.5 N., Long. 157-49.5 W.

0530 2000 Posit. Lat. 19-59 N., Long. 156-45 W.

8 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1730 0800 Posit. Lat. 18-46.6 N., Long. 156-03.6 W.

1935 1005 Cruisers and destroyers fired Bombardment Practice off southern tip of Hawaii.

2130 1200 Posit. Lat. 18-53.5 N., Long. 156-43.5 W.

2136 1206 Two planes of VINCENNES crashed in water. HULL recovered personnel of one plane. PHELPS the other. Personnel recovered: Lieutenant (jg) James Balako, A-V(G), USNR, and Raymond F. Elworth, ARK2c, USN

2313 1343 Formed Cruising Disposition 1 Victor

0530 2000 Posit. Lat. 17-32.3 N., Long. 156-02.8 W. Course and speed made good - 151 true, 5.4 knots.

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9 JULY 1942

GCT	LCT	
		In Company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
0930	0000	Changed clocks to Zone Plus 9 time.
1700	0800	Posit. Lat. 15-19.7 N., Long. 157-36.1 W.
2100	1200	Posit. Lat. 14-37.8 N., Long. 157-53 W. Course and speed made good: 194-30 True, 11 knots.
0400	1900	Changed clocks to Zone Plus 9½ time.
0530	2000	Posit. Lat. 13-12.7 N., Long. 158-34.3 W.

10 JULY 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
1730	0800	Posit. Lat. 10-53.1 N., Long. 160-15.9 W.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. 10-13.2 N., Long. 160-32.1 W. Course and speed made good: 210 True, 12.8 knots.
0530	2000	Posit. Lat. 08-41.6 N., Long. 161-40.9 W.

11 JULY 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
1730	0800	Posit. Lat. 06-16.8 N., Long. 163-48.9 W.
2130	1200	Posit. Lat. 05-23.5 N., Long. 164-14 W. Course and speed made good: 217 True, 15.2 knots.
0400	1830	Changed clocks to Zone Plus 10 time.
0600	2000	Posit. Lat. 03-46 N., Long. 165-10.8 W.

12 JULY 1942.

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
1800	0800	Posit. Lat. 01-08.5 N., Long. 166-36.5 W.

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12 JULY 1942 (Cont. 'd)

1805 0805 Commenced fueling DDs and APDs - Special formation
2133 1133 Supersonic contact by APD4
2152 1152 Contact lost, apparently non-submarine.
2200 1200 Posit. Lat. 00-33.6 N., Long. 166-53 W., Course
and speed made good: 210 True, 13 knots.
2356 1356 Completed fueling operations; formed Cruising
Disposition 1 Victor.
0430 1830 Changed clocks to Zone Plus 10½ time.
0630 2000 Posit. Lat. 01-09 S., Long. 167-35.9 W.

13 JULY 1942

1830 0800 In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor. Posit. Lat 03-59.5
S., Long. 169-13.2 W.
2230 1200 Posit. Lat. 04-41 S., Long. 169-52.8 W., Course
and speed made good: 210 True, 15.1 knots.
0630 2000 Posit. Lat. 06-01.3 S., Long. 171-02 W.

14 JULY 1942

1830 0800 In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
Posit. Lat. 08-26.5 S., Long. 173-20 W.
2230 1200 Posit. Lat. 09-17.8 S., Long. 173-17.7 W. Course
and speed made good: 216 True, 14.2 knots.
0500 1830 Changed clocks to Zone Plus 11 time.
0700 2000 Posit. Lat. 11-24 S., Long. 173-25 W.

15 JULY 1942

1900 0800 In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
Posit. Lat. 14-37.8 S., Long. 173-48 W.

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15 JULY 1942 (Cont'd)

2300 1200 Posit. Lat. 15-26 S., Long. 174-14.5 W., Course
and speed made good: 189 True, 15.5 knots.

0630 1930 Changed clocks to Zone Plus 11½ time.

0730 2000 Posit. Lat. 16-52 S., Long. 175-21.1 W.

16 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1915 0745 Transport Division 12 left disposition.

1930 0800 Posit. Lat. 19-47 S., Long. 177-25 W.

2330 1200 Posit. Lat. 20-28.6 S., Long. 177-18.6 W. Course
and speed made good: 210 True, 14.5 knots.

0730 2000 Posit. Lat. 22-04.2 S., Long. 178-03.5 W.

Rear Admiral Fletcher appointed to Vice Admiral
this date.

17 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.
Heavy seas and force 7 wind prevented scheduled
fueling operations.

1930 0800 Posit. Lat. 22-04 S., Long. 179-26 E.

2330 1200 Posit. Lat. 22-10 S., Long. 179-54.9 E. Course
and speed made good: 237 True, 7.7 knots.

0630 1900 Changed clocks to Zone Plus 12 time.

0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 21-58 S., Long. 179-33 E.

18 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1900 0700 Commenced fueling operations. Heavy seas
prevented carrier fueling.

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18 JULY 1942 (Cont'd)

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 21-24.8 S., Long. 178-58.8 E.
0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 21.30.8 S., Long. 177-43.5 E. Course
and speed made good: 288 True, 5.3 knots.
0600 1800 Ceased fueling operations.
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 22-37.1 S., Long. 178-32.6 E.

19 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1200 0000 Changed clocks to Zone Plus 11½ time.
1930 0800 Posit. Lat. 22-32.8 S., Long. 178-36.5 W.
1940 0810 Recommenced fueling operations.
2330 1200 Posit. Lat. 22-27 S., Long. 178-04 W. Course
and speed made good: 103 True, 10.4 knots.
0447 1717 Completed fueling operations.
0730 2000 Posit. Lat. 22-38 S., Long. 178-04 W.

20 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1930 0800 Posit. Lat. 22-19.2 S., Long. 177-40 W.
2220 1050 VF plane from SARATOGA crashed into water eastern
of carrier during recovery operations. PHELPS
rescued pilot, Ensign Roy Gunsolus, A-V(G), USNR,
uninjured.
2330 1200 Posit. Lat. 22-24 S., Long. 177-58.6 W. Course
and speed made good: 057 True, 0.25 knots.
0730 2000 Posit. Lat. 22-21.6 S., Long. 178-42.3 W.

21 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

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21 JULY 1942 (Cont'd)

1930 0800 Posit. Lat. 22-15.7 S., Long. 177-36.6 W.
2330 1200 Posit. Lat. 22-23 S., Long. 177-07.9 W. Course
and speed made good: 091, 2.08 kmots.
0200 1430 PLATTE escorted by WORDEN left disposition on
detached duty.
0730 2000 Posit. Lat. 23-28 S., Long. 177-07.8 W.

22 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1930 0800 Posit. Lat. 25-51 S., Long. 177-20.2 W.
2330 1200 Posit. Lat. 25-40.6 S., Long. 177-43.2 W. Course
and speed made good: 189 True, 8.4 kmots.
0118 1348 MACDONOUGH reported supersonic contact. Contact
proved to be apparently non-submarine. Many
whales had previously been sighted.
0730 2000 Posit. Lat. 24-30 S., Long. 178-08.1 W.

24 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1130 0000 Changed clocks to ZONE Minus twelve time.
2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 22-31 S., Long. 178-08 W.
2100 0900 Rendezvoused with Task Force 18.
2340 1140 VINCENNES left disposition to join Task Force 18
2400 1200 Posit. Lat. 22-05 S., Long. 178-26 W. Course
and speed made good: 350 true, 9.2 knots.
0405 1605 HULL left disposition, proceeding SUVA on detached
duty.
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 22-09 S., Long. 178-37 W.

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25 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 24-41 S., Long. 176-57.3 W.
0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 24-06 S., Long. 178-05.7 W. Course
and speed made good: 172 true, 5.1 knots.
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 24-22.5 S., Long. 179-33 W.

26 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 22-57.5 S., Long. 178-57.5 E.
0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 23-00 S., Long. 179-18 E. Course
and speed made good: 295 true, 6.5 knots.
0143 1343 ASTORIA plane crashed and PHELPS stood by while
ASTORIA recovered personnel.
0225 1425 Transport Division 12 joined disposition astern
of tanker.
0310 1510 Rendezvoused with Anzac Squadron and Task Force 16.
0350 1550 Transport Division 12 left disposition to join
Task Force 16.
0400 1600 SALT LAKE CITY joined Task Force 11
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 22-09 S., Long. 179-29.3 E.

27 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 20-08.7 S., Long. 179-50.2 E.
2130 0930 SALT LAKE CITY and ASTORIA left disposition on
detached duty.
2205 1005 HULL rejoined disposition.

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27 JULY 1942 (Cont'd)

2237 1037 DEWEY left disposition for temporary duty with Task Force 62.

2340 1140 CIMARRON left disposition.

0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 20-10 S., Long. 179-56 W. Course and speed made good: 014 true, 7.3 knots.

0300 1500 AARON WARD reported for temporary duty.

0433 1633 HULL left disposition, proceeding Suva with orders to join Task Force 62 for temporary duty on return.

0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 20-18.1 S., Long. 179-44.8 E.

28 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1930 0730 CIMARRON and BENHAM joined disposition.

2000 0800 Commenced fueling operations. Posit. Lat. 19-19 S., Long. 179-22.2 E.

0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 19-46.7 S., Long. 179-38.1 E. Course and speed made good: 313 true, 1.4 knots.

0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 20-25.4 S., Long. 179-50.1 E.

29 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1300 0100 Completed fueling operations.

1830 0630 CIMARRON left disposition for duty with Task Force 16.

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 18-46.7 S., Long. 179-02.5 E.

2034 0834 BENHAM left disposition.

0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 19-16 S., Long. 178-48.8 E. Course and speed made good: 304 true, 2.3 knots.

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0150 1350 AARON WARD left disposition
0450 16 50 PLATTE escorted by WORDEN rejoined disposition.
0500 1700 WORDEN left disposition for detached duty as
escort to CIMARRON
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 19-49.2 S., Long. 179-00 E.

30 JULY 1942


In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition 1 Victor.

1934 0734 TBF plane from SARATOGA crashed during launching
operations. Personnel rescued by PHELPS:
Ensign R. S. Evarts, A-V(G), USNR, Edgar L.
Hawkins, Sea2c, USN, Zigmund W. Kowalewski,
ARM3c, USNR.
1945 0745 PLATTE left disposition.
2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 17-44 S., Long. 179-41.2 E.
2025 0825 GWIN joined this Task Force for temporary duty
Task Forces conducted rehearsal of prospective
offensive operations.
0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 17-39 S., Long. 179-41.5 E. Course
and speed made good: 063 true, 4.5 knots.
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 18-49.5 S., Long. 179-54 E.

31 JULY 1942

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition #1 (modified)

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 21-21 S., Long. 179-24 E.
0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 19-54.5 S., Long. 179-56.5 E. Course
and speed made good: 174 true, 6 knots.
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 20-45.8 S., Long. 179-53.2 E.


E. L. BECK,
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer, U.S.S. PHELPS #17