

U. S. S. PHELPS

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BY 02-098915 DATE 1 APR 60

WAR DIARY

COMMANDING OFFICER USS PHELPS

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

To: Chief of Naval Operations

August 1, 1942 - August 31, 1942

Original to: Chief of Naval Operations
(Office of Naval Records and Library)

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U.S.S. PHELPS

REPORT FOR COMMANDING OFFICER, U.S.S. PHELPS

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

TASK ORGANIZATION

11 Vice Admiral Fletcher (Task Force Commander) - SARATOGA
11.2 Rear Admiral Wright - MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS
11.4 Captain S.B. Brewer - Desron ONE less MONAGHAN, AYLWIN,
DALE, DEWEY and HULL plus GWIN
on temporary duty.

Changes: On 3 August CIMARRON jointed formation. GWIN
detached, jointed Task Force 16. CIMARRON detached.
On 10 August PLATTE and KASKASKIA escorted by
CLARK joined.
On 12 August PLATTE and KASKASKIA escorted by
CLARK detached.
On 13 August DEWEY rejoined.
On 21 August AUSTRALIA, HOBART, PATTERSON and BAGLEY
joined.
On 26 August NORTH CAROLINA, ATLANTA, GRAYSON and
MONSSEN joined.
On 30 August AUSTRALIA, HOBART, PATTERSON and BAGLEY
detached.
On 31 August NORTH CAROLINA detached.

1 AUGUST 1942

GCT LCT

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
operating as Task Group 61.1 of Task Force 61 composed
of Task Forces 11, 16 and 18.

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 20-36.5 S., Long 177-06 E.

0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 19-41.1 S., Long. 177-04.9 E. Course
and speed made good: 265 True, 15.1 knots.

0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 19-16.5 S., Long. 177-23.9 E.

2 AUGUST 1942

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

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 18-39.5 S., Long. 174-06.6 E.

0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 18-34.2 S., Long. 173-08.3 E. Course
and speed made good: 253 True, 16.5 knots.

0445 1645 Sighted Amphibious Force (Task Force 62)

0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 18-10.3 S., Long. 171-19 E.

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3 AUGUST, 1942

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA Cruising Disposition #1.
2000	0800	Posit - Lat. 18-20.9 S., Long. 168-19 E.
2210	1010	WORDEN and CIMARRON joined formation.
2230	1030	Commenced fueling SARATOGA and destroyers.
2340	1140	Sighted two friendly aircraft (B-17s).
0000	1200	Posit - Lat. 18-43.6 S., Long. 167-47 E. Course and speed made good - 268 True, 11.5 knots.
0300	1500	GWIN left disposition to join Task Force 16.
0607	1807	Completed fueling. CIMARRON left disposition.
0800	2000	Posit - Lat. 18-20.2 S., Long. 166-32.6 E.

4 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA Cruising Disposition #1.
1947	0747	Formed Cruising Disposition 1-V.
2000	0800	Posit - Lat. 17-40 S., Long. 163-55.3 E.
0000	1200	Posit - Lat. 17-35.2 S., Long. 163-21.8 E. Course and speed made good - 285 True, 11 knots.
0115	1315	Formed Cruising Disposition #1.
0155	1355	Sighted friendly aircraft (B-17).
0605	1805	MACDONOUGH left disposition to search for lost SBD.
0645	1845	Changed clocks to zone minus 11 time.
0900	2000	Posit - Lat. 17-26.5 S., Long. 162-14.9 E.

5 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
1820	0720	MACDONOUGH rejoined disposition. Results of search negative.

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5 AUGUST, 1942 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
2100	0800	Posit - Lat, 16-58 S., Long. 159-28 E.
0100	1200	Posit - Lat. 16-38.5 S., Long. 159-23.2 E. Course and speed made good - 284 True, 10 knots.
0900	2000	Posit. - Lat. 15-22.9S., Long. 158-50 E.

6 AUGUST, 1942

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

2100	0800	Posit - Lat. 12-43.7 S., Long. 158-37.5 E.
0100	1200	Posit - Lat. 12-00.5 S., Long. 158-55.1 E. Course and speed made good - 355 True, 11.7 knots.
0900	2000	Posit - Lat. 10-37 S., Long. 158-27.2 E.

7 AUGUST, 1942

In company with Task Force 11, supporting attack on Tulagi-Guadalcanal Area.

1830	0530	First attack group commenced taking off from carriers.
1852	0552	Plane crashed off starboard bow of SARATOGA. PHELPS went to rescue but could find no survivors.
1852	0552	Heard explosion and saw flame off port bow of SARATOGA. Learned later it was a plane that dropped its bombs.
1921	0621	Second attack group commenced taking off.
1930	0630	MACDONOUGH reported torpedo wake.
1933	0633	PHELPS rescued Ensign C.E. EICHENBERGER, Jr., A-V(G), USNR, who had crashed his plane in water upon taking off SARATOGA.
200	0700	Third attack group commenced taking off.
2050	0750	From MINNEAPOLIS: "WASP FIGHTERS DESTROYED 9 ZERO FLOAT PLANES AND 4 VP".
2100	0800	Posit - Lat. 09-49.5 S., Long. 159-14.8 E.
2205	0905	Surface bombardment force was heard over broadcast receiver to have commenced firing with plane spotting

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7 AUGUST, 1942 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
2216	0916	Broadcast said they are preparing to put in a landing party.
2220	0920	Broadcast: "THERE APPEARS TO BE NO OPPOSITION. THE FIRST BOATS ARE IN AND THE TROOPS HAVE LANDED".
2326	1026	The Task Force Commander broadcast the following message: "AIRCRAFT REPORTS TWO SUBMARINES 09-46, 159-26".
0100	1200	Posit - Lat. 09-58 S., Long. 159-25.4 E. Course and speed made good - 014 True, 5.3 knots.
0212	1312	Broadcast: "WARNING MANY BANDITS 15 MILES NORTH OF TULAGI. THREE GROUPS OF NINE EACH".
0238	1338	SARATOGA commenced launching fighters to protect Tulagi.
0240	1340	Heard broadcast that enemy bombers jettisoned their bombs and were headed home. They had Zero fighters with them.
0400	1500	Heard broadcast that Japanese dive bombers were attacking Guadalcanal.
0705	1805	Formed Cruising Disposition #1.
0900	2000	Posit - Lat. 10-27 S., Long. 160-10.2 E.

8 AUGUST, 1942

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

1905	0605	SARATOGA commenced launching planes.
2100	0800	Posit - Lat. 10-29.2 S., Long. 160-31 E.
2338	1000	From ComSOWesPac: "JER REPORTS 40 LARGE TWIN ENGINED PLANES PASSING NORTH BOUGAINVILLE FROM NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST AT 2257 ZED 8 AUGUST".
0040	1140	First fighter planes took off in preparation for attack and proceeded in to Tulagi and Guadalcanal.
0100	1200	Posit - Lat. 10-24 S., Long. 160-44 E. Course and speed made good - 108 True, 3.5 knots.

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8 AUGUST, 1942 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
0317	1417	Received following message from Commander Task Force 61: "SUMMARY SITUATION ASHORE X APPROACH COMPLETE SURPRISE X LIGHT OPPOSITION SILENCED BY PLANES AND BOMBARDMENT X GUADALCANAL TULAGI OCCUPIED X ENEMY RESIST TANAMBIGO X LATTER PLACE NOW BEING BOMBED X NO SERIOUS DAMAGE OUR FORCES FROM AIR ATTACKS EITHER YESTERDAY OR TODAY X OVER 30 TO 40 ENEMY PLANES ACCOUNTED FOR X OUR PLANE LOSSES LIGHT IN COMPARISON".
0425	1525	Fighter plane crashed in water and MACDONOUGH recovered pilot.
0900	2000	Posit - Lat. 10-39.2 S., Long. 161-18.2 E.

9 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, cruising Disposition #1.
2100	0800	Posit - Lat. 11-36.5 S., Long. 161-25.8 E.
0055	1155	Many unidentified planes bearing 350, distance 50 miles (Radar). Went to General Quarters.
0100	1200	Posit. - Lat. 12-11.7 S., Long. 162-08 E. Course and speed made good - 143 True, 5.7 knots.
0115	1215	Planes reported as friendly B-17s by fighters.
0220	1320	FARRAGUT detached and directed to proceed and search for survivors of a downed PBY which ComAirSoPac reported.
0300	1400	GWIN reported from Task Force 16 for duty with Task Force 11.
0353	1453	FARRAGUT rejoined disposition after rescuing survivors.
0357	1457	GWIN left disposition to rejoin Task Force 16.
0900	2000	Posit - Lat. 13-42.3 S., Long. 163-06 E.

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10 AUGUST 1942

GCT LCT

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

1300 0000 Changed clocks to Zone Minus 11½ time.

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 16-05 S., Long. 164-42 E.

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 16-50.5 S., Long. 165-12 E. Course and speed made good - 123 true, 13.7 knots.

0415 1545 PLATTE and KASKASKIA escorted by CLARK joined disposition.

0430 1600 Commenced fueling operations.

0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 17-32.5 S., Long. 164-47.5 E.

11 AUGUST 1942

In company with Task Force 11, conducting fueling operations.

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 17-01 S., Long 164-03.4 E.

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 17-21.9 S., Long. 164-23.5 E. Course and speed made good: 236 true, 2.4 knots.

0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 17-39.6 S., Long. 164-32.6 E.

12 AUGUST 1942

In Company with Task Force 11, conducting fueling operations.

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 17-10 S., Long. 164-06.7 E.

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 17-34 S., Long. 164-34 E. Course and speed made good: 143 true, .63 knots.

0430 1600 Completed fueling operations.

0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 17-22.5 S., Long. 164-53.6 E.

13 AUGUST 1942

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

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 18-28.1 S., Long. 165-20.3 E.

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 19-09 S., Long. 166-03 E. Course and speed made good: 138 true, 5.3 knots.

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13 AUGUST, 1942 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
0128	1258	CIMARRON in company with DEWEY, ELLET, WILSON, MONSSEN, AARON WARD, and BUCHANAN joined Task Force 61.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 18-31.5 S., Long. 165-54 E.

14 AUGUST, 1942

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

2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 15-26 S., Long. 164-03.7 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 14-36.5 S., Long. 163-37.5 E. Course and speed made good - 333 True, 12.5 knots.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 13-38 S., Long. 162-31.5 E.

15 AUGUST, 1942

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

Commenced fueling (topping off) destroyers at daybreak.

2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 15-05.2 S., Long. 163-04 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 15-35.1 S., Long. 163-29.2 E. Course and speed made good - 189 True, 2.3 knots.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 14-26.3 S., Long. 162-45.1 E.
0928	2058	Completed topping off destroyers.

16 AUGUST, 1942

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

2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 14-30.5 S., Long. 160-02.5 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 14-49 S., Long. 159-32 E. Course and speed made good - 282 True, 9.3 knots.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 15-34.3 S., Long. 159-21.2 E.

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17 AUGUST, 1942

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 14-21.2 S., Long. 161-57.1 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 14-34.2 S., Long. 162-39.1 E. Course and speed made good - 085 True, 7.5 knots.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 15-38.2 S., Long. 164-34 E.

18 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 16-25.3 S., Long. 165-46.9 E.
2130	0900	PLATTE and KASKASKIA accompanied by SAN JUAN, CLARK, and GWIN joined Task Force 61.
2240	1010	Commenced fueling operations.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 17-01.8 S., Long. 166-01.4 E. Course and speed made good - 127 True, 10.3 knots.
0412	1542	Completed fueling operations.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 17-30 S., Long. 166-09.6 E.

19 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
1910	0640	PLATTE accompanied by CLARK left disposition.
2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 14-59.8 S., Long. 165-16.7 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 14-38.2 S., Long. 164-51.5 E. Course and speed made good - 295 True, 6.6 knots.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 13-24 S., Long. 165-24 E.

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20 AUGUST 1942

GCT LCT

In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
Proceeding with Task Force 61 to cover operations of U.S.S. LONG ISLAND in vicinity of Tulagi.

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 11-28 S., Long. 163-27.3 E.
2241 1011 Sighted LONG ISLAND and escort consisting of HELENA and two destroyers.
0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 11-00 S., Long. 163-10 E. Course and speed made good: 295 true, 9.7 knots.
0434 1604 LONG ISLAND reversed course and disappeared to westward after flying off planes to Guadalcanal.
0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 11-05 S., Long. 164-28 E.

21 AUGUST 1942

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

1830 0600 Received despatch that enemy force consisting of at least two ships was attempting a landing at Guadalcanal.
2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 13-10.3 S., Long. 165-01 E.
2035 0805 Changed course NW toward Tulagi area, speed 20 knots.
2325 1055 Changed speed to 25 knots.
0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 12-38.6 S., Long. 164-04.4 E. Course and speed made good: 152 true, 4.7 knots.
0058 1228 Changed speed to 15 knots. Situation Guadalcanal under control - no ships present.
0125 1255 AUSTRALIA, HOBART, PATTERSON and BAGLEY joined disposition.
Received despatch that enemy force consisting of 700 troops that landed Guadalcanal had been destroyed.
0555 1725 MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, PATTERSON and WORDEN left disposition to form scouting line 20 miles ahead, together with other units of Task Force 18 and 16
0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 11-57 S., Long. 163-50 E.

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22 AUGUST, 1942

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 11-08 S., Long. 160-37.6 E.
2112	0842	Formed Disposition 1-V. MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, PATTERSON, and WORDEN rejoined disposition.
2335	1105	One four-motored enemy seaplane shot down by our fighters 20 miles from disposition.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 11-29.4 S., Long. 161-16 E. Course and speed made good - 293 True, 7.5 knots.
0253	1423	Torpedo plane crashed off bow of SARATOGA during launching operations. WORDEN rescued two of four occupants in plane. Others were lost when plane sank.
0536	1706	Formed Cruising Disposition #1.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 11-30.7 S., Long. 162-48.2 E.

23 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 09-33.5 S., Long. 162-34.5 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 10-02.3 S., Long. 163-04.1 E. Course and speed made good - 129 True, 5.8 knots.
0830	2000	Posit - Lat. 09-46 S., Long. 163-01 E.

24 AUGUST, 1942

		In company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1.
1230	0000	Task Force 18 left vicinity for fueling rendezvous.
2030	0800	Posit - Lat. 09-01.7 S., Long. 162-43.5 E.
0030	1200	Posit - Lat. 09-00 S., Long. 162-47 E. Course and speed made good - 015 True, 2.3 knots.
0155	1325	Observed 2-motored Jap torpedo plane shot down by our fighters, bearing 180, distant 8 miles.

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24 AUGUST 1942 (Cont'd)

0200 1330 ENTERPRISE completed launching attack group.

0205 1335 ENTERPRISE commenced recovering fighters.

0233 1403 Went to General Quarters as many unidentified planes reported closing, bearing 325, distant 86 miles.

0256 1426 Fighters engaging enemy planes bearing 280.

0320 1450 Contact report received: "CV SMALL 2 CA 2 DD COURSE 100 POSIT 05-00 S 160-50 E".

0320 1450 SARATOGA launched air attack group consisting of 34 SBD and 6 TBD

0412 1542 Sighted friendly PBV approaching from 295.

0413 1543 Following broadcast heard on Search and Attack frequency: "DROPPED BOMBS 4 NEAR MISSES CV UNDAMAGED 5 PLANES ON DECK NO PLANES IN AIR CV IS MEAT FOR DIVE BOMBERS AA INEFFECTIVE"

0416 1546 Contact report received: "ENEMY FORCE 1 CV 1 CA 1 CL 3 DD LAT 06-25.5 LONG 161-00 COURSE 270 SPEED 20 AT 1430"

0446 1616 Following visual message received by ENTERPRISE from PBV: "SMALL ENEMY CV BEARING 320 TRUE DISTANCE 195 MILES"

0515 1645 From Task Force Commander: "PREPARE TO REPEL AIR ATTACK BEARING 325"

0527 1657 Visual message: "RADAR CONTACT ENEMY AIRCRAFT 320 DISTANT 55 MILES"A

0536 1706 SARATOGA executed flaghoist: "FOLLOW MY MOVEMENTS"

0539 1709 Executed flaghoist: "ENEMY PLANES SIGHTED BEARING 325"

0543 1713 Enemy air attack on ENTERPRISE commenced, bearing 325 true, distance 12 miles. Very heavy A.A. fire. Many enemy planes seen to be hit.

0554 1724 ENTERPRISE observed to be hit and on fire aft.

0555 1725 One F4F crashed into barrier on deck of SARATOGA and turned over on its back.

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24 AUGUST, 1942 (Cont'd)

<u>GCT</u>	<u>LCT</u>	
0604	1734	One of ENTERPRISE fighters crashed alongside SARATOGA in water. PHELPS rescued pilot, Lieutenant A.O. VORSE, Jr., USN, Fighting Squadron 6.
0611	1741	Sighted bomb splash bearing 008. Later it was discovered that many of our own planes were jettisoning their bombs on horizon.
0640	1810	SBD crashed along starboard side of NEW ORLEANS and pilot rescued by KARRAGUT.
0642	1812	ENTERPRISE stated she is going to recover her own aircraft immediately.
0649	1819	SARATOGA told ENTERPRISE that she had 12 of ENTERPRISE's planes aboard.
0712	1842	ENTERPRISE lost steering control.
0731	1901	ENTERPRISE regained steering control.
0745	1915	Plane crashed on deck of SARATOGA and ran into #4 gun mount.
0749	1919	SARATOGA recovering planes.
0830	2000	Commander Task Force 11 reported that all planes had been landed and secured. Posit - Lat. 09-02 S., Long. 164-11.5 E.
0900	2030	Additional planes returned and had to make night landings on SARATOGA.
0913	2043	ENTERPRISE reported to Task Force Commander: "RESULT OF ENTERPRISE SEARCH. AT 1440 1 CV DECK EMPTY LAT 06-25 LONG 161-00 COURSE 270 SPEED 20. AT 1530 2 LARGE CV DECKS FULL WITH 4 CA 6 CL 8 DD LAT 05-45 LONG 162-10 COURSE 120 SPEED 25".
0915	2045	ENTERPRISE reported on her condition by following message: "NUMBER 2 ELEVATOR OUT OF COMMISSION, 26 PLANES MISSING, 6 FIGHTERS ABOARD, 75 KILLED, 100 WOUNDED, AFTER COMPARTMENTS FLOODED".
1034	2204	ENTERPRISE asked SARATOGA: "CAN YOU TAKE 4 MORE OF MY PLANES ABOARD?"
1036	2206	SARATOGA answered: "AFFIRMATIVE, IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES".
1115	2245	Commander Task Force 11 told Commander Task Force 16 to rendezvous with Task Force 11 at 0800.

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24 AUGUST 1942 (Cont'd)

GCT LCT

1126 2256 ENTERPRISE asked SARATOGA: "CAN YOU TAKE ONE MORE
ON MY PLANES ABOARD"
1127 2257 SARATOGA answered: "AFFIRMATIVE BUT IT WILL BE A
TIGHT FIT"
1130 2300 SARATOGA completed recovery of planes.

25 AUGUST 1942

In Company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA,
Cruising Disposition #1.

1900 0630 Received Radar contact and sighted friendly B-17
bearing 065
1903 0633 Sighted ship bearing 335 - GRAYSON
2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 11-39 S., Long. 164-04.1 E.
2109 0839 3 groups of B-17s sighted on port bow.
0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 12-44 S., Long. 164-15.5 E. Course
and speed made good: 159 true, 10.2 knots.
0205 1335 Sighted Task Force 16 and fueling group consisting
of SABINE, CIMARRON and PLATTE accompanied by
DALE, CLARK and GWIN.
0330 1500 Commenced fueling operations.
0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 13-48 S., Long. 163-49 E.

26 AUGUST 1942

In company with Task Force 11, conducting fueling
operations.

1330 0100 Completed fueling operations.
Formed Cruising Disposition #1. NORTH CAROLINA,
ATLANTA, GRAYSON, and MONSSEN joined Task Force 11.
Task Force 16 departed.
2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 12-42 S., Long. 163-50 E.
2059 0829 Received following message from Commander Task Force
11: "ESTIMATED RESULTS ACTION TWENTY FOURTH X
ENEMY CONSISTED OF TWO CARRIER TASK FORCES ONE OF
SMALL CV TWO LARGE CV PLUS OTHER STRONG BATTLESHIP
CRUISER AND TRANSPORT TASK FORCES X SARATOGA AIR

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26 AUGUST 1942 (Cont'd)

GROUP ATTACKED THE SMALL CV ATTAINED HITS AND LEAVING HER SMOKING SHE WAS LATER SIGHTED DEAD IN THE WATER X ON SAME ATTACK SANK A DD AND ONE CRUISER HIT BY TORPEDO X IN ANOTHER ATTACK OBTAINED ONE TORPEDO HIT ON CRUISER AND ONE THOUSAND LB BOMB HIT ON A BB X INFORMATION LOCATION OF TWO OTHER CV NOT OBTAINED IN TIME FOR ATTACK X ENEMY ATTACK GROUP CONSISTED OF EIGHTY PLANES X ENEMY LOSSES SHOT DOWN BY OUR AIRCRAFT 57 BY AA 24 XX ENTERPRISE HIT BY THREE BOMBS X EARLIER IN DAY VF SHOT DOWN ONE TWIN ENGINE LAND PLANE TWO FOUR ENGINE PATROL PLANES AND ONE SINGLE ENGINE TWIN FLOAT SEAPLANE X MARINES ATTACKED SHOT DOWN 11 ZEROES AND 10 BOMBERS SAME DAY FOLLOWING DAY GRAYSON PROBABLY SUNK ONE SS ENTERPRISE SBD OBTAINED DIRECT HIT WITH ONE THOUSAND LB BOMB HIT ON ANOTHER"

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 12-11 S., Long. 163-53.5 E. Course and speed made good: 213 true, 1.7 knots.

0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 11-08.5 S., Long. 164-09.5 E.

27 AUGUST 1942

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

1830 0600 Sighted Task Force 18.

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 10-46 S., Long. 163-45.5 E.

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 11-23.5 S., Long. 164-14 E. Course and speed made good: 022 true, 2.2 knots.

0330 1500 Japanese patrol plane shot down by our combat patrol bearing 010 true, distant about 20 miles.

0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 12-23.5 S., Long. 164-41.5 E.

28 AUGUST 1942

In Company with Task Force 11, screening SARATOGA, Cruising Disposition #1

2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 12-01 S., Long. 162-43.1 E.

0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 12-23 S., Long. 163-17 E. Course and speed made good: 223 true, 3.4 knots.

0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 12-10 S., Long. 164-18 E.

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29 AUGUST 1942

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

2000 0730 Sighted Task Force 17.
2030 0800 Posit. Lat. 10-24 S., Long. 163-18 E.
0030 1200 Posit. Lat. 11-04.3 S., Long. 163-48 E., Course
and speed made good: 021 true, 3.5 knots.
0830 2000 Posit. Lat. 1-34 S., Long. 164-13.3 E.

30 AUGUST 1942

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

1230 0000 Task Force 18 left disposition to proceed to fueling
rendezvous.
1300 0100 Changed clocks to Zone Minus 12 time
2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 12-14.8 S., Long. 163-33 E.
Commenced operating under Commander Task Force 61
Operation Order 4-42 of August 29, 1942. Task Force
11 designated as Task Group 61.1 consisting of
SARATOGA, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, NORTH CAROLINA,
ATLANTA, PHELPS, DEWEY, FARRAGUT, MACDONOUGH, WORDEN,
MONSSEN, and GRAYSON.
2012 0812 HOBART and AUSTRALIA left disposition to join Task
Force 18 and PATTERSON and BAGLEY left disposition
to join Task Force 17.
0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 12-33.5 S., Long. 163-27.3 E. Course
and speed made good: 193 true, 3.9 knots.
0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 12-40 S., Long. 164-42.5 E.

31 AUGUST 1942 *

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

2000 0800 Posit. Lat. 10-33 S., Long. 164-17 E.

** About 0748 Saratoga suffered certain damage
the details of which were covered in the war diary
submitted by Commander Destroyer Squadron One
for the current month. C.L.B.*

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CONFIDENTIAL

U. S. S. PHELPS

31 AUGUST 1942 (Cont'd)

0000 1200 Posit. Lat. 10-47 S., Long. 164-19.5 E. Course
and speed made good: 026 true, 5 knots.

0800 2000 Posit. Lat. 11-37.5 S., Long. 165-08.3 E.


E. I. BECK,
Lt-Comdr., U.S.Navy,
Commanding, U. S. S. PHELPS