

MR 300 NORTH AFRICA, MID EAST, MEDITERRANEAN (1) - WARFARE

(MAY THRU JUNE, 1942)

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MR 300 NORTH AFRICA, MID EAST, MEDITERRANEAN (1) - WARFARE (MAY THRU JUNE, 1942)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB71
noon/1
EW

CSWD
July 1 1942
01244

From: Cairo
To: AgWar

No. 52 ANSME June 30, 1942

Aircraft of United States Army Middle East Air Forces again successfully attacked enemy installations during the night of June thirtieth at Tobruk causing numerous fires. For Marshall and Arnold from Brereton. Heavy anti aircraft artillery fire was received and enemy aircraft were encountered. From these operations one of our airplanes is missing.

Maxwell

ACTION: OPD
INFO. COPIES: G-2, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, LOG, FILE

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-0147 (7-1-42) 1434Z

MLB JOURNAL NO.

121
JUL 1 1942

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301 Africa
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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WC 9/INS83
Filed 1725/30
EA

~~SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD,
July 1, 1942
5:19 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Teheran
To: Milid
No. 75, June 30, 1942'

British 10th Army commander Quinn and Soviet trans
Caucasian army commander Melnik met in Tabriz for
preliminary talk on Collaboration no specific plans
involved. Meeting is first one since my arrival and
infer given me personally that additional ones will take
place if necessary pro Axis joy and glee rising over
British defeat in Egypt.

Ondrick

ACTION COPY: G-2 *BE*
INFO. COPY: OPD A-3 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By HEP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CE-IN-0104 (7/1/42) 1259 Z

M.I. JOURNAL NO.

094

JUL 1 1942

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WB 196
filed 1930/30
dv

INCOMING MESSAGE ^{6WD} June 30, 1942

6:29 PM

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAIS Date FEB 20 1973

From: Cairo
To: Agwag Washn DC

No. 48 Amsme June 30, 1942

June twenty eight fiftieth British and tenth Indian Divisions holding Matruh were encircled. General Holmes Commanding moved south started to cut his way out at zero six zero zero hours. For Marshall from Maxwell on June twenty nine some fifty percent of the Corps had escaped to join British main body.

Dark June twenty nine main German Forces were east of El Daba pushing British first Armored Division to the eastward. Thirtieth Corps is preparing positions on the Alamein dash El Taqa square eighty six dash twenty five line. Thirtieth Corps consists of South Africans, Indians, New Zealanders and some Armored units. The Alamein defenses are to be the last British prepared positions. June twenty nine New Zealand Division engaged both Panzer Divisions suffered heavy losses.

Chief need for eighty Army is anti tank guns and artillery. They have plenty of man power with out proper weapons.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 B.E.

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, CGGN, TAG, Log, File.

70H 30 8 20 BH 45
CM-IN-10058 (6/30/42) PM 9:00

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247

JUN 30 1942

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INCOMING MESSAGE

NB 197
Filed 2146/30
ACM

CSWD
June 30, 1942.
6:29 P. M.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. 50, Amsme, June 30th, 1942.

Fellers believes only thing which would save situation is for the British to fly in one thousand bombers bringing with them antitank guns. Fellers opinion is unless air, artillery and anti tank reinforcements arrive at once Rommels capabilities are Alexandria by July one, Cairo by July two.

From Maxwell to Marshall Rommel is not as brilliant as his victory indicates. May twenty nine he was trapped in Cauldron Area, should have been destroyed. See Military Attache cable one one five six. However throughout campaign British have fought Axis tanks with their infantry, have fought Axis anti tank guns with tanks. Axis has been able to use his tanks against British infantry, his anti tank guns against British tanks Maxwells comment is that suggested plan for bringing in anti tank guns is not practicable and that Fellers estimate of speed of advance is too high and his comments on how British have fought are interesting but do not mean very much in view of fact that Axis has always lead the initiative during this campaign.

Note: 1156 (43, 113, 131, 150, 234 of 6/22 Maxwell. CM-IN-7051-7286-7158-7144-and 7184 June 1942) G-2.

Action Copy: G-2 B.E.

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CM-IN-10057 (6/30/42) PM 8:58

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256

JUN 30 1942

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310 Africa

WB216
filed 30/2335
EVA

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 30, 1942
10:15 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar WN DC

#46 AMSME, June 30, 1942

There is absolutely no question of lack of fullest and sympathetic Cooperation to Maxwell. Maxwell is rendering fullest possible support and personal and official relationship is completely satisfactory (for Marshall from Brereton) my Mission is thoroughly understood and you may be assured that nothing within my power will interfere with its accomplishment.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

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FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-0044 (7/1/42) 0734Z

col
U.S. JOURNAL NO. 050

7/1 2 10 AM '42

JUL 1 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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15BOZ2
filed 30/1400
dm

CSWD
June 30, 1942
3:35 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: Commanding General Army Air Forces Washington

Unnumbered June 30, 1942

Naught eight naught naught local time.
Three aircraft of Halverston detachment bombed
Tobruk Harbor facilities naught one three naught
to naught one five five local time thirtieth instant
cooperating with seven British Liberators.
My bomb loading same as yesterday large explosions
were caused and fires started. Opposition over
Tobruk was light but on outward trip one B twenty
four D was attacked by EA identified as JU eight
eight at ten thousand feet off Alexandria. Crew
claims numerous hits on EA which retired. Five
Halpro aircraft started one returned account failure
of propellor controls, one is missing and unreported.
Halverson copy furnished Maxwell.

Brereton

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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DATE 11/30/94 BY 216

DATE 11/30/94 BY 216

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(6/30/42) JUN 30 1942 pm 11 45

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CD 90
Filed 170530Z
efg

CSWD
June 30, 1942
2:40 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Lisboa
To: Milid Washington DC
No. 402 June 30, 1942

Total collapse in Egypt may result in loss of all Middle East Adhesion of Turkey to Axis envelopment of Caucasus Bottling up of Mediterranean Axis occupation of all North Africa and Iberian Peninsula and possibly Japanese attack against for eastern Red Army.

Shipp

Action Copy: G-2 - *W. E.*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
Log
File

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (G)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

*End 766 W
20 H.
24 7 30 H*

JUN 30 2 15 PM '42

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-9984 (6/30/42) PH 4:25

189 JUN30'42

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
ALUSMA SUEZ			ROUTINE
FROM	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED ^{BY} 30 JUNE 1942			ROUTINE
DATE 1325	INFORMATION		DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM RITCHEY			PRIORITY
DECODED BY COURTNEY			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

LT KELLY

291900 NCR 4035

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT RELIABLE REPORTS INDICATE PRESENT SITUATION EXTREMELY CRITICAL AND OUTCOME DOUBTFUL. LOYALTY EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND NATIVES TO BRITISH AUTHORITY REPORTED DOUBTFUL IN EVENT AXIS FORCES CONTINUE ADVANCE. HIGHLY RELIABLE INFORMANT (REPEAT HIGHLY RELIABLE) ADVISED THAT ON JUNE 25 EGYPTIAN ARMY LEADERS HELD SECRET MEETING IN CAIRO AND DECIDED IN EVENT AXIS FORCES CAPTURE MER SAMATRUH EGYPTIAN ARMY WOULD REVOLT AGAINST BRITISH DOMINATION AND LINE UP WITH AXIS IN ORDER SAVE EGYPT.

QUEEN ELIZABETH TRANSITED CANAL THIS DATE REPORTEDLY BOUND PORT SUDAN. FOLLOWING HM SHIPS WERE ANCHORED SUEZ BAY AND ARE ESCORTING: PAKENHAM, NAPIER, PALADIN.

FOLLOWING HM SHIPS PRESENTLY ANCHORED SUEZ: BIRMINGHAM, COVENTRY, ROBERTS AND GREEK TERAYAND SPETSAI.

FOLLOWING US MERCHANT SHIPS SUEZ: LOUISE LYKES, EDWIN CHRISTENSON, SUSAN LUCKENBACH.

~~SECRET~~

EX-116
 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (B)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

FORM 1
 NARS Data

FEB 20 1973

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

291900

300/4/12

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 NLR 101
 By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRIORITY
FROM _____	FOR ACTION		PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE _____			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM _____	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY _____			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY _____			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.
 PAGE 2 OR 291900 NCR 4035

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT SUSAN DAMAGED UNABLE PROCEED SEA PENDING REPAIRS. WEST
 MADABETAT ISMAILIA, LEMA LUCKENBACH ARRIVED TODAY PORT
 SAID SOUND US. FLOURSPAR ARRIVED DUE TRANSIT CANAL 30
 FORD IS CHARGE ALEXANDRIA EYE QUESTION ADVISABILITY THIS
 UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

RELIABLE INFORMATION EFFECT NO PROVISION BLOCKADE CANAL
 EVENT SUCCESS AXIS FORCES.

COMMANDER THOMAS V COOPER USN
 NAVAL ATTACHE AND NAVAL ATTACHE FOR AIR

16.....ACTION

RECORD COPY: COMINCH...F-37...200G...CNO...NAVAID...200P...FILE.

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 OSD letter, May 3, 1978
 By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

291900

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27120

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 NLR 101
 By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>COOPER, CAIRO</u>	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PPPPPPP PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>29 JUNE 1942</u>			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROM <u>2227/29TH</u>	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>SOMMERS</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY <u>YEAGER</u>			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

GARTH

291600

NCR 3816

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

ONLY FOR OFFICERS OF NECESSARY HIGH LEVEL:

QUEEN ELIZABETH CLEARED SUEZ ABOUT NOON. AXIS PLANES
DROPPED MINES HARBOR ALEXANDRIA NIGHT 28TH AND 29TH. 10TH
CORPS, 9TH ARMY ATTEMPTING FIGHT WAY OUT OF ENCIRCLEMENT.
BATTLE PROGRESSING, DECISION NOT YET REACHED.

Full Roosevelt Library
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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/68)

Date- DEC 27 1971

Signature- *RAF*

DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: COMINCHL...

16...20G...BADO...OPDO...F-37

FILE: CNO...20-OP...

291600 NCR 3816

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39/600

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

3 BOZ2
FILED 1605/30
BVC

June 30, 1942
1218 P. M

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: Commanding General
Army Air Forces

Unnumbered June 29, 1942 From 242 Wing

Naught eight naught naught hours twenty ninth instant. Nine Halpro airplanes and six liberators attacked Tobruk Harbor installations at naught one three naught to naught one five five local time twenty ninth instant. Loads were nine British five hundred pound GP bombs each with tailfusing only. Operation was in timed cooperation with and as cover for Wellington's squadron laying mines. My bombing results were approximately thirty percent nullified by duds and bombs hanging in racks. Good general results were achieved however with five fires started in docking and warehouse areas. Antiaircraft opposition over this objective has notably increased three heavy batteries reaching our average altitude twenty thousand feet with fair accuracy. A night fighter attack was made on one of our air planes at this altitude which drove it off reporting tracers seen to hit fuse gage. A Liberator at lower altitude had one killed and severe damage to aircraft in fighter attack with cannon. Intensive night action was observed south and west of Mersa Matruih in which large fires were observed. Halverson for Arnold copy to General Maxwell.

Brereton

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
A-2
CG AAF
TAG 30
Log
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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199 JUN30'42

CM-IN-10012 (6/30/42) PM 5:38

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INCOMING MESSAGE

WB31
Filed 0635/30
RMC

CSWD
June 30, 1942
6:06 AM

From: Cairo

To: Agwar

No 42 Amsme, June 29, 1942

Units of American Air Forces operating from bases in Middle East successfully attacked Tobruck during the night of June twenty eight. For Marshall and Arnold from Brereton. The results of the attack were not seen. Ineffective anti aircraft fire received and no enemy aircraft were encountered. All our aircraft and personnel returned safely to our bases.

Maxwell

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M.P. 2

JUN 30 8 04 AM '42

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

MLS JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-9857 (6/30/42) 7:35 a.m.

076

JUN 30 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

WB1
Filed 2315/29
RMC

CSWD
June 30, 1942
3:02 AM

From: Cairo

To: Agvar

No 44 ANSME, June 29, 1942

Instruction contained your one one eight four for ANSME acknowledged. For Marshall from Brereton. In this connection however British have two full squadrons of Hudson trained ground and combat crews which have only four Hudson aircraft available. British can make extremely valuable use of Hudson aircraft and in view of situation urgently recommend that Light Bombardment Squadron twenty seven Hudsons scheduled to leave June twenty six from United States be diverted on arrival Khartoum to British control and operation with British personnel. United States Army personnel now ferrying airplanes to continue via Ferry Command Transport to original destination. Particularly recommend this with reference to personnel as I understand the personnel involved are pursuit trained personnel scheduled for Twenty Third Pursuit Group China. Maxwell concurs.

*2 Engine
Light Bomber
(Dive bomber
type)*

Maxwell

FOOTNOTE: # 1184 is CM-OUT-7318 (6/28/42) OPD

*aircraft which
has replaced the
A.V.G.*

ACTION: OPD

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WB 73
filed 1500/29
11

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 29, 1942
1141A

From: Cairo
TO: AGWAR

No. 35 AMSME June 29, 1942.

Brereton has reported and by general orders issued
by Headquarters he has been assigned to command "United
States Army Middle East Air Force" for Marshall first
meeting with Tedder Headquarters completed with success.
Needs of Brereton Command being given highest priority
by entire United States Army forces in Middle East.

Maxwell

*Commanding Officer
2 RAF in Egypt.*
Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
Log
File

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By RHP, NABS Date FEB 20, 1973

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CM-IN-9610 (6/29/42) 2:37

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JUN 29 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

C 50
iled 2210/29
CM

CSWD
June 29, 1942.
7:05 P. M.

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. 38, Amsme, June 29th, 1942.

*Dive
Bomber
Type*

A-20's
A dash twenty series airplanes are urgently required this theatre for direct support. For Marshall and Arnold from Brereton. Extreme shortage exists and losses rapidly reducing few available to nil. In conference this day with Jedder of RAF and others, between available United States and British personnel, can easily crew and maintain type aircraft. Shinlel at Basra advises approximately one hundred A dash twenty now Basra for Russians of which twenty five are operationally fit now. This only available source of A dash twenty this theatre and Middle East. Recommend immediate diversion these hundred aircraft to United States Air Forces Middle East. Situation critical for this type airplane as well as others. Foregoing drafted by Brereton and Maxwell requests immediate favorable action.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

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A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

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CM-IN-9738

(6/29/42)

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JUN 29 1942

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WB 281
2320/29
BS

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
9:09 PM
June 29

INCOMING MESSAGE

P R I O R I T Y

From Cairo
To AGWAR

No 43 AMSME June 29, 1942

Following prepared by General Scott for transmission to Devers (from Maxwell to Marshall) "Continuous stream of two way traffic moving day and night along only improvised road from Matruh to Alexandria. However withdrawal in face of enemy advance proceeding in very orderly fashion because British fighter planes have control over air, and enemy only bombs and machine guns road at night. RAF rendering extremely fine support in these operations with two squadrons of Boston bombers performing eight or nine missions per day on Army Missions. Also three Squadrons of spitfires have improvised racks to carry one five hundred pound bomb and are giving additional much needed support on bombing missions against hostile columns and transport. All these planes are being kept well forward and for past two days majority have been within ten or fifteen minutes flying time of target.

Less than two hundred tanks and only one armored division now in action but recovery and evacuation by trailer of about one hundred fifty additional tanks has been effected in very efficient manner. Repair of most of these additional tanks is reported possible within three or four days..

Final outcome of present action is believed to be dependent upon obtaining additional air support and early entry into action of above mentioned tanks. This additional support should halt German advance and if Rommel should commit error of over extending himself a properly timed counter attack might have decisive results.

New troops from ninth Army in fine spirit and confident. Eighth Army Troops still employed in action have had some rest and seem again ready for efficient combat. South African Division however is short artillery anti tank guns and motor transport and is in very bad condition.

704 30 15 30 VN 415

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OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT

No. 43 Ansme

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

It will take three or four days to prepare final defensive line now proposed at Alamein for normal defense against Infantry attack. The Terrain in front of this line is ideal for mass employment of Armored units so no matter what preparations are made in next three or four days the German armored attack can only be stopped with air, antitank guns and armored units. If more air and tanks are not furnished in a day or so an convinced middle East will be lost.

L. A. D. Maintenance has been so constantly on move to keep ahead of Rommels advance that tank repair is not up to expectation. Amount of air working on enemy ground troops is pitifully small. Artillery and anti tank gun losses in campaign leaves little on hand of Infantry units to meet Armored attack. Air and lots of it very pronto is of vital importance. Signed Scott " Consider this excellent estimate at time made but situation changing rapidly and getting worse.

Maxwell

Light Aid Detachment

Action Copy: OPD
 Info. Copies: G-2
 A-2
 CG AAF
 CGGN
 TAG
 LOG
 File

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 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
 OSD letter, May 3, 1972
 By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-9747

(6/29/42)

10:54 PM

M.L.E. JOURNAL NO.

JUN 30 15 30 AM '45

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 HEADQUARTERS

001

JUN 30 1945
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 NLR 101
 By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AM WAR 3
filed 207P/29
LB

CSWD
June 29, 1942
834A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2903, June 29, 1942.

First news Egyptian situation received since our cable twenty seventh covers only operations on twentyseventh and summarized as follows: By morning twentyseventh main axis forces were in Sidi Hamza dash Minquar area between fifteen and twenty miles south of Matruh where they were engaged all day by Brit eighth army. Brit infantry opposed enemys eastward advance while Brit armored and motorized forces operated further west against enemys southern flank.

Comment: While details still lacking there is no repeat no doubt that Rommels general movement eastward and southeastward remains unchecked and Brit forces from Matruh area are withdrawing to a new position just west of Fuka.

While present lack of detailed information prevents any definite opinion on Brit chances stopping Rommel at Old Wavell defence line which Brit now hold it does seem definitely doubtful if Brit now have available either the tanks or antitank guns either in numbers on in weight to meet and hold much less defeat Rommels available tanks and guns plus his freedom of maneuver.

J#175-6/27

Greenwell

Footnote: Cable 27th No. 2896 (CM-IN-8960 6-27) G-2
Report on Egyptian Campaign.

Action Copy: G-2 *BE*

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, LOG, File *MJA JOURNAL NO*
CM-IN-9557 (6-29-42) AM 10:35

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

RHP, NARS Date *FEB 20 1973*

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

3736

SD17 CONFIDENTIAL
DEPARTMENT FOR OPNAV
RECEIVED 6-28-42, 10:07 A.M. FROM
CAIRO DATED 10-28-42, 2 P.M., NO. 1100
REFERENCE IS MADE TO MY TELEGRAM OF JUNE 18,
7 P.M., NO. 1024.

THE CANAL IS OPEN AS NORMAL.
(SGD) KIRK

SENT TO DN 400P 6/29/42 (HJ)

Cominch - Act
16-1011 - F31-39
200 - Navaid-12
A

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB164
filed 28/1942
dm

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 28, 1942
6:16 PM

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1176 June 28, 1942

Situation in Egypt is unsatisfactory. Although life is always very hard for ninety percent of the people today in villages wages are low, prices higher, people hungrier than normal. Should Axis advance on Delta first reaction on the masses is likely to be looting of warehouses containing food. Present government has not full confidence of the people Prime Minister Nahas Pasha is not as strong as when appointed. Should reverses come government will not be strong in its control over the people from Fellers.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 *BE*

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, LOG, FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-9450 (6/28/42) 7:39 p.m.

MIL. JOURNAL NO.

221

JUN 28 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WC5

Filed at 2044/28
ge

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 28, 1942
10:49 PM

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR Washington
No. 33 AMSER, June 28, 1942

Your eleven sixty have created an armored force detachment consisting of all tank destroyer command personnel and armored force personnel this theatre except General Scott and his aide. From Maxwell to Marshall Lt Colonel L H Ham naught one six eight four eight commanding. Shall employ detachment and armored force specialists due to arrive to instruct British personnel and assist them in maintenance American equipment. Lt Colonel B P Purdue naught one six one four nine acting S three United States Army Forces in Middle East vice Captain W G Jones naught three six one six two two relieved.

MAXWELL

FOOTNOTE: 1160 is CM-OUT-6713 (6/20/42) OPD. Armored force personnel to be held in middle east.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

ACTION: OPD

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CM-IN-9490 (6/29/42) 12:31 AM

M.L.S. JOURNAL NO.

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JUN 29 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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AMWAR 1
filed 28/1P
RM

INCOMING MESSAGE 1942
7:09A

From: London
To: MILID
No 2899 June 28, 1942

Situation Libya: no change.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 - *S.F.*
Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
TAG
File

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-9269 (6-28-42) AM 8:31

MIL JOURNAL NO.

100

JUN 28 1942

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300 Africa

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AKWAR 2
filed 1027P/27
md

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 27, 1942
6:16 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: AGWAR Washington

No. 2377, June 27th, 1942

Upon receipt of your one five six four the entire facilities of this Command were at once offered to the British for the purpose specified. for OPDWDGPD upon receipt of their requirements prompt measures will be taken to assist in the preparation of British personnel scheduled for middle east.

Eisenhower

FOOTNOTE: Radio 1564 is CM-OUT-6557 (6/26/42) OPD. 300 medium tanks contemplated for shipment to Middle East.

ACTION COPY: OPD

INFO. COPY: G-2 A-2 CG AAF TAG G-4 LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

M.L.S. JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-9219 (6/28/42) 4:44 AM

068

JUN 28 1942

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302 North Africa

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WC 1
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CSWD
June 28
7:28 A

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

P R I O R I T Y

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. Ansme 25 June 27, 1942

June twenty fourth Axis main body crossed Egyptian Frontier on broad front between Sidi Omar and Maddalena. This advance outflanked British on Sollum dash Halfaya escarpment, forced withdrawal to east. As Axis advanced British columns from South offered continual harassment. Main body advanced along the railway which leads from five five five dash three three five, through five seven zero dash three two five into Matruh. The retirement of an Indian Brigade along the coastal road conformed to the advance of Axis units along the railway. Axis sent columns north into Sidi Barrani, established Head quarters of African Corps at Maktila.

Night twenty five-twenty six June fifteenth Panzer Division had reached point six seven zero dash three four zero; ninetieth light at six eight five dash three four zero; twenty first Panzer Division at six six zero dash three two zero; Trieste Division with one thousand motor transport reached point six two zero dash three four zero; Littoria Division with two thousand motor transport reached point five nine zero dash three three three; thirty third reconnaissance Unit reached point six six zero dash three five five. There was a column on the coastal road of fifteen hundred motor transport opposed by sixty ninth Indian Brigade. Between two and three thousand motor transport were noted at sixty seven point thirty four. Apparently Axis carrying supplies with it.

British fifteenth, Indian tenth Divisions hold Matruh Fortress; Freyburgs New Zealand Division, fourth and twenty second armored brigades both considerable under strength, extend some ten miles South and West of Matruh.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo to Agwar
June 27, 1942

Page 2
No. ANSME 25

June twenty six Rommels leading elements drove in British covering forces. His dispositions indicate an attack on Matruh Fortress. He may attack largely with Infantry, Artillery, air in hope of engaging entire British Forces. Once they are committed he might make a wide envelopment of British left, reach the sea, cut off their communications, force them to fight in two directions. German Air Force has been strangely inactive for past few days. Inference is they are preparing for attack.

British dispositions appear sound but New Zealand Division and the armored forces must be sure to fall back eastwards sufficiently to prevent envelopment should one be attempted. A better disposition for British might possibly be the New Zealand Division and armored units some ten miles further east so as to force an attack on Matruh or to force Rommel to dispose containing forces about the fortress before main battle is joined. British have received some ten thousand replacement troops.

In the battle which is sure to come within few days outcome depends almost entirely upon Freyburgs Division and air support. New Zealand Division is by far best fighting unit in Middle East. Freyburg is a very great leader of men, possessed of tremendous courage and sound judgment. My personal opinion is New Zealanders are superior to German nineteenth light. British tank support however will be inferior to that which Panzer and Ariete Divisions will give ninetieth Light Division; RAF close support of land forces is likely to be inferior to that offered to ninetieth light by German Air Force.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo to Agwar
June 27, 1942

No. Answe 25
Page 3

During campaign which began in November nineteen forty one Axis moved rapidly from Egyptian Frontier to Agheila, in spring of nineteen forty two moved rapidly back to Gazala; during present campaign has fought and won a brilliant victory then moved rapidly some two hundred fifty miles to Matruh. Mobility of Axis and its capacity for supply and maintenance are superb. Foregoing is Fellers estimate of situation in which I concur.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 - *B. C.*
Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
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LOG
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-9284 (6-28-42) AM 9:36

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116

1114 28

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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AMWAR6
133P/27
EW

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 27, 1942
10:12 A M

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2898 June 27, 1942

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

All official reports from Egypt much delayed reaching London and nothing received to noon date shows that Axis main body had then reached or attacked Brit defended positions. Last report dated twenty sixth received here this A M showed Axis forward troops then fifteen miles southwest of Matruh.

Enemy main bodies advancing in three columns on a front stretching from coast road to Bir Kanayis and last night had reached general line of the Matruh-Siwa Desert track.

British motorized columns and armored cars had been delaying enemys advance on his southern flank and no repeat no Brit main bodies had to then been engaged.

WO information is that wops are prepared to repair and return to service four damaged tanks per day. While no information on German rate of tank recovery it is probably two or three times that of wops. Since fall Tobruk Axis has had undisturbed opportunity to restore their tanks therefore present slowness Axis advance may be some degree due to desire evey possible tank as well as to strengthen supply position before committing selves to attack. Also probable advance air fields for close support aircraft being prepared before attack.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, Log, File.

MLS. JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-8960 (6/27/42)

PM 12:11

176

JUN 27 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB30
Filed 0330/28
RMC

CSWD
June 28, 1942
4:35 AM

Priority

From: Cairo

To: Agwar

No 29 Amsme, June 27, 1942

General Ritchie arrived in Cairo June twenty seven. General Auchinleck is reported as now in the field and in active command of Eighth Army. General Lumsden is now commanding all armor and General Freyburg the infantry. There is no corps set up, both officers being responsible directly to Auchinleck. Matruh will not be defended as a fortress and Auchinleck does not plan to be caught there as his troops were in Tobruk. Middle East Intelligence appears very confident today. They are pinning their entire hopes upon the performance and ability of the New Zealand Division to defeat the Ninetieth Light. Prepared by Fellers and concurred in by Maxwell.

Maxwell

ACTION COPY: OPD

INFO. COPY: G-2 A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

MLB. JOURNAL NO

075

CM-IN-9232 (6/28/42) 6:10 AM

JUN 28 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB26
Filed 0220/28
RMC

CSWD
June 28, 1942
4:35 AM

Priority

From: Cairo

To: Agwar

No 28 Amsme, June 27, 1942

Naught seven four naught local time twenty seventh instant. Seven airplanes of Halverson Detachment bombed Tobruk Wharves and Harbor Installations naught two one naught to naught two three naught hours local time twenty seventh instant. No shipping observed in harbor but numerous large fires were caused in wharfage and warehouse area. Loading was nine five hundred pound British bombs point twelve delay each airplane. Nine British Liberators participated in same mission dropping flares prior to our attack. Weather was four tenths low overcast. Enemy air raids in considerable volume were observed in progress against our installations between Mersa Matruh and Sidi Barrani. For Arnold from Halverson through Maxwell. Average flying time of mission seven hours fifty minutes.

Maxwell

ACTION COPY: CG AAF

INFO. COPY: OPD G-2 A-2 TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO.

074

CM-IN-9236 (6/28/42) 6:26 AM

JUN 28 1942

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300 Africa

WB 18
Filed 0231/27
EA

SECRET

CSWD
June 28, 1942
4:35 AM

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

From: Cairo

To: Agwar

No. 27 AMSME, June 27, 1942

Axis air force has made two concentrated operations. June twentieth during attack and fall of Tobruk there were an estimated one hundred fifty heavy bomber sorties, over two hundred Stuka and light bomber sorties. Night June sixteen dash seventeen seventeen aircraft attacked a convoy near Alexandria.

Except for these two large operations Axis activity has been relatively low probably due to their rapid advance to forward landing grounds and their preparation for another heavy concentration when Axis army meets heavy opposition.

Air activity against Malta since June twenty one has been on an increased scale, an average of thirty five sorties a day.

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft are flying successfully at very great altitude. Reported many times as high as forty thousand feet in vicinity Alexandria prepared by fellers and concurred in.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 *air*

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CGAAF, TAG, LOG, FILE & JOURNAL ~~ML~~

CM-IN-9301 (6/28/42) 11:08 am

125

JUN 28 1942

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

300 Africa

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM ROCKWELL (ALEXANDRIA)		OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 27 JUNE 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODENOOM 0131/27TH			PRIORITY
DECODED BY FERNIER			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY KALAJDIAN			DEFERRED

INDICATE ~~BY~~ ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

252330

NCR 2354

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT
TEXT

PLAN TO EVACUATE ALEXANDRIA WITH MAMGAN YEOMAN 1ST CLASS AND 1 COPY CSP 145. WILL DESTROY ALL OTHER CODES AND CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS IF AXIS BREAKS THROUGH AT MERSA MATRU. PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO GO VIA SEA AS WOULD PREFER. PLANS AFTER ARRIVAL CAIRO DEPENDS ON CONDITIONS.

SIGNED ROCKWELL

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (F)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

ACTION: 16.....

20G.....COMINOH.....20Q.....20P.....19C.....20K..... OPDO...

FILES: CNO.....

252330

NCR 2354

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Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

252330

310 Africa

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WB 143
Filed 1946/26th
VEW

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
June 26, 1942
4:47 PM

P R I O R I T Y

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. 22 Amme, June 26, 1942

Naught seven four naught hours twenty sixth instant. Four B twenty four Dees left Base twenty three thirty local time twenty fifth instant returning to base naught six two naught twenty sixth, loading six five hundred pounds of GP bombs each, assigned to bomb two vessels in Tobruk Harbor. Halverson for Arnold. They were accompanied by three British liberators. No shipping was seen in the Harbor and all bombs were dropped on the wharves. Bursts were mostly observed but no fires seen. Antiaircraft opposition was light target area unusually quiet. Enroute to target heavy enemy air raiding was observed against our installations west of Mersa Matruh. On return one crew observed five or six vessels lying off shore sixty to eighty miles East of Tobruk vicinity of Cape Axax. Probable availability for tonight's mission eight possible ten fit for combat

Maxwell

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

ACTION: CG AAF

INFO COPIES: OPD, G-2, A-2, TAG, LOG, FILE

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

210

JUN 26 1942

CM-IR-8653 (6/26/42) 6:26 PM

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CD86
1736/26
RMC

CSWD
June 26, 1942
1:57 PM

From: Lisboa

To: Milid

No 395, June 26, 1942

Loss of Tobruk possibly due to treachery of Afrikander
Colonial source discovery of Axis plot in South Africa
led to arrest of local policemen.

Shipp

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

Action Copy: G-2 *WE*

Info. Copies: OPD
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MIS. JOURNAL NO.

193

CM-IN-8640

(6/26/42)

5:33 PM

JUN 26 1942

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WC 56
2035/26
dj

CONFIDENTIAL
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 26
9367

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Ankara
To: MILID

No. 198 June 26, 1942

Latest information here reference your no. 145 from GHQ Middle East as of June 15th follows: British certain no repeat no paratroops units or special air infantry on Crete, unless new within last few days. Garrison consists of 1 poor Italian division and 1 German division of which two thirds second class and one third third class troops. Total 20000. Former German first class divisions used in air operation moved from Crete between November and January to Eastern front. Present disposition Crete antiaircraft, Coast defense units and fortifications of defense nature. British uninformed of any change in past week or two.

Jadwin

FOOTNOTE: Radio 145 is CM-OUT-8059 (6/24/42) G-2. Report paratroops and air infantry on Crete.

ACTION COPY: G-2 *SC*

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

[Signature]
M.I.E. JOURNAL NO.

084

JUN 27 1942

CM-IN-8848 (6/27/42) 5:35 AM

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD

CDW 38
filed 1410/26
LB

INCOMING MESSAGE June 26, 1942
949A

From: Lisboa
To: Milid

No. 393, June 26, 1942

If Matruh is lost Germans will reach Suez Turkey will swing to Axis if Egypt falls local opinion speech of Salazar shows critical situation here and possibility of entrance into war Spanish have underground airdromes at Porrino and near Tuy improving those at Salamanca and Caceres.

Shipp

Action Copy: G-2 *WE*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
FILE

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1973
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

MLA JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-8562 (6/26/42) 11:49 am

108

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JUN 29 1942
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3 *Africa*
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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

AMWAR2
130P/26
EW

CSWD
June 26, 1942
8:48 A M

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2887 June 26, 1942

Press from Cairo this AM say heavy fighting started Mersa Matruh area Egypt. This not yet received officially in London but probably true.

British rear guard of parts two infantry divisions and one armored brigade have maintained contact with advancing axis forces and had some fighting.

Brit now have in position in old original defences just west of and south from Mersa Matruh four infantry divisions and remnants one armored division with about one hundred seventy five tanks. Last estimate Rommerls tank strength was just after Tobruk when Axis had three hundred seventy. He undoubtedly has repaired many others since and some local estimates that he now may have between five and six hundred.

General Auchinleck has assumed personal command present operations.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

from London to Milid No. 2887 June 26, 1942 Page 2

Air ministry says mideast air force in excellent shape for coming battle.

German news service put out story last night that an American motorized division had joined British in Egypt.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 *BC*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-8545 (6-26-42) AM 11:10

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

096

JUN 26 1947

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WR229
filed 26/0043
26

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
JUN 25, 1943
10:28 PM

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: Agwar Washington
No. 18 ANSHE June 25, 1943

Twelve Halpro B twenty four D's left Fayid Base twenty one twenty six to twenty one fifty four local standard time twenty fourth instant two returned to base because of equipment failures, a total of ten B twenty four D's attacked Benghazi objective naught two ten to naught two three three local standard time twenty fifth instant, all returning to base naught five four seven to naught six three naught hours. All crews bombed docks and warehouse area targets and fair results including two fires in target area were observed. For Marshall from Maxwell bomb loadings were mostly British GP five hundred pounders without nose fuses, loaded six to each airplane the supply of American made bombs here is now exhausted. Believe a number of these bombs fell Dud. Bombs hung in racks on these planes necessitating extra runs and salvo releases. Racks installed on these airplanes have failed frequently under field conditions. Number of airplanes remaining fit for combat service as of June twenty fifth eight. On today's raid average bombing height of Halpro airplanes was twenty thousand feet. Searchlight and heavy anti-aircraft opposition not perceptibly increased since last operation. British participation in combined operation consisted of seven Liberators and seventy four Wellingtons which attacked target last previous to our attack. Efforts to target enemy air raids considerable volume against El Daba airdromes and installations between El Daba and Matruh, were observed. Reasonable to assume that these attacks will now be extended to installations here in view of enemy's reoccupation of Gazala and other base airdromes in Tobruk area this message has been personally discussed with General Maxwell. Halverson.

FEB 20 1973

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (F)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By REP, NARS Desk

ACTION COPY: CG AAF
INFO. COPY: OPD G-2 A-2 TAG LOG FILE

Maxwell

CM-IN-8413 (6/26/43) 1:02AM

~~SECRET~~

ALL JOURNAL NO.

024

JUN 26 1943

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

308 Africa

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

ANWAR 4
Filed 1244P/25
ACM

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 25, 1942.
7:58 A. M.

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2879, June 25th, 1942.

On Egyptian border regrouping and reorganization Brit eighth army proceeding. Some Brit forward units have been completely withdrawn. Majority Brit supply dumps successfully cleared from forward positions.

During day twenty third no repeat no serious enemy pressure on defences Sollum area though small parties enemy were engaged along Sollum front thruout day. Brit mobile battle groups succeeded keeping enemy west of frontier wire. Main enemy activity appeared in area Sidi Omar dash Libyan Scheferzen.

Morning twenty fourth enemy was in considerable strength in area southeast of Scheferzen and east and south of Hamra with tanks and about three to four thousand MT. General trend enemy movement was eastward and small bodies reported moving northeast in direction Sidi Barrani. Brit mobile units continued harass enemy flanks.

To night of twenty fourth all indications were enemy developing his movement eastward.

Add to causes given our cable twenty eight sixty eight following great efficiency German seventy five and fifty MM high velocity guns now used in German tanks. See our previous reports these guns.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Page two, No. 2879, June 25th, 1942.

Press uproar and House of Commons demands for vote confidence on conduct Libyan campaign seem less active today.

Greenwell.

J224 G/23

Note: No. 2868 was CM-IN-7568 (6/23/42)G-2: Summary of Libyan situation.

Action Copy: G-2 *136*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
Log
File

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(C) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-8175 (6/25/42) AM 10:58

MLR JOURNAL NO.

155

JUN 25 1942

30

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

2 WVRA
NFT/25
AEU

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 25
10:39 AM

URGENT

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

From: New Delhi
To: AGWAR

No. Aquila 2319, June 25, 1942

Proceeding Middle East this date June twentyfifth. From Brereton to Marshall. This in compliance with your WD six one five June twenty third received this headquarters June twenty fourth. Expect to arrive Cairo Saturday or earlier. Initial maximum effort from India appears to be ten bombers. Seven to depart without delay, three to follow as they come into commission and others as engines and other equipment become available, taking initially minimum staff and with heavy bombers to include combat crews a total of approximately sixty officers and one hundred and sixty five enlisted men. Adler, Strahn, Whitney, two ADC, British Liaison Officer accompanying me as my staff. Pierce of Medical Corps as Surgeon. Naiden to remain Delhi.

Aquila

FOOTNOTE: Reference apparently to 618, CM-OUT-5700 (6/23/42) Brereton to go to Cairo.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2 A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

CM-IN-8183 (6/25/42) 11:18 am

~~READ JOURNAL~~

151

JUN 25 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

4 WYNA
Filed 0915GMT/25
RMC

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 25, 1942
11:11 A.M.

U R G E N T

From: Chungking
To: AGWAR for AMMISCA

No. 864 AMMISCA, June 25, 1942.

Brereton given free hand to execute directive your eight eight eight June two three X radio from New Delhi states Brereton with small staff will proceed June twenty five and force to consist of ten heavy bombers, six transports, fifty officers and one hundred sixty five enlisted men will follow within next few days as airplanes are gotten ready X this does not include movements required to execute urad eight nine six June twenty four.

Stilwell.

Footnote: No. 888 was CM-OUT-5699 (6-23-42) OPD Brereton to go to Middle East. No. 896 was CM-OUT-6075 (6-24-42) OPD. Squadron of A-29s for Brereton.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies:

G-2
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-8199 (6-25-42) AM 11:54

MIL. JOURNAL NO.

153
JUN 25 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

AMWAR 9
Filed 640P/24
RMC

CSWD
June 24, 1942
4:43 PM

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(B) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972

From: **Amebassy London**

To: **Milid**

By **RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973**

No 2876, June 24, 1942

Following information various theaters became available this pm: in Libya WOP Littorio Armored Division formerly believed to be Tripoli with less than fifty tanks and practically no repeat no personnel now been identified in frontier area with about one hundred tanks and with Trieste Motorized Division now forms WOP Mobile Corps. Other WOP Armored Division also at front with about seventy tanks but now operating as individual unit instead of Niti Motorized Division as Mobile Corps as formerly. This gives WOPS total one hundred seventy tanks while Germans now estimated have two hundred total.

WO now considers that if Rommel continues drive can probably go far as Mersa Matrnh before British able to stop him.

So far no repeat no indications Germans preparing use Air Borne Troops Egypt.

Russ Front: Murmansk Harbor facilities also supplies being unloaded badly damaged by last German air raid.

German bridge head on Donetz in Kharkov Area now reported as twenty miles deep thirty miles wide.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 *BE*

Info. Copies: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG File

CM-IN-7971 (6/24/42) 8:17 pm

MIL. JOURNAL NO.

283

JUN 24 1942

29

Also
370 tanks total

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By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB105
1102/225
EW

CSWD
June 25, 1942
12:09 P M

From: Cairo
To: Milid

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

No. 1170 June 24, 1942

Source completely reliable and official but not to be disclosed. Total eightth Army personnel missing as of midnight June twenty two to twenty three are as follows: British, twenty three thousand five hundred; Indian (combat units only) ninety seven hundred; Free French, eleven hundred; South African, fifteen thousand to twenty thousand. A total of from forty nine thousand three hundred to fifty four thousand three hundred.

Fellers

Action Copy:	G-2	BE	<u>Missing:</u>	
Info. Copies:	OPD		British	23,500
	A-2		Indian	9,700
	CG AAF		Free French	1,100
	TAG		So. African	15,000 to 20,000
	LOG			49,300 to 54,300
	File			

CM-IN-8245 (6-25-42) PM 2:09

MIA JOURNAL NO

188

JUN 25 1942

26

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

June 24, 1942

From: ALEXANDRIA (ROCKWELL)

For Action: OPNAV

241315 NCR 9725

Reliable reports received Axis shot allied prisoners on wholesale scale after surrender Tobruk. Possibility Allied evacuation Alexandria imminent. Air of confusion among various arms apparent. Situation becoming grave.

Navy Distribution: 29G
COMINCH
NAVAIDE
29NOP
CNO
File
War Department--Room 4346*

Army Distribution:
Action Copy: G-2 *BE*

Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
TAG
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LOG
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OSD Letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NABS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-7846 (8-24-42) AM 11:52

M.L.S. JOURNAL NO.

143
JUN 24 1942
28

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NLR 101
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 24, 1942
9:51 A M

ANWAR 2
125P/24
EW

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2868 June 24, 1942

No repeat no official report of operations Libya on
twenty third has been received by WO to noon date.

On twenty second enemy movement toward frontier
continued. British infantry reinforcements arrived in Matruh
area and work on defence positions contined. Withdrawal
remaining British Troops from forward areas continued with-
out interference by enemy.

In London vicious attacks on present governments
conduct of war and ability of military high command mideast
continue in press and parliament. Among press Beaverbrook
papers most outspoken and destructive to public confidence.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 *ME*
Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-7835 (6-24-42) AM 11:19

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152
JUN 24 1942
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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 24
200P

WB 118
1320/24
dj

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1165 June 24, 1942

Although British estimate present German tank strength at one zero zero escaped British prisoners report this strength is increasing ten per day due to German repair of battlefield casualties by their efficient maintenance units. British believe Rommel can bring his two Panzer divisions to full strength of one eight zero tanks each by end of July by this time Italian Littoria and Ariete divisions can be brought to strength of one six zero tanks each from fillers of German antitank guns listed by one one five six some seven five to eight zero are eight eight MM dual purpose guns in view of tanks antitank guns troops and air force captured artillery and supplies available to Axis British must reorganize and reinforce rapidly to prevent Rommels complete freedom of action.

Fellers

Handwritten notes:
-10 43 5/22
-11 23 4/22
-13 17 1/22

FOOTNOTE: For 1156 see CM-IN-7051, 7266, 7158, and 7184.

Handwritten note:
-10 150 4/22

Action Copy: G-2 56

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

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203
JUN 24 1942

CM-IN-7887 (6/24/42) 3:02 pm

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 127
1320/24
dj

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 24
224P

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1166 June 24, 1942

No British armored cars now in Middle East meet requirements of desert warfare lack cross country mobility antitank fire power antiaircraft fire power are vulnerable to ground strafing attacks from the air desert requires speed of forty to fifty miles per hour across country and individually sprung wheels recommend that new American eight wheeled armored car be immediately sent to this theatre as it will meet all requirements including protection from twenty mm cannon fire from air from Fellers.

Fellers

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A-2
TAG
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-7897 (6/24/42) PM 3:37

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO.

214
JUN 24 1942

27

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	ALEXANDRIA (ROCKWELL)	OPNAV	URGENT
RELEASED BY	24 JUNE 1942		PRIORITY
DATE	1305/24	FOR ACTION	ROUTINE
TOR CODEROOM	CONNER		DEFERRED
DECODED BY	PHILLIPS		PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY		INFORMATION	ROUTINE
			DEFERRED

QUOTED BY FULTON APPROVED BY INTERCOM ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

241310 NCR 0725

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

RELIABLE REPORTS RECEIVED AXIS SHOT ALLIED PRISONERS
ON WHOLESALE SCALE AFTER SURRENDER TOBRUK. POSSIBILITY
ALLIED EVACUATION ALEXANDRIA IMMINENT. AIR OF CONFUSION
AMONG VARIOUS ARMS APPARENT. SITUATION BECOMING GRAVE.

16...ACTION

RECORD COPY 20G...COMINCH...NAVAIDE...200OP...CNO...FILE

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, SAIS Date FEB 20 1973

241310 NCR 0725

~~SECRET~~

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

241310

311 *April*

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AMWAR 3
Filed
efg

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
23, 1942
2:53 PM

From: London
To: Milid Washington DC

No. 2868 June 23, 1942

For Mis control: following my personal opinion some causes contributing British defeat Libya: either British Combat and Air Intelligence of enemy very bad or higher echelons did not repeat not properly evaluate or use such intelligence. Either Rommel has many more tanks and guns than ever known to British or if not then Brit Command responsible for degree of defeat.

Since beginning this campaign Brit have made constant use of many mobile columns with idea harassing communications, raiding strong points etc. Actual value these columns doubtful and each operation these columns has resulted loss or damage few tanks or AFVS and cumulative loss and damage has been great.

All thru campaign looked from London that British always sat and waited for enemy to make every move. When British did move they were too late. In every move Rommel reached his objective with more tanks and guns than British either had there or were able to get there before too late. Therefore Rommel destroyed in detail an Armored Force originally superior in numbers to his own.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INGOMING MESSAGE

To: **Milid Washington DC**

No. 2068 June 23, 1942

Although British supposed have more tanks than Rommel when campaign started must be remembered large majority Brit tanks were inferior in weight and range of guns to all of Axis tanks. Also Rommel apparently had many more than estimated of the eightyeight MM high velocity self propelled antitank guns which were equally or more deadly against tanks than tanks themselves.

Rommel employed his four WOP infantry divisions very little until he attacked Tobruk. On other hand all British Infantry except one division which early withdrew from Gazala were badly punished and exhausted in early fighting.

It is known that decision whether or not to attempt hold Tobruk not repeat not made until so late that troops ordered to occupy and defend it were barely able get inside perimeter before enemy attacked.

Such as at Acroma, Knightsbridge and El Adem after the enemy had occupied the big gap in British minefields and which were supposed to serve both as centers of resistance and as starting points for attacks on the enemy actually served only to so disperse and isolate British strength in tanks and guns that the enemys task of destroying tanks and guns in detail was apparently made easier than if the British had maintained their entire forces under complete control and with ability to maneuver.

Greenwell

ACTION: G-2

M.L.S. JOURNAL NO.

INFO. COPIES: OPD, SGS, LOG, FILE

CM-IN-7568 (6-23-42) PM 6:22

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CD 103
Filed 1912/23
ams

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 23, 1942
4:33 PM

From: Lisboa

To: MILID

No 387, June 23, 1942

Loss of Malta appears imminent. If Egypt falls
Axis will probably seize Iberian Peninsula and perhaps
all North Africa.

Shipp

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

Action Copy: G-2 WE

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
FILE

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

CM-IN-7572 (6/23/42) 6:34 PM

229²⁸
JUN 28 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

300 Africa

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

June 23, 1942

From: ALEXANDRIA (ROCKWELL)

For Action: OPNAV

222919 NCR 9353

Position British Forces Middle East hopeless without strong air support. Tobruk places Navy at mercy Axis Bombers day and night in or out of harbor. Net gradually closing on all concerned this area unless radical air reinforcements supplied. Urge bombers not less than 100 be flown from U.K. Bomb Italian Fleet landing in Middle East. Italian embarkation bases should be heavily bombed from U.K. Prevent aid to Rommel. This air support most urgent. All U.K. manned planes this area should be concentrated Egypt not Iran or Iraq. Situation more serious than British admit. Rockwell

Navy Distribution: COMINCH
20G
CNO
270P
NAVAIDE
WAR DEPARTMENT--Room 4346*

***Army Distribution:**
Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
A-2
CG AAF
SGS
TAG
LOG
File

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-7847 (6-24-42) AM 11:54

MIS. JOURNAL NO

157

JUN 24 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

300 Africa

SECRET

AN WAR 5
Filed 130P/23
ams

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 23, 1942
2:53 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID
No. 2865, June 23, 1942

Little further news received on fall Tobruk although small number who escaped by sea reached Alexandria. Enemy occupied town and port area night twentieth with tanks and motorized inf after gaining control of escarpment overlooking harbor.

During twentyfirst and second enemy moved eastward and last night was in contact with Brit Sollum positions and also present in considerable force in Bardia dash Capuzzo area. No repeat no enemy reported south of line east and west thru Sollum to last night.

Brit mobile columns operating west of frontier were attacked by bombing aircraft and art fire. Brit air is attacking enemy concentrations and columns on move eastward also harbor Benghazi and landing ground Gazala.

Tobruk garrison time of capture how reported consisted four brigades Inf and remnant one army tank brigade with about sixty tanks. All tanks lost and also all Inf unless some of two South African brigades which were last reported as trying fight their way out succeed in escaping.

WO estimate about one hun their tanks and equivalent of about three regts armored cars reached frontier whil Rommel believed have about two hundred still active end of fighting. Comment: As Rommel will have undisturbed access to all damaged tanks left west of frontier and Brit can recover none Rommels tank strength may be expected to rapidly increase while Brit tank replacement must depend on tanks already available Egypt.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **FEB 20 1973**

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

300 Africa

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER Page 2

From: London
INCOMING MESSAGE
To: MILID

Understood Brit mission Washington prepared furnish you present Brit order battle frontier and other troops available for defence Egypt therefore omitted here for sake security.

WO considers frontier situation grave but not repeat not hopeless.

For his control; adverse factor which must be taken into account is internal situation Egypt where political intrigue and pro German activity recently greatly increased and now augmented by Libyan outcome.

London press filled with charges, recriminations and demands for investigation conduct Libyan campaign and in absence PM no member govt strong enough to restore confidence.

Grenwell

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-7569 (6-23-42) PM 6:25

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223
JUN 23 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

8 FC
1438/22
EV

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
June 22, 1942
10:31 P M

Priority

From: Cai
To: Commanding Genl AAF

no number June 23, 1942

Halvet seven for Arnold. Cooperating with three Wellingtons which lighted targets with incendiaries and flares nine Halpro airplanes attacked target one, wharfs and shipping, and target two warehouse blocks at Bengazi at twenty one ten GMT to twenty one thirty six GMT twenty first. Local time equivalent naught naught one naught to naught naught three six twenty second instant. Average bombing height twenty thousand average flying time between departure from and return to this base eleven hours ten minutes. My crews without exception reached objective, hit their targets, and returned to base. One Wellington was shot down over objective by anti aircraft fire. Bombs carried six five hundred pound American gp usual fusing each aircraft. Large fires were started in target area visible to our aircraft for period fifteen minutes after leaving Bengazi.

Halverson

Action Copy: CG AAF

Info. Copies: OPD
G-2
A-2
TAG
LOG
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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20, 1973

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127
JUN 23 1942

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER		EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	ALEXANDRIA (ROCKWELL)		OPNAV	PPPP PRIORITY
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION		ROUTINE
DATE	23 JUNE 42			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM	2118/29	INFORMATION	PRIORITY	
DECODED BY	DIAS		ROUTINE	
PARAPHRASED BY	GILKER		DEFERRED	

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

COPELAND

222010 NCR 0359

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

POSITION BRITISH FORCES MIDDLE EAST HOPELESS WITHOUT STRONG AIR SUPPORT. TOBRUK PLACES NAVY AT MERCY AXIS BOMBERS DAY AND NIGHT IN OR OUT OF HARBOR. NET GRADUALLY CLOSING ON ALL CONCERNED THIS AREA UNLESS RADICAL AIR REINFORCEMENTS SUPPLIED. URGE BOMBERS NOT LESS THAN HUNDRED BE FLOWN FROM U.K. BOMB ITALIAN FLEET LANDING IN MIDDLE EAST. ITALIAN EMBARKATION BASES SHOULD BE HEAVILY BOMBED FROM U.K. PREVENT AID TO ROMMEL. THIS AIR SUPPORT MOST URGENT. ALL U.K. MANNED PLANES THIS AREA SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED EGYPT NOT IRAN OR IRAQ. SITUATION MORE SERIOUS THAN BRITISH ADMIT. ROCKWELL.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

WB89
Filed 22/1150
ah

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ID
June 23, 1942
200 P.M.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Fort Lamy
To: Milid

Rr. NR25, June 22, 1942

Frenchman recently escaped France via Oran Casa
Blanca Dakar states Germans in civilian clothes in
all three ports German officers in uniform in Casa Blanca.
Battleship Jean Bart still at Casa Blanca lacks four
guns main forward turret condition otherwise unknown he
estimates public opinion French West Africa eightyfive
percent Anti Vichy.

Miller.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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JUN 23 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

ANWAR X
1250P/22
dj

CSWD
June 22
718A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2857 June 22nd, 1942

Rommel's attack Tobruk started early morning twentieth. Heavy air bombardment followed by Infantry assault against southeast face of perimeter defense which was breached through which tanks and motorized infantry passed. All afternoon severe fighting inside perimeter in which British lost all or most of the one Army tank brigade there. As result defense deteriorated rapidly and at dark remaining mobile portion of garrison started to fight way out toward Egypt but no repeat no information as to their fate. Remainder garrison continued fight but at eight hours twentyfirst all radio communication ceased and at midnight London time last night fall Tobruk confirmed.

No repeat no information yet here on British losses Tobruk personnel or materiel in addition to strategic loss this strong point and its harbor.

Nothing received here to noon date indicates development Axis attack against British positions on Egyptian frontier but Axis still has considerable armored force within fifteen miles of Sollum and Brit mobile column which have continued to operate far as El Adem report they now being met with stiffer opposition.

Greenwell

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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JUN 22 1942

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(6/22/42)

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WB 143
Filed: 1825/21
alt

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CBSW
June 21, 1942
NRT

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington
No. 1156, June 21, 1942

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

Estimation of Axis tank strength: June 21st Germans 145, Italians 122; June 25th Germans 180, Italians 184; end June Germans may reach at least 200, Italian about 190. These figures exclude many captured serviceable American M-medium.

There is no evidence indicating scale Axis Libyan reinforcements. 2 Italian tank battalions are expected to arrive in the forward area soon. If available from Russian front British estimate Germans could place 1 Panzer Division in the forward area by July 31st. In Mediterranean area are 200 transport planes with 60 per cent serviceable. Troops, spare parts, miscellaneous supplies are being flown into Lybya by not more than 10 or 20 planes daily.

Rommel's most important harbor is Benghazi. Here formerly using lighters he unloaded 400 to 500 tons daily; now he has built superstructures over 2 sunken ships, is able to unload some 3000 tons daily. During May he unloaded 100,000 tons which is 70,000 more than during April.

Captured D documents reveal Rommel expected to take Tobruk in 4 days; that he anticipated quick victory. He has used more ammunition and fuel, has suffered greater losses than he calculated. Rommel may be short certain types of ammunition, has sufficient aviation gasoline to last until June 30th. Based on sorties flown Axis consume some 145 tons of aviation gasoline daily. This fuel must come largely from Benghazi. Captured British motor vehicles have solved Axis transport problems.

No immediate Axis threat is evident from Aegeans. British appear unconcerned over fact that there is only 1 division defending Syria and Palestine.

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JUN 22 1942

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WB 1
Filed 2250/22
EA

SECRET

CSWD
June 22, 1942
12:22 PM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washn DC
No. 1158, June 21, 1942

In present Libyan campaign German operation gives excellent illustration of coordinate employment of an armored corps consisting of 3 armored divisions and 1 motorized infantry division especially equipped and trained as part of the corps. It also illustrates importance of strong infantry and anti tank units as organic part of the corps and division. From General Scott U. Devers. In the first phase German armored corps consisting 15 th, 21 st and Ariete armored divisions and 90 th motorized infantry division moved rapidly around British south flank with its 4 divisions abreast. British mine field was used as obstacle to protect west flank of corps and motorized infantry division covered its east flank .

When this advance was stopped in the vicinity of Knights Bridge by superior number British tanks German armored divisions took up positions in so-called Cauldron area. While in this position anti tank units and artillery were employed to meet British tank attacks; tank units counter attacked against any penetration of the position and infantry and engineers cleared way through mine fields.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

Page 2 **INCOMING MESSAGE**

From: Cairo To: Milid No. 1158, June 21, 1942

When passage way through mine fields was opened British tried to block this passage with 1 infantry brigade of 50 th division. Whereupon German armored corps continued to hold off British tank units with anti tank guns, artillery and some tanks while they attacked with majority of infantry, artillery and tank elements of 3 armored divisions to completely destroy British infantry brigade blocking way through mine fields. Furthermore the operations to clear way through mine fields was assisted by an attack from northeast tank brigade detached from German infantry corps.

After clearing and widening way through mine fields German armored corps again by coordinated action isolated southern portion of British position, attacked and forced withdrawal from Birhacheim.

In contrast to this coordinated action of German armored corps strong in spaces organic infantry and powerful self propelled anti tank units British armored corps not only was not reinforced by addition of infantry units but early in the action both infantry brigades from the 2 armored divisions were placed on detached missions, one to raid west of Birhacheim and 1 to form box at vicinity of Knights Bridge. This procedure left only the 3 British tank brigade to meet German main effort which they did by firing their tank and some artillery against powerful anti tank guns which had them out gunned. In short British armored corps did not function as a corps

Foreging accounts for major portion of British tank losses which later were increased when British armored corps was required to hold off German main effort in direction of EL ADEM-TOBRUK while British infantry withdrew

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Page 3

From: Cairo To: Milid No. 1158, June 21, 1942
east of TOBRUK from Gazala.

Majority of British medium tank losses secured from hostile 88MM fire. General Grant's armor is most effective against 50 MM fire and this tank can out gun and reduce these smaller anti tank guns with ease. It is considered at least equal to German mark 4 in all respects.

Certainly in high mobile desert warfare German here have demonstrated that armored elements constitute higher commanders principle of means for defeats of enemies; that it should be used offensively and that other units should be used as far as necessary and not vice versa.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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JUN 23 1942 30

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB63
1347/21
EW

CSWD
June 21, 1942
8:59 A M

Priority

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1157 June 21, 1942

Night of June 20th June 21st Rommel took Tobruk Port. 15th armored division from vicinity of El Duda attacked northwest, moved on junction of coast road and Tobruk-El Adem road, entered harbor area. Trieste was on German right flank near coast, with Brescia and Pavia on left flank.

Tobruk garrison composed of South Africans, guard brigade, 1 Indian Brigade, greater portion of which was along Perimeter defense, was given permission by Ritchie to attempt to fight their way out by attacking southwestern Axis forces, then head south toward El-Gubi thence to Bidotta Maddalena. British estimate 5 regiments artillery, numerous antiaircraft guns, 3 months supplies have been lost.

German 21st armored division, 288th group, 90th light division are now occupying Bardia, Capuzzo line. British now defending Sollum, Musaid, Halfaya circle with line extending along frontier to Libyan Omar.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB195
Filed 2250/21st
efg

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 21, 1942
11:47 PM

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington
No 1156 June 21, 1942

With numerically superior forces, tanks, aircraft, artillery and transports, reserves of all classes the British Army has twice failed to defeat the Axis in Libya. Under their present leadership and with their present casual measurements British cannot be given enough lease lend equipment to win a victory. 8th Army failed to maintain morale of its troops. Its tactical conceptions were consistently faulty; it neglected completely use of combined arms; its reactions to lightning battlefield changes was sluggish; it was without foresight in planning evacuation of supplies.

The only remaining certain and effective method of destroying Rommel is to unify Air and Army Commands, to reorganize the 8th Army under new leadership and new methods, to delay and contain the Axis forces, at the same time to interrupt shipping so as to deny vital supplies to the Axis.

German Air Force has complete control of the Eastern Mediterranean. The Royal Navy is impotent. RAF has failed to inflict appreciable losses on Axis shipping. Only American bombers of the B-24 type under an air support command will be able to deny vital supplies.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

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WAR DEPARTMENT

From ~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE CENTER Page 2

To: ~~SECRET~~ Wald Washington

INCOMING MESSAGE

No. 1166 June 21, 1943

From now on the necessity of sinking cargoes in Benghazi and Tobruk Harbors and the sinking of supply ships en route Libya is of paramount importance. This interruption of Axis supply must be accomplished or Middle East will lie at complete mercy of Rommel.

Conclusion: 1. British 8th Army was decisively defeated due largely to poor leadership. 2. If Rommel intends to take the Delta now is an opportune time. 3. British must work fast in order to present even a respectable resistance against Axis Forces. 4. To hold Middle East British must be provided immediately in order of importance with great quantities of heavy bombers, tanks, artillery. Recommendations: That the American Air Force in India be dispatched to Middle East immediately; that an air support command consisting largely of the B-24 type Aircraft be sent to Middle East immediately that an Armored Corps consisting of 2 Armored, 1 Infantry Division with 2 tank destroyers Battalions as Corps Troops be sent to Middle East as quickly as possible.

Fellers

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JUN 22 1943

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 21
925P

WB 14(1)
1830/21
dj

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1156 Part III June 21, 1942

Last message from Tobruk indicated garrison composed of 2nd South African Division, 1 Brigade 1st South African Division, 201st Guards Brigade, 11th Indian Brigade, at least 5 regiments of Field Artillery after doing all damage Tobruk installations planned to surrender.

By night of June 20th half of Tobruk garrison artillery was lost, insufficient transports remained to justify attempt to fight way clear of Tobruk attackers. German attack was led by not more than 60 tanks of the 15th Armored Division. Guards Brigade bore brunt of attack before giving way.

Believed that main units of 8th Army will retire to Matruh defenses. Units left in 8th Army are 2 South African Brigades of low combat efficiency, 1 strong Brigade of 50th Division, 2nd Free French group, 1 regrouped Indian Division, fresh and complete New Zealand which has no replacements available, 9th Australian Division which is still in Palestine and Syria. Middle East estimates that a weak Armored Brigade might be ready at frontier by 1st week in July.

Fellers

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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131

JUN 22 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 22
609A

WB 191
2250/21
dj

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1156 Part 4 June 21, 1942

In all Middle East there are 3,550 aircraft of which only 30 per cent are serviceable.

In Egypt, Sudan, Palestine there are only 958 operational aircraft in squadrons of which 647 are serviceable. At Malta there are 225 aircraft of which 141 are serviceable.

British will neither disclose tank losses nor announce present tank strength. However on June 13th according to reliable unofficial reports they had only 65 tanks running. Today June 21st there are 22 American Medium tanks in Delta available issue. A most optimistic estimate of British effective tank strength at the front is 100 tanks. Of this optimistic estimate only a small portion are American Medium, the remainder are rather worthless British cruisers. From our own study shall soon have fairly accurate tank estimate.

When operations started 8th Army had 21 regiments of 25 pounders, 3 regiments of Medium Artillery. They have lost 8 complete regiments, 3 with a brigade of 5th Indian Division, 5 in Tobruk. Artillery losses in all areas were heavy. Consequently it is safe to estimate they lost 40 to 50 per cent of their artillery. Losses in antiaircraft materiel have also been heavy. Tobruk had possibly the best antiaircraft barrage in Middle East.

Fellers

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-7144

(6/22/42)

11:12 AM

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JUN 22 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
June 21
1147P

IB 194 X
1348/21
13

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1156 Part 5, June 21, 1942

Although May 27th there were 1564 tanks in Middle East today British need a hundred per cent tank replacement program. They prefer American Medium to any other tank. Due to a probable 40 to 50 percent artillery loss British need as many of our Medium Howitzers as can be dispatched. Antiaircraft materiel is also sorely needed.

Before morale of 8th Army men can be restored they must regain confidence in leadership provided them. Officers must take positive measures to improve the rations of the men. British soldier has been living far too long on an unbalanced ration of cold corned beef, Army biscuits, salt water tea.

Today Axis has the advantage over British forces in tank strength, antitank guns, in morale, leadership. British and Axis forces are probably equal in artillery. British have numerical advantage in troop strength, aircraft. Due to low serviceability however RAF is unable to provide as many support aircraft as is German Air Force.

Should he decide to attempt invasion of Egypt Rommel will require a little time to rest, refit, regroup his force. During this period it is even chance Axis will attack Malta so as to provide an uninterrupted supply line from Italy and Greece to Tobruk harbor.

British are vulnerable in Syria, Western Desert, Persian Gulf area.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
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(6/22/42)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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ANWAR 4
Filed 21/10P
AJ

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 21, 1942
4:18 P.M.

From: London
To : Milid

No. 2855, June 21, 1942

While not confirmed from mideast all informa-
tion here to nine PM indicates Tobruk is finished.

Greenwell

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

ACTION: G-2 *BE*

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JUN 21 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

ANWAR 2
240P/21
EW

CSWD
June 21, 1942
9:40 A M

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2853 June 21, 1942

Mideast latest reports show Axis halted advance toward Egypt on night nineteenth about twenty miles from frontier and started preparing attack on Tobruk from southeast. Attack launched twentieth and latest news is Axis has penetrated Peremeiter defenses and very heavy attack continues.

Brit Mobile forces still able operate in zone about twenty miles wide west of Egypt frontier.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAHS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-6797

(6/21/42)

11:54 am

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

134

JUN 21 1942

28

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB63
1347/21
EW

CSWD
June 21, 1942
8:59 A M

Priority

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1157 June 21, 1942

Night of June 20th June 21st Rommel took Tobruk Port. 15th armored division from vicinity of El Duda attacked northwest, moved on junction of coast road and Tobruk-El Adem road, entered harbor area. Trieste was on German right flank near coast, with Brescia and Pavia on left flank.

Tobruk garrison composed of South Africans, guard brigade, 1 Indian Brigade, greater portion of which was along Perimeter defense, was given permission by Ritchie to attempt to fight their way out by attacking southwestern Axis forces, then head south toward El-Gubi thence to Bidotta Maddalena. British estimate 5 regiments artillery, numerous antiaircraft guns, 2 months supplies have been lost.

German 21st armored division, 288th group, 90th light division are now occupying Bardia, Capuzzo line. British now defending Sollum, Musaid, Halfaya circle with line extending along frontier to Libyan Omar.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo to Milid No. 1157 June 21, 1942 Page 2

Although Rommel's forces must be tired, their equipment depleted, he can be expected to follow up to absolute limit of his capacity.

British troops very tired, dazed, morale low. Their best hopes lie in stand at Matruh and in Freyberg with his New Zealand division.

Recommend that American air force in India be sent this theater immediately with mission interrupt Rommel's supply.

Fellers

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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Info. Copies: OPD
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CM-IN-6822 (6/21/42) 1:09 PM

MLS. JOURNAL NO.

145

JUN 21 1942

29

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

SD 6: SD WASHN DC JUNE 20 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR OPNAV

FOLLOWING RECEIVED JUNE 19, 820PM FROM

CAIRO DATED JUNE 18, 7PM NUMBER 1024

THIS IS TO REPORT THAT THE CANAL REMAINS OPEN
AS USUAL

(SIGNED) KIRK

121AM JUNE 20 1942 TR

F-37.....ACTION

16...19...20G...CO-INCH...P1A...11/11...20P...FILE/KELLY

NCR 8370

200121

300 *afin*

COMMON FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

Room 3112,
June 19, 1942.

TO: F-1 _____ F-2 _____ F-3 _____
F-4 _____ F-5 _____ F-6 _____
F-7 _____ F-8 _____ F-9 _____
F-10 _____ F-11 _____

FROM: NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SECTION

1. The Military Attacks at Cairo, Egypt, has furnished an RAF publication called "Direct Air Support" and commented thereon. It states that:-

"Close support of the British Army has not been given by the Royal Air Force in the Libyan Campaign. A separate Air Force; a too complicated system of command; the Air Superiority Policy; the establishment of a "Bank Line"; and the lack of adequate ground recognition signals are the main reasons for this lack of support.

"The separate Air Force is the basic reason for lack of close support since the RAF are never apt to consider air problems in preference to Army problems. When the enemy have air superiority in a locality, the Support Bombers must have heavy fighter protection or the RAF will not send them to that locality. Frequently it is not known who has local superiority and in this case the RAF assumes the enemy has it. When the enemy has air superiority or approaches such superiority, the RAF frequently send their aircraft on their own missions against enemy airplanes in an attempt to whittle down the enemy air strength. All types of aircraft, including bombers and gliders, which are the Army Support Bombers, have been used on these airplane missions.

"The normal time required to get Support Bombers to a target after it has been observed by tactical aircraft is hours and frequently the mission must be delayed until next morning. The delay is partially due to the complicated command set-up inasmuch as both the Army and Air Commanders must decide jointly whether the mission will be carried out and since their command post is separated from both bomber and fighter fields, such delay occurs thru handling of communications.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COMBINED FILE

1

COMBINED FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMADMAR IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

"The Bomb Line, which is laid down daily, is a line advised at by adding a safe margin to the maximum advance our troops are capable of in one day. Bombers are not permitted to bomb in the rear of this line. It is frequently so far in the enemy's rear area as to preclude bombing front line objectives.

"The problem of aircraft recognition as well as recognition of ground units remains to be solved. Ground strip identification and permanent vehicle markings are a step in the right direction."

The Military Attache further states that:-

"After having observed RAF and Army cooperation for a year and a half, I am convinced the best results can be obtained only if air and ground units are under a single command."

2. Of the 15,000,000 tons of shipping lost since September 3, 1939, losses have been caused as follows:-

Submarine	47%
Aircraft	14%
Captured	11%
Mine	8%
Surface Craft	8%
Shelling	4%
Unknown Causes	8%

GEORGE C. DYER.

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AM WAR 4
filed 555P/19
LB

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
June 19, 1942
420P

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2844, June 19, 1942.

2 Late on seventeenth in Libya considerable enemy tank force attacked British armored units in area south of Sidi Rezegh and British force compelled withdraw to southeast but claim inflicted heavy tank losses on enemy although British also suffered tank losses. During seventeenth British mobile columns continued harassing enemy southern flank.

During eighteenth enemy continued advance in two main columns one along Trigh Capuzzo and second along Track El Adem dash Scheferzen. Each column included tanks. British finally halted northern enemy column twelve miles south of Gambut but southern column still advancing at last reports. British mobile columns still able operate south of El Adem.

To sum up all info recd here to date British either are now or soon will be forced on defensive in old Egyptian border positions of first Libyan campaign. Whether or not Mideast Command will decide attempt hold Tobruk again not yet known to WO. If British do decide hold Tobruk its supply by sea will be much more difficult than during last siege and enemy can undoubtedly cut off supply by land from Egypt.

All known of present British dispositions is four infantry brigades and one army tank brigade Tobruk. One infantry division Soslum and remnants one infantry division plus one Indian brigade Maddalena and all remaining British armored force still mobile.

Greenwell

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Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
FILE

CM-IN-6255

(6/19/42) 7:39 PM

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

MIL JOURNAL NO.

238

JUN 19 1942

COPY No. 28

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

300 Africa

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 137
filed 19/140
da

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 19, 1942
3:19 PM

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1149 June 19, 1942

Operation of American heavy bombers from Middle East will threaten all Axis critical areas and communications within radius of miles. To meet this threat Axis must allocate antiaircraft personnel material and aircraft sorely needed on Russian front.

British fleet losses of Kythera Straits May 22nd 1941 proved fleet without ample air coverage cannot operate within range of landbased enemy air force. Recent attack by American aircraft on Italian fleet inflicted losses, caused fleet to turn back, proved heavy bombers can effectively interrupt Eastern Mediterranean shipping. Based on events which have already taken place it is clear Eastern Mediterranean is preeminently an air theater, that its shipping can be controlled by bombers based in Middle East.

Our heavy bombers if available in sufficient quantities for continuous operation can effectively interrupt Axis shipping to North Africa as far west as Tripoli. Rommel's ultimate defeat therefore can be effected through closing of Mediterranean traffic by heavy bombardment planes.

Heavy bombers this theater offer reasonable safeguard from invasion via Red Sea and Persian Gulf, can deny reinforcements to Rommel and strike heavily against invasion of delta from Western desert.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (S)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

301 Africa

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

No. **INCOMING MESSAGE**

But there are more than military advantages to be derived as a result of the effectiveness of heavy bombers. In Middle East, Turkey and Balkans already there is a favorable psychological reaction resulting from their presence. Reports from the Syrians, Arabs and Howlems indicate feeling of assurance because of the presence of these American Air Force. Yugoslavs claim that a single bombing of Roumanian oil is source of great encouragement to their oppressed people. Only presence of American heavy bombers in quantities can absorb shock from 8th army reverses in Lybya.

British consider Middle East and India as interdependent theater, claiming if India falls Middle East goes also. While this conception is absolutely erroneous its converse is true. If Middle East falls India falls also. Our war department must consider now the possibility of our air force in India being cut off due to loss of Middle East. Should it develop that Rommel intends at this time to attack the Delta, air force in India should be moved to this theater to oppose Rommel's offensive.

Recommendations: that the War Department prepare plans immediately to use the American Air Force now in India for the defense of Middle East the moment Rommel's intent to advance into Egypt is indicated.

That since Middle East is preeminently an air theater urgently recommend immediate establishment of an American air support command in this theater.

Fellers

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CN-IN-6491

(6/20/42)

1:47 PM

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

*Request Copy
for White House
15*

WB 137
filed 19/14
dm

CSWD
June 19, 1942
3:19 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1149 June 19, 1942

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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45

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

RECEIVED

No. **INCOMING MESSAGE** 1942

JUN 22 10 44 PM 1942

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Fellers

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

156

Action Copy: OPD

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CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

JUN 20 1942

CM-IN-6491

(6/20/42)

1:47 PM

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

183

SANITIZED DOCUMENT
NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVAL MESSAGE

DRAFTER ALBINA TANKER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY 19 JUNE 42			ROUTINE
DATE 1142/19	FOR INFORMATION	DECLASSIFIED E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(c) and 2(D) or 1E NND 760111 By SLE Date APR 23 1976	DEFERRED
TOX CODE ROOM SHAW/PURDY			PRIORITY
DECODED BY GILKER			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY
 *LT COL L. BERTHOLD 191130 HCR 7874

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME OCT

THIS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM VICE CONSUL REID WHO ASKS ABSOLUTE
 SECRECY BECAUSE SOURCE IS [REDACTED]

BEGINS: FRENCH SECRET SERVICE BY INTERCEPTING AND BREAKING
 GERMAN SECRET CODE FORWARDED ON JUNE 17 TO BICHY THE FOLLOWING
 INFORMATION. A CRACK GERMAN PARACHUTE OUTFIT THE BRANDENBURG
 ERWEHR REGIMENT IS STANDING BY AT WIESBADEN FOR INVASION FRENCH
 MOROCCO. PLAN CALLS FOR REACHING MARIGNAN AIRPORT AT NARSEILLES
 AT SUNDOWN TO REFUEL AND TAKE OFF AFTER DARK FOR ORAN. FROM
 ORAN THE OBJECTIVE IS MEKNESAIR-PORT AT DAYBREAK WHERE PARACHUTE
 SPECIALISTS WILL SEIZE AIRFIELD WHILE ANOTHER WING OF THE COMMAND
 WILL PERFORM THE SAME OPERATION OFAZ AIRPORT. PART TWO FOLLOWS.

DISTRIBUTION *WILL BE DELIVERED WHEN RECEIVED.

16....ACTION

RECORD COPY: 20G. CONINCH...

FILE

~~SECRET~~

Hold
191130

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (1) NAVREGS.)

300 North Africa

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

797130

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 E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
 NLR 101
 By RT, NARA, Date 4/21/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM <u>CAIRO (COOPER)</u>	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY _____			ROUTINE
DATE <u>19 JUNE 1942</u>	INFORMATION		DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM <u>1941/19</u>			PRIORITY
DECODED BY <u>PENNE</u>			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY <u>JONES</u>			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

LT COPELAND

191844 NCR 8111

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

A PRISONER BELIEVED RELIABLE REPORTS PRESENCE IN LIBYA OF 778 WATER LANDING COMPANY A TANK CARRYING UNIT FOR SEM BORNE LANDINGS. HE BELIEVED UNIT HAD 8 FLAT BOTTOMED BOATS EACH ABLE TO CARRY TWO TANKS. UNIT SECRETLY TRAINED OFF CAPRI. POSSIBLY 8 F BOATS OBSERVED IN DERN. REPORTED MY 191530.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(3) and 3(4) or (5)
OSD letter, May 3, 1978
By: RHP, HARS Date: FEB 20 1973

16....ACT

RECORD COPIES...20G..COMINCH..NAVAIDE..

FILE...20P

191844

~~SECRET~~

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

07129
191844 300 Libya

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WC 90
Filed 1110/20M
efg

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 21, 1942
10:37 AM

From: Cairo
To: Milid WashingtonDC

No. 1147 June 19, 1942

June 11th Axis occupied Bir Hacheim. From positions occupied by Armored Units June 10th general tank battles lasted throughout the day. Action was indecisive, German efforts were confined mostly to luring British tanks on to emplaced 88 MM guns. Small German tank units or motorized infantry would fall back before a British tank attack inveigle British tanks on to 88 MM guns emplaced among derelict tanks. British losses were severe.

Morning June 12th German positions were: 55 tanks a mile west of Knightsbridge; 30 tanks at Trig point 171 near Naduretelghesceuasc; 20 tanks 3 miles west of Trig point 189; 50 tanks at 398 401; 15 tanks at 404 405 together with a strong box with 88 MM guns; a mixed column headed north 5 miles long was east of EL Adem its head on the Trig Capuzzo; 1000 Axis motor vehicles were at Got El Badr 390 395.

During night 11-12 British tank units withdrew to a line facing south along high ground south of Trig Capuzzo from Knightsbridge to Bir Bu Scenaf.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER Page 2

INCOMING MESSAGE

To: Milid Washington
No. 1147 June 19, 1942

British 201 Guard Brigade was in Knightsbridge box, 221 Armored Brigade at 389 410, 27 Armored Brigade at Bir Lefa 39 54 10, 4th Armored Brigade at Bir Bu Scenaf. 29th Indian Brigade occupied box west El Adem. South African column from 2D south African Division held box south El Adem. 32D Army Tank Brigade, Infantry Tanks, was in Maabus El Rigel region under orders to take positions in rear of the armored Brigades.

All armor was placed under command of General Lumsden, Commander 1st Armored division. General Willoughby -Norrie Commander of 30th Corps said "Situation is very fluid and delicate"; recommended that all Americans leave Corps, return to Army headquarters as German mobile columns were freely roaming south of Trig Capuzzo Escarpment.

Fellers

ACTION: G-2 BE
INFO. COPIES: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, CCGH, TAG, SGS, LOG, FILE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-6939 (6-21-42) PM 8:53

MLR JOURNAL NO.

234

JUN 21 1942

28

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

SECRET

CSWD
June 18
9:29 P

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1148 June 18, 1942

British are defending Tobruk with guard brigades and apparently with 2D South African Division. Remainder of their force is retiring to Egyptian Frontier, will hold Bardia-Capuzzo-Maddellena lines.

Am apprehensive about decision to hold Tobruk. Believe Royal Navy will suffer heavily in attempting to supply it. Heavy demands will be made on RAF Fighter Squadrons to cover these supply convoys. It would have been wiser to abandon Tobruk holding North Coast in depth from Egyptian frontier with strongest point of resistance at Matruh.

German patrols are operating as far east as Capuzzo. Axis main body is in Sidirezegh Area. Its location indicating an attack against Tobruk from South east. Am of opinion that Tobruk can be captured in a very short time.

Rommel started with a limited objective doubtlessly his mission assigned him no other than capturing of Tobruk. He has gone so well however that it is even chance he may decide to press on east while the going is good.

British morale is low; their losses heavy; undoubtedly several officers in high positions expect to be relieved. Situation is extremely critical.

Urgently recommend that: 1. Heavy bombers now this theater be retained here on local defensive mission. 2. Maximum number of heavy bombers available be sent to Middle East at once. 3. An American Air support command headed by a Lt General of Air Force be established this theater immediately.

Fellers

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

File

CM-IN-8311 (6-19-42) PM 11:48

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42

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301 Africa

WB 196
filed 2200/18
spf

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 18
9:29 P

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1148 June 18, 1942

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CG AAF

TAG
LOG
File

Fellers

U.S. JOURNAL NO.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 5(E) and 5(D) or (2)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, RABD Date FEB 20 1973

16
JUN 20 1942
29

CM-IN-6311 (6-19-42) PM 11:48

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 207
Filed 2155/18
ACM

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 18, 1942
9:29 A. M.

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1147, June 18th, 1942.

June 10th German tank strength concentrated south-west of Knights Bridge box. Trieste and 90th light divisions attacked Birhacheim from east. German patrols operated east to Birel Gubi and Eladem, north to Axis cut off roads about Tobruk.

British 22d armored brigade was north of Knights Bridge box on ridge adjacent to Buserrigel; 2d armored brigade was formed in desert west of box. South of Knights Bridge box face west on a six mile front opposing Trieste and 90th light divisions was 4th armored brigade. Germans had a line of antitank guns facing 4th armored brigade. During the day Germans made token attacks on the 4th armored brigade.

Main action June 10th was continuous attacks on Bir Hacheim by German Air Force. Once in single raid there were 100 bombers, JU 87's and 88's protected by 27 ME109's and 40 ME110's.

Free French Force were given orders to evacuate Bir Hacheim during night June 10th dash June 11th. Out of original strength of 4,200 men 3,100 were evacuated. 11 guns out of 60 were withdrawn. All wounded were left.

British had pinned their hopes of relieving Bir Hacheim on a mobile column with 30 tanks from 7th armored division. Commander this column was to have been in position on June 9th at 12:00 hour. He got lost, was not in attack position until 18:00 hour. Once in position his actions were not aggressive, were confined to demonstrations in hope he might draw off German and Italian

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Page 2, No. 1147, June 18th, 1942.

mixed force attacking Bir Hacheim from the East. Axis simply ignored his gestures. This Commander was relieved the next day, the column withdrawn.

Fellers.

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INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-8244 (6/19/42) 6:57 PM

MIS. JOURNAL NO.

239

27

JUN 19 1942

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INCOMING MESSAGE

AMWAR 2
filed 18/2PM
dm

CSWD
June 18, 1942
8:41 AM

From: Amcn Embassy London
To: Milid Washington

No. 2838 June 18, 1942

Very few details fighting Libya reaching London. Following all recd to include this AM: enemy armd fces continued drive eastward thru El Adem and despite all Brit efforts has been necessary withdraw Brit troops from El Adem and Sidirezegh. Brit still occupy Bir El Hamed.

Enemy atck lasting all day sixteenth failed dislodge Brit from Acroma but Brit forced withdraw from Mrassas north of Acnma.

We reptd seventeenth that leading elements Brit fiftieth div had reached Maddalena. There is no repeat no further news this div except that Brit are making intensive air and ground search for stragglers of fiftieth div which leads conclusion div was atckd enroute.

Greenwell11

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Info. Copies: OPD
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

G.I.S. JOURNAL 20

CM-IN-5772

(6/18/42)

12:04 pm

162
JUN 18 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 158
filed 1355/16
dv

CSWD
June 16, 1942
1:58 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington DC

No. 1138, June 16, 1942

Three American tank crews under command Captain C C Stelling participated in tank battle June 12th as part of British tank unit in vicinity of Eladem. Crew fired more than 200 rounds of 75 MM per tank accounting definitely for at least 4 German tanks. Captain C C Stelling has highest praise for action of American soldiers. All American personnel well and safe. No American personnel now manning tanks in combat.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CG AAF
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LOG
File

S.I.S. JOURNAL 83

CM-IN-5090

(6/16/42)

2:50 PM

194
JUN 16 27

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 300
filed 2123/16
LB

CSWD
June 17, 1942
237A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1137, June 16, 1942.

Tobruk defense being strengthened; 2nd South African division occupy west and south positions, Indian defense on east. Three regiments twenty five pounders, two from Fifth Division and one Indian Regiment were moved into Tobruk June 13th. Bardia and Capuzzo Defenses being strengthened.

Seventh motor Brigade seventh Armored Division is operating in square forty dash forty.

Army has split main Headquarters; operation with skeleton units of other departments remain at Gambut. All other personnel moved to Kilometer 111 about ten miles east of Sidi Barrani. Thirtieth Corps Headquarters will move to Libyan Sheferzen. Thirteenth Corps will remain in Tobruk.

Rommel will likely harass British Units in vicinity of Eladem, turn main force north, strike remainder of British armor, interrupt 1st South African and fiftieth Division in their withdrawal, attack Tobruk.

Although the supply of an isolated garrison in Tobruk will again heavily tax British Navy, shipping and RAF, indications are British will probably attempt to hold Tobruk, placing what remains of their mobile forces on the Escarpment south of Gambut, hold at all cost Bardia and Capuzzo and Maddalena lines.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

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INCOMING MESSAGE

No. 1137, June 16, 1942 From: Cairo page 2

Eighth Army has suffered a major defeat but believe personally that without reinforcements Rommel has insufficient force to justify an attempt to invade Egypt.

Fellers

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INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE



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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM IN-5533 (6/17/42) 7:26 PM

S.I.C. JOURNAL 20

260
JUN 17 1942

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Amwar 3
filed 220P/16
dv

CSWD
June 16, 1942
8:50 AM

From: Amcn Embassy London
To: Milid Washn DC

No. 2827, June 16, 1942

Fourteenth in Libya enemy arm fces continued atck Brit positions Acroma and fighting very severe with heavy losses both but Brit defended localities at Acroma and eight miles west held atck but another Brit defended position five miles sthwest of Acroma was overrun.

During fourteenth Brit Mobile colums continued atcks on enmys rear from stheast and cleared area south of Trigh Capuzzo and between El Adem and Harmat of enmy. However enmy remained in strength east of former R Brit position at Knbge. ← *Knights bridge*

Noon on fifteenth enmy motzd inf supported by tnks and art launched atck on Brit defences El Adem. This atck broken up by Brit defencd assisted by Mobile FCE. By afternoon fifteenth enmy was digging in nthwest of El Adem ← *17 miles South of Tobruk* but was launching fresh atck on El Adem from sthwest. Nothing later recd on this atck.

As we reptd fifteenth Brit withdrew Garrison from Knbge. This Garrison now apparently divided between c-ma and El Adem. During nht fourteenth fifteenth Garrison Gazala consisting sth African div was withdrawn to Tobruk without serious loss. Same time Brit fiftieth div which had been sth of Gazala and nth of Nteifel also started withdrawal but compelled move sth around Bir Hakeim thence ntheast and last reptd some where nth of Bir El Gobi.

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PAGE 3

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Amcn Embassy London
To: Milid Washn DC

No. 2827, June 16, 1942

Needless to say this is going to be very dangerous journey as Axis now has control area thru which fiftieth must pass sth of El Adem.

As matters now stand Axis have Germ fifteenth and twentyfirst armd and ninetieth light divs plus WOP Mobile Corps of one armd and one Motzd Divs either atcking or in position to atck El Adem and Acroma and four WOP Inf Divs between Gazala and Bir Hakeim in reserve. Appears evident that if Brit cannot h ld at Acroma and El Adem Rommel can take choice between atck on Tobruk or by passing and moving toward Egypt.

Greenwell

ACTION: G-2 *BE.*

INFO COPIES: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, LOG, FILE

CM-IN-5041(6/16/42) 12:01 PM

R.I.S. JOURNAL NO

157

JUN 16 1942

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FFB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB172
filed 15/2120
dm

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 15, 1942
11:41 PM

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1137 June 15, 1942

June 15th Rommel had established lines running from Bir Hac Heim, got El Hamra, got El Ghesce UASC, Hagfetbos SCI AA BAN, Bir Bubosscenaf, northeast to El Bosadem, Acrbe, Axis roads, northwest Erly on this road to point 399418, thence northwest through Eluet Boset Bostamar. Except for small patrols no axis troops are east of El Bos Adem.

Estimate of axis tanks strength varies from 115 to 164. There are at least 75 German tanks remaining. All are concentrated along Ha Giag Bos Er Bos Rami.

British guard against brigades of which has withdrawn from Knighted Bridge box is now in Acrbe area. 1 batalion of 29th Indian brigade occupying mine enclosures south of El Bos Adem. All British armored forces are now in Acrbe area under command of General Lumsden, Commander 1st armored division which is now part of 13th corps.

All British armored units have a total of 65 American tanks and British cruisers and 40 infantry tanks.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20, 1973

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CM-IN-4980(6/16/42) 8:55 AM

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116
JUN 16 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 132
filed 2148/14
spf

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 14
726 P

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1134 June 14, 1942

Tonight 14/June 15th British will withdraw 1st South African and 50th divisions from Gazala-Fachrun lines. Planning to occupy Acroma-Eladon lines.

British tank losses during last 2 days unannounced but must have been heavy. Rom is said now to have more tanks than British; unofficially Am told German tanks outnumber those of British 2 to 1.

Freyburg moving New Zealand Division from Syria to Libya.

Fellers

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Info. Copies: OPD
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OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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31
JUN 15 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

ANWAR 2
Filed 1240PM/14th
VEW

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
June 14th
7:23 AM

From: Amcn Embassy London
To: Milid Washn

No. 2820 June 14, 1942

Details fighting Cyrenaica 13th 13th lacking.
Armd force contact continuous in Knightsbridge-El Adem
Area with heavy casualties both sides. Axis atck
against El Adem repulsed but Axis occupied positions
to North where Brit now atcking with mobile columns

Grenwell

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-4324 (6-14-42) AM 8:50

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78

JUN 14 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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AMDI 3
103P/13
dj

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 13
753A

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2816 June 13, 1942

Late PM 11th Libya enemy armd fce including about 100 tanks with motzd inf moved northeast from Bir Hacheim area. At 19 hrs this fce split into 2 bodies which were atckd by Brit armd fces and by dark considerable battle in progress in gen area 10 mi southwest of El Adem.

During above enemy armd fce about 60 tanks mostly Wop remained in area west of Brit defended position at Knbge and some Brit armd units moved to same locality but apparently merely to watch as no word of fighting that locality.

Morning 12th enemy drive with fce 1st mentioned above continued. Enmy main body with about 85 tanks last reptd in area southwest of El Adem with about 20 tanks moving further east. Brit armd fces still operating against these 2 bodies while Brit motzd and inf colums were in action apparently against enemy inf about 12 mi southeast of El Adem. Meanwhile a larger concentration enemy tnks and mt remained 10 mi northeast of Bir Hacheim.

Small parties French troops still arriving from Bir Hacheim in addition to 2000 previously evacuated.

Comment: Apparent from above that Brit atck against advancing Axis armd fce nightfall 11th failed. Advance and last news looks like Rommel still has initiative.

Greenwell

ACTION COPY: G-2 *BE*

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

CM_IN-3984 (6/13/42) 9:24 AM

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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G.I.L.S. JOURNAL NO

105

JUN 13 1942

29

300 Africa

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB133
filed 13/1354
dm

CSWD
June 13, 1942
8:32 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1123 June 13, 1942

From general headquarters. Free French brigade with assistance of British units fought way out of Bir Hac Heim night of June 10th/11th, evacuation ordered because position had lost its usefulness after Germans opened mine fields to north.

corrected to 3150 → Give strength of brigade at 3800 before May 27th and ~~31st-59~~ after withdrawal. Original strength 5000 believed more nearly correct.

During day of June 11th Germans armor moved east from Bir Hac Heim to Grid 38, thence to northeast toward El Adem. At last light they were engaged by British armor in 3939 square.

British disposition: 1st South African and 50th divisions little change; others British disposition extending east from 200th guard brigade at 38.0-41. 2 generally along Trigh Capuzzo to Sidirezegh area. These positions probably occupied by 2d South African, 2 brigades of 10th Indian division.

Fellers

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Log
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-4197 (6/13/42) PM 10:00

G.I.S. JOURNAL 59

267
JUN 13 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WB 254
Filed 2210/13
efg

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 14, 1942
12:31 AM

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1124 June 13, 1942

From Middle East Intelligence summary
June 9th 1942 "Italian 75/27 Ammunition Em-
bodying the Hollow Charge Principal has
now been found in Lybya. This type of
Ammunition indicates extension of Applications
of The Hollow Charge Principal and emphasis
placed on Anti Tank Role of 75/27 Guns".
Further particulars will be forwarded when
available.

Fellers

ACTION: G-2 - *B.E.*

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-4352(6/14/42)

10:52 AM

U.S. JOURNAL 80

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB166
filed 11/1745
dm

INCOMING MESSAGE
June 11, 1942
6:33 PM

From: Cairo
To: Agvar Washington

No. 1412 ANSEG June 11, 1942

In answer to your cable upon assuming duty of Chief of Ordnance the North African Mission pledges its best efforts in the world wide activity of your department. From Maxwell to chief mission branch International Division SOS for Campbell. My recent visit to the Lybian front was very encouraging American ordnance equipment doing a splendid job. General Ritchie commanding 8th army gave me following message. "I am extremely pleased with the GRANT tanks, troops under my command using them are delighted with their performances. I have heard of a Grant which was hit 26 times by 50 MM shots and was still able to fight on, and I have heard high praise of the accuracy and hitting power of its gun. Apart from its practical value in this hard fought battle I like to see the American and British tanks fighting side by side, it is a visible sign in Lybia of the alliance between our 2 great nations." Best Wishes for your new office.

Maxwell

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*Grant Tank is
American Medium (M III)
18 Ton Tank with
a British gun turret,
2" armor, and speed
of 25 m.p.h.*

CM-IN-3552 (6-11-42) PM 11:41

22
JUN 12 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER CSWD

AMD14
Filed 145PM/11th
VEW

INCOMING MESSAGE
June 11th

From: LONDON
To: MILID WASHN

No. 2801 June 11, 1942

Knbg Sector Libya quiet all day 9th.

Atck on Bir Hakeim which started at 19 hrs on 8th continued until 18 hrs on 9th when French counteratckd and drove enmy athward but enmy pressure from south continued.

Early on 10th enmy opened another atck on Bir Hakeim from north with tanks and dive bmbng. Details fighting lacking but Brit putting on strong air counter against dive bmbrs and gun positions Bir Hakeim area.

Rommel seems to have dropped other activities for present in effort reduce Bir Hakeim and roll up Brit position from there to gap. If Rommel does that Brit may not repeat not be able stop him doing same athward from gap to include Gazala.

Latest estimate Axis tanks: Started with 510 net loss 180 now have left 330. Ref net loss shown Axis has had many more damgd but their recovery system is of such high order it has reduced net loss to above figure. Only available figures on Brit tanks left show about equal but not repeat not less than Axis.

Rommel's supply sit should be satisfactory in spite British efforts. Benghazi can now handle 2 thu tons daily which have been arriving and estimated needs Axis east of Benghazi only about 1500 tons daily. Mt sit also should be good due release many trucks from

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By REIP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: LONDON
To: MILID WASHN

No. 2801 June 11, 1942

previous Tripoli Benghazi run. Brit estimate Axis present simultaneous truck capacity at about 17000 tons.

Captured documents show Axis original intentions were: May 27 capture Bir Hakeim. May 28 move on Gazala. May 29 or 30 start atck on Tobruk. His timetable is out but he may still accomplish the objectives

Greenwell

ACTION COPY: G-2 *BE*

INFO. COPY: OPD A 2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

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U.S. JOURNAL 99

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JUN 11 1942

CM-IN-3325 (6/11/42) 10:54 AM

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB232
filed 2210/11
rlw

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 11, 1942
9:37 p.m.

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1118 June 11, 1942 PART 3

Midnight June 9th June 10th small German 90th Light Division was astride the Timimi-Gazala Road South of Bomba Gulf. Sabrata division extended from the Coast to Gott Space Er Peninsula Regen. South was Trento Division extending to trail called "Many Track" Square-42. Opposite gap in mine field on Trig space Capuzzo was Brescia Division. Opposite mine field on Trig space El space Adem was Bersac Division with Pavia between the 2 mine field gaps. Axis columns were North and West of Free French at Bir space Hacheim. North Axis Column contained 37 tanks, some artillery. Trieste Division was at .166 area square 38-39. Most of German 90th light division was Southwest of Knights-bridge square 37-40. 26 Axis tanks were at Bir space El South Harat; 50 at Bir space El South Aslagh; 80 90 at points of 166th square 37-41. Total of Axis tanks and self propelled artillery believed less than 200.

Boundaries between 13th Corps on North and 30th Corps to South is line Bir space Fachrun square 35-42, .209 square 37-43, Acroma, .209th square 39-42, .164th square 41-42, Marsa space Ex space Zeitun square 42-42. Rear boundary 30th Corps 42 North South grid.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

WB232

From: Cairo

To: NILID

Msg No. 1118

Page 2

1st South African and 150th British Division holding front of 13th Corps. 32nd tank brigade in square 36-43. 2D South African Division garrison Tobruk instead of in 30th Corps area. 23d armored brigade was at Tamar square 37-42. 2D armored brigade was on Maa bus space El South Rigel Ridge. 4th armored brigade about .185th square 38-40. In triangle formed by Trails to North and West of Knightsbridge square 38-41 was guarding brigade. Rifle brigade was South of Tr ig space El space Abd square U9-5. 7th motor brigade of 7th armored division and a Column from 4th armored brigade was assisting Free French in square 37-38. A Squadron of light tanks, an infantry company, a battery of artillery was in square 38-39.

10th Indian division which has recently been sent from 10th Army was in square 42-39. Depleted 5th Indian division was withdrawn into army area East of 10th Indian division.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2-B.E

Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
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File

See #298-6/11
#234-6/11

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

JOURNAL

CM-IN-3819 (6/12/42) PM 9:32

245
JUN 12 1944

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN MCCREA:

The C.I. in the message from Fellers, dated June 11, with reference to the situation in Libya, refers to Class I supplies. Class I supplies are the basic supplies for an army in the field, and include ammunition, fuel, food, and water.

Chester Hammond
Chester Hammond

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 11, 1942
27 AM

1B 5
0315/11
RMW

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: G-2

No. 1118, June 10th, 1942

Left Lybya noon June 10th. Lybyan front is stabilized temporarily. British unable to pass to offensive until they can eliminate 88 MM dual purpose gun. It has been extremely destructive to their tanks. Axis not strong enough in tanks to continue offensive. Both sides cautiously waiting, each hope to profit by mistakes of the other.

RAF losses not as great as those of Axis. From May 27th to include June 8th British have lost 38 planes, 39 pilots. Axis lost 48 planes, probably lost 12, damaged 61. Over Front however German Air Force lending effective and close support to their Ground Forces. All commanders with whom I talked at front are unanimous in saying they do not count on close support from RAF. Personally saw no close support.

Germans keeping all tank units, artillery, antitank guns within mutual supporting distance. Should British venture too far from their main body with small units Rommel will destroy small units in detail.

Since Rommel has opened gap in mine field Hacheim in itself is of no great importance either to British or Axis. Politically British cannot afford to allow Free French to be destroyed. Believe personally Rommel's almost continual attacks on Hacheim are only an effort to draw down considerable of British Armored Force so that he may strike portions rather than entire British Armored Force.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 - B.E.

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
LOG
File

U.S. JOURNAL, 1942

234
JUN 11 1942

CM-IN-3452 (6-11-42) - RM 5-48

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OSD letter, May 3, 1973
FEB 20 1973
By RHP, NARS Dept

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 3
filed 0310/11
AEL

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 11
3:27 AM

From: Cairo
to: MILID

No. 1115 June 10, 1942

Attacks on Bir Hacheim June 8th after partial penetration of position was defeated by Free French counter attacks. C.I. supply situation satisfactory according to G. S. C. General situation little change. 1 Brigade Motorized Infantry and 1 Regiment Field artillery moving west from Giarabub 4617 square Onjolo June 9th was spotted and machine gunned from the air.

From Gooler.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972.

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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LOG
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U.S. JOURNAL NO

CM-IN-3286 (6/11/42) 6:45 am

81

JUN 11 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AMDI 2
filed 1234P/10
LB

CSWD
June 10, 1942
7:35 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Millid

No. 2793, June 10, 1942.

News from Libya recd to 6AM date shows that fighting around KMBGE died down during 8th and enemy started consolidating his positions in and east of Minefield Gap by digging in. Heavy fighting at Bir Hakeim during day and French Garrison suffered considerable casualties but repulsed that atck. Another atck developed nht 8-9th and French compelled make slight withdrawal. Brit reinforcements later reached Bir Hakeim and a Brit armd bgde had successful encounter with enemy just southeast Bir Hakeim.

Elsewhere little to rept. Brit atcks against enemy supply lines continue and 1 Brit mobile colum captured 5 hun prisoners nearly all Wops and mostly from Pavia Div.

Greenwell

ACTION COPY: G-2 *BE*

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S.C. JOURNAL NO

105

CM-IN-2974 (6/10/42) 10:17 AM

JUN 10 1942 28

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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AMDI 4
Filed 230PM/9th
VEW

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
June 9th
10:18 AM

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 8(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

From: LONDON
To: MILID WASHN

No. 2783 June 9, 1942

Oprns Libya Cln morning 7th enmy with tnks again atckd Bir Hakeim but repulsed. Also enmy tnks in considerable numbrs approached both Hamar and El Harmat but did not atck. Toward evening enmy motzd inf followed by about 1 hun tnks formed on east of gap to atck Brit positions knbge. Enmy inf began forward move between Trigh Capuzzo and encarpment immediately nth but were checked by Brit art fire from both nth and sth and from knbge itself. Enmy tnks did not atck and though all enmy fce remained in the area no further atck developed that nht

Early on 8th enmy appeared about to atck Knbge using same fces assembled previous evening but atck had not repeat not developed up to 13 hrs 8th. During 8th enmy again atckd Bir Hacheim using 24 tnks and heavy fighting still progressing last rept

Brit armd car regts and mobile colums continued harassing enmy supply colums moving toward battle area from west with Considerable success

Brit air cooperation has been maintained

Comment: WO estimates Axis have now lost at least half their original numbr tanks and also estimate they and Axis are about equal in serviceable tanks. If this estimate correct then Brit tnk losses have been greater than Axis as Brit had more tnks initially. However Brit confident their recovery and repair better than Axis under present conditions. However that may be seems clear that Axis able destroy more Brit tnks than Brit destroy of Axis in proportion to respective numbrs tnks engaged. Personal but well founded opinion is that Germ 88MM combined at and AA gun more deadly against tnks than Brit 25 pounder upon which Brit apparently mainly must

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

PAGE 2

From: LONDON
To: MILID WASHN

No. 2783 June 9, 1942

depend to beat off tank atcks against positions whereas Brit taks must face the 88 MM Germ gun when their taks atck emny positions. Also believed both sides must now exercise greatest possible conservation in use tanks for attacking as it now looks as if side with tanks left will win this particular battle. Also looks as if inf playing constantly increasing role as both sides understood now preparing inf defensive positions, Brit in Knbge area facing Axis in the gap where Axis in turn now have inf dug in on Eastern perimeter of their bulge extending from the gap and from which Rommel now sends out tanks apparently as feelers against Brit and to which Axis taks retire when met by art fire

Now learned that 2 Brit Indian inf bgdes which atckd Axis gap position on 5th so badly shot up have been wthdrawn for reorganization

To sum up looks like Rommel has decided to fight from his position in the gap west of Knbge and Brit present purpose to prevent Axis position from being stabilized

Greenwell

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-2702 (6/9/42) 2:50 PM

U.S. JOURNAL BY

195

JUN 9 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD

WB222
2205/9
EMW

INCOMING MESSAGE June 9, 1942
10:56 P M

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1112 June 9, 1942

Situation as of June 8th. Source operations middle east. From Gooler.

Axis position extended north to Trig-Capuzzo and east to Trig- Hacheim. Germans have dug in at 38-413 southeast of junction made by these 2 trails. German positions are strongly supported by artillery and anti tank guns. Other axis positions dug in to east and southeast of Bir-Hacheim. It is believed bulk of Axis armor has been withdrawn to Bir-Hacheim area.

Morning June 8th strong infantry and armor attack was made on Bir-Hacheim from north. British mobile columns attacked Axis positions east of Bir-Hacheim afternoon same day. Results these 2 operations not disclosed if known.

British armor said to be in square 38-40 although definite location unknown in middle east.

In operations approximately June 6th 5th Indian division was roughly handled, at present is reorganizing.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

from Cairo to Milid No 1112 June 9, 1942

Raids from north and south against Axis lines of communication continues.

British claim definite air superiority.

Convoys with water and rations entered Bir-Hacheim night June 7th -June 8th. English supply officer told American observers approximate 3,600 tons of British freight reaching railhead daily.

Operations middle east confident present situation, with enemy's exposed line of communications, is resulting in wearing down of Axis strength in armor, personnel, supplies.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-2937 (6/10/42) 7:16 AM

G.I.B. JOURNAL No

72
JUN 10 1942

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NLR 101
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

WB128/TYG39
Filed 1842/8th
VEW

CSWD
June 8th
5:54 PM

CORRECTED COPY

From: SS ANKARA
To: MILID WASHINGTON

No. 165 June 8, 1942

Reliable source reports German officer Hays states Germans will never repeat never attempt to take Malta with parachutists due to rocky nature and strong defenses of the island. Also Germans believe British have 30 submarines in Mediterranean but only 10 of which are serviceable at one time

Jadwin

FOOTNOTE: This is a corrected copy of CM-IN-2499 (6/8/42). *J 25-8 6/8*

ACTION COPY: G-2 *SE*

INFO. COPY: OPD A 2 CG AAF TAG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By *REIP*, NAIS Date

FEB 20 1973

A.I.S. JOURNAL 80

CM-IN-2971 (6/10/42) 10:08 AM

103
JUN 10 1942

28

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date *4/13/94*

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WB127
Filed 1915/8th
VEW

CSWD
June 8th
5:54 PM

From: TANGER
To: MILID WASHINGTON DC

No. 189 June 8, 1942

Advice from American consul at Tunis states Italian sources claim following plan of contingent arrival of reinforcements from Sicily and Crete. First use present reserve to attack frontly Bir El Gobi from Bir El Hacheim and Omrassa from Gazamir second avoid Tobruk. 4 battalions of Carabinieri parachutists traveled by German planes from Castelvetrano between June 2nd and June 4th and 10,000 on June 5th. Motorized infantry of Messina Legionaires now awaiting transports at Palermo

S.W. Coast of Sicily

Johnson

N. Coast of Sicily

ACTION COPY: G-2 (SE)

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

S.I.S. JOURNAL NO

120

JUN 9 1942

30

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AMDI 6
filed 220P/8
AEL

CSWD
June 8
8:56 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2773 June 8, 1942

Location in Libya battle area referred to our messages and press as Knightsbridge is crossroads Trigh Capuzzo and road Lacroma to Bir Hakeim and will be abbreviated by us as Knbge.

Approximately 130 enemy tanks were engaged in batt at Knbge on 6th where fighting intense 9 AM to noon but subsided in PM. Late PM was renewed when Brit put in fresh armd bgde and enemy forced withdraw to eastern bulge of his gap position with considerable loss.

Same day enemy atck on Eluet El Tamar failed materialize.

French at Bir Hakeim repulsed 2 atcks on 6th and that nht were meeting another with confidence.

Colum from Brit mtzd bgde reached Mteifel for purpose harassing enemy supply and balance same bgde maintained contact with French at Bir Hakeim.

Brit colum from Gazala attempted pierce enemy defences to west but failed.

Brit mobile colum reached Cherima to operate in enemy rear.

Notable point present fighting is that Brit air and ground fces seem at least to be fully coordinated and air teaming with ground on actual battle front also with ground fces atcks on enemy supply colums.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 *BE*
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A-2 LOG
CGAAF File

John J. JOHNSON
JUN 8 1942

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 157
7/2010
dj

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 7, 1942
1031P

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1109 June 7, 1942

Operations of Middle East states that on June 6th attack Eluet-et-Tamarandon 200 guarding Brigades at 380-412 were beaten off and German armored forces attacking latter position were themselves attacked by British armored units, identities as disclosed. Axis units then withdrew to west into their main defensive areas. Notes: Main German areas called the Cauldron by British forces apparently not static position as its boundary changes slightly with each days operations.

British state few if any Axis tank replacements have reached forward units. Operations against Axis lines of communications continuing and British feel confident that their situation is slowly improving. Notes: British tank reserves are greater than those of the Axis and their supply situation is easier. From Cooler.

Fellers

ACTION: G-2 13E
INFO. COPIES: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG, LOG, FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-2290 (6-8-42) AM 6:53

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AMD11
145P/7
EMW

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 7, 1942
9:30 A M

From: London
To: Milid
No. 2769 June 7, 1942

5th Indian Division retired 5th June following Axis counterattack along Trigh-Capuzzo. Reported 1 brigade this division still holding southwest of Knightsbridge. Tank battle involving bulk Axis armor developed Knightsbridge area 6th June but details lacking. Bir Hacheim Forces engaged Axis columns midday 6th June. Other Axis forces reported preparing further attack on Eluet Et Tamar. Other fronts ntr.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 *BE*

Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
SGS
TAG
Log
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-2086 (6/7/42) AM 10:51

S.I.S. JOURNAL 80

137
JUN 7 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WBS 233
Filed 6/2015
DEG

CSWD
June 6
540 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

Number 1107 June 6, 1942

Continued confused fighting continues north east and southwest German positions. Operations middle east does not know exact composition or location of its 2 armored divisions. My informant personal belief is that Germans have not abandoned original plans cutting off Tobruk-Gazala road and of taking Tobruk. I am told Eluet ET Tamar is held by motor battalion 4 th armored brigade and location of the 200th guard brigade, motor brigade of 1st armored division at 38.0-41.2 was verified by middle east attack on Bir Hacheim June 4th repulsed and no attack in that area June 5th. 12 to 18 miles long motor column reported by RAF moved east along Trigh Capuzzo head at 37 north south grid and another motor column moved northeast on Trigh Bir Hacheim at last light June 5th. 10th Indian Division withdrew slightly to east in face of these movements. Possibility of attack on 200th guard brigade position thought possible on morning of June 6th.

Source operations GHQ. From Gooler.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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11:32 p.m.

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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D.I.S. JOURNAL

4
JUN 7

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WC 19
Filed 1516/5
MS

CSWD
June 6 1942
3:46 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1105 June 6th, 1942.

Attack on Birhacheim June 3d was repulsed with considerable claimed tank losses. 29th Indian Brigade and 7th motor Brigade continue to aid in the defense of this area. A Convoy of badly needed ammunition finally won through to the Free French from the West and the supply food and water is reported satisfactory. RAF reported to be really giving excellent support particularly against Stukas and Motor transports. The attack of 3d June on Eleut ET Tamar was repulsed and Area now held by the 2d and 4th Armored Brigade. The 22d Armored Brigade is in square 38-38 Area; location of 200th guard Brigade, Headquarters 1st and 7th Armored Division not disclosed if known. Axis continued to hold main position called the "Cauldron," location generally as previously reported, but a limited objective attack made by the newly arrived 10th Indian Division from the east and by a Brigade of the 50th Division from the north was thought to have been at least partially successful.

From Gooler. Source middle east operations. Note: from information available in this office it does not appear as if British Armored Divisions have been or are being fought as tactical units. Do not know when 2d armored Brigade was reorganized. American observers report that 200th Guard Motor Brigade was dug in at 38.0-41.2 on June 2nd and operations 8th Army stated that position was to be held.

Fellers

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SGS
TAG
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date ~~FEB 20 1973~~

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243
JUN 6 1942

CE-IN-1872 (6/6/42) 9:53 PM

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AMDI 2
Filed 1238P/6
ame

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 6, 1942
7:29 A.M.

From: Embassy London
To: MILID

No. 2763, June 6, 1942.

Major development Libya 36 hrs. ending 6 AM date was atck by Brit tanks and inf against enemy positions in the Gap. Brit advances made from north and east and enemy outer screen of antitank art was broken. WOP portion AXIS defence withdrew and left considerable material in Brit hands. Counter atck by Germ tanks successfully resisted.

At Bir Hacheim French remain in undaunted possession. All Axis attempts wear down their resistance have failed and their morale high.

Elsewhere only slight activity. Threatened atck by enemy tanks near Eluet El Tamar failed develop.

Air oprns both sides centered principally around Bir Hacheim where RAF interfered with Germ dive bombers and destyd large number NT.

No repeat no info yet recd here on arrival additional Brit tank fces or of Brit full scale atck.

Greenwell.

Action Copy:

G-2 *AG*

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SGS
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-1691 (6-6-42) AM 8:57

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AMD14
236P/5
EMW

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
June 5, 1942
9:41 A M

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2759 June 5, 1942

During 4th Libya enemy started move of 70 tanks against Brit position Tamar but did not repeat not develop and may have been only attempt to recover some of 16 Germ tanks lost there previous day.

Bir Hakein again atckd by wop ground fces supported by Germ tanks and stukas but failed due stout resistance Free Fr garrison and counter atck by Brit mobile columns from ntheast and nthwest of Bir Hakein.

200 enemy mt reptd in Bir Temrad area and much movement between Temrad and enemy position in Brit main line where Rommel now has bulk his armd fces plus wop mobile corps of 1 armd and 1 motzd divs.

Brit armd car regt still patrolling Segnali and area sthwest without opposition and Brit mobile columns are harassing enemy

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

page 2

from: London to Hlid No. 2759 June 5, 1942

supply lines to west of gap.

Brit Brig overrun when enemy occupied gap not since heard from and feared heavy losses.

Brit now have tank superiority east of axis gap position and more tanks enroute meanwhile Brit are watching and Rommel supplying.

Greenwell

Action Copy: G-2 - B.E.

Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
SGS
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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FFB 20 1973

CM-IN-1401 (6/5/42) AM 11:31

U.S. JOURNAL 89

151
JUN 5 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WB 210
filed 2116/4
ett

CSWD
June 4, 1942
8:42 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: G-2

J#90 6/5

No. 1102, June 4, 1942

Corrected Copy

Read ninth sentence corrected by originator as follows:
"British state that 7th Motor Brigade repeat 7th Motor Brigade
is raiding Axis line of communications from the south and that
50th Division and 3D South African Brigade are doing the same
from north."

Fellers

Original is CM-IN-1344 (6-5-42) Operational report
from Libya

Action Copy: G-2 *RF*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CGAAF
SGS
TAG
File

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-1574

(6/5/42)

11:22 pm

R.I.S. JOURNAL #3

4

JUN 6 1942

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

AMDI 2
FILED 1235P/4
BVC

CSWD
June 4, 1942
7:23 A. M.

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2753, June 4, 1942

Following amplifies our 2 Libyan messages 3rd with all additional info recd London to noon date: position seized by enemy in Brit lines on 1st still held by him and strengthened by addition numerous at guns most effective of which are Germ 88 MM combination AT-AA gun. Brit troops continue operate west of enemy against his supply lines with success.

Severe sandstorm hampered oprns on second until late in day. However considerable tank battle occurred in evening in which enemy compelled evacuate Eluet El Tamar 10 miles southwest of Acroma which enemy occupied initial stage present oprn. Enemy lost 14 tanks.

On 3rd enemy again atckd Bir Hakeim with Germ and Wop tanks and Wop Inf and Stukas but Garrison held.

Brit Comdr Libya says morale 8th army high and evident whatever enemys immediate object he is well behind on his original plan.

Greenwell

Note: Refer to (CM-IN-0623, 6/3/42)G-2. Re. Libyan situation.

Action Copy: G-2 (AE)

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG, Log, and File.

CM-IN-1011 (6/4/42) AM 8:43

U.S. JOURNAL IN

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 5(D) and 5(F) of (S)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

J-80

JUN 4 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB210
filed 2116/4
BR

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 4, 1942
8:43 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
To: G-2

No. 1103, June 4th, 1942.

Free French at Birhachem withstood Italian attack of the 2d. 7th motor brigade has moved to position west and slightly north of the Free French. 29th Indian Brigade of the 5th Indian Division is moving westward to cover their right flank. The RAF, to quote a Brigadier General in operation, "middle east," must have thought that the French had done a Bang-up job for they are giving them 51 others of air support from the Gambut Airfields? The German armored forces at Elust space Ettamar 37-42 withdrew the night of June 2nd - 3d. This area was then occupied by a British Infantry Battalion June 3rd and was supported from the east by the remnant of the 4th armored brigade.. A 2nd German armored attack of 70th armored tanks was made to the North on this position yesterday but results are unknown. Main German position in mine fields area, 36-40 and 36-39, remains relatively unchanged. British state that 4th armored is raiding axis line of communication from the South and that 50th division and 3d South African Brigade are doing the same from North. 11th Indian Brigade from 4th Indian Division has been moved forward to Tobruk from the Delta. 10th Indian Division from Iraq is now in the forward area and is believed to be moving up in rear of South African Division. From Gooler. Source: Operation, middle East.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 *As*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
SGS
TAG
LOG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CN-IN-1344 (6-5-42) AM 7:49

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U.S. AIR FORCE
90
JUN 5 1942
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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 198
filed 2120/4
BN

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 4, 1942
1:48 A. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
To: G-2

No. 1100, June 4th, 1942.

From Ahee. Observations western desert and conversation with Staff Officer 8th army.

Rommel's original attack plan as contained in capture German document reveals that during 1st day of the attack the 15th and 21st armored divisions were to pass Bir-hacheim and to drive North and West the line Acroma-Knight Ridge. On the 2nd day the Ariete Armored division was to attack Bir-Hacheim and force the free French North. 155th Lorried infantry of the 90th light division was to take El-ADEN. By the 3rd day the Free French were to have been forced and an attack by Italian infantry division braced by rest of (90th) light division, was to attack the south Africans from the West while the Armored units struck them from rear. Supply lines were to be shortened as the Free French were driven North. On the 3rd day the 90th light division and the 15th and 21st armored divisions were to attack Tobruk Pivot on the 155th infantry at El Adem. 3 submarines which were later sunk by Royal Navy were to be in position outside of Tobruk to sink evacuate ships.

British estimate Germans have lot 220 tank, Italians 80 tanks and that they have left as runners 250 tanks and 60 tanks respectively. British claim recovery will be greatly reduced as they retain possession of battle fields.

British state they have lost 250 tanks but have recovered 189 during 1st 3 days of battle (note: these figures on losses are considered too low). British state they have 250 tanks in the 4th and 22nd armored Brigades and 80 infantry tanks in the 1st army tank brigade.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
To: G-2

No. 1100, June 4th, 1942.

Page 2

10th India division from Iraq is moving west to support the South African Division, in the coming counter attack. 29th Indian Brigade is to reinforce Free French at Bir-Sachein and the 3d Free French Brigade is moving to the Gumbut area as army reserve. It is believed the British counterattack will start by June 8th.

American personnel are being given crew training in the medium tanks in 8th army tank replacement regiment and 1st armored Brigade before going forward to combat units.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 - B. E.

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
SGS
TAG
Log
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-1350 (6/5/42) AM 8:11

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JUN 9 1942
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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WC 3
filed 1405/4
ett

CSWD
June 4, 1942
2:12 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

From: Cairo
To: Milid

#1099, June 4, 1942

From a captured code list dated May 15th which shows the order of battle of the 90th Light Division for the "special operation," from prisoners of war, and from battlefield intelligence, Middle East believes Axis force which enveloped south flank consisted of the 15th and 21st Armored Division (250th Tank) and the 90th Light Division Force consisting of the Division headquarters, 155th Light Infantry Regiment, at least 1 Battalion of the 361st Light Infantry Regt, 707th and 708th heavy machine gun companies, force 288th (which is a new and unusual motorized unit of some 1500 men consisting of 2 companies of Infantry, 1 company of heavy machine guns, 1 company light anti tank, 1 company light anti aircraft, 1 company engineers, 1 company Signal, 1 Medical detachment and a light supply column), 361st battery, 3 troops 408th medium battery, 190th anti tank battalion, 605th anti tank battalion, 1st, 2nd and 4th squadrons 3rd reconnaissance unit 580th mixed reconnaissance unit, 900th engineer battalion, 1st and 3rd companies 606th anti aircraft battalion, 3 troops 18th anti aircraft regiment. Ariete armored division (100 tanks) joined German Armored unit May 28th. From Gooler.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 *BF*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CGAAF
TAG
FILE

S.I.S. JOURNAL No

248

CM-IN-1174 (6/4/42) 7:37 PM

JUN 4 1942

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NUMBER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	ALUSNA CAIRO	OPNAV	PRIORITY RRRR
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE	JUNE 4 1942		DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM			PRIORITY
DECODED BY	DE LA MATYR		ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY	SOBEL		DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

LT KELLY

031834 NCR 2190

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT THIS IS A SUMMARY OF WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE.

REPORTED THAT OCCUPATION OF BENGHAZI IS ENTIRELY ITALIAN. INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF LANDING CRAFT AND "E" BOATS AT BOMBA AND

AND DERNA. ON MAY 22 BIG PETROL FIRE BROKE OUT AT THE BASE OF CATHEDRAL MOLE. ANOTHER TURKISH MOTOR VESSEL SUNK BY TORPEDO

OFF INADA. SAILING OF CAIQUES TO BOURGAS HAS BEEN RESUMED. INDICATIONS OF INCREASE OF OIL STORAGE BEING BUILT AT BOURGAS AND

VARNA. WORKS ON TIUBAKI AIRDROME IN CRETE PROGRESSING RAPIDLY. A VERY LARGE AIRDROME WHEN COMPLETED. GERMAN SUBMARINES: 3

BETWEEN 24 AND 25 DEGREES EAST WORKING NEARER COAST THAN USUAL. 2 SOUTH OF THIRTY TWO FORTY NORTH AND BETWEEN 26 AND 27-30 EAST.

PROBABLY 1 STILL IN ALEXANDRIA AREA. NO ACTIVITY APPARENT IN LEVANT. CONCENTRATIONS OF SHIPPING AT PIRAEUS CONTINUES. NUMBER OF "E" BOATS AT PIRAEUS HAS INCREASED.

CLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and (D) or (R)

OSD Letter, May 2, 1972

By IJHP, HAW Date

FEB 20 1973

OP 16...ACT.

CNO...20G...COMINCH...NAVAID...20OP...FILE...

031834
11~~SECRET~~

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

37180

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM ALUSNA CAIRO	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY RRRR ROUTINE
RELEASED BY DATE JUNE 4 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM DECODED BY DE LA MATYR	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
PARAPHRASED BY SOBEL			ROUTINE DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (2)

OSD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

OP 16....ACT.

CNO....20G....COMINCH....NAVAID....20P...FILE...

031834
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07180

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 34
filed 1750/3
ett

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 3, 42
11:57 P. M

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Chungking
To: Milid

#185, June 3, 1942

Corrected Copy

Chinese activity near Ichang consists of artillery fire from south bank and some pressure on northwest defenses and is not serious attempt take city. Recent operations in Kuangtung merely mopping up. Japanese move east from Nanchang momentarily expected. Above from Chinese G-2. Principal reaction here to British raids over Germany aggravation Chinese desire for planes. Reliable foreign sources Chengtu report morale low in official and influential non-military circles and heavy bombing might have serious consequence. Spectacular RAF ground forces there without planes having discouraging effect.

Mayer

Footnote: This is a corrected copy of CM-IN-0813 (6-3-42).

f 213 6/3

ACTION: G-2 *FE*
INFO. COPIES: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, FILE

CM-IN-2982 (6-10-42) AM 10:42

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D), or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL, PA

110
JUN 19 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

133
300 Africa

WC 62
Filed 3/1850
MLB

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 3, 1942
4:47P

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

FEB 20 1973

No 1299 AMSEG June 3, 1942

By RHP, NARS Date

The following report is submitted for week ending May 23d 1942 reur AMSEG 750 SPLIM.

Number of personnel employed each project: Cairo overhead 32 Gura 1870, Ghinda 1850, Massawa Naval Base 1141, Massawa Port 140, Nefassit Road construction 10, Heliopolis 777.

Percent completion and status of project: Gura 20 per cent prepared for refuel planes only, Ghinda 15 percent not yet housed Massawa personnel, Massawa Naval Base 15 per cent dry dock salvage and shop operations under way, Massawa ports 20 per cent can handle 5 ships at quays simultaneously Nefassit road construction 10 per cent preparing elimination of sharp curves Heliopolis: roads 80 per cent, railroads 65 per cent, water lines 15 per cent, wells 100 per cent, 2 Ordnance shop buildings 6 per cent, general small warehousing 70 per cent.

Estimated tons of cargoes can be handled: Massawa 1500 ton daily, Suez 5,000, Port Said 5,000, Alexandria 5,000.

Ship arrivals Massawa Star of Oregon May 17th, Suez President Buchanan May 20th, Frederic Lykes May 20th Alexandria West Kyska May 13th, New Orleans May 20, Charles Carroll May 19th, Port Said Rosemont May 10th.

Ship sailings for United States Massawa none, Suez Robin Locksley May 14th, California May 19th, Mormacswan May 17th Alexandria none, Port Said Rosemont May 20th general cargoes cotton herbs chromium. With respect to items 4 and 5 information is cabled weekly by Maritime Commission to Kings War Shipping Administration. For Somervell hereafter will have repeat of that cabled information routed to your office and will exclude these items requested your AMSEG 750 SPLIM from weekly reports.

Maxwell

Footnote: Radio 750 (CM-OUT-2754 5-14-42) SOS ID. Request weekly progress report on all projects under your control.

R.I.S. JOURNAL

ACTION: SOS

INFO. COPIES: OPD, G-2, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, FILE

CM-IN-0974 (6-4-42) AM 3:35

45
JUN 4 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WC 82
filed 3/2150
mm

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 3, 1942
7:34p

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No 1098 June 3, 1942

June 2nd a heavy attack believed to be mainly Italian was made on Free French Brigade in Birhacheim; by armor south from 36-39 square by small force of tanks from east of Birhacheim and by 3d believed to be Italian Infantry outside of the mine fields from the northwest. French reported to be holding though no known assistance from British Armored Units. A German Armored Force believed to consist of 40 tanks drove northeast to Eluete at Tamar, 37-42 square which it still occupies. The 7th Motor Brigade Group with a Free French Mobile Column attacked the flank of the Italian Force which was attacking Birhacheim from the northwest. No other information of British Units though they profess to feel satisfied with the situation. Balance 1st Armored Brigade being used to provide tank replacements for 4th and 22d Armored Brigade.

From Gooler. Source-General Headquarters Middle East.

Fellers

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP; NARS Date FEB 20 1973

ACTION:

G-2 *OE*

INFO. COPIES:

OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG, LOG, FILE

U.S. JOURNAL NO

23

JUN 4 1942

29

CM-IN-0939 (6-4-42) AM 12:45

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AMDI 11
filed 3/712PM
EVA

WAR DEPARTMENT CSWD
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER June 3, 1942
2:20 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Amembassy London
To: Milid Washn DC

#2751, June 3, 1942

Rept from Libya this PM shows Rommel has consolidated his entire armored Fce estimated 310 tanks astride British Defense Line and between the 2 Gaps he had made in Brit Minefield. This accomplished by overrunning Brit INF Bgde in position between 2 gaps with armd Fces from west and then withdrawing his fce from east of Minefield to join them. Brit still have numerical superiority tanks but Rommel has now widely separated Brit Inf and is now on Nth and Sth flanks respectively of the separated Inf Fces.

Future events would seem now to depend on whether Brit can stop Rommels supplies reaching him from the west. So far as known Brit have no repeat no armd fces west of Rommels new position. This message should be read in connection with earlier message today.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2 *B.L.*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
SGS
TAG
Log
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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.I.B. JOURNAL NO

J-235

CM-IN-0823 (6/3/42) PM 3:43

JUN 3 1942

28

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

AMDI 6
filed 3/155p
EVA

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 3, 1942
8:36 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1973

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20, 1973

From: London
To: Agwar

#2746, June 3rd, 1942

Todays REPTS from Libya show little change in situation on 2nd except that enemy atck on free French Bgde group NTH of Bir Hacheim by mixed FCE tanks and WOP INF was repulsed by French and in same Area a Brit Motzd colum was in action against enemy Mt. In battle area east of Minefields Brit mopped up several isolated detachments of enemy. Sand storms 2nd hampered all air opns and to some extent ground action.

Press story recd from Libya this AM says remaining axis fces east of Brit Minefields yesterday the 2nd started atck eastward. Nothing official has yet been recd on this new move but Rommel still has considerable fces including estimated 100 tanks east of Minefields and still larger fces including estimated 150 tanks west of 2 gaps thru Minefields and is clear Brit have not repeat not in any sense yet defeated Rommel, in fact he may a gain have seized the initiative. If Rommels New move eastward is a fact and he draws Brit armd fces eastward with him and away from the Minefields gaps there will be left no repeat no Brit fces except Inf between Rommels 2 fces which if joined would have an estimated 250 tanks which might prove equal to or better than remaining Brit tank strength.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2(BE)

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG, Log, and File.

CM-IN-0753 (6/3/42) AM 10:46

U.S. JOURNAL

146
JUN 3 1942

29

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WC48
filed 2127/2
Da

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
June 2, 1942
9:26 PM

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington DC

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

No. 1096 June 2, 1942

Following information obtained from Middle East by Gooler: Disposition as of June 1st: Axis forces in General areas 36-40 and 36-39 well covered by aritllary and anti tank guns. No indication of future intention. British put German losses at 300 tanks British disposition: Southern Brigade of 50th Division believe to have been destroyed and has been written off. Units of 1st armored brigade are being used as replacements for 1st and 7th Armored Divisions. 4th Armored Brigade with 1 regiment 1st Armored Brigade attached in square 37-42. A composite Brigade made up of remnants of 2nd and 22d Brigade in Square 37-40. The 200 guard motor Brigade in Square 38-40. 7th Motor Brigade has moved south and west of Bir Hacheim but its exact location is not known except that its car regiment, the Kdg's, reached square U 6-5 yesterday. Little activities in the north. Free French still holding Hacheim and report capture and destruction of what they believed to be the 2 workshops of the 21st and 15th Armored Divisions. British hold that Axis lines of communications precarious and it is known that General Hltchie was planning to push pursuits. However necessity utilizing units of 1st Armored Brigade as replacements may change this picture.

British claim recovery of 130 tanks of which 30 have been returned to combat units by dark yesterday.

Fellers

ACTION COPY: G-2 BE

U.S. JOURNAL

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF SGS TAG LOG FILE

61

JUN 3 1942

CM-IN-0686 (6/3/42) 4:42 AM

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 2, 1942
9:18 A M

AMD14
240P/2
ENW

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Hilld

No. 3736 June 2, 1942

Continuing repts Libyan oprns: On 31st enemy strengthened his fces covering Gap in Brit Minefield on Trigh Capuzzo by adding strong antitank gun screen and prevented Brit armd fces from closing gap. Armd battle continued all day in approximately same area as previously but enemy continued attempts to withdraw tanks and mt to west of Brit Minefields thru Trigh Capuzzo gap.

On June 1st Brit position south of gap was heavily atckd from north and northeast but this atck partly offset by Brit armd Brig which atckd from east. During day Brit armd car regt moved round south of Bir Hakeim thence to Rotunda Segnali which was found clear of enemy. Armd car regt was followed by Free French Brig Group which had been holding Birhakeim and doing extremely good fighting. A Brit motor brig group also moved around south of Bir Hakeim and atckd enemy supply lines at junction Trigh El Abed and Trigh Capuzzo immediately west of gap and same point was atckd from north

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page 2

From: London
To: Milid

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

No. 2736 June 2, 1942

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

by Brit Inf Columns from original Brit defended positions.

By ngt 1st all remaining enemy tanks believed to be in 2 groups. 1 group about 100 east of Trigh Capuzzo gap other about 150 tanks which included about 50 originally west of Gazala in Cherina area west of gap.

Ritche says considers his primary and 1st job to destroy all axis afvs and mt still east of Nirefields and this will still be tough.

No repeat no official casualty figures yet.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2 (BE)

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG, Log, and File.

U.S. JOURNAL 50

CM-IN-0449 (6/2/42) PM 13:45

148

JUN 2 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 2, 1942
10:23 A. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1090, Part 2, June 1st, 1942

British losses in personnel fairly light but heavy in materiel. Estimated 70% British tanks engaged put out action and at least 50% permanently destroyed. Air-Ground liaison was poor, the RAF having repeatedly bombed their own forces. Infantry of Armored Division was never present to occupy ground captured by tanks. German tank losses believed to be only about half of British but their ignorance situation, the difficult supply problem and inability dislodge front line unit forced withdrawal. Although main tank action occurred on 27th, replacement had not reached front on evening of 30th. 2 fresh battalions of American tanks could have destroyed the bulk of German armor had they been available on the morning of 30th. British have adequate replacements in men and materiel and will undoubtedly attack shortly. This will be successful if properly planned and should go as far Benghazi. Their supply problem considerably relieved by railhead vicinity El Adem.

Recommendations: Essential that American troops have means of definitely identifying ground and air troops. Repeat bombings from the air and anti tank action against friendly tanks was evident during the entire battle. Most medium tanks lost because of surprise action at close range but indications are they burned too easily when pierced. In spite of this crews were

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP; NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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INCOMING MESSAGE

No. 1090, Part 2
From Cairo

June 1, 1942
Page 2.

loud in their praise. I talked with tank commanders who claimed 8 German tanks to their credit and whose tank had been hit as high as 12 times by 50 MM and even 88 MM.

Fellers

See J 85 6/2

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CSWD
June 1, 1942
10:22A

WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID

No 2727 June 1, 1942

30th in Libya arm battle continued in area south and southwest of Acroma. During day enemy showed desire to withdraw west thru gaps made previously in Brit minefields and was partially successful but suffered heavily doing so and end of day majority enemy AFVS still east of Brit minefields and Brit arm fces were closing in on gaps. 1 party of 25 enemy tanks apparently out of gas were being dstryd in area 20 miles east of Bir Hachein.

Fighting continued all day 31st and by evening enemy had formed bridgeheads at gaps in minefields with apparent purpose of complete withdrawal. Gaps were then under Brit art fire and low level air atck and believed enemy casualties were heavy.

Both CG Mid East and WO yet unwilling commit selves to any claim of having won victory but WO considers at least to have foiled Rommels object which was probably atck on Tobruk. Remains to be seen whether Brit can this time destroy Rommels fce before he makes another get away.

No official figures tank casualties recd from mideast but from what info available have been very heavy both sides 1 local estimate being 50% loss for Axis and equal or even greater % for Brit. However Brit have 2 Army Tank Brigs which were not in action at scene of heaviest fighting which should give Brit superiority if able pin Rommel down.

Only brief mention made of USA tanks saying were doing well.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date ECR 20 1973

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To: MILID
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

No 2727 June 1, 1942 From London to MILID Page 2

Free French Brig which held Bir Hacheim against very strong atck have continued extremely well. Among others rescued entire Bn Indian troops cut off and about be wiped out and, without tanks themselves, have destroyed number individual Axis tanks and numerous Wops vicinity Bir Hacheim.

WOP morale repton very low in fighting.

Germ General Cruwell commanding Germ Africa Corps taken prisoner. Brit Gen Comd 7th Armd Div taken prisoner but escaped after 12 hours and again comd Div.

Lack of water repton as important factor especially to Axis who only able replenish once since 27th.

Germ 88 MM combined AA and At gun repton by Brit as highly effective during fighting.

McClure

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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J-143

JUN 1 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
June 1, 1942
7:46 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

#1090, June 1, 1942

From personal observation and conversation with British army on battle fields. Report of battle May 27th-May 30th

Action May 27th: because British security measures inadequate they were completely surprised by German Armored attacks, result was 7th Armored Division protecting left completely overrun, 3D India Brigade practically destroyed, 50 per cent of tanks 4th Armored Brigade lost. Officers stated that they had less than 30 minutes warning. All this during first hour of attack. Free French held magnificently, being greatest single factor causing German failure as long supply route was great handicap. Remnants of 7th Armored Division, 3D India Motor Brigade, 4th Armored Brigade and Free French rear Echelon withdrew in great confusion. At least 3,000 vehicles in mad panic; fortunately no German air attack. All British tank elements were scattered with heavy tank losses but obviously hurt Germans materially.

May 28th: Reorganized British tank units struck at German right and he withdrew to general area centered on NS grid 38 and bounded by EW grid 41 and 43. Free French and miscellaneous British units continued to strike hard at German supply lines. Was present when British 4th Armored Brigade made successful artillery dash supported attack although bombed by their own air. No infantry was available and tanks finally withdrew to Leaguer for night leaving field to Germans.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

#1090, June 1, 1942 From: Cairo To: Milid

Page 2

May 29th heavy dust storm prevented any extensive activities, reduced German supplies on hand and permitted British reorganization.

May 30th: Germans begin withdrawal through gaps in mine fields. 4th Armored Brigade reinforced, total of 30 light, 30 medium, 30 cruisers, was principal tank units on the field. They moved against German right in square 37-40, and in un-coordinated attacks without infantry or artillery support sacrificed 3D Royal tank, most of which could be seen burning when remainder of Brigade arrived on field. Watched Germans withdrawing through mine fields, British too weak to attack except with artillery and medium tank fire.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT CSWD
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER June 1, 1942
10:31 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

#1088, May 31, 1942

Information very general, throughout 30th Axis force definite attempt withdraw westward through gap in Mine Field. Main attempt at gap along Trig - Capuzzo square 35-41 which now believed to be June 11th. Westward moving Axis column heavily attacked from north and south by British Armor and by heavy concentration of air at gap. Some Axis Armor has succeeded in crossing Mine Field, no information as to unit or number. 40 Axis tanks reported east of Mine Field without gas. British cheerful but careful not to appear overly optimistic.

From Cooler. Source G. S. I. and operation GHQ.

Fellers

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
2:54 PM
May 31

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
To G--2

No 1082 May 31, 1942

Situation as of 2 PM May 30th: German has opened gap in mine fields at Rotunda Square 36-40 and along Trig space Capuzzo Square 35-41. Heavy tank battles continued May 30 against German Panzer units in vicinity of Maabus El Rigel Square 37 and 38-41. There are clear indications German is attempting to withdraw through mine field gap. Gap at Rotunda has tanks antiaircraft defenses. 40 Axis tanks have been observed moving west toward this Gap.

Free French have swung to the North of Bir Hacheim, claim to be in control as far North 40 East West gridded

Rommel's headquarters reported some 10 to 15 miles southeast of Acroma.

Captured German operation orders disclose initially intention was to advance to line Acroma-Bir Harmat square 37-40, then swing westward against rear of British Gazala position. At same time portion of 90th light was to press attack to the East against 1st South Africa division; remainder of 90th light which accompanied Panzer units was to take El Adem.

In attack on El Adem more than half 90th light abandoned efforts when shelled by British artillery.

British of opinion that most supplies have been prevented from reaching German. 50th division captured German Lieutenants General Cruwell.

When Panzer Divisions over ran 7th Armored Division headquarters, Commanding General Frank Meservey was captured. He stripped his insignia, put on a portion of private uniform, was disgusted to be told by German

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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No 1082 May 31 WAR DEPARTMENT from G-2 to G-2 page 2
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

he was far too old to fight. Later escaped again to take command his division.

R. A. F. prepared to concentrate over Gap in mine field. British report bomb line for RAF working effectively. Telephone communication from forward command station to battle headquarters Gambut working nicely.

10 British have total 200 tanks remaining in 4th, 22d and 2d brigade, 160 tanks in other units all of which I believe are Infantry tanks.

Personal comment: it is now clear German has failed in objective and is attempting to withdraw to the West. It will be impossible to prevent some units escaping but his losses will probably be very heavy. Effects of the failure on Axis morale especially among Italians will be pronounced.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1974
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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May 31, 1942
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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2724 May 31, 1942

In Libya 30th oprns continued in area south and south west of Acroma where fighting has been heavy and continuous between armd formations. General trend has been to push enmy back toward west and northwest but no repeat no real advantage had been gained by Brit up to ngt of 30th.

During day Brit made every effort cut enmy supply lines especially in area north of Bir Hacheim where enmy made gap in Brit mine fields on 28th and another gap since made near Mt Eifel.

No repeat no further enmy activity against Gazala.

Brit command says not yet possible estimate casualties either personnel or tanks.

Enmy dispositions believed now as follows: Wop 102 Trento 17th Pavia and 27th Brescia divs facing Brit original forward positions from Gazala south to road Trigh Capuzzo. Wop 101 Trieste div guarding axis supply routes of which 1 passes south of Bir Hacheim thence north to battle area other route thru gap in Brit mine fields northwest of Bir Hacheim to battle area. All other axis fces consisting Germ 15th and 21st Armd and 90th Light divs and Wop 132nd Armd Div in the battle area south and southwest of Acroma.

Latest info is that 2nd gap made by enmy in Brit mine fields referred to above is at the junction Trigh Capuzzo and Trigh El Abed. This will greatly shorten enmy supply unless closed by Brit.

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McClure

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MAY 31 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 30, 1942
11:04 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Milid

No. 3717, May 30, 1942

Libya 28th at daylight 150 enemy tanks and 1,000 mt were in area southwest and 7 miles from Acroma. Brit armd fces moved against this concentration. Germ 19th light Div was repte on move from south of Bir Hacheim and thence northward to join enemy south of Acroma. WOP Ariete Div was then in Bir Hacheim area.

Enemy appeared then to be thrusting at Tobruk via Acroma and possibly also via Sidi Rezegh.

During 28th at least half of 19th Light Div moved north to atck El Adem from south. Before atck developed they were bit by Brit Armd Fce and driven south from which they later turned in northwesterly direction.

WOP Ariete Div moved thru Gap between west end of El Adem Escarpment and original Brit forward positions and immediately east of Brit Minefields but were stopped by Brit Arm Formation and split part moving north and part south in considerable confusion.

100 Germ tanks from Concentration southwest of Acroma started movement toward Acroma but hit by Brit tank Brig and no repeat no atck developed then Germ Fce split into 2 colums, 1 of 40 tanks moving down Escarpment to Coast Road west of El Mrassas other moved westward along Escarpment.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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May 30, 1942

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

During 28th emmy made Gap in Brit Minefield at point 12 miles northwest of Bir Hacheim.

On 29th Armd Battle was renewed in area southwest of Acroma 130 Germ tanks being engaged by Brit Armd Div plus part Army Tank Brig. Another Emmy Pce strength and composition unknown moved thru Brit outer Minefields along coast road on Gazala but stopped just west of Gazala by Art Fire.

Latest news recd is that Road Gazala- Tobruk clear of emmy except for Spasmodic shelling. Acroma is intact and all original Brit positions in Gazala area and southward are being held. Gap in Brit Minefield northwest of Bir Hacheim is being bridged and Brit mobile column very active against axis supply Echelons.

Very few details actual fighting or tank casualties yet recd. Is believed that all Axis tanks have now been in action. Brit have so far used 2 Armd Divs and 2 Army Tank Brigs and have 2 other Army Tank Brigs coming up. Mid east command and WO consider last known situation satisfactory.

McClure.

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CM-IN-8670 (5/29/42) 2:29 p.m.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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MAY 30 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 31
1:32 A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1080 May 30, 1942

Should present Libyan operations result in complete victory for British Tripoli should be occupied without delay. Should present Libyan operations result in Axis capture of Tobruk, British must stiffen Egyptian Frontier defense, increase strength in troops, aircraft, and tanks. In either case future indicates increasing rather than decreasing of demands. Moreover rising threats from Japanese require rapid increasing defensive requirements for Eastern front this theater.

Following if official Middle East estimate of squadrons and aircraft required to meet minimum repeat minimum defensive requirements this theater: "types of squadrons single engined fighters; number of squadrons short 21; number of aircraft short 336. Types of squadron twin engined fighters (day); number of squadrons short 3; number of aircraft short 48. Types of squadron twin engined fighters (night); number of squadrons short 2; number of aircraft short 32. Type of squadrons of light bombers; number of squadrons short 8 1/2 twin engined fighters 232. Types of squadrons heavy bombers; number of squadrons 3; number of aircraft short 48. Types of squadrons general reconnaissance; number of squadrons 3 1/2; number of aircraft short 56. Types of squadrons medium bombers; number of squadrons 1; number of aircraft short 20. Types of squadrons torpedo bombers; number of squadrons of 5; number of aircraft short 80. Types of squadrons army cooperation; number of squadrons 1; number of aircraft short 18.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
Page 2

No. 1080
May 30 1942

Types of squadrons flying boats; number of squadrons 1;
number of aircraft short 6. Totals: number of squadrons
49; number of aircraft short 876".

This estimate includes neither transports nor heavy
bombers shortages. Minimum needs are 6 transport squadrons;
this includes no transports for supply of combat units.

If Roumanian oil, German communications in rear of
Ukraine Drive, Italian objectives, are to receive sustained
air attacks my personal estimate is 24 heavy bombers squad-
rons are required.

Maintenance facilities exist for only 6 B-24 type
aircraft.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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MAY 31 1942

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CSWD
May 31st
12AM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No 1081 May 30th, 1942

J#143 5/30

Supplement and correct my cable 1071 by personal observation from Ahee.

May 27th Panzer unit struck 4th armored Brigade in square 37-38. 8th Hussars was knocked out completely, lost 24 medium, 24 light American tanks. Panzer groups moved north in Maabus El Figel area engaged British 1st armored tank brigade, 2nd and 23rd armored brigade. Ariete division moved north to join Panzer group, enabled Panzer unit to disengage.

Although middle east claims only portion of Germans 90th light division is east of British position, Ahee claim that entire division was in square 40-39 on May 28th where at 5:30 in afternoon 7th motor brigade attacked from northeast. 90th light division returning to square 38-40.

May 29th 4th armored brigade had mission of attacking 90th light and Ariete division probably in square 38-40. 29th Indian brigade 5th Indian division is at El Gubi; 2d South African division less 1 brigade is outside of Tobruk; 10th Indian Brigade of 5th Indian division is North of coastal road in square 44-42; 1st armored brigade is enroute from, 1 battalion has reached Sollom. 3d Indian motor brigade group which was with free French at Bir Hacheim suffered heavily, returning to frontier for refitting.

British tanks recovery fair. 4th armored brigade has lost 61 tanks, 41 of which were mediums but 30 were recovered.

Free French report German recover has not repeat not returned South of Bir Hacheim.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

No 1081 May 30th From Cairo to G-2 Page two

German Air Force more active at night than during day. Royal Air Force offering good support except there are no dive bombers. RAF has bombed 4th armored brigade; Free French once each. Have begun to use bomb line but these are of questionable value in fast moving situation. Kitty Hawks being used effectively as bombers.

Fellers

Footnote:

Radio 1071 (CM-IN-8615 5-30-42) Description of operations in Libya.

ACTION:

G-2 - *BF*

INFO. COPIES:

OPD, A-2; CG AAF, SGS, TAG, FILE, LOG

CM-IN-9027 (5-31-42) PM 11:04

S.I.S. JOURNAL 80

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OSD letter, May 3, 1978

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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CSWD
May 31, 1942
8:12 PM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo Egypt
To: Milid

No. 1076, May 30, 1942

Personal comment: Captured documents revealing 1 Axis unit was ordered to prepare for supplies and fuel for 500 miles running without replenishing. Assuming all elements of Axis offenses are prepared for 500 miles operations without replenishing more than 100 miles air lines has been traversed. Add to this tactical maneuvers, motors running idle, considerable operations in low gear and wastage which probably consumes half the remaining fuel and ammunition supply. Liberal estimate therefore is Axis has supplies for maximum of 200 miles. If supplies can be denied his position is most precarious.

Superb holding of Free French at Bir Hacheim has greatly increased Nazi supply problem. Pulling German 90th Light Division from west of British Line of mines relegated frontal attacks to Italian Infantry, greatly decreasing probabilities of Axis breaking through from west.

Panzer Divisions probably capable of retiring to the west of British line of mines. If so, British must not fail to push vigorous follow up.

British positions remain favorable. If it so continues May 31st British should send 1st Armored Brigade with motorized infantry to Benghazi.

Fellers.

Action Copy: G-2 (AE)

Info. Copies: OPD A-2 CGAAF SGS
TAG LOG File

U.I.C. JOURNAL NO

CM-IN-8926 (5/31/42) 12:44 pm

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

152

MAY 31 1942
28

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 30, 1942
4:38 P.M.

WB 147
Filed 1820/30
ame

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

g#152 5/31

No. 1076, May 30, 1942. PART II

Attacked afternoon May 28th and morning May 29th along Gazala-Tobruk roads, drove British back slightly but not beyond prepared main positions.

1 battalion 8th Tank Regiment 15th Panzer Division remained west of mine field probably in square 9-7. Axis supply columns mentioned in Part 1 extended from Bir Hacheim to squares 37-40, was discovered May 29, attacked by mobile column of 29th Indian Brigade and Free French Group, by all RAF fighters.

British supply of forward unit remains satisfactory.

Unofficial American medium tank is reported as magnificent. Crews have great confidence in them. General Ritchie believes Rommel knew these tanks were present but not in quantity. So far as is reported mediums have not been penetrated from front. By uses of artillery, maneuvers and 75 MM guns of medium tanks 88 MM antitank guns have been silenced.

4 American medium tanks were captured on transporters.

Noon May 30th report: 21st and 15th Panzer Divisions being engaged by British armored units from east and southeast in area Bir El Aslagh, Bir El Harmat square 37-40 area. 1st army tanks brigade appears to be only unit between Panzer group and British mine fields. Panzer group apparently attempting to break out through mine fields to south east at approximately points where

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

No. 1076 from Cairo to MILID, May 30, 1942 Page 2
INCOMING MESSAGE
40 east west grid cross mine fields.

Captured document reveal German had only 4 days
water supply when operations started.

German fighter aircraft conspicuously absent.
Unable to understand this lack of air activity.

Fellers.

Footnote: Part 1 of No. 1076 is CM-IN-8571 (5-30-42)
Operations in Libya.

ACTION: G-2 *BE*
INFO, COPIES: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG, FILE, LOG

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-9026 (5-31-42) PM 10:49

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

filed 29 345
at

SECRET

May 30, 1942
12:27 a.m.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No.: 1076

Twenty Ninth

At noon May 29th situation remains obscure. Panzer group in area behind British lines and south-east of lines Acroma-El Adem apparently separated. At least 40 tanks moved north to Tobruk-Gazala coastal roads in square 37-44; another group of 60 moved in direction of British 50th division possibly in square 37-42; 100 moved to the south in square 38-38 in an attempt to join supply convoy. A British armored unit attempting to prevent supplies, outcome not reported. Nights of May 28th May 29th E boats sighted off coast north were engaged by British Artillery and retired to the northeast. Inference is they may have carried fuel for north panzer column. British 4th Armored Brigade is in south of El Adem

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 (BF)

Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
SGS
TAG
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP; NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-8571 (5/30/42) AM 6:09

U.S. JOURNAL NO

76

MAY 30 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 201
filed 29/2335

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
CSWD
May 30, 1942
2-16A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No 1071 May 29, 1942

Night of May 26th May 27th British 1st Army Tank Brigade was in square 37-41; 4th Brigade square 39-39; 7th Armored Division Headquarters square 40-38; 30th Corps Headquarters square 42-39. During night flares were noted west of mine fields opposite 1st Army Tank Brigade where 95 tanks had been reported. Obviously British expected attack from west in this general area. At 8 o'clock morning May 27th 244 tanks were reported moving south and east around Bir Hacheim.

4th Brigade was ordered to battle position probably on northeast-southwest line on high ground in square 39-38. Rear of brigade extended back to Hagfet en Nezha. Apparent the bulk of the 2d Panzer Division struck 4th Brigade whose battalions were widely separated so that 3rd Royal Tank received brunt of blow, lost about half their medium tanks. 4th Brigade was forced to withdraw. 7th Armored Division Headquarters was bombed, for a time lost complete control units. It is believed it eventually joined 30th Corps Headquarters.

A portion of the Panzer Division with possibly a regiment of 90th Light Division moved to northeast as far as the Sidi Rezegh area. Main portion however moved on to north.

As of noon May 28th main portion of Panzer Division was approximately in area bounded by 42nd east-west grid, 40th east-west grid 37 north south grid. To the north of this Panzer area was regiment of 1st Army Infantry tanks. 1st Army Brigade Infantry tanks had been ordered Sidi Rezegh area. 4th Brigade was probably square 39-41, its rear extended to

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

No 1071 May 29, 1942 From Cairo to MILID Page 2

Tobruk perimeter; 22d Brigade had moved up to square 39-39; 2d Brigade probably in square 39-38. To the west British lines remained intact from Mediterranean to Bir Hacheim as given my 1049.

At this time it is not clear to me what happened to Panzer Unit and Infantry which moved to Sidi-Rezegh area. It may have moved west, joined the main Panzer Group.

Fellers

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CG AAF
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WB 113
filed 1357/29—
md

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 29, 1942
2:21 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1071, May 29th, 1942

Nights of May 25th-26th German Air Attack British Landing Grounds. No excessive damage is reported. May 27th and May 28th Stukas with heavy fighter escorts performed close support mission for Panzer Divisions.

Since operations started RAF has concentrated on Axis Transports hoping to interrupt supplies for Divisions.

May 26th 12 Tanks and 12 Guns were reported advancing West along coastal road at Gr El Ambar and 2 Columns totaling 30 Tanks advanced East from Breghisc toward Alem Hamza. In Southern Sector 4 Columns totaling 60 or 70 Tanks advanced from Segnali Area by darkness C Area 15 miles Southeast of Segnali.

May 27th Ariete Division attacked Free French at Birkheim. Estimated Italian Tank losses 48. An Ariete Regiment Commander was captured. Radio interception on May 27th disclosed that Ariete was ordered Northeast from Hacheim to join Panzer Group. No reported indication however that it complied with orders. I assume that therefore it remains in Hacheim Area.

May 27th some 244 Tanks of both Panzer Divisions moved widely South of Hacheim turned North to Northeast. Panzer units struck British 4th Brigade approximately along 39th East - West Grid and Trigh El Abd Trail.

Fellers

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NO. 1041: 70
TO: 81119
FROM: 0710

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INCOMING MESSAGE

PAGE 2

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INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF SGS TAG LOG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-8485 (5/29/42) 10:38 PM

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11
FEB 30 1942

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WB 193
filed 29/2246
dp

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CSWD
May 29, 1942
9:55 p.m.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1071, May 29, 1942 Last Part

Comments: Although British expected Axis attack and General Ritchie expected a wide envelopment around Hacheim demonstrations opposite 1st Tank Brigade and long night march of May 26--27 by 2 Panzer Divisions effected complete surprise.

Panzer envelopment was wide in that it went south of mine fields but the movement north was so close to British position to the left that Panzer Divisions did not seriously disturb British main supply dump which extends south from Tobruk.

It is not known how much infantry accompanied Divisions, but 2 regiments of 90th light division are believed to be west of British line of mine field.

Up to noon May 28 British estimate they lost 150 tanks all classes and claim have destroyed 90 German tanks.

Panzer Division supply problems should be acute. Axis intention is not clear to me but in view of fact that British 2nd Armored Brigade is southeast of Panzer group Axis supply by route south of Hacheim appears cut off. Supply of Panzer groups from sea not practical. Landing would be opposed. Steepness escarpment between Panzer group and sea restricts wheeled traffic to 2 or 3 routes, all held by British. In order to receive supplies Panzer units may be forced to attempt break through British position to west.

At 12 noon May 28 General Ritchie reported he was satisfied with situation.

Fellers

Note: 1071 (CM-IN-8465, 5/29/42)G-2. Report of hostilities May 25 and 26 Libia.

U.S. JOURNAL

Action Copy: G-2 *BE*

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MAY 30 1942

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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/ filed 215P/29
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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSTWD
May 29, 1942
10:21 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Amcn Embassy London
To: M11d Washn DC

No. 2714 May 29, 1942

Following brings to date all info recd to this AM on oprns Libya: Early AM 27th WOP Mobile Corps of 1 32nd Ariete and 101 Trieste Divs atckd Bir Hakelm Garrisoned by Free French Brig and 3rd Indian Motor Brig. Atck repulsed and number WOP tanks destrdyd but Indian Brig was badly shot up and cut off and present condition unknown.

Germ Force of 15th and 21st armd and 90th light divs during ngt 26th 27th made approach March of 40 miles moved around south of El Hakelm and was engaged by Brit 1st and 7th Armd Divs and an Army Tank Brig at 9 hrs on 37th in area 10 to 24 miles East of Bir Hakelm. At 15 hrs enemy split into 2 main columns. 1 column of 21st Armd Div moved north along east border of Brit Mine fields toward Acroma and this column engaged about 17 miles west of El Adem by the 1st Armd Div and part of Army Tank Brig. Other enemy column consisting 15th Armd and 90th light divs moved toward El Adem and main body was 15 miles south of El Adem by dark 27th while a small body tanks had reached El Duda and another body of 25 tanks had reached vicinity of Sidi Rezeqh Bug both these bodies reptd as driven off by Brit by 24 hrs 27th.

On Brit 13th Corps Front from Gazala south to east of Guerat El Abd Axis activity so far confined to demonstrations by WOP 102 Trento, 17th Pavia and 27th Brescia Divs with about 100 tanks of which Brit destrdyd several.

Latest news is that at daylight 28th Brit Tank Brig successfully atckd about 400 enemy mt believed to be

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OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page Two No. 8314 May 29 1942

Supply Echelon Germ Arm'd Forces in Area 17 miles west of El Adem and it was rept'd that bulk Germ Arm'd Forces with about 150 tanks were in same area at 10 hrs 28th.

Comment: Brit estimate Germs used 250 tanks in move around south of Bir Hakein. Of these Brit estimate they destr'd 90 but admit they lost 150. Axis was estimated to have in excess 500 tanks before beginning present oprn and figures above of numbers being used confirm that number. It is also clear that Brit have lost initiative at least for time being and if tank losses continue in same relative proportion they will lose more than the initiative. Meanwhile Germs have reestablished Benghazi as supply Port with estimated capacity 3,000 tons day and have brought in at least 1 ship over 8,000 tons.

McClure.

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Info. Copies: OPD
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CGAAF
SGS
TAG
LOG
FILE

CM-IN-8314 (5/29/42) 11:40 AM

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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138

MAY 29 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WC 94
2030/28
RMW

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 28, 1942
7:10 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1070, May 28

1st Armored Brigade group with American equipment conducted a regiment combat firing exercise May 25th to demonstrate use of all regiment weapons.

Light Squadron preceding regiment by about 1 mile located represented enemy antitank guns at approximately 2,000 yards halted in hull down position. Regimental Commander and Artillery observers came promptly forward light squadron moved wide around left under deflade 1st heavy squadron moved forward took position registered on anti-tank guns. 25 pounder batteries in about 15 minutes registered on Artillery 2 lines. 2 medium squadrons moved wide around to right with its right protected by carrier Platoon from Motor Company. 25-pounder batteries and 1st medium squadron then laid down concentration on respective targets while 2nd squadron made its attack on assumption enemy tank force to right rear of artillery position. This attack in final stage supported by smoke from 25-pounder batteries on artillery position.

Attacking medium squadron apparently fired only machine guns as it advanced. Light squadron on left was to develop depth position and to destroy enemy transports. Exercise smoothly conducted though movement tank unit was slow. This brigade now completely equipped although training admittedly is incomplete will move to Desert June 1st.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2(3E)

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, TAG and file.

CM-IN-8199 (5/29/42) AM 1:31

42
MAY 29 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COOPER#CAIRO	FOR ACTION	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 28 MAY 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM 1 16/28	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BY STATES			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY HERSHEY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

ROONEY

271812 NCR 4833

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE. GERMAN OFFENSIVE WESTERN DESERT LAUNCHED 17~~th~~ MAY 27. LANDING CRAFT WHICH HAVE BEEN USED AT BENGHAZI HAVE MOVED TO DERNA AND BOMBS SUITABLE FOR COMBINED OPERATIONS IN PRESENT OFFENSIVE AGAINST TOBRUK. FURTHER INCREASE OF AIR CRAFT DASH ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY OBSERVED MAY TWENTY TWO APPROXIMATELY 70 PER CENT OF WHICH JU 88. TURKISH MOTOR VESSEL SUNK NEAR INADIAN BLACK SEA. TURKS HAVE TEMPORARILY FORBIDDEN CAIQUE SAILING TO BOURGAS. REPORTS CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED OF CONSTRUCTION OF LANDING CRAFT AT VARNA. A NUMBER OF EIGHT HUNDRED DASH ONE BOATS AND TON BARGES ARE REPORTED WHICH MAY BE DANUBE BARGES FOR USE IN BLACK SEA. END PART ONE. PART TWO FOLLOWS.

DISTRIBUTION

16...ACTION

COMINCH...20G...BADO...38...OPDO...FILE...CNO...200P..

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271812

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

27130

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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AMDI 2
155p/28
RMW

CSWD
May 28, 1942
12:01 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

CORRECTED COPY

9184 5/28

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2705, May 28, 1942

Libya on 26th enemy movement commenced eastward from Rotunda Segnali. 4 columns including over 60 tanks some armd cars and over 2 hum mt believed all WOP reached a line from just stheast of El Cheima to a point 15 miles stheast of Rotunda Segnali.

Further enemy move by 50 tanks believed all Germ made toward Brit main position between Gazala and Alam Hamza. Also much enemy activity reptd in Segnali area.

On 27th 250 Germ tanks after making nht March were being engaged by Brit 1st and 7th Armd Divs between Bir Hacheim and El Gubi. Enmy had approached from South of Bir Hacheim. At same time enemy was making a demonstration apparently as a diversion on front of 1st South African Div position in Gazala area. To time of last rept Bir Hacheim itself had not repeat not been atckd.

Details of fighting now progressing not repeat not yet recd here.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2 (BE)

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, SGS, File, TAG

U.S. JOURNAL NO

CM-IN-8155 (5/28/42) PM 11:36

22
MAY 29 1942

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OSD Letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
May 27, 1942
1:19 PM

AMDI 6
650p/27
RMW

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Amembassy London
To: Milid

No. # 2704, May 27, 1942

Message recd London after 5 PM local time says Axis started large armored advance last ngt with Axis of advance in direction of Bir Hakeim about 70 miles South of Gazala. Insufficient info yet to determine whether major offensive but probably, is with limited objective most probably Tobruk.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2 -*BE*

Info. Copies: OPD
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CGAAF
SGS
TAG
LOG
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CM-IN-7654 (5/27/42) 2:24 pm

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL

157
MAY 27 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WC13
filed: 1325/27
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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 27, 1942
12:35 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No 1065 May 26th, 1942

Arab agents report some 100 German transport planes are arriving at Derna daily in groups of 10.

In middle east British have approximately 2100 operational compared to 1,000 Axis operational aircraft.

British have consistently had only 25 percent of operational aircraft serviceable in squadrons. Total serviceable aircraft including 35 transports and obsolete types, 35 torpedo carrying, 75 heavy bombers, all of which are unsuited for army support. Remainder is 380 fighters, light and medium bombers available and suitable for army support.

Germans have 620 aircraft all bombers and fighters except 35 coastal, capable of assisting the army and within reach of Libya. Serviceable reported May 19th 50 percent added to this are 400 Italian aircraft with some 50 percent serviceable. Total is approximately 500 fighters and bombers available for army support.

Whenever the Germans launch an offensive close air support is sent with rapidity and in quantities that has not yet been matched by RAF. German air force can be expected to

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MAY 27 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

No. 1965 May 26th, 1942 From: Cairo To: Milid Page 02

mass temporary and local air superiority over their main efforts, probably leave remainder of theater to Italians.

British must protect rear and front passages of their entire theater. In spite of British numerical advantages in total of aircraft strength Axis may gain temporary superiority should they assume initiative.

Yellers

ACTION COPY: G-2 *BE*

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CG AAF SGS TAG LOG FILE

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OED letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARA Date *FEB 20 1973*

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J-220

CM-IN-7720 (5/27/42) 6:39 PM

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 27, 1942
12:30 PM

WC 11
filed 1320/27
LB

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1065, May 27, 1942. Last half

May 24th some government motor transports were concentrated Bomba Bay Area. Heavy materiel and supplies were being landed from barges. Aerial photos still verify that both German armored divisions are still forward in Bir Temrad Area.

British patrols have been unable to penetrate Alem Hamza Area over which Air Reconnaissance encountered heavy antiaircraft fire. German artillery has been registering on high ground at Alem Hamza which Area is key to control Gazala.

British front line troops reports Germans experimenting with new type smoke. All German tanks have rack for 5 smoke candles at back. Recently extensive and heavy smoke screens have been put out by tanks in Segnali Area indicating use of smoke generator. British consider Germans may also use nonlethal toxic smoke in conjunction with smoke screens.

In the past week RAF sorties over front Areas except a few reconnaissance sorties have been in the Northern Sector. May 21st Bostons and 3 Squadrons of fighters bombed 2 enemy camps in Timimi Area. Night May 22d 2 Wellington Squadrons attacked Martuba landing grounds, concentration of 40 motor vehicles was machine gunned

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

No. 1065, May 27, 1942

page 2

between Martuba and Bomba. May 23d heavy escort
Bostons and Baltimores bombed Derna airdromes.
Increased Royal Air Force activities indicate concen-
tration of supplies and aircraft in the Northern
Sector probably preliminary to expected thrust.

British have heavy stocks supplies well forward.
To prevent loss these supplies an apprehensive least
British commit bulk best tank units against spearhead
of main German effort and suffer heavy losses from
self propelled antitank guns and bombers.

Axis disposition continue to indicate main
attack from Alem Hamza toward El Adem Acroma
Area.

Fellers

FOOTNOTE: 1st half of 1065 was CM-IN-7220 (5/27/42)
Arab agents report 100 German transport planes are
arriving at Dema. *Journal 220, May 27.*

ACTION COPY: G-2 (3E)

INFO. COPY: OPD A-2 CGAAF SGS TAG FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL NO

6
MAY 28 1942

CM-IN-7789 (5/27/42) 10:45 PM

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

ANDI 4
filed 125p/26
SCM

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 26
8:27 A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: LONDON
To: MILID

No. 2693 May 26, 1942

Reconn Libya 24th showed large enemy camp 4
BY FI SE MI IN area between CHERIMA and SIDI
BREGHISC. BRIT ART shelled at area 4 mi east
nth east of ROTUNDA SEGNALI and photo reconn showed
75 tanks also that area.

MCCLURE

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OED letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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TAG
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U.S. JOURNAL NO

J-132

CH-IN-7310 (5/26/42) 12:23 PM

MAY 26 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

300 Africa

WB211
filed 2140/25
BM

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 25, 1942
10:32 P. M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
To: G-2

No. 1064, May 25th, 1942.

Interns claiming their only aim is to fight our common enemies under conditions compatible dignity and honor. claiming purge was political, they desire active service, to relegate political issue to post war internal Yugoslav problems.

Interns are of great potential value in the successful prosecution of the war. With relatively little equipment they will be able to establish liaison with Yugoslavia and the Balkans; they will be able to collaborate with fighting forces in Yugoslavia under General Mihailovitch should the allies strike a decisive blow through the Balkans against Hitler's rear, this Yugoslav unit in Cairo is the Nucleus through which a bloodless invasion might possibly be effected. Personal recommendations:

1. That an American representation present this matter to Yugoslav Government on basis that internment of these valuable officers impede our war effort.
2. That United States suggest to the Yugoslav Government that it grant officials of recognition zance of a Yugoslav intelligence unit headed by Mirkovich to be loaned to the United States for the purpose of gathering information.
3. That if recommendations in above paragraph 2 is rejected the Yugoslav Government be asked to authorize release of interns so that an intelligence unit under American command may be formed.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94



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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: *Oslo*
To: G-2

No. 1064, May 25th, 1942.

Page 2

4. That if recommendations made in precedeing paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 are rejected, those Yugoslav interns who are willing individually to terminate their voluntary interment be accepted as volunteer in the American Army for the duration of the war paragraphs above mentioned recommendations are acceptable to Yugoslav interns.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 *(PE)*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
SGS
TAG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL NO

J-107

CM-IN-7284 (5/26/42) 10:07 AM

MAY 26 1942

29

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WB 24
filed 25/2140
HET

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

C5WD
May 25,
1035p

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No 1064 May 25th, 1942

Yugoslavs British impasse continue. Your 834. British rather indifferent toward solving problem.

Legal position of Yugoslav interns may be sound. On April 14th 1941 Yugoslav government ordered capitulation all armed forces, evacuated only its members, express forbade evacuation of military personnel. On their own initiative, by their own means and against orders Yugoslav officers and enlisted men now in Middle East effected their escape from Yugoslavia. Interns therefore consider their status of exile from Yugoslavia, entitling to dispose themselves as they consider opportune.

Actually for long period after their arrival here July 27 1941 they willingly accepted without qualification Yugoslav government. Beginning January 15th 1942 however Yugoslav government in London under alleged influence of 3 Knejevitch brothers instituted drastic changes which included relief of General Mirkovich Yugoslavs nation hero as commander Cairo detachment.

Mirkovich was replaced by Colonel Rakith. 86 per cent of the Yugoslavs in Cairo refused to give up Mirkovich leadership on ground Mirkovich had committed no hostilities, that no charge against him were presented; no impartial investigation was made, he was a victim of political intrigue. Yugoslav government in London then branded Mirkovich and followers as rebel, asked British government to intern them. British London office ordered internment, Auchinleck complied. Mirkovich and followers voluntarily accepted internment.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

Fellers

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

RHP NARS Date FEB 20 1973
Apparently 834 in error as 834 (CM-OUT 4804 5/23) CG AAF
pertains to arrival Allison motor representatives

S.I.S. JOURNAL NO

Action Copy: G-2

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CM-IN-7326 (5/26/42)

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MAY 26 1942
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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

AMD13
filed 198p/25
Dm

SECRET

CSWD
May 25, 1942
8:13 AM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Amcn Embassy London
To: Milid Washn DC

No. 2686 May 25, 1942

On 23rd Axis took unusually active steps to prevent Brit observation of area Taimi to Rotunda Segnali and Brit Recon reported extensive enemy movement both ways on coast road Bomba - Taimi on road Taimi to Southwest and in area Rotunda Segnali - got El Afrag. WO interprets above as another step in Axis preps for early active oprn but still consider such oprn will have limited objective probably attempt on Tobruk.

Latest estimate Axis strength forward area:
Germ 43 to 45 thous. WOPS 40 thous. Germ tanks 310.
WOPS 190. WOPS also have about 80 armed cars. Above total of 83 to 85 thous Axis personnel is smaller than strength previous to last Brit advance Libya.

Still no evidence that part WOP Litorio armd Div which arrived Trjooli some time back has left there and believed now only consists 1 Bn about 50 tanks.

McClure

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Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CGAAF
TAG
FILE

CM-IN-6995 (5/25/42) 9:24 AM

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL #9

87
MAY 25 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 69
1310/24
RMV

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 24, 1942
12:29 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1063, May 24

ME109's, 110's, JU 88's have been attacking trains, particularly locomotives, carrying supplies to desert railheads near Capuzzo. Attacks have been determined, destructive. Aircraft fly at 50 feet, drop bombs, Strafe locomotives with cannons and machine guns.

Boxcars are now being fitted with platform fore and aft for mountings quadruple machine guns, with equipment for flying the mark 6 kite balloon lethally armored. Balloons fly at 1,000 foot altitudes from Center of cars May 17th 1st trial was successfully made on train with 20 mile per hour cross wind.

17 cars are being converted, dummy locomotives are being built. Present defense consisting machine guns mounted in trucks on flat cars, 5 fighter squadrons whose primary role is protection of shipping, 3 dummy locomotives, 24 dummy Bofors guns. Detailed information being forwarded.

Fellers.

Action Copy: G-2 *Air Pz.*

Info. Copies: OPD
A-2
CG AAF
TAG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-6878 (5/24/42) PM 8:10

U.S. JOURNAL NO

221

MAY 24 1942

28

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 254
2120/23
BMS

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

v
CSWD
1257AM
May 24

INCOMING MESSAGE

From Cairo
To G-2

No 1061 May 23, 1942

Indications Axis attack: concentration of German air in Eastern Mediterranean, Cyrenaica and Crete; increased aerial reconnaissance over sea and land communications from Alexandria to Tobruk; increased tank activity forward area; both Panzer divisions well forward; Artillery shooting by 105 MM howitzers at Alam Hamza on May 11 spotting by me 110's is escorted by 4 me 109's; 100 tanks photographed Bir Es Sefri; supplies high and attack rumors reported by German prisoners; strenuous effort to develop Benghazi Harbor; photographs and additional data since my 1046 indicated 1500 tons daily discharged during March, 2,000 tons per day during May; due constant increase British armored strength present time more opportune for attack than later date.

Believe best maneuver for Axis is to Blitzkrieg with air-artillery-tanks-Infantry teams against left of 1st South African division along Escarpment leading to El-ADAM-Acroma-Area.

In the past human beings have been unable to withstand the blow of full force blitzkrieg. Wise plan for British therefore is to restrict main efforts to limited front; to commit minimum means in front of blitzkrieg spearhead, allow the blow to go through. This main effort will have been spent in some 25 to 40 kilometers; the moment it is spent, while Axis is still exhausted, British should launch an effective counter attack

Fellers

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Info. Copies: OPD
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CGAAF
TAG
File

CM-IN-6825 (5-24-42) PM 4:12

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL #
183
MAY 24 1942

29

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

AMDI 7
filed 218p/23
SCM

SECRET

CSWD
May 23
8:31 A

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: USG ANEMBASSY LONDON
To: MILID

No. 2682 May 23, 1942

Increased enemy activity on 21st in Areas
NTH and WEST of BIR TENRAD and BRIA ART engaged WT
in Area 3 MI STH of SIDI BREGHISC LIBYA.

MCCLURE

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Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF
TAG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1973
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

W.I.S. JOURNAL NO

J-125

CM-IN-8414 (5/23/42) AM 10:41

MAY 23 1942 30

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB 187
filed: 2040/22
ab

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 22, 1942
7:32 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No 1061 May 22nd, 1942

Week ending May 19th attacks against Malta considerably decreased. There were 61 attacks during this period; bomber sortie averaging D 36 daily plus heavy fighter escort. Axis lost 48, probably lost 20, damaged 42. British lost 14, many more than 20 reported damaged.

Italian Air Force was more in evidence over Malta than during any previous week.

German bombers attacked Tobruk Harbor, Capuzzo railhead, Alexandria, laid mines off the Delta. There was a complete lull of bomber operations in Cryenaica. Air traffic between Europe and Cryenaica continued heavily.

Kittyhawks carrying 1 250 pound bomb were effective against installation near Bomba.

General Ritchie reports morale of troops high which might indicate over-confidence. The 148th American medium

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

No 1061 May 22nd, 1942 From: Cairo To: Nilid Page 2

tank, the new 6 pounder anti-tank gun, rather naive faith that extensive British mine fields will prevent a successful German attack against British position probably fostering over-confidence.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1973

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

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S.I.S. JOURNAL NO

33

MAY 23 1942

CM-IN-6337 (5/23/42) 3:19 AM

30

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WB222
filed: 2135/23
ab

SECRET

CSWD
May 23, 1942
9:51 PM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No 1061 last part May 23rd, 1942

British must avoid committing bulk of armored vehicles in slugging matches against spearheads of Axis blitzkrieg. Such an Axis attack will be supported by fighters and dive bombers; in leading echelon will be heavy antitank guns capable of destroying any armored vehicles.

British must not allow themselves to be surrounded in Tobruk because RAF and Mediterranean fleets are in no position to supply force besieged in Tobruk.

If able handled British have ample means to defeat Axis attacks. They must keep their units of mobile, mutual support, await proper opportunity, deal blow when enemy is weak.

If successful against Tobruk believe Axis will transfer Air Force to Sicily, attempt to take Malta. Possession of Malta and Tobruk solves Axis communication problem to North Africa. Axis attack is indicated within 10 days.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2-*BE*

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CM-IN-6703 (5/24/42) 3:45 am

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

68

MAY 24 1942

26

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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AMDI 12
filed 22/525p
mm

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER 3:10p

CSWD
May 22, 1942

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID

No 2672 May 22, 1942

From activities and info Libya past week WO considers there are signs enemy may intend soon attacking probably against Tobruk. Numbr AXIS acft moved to forward bases has increased and much ground movement behind Germ forward positions. Also increased tendency Axis use small bodies tanks supporting their patrols doubtless to prevent penetration by Brit patrols and to screen forward concentrations. Is not repeat not believed enemy supply sit such to allow sustained off against Nile Delta.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2 (HE)

Info. Copies: OPD
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CG AAF
TAG
File

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP; NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-6182 (5/22/42) PM 5:58

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210
MAY 22 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

AMDI 7
filed 226P/22
LB

INCOMING MESSAGE ^{CSWD}
May 22, 1942
9:35 AM

From: London
To: Millid

No. 2667, May 22, 1942.

20th Libya Brit art engaged enmy fce No Mans
Land consisting few tnks and armd cars which forced
withdraw. Brit patrols active in Sidi Breghisc and Garet
Meriem Areas. Concentration enmy mt 250 reptd along
Trigh el abd in Gur el Manaseb area 15 mi east of
Bir Tpngedex.

McClure

ACTION: G-2 *BF*
INFO. COPIES: OPD, A-2, CGAAF, TAG, FILE

CM-IN-6097 (5-22-42) PM 12:14

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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126
MAY 22 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WCS
Filed 1320/21
ame

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
May 21, 1942
12:40 P.M.

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1053, May 21, 1942.

From Fry reference 1049 to which I concur.
1st transportation available May 28th. Requests
permission delay departure temporarily to observe
1st action medium tanks.

Fellers.

f227 5/20
FOOTNOTE: Radio 1049 (CM-IN-5619 5/20/42). Disposition
of troops in Libya.

ACTION COPY: G-2 *BE*

INFO COPIES: A-2, CGAAF, TAG, FILE

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-5815 (5/21/42) PM 2:53

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J-174

MAY 21 1942

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	COOPER, CAIRO	OPNAV	PRIORITY RRRRR
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE	21 MAY 1942		DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM	#104/22ND		PRIORITY
DECODED BY	FERMIER		ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY	YEAGER		DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

GERMAN

211630

NCR 1237

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT
TEXT

HUMAN TORPEDOES REFERRED TO IN OUR ^{included} 211630 WERE
2-MAN TYPE.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 4(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: 16.....

COMTINCH...20G...NAVAIDE...12...OPDO...

FILE: CNO...00...20-OP...

211630 NCR 1237

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

37130
211630

300 Africa

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

031100 031100

GENERAL MESSAGE		NAVY DEPARTMENT	
DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM CAIRO COOPER		OPNAV	RRRRRRRR
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 22 MAY 1942	117/22	KRASSED E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(E) and 3(D) of (1) OGD letter, May 8, 1972 By RHP, NARA Date FEB 20 1973	DEFERRED
TOR CODEROM			PRIORITY
DECODED BY FERMIER	COLEMAN		ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.
 (GERMAN) 211020 NCR 1240

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT
 TEXT

WEEKLY REPORT ON EASTERN MED SITUATION:
 DEVELOPMENTS PROGRESSING RAPIDLY IN BENGHAZI-30,000
 TONS OF SHIPPING HANDLED LAST MONTH.
 AT SALAMIS CONSTRUCTIONAL WORK ON SUBMARINE BASE HAS
 CEASED. DERNA PORT NOW USED BY SCHOONERS AND INCREASED
 CAPACITY EXPECTED. NEW SOFIA OIL REFINERY PRODUCING 20,000
 TONS PER ANNUM NOW IN OPERATION.
 ATTACK ON ALEXANDRIA HARBOR BY THREE HUMAN TORPEDOES
 DURING NIGHT OF 14TH AND 15TH FAILED TO PENETRATE HARBOR
 AND PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.
 INDICATIONS OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN
 RHODES AND INCREASED SHIPPING ARRIVING FROM GREECE.
 A REPORT OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY THAT ITALIANS
 HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF PIRAEUS DOCK YARD IS POSSIBLE

CONFIRMATION OF LAST WEEKS REPORT THAT GERMAN GARRISON IN
 GREECE AND RHODES IS BEING RELIEVED BY ITALIANS ALTHOUGH
 NO SIGNS OF

ACTION: 16
 FILE: 010... 200...
 211020 NCR 1240

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
 NLR 101
 By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

211020

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WC 10
filed 21/1136
mm

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
CSWD
May 21, 1942
10:40p

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No 1049 last part May 21, 1942

Conclusion:

In initial tank strength, effectiveness of anti tank weapons, training, Axis has the advantage.

In Aircraft, tank reserves, Field Artillery, personnel the British have a clear advantage; in the American medium tanks British have an advantage provided they have learned to neutralize the tremendously effective German anti tank guns.

Axis chances for success against Tobruk are better than fair however without reinforcements Axis cannot take Egypt.

British attacks for forward landing ground has only a fair chance for success.

British forces in Middle East are insufficient to security. Middle East is secure today not because of the forces available for its defense but rather because Hitler has heretofore directed his main energies elsewhere. At any time due to adversity or victory in U.S. S.R. should Hitler decide to reinforce Rommel with from 4 to 6 motorized divisions and 400 aircraft he could take Middle East.

Events in U.S.S.R. may soon relegate to the Middle East the role of last hope for a quick Hitler Victory.

Fellers

See radio 1049 1st part (CM-IN-5619 5/20/) G-2 disposition
British Forces North Africa

Action Copy: G-2 (BF)

Info. Copies: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, TAG, File

U.S. JOURNAL NO
240
MAY 21 1942

CM-IN- 5879 (5/21/42) 7:25 PM

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (F)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By RHP, NARS Data FEB 20 1973

*See Jursk
227, 255
261/5/24/42*

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WB 196
Filed 20/2055
DEG

CSWD
May 21
909 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1050, May 20, 1942

During survey trip through Palestine and Syria I received certain confidences from General Wilson: "American troops desirable in Palestine and militarily and politically. Arabs believe what they see and at present their loyalty can be purchased. Forces would not only help Arab problems but would strengthen Turkish attitude". From Fry. General Wilson did not specify number but stated all that could be spared could be used advantageously as mobile forces ready protect Suez from west or to prevent Germans breaking through to Persian Gulf. No German offensive needing such a force expected before September.

From General Catroux: "American troops needed in Syria theater both militarily and politically. Country is not safe internally or externally in event German successes. At least 5 divisions necessary including 2 armored divisions." General Catroux was very emphatic declaring force was necessary to make country secure, to prevent successful German attacks from reaching Persian Gulf and as future plans to be ready pass through to Balkans. General Catroux believed that Turkey would acquiesce to troop passage to Balkans after footholds had been secured in France or low countries. General Catroux further stressed immediate need for long distance bombers calling attention to strategic targets in reach and immediate effect on Germans.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page two of Number 1050, May 20th from Cairo.

From Consul General Pinkerton: " Lady Spears stated that British had promised Palestine to both Jews and Turks and as both people were aware of these promises quite a problem was involved". British supply railroads along Syrian coast being built vigorously and believed that it will reach Beirut in July. By autumn link will be completed so as to permit direct traffic Suez-Turkey. Large scale defense lines being dug including lengthy tank traps in Beirut-Damascus area by civilian labors. Bumper crops in Palestine and Syria and some excess of grains will be available according to local estimates. Barrage ballons have been received, are in use at Tripoli, Beirut, Haifa, Suez.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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J-90

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MAY 21 1942

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WC 7
Filed 1135/21
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INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
May 21, 1942
3:35 P.M.

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1049, May 20, 1942.

Both British and Axis are preparing for attack. Because British Armored Units in Lybia are still undergoing training Axis appears more nearly ready.

Before operations on Soviet front overshadow beneficial results of a possible Libyan victory Axis is likely to attack with Tobruk and possibly Egyptian frontier as their limited objective. Axis attack is likely to be preceded by sabotage attempts by paratroops. With attack British must be prepared to meet airborne and seaborne expeditions to interrupt supplies between Alexandria and Matruh.

Axis dispositions indicate drive directly east on Eladam using 90th Light Division to break through mine fields and British positions, with Panzer Division in exploitation role. At same time Ariete Interpellate Divisions might demonstrate widely on British left flank to divert British Armored Units from main Axis effort. However Axis dispositions are flexible and 90th Light might stage holding attack while Panzer Division joins Ariete on wide sweep around British left flank to seize Eladam area escarpment which dominates Tobruk Harbor. Axis drive will be accompanied by dive bomber support.

Regardless of the maneuvers employed believe Axis occupation of escarpment above Tobruk renders British position in Tobruk precarious. British are

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FFB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

No. 1048 **INCOMING MESSAGE** Page 2

unlikely to again allow themselves to be up in Tobruk. Last experience was very costly; today RAF and Navy can ill afford to safeguard sea communications necessary for the supply of Tobruk.

In case of any engagement in Libya believe British will attempt to run supply convoy to Malta.

Believe personally Axis will attack before June. If Axis does not attack believe British will attack by end of 1st week in June with forward landing ground in Cyreniaca objective.

Fellers.

ACTION:

G-2 *BE*

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-6114 (5-22-42) PM 1:12

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MAY 22 1942

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filed 20/1422
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
May 20, 1942
11:65A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILJD

No 1049 May 20, 1942

Axis Lybian front running from K 95 at 9497 generally south west to Retondo Segnali at 6254. Derna and Sollum-Tobruk Map 1: 250000. During last 2 weeks this position has been greatly strengthened; there is evidence of digging, blasting, minelaying. Southern approaches are mined, guarded but mobile patrols with radio and a mobile striking force of tanks, artillery, anti tank guns.

90th light German Division and Italian Trento Division occupy northern sector of the line from 9497 south to Bregheis at 7971. In Bregheis area is 21st Armored Division with 15th armored Division directly in rear. This is the 1st indication of Rommel concentrating both his Armored Divisions in the same area.

Southern flank is held by the Ariete Armored and Trieste Motorized Divisions at Retondo Segnali. Between forces at Retondo Segnali and the 2 Armored Divisions at Bregheis are believed to be the Pavia and Brescia Divisions the 2 German Panzer Divisions in Libya have a total of 360 tanks; Italian Ariete Division has 156. Axis is believed to have a small tank reserve.

In Eastern Mediterranean within striking distance of Libya Germany has 665 aircraft. Italy has 400 aircraft

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NABS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

No 1049 May 20, 1942

From Cairo

Page 2

in Libya. Estimated service ability of Axis aircraft is 50 percent. Italian aircraft are rather ineffective, seldom appear at front.

Axis has 350 field artillery pieces, 330 anti-tank guns, 54 self propelling tank guns, 90 heavy and 230 light antiaircraft guns. German tank guns are far more effective than those of British.

Germany has about 48370, Italians 65000 troops.

In coordination, cohesion, appreciation of power and limitation of weapons, in timing, in providing effective air support for ground forces, especially in follow up, Axis performance in past has been superior to that of British.

Should Axis continue to neutralize Malta and capture Tobruk, her sea communications problem for Major operations against Middle East would be solved.

Fellers

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227

MAY 20 1942

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filed 20/1431
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
May 20, 1942
12:19P

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No 1049 Part 4 May 20, 1942

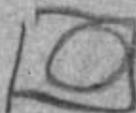
British have 444 1st class combat worth tanks in Lybya. Of these 148 are American medium, 80 American light tanks. British also have 178 under-gunned, obsolete, Infantry tanks which due to low mobility are of doubtful value. British have large tank reserve; 190 await issue, 416 with units training in Delta none of which can be committed before middle of June, 320 in Persia, 500 under-going repairs.

British have 2016 aircraft in Middle East of which 698 are serviceable.

British have approximately 96 medium, 500 superior, 25-pounder field guns, 912 ineffective, 2-pounders and 60 6-pounders anti tank gun, 98 heavy and 324 light anti-aircraft guns.

British have approximately 125000 men in 8th Army, Libya.

British training especially training progressing among Armored units has been painfully slow. They have not yet solved their problem of close air support. It remains to be seen whether they have learned to integrate their air, artillery, tanks, infantry and services into a balanced striking force and launch it against enemy weakness.



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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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INCOMING MESSAGE

No 1049 Part 4 May 20, 1942 From Cairo Page 2

Because of insufficient force both British and Axis probably have limited objectives. Malta is the key to British interruption of Axis supplies to Africa. Unless Malta can be supplied capitulation is inevitable. The pressing British need is forward landing ground on which to base air coverage for convoys to Malta.

Fellers

Note: No. 1049 (CM-IN-5581, 5/20/42) G-3. *227*
Report of axis strength in Lybia.

Action Copy: G-3 *(AE)*

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CG AAF
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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MAY 20 1942

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filed 1430/20
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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
May 20, 1942
11:06 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington DC

No. 1049 May 20, 1942

1st South Africa Division with 1 Infantry Tank Battalion less 1 squadron attached is line from GAZALA south to Birel Geff at 9877. 50th British Division with 1st Army Tank Brigade headquarters, 1 Battalion plus 1 squadron attached is immediately south from Birel to Giefel Abidi at 356414. 2d South African Divisions, with 1 Battalion of infantry tanks, is at Tobruk. 13th Corps Headquarters is east of Eladem at 414403.

30th Corps: Free French Group remains at Hacheim. Due east is 4th armored brigade at 388375 with 7th Division Headquarters 4 miles north. 2d armored brigade is at Birel Gubi at 418375 with 1st armored division headquarters 3 miles north. 22d Brigade is in the Sidi Mufti Area at 365416, opposite Gapin British Mine Fields, before which the 2 German Panzer Divisions are concentrated. 30th Corps Headquarters is at 403934.

5th India Division is in Bardia Cappuzzo Area.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FFB 20 1973

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255
MAY 20 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 19, 1942
11:34 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. 1127 ANSEG May 18, 1942

As you probably know Ghq Middle East here have a plan for diverting from River Tigris to River Nile some of the Eureka tow boats and small Wooden Pontoon Barges. For the new project approved on the highest level in London for opening a line of communications from Port Matadi up the river Congo and thence by the River Nile to Cairo tugs and barges are also required. The British are anxious to establish early for both these rivers that the Eureka tow boats and barges are definitely suitable and have been apparently asking their war office for an expert of our to come to Khartoum to advise on the spot. Now his advice is also urgently required at Leopoldville for the Congo. The British here ask me if I can locate the expert and do anything to get him here quickly. For Bullivant in order to assist British request that expert familiar with characteristics and production picture of Eureka tow boats and barges be despatched by 1st available air transportation to report to this headquarters for use in projects outline above request that you keep war office London informed.

Maxwell

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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173

MAY 19 1942

CM-IN-5246 (5/19/42) 2:47 PM

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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CSWD
May 18, 1942
3:16 P. M.

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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

#1131 Amseg, May 18, 1942

Have informal but reliable report from Royal Air Force that all tanks Mogadiscio are scheduled for re-location to inland East Africa points and are now being dismantled. Probably large percentage of tanks still standing in fact had report only 2 tanks 2900 tons each now dismantled. To Arnold for George for Harding and Burke from Crom from Palmer and Drummond. We are proceeding to Nairobi May 27 via Boac hoping for Royal Air Force transportation Nairobi to Mogadiscio. Have good Royal Air Force priority on Boac but due congestion can do no better. Expect entire trip to be slow account poor schedule and congestion.

Maxwell

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By RHP; NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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200

MAY 18 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 18, 1942
10:35 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Millid

No. 1046 Part 2, May 18

Axis Cyrenaica strength 2 panzer and 1 Monte Divisions full strength with fair amount tanks and personnel reserves. Axis probably has reached maximum strength intended for Cyrenaica at this time.

Benghazi handles more than 800 tons daily. Size of Axis forward dumps indicate offensive intent. In Cyrenaica Axis believed to have 30 days supplies and 15 days fuel supply. Shortage of certain types ammunition continues. Defenses at Temrad, Segnali and Asida being developed. Axis strong enough to undertake offensive.

Some radio sets intended for use in American medium Tanks have not arrived from England. Because of communication and training deficiency, British not yet ready to attack. Complete British Orders of battle and estimate of combat strength contained my 2526 digest report now enroute Washington DC Air Mail.

Fellers

Note: First part of 1046 is CM-IN-4848, 5/18/42.
Report from RAF Intelligence. No record of 2526.

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CG AAF
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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153

MAY 18 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CSWD
May 18, 1942
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

#1128 Amseg, May 18, 1942

Middle East supply council met May 11th through March 14th I attended with Jones as alternate. Supply situation this area fully discussed. Need of economizing all forms transportation stressed. Approved Middle East requirements based upon essential war or civil needs. Control within territory assures efficient use of imported materials. Every effort being made to reduce standard of living civilian population to seige status. Emphasis put on part USA must in Middle East economic position. Early action on our number 1069 dated May 13th and our number 1065 dated May 11th will aid in effecting necessary participation in activities of Middle East supply center for Somervell reur Amseg number 709 full report to follow when available.

Maxwell

Note: Amseg 1065 was (CM-IN-3227, 5/12/42) SOS.
Amseg 1069 was (CM-IN-3251, 5/12/42) SOS.
Amseg 709 was CM-OUT-1839, 5/9/42) SOS.

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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197
MAY 18 1942

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MS

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER CSWD
May 17 1942
1:06 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1043 May 17th, 1942

Source Commander conference May 15th notes from memory.

Following was gist of situations reported various countries.
Germany: tired of war, fighting to escape revenge of enemies;
Italy: prisoners sick of war, prefer defeat now to victory 3
years hence, holds Germany totally to blame for war; U.S.S.R.:
morale high, people confident.

RAF has been obliged to send to far east aircraft equal
numerically to their present front line strength; also some
American planes for this theater were diverted to far east.
In case of operations RAF will be forced to concentrate
mass of aircraft in active theaters.

Recent aerial photography over Sicily discloses several
new landing strips 1 mile long 400 yards wide. Strips are
near railroad station where platforms have been enlarged, roads
repaired from station to strips. Implication is that strips
are for glider take offs. While there are no other indications
of an airborne attack 250 transport planes are available for
Mediterranean Area.

In crete attacks Germans used 600 transport planes; since
Sicily is close to Malta 250 might possibly equal work of the
600 used at Crete.

Fellers

Action: G-2 (Air Branch)

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CG AAF
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-4799 (5/17/42) 10:15 PM

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MAY 18 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 17, 1942
11:33 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1045, May 17, 1942

Polish middle east Headquarters moving Monday to Rehovot Palestine. No confirmation as yet but Poles expecting additional 60,000 from Russia. Ratio of soldiers to civilians not known. Movement last lot completed. It consisted of 16,000 civilians, mostly women and children of whom 200 died of Typhus and 32,000 soldiers of whom 100 died of Typhus. Civilians are in Teheran soldiers in Palestine. With Carpathian Brigade now in Palestine approximate total 40,000 soldiers there, not equipped to date.

This corps consisting of seasoned soldiers, experienced and capable officers would be a potential force against the Germans should they reach the Caucasus.

Fellers

*Posted
5/18/42
5/18*

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-4831 (5/18/42) 3:04 A.M.

U.S.S. JOURNAL 29

*26
MAY 18 1942*

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Filed 17/227P
DEG

INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
May 17
905 PM

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2634, May 17th, 1942

Southeast of El Cheima on 15th column Axis tanks advanced 4 miles into Egypt then withdrew. Movement small groups Axis tanks continuing in area 6 miles southeast Sidi Breghisc and increased activity behind Axis forward positions from El Cheima-Garet El Asida.

Madagascar: nothing to report. Believed British undecided whether to attempt continued movement southward or to consolidate present holdings.

McClure

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TAG
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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MAY 17 1942

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WB 143
2220/17
RMW

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 17, 1942
9:02 PM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

No. 1043 last half, May 17

No Axis attack appears to be shaping in Aegean Sea.

May 14 Axis appeared to be closing gap between his main force and British Main Line of resistance. Liberal use made of tanks to push back British Armored cars and leading element. Axis' posted Brigade on his right some 75 miles South from Coast possibly in the hope British would over extend.

During April and May Axis shipping to Africa was heavy. Supplies in Cyrenaica now being moved well forward.

60 Spitfires arrived Malta about May 9th.

British satisfied with their front line Libyan position and with training of 4th and 22nd armored Brigade. Armored Units massed on South flank. 2 Indian motor Battalions presumably from 4th Division organized to defend Coast Area between Alexandria and Baagush.

British supply situation far better than last November in that by June 1st railroad heads will be 15 miles Southeast of Tobruk. German Air Attacks on locomotives causing extensive damage.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

page 2

From: Cairo
To: Milid
No. 1043 last half, May 17

British Units are not now up to War strength, replacements not expected before late summer.

Auchinleck remarked that Commanders cannot expect their full compliment personnel and equipment but must be prepared to fight with what they have. Instructed Commanders there is no such thing as summer quarters in an inactive theater; units now in inactive theater must be prepared move to active 1 quickly.

Personal conclusion from conference discussions: Both Axis and British rushing preparations for limited objective offensive; British strength is constantly increasing due uninterrupted flow of supplies through Red Sea.

Fellers

Footnote: First half of this message is CM-IN-4848 5-18-42. Summary of information in Middle East from RAF.

J 3 5/18

ACTION: G-2 *BE*
INFO. COPIES: OPD, A-2, CG AAF, CGGN, SGS, TAG, LOG, FILE

NA-10 5 34 11 745

U.I.S. JOURNAL NO

115

CM-IN-4933 (5-18-42) PM 2:06

MAY 18 1942

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

WB 82
Filed 1100/17
amc

CSWD
May 17, 1942
6:55 A.M.

INCOMING MESSAGE

CORRECTED COPY

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No. 1042, May 16, 1942.

General Harding Director of Training held 1st Generals Training Conference May 10th attended by Auchlinlech, senior representative of 8th, 9th and 10th Armies, Director of Arms and Services. Harding stressed: Absolute necessity for concentrated efforts both in time and space not fully appreciated despite past campaign lessons. British still prone to disperse units therefore efforts.

Each officer must stress will to win throughout all ranks, present attitude not entirely satisfactory.

Intensive with special reference to cooperation all arms include RAF emphasized; lack of, supplies and transports no excuse for failure to carry this out. Increased attention to be placed on deception and camouflage, on guerilla warfare demolishing, raids in rear area, night raiding.

Troops and air borne troops to be increased to brigades. Royal Air Force to handle tactical air (**), Army Ground (**).

Recent campaigns indicates need for medium machine guns for long range harassing fire, fires on antitank weapons, artillery, and for covering mine fields. Definite hardening exercises will be pushed in all armies.

More care must be exercised in selection of candidates for commissions and students for staff course.

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TO: WIP
FROM: CPT

12/04/42

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

No. 1042 from Cairo, May 16, 1942 Page 2

INCOMING MESSAGE

25 pounders have been mounted as assault guns but due to comparatively slow speed carriers may be attached to infantry tank brigades.

Intense study being made of problem of speedy consolidation of ground by motor and infantry brigades to resist armed attacks, to determine time required, size of perimeters, necessary armaments of artillery, antiaircraft, and antitank; increased employment of hastily laid mine fields; support of own armored units required.

Fellers.

(**) Words garbled at these points. Service has been sent corrections will follow.

FOOTNOTE: Corrected copy of CM-IN-4820 (5/18/42)

ACTION COPY: G-2 - B.F.

INFO COPIES: OPD, A-2, CGAAF, TAG, FILE

CM-IN-5750 (5/21/42) AM 10:17

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO

J-116

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CSWD
May 16, 1942
746A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID

No. 2627 May 16, 1942

Situation in Africa Cen slight eastward movement 16th
by 4 Axis groups containing tanks and MT on line Sidi
Breghisc--El Cheiss.

Madagascar nothing to report. War Offdce admits initial
Madagascar successes due to surprise and later delays in advance
due to well prepared French Artillery delaying positions.

McClure

*filed
300
Madagascar*

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*RECEIVED
MILITARY DIVISION
MAY 16 1942*

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

U.S. JOURNAL NO

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CM-IN-4327 (5-16-42) AM 8:58

MAY 16 1942

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CSWD
May 16, 1942
11:21 AM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Hilid Washington

No. 1039 May 15, 1942

On May 9th while at Gambut the western most RAF Base for fighters and light bombers 9 Bostons carrying 1,000 pound each left at 9 AM escorted by 10 long range Kitty Hawks for Benghazi pass south of Tenger. 1 Boston with oil leaking lit on Axis occupied NEUS field to cool engine, took off on approach of 2 armored cars and returned to Base. Rest made pattern bombing at 14,000 feet on shipping and returned to Base at 0 level at 12: 20 Pm. 1 Kitty Hawk had only 5 gallons left. For Arnold from Carey.

On May 12th at 8 AM 8 long range Kitty Hawks and 4 Beau Fighters left to intercept Ju Convoy reported making daily flights from Crete to Derna. At point 70 miles northeast Derna they followed course to Crete and sighted 20 Ju 52's at 0 level escorted by 3 Me 110's. Kitty Hawks shot down 9 Ju's and 3 Me's. Beau Fighters shot down 4 Ju's. 1 Beau Fighter lost in operation, rest returned to base in 1 and 2s from 11 AM on.

Pilots full of praise for our aircraft despite Allison valves seat trouble and Kitty Hawk's inability to match Me 109 above 9,000; regret no more Marylands.

Railroad now within 18 miles of Eladem. British line remains Gazala, Bir Hacheim, Axis Tmimi, Mechili with Air Concentration at Martuba. Morale at front is high in spite of constant dust and unpalatable water. Brightest spot for personnel is United States canned beer. Believed that every effort should be made to continue supply as much for morale as health and **. Dispersal on field excellent. Liberators based at Fayid near

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

Page 1 of 1
INGOMING MESSAGE

Suez comparatively free from bombing to date.

RAF believe Nazis have withdrawn part of Air Force as former strength is not **. Indications include 3,000 motor vehicles with 100 bren carriers going west in past 2 days point to imminent British drive. Personal belief is that drive will be only as far as Benghazi to allow air coverage to Malta convoys.

Antiaircraft officer interviewed believe that they should come under RAF especially in combat area. Communication between air and tanks remains 1 of the chief obstacles.

Colonel Fellers has great need of 4 assistant air attaches who could be readily obtained if suggestion in his cable 1038 can possibly be arranged.

Fellers

Number 1038 is CM-IN-3994.

** Short omission of text at this point.
Service on Request.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1973

By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CM-IN-4547 (5/16/42) 11:05 PM

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MAY 17 1942

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CSWD
May 15, 1942
6:47 P. M.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From London
To: G-2

No. 2622, May 15th, 1942.

Situation in Libya: General Increase movement Axis tanks especially around Sidi Bregisc May 13, enemy withdrawing on engagement. NGIN enemy tank concentration around El Cheima. British artillery engaged Axis AFVS 12 miles west Gazala and Mt North Bir Temrad.

McClure

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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MAY 16 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COOPER CAIRO		OPNAV	RRRR
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE 14 MAY 52			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM 2028/14		INFORMATION	PRIORITY
DECODED BY POWELL/ECKHARDT			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY GILKER			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

ROONEY 140828 NCR 6893

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME	DATE	TIME	GCT
TEXT			

FOLLOWING INFORMATION OF INTEREST THOUGH SOME UNCONFIRMED. LITTLE OF IMPORTANCE REPORTED DURING PAST FEW DAYS. AXIS REPORTED DISCUSSING REPLACEMENTS OF GERMANS BY ITALIANS IN GREEK AND CRETIAN GARRISONS. CONCRETE PONTOONS MOTOR BARGES AND ALL LANDING CRAFT STILL BEING BUILT AT VARKIZA IN GREECE AND VARNA. MONTHLY CARGO AND PASSENGER SERVICE RESUMED BETWEEN ISTANBUL AND MERSIN. VESSELS CAN ANCHOR OUTSIDE ODESSA BUT NOT INSIDE PORT. DEVELOPMENTS IN PAST WEEK AT BENGHAZI SHOW MARKED RESULTS.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS date FEB 20 1973

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CSWD
May 13, 1942
6:28 PM

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid Washington

No. 1037 May 13, 1942

May 4th at General Auchinleck's direction an order signed by Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Corbett placed 120 Yugoslav Officers and 205 Yugoslav enlisted men in internment at Abbassieh. :
El Popovich advises that General Auchinleck, Air Marshal Tedder and Sir Walter Monckton all expressed sympathy with the interned Yugoslavs but General Auchinleck was acting under orders from London. These Yugoslavs are most anxious to fight but fear it may mean internment for the war. Among them are 86 extremely well qualified pilots, each with from 1,000 to 5,000 hours flying time. There are also 109 technically trained enlisted air men-radio operators, navigators, mechanics. Those interned represent 85% of the free Yugoslav Army.

Reason for internment is interns refuse to serve under Colonel Rakitch who has recently been appointed by King Peter to succeed General Mirchovic. Interns claim that Colonel Rakitch was implicated in March 27th Yugoslav Coup D'Etat, was arrested by General Mirchovic as pro German suspect; that Colonel Rakitch has now come into power through political manipulation and intrigue in London. Interns regard General Mirchovic as their national hero and true patriot whom they refused to desert.

Interns requested hearing but this was refused.

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By RHP, NAAS Date FEB 20 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

Page Two No 1037 May 13, 1942

INCOMING MESSAGE

While this political issue is of little consequence believe personally it is criminal waste of talented man power to intern these superior soldiers who are eager to fight.

Fellers

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-3664 (5/14/42) AM 1:47

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42

MAY 14 1942

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

YAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTM

DI. YER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM	ALUSNOB ADEN	OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			RRR
DATE	12 MAY 1942	FOR ACTION	DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM	0105/12		PRIORITY
DECODED BY	WATSON		ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY	MORGAN	INFORMATION	DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.
ROONEY **111030 NCR 5191**

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ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEK SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF POLISH TROOPS FORMER WAR PRISONERS PROBABLY EMBARKED AT BASRA HAVE BEEN MOVING THROUGH ADEN PRESUMABLY BOUND FOR LIBYA.

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By RHP, NARS Date FEB 20 1973

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CSWD
May 12, 1942
12:27 AM

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Hilid

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

No. 1033, May 11, 1942

By RHP, NARS Date **FEB 20 1973**

Part 4

Conclusion: 1. diminishing intensity of and Italian participation in air attacks against Malta probably means either shifting of German strength to another area or preparation for large scale renewal attacks 2. Decrease total German air strength eastern Mediterranean indicating pressing demands elsewhere 3. Germany placing heavy reliance in anti tank weapons 4. British and Axis now assume defensive attitude while Amassine supplies 5. Because of their backward state of training especially in certain armored units British attacks in Crynaica is not now justifiable 6. Since forward landingfields in Derna and Benghazi are necessary to provide air coverage for convoys to Malta, British must attack in order that Malta may be supplied 7. Since Malta must be supplied within next 3 weeks British attack is indicated about June 1st 8. Anticipation British offensive Germans might make limited objective attacks before June.

Fellers.

Note: See CM-IN-3183 and CM-IN-2930 for previous reports.

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CM-IN-3211 (5/12/42) PM 1:20

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INCOMING MESSAGE

CSWD
May 11, 1942
9:07 a.m.

From: London
To: Milid

No. 2580 May 11, 1942

Small engagement 9th between Brit and enemy
column including tanks near Rotunda Segnali and
Garet El Asida Libya.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2 - *B.E.*

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27

MAY 11 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 12, 42

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Milid

#1033, May 11, 1942

Source Army Intelligence. Protected by mine fields along their fronts 90th light and Trento divisions of 21st Corps are in positions from sea to Bregheise inclusive. 3d reconnaissance unit patrolling Corps front. In semi-circle about Segnali north are Pavia, Brescia, possibly Infantry of Ariete division. 5th tank regiment of 21st armored division believed in Chechiban-Gemai area. 8th tank regiment believed in Eleba area. Captured map shows thrust line running southeast from Sidi Sultan 11 kilometers southwest of Derna to Sidi Giadalla west of Bir Hacheim.

Captured papers disclose new organization 90th light division which may apply also to light divisions in Russia. Organization consists of 3 light Infantry regiments each of 2 battalions, each battalion contains 4 rifle companies. Regiment contains Infantry gun company of 150-MM guns on self propelled mounts, 1 to 2 Russian 76.2-MM field guns per company and from 1 to 4 Russian 76.2-MM anti-tank guns per company. Each company also has 3 companies of 3 platoons each armed with 20-MM guns. Only one half of battalion has arrived Cyrenaica.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

#1033 From: Cairo To: Milid

Page 2

Another prisoner of war captured with reports which discloses that German is his right flank, plan to place force in readiness at Segali. 141-MM anti-tank gun which appears to be replacing old 37-MM division artillery consists of 2 batteries. Division will also contain tank battalion. Reorganization is scheduled for completion this summer.

Prisoners of war state 6 17th anti-aircraft battalion contains south to prevent deep reconnaissance by British.

Another captured document lists certain types ammunition, especially 50-MM anti-tank, in which shortage exists. Commanders are enjoined to exercise economy these types until stores are replenished.

Half track motorcycles being used by Germans to tow light guns. Reports indicated it is satisfactory.

Fellers

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TAG
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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

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MAY 13 1942

CM-IN-3428 (5/13/42) AM 8:03

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FROM STAE FOR OPHAV

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CAIRO

DATED MAY 11TH 1942

NO 758

EARLY SUNDAY MORNING MAY 10 IN AN AIR RAID BY 4 BOMBERS
LASTING 30 MINUTES AT LEAST 80 PERSONS DIED AND SOME 50
WERE INJURED IN ALEXANDRIA ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY
REPORT. A DIRECT HIT SLANTWISE ON AN APARTMENT HOUSE
SHELTER ON THE FIRST FLOOR CAUSED MOST OF THE CASUALTIES.
THREE CUSTOMS SHEDS WERE DEMOLISHED AND OTHER PROPERTY
WAS DAMAGED TO SOME EXTENT.

SGD JACOBS

TOD 620PM MAY 14 1942

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NCR 6968

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mm

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

CSWD
May 11, 1942
11:56A

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: MILID

No 1031 May 10, 1942

From visit to Syria it is my opinion that offensive action c-n take place in that area except by air until Axis makes move. From General Scott. If Germany gains control of French Fleet and is assisted by Vichy French, new railroads paralleling Mediterranean and oil installations at Haifa are most vulnerable and believed to be most likely Axis objectives now.

Have visited Free French, Polish and Greek Units in Palestine and Syria and am impressed with their intelligence, discipline and spirit. All begging for equipment which I recommend be issued from some source with least delay in order to fully arm willing soldiers already in the Middle East.

British here have been greatly handicapped in all tactical operation and in preparing another offensive action because of lack of spare parts, expert maintenance personnel, machine tools at bases for repairs and for modification of new vehicles received from both United States and England, and by inadequate battlefield vehicle recovery system. Situation brings out most forcibly the necessity for setting up in each theater an effective maintenance system before operations are undertaken in order to attain tactical efficiency and prevent useless

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

No 1031 May 10, 1942 From Cairo

Page 2

and costly expenditures of vital mechanical equipment.

However situation is improving and Maxwell Mission here is now rendering valuable assistance on maintenance and operation of American equipment. Therefore if American vehicle equipment is to be issued to any of our Allies in other theaters consider it highly important that we supply some 4th echelon maintenance and some expert personnel to assist in training instructors for unit maintenance school. Otherwise our equipment will not be operated effectively and waste will be terrific.

Ground identifications and communications for direct support of ground troops by air have not been satisfactorily developed here and little or no training conducted. Consequently direct air support has been slow over 2 hours after request, uncertain; frequent attacks are delivered on own instead of enemy. Ground panels and conspicuous markings of vehicles not satisfactory for identification and development of some form of pyrotechnics, rockets or lights has been recommended.

Fellers

Action Copy: G-2 (BE)

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CM-IN-3010 (5/11/42) 4:29 PM

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAIS Date FEB 20 1973

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MAY 11 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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WB113
Filed 1735/9
EMW

INCOMING MESSAGE CSWD
May 10, 1942
3:28 P M

From: Brazzaville
To: Milid

No. Nr 12 May 9, 1942

Laka British Consul Fernando PO states 450 Moroccan Troops arrived there in March 5000 more expected at Rio Benito, Rio Muni 1,000 Spanish Civilians with previous military service recently arrived Rio Muni all give famine in Spain as reason for change French fear attack.

Miller

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