

U.S.S. Astoria

Notes taken on SS phone in Control Tower

Friday - June 4, 1942 At Sea

08:15 From Carrier to Section fighters - Plane bearing away from you about 7 mi. Look for him.

08:30 To. Yt. fr. Sec - Received from scouts contact 2 CV 4-CA 4-3-DD, but this is not known. Trying to get their position now.

08:40 To. Yt. - Com Task 17 - We have intercepted enemy position. Have you? My contact - enemy position 066 distance 120 mi.

Notes
0
fighters shot down 15 enemy planes & 3 brought to land on the Yt. this morning.

08:52 Com Task 4-17 - you recommend point option action in order - short dis. & fighters on TTP. 2 planes.

08:53 Did you recommend 4 fighter planes?

09:33 Fr. Sec plane - Sec 2. Last Victor 1 DD. bearing 000

Warning 1 AC 020 Dis. 39 miles

09:40 Amplifying report on last contact Cr. 180 Sp. 15

09:55. Plane 270 dis 60 mi.

10:05 Carrier expects air attack shortly. Carrier have launched fighters

Gen. Quarters 9:50

One plane reported
shot down by official

I don't know
whether

210

—
—
—

10:13 Carrier to fighter — handsets — 2702
investigate — do not get out of sight.

10:15 Lt. launching additional fighter planes.
for combat air patrol.

10:21 Control lights smoking lamp.

10:31 Enemy ships Port bow 15 miles

10:30 " " " beam 8 miles

10:35 Enemy ships dead ahead. Dis. 10 mi.

10:55 Many identified aircraft bearing 020 Dis
68 mi. Did you get them? Reply from fighter
was affirmative —

10:57 Lt. has ordered fighters to rendezvous
over carrier and circle.

10:00 Launch attack bearing 020 — all fighters
TP patrol
alert! alert!! alert — looks like an torpedo attack

45 mi distance
11:02 Group of planes taking off now ordered
to str 020 for 30 mi.

11:03 Group of planes. 020 35 mi. at 10,000
altitude

11:05 Fighters red & blue. ordered to wait and
see what develops.

11:06 unidentified planes. 020. Dis 25 mi.

11:07 TP. 22 mi. 020. Coming ~~to~~ in,

11:08 —

Time of Start of battle 11:14
Lull in battle 11:30
060 D10-15 02

- 10:10 8 enemy ships -
- 10:13 9 enemy bombers & 9 fighters, We are going to engage them now.
- 10:17 Enemy aircraft 060 D10 to 15 mi.
- 10:18 planes off port Bow
I or not have time to write I
know you are being attacked
Yorktown ^{radar} ~~is~~ is out of
Commission they have hit
Fighter says they should all be
taken care with ^{within} 1/2 of an hour
- 11:30. 1 carrier will land on carrier out
of ammunition ^{land}
- 11:37 Let ^{take} planes not to come aboard
she has a bad list ^{come}
- 11:40 plane is going to try and land on carrier
plane is ^{damaged} hurt also pilot also hurt
- 11:42 Enemy is going away north.
- 11:48 Zero fighters are downed.
- 11:50 Enemy out 040.
- 11:57 Planes are preparing to land to take on
ammunition and fuel.
- 12:00 Friendly fighters over the fleet

Could say
hear what
going on

12:05. Ept. planes returning - are being
attacked by many enemy fighters.
Will need help.

12:06 B.000 35 dis. enemy planes.

12:08 Return group are being attacked
by enemy fighters.

12:09 ^{contact} 020 35 miles

12:13 Second Bombers returning are being
trailed by unidentified aircraft.

12:21 Dev planes are coming in.

4 AC 330. D/S. 34 mi.

2 aircraft 315 25 mi.

12:31 Fighters attacking some of our planes.

12:32 Aircraft 320 19 mi. Friendly.

12:35 T/PB need help.

12:36 ^{fighter} to let your group is being attacked
by fighters

13:10 From plane - we are badly shot up.
Course
Cr. 210

13:15 035 35 mi unidentified aircraft.

13:16 040 35 " " "

13:17 ^{3 planes} 335 36 " "

13:18 ^{quicker} 350 31 " "

44
44

0135-2 Unidentified aircraft bearing 340°
Distance 15 miles.

07:05 From Plane to carrier
Call them off. They are firing on
us.

From a Plane:

01415. 8 plane 295° 8 mile. Investigate

15:25 Explosion on deck. Smoking badly

15:40 Fires are under control on Deck. (not official)

(I hope there right)

I am looking at the Deck from a

W. Port ^{in Control} now and she seems to have

quit smoking. I still say she's OK.

* That's all I shall listen to the
scuttlebutt they are handing out in
Control Good Bye -

P.S. Everything seems to have returned
to normal

~~any more~~

1545

Now for a choice bit of Scuttlebutt.
We are still at General Quarters and I am
still manning the J. phones.

I shall give a brief bit of my own
eyewitness, picturesque, uproaring
Scuttlebutt on the battle this morning.

I saw one plane hit and destroyed and
go into the drink. I yelled like hell. It
fucked the hell out of me. I could hear
very little while the battle was raging but
managed to see everything I could. Saw
two of the bombs fall short of the port town.
Everybody seemed fairly cool, yelling at
those sons of bitches etc.

I'm tired so I think I'll stop
writing. ☺

Saturday May 10, 8:00 — Just came down
from Control and we have set Condition 3
which means that we are out of the
danger zone. I hate to say this but we
have lost the carrier boy. I watched
her burn from ^{19:00} until about 20:30 and
about 1/2 hr later the flames were

reported out so she evidently went down.
The crew abandoned ship about 5:00
Friday. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after
the ship was abandoned there was
a terrific explosion. We could see
flames amidship. Later explosions -
from bombs, shells, gasoline etc. scattered
the fire and the ship was one mass of
flames. The Astoria & Ft. Stevens
the rest of the fleet stood by picking up
survivors.

I have plenty of work to do so I shall
stop writing and here's hoping we
go back after those slanted bastards.

W.M.