



Serving in today's surface warfare ships we anticipate that enemy aircraft will launch with modern day cruise missiles which are immune to their targets. We conduct damage control drills that simulate raiding assault hits but this for the Navy had not experienced the real thing.

Not so fortunate was USS *Savannah* (CG-60) on 31 September 1963. On that date 30 years ago during World War II, *Savannah* and USS *Philadelphia* (CT-43) became the first American warships attacked with bombs that were controlled throughout their flight.

Philadelphia escaped with a minor crisis and minor damage but *Savannah* took a direct hit by the target bomb—both in total weight and one of charge—that has ever exploded inside a U.S. Navy ship.

Savannah, launched in 1957, was a *Charlottesville*-class cruiser of 13,200 tons full load displacement, serving in both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean during WWII as a convoy escort. *Savannah* also saw action against North African guns during Operation Torch (the invasion of French North Africa in November of 1942); and participated in the amphibious assault on the *Elba* Tapet, a German blockade runner.

Later, *savannah* provided naval gunfire support during Operation

Savannah at

Surface Warfare